

But when the story began to come back about 100 poor people, 100 people with little of training and skill, 100 people with practically no resources, 100 people who for the sake of conscience had made that difficult trip across the ocean and in the providence of God had had one person die and only one was buried. Only one died in the process of nine weeks crossing the ocean and one child was born so they landed with just as many people as had left England!

Landing on that rocky, cold coast up there in the North with wild Indians around who had almost wiped out the Virginia colony on two or three different occasions, landing up there they had succeeded year after year in existing in continuing ⁱⁿ establishing a new enduring colony. The knowledge of this fact led the dissatisfied Puritans in England to decide many of them to "Let's go a way over there to that wild and unsettled region and establish a home where we can follow the Bible as we find it taught and not have to worry about these orders from the king.

So the result was starting in 1528, 8 yrs. after the Pilgrims came and ^{the} the full force by 1530, these people began to come, thousands of them. Whole towns picked up and came including the people with all kinds of particular training and skill. Within 10 yrs. there were 70 trained graduates of Cambridge University who were highly skilled in theology who had come over here in the Puritan movement. The little settlement in Plymouth soon became a comparatively tiny thing in the midst of this great growth over here, but it was the little group that showed it was possible for it to be done and ^{mea} with many times their training many times their skill, many times their resources got the impetus and the courage and the confidence to do it as a result of their coming.

Not only that, the story of what they did want into Europe and on the continent of Europe persecuted people began to have hope of finding a safe haven in the new world. The result was that not only in New England but in many parts of the U.S. large groups of people came who were strong believers in the Gospel, and who came with that express desire of escaping from the persecution and from the regimentation of religious life in different parts of the world.

So this is the first reason why the Pilgrims are so important is that the great Puritan movement which was such a wonderful thing but which was almost completely stamped out by Charles II and his brother James II, that this movement was === did not die in the English speaking world but had a continued existence in the new world and went on to become an even greater force that it had been in England.

The second reason why it is important, closely related to that is that it set a standard in this country. It set a standard of putting God first. It set a standard here of people coming, great numbers of Puritans and also many others from many lands, coming over here for a place where the Word of God would be and the result was that during the first 150 years at least of this nation's history the Bible had a standing in this