

pose a certain kind of child, and Garda wasn't that kind at all. I may say, indeed, the contrary. Mistress Thorne has therefore found herself at fault now and then; her precedents have failed her. She has been met by perplexities; sometimes I have even thought her submerged in them, and floundering, if I may use such an expression of the attitude of a cultured lady. The truth is, her perceptions have been to blame."

"But I have thought her perceptions remarkably keen," said Winthrop.

"So they are. But they all advance between certain lines; they are narrow. Understand me, however—I would not have them wider. I was not wishing them wider; I was only wishing that poor Edgar Thorne, the father, could have lived awhile longer. Too wide a perception, sir, in a woman, a perception of things in general, general views, in short, I regard as distinctly immoral; women so endowed are sure to go wrong—as witness Aspasia. It was a beautiful provision of nature that made the feminine perceptions, as a general rule, so limited, so confined to details, to the opinions and beliefs of their own families and neighborhoods; in this restricted view lies all their safety."

"And ours?" suggested Winthrop.

"Ah, you belong to the new school of thought, I perceive," answered the doctor, stroking his smoothly shaven chin with his plump gloved hand.

The two men had begun to walk onward again, following their guide, who was now at the end of the rose wall. Here she disappeared. When they reached the spot they found that she had taken a path which turned northward along a little ridge—a path bordered on each side by Spanish-bayonets.

"Garda's education, however, has been, on the whole, good," said the doctor, as they

turned into this stiff aisle. "Mistress Thorne, who was herself an instructress of youth before her marriage, has been her teacher in English branches; Spanish, of course, she learned from the Old Madam; my sister Pamela (whom I had the great misfortune to lose a little over a year ago) gave her lessons in embroidery, general deportment, and the rudiments of French. As regards any knowledge of the world, however, the child has lived in complete ignorance; we have thought it better so, while things remain as they are. My own advice has decidedly been that until she could enter the right society, the cultivated and dignified society to which she properly belongs—that of the city of Charleston, South Carolina, for instance—it was better that she should see none at all. She has therefore lived, and still continues to live, the life, as I may well call it, of a little novice or nun."

"The young gentleman who has just joined her is probably, then, a monk?" observed Winthrop.

The doctor was near-sighted, and not at all fond of his spectacles. With his bright eyes and quickly turning glance, it humiliated him to be obliged to take out and put on those cumbrous aids to vision. On this occasion, however, he did it with more alacrity than was usual with him. "Ah," he said, when he had made out the two figures in front, "it is only young De Torrez, a boy from the next plantation."

"A well-grown boy," commented the Northerner.

"A mere stripling—a mere stripling of nineteen. He has but lately come out from Spain (a Cuban by birth, but was sent over there to be educated), and he can not speak one word of English, sir—not one word."

"I believe Miss Thorne speaks Spanish, doesn't she?" remarked Winthrop.

#### OF THAT BLITHE THROAT OF THINE.

[More than 83° north—about a good day's steaming distance to the Pole by one of our fast oceaners in clear water—Greely heard the song of a single bird merrily sounding over the desolation.]

OF that blithe throat of thine, from arctic bleak and blank,  
I'll mind the lesson, solitary bird: let me too welcome chilling drifts,  
E'en the profoundest chill, as now—a torpid pulse, a brain unnerv'd,  
Old age land-lock'd within its Winter bay—(cold, cold, O cold!)—  
These snowy hairs, my feeble arm, my frozen feet;  
For them thy faith, thy rule I take, and grave it to the last.  
Not Summer's zones alone, not chants of youth, or South's warm tides alone,  
But held by sluggish flocs, pack'd in the Northern ice, the cumulus of years—  
These with gay heart I also sing.

## THE TOWN-MEETING.

THE settlement of New England by the Puritans occupies a peculiar position in the annals of colonization, and without understanding this we can not properly appreciate the character of the purely democratic society which instituted the town-meeting. As a general rule, colonies have been founded, either by governments or by private enterprise, for political or commercial reasons. The aim has been, on the part of governments, to annoy some rival power, or to get rid of criminals, or to open some new avenue of trade; or, on the part of the people, to escape from straitened circumstances at home, or to find a refuge from religious persecution. In the settlement of New England none of these motives were operative except the last, and that only to a slight extent. The Puritans who fled from Nottinghamshire to Holland in 1608, and twelve years afterward crossed the ocean in the *Mayflower*, may be said to have been driven from England by persecution. But this was not the case with the Puritans who between 1630 and 1650 went from Lincolnshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and from Dorset and Devonshire, and founded the colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut. These men left their homes at a time when Puritanism was waxing powerful, and could not be assailed with impunity. They belonged to the upper and middle classes of the society of that day, outside of the regular peerage. Mr. Freeman has pointed out the importance of the change by which, after the Norman Conquest, the Old English nobility, or *thegnhood*, was pushed down into "a secondary place in the political and social scale." Of the far-reaching effects of this change upon the whole subsequent history of the English race I shall hereafter have occasion to speak. The proximate effect was that "the ancient lords of the soil thus thrust down into the second rank formed that great body of freeholders, the stout gentry and yeomanry of England, who were for so many ages the strength of the land."\* It was from this ancient thegnhood that the Puritan settlers of New England were mainly descended. It is no unusual thing for a Massachusetts family to trace its pedigree to a lord of the manor in the thirteenth or fourteenth century. The leaders of the New England emigration were country gentlemen of good fortune,

\* Freeman, *Comp. Pol.*, 264.

similar in position to such men as Hampden and Cromwell; a large proportion of them had taken degrees at Cambridge. The rank and file were mostly intelligent and prosperous yeomen. The lowest ranks of society were not represented in the emigration, and all idle, shiftless, or disorderly people were rigorously refused admission into the new communities, the early history of which was therefore singularly free from anything like riot or mutiny. To an extent unparalleled, therefore, in the annals of colonization the settlers of New England were a body of *picked men*. Their Puritanism was the natural outcome of their free-thinking, combined with an earnestness of character which could constrain them to any sacrifices needful for realizing their high ideal of life. They gave up pleasant homes in England, and they left them with no feeling of rancor toward their native land, in order that, by dint of whatever hardship, they might establish in the American wilderness what should approve itself to their judgment as a God-fearing community. It matters little that their conceptions were in some respects narrow. In the unflinching adherence to duty which prompted their enterprise, and in the sober intelligence with which it was carried out, we have the key to what is best in the history of the American people.

Out of such a colonization as that here described nothing but a democratic society could very well come, save, perhaps, in case of a scarcity of arable land. Between the country gentleman and the yeoman who has become a landed proprietor the difference is not great enough to allow the establishment of permanent distinctions, social or political. Immediately on their arrival in New England the settlers proceeded to form for themselves a government as purely democratic as any that has ever been seen in the world. Instead of scattering about over the country, the requirements of education and of public worship, as well as of defense against Indian attacks, obliged them to form small village communities. As these villages multiplied, the surface of the country came to be laid out in small districts (usually from six to ten miles in length and breadth) called *townships*. Each township contained its village, together with the woodlands surrounding it. In