

Chapter X: Showing How they Sought out a Place of
Habitation; and What Befell them Thereabout

Being thus arrived at Cape Cod the 11th of November,¹ and necessity calling them to look out a place for habitation (as well as the master's and mariners' impotunity); they having brought a large shallop with them out of England, stowed in quarters in the ship, they now got her out and set their carpenters to work to trim her up, but being much bruised and shattered in the ship with foul weather, they saw she would be long in mending. Whereupon a few of them tendered themselves to go by land and discover those nearest places, whilst the shallop was in mending; and the rather because as they went into that harbor there seemed to be an opening some two or three leagues off, which the master judged to be a river.² It was conceived there might be some danger in the attempt, yet seeing them resolute, they were permitted to go, being sixteen of them well armed under the conduct of Captain Standish,³ having such instructions given them as was thought meet.

They set forth the 15th of November,⁴ and when they had marched about the space of a mile by the seaside, they espied five or six persons with a dog coming towards them, who were savages; but they fled from them and ran up into the woods, and the English followed them, partly to see if they could speak with them, and partly to discover if there might not be more of them lying in ambush. But the Indians seeing themselves thus followed, they again forsook the woods and ran away on the sands as hard as they could, so as they could not come near them but followed them by the

5. Bradford cites Deuteronomy xxvi: 5-7, referring to God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt.
6. Bradford cites "107 Psalms," v. 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, of which these closing lines, beginning with "Let them therefore praise the Lord . . .," are a paraphrase.

7. *I.e.*, November 21.
8. Morison notes that the "high land near Plymouth" gives this appearance

9. Captain Noyes Standish. Cf. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, Standish, engaged as their military leader, was not a Pilgrim, but became a most dependable supporter.
1. *I.e.*, November 25. The record of these explorations is amplified in *Mour's Relation*, presumably by Bradford and Winslow.

track of their feet sundry miles and saw that they had come the same way. So, night coming on, they made their rendezvous and set out their sentinels, and rested in quiet that night; and the next morning followed their track till they had headed a great creek and so left the sands, and turned another way into the woods. But they still followed them by guess, hoping to find their dwellings; but they soon lost both them and themselves, falling into such thickets as were ready to tear their clothes and armor in pieces; but were most distressed for want of drink. But at length they found water and refreshed themselves, being the first New England water they drunk of, and was now in great thirst as pleasant unto them as wine or beer had been in foretimes.

Afterwards they directed their course to come to the other shore, for they knew it was a neck of land they were to cross over, and so at length got to the seaside and marched to this supposed river, and by the way found a pond of clear, fresh water, and shortly after a good quantity of clear ground where the Indians had formerly set corn, and some of their graves. And proceeding further they saw new stubble where corn had been set the same year; also they found where lately a house had been, where some planks and a great kettle was remaining, and heaps of sand newly paddled with their hands. Which, they digging up, found in them divers fair Indian baskets filled with corn, and some in ears, fair and good, of divers colours, which seemed to them a very goodly sight (having never seen any such before). This was near the place of that supposed river they came to seek, unto which they went and found it to open itself into two arms with a high cliff of sand in the entrance; but more like to be creeks of salt water than any fresh, for aught they saw; and that there was good harborage for their shallop, leaving it further to be discovered by their shallop, when she was ready. So, their time limited them being expired, they returned to the ship lest they should be in fear of their safety; and took with them part of the corn and buried up the rest. And so, like the men from Eschol, carried with them of the fruits of the land and showed their brethren,⁵ of which, and their return, they were marvelously glad and their hearts encouraged.

2. According to Morison, the pond of clear water gives its name to Pond Village; the place where the corn was found is still called Corn Hill; and the river is Tamelet River, a salt creek. All

three are located in Taro. 3. Numbers xiii: 23-26. From the valley of Eschol in Canaan, the advance scouts of Moses brought back samples of the fruits of the Promised Land.