

These Pilgrims had gone to Leiden - a town some distance from Amsterdam. But they had many contacts with Amsterdam and they knew Francis Johnson. Well in 1597 Francis Johnson and his brother had been arrested for holding services other than under the direction of ~~the~~ the direct control of the Church of England, and had been put in prison and had been in prison for five years. And then when they were anxious to have further settlements in the new ~~old~~ world, they had offered the ~~convicts~~ convicts that they would free them if they would go and would become settlers, would become immigrants in the new world. And so Francis Johnson and his brother had gone with a company heading for the new world. When the boat got half way ~~across~~ ^{had} across, a big storm came up, the ship had been blown clear out of its course. They had gotten low on water, low on decent food. Many of the people died of ~~a~~ scurvy. Comparatively few were left alive in it when it finally landed on the coast of Canada and was seized by the French and the people were held by the French. Francis Johnson and his brother had managed to escape and when they escaped they did not go back to England, they went back to Amsterdam, and they were ~~very~~ very active in the Christian work in Amsterdam but ~~there~~ their experience did not suggest that the Pilgrims would be able to make it safely to the New World. And then when they were beginning to consider coming in 1618 Francis Blackwell, an elder in one of the churches in Amsterdam, led a group of 180 people who decided to come over and make a settlement in the New World. They got in a boat much too small for that many people. They got part way across and the winds swept them out of their course. A disease broke out, and the Capt. and his four leading officers all died. There was nobody there who knew how to control this ship. It was blown this way and that and finally when it reached Va., out of 180 people only 30 were left alive. And word of this got back to the Pilgrims just shortly before they started.

Well the Pilgrims had a disappointment. They were not able to start as soon as they would like to, because first they would have to get money for it, and they had some friends in Eng. who found a group of people who were willing to form an organization who were willing to put up the money for their trip and they should pay it back by trading with the ~~Indians~~ Indians and what they would raise in the New World. But it took considerable time to get this arrangement. And then they had to get permission of the King. And then finally somebody ~~talked~~ talked to the king, got him in a good mood, and told him how these