

accomplished stand among the highest acts of moral heroism the world has witnessed.

A company chartered for the purpose of forming plantations in New England, was the instrument by which they proposed and through which they did enter upon their great work. The plantations which these companies were supposed to establish were the usual ones attendant upon commercial and fishing pursuits, and made for purposes of commercial gain. They were authorized to choose their officers for the proper management of their affairs and to make suitable laws for their government not repugnant to the laws of England.

The act of daring was the transfer of the whole government of this company and its charter to New England, and out of this small beginning has grown up the Commonwealth, under whose broad shield of government we now assemble and to the very name of which we cling with venerated affection, leaving to our sister communities the appellation of States.

The character of this emigration induced others holding similar sentiments in England to join them, especially as the power of the mother country was directed with increased severity and vigilance to suppress them. This vigilance was directed to the enrolment of all those proposing to leave England, and to requiring the oath of supremacy.

To this act of enrolment we are indebted for the record which gives the time and place of departure of Zachary Bicknell, from England, with the members of his family and their respective ages, Weymouth being the point of embarkation, with wife Agnes twenty-seven years old, he being forty-five, son John eleven, and servant John Kitchin, twenty-three. They came in 1635.

He came with the Rev. Mr. Hull and his company, and here they made their home. Others had been here before them, and soon after a considerable number left, among them the Rev. Mr. Newman and many with him, and went to Rehoboth. Some remained and, with those who joined them, commenced the settlement of this town of Weymouth. Soon after the church was formed and then with the organization of church and town, the people entered upon the work they had before them.

They built themselves houses of rude construction, barely sheltering them from the inclemencies of the seasons, felled the forests that they might have food and raiment, built their meeting-house,