

highly educated people, ^{the} people with the greatest skill were thoroughly Protestant and Puritan in their outlook at the time when the Pilgrims came. But these people were well established. They had their comfortable homes; they had their good situations. They had their churches in which they had good Christian preaching. They had little reason to be discontented. Some of them might say, We don't like being forced to have these ceremonies in our churches; we don't like them, but we're getting good Gospel messages, we can put up with that. But other said, The king claims absolute authority, ^{who} who knows what the next one is going to do?

They said, That's right. I wish there was some way we could ensure the continuance of Christian preaching here but I ~~XXXXX~~ don't know ^{how} we can do it. Now if someone were to come to them and say, Well, why don't you move across the seas? It will only take you nine weeks to cross over. Nine weeks in a boat going over there. Many made it over there safely. Many of the ships went down and failed to make it.

In the 20 yrs. before the Puritans came there were two Puritan ministers who had spent 5 yrs. in English prisons because of their preaching and teaching were not connected with the established church, and the Queen Elizabeth was anxious to try to get a colony established in the new world so they told the people in the jails "If you will go to the new world and establish a colony we will let you out of prison and these two ministers agreed to go. They got about 150 people into a boat somewhat larger than the later Mayflower was and they started across the ocean. A big storm hit them and the ship was taken a way out of its course and landed on the shores of Canada where the French seized them, ^{and} made the people prisoners. But these two ministers managed to escape. ~~They escaped and~~ ~~instead~~ of going back to England, they went to Holland.

One of them was pastor of a sizeable English church in Amsterdam during the 15 yrs. or so the Pilgrims were in Holland before they came to America and they heard them tell the story of the failure of this attempt to come to America. Why should these people leave their comfortable homes to take a chance on crossing the ocean and to land in a place where there were none of the advantages that they had ~~at all~~ ^{there} there in the hope they might over there be able to establish a colony where they would have freedom of religion?

In addition, ~~to that~~ ^{in the} Virginia colony, as the king established it, the people were required to attend the regular services of the church every day including working days, twice a day when the bell would ring, they had to go to these services. If one missed a service once he was fined; if he missed it a second time, he was publicly whipped; if he missed it a third time he was put in prison for a while; if he missed three Sunday services he was executed. What was greatly to be gained by trying to cross the ocean? With these conditions in Virginia and it being so much harder to hope to make an existence up north there in the more difficult climate where the English ~~power~~ power had not yet been established? These people would never have moved from England if it were not for the success of the Pilgrims.