

IRISH IN THE PLYMOUTH COLONY.

[Written for THE RECORDER.]

WE have evidence both direct and indirect that, first and last, many Irish resided in the Plymouth colony. Our space will not permit us to go into the subject at great length, but we can notice a few salient points.

William Elliot Griffis in his work "Brave Little Holland, and What She Taught Us" (Boston and New York, 1894), says on page 208: "In the Mayflower . . . were one hundred and one men, women, boys, and girls as passengers, besides captain and crew. These were of English, Dutch, French, and Irish ancestry, and thus typical of our national stock." On page 209 of the same work Griffis speaks of "Miles Standish the Roman Catholic, Roger Williams the Radical, and John Alden the Irishman." Alden was the member of the "Mayflower" company who subsequently married Priscilla Mullins.

Plymouth was founded in 1620. William Bradford, who became governor of the colony, has left a manuscript history of the plantation. This history was recently (Boston, 1898) issued in printed form by the State of Massachusetts. In it is mentioned the arrival at Plymouth colony in 1626-7 of a ship with many Irish on board. The destination of the ship was Virginia, but sickness broke out, the captain was attacked by scurvy, water ran low, fuel became scarce, and so it was decided to make land anywhere at the first opportunity. They were then in the vicinity of Cape Cod and, soon after, a somewhat violent landing was effected at a point along the coast within the limits of the Plymouth plantation, the ship being seriously damaged. Bradford says: "The cheefe amongst these people was one M^r. Fells and M^r. Sibsie, which had many servants belonging unto them, many of them being Irish." It was winter.

They appealed to the governor of Plymouth for pitch, oakum, and spikes wherewith to repair their ship, and the same were promptly furnished. Later they requested and obtained permission to remain in the colony until they were

in proper condition to resume their voyage to Virginia. The Pilgrims set apart certain land for them on which, in the spring, they planted corn and raised a large quantity. Most of this they sold to the Pilgrims, and toward the close of summer set sail for Virginia where they arrived in due time. Whether any of the Irish or other members of the ship's party remained in Plymouth does not appear, though it is by no means unlikely.

Teague Jones, who is stated to have been Irish, was early a resident of the Colony. How he came there, or when, is unknown. In 1645, however, he was one of the men from Yarmouth sent out against the Narragansett Indians. The records mention their period of service as fourteen days. They marched as far as Rehoboth and all returned in safety. Teague Jones appears to have had a varied experience. On more than one occasion he received special attention from the "collect men." The records show that in 1660 he was fined £6 for refusing to take the oath of fidelity. In 1667 "the collect men of the towne of Yarmouth returne the name of Teague Jones for not coming to meeting." Teague had a son Jeremiah. The writer is indebted for most of these facts regarding Jones to one of his descendants. In a "rate" made in 1676 to defray the expenses of King Philip's war, Teague was assessed £2 4s., as his share. Many of his descendants have become prominent and influential.

From time to time the early records mention other Irish in Plymouth colony. David O'Killia [O'Kelly] was a resident of old Yarmouth, in the colony, as early as 1657. He is referred to as "the Irishman," and seems to have been a person of considerable prominence. His descendants are numerous, one of them being Osborne Howes, Secretary of the Boston Board of Fire Underwriters and State Vice-President for Massachusetts of the American-Irish Historical Society.

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