

Read before
New Eng. Society
Dec 21-1929

Re-read
Dec. 21, 1933

Upon being honored with an invitation to address the Sons and Daughters of New England, I deemed it best to refresh my information concerning the historical setting under which Puritans and Puritanism were developed.

The study has taken me far afield and time has been too short to permit my reading many of the books which would have shed an interesting light upon the things which were stirring men's souls three and four hundred years ago.

During the last war when things looked black for the civilization of the world I was comforted with the thought that in every crisis in history, in every war and in every famine, thru every scourge and pestilence, my old forebears were there and they persisted, else I would not be here. The same is true of each one of us.

Usually we simply generalize in such matters, but it so happens that I can give the names of some of my ancestors who were active participants in this particularly interesting phase of history, which really opened the doors to a new world. Among them were Sampson Mason, who served as a soldier under Oliver Cromwell and died in 1676. He was my grandfather nine generations back. Mathieu Lobel, a noted Flemish botanist, from whom I am in the eleventh generation, was physician to William of Orange at Antwerp, and later to James 1st of England. Wm. Bradford, a layman in the separatist church at Scrooby, and later governor of Plymouth Colony, was also a grandfather ten generations removed. Francis GAWDY, to whom I am not directly related, but who belongs to the Gowdy family, of which my mother was a member,