

“tween three miles to the Northward of Merrimack River, and
 “three miles to the Southward of Charles River: and in length,
 “within the described breadth, from the Atlantic Ocean to the
 “South Sea”; and denominated it “Massachusetts Bay.”

These absurd boundaries, entailing much litigation and expense, are only to be attributed to the absolute and general ignorance then prevailing, of American Continental Geography: both of the early Colonists on the Atlantic shore, and in English official circles, continuing till long after our Independence.

Interest in this new project arose and spread in various quarters of England: where it was hailed as a Refuge for Christian men of the Established Church; who, were grieved for its lack of purity, and harassed for their non-conformity to the novel ordinances and abuses, that, since his accession in 1627 Archbishop Laud had forced into the Ritual; and also by his sanction of the public desecration of the Lords Day. It is significant, that in those days of bitter religious strife and persecution, reflected in the political struggle: all English Protestants continued in the same Established Church organization, however Puritan and separate in their convictions. Neither the members of the famous Westminster Assembly, nor their successors before the era of Charles 1st and the Tory measures of conformity, enforced by ejection from their livings; found it necessary to accept voluntary privation, and establish the modern sect-organizations. They and their hearers lived and died in the Establishment, however grieved at what they felt to be its departure from the old ways of Truth,

The Address, from Gov. Winthrop and others, of April 7, 1630, to their brethren in the Church of England, from on board the Arbella, at Yarmouth, on parting for Salem, contains these words, which I give in the original — partly formed English, orthography.

“Howsoever your Charitie may have met with some occasion of
 “discouragement, through the mis-report of our intentions, or
 “through the disaffection or indiscretion of some of us, or rather
 “amongst us; for wee are not of those, that dreame of perfection in
 “this world: yet wee desire, that you should take notice of the prin-
 “cipals and body of our company: as those who esteeme it our
 “honour, to call the Church of England, from whom we rise, our
 “deare Mother, and cannot part from our native Countrie, where she
 “specially resideth, without much sadness of heart, and many tears
 “in our eyes. It is an usual and laudable exercise of your charitie,
 “to commend to the prayers of your Congregations, the necessities
 “and straights of your private neighbors: Doe the like for a Church
 “springing out of your own bowels, when wee shall be in our poor
 “cottages in the Wilderness, overshadowed with the spirit of sup-