



Pilgrims' First Winter, 1620.
The Granger Collection, New York.

this and that for some of them; he had spent so much and so much amongst them, and they were now weary of him and did not help him, having need. Another gave his companion all he had, if he died, to help him in his weakness; he went and got a little spice and made him a mess of meat once or twice. And because he died not so soon as he expected, he went amongst his fellows and swore the rogue would cozen²⁷ him, he would see him choked before he made him any more meat; and yet the poor fellow died before morning.

27. cozen (kuz'ən): cheat.

Indian Relations

All this while the Indians came skulking about them, and would sometimes show themselves aloof off, but when any approached near them, they would run away; and once they stole away their tools where they had been at work and were gone to dinner. But about the 16th of March, a certain Indian came boldly amongst them and spoke to them in broken English, which they could well understand but marveled at it. At length they understood by discourse²⁸ with him,

28. discourse: conversation.

Literary Criticism

Critic's Commentary: Our Spiritual Ancestors

The American historian Samuel Eliot Morison

Pilgrim Fathers in a sense the spiritual ancestors of all Americans, all pioneers."

Activity. In a class discussion, ask students