

failed, however, and individual initiative was allowed to prevail. Religious irregularities were settled by conformity, returning to England, or running into the woods. The freedom of the separatists was a self-freedom, not a freedom for others. The colony grew slowly and successfully although the strict nature of the separatists did not invite wholesale immigration.

The Salem Company -1628

A movement of Puritans followed the Plymouth move by eight years. These persons had larger numbers, better financing, and a generally more affluent, middle class society. No less strict than the Pilgrims, particularly in the matter of worldliness, they ran a strict ship and dealt harshly with religious dissenters or worldly troublemakers. In England they sought reform in the body but in America they quickly became congregationally oriented and, in a few years, had virtually no distinctions from the Plymouth founders. In 1636 the first American institution for higher education was founded in the form of Harvard University, the product of the will of John Harvard.

Members of both groups took an interest in the Indians and when not preoccupied with wars, showed some evangelical outreach in that direction. But to many the Indians were savages and to be treated as such and this was helped by the Pequot war of 1637 and King Philip's war in 1675. But significant gospel work was put in the direction of the Indians by such men as John Eliot (1604-1690) with an activity in Bible translation, mastery of the Indian language and much preaching. Eliot called for assistance in evangelizing and gave his entire adult life to this ministry. The end was the conversion of several New England tribes and their amalgamation into the population of the territory. Eliot, we might note, showed similar zeal and concern towards the black slaves who were brought to New England and his was perhaps the best expressed missions mind of the period.

Other Colonial Efforts

III.3.b

As dissenters from their own body were not welcome in the territories of the Puritans and Pilgrims, other colonies of religious refuge, etc., were formed. Thomas Hooker and his exile from Massachusetts marked the founding of Connecticut and