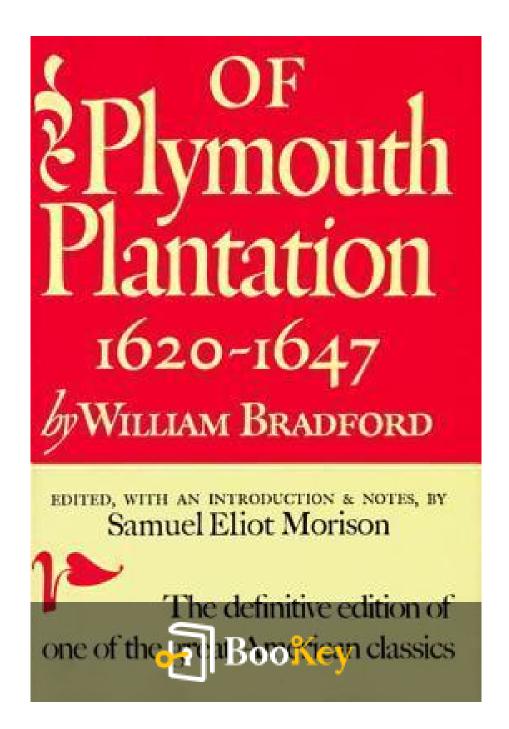
Of Plymouth Plantation PDF (Limited Copy)

William Bradford







Of Plymouth Plantation Summary

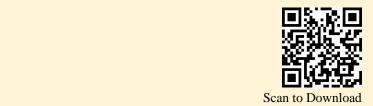
Journey of Faith and Survival in the New World
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About the book

"Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford is a seminal work that chronicles the Pilgrims' arduous journey from England to the New World, encapsulating their quest for religious freedom and the foundational principles of American life. Written with heartfelt sincerity and detailed observation, Bradford's account not only documents the trials and triumphs faced by these early settlers but also offers profound insights into their faith, resilience, and the impact of their choices on future generations. As readers delve into this poignant narrative, they will discover the complexities of survival, community, and the relentless pursuit of liberty that define the Pilgrim experience—an enduring story that continues to resonate in the fabric of American identity.



About the author

William Bradford (1590-1657) was a prominent English Puritan separatist and a key figure in the early history of the American colonies, best known for his work as the governor of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. Born in Yorkshire, England, Bradford became disillusioned with the Church of England and joined a group of separatists seeking religious freedom. In 1620, he embarked on the Mayflower, which brought him and other pilgrims to the New World, establishing one of the first successful colonies in North America. Bradford's most significant contribution to American literature is his journal, "Of Plymouth Plantation," which provides a vivid account of the settlers' experiences, struggles, and the moral and social philosophies that guided their community. His writings not only document the early years of the Plymouth Colony but also reflect the challenges of maintaining faith and governance in a new and often harsh environment.







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Chapter 1 Summary: Of Plymouth Plantation

In the first chapter of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, establishes a narrative that details both the challenges and the triumphs faced by the Pilgrims during their settlement in the New World. He reflects on the motivations that drove the Pilgrims, primarily their desire for religious freedom and the pursuit of a life unencumbered by the oppression they experienced in England.

- 1. **Historical Context and Motivations**: Bradford begins by recounting the historical backdrop that led to the formation of the separatist movement. The Pilgrims, disillusioned by the Church of England and seeking a communal society rooted in their own interpretations of Christianity, sought refuge in the Netherlands. However, they faced cultural challenges and economic hardships there, prompting them to seek a more permanent solution in America.
- 2. The Preparations and Journey: Feeling increasingly vulnerable in their adopted homeland, Bradford details how the group organized a voyage across the Atlantic, which would bring them to uncharted territories. They procured a ship, the Mayflower, and gathered resources necessary to sustain their endeavor. The preparations were fraught with difficulties, from securing funding to managing the diverse personalities within the group, each with their own aspirations and fears.



- 3. **The Voyage**: The chapter vividly depicts the harrowing journey of the Pilgrims. Bradford describes the overwhelming sense of anticipation mixed with trepidation as they set sail. The voyage was beset with storms and illnesses, testing the resolve of the travelers. Bradford shares poignant moments that reveal their faith and determination, highlighting instances where they rallied together in prayer and support.
- 4. **Arrival and Initial Trials**: Upon their arrival, the Pilgrims faced immediate challenges. The natural landscape was unfamiliar, and they encountered hostile relations with Indigenous peoples. Bradford emphasizes the harshness of the environment, noting the struggles to find food, shelter, and safety in their new home. He poignantly illustrates their perseverance through adversity, guided by their faith and communal spirit.
- 5. Foundation of Governance: As the settlers began to establish their new community, Bradford outlines the formation of a governing framework. The Mayflower Compact emerged as a seminal document, underscoring the principles of self-governance and collective responsibility. Bradford reflects on the significance of this early agreement, which laid the groundwork for a society built on mutual consent and democratic principles.

Throughout the chapter, Bradford's narrative is filled with rich detail and strong emotion, capturing both the desperation and hope of the Pilgrims. The



ordered progression of events illustrates not only their journey but also a broader commentary on the pursuit of freedom and the human spirit's resilience in the face of overwhelming odds. The blend of personal reflections and collective experiences provides a profound insight into the religious motivations and communal efforts underpinning the establishment of Plymouth Colony.





Chapter 2 Summary: BOOK I: 1608-1620

In Chapter 2 of "Of Plymouth Plantation," authored by William Bradford, the narrative encompasses a profound journey marked by religious persecution and the pursuit of freedom. The Pilgrims, yearning for a community where they could practice their faith without fear, initially sought refuge in Holland, specifically in Amsterdam and Leyden. Their departure from England stemmed from intense scrutiny and oppression that their dissenting beliefs attracted in their homeland. The environment in Holland, while more tolerant, presented its own set of challenges as they struggled to adapt to a new culture and language, alongside the threat of losing their English identity.

- 1. The choice to migrate to Holland was motivated by the desire for a nurturing environment for their spiritual beliefs. The Pilgrims were drawn by the prospect of religious liberty, a sharp contrast to the bitter experiences they endured in England.
- 2. Upon settling in Leyden, the community was vibrant with hope yet fraught with apprehensions. The Pilgrims faced economic hardships while trying to provide for their families, pulling together as a tight-knit group to sustain one another during tough times. They worried about the generation's loss of English heritage and cultural identity amid the Dutch influence.



- 3. After years of unease and the desire for continued autonomy, the Pilgrims decided to further their quest for religious and personal freedoms by setting sail to the New World. Preparations for this significant voyage involved collecting resources, organizing a ship, and securing funding, which reflected their determination and resolute spirit.
- 4. In 1620, the Pilgrims embarked on an arduous journey across the Atlantic Ocean aboard the Mayflower. The trip was fraught with challenges, including cramped quarters, harsh weather, and uncertainty about the journey ahead. The voyage tested their resilience and faith, with many enduring illness and discomfort.
- 5. After enduring weeks at sea, the Pilgrims finally reached Cape Cod in November 1620. Their arrival marked a significant milestone, yet they faced immediate challenges, including the harshness of the new environment and the uncertainties of survival. They quickly realized that their quest for a promised land was only the beginning of a much larger struggle.
- 6. The decision to establish New Plymouth was born out of both necessity and hope. They sought to create a society based on their principles of faith, community collaboration, and mutual support. The foundations of their settlement would reflect the ideals that had driven them through persecution, flight, and across the ocean.



Ultimately, this chapter captures the resilience and perseverance of the Pilgrims as they navigated a tumultuous path toward freedom. Their journey from persecution in England to the new possibilities that awaited in America served as both an escape and an opportunity to forge a new destiny aligned with their values.





Chapter 3: | Suppression of Religious Liberty in England—First Cause of the Foundation of the New Plymouth Settlement.

Chapter 3 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford outlines the roots and motivations behind the establishment of the New Plymouth Settlement, focusing on the themes of religious liberty and the profound struggles faced by the early reformers in England.

1. The narrative begins by examining the historical context of religious suppression in England. Following the emergence of the gospel, which brought hope after the bleakness of Catholicism, there were persistent efforts by Satan, through both overt and covert means, to undermine the Church. The text recounts how persecution manifested not only through violence but also via internal strife, heresy, and discord among Christians themselves, reminiscent of earlier struggles faced by the early Church under Roman rule. This serves to illustrate the complexities of faith and conflict as the true message of the gospel sought to prevail.

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Chapter 4 Summary: | Flights to Holland (Amsterdam and Leyden): 1607-1608.

In the early 1600s, a group of reformers faced profound adversity as they sought to leave their homeland due to religious persecution. The decision to abandon everything they knew to embark on a journey to a foreign land was immense; they risked their livelihoods, friendships, and familiar comforts. This decision was not made lightly, as they were required to navigate a new language and way of life in an unfamiliar environment. Nonetheless, their unwavering faith and commitment to their spiritual beliefs fortified their resolve to seek God's ordinances.

- 1. Challenges of Departure: Compounding the difficulty of their situation, travel routes out of their homeland were heavily restricted. The reformers developed secretive means to secure passage, often bribing ship captains and facing significant financial setbacks. Their attempts at escape were fraught with betrayal; for example, in a failed endeavor from Boston, they were betrayed by a captain who had conspired with local authorities, leading to their arrest and confiscation of their possessions.
- 2. **Persistence Despite Setbacks**: In their next attempt, they contacted a Dutch captain who promised to help. However, when delays occurred, they found themselves stuck in a perilous situation, only to be ambushed by armed forces seeking to capture them. Tragically, the captain fled, leaving



the group divided and their families at risk. Those aboard experienced a harrowing sea journey filled with peril as they faced a fierce storm that stretched their endurance to the limit.

- 3. **Divine Intervention and Solidarity**: Throughout the tumult, the sailors and travelers lifted fervent prayers to God, affirming their faith even in the face of despair. Their cries for help were met with an unexpected deliverance as the storm eased and they reached safety. This experience not only tested their resolve but also reinforced their bond; the shared suffering transcended individual hardship and became a testament to their faith in divine providence.
- 4. **Resilience Amidst Recognition**: Although they experienced emotional turmoil, especially the women and children who faced uncertainty and fear, their trials caught the attention of onlookers. The public nature of their struggles sparked wider interest in their cause and served to unify their community. Their steadfastness in the face of adversity inspired many to join their ranks, leading ultimately to a successful journey to safety.

Despite numerous hardships, the collective efforts, sacrifices, and unwavering faith of this group allowed them to persevere. They eventually succeeded in reuniting and rejoicing in their newfound freedom, marking the beginning of a significant chapter in their quest for religious liberty. Their journey underscores the challenges faced by those who seek to follow their





convictions in the face of societal opposition.





Chapter 5 Summary: | Settlement at Leyden: 1609-1620.

In the narrative of Chapter 5 from "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford, we find a detailed account of the Pilgrims' experience in the Netherlands between 1609 and 1620, showcasing their challenges, faith, and communal strength during this formative period. Their journey begins with their arrival in the Netherlands, where they encountered a vibrant world markedly different from their Norman upbringing. Although captivated by the beauty and wealth of cities like Amsterdam, their focus quickly shifted to the pressing issues of survival against the harsh realities of poverty—an adversary they faced with unwavering faith and resilience.

- 1. The Pilgrims initially settled in Amsterdam, but upon witnessing discord within the existing church community, led by influential leaders Mr. Robinson and Mr. Brewster, they decided to relocate to Leyden. Despite Leyden's lack of maritime opportunities, they prioritized spiritual solace and community harmony over material wealth. Through tenacious labor, they gradually established a sustainable living, emphasizing their collective spiritual journey and camaraderie.
- 2. The Pilgrims flourished under the pastoral leadership of Mr. Robinson, who fostered both their spiritual and communal welfare. He excelled in guiding the congregation, mediating conflicts, and overseeing their civil affairs. His inclusive approach, combined with the congregation's reverence



for him, created a strong bond where unity thrived despite occasional disagreements, demonstrating their commitment to maintain peace and harmony.

- 3. The chapter subtly addresses the societal impact of their community, illustrating how the local Dutch respected and trusted them, despite their humble circumstances. The magistrates of Leyden publicly commended the Pilgrims for their integrity and peaceful coexistence, which stood in stark contrast to the tensions created by other groups within the city. Such recognition affirmed their positive reputation and the community's moral standing.
- 4. Amidst a backdrop of religious contention—particularly the Arminian debates—the Pilgrims, especially Mr. Robinson, took an active role in these theological discussions. Despite their busy schedules, Robinson engaged with differing viewpoints to fortify his understanding, ultimately defending orthodox beliefs and earning respect within intellectual circles. His public victories against prominent opponents not only bolstered communal pride but also reflected their theological resolve.
- 5. As the narrative progresses, the Pilgrims faced the prospect of departing for America. However, their bond with Leyden remained strong, as local dignitaries expressed their desire for the community to stay and even offered naturalization. This underscored the mutual respect that had developed



during their time in the Netherlands, further countering any slander concerning a supposed expulsion.

Overall, the chapter illustrates the Pilgrims' steadfastness in faith and community, their adaptability in a foreign land, and the profound respect they garnered, setting the stage for their eventual journey to establish a New Plymouth settlement. The testimony of their character and the unity they exhibited serves as a cornerstone for understanding their motivations and the historical context of their migration.





Chapter 6: | Reasons which led the Congregation at Leyden to decide upon Settlement in America.

In Chapter IV of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts the pivotal reasons that motivated the separatist congregation in Leyden to consider relocating to America after living in the Netherlands for about twelve years. Their reflections were informed by both hard-won experiences and current threats, leading them to deliberate on a new course of action. The congregation's deliberations are characterized by not only a desire for a more favorable living situation but also a commitment to their religious ideals and the well-being of future generations.

1. Challenges of Existing Conditions: The congregation had come to recognize that the harsh realities of life in Holland discouraged new members from joining and caused existing followers to drift away. Many who sought religious freedom could not endure the hardships associated with their way of life. This growing discontent among those who professed allegiance became a pressing concern, suggesting that a more hospitable environment could reinvigorate their community.

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Chapter 7 Summary: | Decision to make New England the place of Settlement, in preference to Guiana or Virginia—Endeavor to obtain a Patent from the King of England: 1617-1620.

In Chapter 7 of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts the pivotal decision-making process that unfolded between 1617 and 1620 as a group of English Separatists sought to establish a settlement in the New World, ultimately choosing New England over Guiana or Virginia. The events are marked by fervent prayers for divine guidance and spirited discussions concerning the most suitable location for their new community.

- 1. Choosing the Settlement Location: Initially, some members of the congregation advocated for Guiana, citing its rich resources and mild climate. However, they were met with concerns over the region's susceptibility to diseases and hostility from the Spanish, which could jeopardize their safety. Others considered Virginia, but apprehension about religious persecution loomed large. Ultimately, a consensus emerged to establish a separate body under Virginia's governance while seeking permission for religious freedom from the King of England.
- 2. **Pursuit of a Patent**: To legitimize their settlement and protect their religious rights, two congregation members were dispatched to England with the backing of their peers and influential supporters from the Virginia



Company. While initial meetings with the Virginia Company were fruitful—it appeared they might secure a patent which included guaranteed religious freedoms—obtaining the King's public endorsement proved more challenging than anticipated. Influential allies rallied to their cause, but entrenched opposition from figures like Sir Robert Nanton thwarted their efforts.

- 3. **Mixed Signals and Hurdles**: The return messengers reported mixed responses from the King and his council. While they sensed no immediate threat as long as they conducted themselves peacefully, the lack of a formal decree caused anxiety. Many members felt disheartened by the uncertain reception of their petitions but a core group urged perseverance. They recognized the improbability of assurance from the monarchy and opted to place their faith in divine providence, determined to secure a settlement regardless of the official acknowledgment of their religious freedoms.
- 4. **Continued Negotiations**: Additional messengers were sent to solidify arrangements with the Virginia Company to procure the best possible patent in conjunction with finding merchants willing to fund the voyage. Correspondence with influential individuals in England continued, revealing a commitment to the congregation's goal. Notable figures, like Sir Edwin Sandys, expressed support, increasing hope for a successful outcome.
- 5. Challenges from Virginia: However, persistent political strife within



the Virginia Council complicated their plans. Infighting among council members delayed the consolidation of support for their cause. Reports of deplorable conditions faced by other settlers, including high mortality rates on voyage, caused concern among the congregation. Despite these setbacks, the commitment to lead a principled venture remained strong.

6. Apathetic Patent Outcome: Eventually, after extensive delays and an arduous process, the Separatists obtained a patent confirmed under the Virginia Company's seal. Yet, internal divisions weakened their support base. The decision to register the patent under the name of Mr. J. Wincot—an individual who ultimately did not join the expedition—underscored the unpredictability and frustration that characterized their efforts. In the end, the long-sought patent proved largely symbolic, symbolizing the transient and often illusory nature of worldly assurances.

Through a blend of hope, determination, and reliance on Providence, this chapter conveys the tumultuous journey faced by the Separatists as they sought not only a new home but also the freedom to practice their faith unimpeded. Their aspirations reflected broader themes of resilience against adversity and the complexities of securing religious and civil liberties in a new world.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Power of Perseverance in Uncertainty

Critical Interpretation: As you reflect on the Separatists' journey and the arduous process they endured to secure a settlement, let it resonate within you as a powerful reminder of the value of perseverance in the face of uncertainty. Just like the Separatists sought divine guidance amidst their challenges, you too can embrace your aspirations with steadfast determination, even when pathways seem unclear. Each obstacle they faced was met with unwavering faith and a commitment to their cause, inspiring you to confront your own trials with similar resilience. In your life, when you encounter setbacks or delays, remember that progress often comes from persistent effort and trust in a greater purpose—sometimes, the most meaningful journeys come not from easy victories but from the courage to continue pressing forward, regardless of the unpredictable outcomes.





Chapter 8 Summary: | Agreement between the Congregation at Leyden and the Merchants and Adventurers in London for the accomplishment of the Settlement in New England: 1620.

In Chapter 8 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford, the congregation in Leyden comes together to make crucial decisions regarding their intended settlement in New England in 1620. Their initial discussions are rooted in a profound sense of purpose, as they seek divine guidance before embarking on the perilous voyage. They draw spiritual strength from Biblical references, particularly the story of David consulting the Lord, which serves to fortify their resolve amidst their uncertainties.

- 1. The congregation faces logistical challenges in selecting a subset of members to sail. Due to financial constraints and transportation limitations, they conclude that not everyone can embark immediately, leading to the difficult decision of forming two separate congregational bodies—one remaining in Leyden and the other venturing forth. They agree that those who leave will maintain their church identity, with provisions for integration of members from both groups upon mutual return.
- 2. Amid these preparations, figures like Mr. Thomas Weston, a merchant from London, emerge as pivotal characters, encouraging the Pilgrims to consider opportunities in New England rather than relying solely on the



doubtful Virginia Company. He also suggests a tailored agreement to appeal to investors, stressing the need for strategic planning that ensures financial backing for the venture and proposes that arrangements be made for shipping.

- 3. The foundation of their new agreement includes crucial financial stipulations—each individual going to New England is to contribute £10, establishing a common stock for the settlement's first seven years, during which profits would remain unified. Additionally, essential labor allocations for ship crew and land cultivation responsibilities are detailed, which include measures for personal provisions and equitable land division after the seven-year period.
- 4. However, the agreement's execution proves fraught with complications. Some prospective adventurers withdraw their commitments, altering the dynamics of support and causing distress among those who've sold their possessions in anticipation of the journey. This push-and-pull reveals the tensions between personal ambitions and collective commitment, further complicated by trust issues with financial backers.
- 5. Discontent surfaces as certain changes to the agreement, mainly those affecting houses and land distribution, arise after initial terms have been established. This unapproved alteration produces friction and discontent within the congregation, as it appears to cater more to the interests of



merchants than to the concerns of the settlers.

- 6. Letters exchanged between Leyden and England mirror this discontent, with members voicing their grievances about their shared endeavor and the looming threats to their unity. John Robinson, the pastor, and others express their frustrations about the poorly defined terms and the lack of shipping provision, underscoring the persistent fears regarding their financial viability and overall readiness for emigration.
- 7. The sentiment reflects a greater theme of the chapter: the struggle to balance spiritual commitment with practical necessities. Through the letters, it becomes evident that personalities within the congregation confront confusion and uncertainty, aligning these emotions with the overarching goal of establishing a thriving settlement. Despite the tumult, they cling to their faith, hoping for divine assistance as they approach the critical juncture of their voyage.

Ultimately, the chapter illustrates the intersection of faith and pragmatism as the Pilgrims navigate a labyrinth of social, financial, and logistical hurdles. Their commitment to a shared faith, even amidst tremendous uncertainty, serves as a testament to their perseverance and ambition, providing future generations a glimpse into the complexities faced by their ancestors in pursuit of a new life.

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Chapter 9: | Departure from Leyden—Arrival and Preparations at Southampton—Letter of Farewell from John Robinson to the whole party of Pilgrims: July and August, 1620.

In the poignant Chapter 9 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford, a narrative unfolds detailing the Pilgrims' departure from Leyden and their tumultuous journey towards establishing a new life in America. This chapter not only captures the emotional farewells and religious fervor accompanying their departure but also discloses the logistical challenges and shifting agreements that marked their journey.

1. The Pilgrims prepared extensively for their departure after much deliberation, securing a small fishing ship in Holland and hiring a larger vessel in London. This effort culminated in a communal day of fasting and prayer, emphasizing their reliance on divine guidance as they faced an uncertain future. Their pastor's sermon based on Ezra served as an uplifting reminder of their need for humility and direction.

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Chapter 10 Summary: | Departure from Southampton, and Delay of both Ships at Dartmouth and Plymouth: August and September, 1620.

In the narrative of the departure from Southampton in August and September of 1620, the Pilgrims faced a series of significant challenges that tested their resolve and unity. As the journey commenced, the captain of the smaller ship expressed concerns about its leaky condition, prompting both vessels to dock in Dartmouth for repairs. Despite the repairs conducted at considerable expense and time lost, they soon discovered that the ship's leak persisted. After traveling roughly 100 leagues beyond Land's End, the small ship's condition worsened, leading to another stop in Plymouth where it was ultimately deemed unfit for the voyage. This conclusion forced the difficult decision to part ways with some crew members and provisions, with many individuals opting to return to London, driven by fear, discontent, or the demands of family.

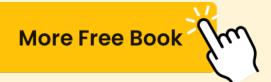
- 1. The Pilgrims' Departure and Leaky Ship Dilemmas: The initial departure from Southampton was plagued by a leaky vessel, necessitating repairs that consumed time and resources. This delay hindered their progress and raised fears of further setbacks, exemplifying the tumultuous nature of their voyage right from the start.
- 2. Difficult Decisions and Discouragement: The choice to dismiss the leaky



ship and some of their companions was heartbreaking, akin to the biblical narrative of Gideon's army. Those who withdrew were like-minded souls who could not bear the risks. As they prepared to proceed with a smaller crew, the atmosphere was thick with discouragement, emphasizing the sacrifice inherent in their mission.

- 3. The Cause of the Ship's Leak: Upon later assessment, it was revealed that the ship's leaks stemmed partly from its over-masting and from deceitful acts by its crew, who had personal motives that conflicted with the mission. This deceit contributed to the challenges the Pilgrims faced as they tried to navigate the complexities of trust and leadership.
- 4. Robert Cushman's Letter: At Dartmouth, Robert Cushman expressed his fears in a heartfelt plea to a friend in London. His letter encapsulated the mounting pressures and failures of leadership, underscoring the internal strife among the crew. Despite his fears of imminent disaster, he maintained faith, calling for prayers and support for their perilous journey ahead.
- 5. The Difficulty of Unity and Leadership: Cushman highlighted the disunity amongst the settlers, reflecting a broader anxiety regarding their future in the new world. He drew parallels to historical biblical leaders, lamenting the absence of collective humility and cohesive guidance among his peers, believing this division could lead to their downfall.





6. Conclusion: The turbulent circumstances during the ship's departure and repair processes painted a bleak picture for the Pilgrims, yet their determination remained evident. The struggles they faced, both with the ships and within their ranks, were not just physical but deeply spiritual, challenging their faith and commitment to their collective cause. As they prepared to embark on the next leg of their journey, the path ahead promised further trials, but the hope for a fruitful settlement endured.

Through this account, the complexities of human nature, leadership fiascoes, and the unyielding quest for a better life converge, encapsulating themes of perseverance, faith, and the raw reality of embarking on an unprecedented endeavor.

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Chapter 11 Summary: | The Mayflower sails from Plymouth—Voyage—Arrival at Cape Cod: September-November, 1620.

In Chapter 11 of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts the journey of the Mayflower from Plymouth to its arrival at Cape Cod between September and November of 1620, highlighting the hardships faced by the Pilgrims during their voyage.

- 1. The journey commenced on September 6th, propelling the travelers into the vast sea with favorable winds, though numerous passengers soon experienced the debilitating effects of seasickness. Among the crew was a particularly impudent sailor, whose cruel mockery of the sick Pilgrims led to his own demise. He soon succumbed to a grave illness, prompting astonishment among the crew as he was the first to tragically be thrown overboard—an event that the Pilgrims perceived as divine judgment.
- 2. As the voyage progressed, the ship encountered harsh storms and high seas, causing significant concerns about its seaworthiness. A bent and cracked main beam provoked serious discussion among the passengers and the crew about the safety of continuing the journey. After thoughtful deliberation, a plan was devised to use a powerful iron screw and other materials on board to secure the ship. This decision ultimately reflected their faith in divine providence, and the crew resolved to continue the voyage



rather than return home.

- 3. Encountering violent storms, the ship was sometimes forced to remain still, known as "hulling," to avoid capsizing. During one of these intense moments, a young man named John Rowland was nearly lost at sea; however, through divine intervention, he was saved by catching hold of the ship's halyards. Remarkably, the journey, despite its perils, resulted in only one casualty—William Button, a young servant—when they neared the coast.
- 4. On November 11th, after weeks of arduous travel, the Pilgrims finally reached Cape Cod. Initially filled with joy, they deliberated about their next steps, aiming to find a suitable settlement near the Hudson River. However, upon encountering treacherous shoals, they redirected their course back to Cape Cod, appreciating their narrow escape from danger.
- 5. The arrival at land brought mixed emotions. The Pilgrims, grateful for their safe passage over the tumultuous ocean, knelt in prayer to thank God for delivering them from peril. Yet, upon reflection of their circumstances, they faced stark realities: they were alone in an unfamiliar land without any friendly welcome, shelters, or provisions. The barren wilderness presented formidable challenges, and winter's harshness compounded their worries of survival.



- 6. As they surveyed their surroundings, doubt crept in. Memories of the turbulent ocean behind them contrasted sharply with the daunting wilderness ahead. The captain warned them about dwindling supplies and the urgency of finding a suitable location to settle. Some crew members even expressed the cruel possibility of abandoning them, increasing their vulnerability as they tried to forge a new life in an unforgiving environment.
- 7. Ultimately, the settlers were left with little but their faith. In the face of overwhelming adversity and isolation, they relied solely on the grace and spirit of God. Bradford encourages perpetual gratitude among future generations, reminding them of their forebears' courage amidst hardship and their reliance on divine support. Their story, marked by perseverance and faith, serves as a poignant testament to their tenacity and resilience in the face of daunting challenges.



Chapter 12: | The Pilgrims seek a Site for their Settlement, and discover the Harbor of New Plymouth: November-December, 1620.

In November 1620, the Pilgrims arrived at Cape Cod, compelled by necessity to find a site for their settlement. They had brought a shallop from England, but poor weather hindered its repair. A group of 16 determined men, led by Captain Standish, set out on foot to explore the land while awaiting the shallop's readiness, specifically drawn to a nearby opening in the bay believed to be a river. Despite the hazards of the wilderness, including encounters with Native Americans who fled upon their approach, the group pressed on, driven by curiosity and the need to secure a location for habitation.

1. The Pilgrims' initial explorations led them through rough terrain, where they endured physical challenges such as thickets damaging their gear, but they were ultimately rewarded with fresh water—an unexpected delight after their previous journeys. They discovered several signs of past cultivation, including cleared land and remnants of Indian graves. Notably, they

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Chapter 13 Summary: BOOK II: 1620-1646

In Chapter 13 of William Bradford's "Of Plymouth Plantation," the narrative continues to unfold the early experiences and challenges faced by the Pilgrims in the New World following their arrival in 1620. This chapter explores significant events and themes that shape the identity and resilience of the Plymouth Colony.

- 1. **Initial Struggles**: The chapter begins by highlighting the numerous hardships encountered by the settlers, including harsh weather, lack of adequate shelter, and food shortages. Bradford recounts the struggles against the unforgiving New England climate, which tested their survival. The Pilgrims' determination amid adversity is emphasized, showcasing their faith and commitment to establishing a new life in this unknown territory.
- 2. **Friendships and Alliances**: Amid the trials, the Pilgrims begin to form vital relationships with the Native American tribes. One of the key figures is Squanto, who plays a crucial role in aiding the settlers. He teaches them essential agricultural techniques, such as planting corn and using fish as fertilizer, which drastically improves their chances of survival. This collaboration symbolizes the importance of intercultural exchange and mutual support, emphasizing the theme of cooperation during challenging times.



- 3. Governance and Community Structure: Bradford elaborates on the governance of the settlement and how the Pilgrims established a civil body politic through the Mayflower Compact. This agreement laid the groundwork for self-governance and social order, showcasing their commitment to democratic principles and collective responsibility. Bradford describes how this framework helped maintain cohesion within the community, encouraging a sense of unity among the settlers.
- 4. **Struggle for Resources**: The limited resources available to the settlers underline a persistent difficulty. Bradford discusses the constant battle to secure food and supplies, revealing the reliance on trade with Native Americans and the need for strategic planning to ensure sustainability. This struggle serves as a backdrop to their ongoing quest for independence and prosperity.
- 5. **Spiritual Resilience and Thanksgiving**: Throughout their hardships, the Pilgrims' unwavering faith remains a central pillar of their resilience. Bradford reflects on the spiritual aspects of their journey, including communal prayers and gratitude for their survival. The chapter culminates with the first Thanksgiving—a moment of shared joy and recognition of their collective efforts and divine providence. This celebration became a defining element of their identity, highlighting gratitude amidst trials and laying the foundation for future traditions.



In summary, Chapter 13 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" intricately weaves together the themes of struggle, resilience, community, and faith. Bradford's account not only chronicles the challenges faced by the Pilgrims but also underscores the vital relationships formed and the principles of governance that emerged in the new settlement. The narrative illustrates a remarkable journey of survival, reflecting the enduring spirit of those who sought a new beginning in a land fraught with uncertainty.





Chapter 14 Summary: | Deed of Government drawn up— Death of half their number—Squanto—Compact with the Indians—Captain Dermer's description of New Plymouth: 1620.

In Chapter XIV of William Bradford's "Of Plymouth Plantation," the author recounts the challenges faced by the Pilgrims as they established their new settlement in New Plymouth. This was marked by profound trials, including the formulation of a self-governing compact and the tragic loss of half their initial party due to harsh conditions and disease.

- 1. **Formation of Government**: Before disembarking, the settlers recognized the need for a governing document to maintain order amid troubling dissent from some crew members, who questioned their authority. They confidently drafted a compact, which bound them together as a civil body politic. This document emphasized their dedication to God, the Christian faith, and their king, thus laying the foundation for self-governance.
- 2. **Leadership and Suffering**: John Carver was chosen as the governor, responsible for order amid the dire circumstances they faced, including severe winter weather that led to significant illness. The initial months brought such hardship that nearly half of the settlers perished, a situation exacerbated by a lack of adequate shelter, food, and medical care. Despite



their suffering, some remained dedicated, risking their health to care for the sick, notably figures like William Brewster and Myles Standish, who heroically served their fellow settlers.

- 3. **Moral Contrast with Sailors**: The chapter contrasts the selflessness of the settlers with the sailors, who abandoned their sick comrades in distress. The sailors' attitudes reflected a stark moral failing underscored by selfishness, while the settlers exemplified Christian charity, even amidst their own suffering.
- 4. **Initial Encounters with Native Americans**: In the midst of hardship, the settlers had minimal contact with local Indigenous peoples, leading to theft of their tools. Eventually, they encountered Samoset, an Indian who spoke broken English, initiating crucial interactions that would lead to a peace agreement with Massasoit, the local chief. This peace was significant and paved the way for mutual cooperation, laying the groundwork for their survival.
- 5. **Squanto's Role**: Squanto emerged as a pivotal figure for the settlers. Having previously been abducted and returned from England, he became their translator and guide, teaching them about local agricultural practices and fishing, thus proving invaluable to their success. His knowledge and support significantly aided the settlers, ensuring their survival during the precarious early days.



6. **Dangerous Local Context**: Captain Dermer's prior experiences highlighted the volatile relations with Native Americans. His story demonstrated the complexities of these early interactions, reflecting the settlers' precarious situation as they navigated their existence amidst an often hostile environment.

As spring approached in 1621, a shift began; as mortality rates stabilized and the sick recovered, the settlers regained resilience despite their painful experiences. This chapter encapsulates the trials of the Pilgrims, their governance model, their moral character in the face of adversity, and the significance of their relationships with Indigenous peoples, all of which were crucial for the foundation of their enduring community.

Section	Summary
Formation of Government	The settlers drafted a governing compact to maintain order, emphasizing their dedication to God, the Christian faith, and their king, establishing a foundation for self-governance.
Leadership and Suffering	John Carver was elected governor amid severe hardships, where lack of shelter and food led to high mortality rates. Some settlers, like Brewster and Standish, cared for the sick at great risk to themselves.
Moral Contrast with Sailors	The chapter contrasts the settlers' selflessness with the sailors' selfishness, highlighting the settlers' Christian charity even during their own suffering.
Initial Encounters with Native	Minimal initial contact led to thefts, but interactions with Samoset initiated crucial relations and peace agreements with the local chief Massasoit, aiding survival.





Section	Summary
Americans	
Squanto's Role	Squanto became an essential translator and guide, teaching the settlers local agricultural practices, significantly contributing to their success and survival.
Dangerous Local Context	Captain Dermer's experiences underscored the complex and often hostile relations with Native Americans, depicting the precarious situation of the settlers.
Conclusion	As spring approached in 1621, the settlers regained resilience as mortality rates stabilized, encapsulating their trials, governance, moral character, and relationships with Indigenous peoples as crucial for their community's foundation.





Chapter 15: | The Mayflower returns—Death of John Carver—William Bradford, Governor—Trade with the Massachusetts—The first marriage—Friendship with Massasoyt confirmed—Hobbamok —Expedition against Corbitant—The first harvest—Arrival of Robert Cushman with 86 settlers—Fortune returns, laden— The Narragansetts' challenge—Christmas Day: 1621.

In Chapter 15 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford, important developments unfold as the Pilgrims navigate their early days in the New World. The chapter chronicles a series of pivotal events, highlighting leadership changes, relationships with Native Americans, and the settlers' struggles and successes in their new environment.

1. As winter sets in, the Mayflower is sent back to England, marking a critical juncture in the Pilgrims' venture. The ship's prolonged stay was due to the harsh conditions and the settlers' need for support. However, the crew faced significant adversity, with many falling ill, leading to a cautious decision to delay their departure until the colonists showed signs of

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Chapter 16 Summary: | Weston abandons the Settlement—Dissensions among the Adventurers in England—Weston's plan for a Colony, and arrival of Sixty Settlers for it—News from Captain Huddleston of massacre in Virginia—Fort built at New Plymouth—Death of Squanto—Weston's Colony in difficulties: 1622.

In this chapter of "Of Plymouth Plantation," authored by William Bradford, significant events unfold that reveal the struggles and dissensions faced by the settlers in New Plymouth and the growing tensions with both fellow adventurers and neighboring Native tribes.

- 1. The chapter begins with Mr. Weston's abandonment of the settlement and the internal conflicts among the adventurers back in England. Bradford highlights Weston's attempts to establish his own colony, which led him to send out a group of sixty settlers to New Plymouth seeking assistance. The governor and the settlers become wary of Squanto, who appears to be fostering discord and manipulation among the Indians, contributing to their suspicions.
- 2. Supplies are desperately needed as provisions dwindle, and the settlers receive letters from Weston suggesting the promise of support, albeit empty assurances. The correspondence indicates the reluctance of adventurers to



provide aid, leaving the colony in dire straits with little hope of external assistance.

- 3. Despite the challenges, hope emerges with the arrival of a fishing ship carrying vital supplies and letters, which causes gratitude but also concern about Weston's intentions and the rogue nature of his settlers. The New Plymouth colony maintains a strategy of cautious engagement with Weston's group, providing them temporary refuge but without accepting any of their supplies in fear of future complications.
- 4. The chapter details the efforts of the settlers to build a fort as a response to ongoing threats from local tribes and the unsettling news of a massacre in Virginia. This fort doubles as a meeting house and serves as a crucial defensive structure for the colony.
- 5. As the harvest season approaches, a mix of good fortune and trials unfolds. The settlers manage to gather some corn, but not enough for sustainability, leading to fears of famine returning. Additionally, they fall prey to theft among their ranks and outer pressures as they lack trade goods to barter with.
- 6. Just as despair looms, they receive unexpected aid from Captain John Huddleston, who provides crucial intelligence about their situation and assists with provisions. His correspondence brings hope and facilitates vital



trades, showcasing the colony's resilience and communal effort.

7. The chapter concludes with Squanto's tragic death after falling ill, which marks a poignant loss for the settlers, as he was a key intermediary between them and local tribes. As the season turns, the settlers adopt a strategy to gather additional food resources by negotiating with local tribes.

Overall, this chapter captures a myriad of challenges faced by the early settlers of New Plymouth, highlighting their struggles for survival, internal conflicts, and interactions with both fellow Englishmen and Native Americans. Their determination in the face of adversity is evident, emphasizing how community efforts, resilience, and strategic relationships became crucial in navigating a precarious existence in an unfamiliar land.



Chapter 17 Summary: | Rescue of Weston's Settlement—Weston arrives at New Plymouth—His reception and ingratitude—Individual planting of corn substituted for communal—Hardship of John Pierce and the Patent—Sixty new Settlers—Compact between the Colony and private Settlers—Captain Robert Gorges, Governor-General of New England—Weston charged and arrested—Fire at New Plymouth: Storehouse threatened: 1623.

In Chapter 17 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford, the narrative unfolds to present a series of events that depict the struggles and complexities faced by the settlers in New Plymouth, especially regarding their interactions with the Weston settlement.

1. The Weston colony, despite its initial resources, swiftly descended into chaos and hardship. This rapid decline was attributed to their poor management and excessive spending. Some individuals resorted to selling personal belongings, while others became servants to the local Indians, demonstrating a complete loss of dignity and propriety. Starvation became rampant, leading to death and desperate measures, including stealing from the very Indians who had once helped them. The ensuing conditions prompted a decline in relations with the Indigenous communities, highlighting the fragile nature of the settlers' position.





- 2. Amidst this turmoil, Massasoyt, a key Indian leader, fell ill but was revived by the New Plymouth settlers, which ultimately aligned their interests. Upon recovery, Massasoyt warned the colonists of a conspiracy among neighboring tribes to eliminate the Weston settlers. Acting on this intelligence, Captain Standish and a group of men from New Plymouth intervened to rescue the beleaguered Weston settlers, ultimately offering them aid or the opportunity to relocate to New Plymouth.
- 3. When Mr. Weston himself arrived seeking assistance, he found his previous fortune stripped away, having suffered losses and misfortunes. The settlers viewed his demeanor with mixed feelings, offering them limited help due to their own dire needs. They agreed to secretly lend him beaver skins, understanding this to be a matter of survival. This charity, however, was not reciprocated, as Weston later abandoned the settlers in their time of need.
- 4. The chapter further discusses the transition from communal planting practices to individual planting of corn as a response to ongoing food shortages. The shift allowed each family to cultivate their own plots, which led to an increased yield and greater dedication among the settlers. This shift negated the prior communal experiment that had fostered discontent among the settlers, as they felt underappreciated and overburdened by working solely for the benefit of others.



- 5. The hardships endured by the settlers were profound, often lacking food for extended periods. Yet, they bore this with a remarkable sense of faith and community. Their reliance on fishing, foraging, and other means of sustenance underscored their resilience despite facing threats of famine. And even in their struggles, they remained vigilant in prayer and trust in divine provision.
- 6. As they endeavored to grow more corn and harvest successfully, they began to receive letters from the adventurers in England—their financial backers—expressing sorrow over the settlers' difficulties and prolonged absence of supplies. Their communication included promises of support while acknowledging various setbacks faced back home.
- 7. Despite the arrival of new settlers and attempts for further trade, they dealt with persistent issues surrounding leadership, authority, and intentions. Mr. John Pierce sought to establish dominance and usurp leadership, causing contention. The dynamics of governance led to confrontations, particularly involving Mr. Weston, who faced charges for misappropriation of resources meant for New England.
- 8. The chapter also highlighted a significant fire incident in New Plymouth, which threatened the community's primary storage facility and exposed their fragility. However, a collective effort saved the storehouse, showcasing the unity and determination of the settlers amid potential calamity.



- 9. Captain Gorges, newly appointed as the Governor-General of New England, arrived with hopes of establishing authority but quickly found himself embroiled in complaints and disputes related to Weston and the behavior of his followers. Overall, Gorges' poorly matched ambitions and reality of the settlement sector led to a quick demission from his role, underscoring the inherent challenges of governance and order among the settlers.
- 10. Finally, as the settlers continued to work and cultivate their lands, the lingering specter of discontent among some newer arrivals reaffirmed the ongoing need to balance hope with the harsh realities of settlement life. The zealous expectations of prosperous living collided with the complex realities of colonial survival, as those who came seeking ease faced the tough conditions that the original settlers had long endured.

Through these accounts, Bradford captures the essence of perseverance amidst adversity, the complexities of communal versus individual work ethics, and the challenges of maintaining relationships within the fragile ecosystem of early American settlement.

Key Events	Description
Weston Colony	The Weston settlement faced chaos due to poor management, leading to starvation and strained relations with Indigenous communities.





Key Events	Description
Decline	
Massasoyt's Illness	Massasoyt was revived by New Plymouth settlers; he warned them of a conspiracy against the Weston settlers.
Weston's Arrival	Mr. Weston sought help but was met with skepticism; settlers helped him with limited resources, which he later abandoned.
Shift to Individual Farming	Settlers transitioned from communal to individual planting, increasing yield and satisfaction.
Continued Hardships	Settlers faced food shortages yet maintained faith and community; they relied on fishing and foraging.
Letters from England	Communications from financial backers acknowledged the settlers' struggles and promised support.
Leadership Issues	Tensions arose from Mr. John Pierce's power struggles and mismanagement by Mr. Weston.
Fire Incident	A significant fire threatened the community's storehouse, but settlers united to save it.
Captain Gorges Appointment	Captain Gorges' attempts at governance faced challenges due to complaints and disputes related to Weston.
Ongoing Struggles	The settlers faced discontent among newer arrivals, highlighting the harsh realities of colonial life.





Chapter 18: | Changes in form of Government—Pinnace wrecked—Private Settlers make trouble—Winslow returns from England with the first Cattle—Faction among Adventurers in England—Objections of the Colony's opponents—Letters from John Robinson—Opposition to sending the Leyden people—One acre apportioned few permanent holding to each Settler–Ship-building and Salt-making—Trouble with Lyford and Oldham—Pinnace salvaged and rigged: 1624.

In this chapter of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford documents a tumultuous year characterized by significant changes in governance, notable challenges, and internal strife within the Plymouth colony.

1. **Changes in Governance**: The chapter begins with the election of new officials in response to the growing population and governance needs within the colony. Governor Bradford advocates for a more inclusive leadership structure, leading to the appointment of five additional assistants, eventually

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Chapter 19 Summary: | Oldham and Lyford expelled—Lyford's Past—Reply of Settlement to Adventurers' Charges—Support from friendly group of Adventurers—Loss of two ship-loads of cargo—Captain Standish in England: 1625.

In Chapter 19 of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts significant events concerning the expulsion of two individuals, Oldham and Lyford, from the colony as well as the challenges faced by the settlers amidst their struggles for survival and integrity in a new land.

- 1. Oldham's Rebellion: Oldham, in defiance of a prior sentence banning his return to the colony, reappears with a hostile demeanor. His aggressive behavior leads the leaders to temporarily imprison him, after which he is forcibly removed from the community. This incident highlights the tensions and accountability within the settlement. His subsequent attempts to find redemption and reconciliation lead him to make a confession of his past wrongdoings while facing peril during a voyage to Virginia. The threatening situation compels him to reflect on his behavior, and though he eventually returns to the colony, his journey ends tragically at the hands of the Indians.
- 2. Lyford's Misdeeds: In parallel to Oldham's narrative, Lyford, too, faces expulsion due to his unrepentant nature. While he was initially sent to the colony as a minister, his inappropriate conduct and moral failings come to



light, prompting the community to take action against him. His wife reveals Lyford's past indiscretions, revealing deep personal conflicts and the impact of his actions on their family. The unfolding of these truths not only tarnishes Lyford's reputation but also leads to his eventual downfall, showing how personal failings can affect the greater community.

- 3. The Adventurers' Struggles: The chapter also delves into the precarious position of the colony amidst dwindling supplies and support from England. A hostile environment arises as some of the abandoned adventurers turn against the colony, further complicating their situation. This division among the adventurers results in a lack of resources, prompting the settlers to fend for themselves despite diminishing support.
- 4. Letters and Communications: The settlers receive correspondence from friendly adventurers in England who express their ongoing connections and goodwill, despite the troubles faced. These letters illuminate the strained relationships and vary perpectives on collaboration and support. They highlight the settlers' firm stance on their believes and practices in contrast to the prevailing pressures to conform to established customs.
- 5. A Turn in Fortunes: Amidst these challenges, the chapter narrates a slight turn in fortune for the settlers. Despite the difficulties in communication and dwindling supplies, the soil yields productive harvests that secure their immediate needs. A successful venture led by Mr. Winslow results in



substantial profit from beaver pelts, strengthening the community's capacity for trade and furthering their survival in the New World.

Overall, Bradford captures the intricate dynamics of governance, communal integrity, moral conflicts, and the ongoing struggle for survival faced by the early settlers, while imparting lessons on accountability, repentance, and the blessings of perseverance. The text serves as both a historical account and a reflection on the human condition in the face of adversity in the founding of a new society.





Critical Thinking

Key Point: Accountability and Repentance

Critical Interpretation: In a world often marked by chaos and individual ambition, the tale of Oldham and Lyford serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of accountability and the courage to seek repentance. As you navigate through life's complexities, remember that taking responsibility for your actions not only nurtures your integrity but also fosters trust and collaboration within your community. Just as the settlers faced the harsh consequences of rebellion and misdeeds, so too can you reflect on how your choices affect those around you. Let their journeys inspire you to acknowledge your shortcomings, embrace humility, and strive for genuine connections. Life's journey may present unforeseen challenges, but facing them with honesty and a willingness to learn will ultimately guide you towards growth, redemption, and a stronger bond with others.





Chapter 20 Summary: | Standish returns from England—Death of John Robinson and Robert Cushman—Purchase of trading goods at Monhegan—Isaac Allerton goes to England—Small ship built: 1626.

In the early days of April, the arrival of Captain Standish from England marked a significant moment for the settlers as they eagerly fetched him home, welcoming him along with the supplies he had brought. However, the news from Standish was melancholy, shrouded in sorrow. The settlers learned of the death of their beloved pastor, Mr. John Robinson, a pivotal figure in their community. His passing was attributed to illness that began on February 22 and culminated on March 1, after a gradual decline marked by an inward fever. Robinson had been respected and deeply cherished, and his loss resonated profoundly among the colonists, who mourned the absence of their spiritual leader who had diligently guided them.

As their sorrow mounted, the settlers also received the unfortunate news of Robert Cushman's death. Cushman had been instrumental in facilitating the relationship between the colonists and their financiers, the adventurers, tirelessly managing the business affairs that ensured the colony's survival and stability. His unexpected demise left the community in a state of perplexity, as they grappled with the loss of such vital support.



Despite these tragedies, letters from friends in Leyden conveyed similar grief over Robinson's departure, but also highlighted a determination to stay resilient. The letters expressed mutual longing for unity, with many lamenting their inability to join the colony in America. Nevertheless, amidst this sorrow, the settlers found renewed strength. With their fishing activities on hold, they shifted focus towards trading and planting crops, with the promise of corn becoming a valuable commodity.

Seizing opportunities, the Governor and Mr. Winslow ventured to Monhegan to purchase much-needed trading goods from merchants. They were joined by David Thomson from Piscataqua, and together they made significant purchases that amounted to over £400. The spring brought further good fortune with the discovery of additional goods from a wrecked French ship, which they managed to acquire strategically. These supplies enabled the colonists to engage in trade profitably, fulfilling their financial commitments and equipping themselves adequately.

In a bid to secure their economic interests further, Mr. Isaac Allerton was dispatched to England, with instructions to negotiate favorable terms with the adventurers and raise some funds for the plantation's needs. This decision reflected a strategic foresight, recognizing the growing competition in trade and the necessity for better navigation capabilities. As a response to challenges posed by their reliance on small boats, the settlers, lacking a shipwright, turned to a skilled house carpenter who had experience working





with ships. He ingeniously modified one of their larger shallops, enhancing its capacity and utility, allowing it to serve them efficiently for several years.

Throughout this tumultuous period, the colonists demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability. Their unity and shared endeavors underscored a commitment to not only survive but also thrive in the face of adversity, forging a path forward despite the weight of loss. Thus, the year unfolded marked by both challenges and triumphs, embodying their steadfast spirit as a community.





Chapter 21: | Allerton brings back Proposed Composition between Adventurers in England and the Settlement—Division of land and live-stock among the Colonists—Hospitality given to Fellssibsie Settlers—Pinnace and Depot at Manomet—Allerton returns to England—Greetings between Dutch Colony at New Amsterdam and Plymouth Settlement—Leading Colonnate become responsible for purchase of Adventurers' shares In England and buy rights of the Settlements' trading from the general body of Colonists for six years: 1627.

In Chapter 21 of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts significant developments concerning the Plymouth settlement in 1627. The chapter centers on the return of Mr. Allerton from England, who brings critical supplies and the results of negotiations with the adventurers who funded the colony, encapsulated in a formal agreement regarding the settlement's debts and resources.

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Chapter 22 Summary: | Allerton in England negotiates partnership between leading New Plymouth colonists and some of the previous London adventurers—Patent for Kennebec River procured—Further Dutch intercourse—Trade in Wampum begun—Troubles with Morton in Massachusetts—John Endicott's arrival—Morton trades guns and ammunition to the Indians—Morton apprehended—Troubles begin with Isaac Allerton: 1628.

In Chapter IX of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts significant developments in the management of the Plymouth colony during the year 1628. The chapter begins with Mr. Isaac Allerton's successful negotiations in England, where he secured a six-year trade agreement for the colony alongside select investors from the previous London adventurers. This agreement included financial assistance for operating the colony, which was critical as the colony faced exorbitant interest rates for necessary funds, sometimes reaching up to 50%.

1. Partnership Formation and Financial Arrangements: Allerton's negotiation efforts culminated in a partnership that allowed several prominent figures in London, including James Sherley, to participate in financing the colony. Sherley's communication with Governor Bradford indicates this partnership alleviated some financial burdens, enabling the





colony to manage their debts more effectively.

- 2. **Return of Supplies and New Ventures** After finalizing deals in England, Allerton returned to Plymouth with valuable supplies for trading, significantly lessening the colony's debt liabilities. He also brought news of planned migration from Leyden, along with a patent for trade along the Kennebec River, which the colony would later seek to renew for greater advantage.
- 3. **Trade Relations with the Dutch** The Dutch began to play a crucial role in the trade dynamics of the region, sending various goods for exchange, including linen and sugar, which were profitable for the Plymouth settlement. Notably, the colony initiated the trade of wampum, a valuable commodity, leading to economic changes among local Indigenous populations.
- 4. **Problems with Morton and Governance Issues**: The chapter also highlights the colony's struggles with Morton, a figure from Mount Wollaston who engaged in reckless trading practices, including selling arms to the Indigenous peoples. His actions led to social unrest and moral decline among the servants in his settlement, resulting in consequences for the entire region. The intervention of John Endicott, who arrived with a new governance patent for Massachusetts, aimed to rectify these issues by banning the proliferation of firearms to the natives.



- 5. Challenges in Leadership and Internal Conflicts: Amidst the growing crises, Allerton's continued governance raised red flags. Previous arrangements had led to complications as he began blending personal trade with colony goods, risking further financial entanglement. Tensions had built to a point where colonies like Plymouth found it necessary to join forces with neighboring settlements to curtail Morton's influence and restore order.
- 6. **Scrutiny and Future Assignments**: Considering the mixed outcomes of Allerton's trading missions, the colony planned to send him back to England under specific instructions to limit his returns to goods essential for the colony. They hoped to mitigate previous issues by ensuring a clear distinction between colony and personal trade, aiming for a more sustainable economic foundation moving forward.

In summary, this chapter illustrates a pivotal moment in the Plymouth colony's early years, emphasizing the complexities of trade, partnerships, and governance amidst burgeoning challenges with local populations and internal conflicts. The careful navigation of these elements was essential for the survival and growth of the settlement in a tumultuous period.



Chapter 23 Summary: | Arrival of the Leyden people—Allerton in England tries to get the Kennebec Patent enlarged—Morton's return—Further trouble with Allerton—The partnership with Ashley—The Penobscot trading-house—Purchase of a fishing-ship suggested—John Endicott at Salem—The Church at Salem: 1689.

In this chapter, the narrative recounts the significant developments affecting the Plymouth Colony following the arrival of the Leyden people and the endeavors of Mr. Allerton in England. The chapter primarily revolves around the establishment of partnerships, the challenges of managing finances, and the ongoing spiritual and communal growth in their new environment.

- 1. Upon Mr. Allerton's return to England, he successfully established a trading partnership with their friends, which facilitated the arrival of more Leyden settlers. Their arrival was celebrated, as it brought hope and renewed aspirations for building a community centered around Christian values in a region that once seemed desolate due to prior hardships. The existing settlers viewed this as a divine blessing, highlighting the power of faith and collective effort.
- 2. The challenges brought by the new arrivals were met with some



discontent among the seasoned settlers, particularly concerning the financial burden and the issue of grain provisions. While the agreement mandated that each settler contribute three bushels of corn annually, they hoped to alleviate this requirement amid growing concerns over shared responsibilities.

- 3. Mr. Allerton's attempts to enhance the Kennebec patent faced difficulties, culminating in disappointment despite significant investments of time and resources. His shortcomings in managing expectations and his failure to secure necessary patents for the colony's governance drew ire from the settlers. Correspondence between Mr. Allerton, his partners, and others reflects both the ongoing hope for improvements and the growing frustration with leadership.
- 4. The chapter introduces conflicts surrounding Mr. Allerton's decisions, particularly the controversial return of Morton, a figure previously expelled for misconduct. His presence reignited fears of discord and moral corruption, showcasing the struggles leaders faced in balancing community well-being with individual agendas.
- 5. The partnership with Edward Ashley introduces another layer of complexity. While seen as an opportunity for profitable engagement, Ashley's questionable character raised suspicions. Despite these concerns, the colony decided to proceed with participation, highlighting their desire for economic stability and the dire need for resources.



- 6. Amidst these challenges, there are moments of cooperation and community development, as evidenced by the establishment of the Church at Salem. The election of capable ministers and the formation of church governance reflect a commitment to spiritual leadership and communal order. These events marked the beginning of organized worship and leadership, distinguishing the colony as a place of both refuge and religious practice.
- 7. The correspondence detailed in the chapter emphasizes mutual support among the communities, including aid for the ailing settlers in Salem and the invitation to foster stronger bonds between the Plymouth Colony and the burgeoning Salem community. This interconnectedness affirmed a shared mission and the desire for growth amidst adversity.

In summarizing these developments, it is clear that the Plymouth Colony faced significant challenges, driven by economic pressures, leadership struggles, and the need for communal cohesion. However, the settlers' resilience and commitment to their core values nurtured a burgeoning society capable of self-governance and spiritual growth, laying a robust foundation for future generations.



Chapter 24: | Ashley's beginnings—Arrival of Hatherley on the Friendship and Allerton on the White Angel—Hatherley examines the affairs of the CoIony—Failure of Allerton's fishing voyage on the White Angel—Ashley apprehended and sent to England—Discharge of Allerton from his Agency—The First Execution—Day of Humiliation appointed for Boston, Salem, Charlestown, and New Plymouth: 1680.

In this chapter, a tapestry of events unfolds concerning the challenges and intrigues faced by the Plymouth Colony in their early years. The narrative begins with Ashley, a trader who initially thrived by amassing a significant quantity of beaver pelts. However, he strategically chose not to pay for the goods he received from the colony, opting instead to charge them to his account and exploit the trust extended by the colony's leadership. Despite the settlers' suspicions about his conduct, the allure of the beaver trade and positive reports from Mr. Allerton, who was responsible for managing trade affairs, led them to reluctantly support Ashley's endeavors.

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Chapter 25 Summary: | Mr. Winslow in England about the White Angel and Friendship accounts—The White Angel let out to Allerton—Allerton's extravagance as agent—Josias Winslow sent from England as accountant—Penobscot robbed by the French—Sir Christopher Gardiner in New England—The Order of the Privy Council about New England: 1631.

In Chapter 25 of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts a series of intricate dealings and challenges faced by the Plymouth colony and its leadership in managing trade and relationships with various parties in England and New England. The chapter documents critical events, the complexities of partnerships, and the impact of personal ambitions on the colony's welfare.

1. Following the removal of problematic figures such as Ashley and Allerton, the colony's business began to stabilize. The control over Penobscot was reestablished, and Mr. Winslow was instrumental in facilitating the shipment of supplies back to New Plymouth to ensure the colony's trading efforts could continue without further interruption. However, issues regarding the general account persisted, particularly concerning the ships Friendship and White Angel, leading to ongoing disputes among partners.





- 2. A letter from Winslow highlights the tensions arising from Allerton's ambitions and his attempts to manage trade without proper endorsement from the colony's partners. The differing perspectives on the White Angel's acquisition led to accusations of mismanagement and distrust among the partners, specifically aimed at Allerton's actions. Winslow expressed his concerns about the fallout from these disputes and sought guidance for maintaining integrity among the settlers.
- 3. The challenges intensified with Sherley's communication, which demonstrated the lack of alignment between the colony's leaders in New Plymouth and their counterparts in England. Their forthcoming disagreements over financial responsibilities and the management of risks taken by Allerton were evident, as well as Sherley's attempts to distance his group from Allerton's excesses.
- 4. The questionable dealings involving the Friendship and White Angel were primarily driven by Allerton's interests, which, while purportedly beneficial to the colony, aligned more closely with his financial motivations. The notion of sharing liability for losses became a point of contention, as the group bonded to protect their interests while simultaneously attempting to manage the overarching responsibilities of colony management.
- 5. Bradford provided an account of the theft at their Penobscot house by French assailants, illustrating the dangers the colony faced beyond internal



strife, underscoring their vulnerability amidst geopolitical rivalries and the risk of losing valuable goods due to carelessness.

- 6. The arrival of Sir Christopher Gardiner introduced yet another layer of complexity, as his questionable motivations and past dealings elicited suspicion. His capture by the local Indians and subsequent treatment by the Governor signified the intricate weave of relationships and tensions within the region. The discovery of his documents and associations with the Catholic Church added to the political tensions in the area, showcasing the religious and cultural divides.
- 7. In another missive, Governor Winthrop detailed the proceedings before the Privy Council regarding the conduct of the colony's affairs, reflecting the overarching support for their endeavors amid accusations of disorder. The Council's favorable ruling was a cause for immense gratitude, emphasizing the necessity of unity and diligence among the settlers for their survival and progress.

Through these accounts, Bradford vividly illustrates the multifaceted challenges of establishing a new colony, emphasizing the necessity for wise leadership, clear communication between partners, and the vigilance needed in navigating both internal conflicts and external threats. The chapter reveals the intricate dynamics of trust, ambition, and the repercussions of mismanagement that characterized early colonial life.





Chapter 26 Summary: | Sale of the White Angel to Allerton—The White Angel sold in Spain—Hatherley settles in New England—Rapid increase of the Colonists' Prosperity—Divisions in the Church of New Plymouth—Wreck of William Pierce in the Lyon: 1632.

In Chapter XIII of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts a series of events surrounding the trade dealings and challenges faced by the Plymouth Colony, particularly focusing on the actions of Mr. Allerton, the growth of the colony, and the resulting divisions within the church and community.

- 1. Mr. Allerton's Unethical Dealings: Mr. Allerton returned to England with little regard for his contractual obligations, failing to pay dues and hiring fees for the ship, the White Angel. His disregard for the bond he had signed led him to take control of the ship's operations while skirting the responsibilities to his partners. He managed to sell the ship in Spain, along with her accounts, and kept the profits for himself, leaving his partners with nothing but disappointment. Despite the financial troubles and lack of accountability facilitated by Mr. Allerton, the trading efforts of the colony prospered, illustrating a disconnect between their commercial success and internal strife.
- 2. Mr. Hatherley's Unraveled Engagements: Mr. Hatherley returned to New



England, having settled his previous business affairs. However, he attempted to enforce debts against the partners related to Mr. Allerton's actions, which they rejected, indicating a growing discontent among the partners regarding financial dealings and the burden placed upon them by Mr. Allerton's mismanagement.

- 3. Prosperity's Dual Edge: Although the colony began to thrive with the arrival of new settlers, leading to increased demand for land and cattle, this prosperity also sowed seeds of division. The desire for more land resulted in families spreading out across the region, weakening the tight-knit community that had been established in New Plymouth. The once compact settlement began to thin out, leading to isolation and disconnection among its inhabitants.
- 4. Fracturing of Community and Church: The dispersal of families not only affected their social structure but also led to rifts within the church. A significant number of the congregation sought separation due to logistical challenges in maintaining regular worship, further diluting the community's cohesion. Despite attempts to incentivize individuals to remain in New Plymouth by granting land, many chose to leave, spurred by personal ambitions or feelings of disenfranchisement. This fragmentation posed a grave threat to the spiritual and social fabric of the colony.
- 5. Shipwreck and Loss: Amid these struggles, Mr. William Pierce brought



news from Virginia aboard the Lyon, carrying important cargo and correspondence for the colony. Unfortunately, the shipwrecked on the coast, resulting in a significant loss of both goods and records. Mr. Pierce's letter expressed deep concern for the physical and spiritual welfare of the colony, urging a reflection on their values and reliance on material possessions, sharing poignant insights about seeking spiritual renewal amid worldly losses.

In conclusion, Chapter XIII illustrates a complicated tapestry of growth and adversity faced by the Plymouth Colony. The quest for prosperity catalyzed migrations and trials, yet also birthed internal discord. The commitment to their faith was tested against the backdrop of financial struggles and community fragmentation, encapsulating the broader challenges of early colonial life in New England.





Chapter 27: | Trouble about the accounts of the Partnership—Roger Williams—Establishment of a trading house on the Connecticut River—Trouble with the Dutch there—Fever at New Plymouth—Scourge of Flies: 1633.

In Chapter 14 of "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford, significant challenges beset the Plymouth Colony during the year under Governor Edward Winslow's leadership. This chapter vividly highlights the financial troubles stemming from the colony's partnership ventures, notably regarding Mr. Allerton, a central figure in their trading operations. The letters exchanged illustrate the despair and frustration felt by both sides.

1. **Financial Mismanagement**: The correspondence from London, particularly by James Sherley, reveals the colony's dim prospects of regaining lost investments due to Mr. Allerton's mishaps, including the wreck of a ship and financial burdens accumulating over time. Sherley expresses his deep emotional toll from these losses, emphasizing the collective anguish shared between colonists and their supporters in England.

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funds for Blackstone's firs overcoming numerous reje the importance of persister entrepreneurship. After two successfully raised \$850 m Chapter 28 Summary: | Hocking Shot at
Kennebec—Lord Say and the Settlement at
Piscataqua—Mr. Alden imprisoned at Boston—The case
of Hocking submitted to a Tribunal of the combined
Colonies—Captain Stone and the Dutch
Governor—Stone killed by Indians—Smallpox among the
Indians: 1634.

In this chapter of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts a series of significant events that occurred around 1634, highlighting conflicts, diplomatic efforts, and the impact of disease among Indigenous peoples.

- 1. **Change in Leadership**: Mr. Thomas Prince was elected as Governor for the year. During this time, correspondence from Mr. Sherley conveyed concerns about financial troubles linked to Mr. Allerton's management. Sherley acknowledged that the colony had reasons to be upset, but concluded it was too late for action against Allerton.
- 2. **Conflict at Kennebec**: The narrative focuses on a man named Hocking, who, disregarding boundaries set by the Plymouth patent, attempted to trade in the Kennebec area, infringing upon the colony's established rights. Despite being warned to leave, Hocking refused, ultimately leading to a deadly confrontation when he shot and killed a



member of the Plymouth community. In retaliation, one of the men from Plymouth killed Hocking, setting off a chain of events that would test the colony's relationships with nearby settlements.

- 3. **Miscommunication and Imprisonment**: Following the incident, the situation escalated as the news reached Massachusetts, with a distorted account inciting outrage among neighboring colonies. Mr. Alden, who had no involvement in the conflict apart from resupplying, found himself imprisoned due to rising tensions. The Plymouth leadership, feeling unjustly treated, sought to explain the facts behind the altercation to Nagivate their complex relationship with Massachusetts and Piscataqua.
- 4. **Efforts for Reconciliation**: The Plymouth colony initiated outreach, proposing a meeting among various communities to address the issue collaboratively. Although initially met with skepticism, the assembly included ministers to guide discussions based on conscience, demonstrating a commitment to resolving discord amicably.
- 5. **Judicial Outcomes**: When the meeting convened, only a few representatives from Massachusetts and New Plymouth attended, and ultimately, the blame for the altercation was placed on Hocking. The meeting concluded with mutual respect and agreed-upon measures to prevent future conflicts, rekindling a cooperative spirit among the colonies.



- 6. **Commercial Ventures and Challenges** Mr. Winslow was dispatched to England with cargo from their successful trade ventures, including valuable furs. Concurrently, the chapter recounts unfortunate incidents involving Captain Stone's attempted seizure of a Plymouth trading vessel, which highlighted the dangers faced by settlers.
- 7. **Devastating Disease**: A grim account follows, detailing a plague of smallpox that afflicted the local Indigenous tribes, resulting in catastrophic mortality. The impact of the disease was compounded by poor living conditions, causing great suffering. In an act of compassion, the English traders provided care and assistance to the dying Indians, which was not only a humanitarian gesture but also strengthened goodwill between the groups.
- 8. **Unyielding Providence**: Remarkably, despite their efforts to aid the afflicted Indians, none of the English settlers contracted the disease, illustrating what Bradford perceives as divine providence.

This chapter underscores the complexities and struggles of early colonial life, marked by territorial disputes, interpersonal grievances, and the devastating effects of disease, while simultaneously showcasing moments of compassion and community amongst distinct groups.



Chapter 29 Summary: | Edward Winslow in England—Petition to the Commissioners for the Colonies in America—Winslow imprisoned—The London partners withhold the accounts of the partnership—The French capture the trading-house at Penobscot—Attack on the French fails—Phenomenal Hurricane—Settlement of people from Massachusetts on the Connecticut River—Mr. Norton minister at New Plymouth: 1635.

In the turmoil of the early colonial period, Mr. Edward Winslow traveled to England to address pressing issues facing the New England colonies, particularly concerning territorial encroachments by the French and Dutch. His arrival in England was fortuitous, as he brought with him a profitable shipment of furs, leading to a warm welcome from stakeholders eager to settle accounts and address grievances. Winslow seized the opportunity to advocate for the colonies by submitting a petition to the Lords Commissioners for the Colonies, detailing the aggressive maneuvers of both the French, who had begun raiding settlements and seizing goods, and the Dutch, who aimed to establish themselves along the Connecticut River.

His petition sought protection and support for the English colonists, requesting either diplomatic intervention or permission for them to defend themselves. This appeal resonated with several commissioners, and Winslow was given a platform to articulate the colonists' plight. Yet, his efforts were





thwarted by powerful interests, including those backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who aimed to establish a governor with episcopal powers to undermine the autonomy of the New England churches. Winslow subsequently faced hostility that culminated in his unjust imprisonment in the Fleet for approximately seventeen weeks after the Archbishop cross-examined him regarding his religious activities and civil roles.

Despite his incarceration, Winslow's commitment embodied the larger struggle of the New England settlers to retain their rights and governance amidst external pressures. Meanwhile, the colony faced significant challenges, including a devastating raid on their trading post at Penobscot by French forces, which resulted in a substantial financial loss and prompted plans for retribution. Efforts to mobilize support from other colonies, particularly Massachusetts, were met with mixed results, as financial cooperation proved elusive due to administrative hesitations and concurrent trading with the French by some Massachusetts merchants.

Furthermore, natural calamities struck, including a phenomenal hurricane that wreaked havoc on the region. This powerful storm caused extensive property damage, uprooting trees and putting lives at risk, marking a significant event in the colony's history.

The competition for land intensified as settlers from Massachusetts sought to claim territory along the Connecticut River, leading to a contentious





negotiation with the New Plymouth colony. Ultimately, a treaty was brokered; while New Plymouth retained control over its house and a portion of the land, the Massachusetts settlers expanded their claims, resulting in a strained but necessary compromise.

Additionally, in a quest for spiritual leadership, Winslow traveled with the hope of acquiring a minister for his community. Sadly, an intended candidate succumbed to illness, but Winslow later found Mr. Norton willing to serve on a trial basis. Norton, however, eventually chose to accept an invitation from a more prosperous community, highlighting the challenges faced in maintaining a stable religious leadership amidst relentless change and competition.

The chapter illustrates the complexity of life in early colonial America, marked by not only external threats from foreign powers but also internal strife and the pursuit of religious and communal integrity amidst adversity. Through Winslow's efforts and the colony's collective struggles, the narrative sheds light on the foundational experiences that shaped the development of New England.





Chapter 30: | Consignments of Fur to England—The plague in London—Disorganization of the accounts—Dispute between the London partners—The Pequot Indians get unruly—Oldham killed—John Bayner minister: 1636.

In the ongoing narrative of "Of Plymouth Plantation," Chapter 30 provides a detailed account of various events and challenges faced by the Plymouth Colony in 1636. These can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Governance and Strategic Decisions: Mr. Edward Winslow was elected Governor, underscoring the leadership responsibilities inherent in managing relationships with their partners in England. Despite the lack of expected accounts from England, Winslow persuaded the colony to send a significant shipment of furs—1150 pounds of beaver and 200 otter skins—confident that new agreements would follow.
- 2. **Trade Challenges**: The colony engaged in trading with a Dutchman who had been barred from trading at a Dutch fort. They acquired essential

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Chapter 31 Summary: | The war with the Pequot Indians—Co-operation between the Colonies—The Narragansett Indians allies of the English—The Pequot Fort attacked and taken—The Pequots routed and subdued—The Narragansett Indians Jealous of the Monhiggs under Uncas – James Sherley discharged from his agency in London: 1637.

In Chapter XVIII of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts the early escalation of conflict between the Pequots and the English settlers in Connecticut, illustrating the challenges of colonial alliances and the complexities of Native American politics. The chapter begins with the Pequots launching aggressive attacks on the English, killing numerous settlers in the fields, which incited fear among the population and prompted calls for assistance from neighboring colonies.

1. Call for Collaboration: In response to the Pequot threat, the Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, John Winthrop, acknowledges the request for military aid from the Plymouth Colony. His letter outlines several points of consideration, emphasizing that while the war against the Pequots primarily concerns Massachusetts, it is also in the best interest of Plymouth for their mutual safety. Winthrop conveys that the English colonies must unite against a common enemy, as any weakness displayed could lead to further attacks on all settlements.





- 2. **Indigenous Allegiances**: The Pequots attempt to sway the Narragansett Indians, warning them that alliances with the English could lead to their own downfall. Yet, faced with the historical grievances inflicted upon them by the Pequots, the Narragansetts ultimately decide to ally with the English to seek revenge. This reveals the intricate web of alliances and enmities among the tribes and the English, underlining how historical context shapes current decisions.
- 3. The Attack on the Pequot Fort: Despite preparations for a military campaign, the English learn that the Pequots are nearly defeated. A joint force from Connecticut and Massachusetts, supplemented by Narragansett warriors, orchestrates a surprise attack on a Pequot fort. Under the cover of darkness, the English manage to approach the fort undetected, initiating a fierce battle. The Pequot stronghold is breached with terrifying ferocity, leading to a devastating defeat for the Pequots, resulting in the loss of approximately 400 lives, many due to the flames that consumed their homes.
- 4. **Aftermath and Consequences**: Following their victory, the English and remaining Narragansett warriors contemplate pursuing the surviving Pequots. However, many Narragansett warriors withdraw, possibly driven by jealousy or the wish to avoid letting the English gain too much power. This decision reflects the complex dynamics of indigenous-colonial relationships and foreshadows future conflicts over territorial control and



alliances.

Through this chapter, Bradford illustrates not only the immediate military strategies employed by the English and their indigenous allies but also the deeper implications of inter-colonial cooperation and the shifting alliances that would characterize colonial North America. Ultimately, this narrative underscores the brutal realities of frontier life, marked by violence and the quest for survival amidst competing interests among various tribal and colonial entities.





Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Power of Unity in Adversity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter XVIII of 'Of Plymouth Plantation,' Bradford emphasizes the crucial call for collaboration in the face of the Pequot threat, reminding us that unity can be our strongest shield in turbulent times. Just as the English settlers sought alliances to ensure mutual safety against a common enemy, you too can draw inspiration from this lesson by recognizing the importance of forging connections and standing together with others during challenging moments in your life. Whether it's rallying support during personal struggles, collaborating with colleagues to overcome professional obstacles, or simply leaning on friends in times of need, remember that collaboration amplifies strength, fosters resilience, and can lead to victories that would be impossible to achieve alone.





Chapter 32 Summary: | Trial of three Murderers—Rise in value of Livestock—Earthquake: 1638.

In the year when Mr. Thomas Prince took over as Governor, the colony faced a grim situation marked by crime and moral decay. Notably, three men—Arthur Peach, Thomas Jackson, and Richard Stinnings—were tried and executed for committing robbery and murder. Arthur Peach, a formidable figure with a troubled past, had fallen into disrepute despite his service in the Pequot war. He led the other two men, who were apprentices, into a plot to escape to the Dutch colony. Their unlawful departure stemmed not just from a desire for freedom, but also from Peach's fear of the consequences following his seduction of a local maid.

The group's misfortune escalated when they encountered a Narragansett Indian, whom Peach intended to kill for his goods. Although Peach's accomplices were reluctant, Peach's determination overruled their concerns. He attacked the Indian, inflicting fatal wounds and stealing valuable items before leaving him for dead. The Indian, however, survived long enough to reveal the assailants' identities, leading to their capture. After much turmoil, including potential unrest among the indigenous population, justice was served as the men confessed to their heinous crimes. Their execution, a rare and sorrowful event for the settlers, was executed in the presence of the victim's kin and brought some satisfaction to the local population.



Amidst the dark cloud of crime, the colony experienced economic growth, evidenced by an increase in livestock prices. Cows fetched extraordinary prices, and the market thrived, suggesting a time of prosperity for those who had stock. Wealth accumulation led to changes in trade dynamics, as the original partners in various endeavors, including trading at Kennebec, reevaluated their strategies. While some opted to withdraw entirely, others agreed to continue with a portion of the profits benefiting the colony.

As the colony adjusted to both economic gain and the weight of recent events, nature also reminded them of its power. In June, a significant earthquake rattled the settlement, its rumbling prelude forewarning the inhabitants before the earth shook violently. This natural disaster interrupted a meeting of community leaders, serving as a stark reminder of their fragility. The quake was felt beyond the colony, affecting both sea and land dwellers, symbolizing a divine intervention that reminded everyone of the Lord's might.

In the months following the earthquake, unusual weather patterns persisted, characterized by cooler summers and erratic frost. The yield of crops, particularly Indian corn, suffered, leaving the community to ponder the implications of these alterations on their agricultural practices. The interconnected events of crime, economic fluctuations, natural disasters, and weather changes painted a complex portrait of the colony's resilience amid unforeseen challenges.

Event	Details
Governor Thomas Prince's Leadership	The colony faced crime and moral decay.
Crimes Committed	Three men tried and executed for robbery and murder: Arthur Peach, Thomas Jackson, Richard Stinnings.
Arthur Peach's Background	Had a troubled past, served in the Pequot war, fell into disrepute.
Plot to Escape	Peach led apprentices in a plan to escape to the Dutch colony due to a fear of consequences from his actions.
Attack on Narragansett Indian	Peach attacked and killed an Indian for goods; accomplices were reluctant but followed Peach's lead.
Capture and Justice	Indian revealed assailants' identities; after turmoil, all three confessed and were executed.
Colony's Economic Growth	Increase in livestock prices and thriving market contributed to prosperity despite the crimes.
Trade Dynamics	Wealth accumulation led to reevaluation of trading partnerships, with some withdrawing and others continuing profit-sharing.
Natural Disaster	A significant earthquake in June reminded settlers of their fragility.
Aftermath of the Earthquake	Unusual weather with cooler summers and erratic frost affected crop yields, particularly Indian corn.
Overall Resilience	Interconnected events of crime, prosperity, natural disasters, and weather changes illustrated the colony's resilience.





Chapter 33: | Settlement of boundaries between New Plymouth and Massachusetts—First steps towards winding up the partnership by a composition: 1639 and 1640.

In the annals of New Plymouth's history, the years 1639 and 1640 stand out not only for their routine governance but also for significant developments concerning territorial disputes and the winding down of a complex partnership. The settlement, established by the early Pilgrims, encountered both intra-colonial challenges and external pressures shaped by its founding partnerships in England.

1. Land Disputes and Boundary Settlements: In the context of territorial claims, New Plymouth had previously granted land to various townships, including Scituate, whose settlers partly originated from New Plymouth. Complicating matters, land was also allocated to four partners in London, which inadvertently set the stage for disputes with the Massachusetts Bay Colony. A series of conflicts arose over boundary definitions, particularly concerning meadows that both colonies desired but could not agree upon.

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Chapter 34 Summary: | Further steps towards the Composition between the London and New Plymouth partners—Dispute with Rev. Charles Chauncey about Baptism—Fall in value of livestock—Many leading men of New Plymouth move from the town: 1641.

In the year 1641, the ongoing disputes between the partners of the New Plymouth plantation and their London counterparts came to a head, primarily due to the strained financial and operational relations stemming from their joint partnerships. Mr. James Sherley, disenchanted by the prolonged conflicts, reached out to influential members within New Plymouth—specifically Mr. John Atwood and Mr. William Collier—urging them to facilitate a resolution based on mutual agreement. In a letter addressed to Governor Bradford, he expressed his frustration at the stagnation in resolving account discrepancies and warned that any legal proceedings would benefit only the lawyers, not the involved parties. Sherley encouraged a fair negotiation, hinting at the urgency to restore reputations and preserve the integrity of their community and beliefs.

Prompted by Sherley's insistence and the mediators' efforts, the New Plymouth partners convened to address their financial entanglements. Appointing Atwood and Collier as representatives, they gathered friends to assist in detailing an inventory of assets—such as livestock, tools, ships, and unrecovered debts. This process, though thorough, led to the realization that





their valuation was likely undervalued due to errors in estimating the worth of certain assets. After painstaking discussions, they prepared articles of agreement that sought to settle their financial obligations amicably, effectively terminating the partnership by clearly delineating claims and debts owed.

Key provisions included not just the acceptance of a specified amount for settlement but also stipulations about the payment of debts incurred from failed voyages involving two ships. This agreement aimed to avoid future legal disputes and solidify bonds among the parties involved. To reinforce this settlement, a bond was established to ensure compliance with the terms agreed upon.

Amidst these negotiations, the Plymouth community was also grappling with internal strife, notably with their minister, Rev. Charles Chauncey. Chauncey, who had been invited to strengthen their church leadership, found himself at odds with the congregation over baptism practices. While he advocated for full immersion, the church argued for the legitimacy of sprinkling. Despite attempts to find a middle ground and consultations with other churches, Chauncey remained unwavering and ultimately departed to serve elsewhere.

As the community dealt with these pressures, the decline in livestock values contributed to a growing sense of economic hardship. Many leading figures





in the town, including prominent leaders such as Mr. Winslow and Captain Standish, began relocating to other areas like Duxbury or Marshfield, further exacerbating the dwindling prosperity of New Plymouth. The combination of unresolved disputes, leadership disagreements, and economic downturn painted a picture of a community struggling to maintain its foundation amidst external pressures and internal conflicts.





Chapter 35 Summary: | Conclusion of Composition between London and New Plymouth partners: 1642.

In this chapter of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts a significant moment in the ongoing dealings between the partners in New Plymouth and their counterparts in England, highlighting the resolution of a long-standing and burdensome negotiation.

- 1. The letter from James Sherley to the New Plymouth partners marks a pivotal point in the resolution of disputes that have plagued both parties. Sherley addresses notable leaders, including Mr. Bradford, Mr. Winslow, and Captain Standish, indicating the collective nature of their struggle. He characterizes the negotiations as ultimately unproductive, yet expresses a hopeful sentiment that God has revealed a path towards reconciliation, encouraging a resolution grounded in "peace and love."
- 2. Sherley proposes a settlement whereby the New Plymouth partners will receive an absolute and general release from past disputes, contingent upon their own joint discharge of Sherley. He acknowledges that the negotiations have been long and complex, mediated by several figures in England, who have worked diligently to facilitate an agreement. This multilayered approach underscores a shared desire for resolution amidst initial disagreements, particularly concerning the distribution of financial obligations.



- 3. The financial specifics of the agreement reveal that the New Plymouth partners will need to pay £900 to the gentlemen of the Bay, who will manage all expenses tied to the release. The remaining £300 will directly benefit the New Plymouth partners, indicating a division of responsibilities and a pragmatic approach to settling outstanding debts.
- 4. Additionally, Sherley assures that upon receiving the necessary releases, he will send the bonds for the purchase money, emphasizing the importance of rectifying previous obligations. He expresses confidence that the discharge he provides will suffice, even if not all parties release the claims collectively, indicating a nuanced understanding of legal obligations in such partnerships.
- 5. The situation complicates with Mr. Andrews' involvement, as he too has his financial claims and is negotiated to receive a significant sum. Although he manages to arrange his release, the discussions remain contentious, particularly in relation to Mr. Beauchamp, who demands a substantial payment without offering an adequate release in return. This point illustrates how unresolved issues linger in complex financial dealings, extending the negotiation process unnecessarily.

In conclusion, this chapter encapsulates a resolution fraught with negotiation, highlighting the difficulties of collaboration and financial



settlement among the partners of New Plymouth and their English associates. The intricate dynamics of trust, commitment, and legal obligations underscore a broader theme of perseverance in the face of adversity, as the partners aim to ultimately secure peace and stability for their community.





Chapter 36: | Death of Mr. William Brewster—His Career—Remarkable longevity of the principal men among the Pilgrims—Confederation of the United Colonies of New England—War between the Narragansetts and Monhiggs—Uncas permitted by the British to execute Miantinomo: 1643.

In this poignant chapter, the narrative begins with the death of Mr. William Brewster, a revered elder who had dedicated his life to the cause of the gospel and the well-being of the Pilgrim church. Having endured considerable trials throughout his life, Brewster's passing on April 18th brought profound sorrow to all who knew him. Noteworthy is the fact that he lived a long life nearly reaching eighty years, passing peacefully in the presence of friends, embodying the values of faith and perseverance he championed throughout his life.

1. Brewster's legacy is marked by his long-standing commitment to the church, starting from his early years when he served in a position of trust at the English court under Mr. Davison, Secretary of State. His intelligence and

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Chapter 37 Summary: | Suggested removal of the Church of New Plymouth to Nauset—The Narragansetts continue their attack on Uncas and the Monhiggs—Truce arranged by the English: 1644.

In the year 1644, Edward Winslow was elected as the governor of New Plymouth, a community facing an existential crisis as many of its members had departed in search of better opportunities. The church, recognizing the potential for dissolution, engaged in extensive discussions regarding a collective relocation to a more accommodating area. Opinions within the congregation were divided; some believed they could thrive in their current surroundings with increased contentment, while others expressed an urgent need to leave. Ultimately, the majority agreed to move to Nauset, an area considered for its potential despite its distance of about 50 miles from their current settlement. However, upon further investigation, they discovered that Nauset lacked the resources and space needed to support their congregation, leading to a change of heart among many.

Despite this shift, those still set on leaving began their journey to Nauset, which left the original church, likened to a lonely matriarch, increasingly isolated and diminished by the passing of its older members. The community was left vulnerable, reliant now only on faith.

At this time, tensions escalated with the Narragansetts, who sought revenge



against Uncas, leader of the Mohegan tribe, for the death of their sagamore, Miantinomo. They approached the Governor of Massachusetts, seeking permission to wage war; however, he rejected their requests, citing their prior breaches of peace. Nevertheless, the Narragansetts attacked Uncas' people, leading him to seek assistance from the English. The English, maintaining their role as mediators, arranged a fair hearing to address the grievances of both parties at a meeting in Hartford.

The commissioners outlined several important findings after hearing both sides of the conflict. Firstly, they determined no evidence supported the Narragansetts' claim that a ransom had been paid for Miantinomo's life. Secondly, they clarified that if any warrior attempted to harm Uncas or his tribe, aid would be dispatched to him, conditional on the Narragansetts refraining from hostilities until a corn planting season had concluded. The Narragansetts agreed to this truce, promising to provide 30 days' notice before any future attacks.

The agreement aimed to ensure long-term peace and discourage any reckless aggression, highlighting the precarious balance of power among the tribes and the emerging governance structure involving the English settlers. The treaty was ultimately endorsed by the commissioners, marking a pivotal moment in maintaining relative peace in the region amid growing challenges.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of community resilience and adaptability in facing challenges.

Critical Interpretation: As you navigate through your own life, remember the lesson from the settlers: even when faced with significant trials and the potential loss of community, resilience and a willingness to adapt can lead to growth. The Pilgrims' decision to weigh the options of relocation—balancing hope and resources—serves as a reminder that when confronted with uncertainty, you too must evaluate your surroundings and be open to change. Just as they sought a place that could sustain them, seek out environments that nurture your aspirations and support your growth. Use their experience to inspire courage within yourself, knowing that while the journey may not always yield clear answers, it is your ability to adapt and persevere that will ultimately define your path.





Chapter 38 Summary: | The Narragansetts renew their attacks on Uncas and threaten the English—Preparation for War by the Colonies— Declaration of War by the English—Peace arranged and General Treaty signed by the United Colonies of New England and the Narragansetts and Nyanticks: 1645.

In Chapter XXV of "Of Plymouth Plantation," William Bradford recounts a period of escalating tensions and eventual peace negotiations between the English settlers and the Narragansett and Nyantick tribes, particularly involving Uncas, the sachem of the Mohegan Indians. The landscape of the situation is characterized by a series of confrontations and strategic responses that emphasize the fragile balance between diplomacy and warfare.

- 1. **Origins of Conflict**: Following troubling events that revealed breaches of prior peace agreements, commissioners from the United Colonies convened in Boston on July 28, 1645, to address the renewed hostilities. The Narragansetts had launched a surprise attack on Uncas, demonstrating their superior numbers and military strength, killing many of his men and wounding others while seeking alliances with fierce neighboring tribes like the Mohawks.
- 2. Immediate Actions and Preparations: In response to these



provocations, the English settlers mobilized to support Uncas by sending reinforcements. Recognizing the imminent threat, the commissioners dispatched messengers to the Narragansetts and Uncas, demanding compliance with previous treaties and warning of potential retaliation should they continue their aggression.

- 3. **Threatening Responses**: The messages from the Narragansetts conveyed disregard for English authorities, coupled with aggressive posturing and assurances of an impending war. This dire forecast heightened the urgency among the commissioners, prompting them to consult with military leaders and magistrates, resulting in a unified decision to aid Uncas and prepare for conflict.
- 4. **Terms of Treaty and Agreements** Following diplomatic discussions in Boston, a comprehensive treaty was negotiated. Key points included:
- Payment of 2000 fathoms of wampum to be made by the Narragansetts and Nyantics to settle past grievances.
- Restoration of captives previously taken from Uncas and compensation for destroyed crops.
- The establishment of a framework for addressing future disputes while ensuring a permanent peace amongst the tribes and the English settlers.
- 5. Conditions for Peace and Hostages: The agreement mandated the Narragansetts and Nyantics to provide hostages as security for their



commitments, with the stipulation that they would not engage in hostile actions without prior consent from the English. This clause was indicative of the functional alliance being sought between the colonies and the tribes, aimed at preventing further violence.

6. **Future Commitments and Relations**: The parties involved pledged to uphold the treaty and advised that any future hostilities should not be deemed a breach of the peace until this treaty could be confirmed. They also agreed against selling land without the consent of the colonial authorities, highlighting the colonial administration's overarching influence over territorial matters.

In summary, Chapter XXV illustrates a critical moment in early colonial history marked by threats of conflict, diplomatic negotiations, and the intricate web of alliances necessary for survival in a turbulent environment. The successful resolution of this conflict through treaties reflects the evolving relationships between Native American tribes and European settlers, emphasizing the complexities of coexistence in a shared land.



Chapter 39: | Captain Thomas Cromwell settles in Massachusetts—His death—Edward Winslow's long stay in England: 1646.

In mid-May, a notable event unfolded with the arrival of Captain Thomas Cromwell and his crew of approximately 80 spirited men in the harbor. Cromwell, having distinguished himself by capturing prizes from the Spanish in the West Indies, was commissioned by the Earl of Warwick. However, upon landing, the crew quickly succumbed to unruly behavior, exacerbated by excessive drinking. Their antics overwhelmed any initial attempts at restraint, though, over time, they began to exhibit a bit more discipline.

During their stay of about a month and a half, the crew's loose spending did inject some wealth into the local economy, yet it also ushered in moral decay that the community struggled to mitigate. Amidst this chaotic atmosphere, a grave incident transpired involving a quarrelsome crew member who refused to heed Captain Cromwell's authority. After escalating tensions led to the man drawing his rapier, Cromwell intervened, ultimately wrestling the

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