

of England, to America, was entirely unknown and of no significance to them : the record only appeared here, never in England.

As of the *May Flower* at Plymouth (1620) : the planting of either small Colony, in the wilderness, was of no moment to the rest of the people, whose life and history moved on its daily struggle unconsciously ; and the Emigrants usually gave up all intention of return. For a century previous, and from the Era of Elizabeth, the enterprise of Gresham and Raleigh started colonies in Virginia and India. These feeble outposts of England, were then so remote, and only reached by occasional ship, that it is not strange they became lost to the general public, absorbed in their interests at home.

Few or none would take sufficient interest to search the musty records of past centuries, if such be extant ; to gather the materials for individual histories of this company of emigrants.

It is of little moment to them, but of much value to us ; that, Two hundred and Fifty Years ago, one of our name, of the same old English stock, chose to leave home forever, and take his abode with the little Colony of Salem, in the wilds of far distant America : from whom has sprung a race far more numerous, wide-spread and distinguished than in the Parent Land : and for whom, as with many others, of like origin, America has proved a Greater Britain.

The enterprising Scions of old Families at Home, trammled by the laws of primogeniture, the hopelessness of all effort to rise above day labor and its poor wages : oppressed in conscience by State and Church : justly felt, that, as freeborn Englishmen, their only refuge was to brave the terrors of the Atlantic, the Wilderness, and the Savages : and plant their homes in their own self-governed Colony of true freedom civil and religious.

We know their History : with us, now diligently researched. Little of it has ever yet reached England : although a greater interest was awakened therein, by our late Civil War : yet this unpopular pursuit was repressed by the influence of the manufacturing and ship-building magnates, controlling Earl Russell and his Ministry. No attention was given to these Colonies by the Home Government, until in the early years of the reign of George 3d. ; when to meet what was thought an appalling Public Debt, £100 millions sterling, contracted by the French War and Conquest of Canada, every resource of Internal Taxation, tried by the Bute ministry having failed ; Grenville, who succeeded, laid before Parliament, like a revelation, the astonishing extent and value of the Commerce and Industry of the American Colonies.