

Yet, if allowance be made for the immense growth in population in more modern times, it seems safe to say that in the story of the Empire no outgoing, no effort at British colonisation ever was so determined, so effective and so prolific of history as the movement or movements—for the Puritan movement did not cover the whole transplantation—which came to pass in the first sixty years of the seventeenth century. Never was the will to make new homes oversea so strong in England as in these years, among not the poorest only or mainly—and after all even the pilgrims of the *Mayflower* were not of the poorest—but among middle-class citizens of position and substance. It must be remembered that going into the wilderness was then a far more complete and terrifying reality than in after years, when there was less of the unknown; the will to cross the ocean must, therefore, have been more determined than, probably, either before or since. Neither before nor since were political and religious causes ever combined in favour of colonisation in such strength as when the Puritans settled in New England, but the supreme driving force was religion. The temper of the founders of Massachusetts was expressed in the words of the younger Winthrop. ‘For myself I have seen so much of the vanity of the world that I esteem no more of the diversities of countries than as so many inns, whereof the traveller that hath lodged in the best or in the worst findeth no difference when he cometh to his journey’s end.’<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Under date August 21, 1629, *Life and Letters of John Winthrop, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Company, at their Emigration to New England, 1630*, by Robert C. Winthrop (1864), chap. i, p. 307.