

VII

AROUND MASSACHUSETTS BAY AND ALONG THE PISCATAQUA RIVER: MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Men they were who could not bend :
Blest Pilgrims, surely; as they took for guide
A will by sovereign Conscience sanctified.

William Wordsworth.



The Mayflower.

40. The Pilgrims.—Just about the time Henry Hudson, with his crew of Dutchmen, was sailing (in 1609) up the Hudson River in the *Half Moon*, a little band of Englishmen from the village of Scrooby, in Nottinghamshire, was slowly making its way in a canal-boat to the city of Leyden, Hol-

land. These pilgrims in a foreign land had left their pleasant homes because they wanted to worship God in their own way, and in England they were not allowed to do this. They wanted the privilege of choosing their own pastor and of conducting the services of their church in a plain, simple manner. They had asked the king (James I) to grant them freedom in matters of worship, but the king told them that they would have to attend the Church of England and would have to obey the rules of that church, and he gave them to understand that if they disobeyed these rules he would drive them out of his kingdom. It was not necessary to drive them out, for they left England of their own free will.

The Pilgrims—as this roving body of church folk is called—settled down in Leyden, where they could worship as they wished, and for a while they led a happy, contented life. But as years passed they found that they were becoming Dutchmen and