CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Of Plymouth Plantation

William Bradford · *1630–1651 · original English text*

And first of y^e occasion and ind[~u]sments ther unto; the which that I may truly unfould, I must begine at y^e very roote & rise of y^e same. Bradford's history, in the 1898 official edition of the manuscript, keeps the old spelling, and it must be quoted as printed.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Why did this company leave England and then Leyden, and what kind of truth does a governor think he can tell in a plain style, with singular regard unto the simple truth?

"And first of y^e occasion and ind[~u]sments ther unto;"
The opening of the history

The hosted text is Of Plimoth Plantation in the 1898 official edition of Bradford's manuscript (PG #24950). The typography is exact and unusual: y^e, ind[~u]sments, unfould, begine, plaine stile, simple trueth. Quote only a continuous stretch as printed; do not modernize. The Gutenberg file is somewhat longer than the site EPUB (editorial matter); quote only what appears in both. The narrative and appended documents run through the later 1640s; the file's last page includes a 1634 patent among the papers. A complete colonial history, openly Christian, excellent for a wide older band willing to read the old spelling with help.

KEY CHARACTERS

William Bradford
The governor and writer, who will tell the root and rise in a plain style.

the company
The gathered people of the Leyden years and the crossing.

the first winter's dead
Those whose suffering in the first year must be taught with gravity.

the later plantation
The years accounted year by year, into the 1640s.

THE SIMPLE TRUETH

> *"It is well knowne unto y^e godly and judicious,"*
> The first chapter

Grades 8–12
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01

The Occasion, and the Root

THE OPENING

Bradford will truly unfold the occasion and inducements, beginning at the very root and rise, in a plain style, with singular regard unto the simple truth. The first sentence is a method as well as a start.

- The opening is exact, including y^e and ind[~u]sments.
- Do not modernize the spelling in a quotation.
- 'simple trueth in all things' follows in the same opening.

> *"And first of y^e occasion and ind[~u]sments ther unto;"*
> The opening

02

A People Already Known

THE FIRST CHAPTER

It is well known unto the godly and judicious how, ever since the first breaking out of the light of the gospel in England, this company's story begins in a Reformation quarrel.

- 'It is well knowne unto y^e godly and judicious,' is exact in both witnesses.
- The history is openly Christian from the first chapter.
- Keep this edition's spelling: knowne, lighte, gospell, Honourable.

03

Leyden, and a Voyage

THE CROSSING

The years in Holland, the decision to go, and the crossing. The compact and the landing belong to this movement, and they must be quoted as this manuscript prints them.

- Do not import a later legendary wording over this text.
- The suffering of the first winter should be taught with gravity.
- A wide older band can read this with help.

04

A Plantation Year by Year

THE LATER BOOKS

Bradford's history becomes a year's account: harvests, treaties, quarrels, and mercies. The later 1640s are in this file.

- The year-by-year method is the second half of the book.
- Anno 1647 and 1648 appear in both witnesses.
- Appended documents (including a 1634 patent near the close) are papers, not the narrative voice.

05

This Edition of the Manuscript

THE HOSTED FILE

The 1898 official edition, PG #24950, is the typography to quote. The site EPUB is slightly shorter than the Gutenberg file; quote only stretches that appear in both.

- Title in the text: Of Plimoth Plantation.
- A complete colonial history, openly Christian, for a wide older band.
- Never modernize a quotation.

A Plain Style · A Gathered People · A Crossing · Covenant and Mercy · A Yearly Memory

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 8–12

1. The hosted text is Of Plimoth Plantation in the 1898 official edition of Bradford's manuscript (Project Gutenberg #24950). The typography is exact and unusual: y^e, ind[~u]sments, unfould, begine, plaine stile, simple trueth, knowne, lighte, gospell. Quote only a continuous stretch as printed; do not modernize. The Gutenberg file is somewhat longer than the site EPUB; quote only what appears in both.
2. The opening is exact: "And first of y^e occasion and ind[~u]sments ther unto;" Also in both: "It is well knowne unto y^e godly and judicious," A complete colonial history, openly Christian, for a wide older band willing to read the old spelling with help.
3. Anno 1647 and 1648 appear in the later narrative. Appended documents (including a 1634 patent near the close of the file) are papers, not the narrative voice.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Of Plimoth Plantation: the 1898 official edition of Bradford's manuscript, printed at Boston by Wright and Potter for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Project Gutenberg ebook 24950, with proceedings, index, and transcriber notes omitted, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/of-plymouth-plantation/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.