

New England Colonies Economy Documents

Sperm Whaling With Its Varieties



From an original drawing by Benjamin Russell
Library of Congress

Scene Along The Salem Waterfront Circa 1770–80



Library of Congress

New England Colonies Economy Document:

A Letter Home

Primary Source	Contemporary English
<p>Loving Cousin,</p> <p>At our arrival at new Plymouth, in New England, we found all our friends and planters in good health ... The Indians round about us peaceable and friendly; the country very pleasant and temperate, yielding naturally, of itself, great store of fruits ... Timber of all sorts you have in England doth cover the land, that affords beast of divers sorts, and great flocks of turkeys, quails, pigeons and partridges; many great lakes abounding with fish, fowl, beavers, and otters. The sea affords us great plenty of all excellent sorts of sea-fish ... We are all freeholders ... Our company are, for the most part, very religious, honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath; so that I know not any thing a contended mind can here want. I desire your friendly care to send my wife and children to me ...</p> <p>Your loving kinsman, William Hilton</p>	<p>Dear Cousin,</p> <p>When we arrived at new Plymouth, in New England, we found all our friends who had come before us to be in good health. The Indians who live around us are peaceable and friendly. The climate here is mild and good for planting. There are many fruits that grow here naturally. Trees like those in England cover the land. The forests are full of animals of all sorts. There are great flocks of wild turkeys, quails, pigeons and partridges. There are many great lakes filled with fish, water birds, beavers, and otters. The sea provides us with plenty of all kinds of excellent fish. We all own land here. Most of the settlers here are very religious and honest people. We have church services every Sunday. We have everything a person needs to be happy here. Please send my wife and children to be with me here.</p> <p>Your loving relative, William Hilton</p>

Settlement of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies of New England
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

New England Colonies Economy Document:

A Description of New England

Primary Source	Contemporary English
<p>... My purpose is not to persuade children from their parents; men from their wives; nor servants from their masters: only, such as with free consent may be spared: But that each parish, or village, in City, or Country, that will but [send] their fatherless children, of thirteen or fourteen years of age, or young married people ... here by their labor may live exceeding well: provided always that first there be a sufficient power to command them, houses to receive them, means to defend them ... and sufficient masters (as, Carpenters, Masons, Fishers, ... and such like) to take ten, twelve, or twenty ... for Apprentices. The Masters by this may quickly grow rich; these may learn their trades themselves, to do the like to a general and an incredible benefit, for King, and Country, Master, and Servant ...</p>	<p>My purpose in writing this is not to persuade children to leave their parents; men to leave their wives; or, servants to leave their masters. People should be willing to come to this land. Each parish church or village, in the city or countryside, should send thirteen or fourteen year old orphan children and young married people to New England. Here they can work and make out very well provided that there are leaders to govern them. There should also be houses for them and means to defend them. They should be assigned to work as servants for carpenters, brick masons, fishermen, and other skilled men so that they will learn a trade. These skilled masters can each take ten, twelve, or twenty young people to work for them and in this way they will quickly grow rich. The workers will also learn a trade and will, in time, also grow rich. This will help the King, England, the masters, and also the servants. Everyone will benefit.</p>

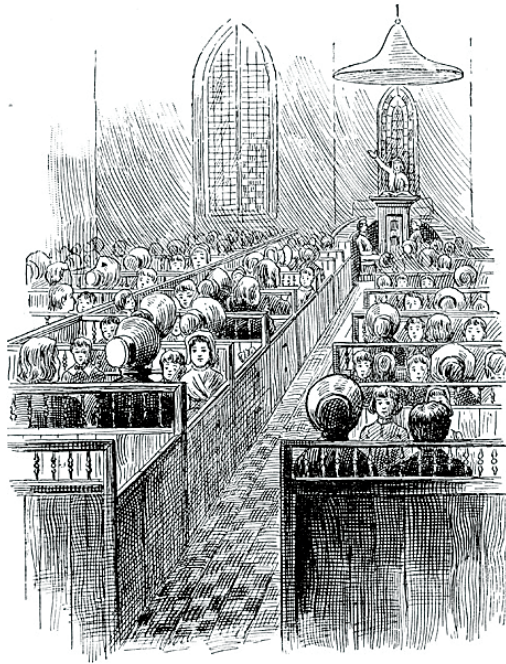
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New England Colonies Culture Documents

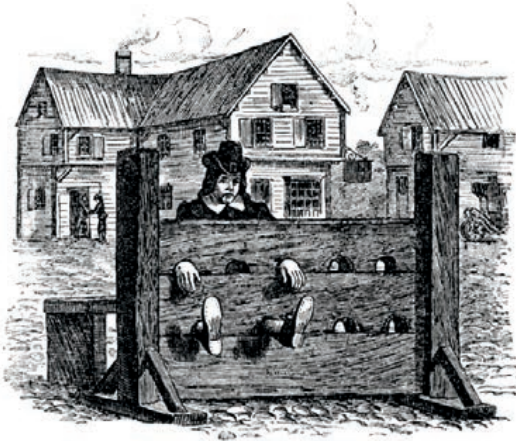
Public Worship at Plymouth



Pilgrims at Church



In the Stocks



U.S. History Images

Edited by Karen J. Hatzigeorgiou

A New England Kitchen



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