

- (8) But with the aid of the new college and the new societies, the faith began to expand. By 1720 there were 44 healthy parishes and by 1750 the number had increased to 100.
- (9) The Anglican church in its American expression was the established church in Virginia. Other religious sentiments were quieted, persecuted, exiled or otherwise made submissive. The legal records are "full" of accounts of presbyterians and baptists and lesser known criminals being prosecuted for holding illegal meetings...meaning anything not sanctioned by the Anglican church.

You will remember that one of the factors so affecting the colonial church was geography. That is very important in the development of the church in Virginia.

- b. The New England Settlement...even more brief than Virginia. And I am treating it under one heading although actually we will have to account for Massachusetts (Congregationalism), Rhode Island (liberty) and Connecticut. The essential ideals in the three are different but all in the New England settlement.
- (1) Working under an arrangement with the London Company, the separatists of the Scrooby congregation (England) came to the New World in 1620...coming to "Plymouth" off the Massachusetts coast. They were supposed to go to Virginia but were off target--although I have a theory about this that is unproved but rather dependable. The account of the voyage is legendary...they arrived in the fall, spent the winter on the ship...suffered considerably, but enough survived to found a colony the following spring, aided by the providentially appointed Squanto. On board the Mayflower they had originated a governmental compact (the Mayflower Compact) under which they agreed to live: providence being the real force, human understanding the necessary connective. William Brewster was the ruling elder and the religious motif was that of fervent congregationalism. The Compact, incidentally, would be the bond of union until 1691.
- (2) In 1628 the Massachusetts Bay Company sponsored a colony of non-separatist Puritans. They quickly became congregational in number and separated from Anglicanism. In time they would assimilate the Plymouth community. The drawing pot for this group in England was far larger than was true for the separatists so their numbers quickly grew. By 1640 there was in excess of 20,000 of them in New England.
- (3) In both Plymouth and Salem the church and the government were fused. Only members of the establishment could vote (land holding). The established church was the only approved religious body and the legislation enacted in the legal houses was fraternal and binding. Freedom as we think of it today was not in view.