

MOM
#L 76

2216

The Purpose of the Massachusetts Bay Company

- (1) at its origin, (2) at the time of its
transference to America -

- When did the religious motive enter
and to what degree did other motives enter?

May 15, 1903.

Approved for Thesis for Degree of Bachelor of Arts.

W. W. Wash

S. J. Smith

Elizabeth Harris -

UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA
LIBRARY

face Livingston.

Bibliography -

- Life and Letters of John Winthrop
by Robert Winthrop.
- Winthrop's Journal - Ravage.
- Hubbard's History of New England.
- Hutchinson's History of Mass. Bay.
- Mass. Colonial Record Vol. I.
- Forces Fracts - vol. for Mass. Bay Colony.
- Fournge's Chronicle of New England.
- Massachusetts Historical Society Collections.
- Prince's Annals - English Garner - Archer - II -
- New England Memorial -

- Gardiner - Hist. of England - 10 volumes -
- Doyle - Puritan Colonies -
- Fiske - New England
- Bancroft - Hist. of America -
- Barry - Hist. of Mass.
- Woodrow Wilson - Hist. of America - 5 vol.
- Palfrey - Hist. of New England.
- Hildreth - Hist. of English Colonies.
- Adams - Emancipation of Massachusetts -
- Twitchell - John Winthrop.

9 Feb 167.80

The Purpose of the Massachusetts Bay Company

This subject is divided into five parts: the conditions in England; a short history of the company, the origin of Winthrop's intention, and his motive in coming to America, also the conclusions from these four.

There is a purpose in the division and the method of treatment. The short review of the Conditions in England at this time is to give a view of the causes which underlay the migrations of the Puritans which is the view-point from which that movement should be considered. A short history of the Company is to show the different stages and the three distinct periods of the company. The tracing of the origin of the intention of Winthrop, the governor of the company, has for its purpose the proof that Winthrop had no connection with the former movements and shows the motives from which the

desire originated. Besides it shows that when he was made governor it was because he was considered the most important man in the company. The motives of Winthrop are then discussed, beginning with the first suggestion of leaving England and following them down to the considerations for going drawn up by himself. From this may be gained the purpose of the governor - and in how far his motives were religious and in how far financial. This governor is the representative of the company, for upon his going depended that of the other chief men. After this the conclusions of the study can readily be deduced and the purpose of the company stated.

Charles I. was on the throne of England, ^{and} on the continent the Thirty Years war was raging, when the Puritans looked across the sea to a new and happy land.

As every great man is the product of his times, so may it be said that every great movement is the result of the conditions of the period in which it originates.

This is most true of the Puritan migrations of Charles' reign of which that of the Massachusetts Bay Company was the most important.

There was general dissatisfaction in the nation. The blame of this was laid on the King's chief advisor, Buckingham. The relaxation of laws against the Catholics, traitors in the eyes of the Protestants, the ill-fated expeditions against Spain, bringing dishonor to the name of England and the arbitrary methods of obtaining money were enough to cause the distrust of the nation. But most of all was the attitude of the King towards the House of Commons. There was a general feeling among the members that the House must be taken into the confidence of the King. This Charles felt was absurd. He thought of England as his personal property as a noble does his estates, to him, there was no responsibility in kingship.

The Puritan shared the sentiment of the House of Commons and was asking for the popular maintenance of a "popular doctrine" (1). In politics, he stood for the nation's wishes and will in matters of state

(1) Gardiner
Vol. VII. p. 203.

At the same time there had grown up a new school of Churchmen who anxious for a change to a standard of an earlier age, looked to the king for support and as the means of carrying out their plans. The head of this school was Laud.

After Buckingham's death this man, probably, influenced the King more than any other. He had more contempt for the popular will than Buckingham combined with a strong belief in the externality of authority.

Just at the dissolution of Charles's third parliament, March 10, 1629, from which eleven years were to pass before another was to be called, three resolutions were passed, which show the temper of the House of Commons.

Tonnage and Poundage had been granted the king for one year only. Charles, however, still claimed the right to levy it. When he had signed the "Petition of Rights", the House claimed that this was included under the term "tax". Hence the second and third Resolutions.

② II. "Whosoever shall counsel or advise the taking and levying of the subsidies of tonnage and poundage, not being granted by Parliament"

shall be likewise reputed an innovator in the government and a capital enemy to this Kingdom and Commonwealth".

III. "If any merchant or other person whatsoever shall voluntarily yield or pay the said subsidies of tonnage and poundage not being granted by Parliament, he shall likewise be reputed a betrayer of the liberty of England and an enemy to the same".

The practical stoppage of trade at this time was due chiefly to the influence of these resolutions. English commerce was liable to the ravages of Dunkirk privateers and French cruisers, which fact together with the strife about customs duties made trade almost impossible. Few persons would pay the duties and, all not paying, were to be imprisoned. Merchants held back from buying and selling. The Manchester merchants refused to export cloth and were brought before the Star Chamber. But the most interesting case was that of Chamber a typical Puritan merchant, who when brought before the Court, said that the merchants were in no part of the world so screwed and wrong as in England and that in Turkey they had more encouragement. (3) "The obstinacy" said

(3) Gardiner UJ.84

a letter-writer of the day," lies not only in the merchants' breast but moves in every small vein through the Kingdom."

However, the underlying cause of difference was the religious question. The first resolution was on Religion.

I.(4) "Whosoever shall bring in innovation in religion or by favor seek to extend or introduce Popery or Arminianism or other opinions disagreeing from the true and orthodox Church shall be reputed a capital enemy to this Kingdom and Commonwealth."

(4) Gardiner VII-75

This Parliament had passed a resolution on Religion which shows what it considered the orthodox Church.

(5) Gardiner VII-41

(5) "We, the Commons now in Parliament assembled do claim, profess and avow for truth the sense of the Articles of Religion which was established in the reign of our late Queen Elizabeth, which by public acts of the Church of England and by the general and concurrent exposition of the writers of our Church have been delivered to us and we do reject the sense of the Jesuits and Arminians."

The Puritans believed they were defending the established Church, that they were upholding the existing religion. It was in an age when religious questions occupied much

more of the thoughts of men than now. This was the problem the age had to work out. The Puritan of Charles' day felt he must uphold the Protestantism of Elizabeth's day against attacks of Papists from without and within the Kingdom and also from Arminians, as Laud and his party were called.

The difference was not merely of conformity or non-conformity to certain prescribed forms, it was a difference in attitude. To the Puritan God was an invisible presence which must be worshiped from the heart, in the spirit. To him all forms were hindrances to this spiritual communication.

(6) To Laud, the outward and visible was the road to the inward and spiritual. He believed that habits of reverence led to "an inward and spiritual grace". He spoke of Aristotle as his great master for Aristotle taught that virtue owed its strength to the formation of habits. It was his purpose to bring about peace among those whom theological argument had divided by causing all to conform to the same practices. To him, why men should trouble themselves with matters they could not understand was incomprehensible.

(6.) Gardiner VII-126

(7) Having so exalted an estimate

(7.) Gardiner VII-126

of the value of eternal influences he had no difficulty in accepting fully the royal supremacy," and it was to the King, he looked to accomplish this piece. In Charles he found a hearty supporter, But so long as Abbot, the Puritan bishop was alive, his sway could not be complete for abbot had the ear of the King. Still with the King's authority he could accomplish much even if he felt the passive resistance at the center of ecclesiastical machinery.

The Puritan considered himself a conservative. He felt that he stood for the ancient liberties of the English people in Church and State. It was for these liberties that Eliot stood out so stoutly in the Parliament and for these he remained in prison till his death. Upon the Continent the Protestant cause was doubtful and the English government seemed to take little interest in the cause. In fact, all it meant to Charles was the restoring of the Palatinate to his sister. No wonder the Puritans felt that ruin was coming upon their native land when Parliament was dissolved and Charles, with such ideas, undertook to rule by virtue of his prerogative what they believed to be the best and noblest wife

had lost at home and abroad, add to this the general dissatisfaction with the government, the loss of trade and the feeling of overpopulation.

During James' reign the building of new houses in London had been prohibited and the same law was again put in force in this reign. Such was the outlook of the Puritan when America was suggested as a possible refuge. The most important of these projects was that of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

It was not until 1630, that the Massachusetts Company established the colony that was the beginning of the Massachusetts Commonwealth.

To understand the influence of these conditions upon colonists, it is necessary to know something of the history of the colony.

The early history of the Company may be divided into three periods first, from 1623 to 1628, second, from March 1628 to July 1629, third, from July 1629 to 1630.

The first period was that of White's scheme of establishing a colony to administer to the spiritual welfare of the fishermen whom the Norwich merchants sent out every year.

The company took up the plan because it was for the betterment of their enterprise. Mr. White's purpose was missionary, but not Puritan.

He says in his "Planter's Plea" ⁽⁸⁾ that the project took so well that it drew on others to join; the rather because it was conceived that not only their own fishermen but the rest of the nation that went thither on the same errand might be much advantaged not only by fresh victual which that colony might spare them in time but ~~withal~~ and more by the benefit of their ministers labours which they might enjoy during the fishing season; whereas, otherwise being usually upon these voyages nine or ten months in the year they were left, all the while, without any means of instruction at all. Compassion for the fishermen and partly some expectation of gain prevailed so far that for the planting of the colony in New England there was raised a stock of more than £3000 intended to be paid in in five years but afterwards disbursed in a shorter time."

Roger Conant having left Plymouth because he was not in sympathy with the separatists, was decided upon as agent for the company.

19) The plan did not prosper and by

Planter's Plea
Young's Chr.
P 11.

1626, because of many mishaps and misfortunes two thirds of the capital was lost and the company dissolved. White, however, had not lost interest and urged Conant to stay promising to send him men and provisions.

March 1628 which marks the beginning of the second period, a grant of land was purchased. Mr. White had caused the enterprise to be well known and aroused a considerable interest. Mr. Dudley speaks of the people in Lincolnshire writing down to London concerning it (16). After some time, Endicott was found and offered the control of this colony to replace Conant. In September 1628, a business partnership was entered into, and shortly after Endicott with fifty or sixty others set sail for New England.

v. o.) Force-tracts
Gov. Dudley's
letter p. 7.

March 1629, a patent was granted from the Plymouth Council. By April, Endicott was made governor of the plantation. Matthew Cradock, governor of the company in England, Thomas Goffe deputy-governor and such men as Sir Richard Saltonstall, Isaac Johnson, John Humphrey and Increase Newell among the assistants.

Endicott's instructions from the company were sent over in the ship with Higginson who sailed April 25.

1 With him came over two hundred immigrants, mostly servants. This closes the second period-

July 28-1629 there is an entry on the lack of money and the difficulty of obtaining it by subscription, after which as the last entry for the day that (11) "the government read certain propositions conceived by himself viz: that for the advancement of the plantation the inducing and encouraging persons of worth and quality transplant themselves and families thither and for other weighty considerations therein contained to transfer the government of the plantation to those that shall inhabit there and not to continue the same in subordination to the Company here as it now is. This business occasioned some debate but by reason of the many great and considerable consequences thereupon depending, it was not now resolved upon but those present are desired privately and seriously to consider here of and to set down their particular reasons in writing pro and contra and to produce the same at the next general court where they being reduced to heads and maturely considered of the company may

11) Record 47

-1

They proceed to a single resolution there on; and in the meantime they are desired to carry this business secretly that the same be not divulged. Aug. 26 the Cambridge agreement is signed.

Aug. 28. is the meeting of the Court the special cause of which is to answer certain gentlemen who are thinking of going to New England whether the government of the company is going to be transferred to the plantations or not. Two committees are appointed who are to discuss the matter and report to the Court the next day. The next day, after hearing the report it is decided to transfer the patent and government to New England if it can be done legally.

Sept. 19. Mr. Winthrop's name is found on the records as a member of a committee. He was probably one of the gentlemen 'who were thinking of going to America'.

By the middle of October the company had decided to go and the twentieth Winthrop was chosen Governor. April 1630 Winthrop set sail with nearly a thousand (12)

This closes the third period -
The first and second periods were financial ventures of the company.

The first was ^{un}successful, the second would probably have been if not re-reinforced by the emigration of the third period for Wuthrop on arriving in America found the colony in a sad condition, eighty dead and so little food that the servants who were left of those sent over two years before had to be set at liberty. (13)

(13) Aud. letter - Youngs Club. p. 312.

Altho Endicott, Higginson and Shelton who came over during the second period were strong Puritans with separatist tendencies they were sent out by a company in England whose purpose was that of profit. The plantation was not successful and would probably have died out as the preceding settlement had not the company decided to come themselves.

But now the Company, composed of many men of means and position takes its charter and comes to the plantation. (14) This migration was the greatest effort of colonization yet made by the English and practically the foundation of Massachusetts. What the reason was, that these men should leave England, whether from the purpose of gain or from religious motives, the interpretation (15) of the whole colonial period of this colony.

(14) Doyle p 101

(15) Life & Letters of Wuthrop p 312.

Wentworth's Connection.

July 28, 1629 was the first suggestion of the revolution - the transfer of the government - It was by Governor Bradock in the general court of the company

† The court was to adjourn for a month † see page. 22.

at which time this matter was to be reported upon. That an agreement was signed August 26, by twelve men among whom was John Wentworth (not a member of the company) Thomas Dudley, Richard Dalton and Isaac Johnson, shows that the matter had not settled during this time. The agreement was that they would remove to New England providing that before the last of September next, the whole government might be legally transferred.

By the middle of October Wentworth was chosen governor, a comparatively new comer. Nothing could be more significant of his importance to the company. In his considerations for undertaking the enterprise he mentions that "divers of the chief undertakers (upon whom the matter depends) will not go without him." (16)

The intentions and motives of John Wentworth, who was to have more influence in the colony than any one man and who for many years was its guide and strength, may then be taken as representing the wishes

(11.) Life & Letters
of John Wentworth
by Robt. Wentworth
p. 3 & 7.

of the company. From this man's intentions and motives those of the majority of the company may be judged. The origin of his intention will throw light on his connection with the other movements and his relations to the leaders of the enterprise.

The Intention.

1623, in a postscript to a letter to his wife Wynthrop writes, "I wish oft God would open a way to settle me in Ireland, if it might be for his glory" (17). This was probably not more than a passing wish for nothing more is said about it. Probably the new country attracted him, certainly it could not have been any religious motive, for he would have been worse off there than in England. (17) Life & Letters p. 23

1627 As late as 1627 he is planning to move to London because of his "practice". "For my charge here grows very heavy and I am weary of these journeyings, so as I will either remove or quit of my office. I would have you acquire a house for me." (18) Q. & A. p. 249

He was practicing attorney of the Court of the Wards. This called him to London while his home was in Suffolk, in little town called Gratton. That he had no intention of coming to America can be seen from the fact that he opposed his sons going to stay permanently. In a

letter to his son John written April 7/1628
Winthrop says (19) "For your journey (19) L. + L. p 25
intended since you have a resolu-
tion to go to sea I know not where
you should go with such religious
company and under such hope of
blessing: only I am loathe you should
think of settling there as yet, but to
be gone and coming awhile and
afterwards to do as God shall offer occasion."

This journey was probably with
Endicott (20) John Winthrop Jr. Gane (20) L. + L. p. 257
up the Ida and took an extended
trip to the Orient which his letters
give some account of by July 14/1628 (21) p. 263. L + L.
(21)

It is not until May 15. 1629
in a letter to his wife that Winthrop
makes any mention of adverse con-
ditions in England. (22) "It is a great (22) L. + L. p. 295.
favor that we may enjoy so much
comfort and peace in these so civil
and declining times and when the
increasing of our sins gives us
so great cause to look for some
heavy scourge and judgement to
be coming upon us (In March
of this year the Parliament had been
dissolved.)"

This feeling was probably emphasized
by the next event. In June he loses
his office. (23) June 5. "but thou (23) L + L. p. 297-8
will bear with me rather for that
my office is gone."

(24) Between June 17 and 22, he writes, "For news I shall have but one to write of, but that will be more welcome to thee than a great deal of other. My office is gone and my chamber and I shall be a sinner in them both."

(24) L. & L. p. 301. -18-

June 22, is the first mention of any change, it is in a letter to his wife: "But where we shall spend the rest of our short time I know not. The Lord, I trust will direct us in mercy. My hope is that thou art willing to be my companion in what place or condition so ever"

July 28, in the "private experiences" (25) there is mention of a ride to Lincolnshire, probably to meet Isaac Johnson and consult concerning the Massachusetts charter. There is a letter from Johnson to Downing (a relative of Winthrop) found among Winthrop's papers urging him to do so. (26) "As I forgot to send you according to my intention for Lincolnshire, it had been an excellent time for Mr. Winthrop to have at Cambridge, let me entreat to be remembered to him. So expecting you both here ere it be long etc. to Johnson"

(25) L. & L. p. 304

(26) Mass. Hist. Coll. 4 Ser. Vol. VI p. 29.

(27) Aug. 12 is the date of a letter from Mr. Robert Ryce to John Winthrop in which Mr. Ryce tries to discourage Mr. Winthrop's going to America evidently "For the subject you write of briefly and plainly let me say

(27) Laud L. p. 330

and to show you my mind what-so-
 ever others say I pray you give
 me leave in one word to show you
 the Church and Commons weal here
 at home both need of your best ability
 in these dangerous times ~~standing~~
 remote plantation etc". Showing
 that Mr. Wuthrop had probably
 written him about going to New
 England and was thinking seriously
 of it but had not decided. The
 next letter we have is from John Wuthrop
 Jr. reaching London after his voyage
 This letter is in answer to one of his
 father's which undoubtedly gave his rea-
 sons for leaving England. It is dated
 Aug. 31. 1629. five days before the
 Cambridge Agreement (28) "For
 the business of New England, I can
 say no other thing but that I be-
 lieve confidently that the whole
 disposition thereof is of the Lord who
 disposeth all alterations by his blessed
 will to his own glory and the good of us;
 and therefore do assure myself, that
 all things shall work together for
 the best therein. -- and I shall call
 that my country where I may glorify
 God and enjoy the presence of my
 dearest friends. * The Conclusions which
 you sent down I showed to my aunt
 and uncle who liked them well. I

(28) R + R. p. 307.

* see p. 22.

think they are unanswerable. and it cannot but be a prosperous action which is so well allowed by the judgments of God prophets, undertaken by so religious and wise worthies of Israel and redented to Gods glory in so special a service."

Aug. 26 is the Agreement. He has decided to go if the government can be moved. By October we find in a letter to his wife (29) "we are agreed now with the merchants and stay only to settle affairs". Oct. 20. he is chosen governor. From this may be seen that there was no connection with the former movements, at that time Wuthrop's was opposed to his son's going. This movement is distinctly different from that. This is a movement of the company and those like-minded whom they had interested. Wuthrop seems to have been drawn into it after he lost his office and his material property appears to be turning. This leads to the second consideration whether it was a financial or religious enterprise.

(29) p. 234 d & d.

Again Wuthrop's motives may be traced from his letters and from these we may find the spirit of the company and colony

Going back to a letter written to his son at college in Ireland. With his financial affairs would seem to be in a flourishing condition (30) "If 20^l be too little, you shall have 30^l and when that shall not suffice you shall have more". Twenty and thirty pounds was a very liberal allowance for that time.

(30) L & D. p. 229.

The next month in a postscript we find the reference to Ireland but we no note of dissatisfaction of England in the letter nor any of his letters following this till 1629. six years later. No change in his affairs is spoken of till January of 1628 when in a letter to Henry, who was somewhat of a wild, adventurous youth he says (31) "I would send you some other things by Mr. Randall, but in truth I have no money and am ashamed to borrow any more. I have disbursed a great deal of money for you, more than my estate will allow. I have many other children that are unprovided and I see my life is uncertain. I do wonder upon what ground you should be led into so gross an error, as to think that I could provide for such men as you write for and disburse a matter of £200 (when I owe more already than I am able to pay

#sep. 16.

B. J. L. + L. P. 285

without sale of my lands) and to do this at some two or three months warning"

About a year and a half later May-1629. he writes: (32) he writes: "If the Lord seeth it will be good for us, he will provide a shelter and a hiding place for us and others."

(32) R + L. p. 296.

In June his office is gone. a few days after on the twenty second in a letter to his wife he says, (33) "But where we shall spend the rest of our short time I know not" which has been quoted in the other connection

(33) p. 302 R + L.

The letter of Wuthrop to which we have his son's answer (Aug. 21-1629) would probably have given us Wm.

* see p. 19

* Wuthrop's own account of his plans.

(34) R + L. p. 307.

(34) but we have the "Conclusions" referred to and also Reasons for and against in all probability written by him (35) They are in the handwriting of North Wuthrop who was frequently employed as a copier for his father.

(35) p. 308 - and 311 R + L.

It was doubtless during that month

when the court was adjourned that these reasons and conclusions were drawn up. Probably many of the men interested wrote similar reasons and passed them around among their friends as Wuthrop had sent them to his son who read them and gave them to his aunt and uncle to read.

† see page: 15-

(36) "Reasons to be considered for just-

(36) R + L. p. 309.

fixing the Undertakers of the intended
Plantation in New England and
for encouraging such whose hearts
God shall move to join with them in it

* 1- Will be a service to the church to
carry the Gospel into those parts
and to raise a bulwark against the
Kingdom of Anti-Christ which some
labour to raise in those parts -

* Summary.

2- All churches of Europe are brought
to desolation, evil times are threatening
us, this may be a refuge for us and
a means of providing tabernacles
and food for her.

3- The land grows weary of her
inhabitants so as man is here more
vile and base than the earth we
tread upon and less price among
us than a sheep or horse and we
use the authority of the Law to hinder
the increase of our people, as by urging
the statute against cottages and inmates
also unlawful trades maintained

4- Cannot enjoy fruits of labor in
England while a new country lies
waste without improvement.

5- Riot and intemperance so that
no man's estate suffice to keep up
with his equals. The arts and trades
are carried on in a deceitful and
unrighteous course, impossible for
a good man to live comfortably
(Was this the reason he lost his office?)

6. Education and religion corrupt
for children to be brought up in -

7. Worthy work to keep a particular⁽²⁾ Church in its infancy.

8. Those of property should join as an example and to encourage others to go.

9. Appears the work of God since he has disposed the hearts of so many good and faithful servants both ministers and others to interest themselves

The Objections:

1- Country possessed by others
2. Wrong to take away good peoples from the Church
3. Success of the plantation (failure) likely to be theirs.

4) Many difficult works above the power of the undertakers

5- Country no natural fortifications

6- Country no means of support because the planters are unfit for hardship on account of their education

7- If they expect to submit by violence they tempt God

8- If ill success - scandal will come on the profession.

The General Conclusions. (37)

1. The work is lawful and hopeful of success for the good of the Church

2. Must be advanced by persons suitable to the work -

3- Only those will to go + work -

4- The reverse of raising and upholding a particular church

(2) see p. 25 - 24.
particular means one single church does not have the sense of 'peculiar'

(37) p. 326. L+K.

to be prepared before the lettering of some parts of a church already established (a)

(a) see p. 24.

5- Future good preferable to present good

6- Take scandal off the church and religion since not the conversion of the barbarians but our own profit declared to the world our intention formerly-

7- Ought not to grudge our best statesmen for good of other churches abroad

(b) p. 327 h. 42-

(38) Particular Considerations in case of John Winthrop

1. Welfare of undertaking depends upon his going for the chief undertakers will not go without him.

2. Feels a call to the work.

3. Altho can subsist in private condition here, yet half being given to three eldest sons, can not live in the same place and calling with that which remains. So if he refuse this opportunity his talents will be buried.

4. Wife and children are disposed to go

5. Friends do consent (upon the former considerations)"

From these it can be seen that the 'reasons' fall into two classes, economic and religious. These intensely religious men felt that the "world was out of joint" and were questioning whether to leave it or attempt to "set it right" which they felt to be a hopeless task.

"The conditions which made it "so that man is here more vile than the earth we tread upon" have already been discussed - Before deciding which set of motives influenced these men most, it must be recalled that religion occupied much more of the minds of these men at that day than of any now.

Beyond a doubt these earnest Puritans felt that evil times had come to their beloved England but if this had not meant "dissolution to the Church" it is not likely they would have left their homes. It was ruin to the Church and State that appalled them. There was apprehension among all the Puritans, for they felt, as has been said, that they were upholding the ancient liberties of England in government and ecclesiastical affairs.

(39) John Wilson writes to John Writthrop:
 "But alas! what times are these! No man knows what is his own or whether that he hath not kept for the enemies of God and our peace."

(39.) Mass. Hist. Coll. 4 Ser. vol VIII p. 2.

(40) Rowland Utem. Leigh writes May 13-1628
 "The Lord gives us to bear comfortably of the dissolving of the Parliament"

(40) Mass. H. Col. II Ser. vol IX-229.

The Puritan felt that he would soon have to forego that edification of his soul which meeting with

his brethren had brought to him. He had a consciousness of his spiritual life. To continue this life was a powerful force to induce him to go to this distant land.

Undoubtedly this was the chief purpose of the members of the Company in coming to America, but closely allied with it were the economic conditions of the times. Both must be given full weight.

It is interesting to notice in the third of the special considerations in case of John Writthrop another motive which may have played a considerable part in inducing him and others to go. He says that he can not live in his former estate. He resents being obliged to live more poorly than his equals.

(41) But after he has been over eleven years his property is lost through mismanagement of his stewards. At this time there is no regret for coming. There is no complaint that the purpose of his coming is lost - neither is there any regret which seems to show that the true purpose of his undertaking has been accomplished.

It has often been charged that the religious purpose of these men was to set up a separatist church.

(41.) Sewage's
Writthrop II-253.

"The Humble Request" (42) written at the time of bidding farewell to England has been construed as a blind for the English government and the "Planters Plea" as ^{the} disclaiming of a definite purpose.

24-
(42) Youngs Ch.
p. 294.

The ~~the~~ farewell to England brought sorrow to their hearts and the paper drawn up at the time expresses these thoughts. In this request are these words: "The principals and body of our company as those who esteem it our honor to call the Church from whence we rise our mother, and can not part from our native country without sadness of heart and many tears".

(43) White in his Planters Plea (1630) disclaims the charge - Puritan not Separatist he emphasizes "I am persuaded" he writes "that there is no one separatist known to the Governours or if there be any that it is far from their purpose as it from their safety to continue him amongst them".

(43) Planters Plea
force - p. 31.

If we consider what the Puritans thought they stood for, the church as in Elizabeth's day; the church of their fathers, as they felt they stood for the ancient liberties of the English nation in state, we find no difficulty in recon-

- ciling the fact that when once in America the Church which they set up was as distinctly a separatist church as that of Plymouth from Sand's point of view. To become separatists was not their intention when leaving England. There was no deception on their part. This can not be pushed too far - for no doubt the fear of being dubbed separatist and the known hostility of the government ~~to~~ towards these made them anxious to avoid any such charge.

That their views were changed, were more radical after the long journey is the probable explanation. Their unsettled minds during those tedious weeks, began to formulate their ideas and away from all restraint they naturally became more radical. So by the time they reached the new country, each man was willing to go much farther than when he left the shores of England and put his name to the humble Petition.

The Purpose of the Massachusetts Bay Company in coming to America was to leave the evil times in England and the desolation they felt coming upon her to secure that religious and civil liberty which they felt would be denied them in their native land.