

in the past in the defense of the nation against Spain counted for naught. Conditions became so intolerable that a large number migrated to the Republic across the channel, where they could worship God as they chose and could enjoy civil liberty.

As England had been belated in the revival of learning, the Netherlands had been in the fore front and according to many writers were two centuries ahead of many other nations in industry, wealth, scientific farming, religious toleration, laws, comforts of living, education and government.

During the early days of the Inquisition many thousands had escaped from the Low Countries to England where they established industries and for the first time developed farming along scientific lines. Among other things teaching the Britains to eat vegetables. These men carried with them ideas of liberty and law. As worth and industry had won for them certain advantages in their native land, so for a time the same traits of character secured similar advantages in their new home, where they maintained churches with their own ministers.

These immigrants not only sowed the seeds of improvement and development in industry and agriculture, but quite naturally they also sowed the seeds for more rights under the government. Later when Cromwell organized his army, his leaders had been trained under the generals of the Republic and most of his soldiers were

recruited from the eastern and southern counties in which the  
Hollanders had settled. *In America Miles Standish, the soldier of Plymouth,  
Gov. Dudley of Mass.; Fernando Gorges, of Maine; John Mason  
of Conn.; John Smith, of Virginia, and others had been  
soldiers in Holland.*

When William Brewster, Rev. John Robinson, William Bradford and others left England and gathered in Amsterdam in 1608, it marked a date of outstanding importance in the history of the world,