

ed, failed them. It also appears that the Plymouth colonists were more tolerant and their social life less austere and comfortable than is generally supposed. Instead of the drab-suited Pilgrim fathers of tradition, there is ample evidence, after the first decade of privations, of "red broadcloths, French serges and green aprons" in the community.

Mr. Usher describes his book as:

the fifth in a series of related monographs which I am attempting to write on the constitutional and administrative history of the Tudor and Stuart periods in English history. . . . I have been able to place the older material in relation to the more recent evidence concerning English Church History, and have as well utilized for the first time the Plymouth First Church records and many Plymouth wills, which contain much of great value in economic and social history. No further accessions of evidence is now probable and it is therefore an important fact, tho due to no merit of mine, that the narrative presented in these pages possesses a certain aspect of finality.

The Pilgrims and Their History, by Roland G. Usher. Macmillan Co. \$2.

The Story of the Pilgrims

WITH the approaching tri-centennial anniversary of the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620, Roland Usher's volume on *The Pilgrims and Their History* takes on a special interest. The book covers the history of this group of dissenters from 1606, when they first gathered for devotional exercises in the chapel of a Manor House at Scrooby in northern England, thru their sojourn in Holland and their emigration to the New World, to the absorption in 1691 of their flourishing colony by the more powerful Massachusetts Bay Colony. The account is an accurate historical narrative rather than a vivid personal reconstruction of the period.

The author is thoroly sympathetic toward these tenacious and iron-willed men who, he claims, imprest a whole nation with the seal of honor, steadfastness and independence. He clings to the old theory that the Pilgrim fathers are the progenitors of the American nation. But with ample use of documents he throws new light on many interesting points. The original group of Pilgrims who left England for Holland were not driven forth by any active persecution of Church or State but merely by the nagging and annoyances of their neighbors. Furthermore, the significant achievement of the Pilgrims was not the emigration itself but the final establishment of economic stability after the years 1621-1627, when the fur, fish and lumber trade with England, upon which they had count-