

MEMOIR OF ISAAC ALLERTON.

[Abridged from a communication of HON. HENRY W. CUSHMAN of Bernardston.*]

ISAAC ALLERTON, a fac-simile of whose autograph is annexed, was one of those who, about 1608 or 9, left their native land (Old England) and settled at Leyden, in Holland, for the sake of "purity of conscience and liberty of worship."† The exact time or place of his birth—as is the case with most of our Puritan Fathers—



is unknown. It is supposed, however, from contemporaneous facts, that he must have been born about the year 1583, in the northeastern part of England, and that he was first married about 1604 or 5.‡ If we are correct in these assumptions, he must have married and have had two children before he left England for Holland, and his daughters Mary and Sarah must have been born in the latter country.

The first mention we have of Mr. Allerton by name is his signature attached to a letter written from Holland to the agents of the Puritans, "Mr. Carver and Robert Cushman," that "the coming of Mr. Nash and their Pilot is a great encouragement to them." This letter was signed by four persons, of whom the initials only are given. These are, S. F., E. W., W. B., and I. A., doubtless intended for Samuel Fuller, Edward Winslow, William Bradford and Isaac Allerton. The next that we hear of Mr. Allerton is at the formation of the memorable "compact" on board of the Mayflower in Cape Cod, or Provincetown Harbor, Nov. 11, 1620, O. S.; of which instrument it has been said, that "for the first time in the world's history the philosophic fiction of a social compact was realized in practice." Allerton was the fifth signer, and was one of nine, in the list of forty-one, to whom Governor Bradford has given the honorable prefix of "Mr." The names of Carver, Bradford, Winslow and Brewster are the only ones that precede his.

The birth of a son of Mr. Allerton is thus mentioned in Gov. Bradford's Journal: "Friday, 22d, [Dec. 1620, O. S.,] the storm still continued that we could not get a land, nor they come to us a board. This morning good wife Alderton was delivered of a son, but dead born." This was the second child born since the Pilgrims left Holland. The first entry in the records of Plymouth colony is an incomplete list of the "Meer-

* This gentleman is preparing for publication a genealogy of the Cushmans of the United States. A memoir of Isaac Allerton (of which this is an abridgement) will accompany that work. Mary Allerton, the daughter of Isaac, was the wife of Elder Thomas Cushman, the ancestor of all the Cushmans in this country. The Cushmans are therefore descended from the Allertons. Any information respecting either of these names will be gratefully received by Mr. Cushman.

† Prince's N. E. Chronology.

‡ His third child Mary died in 1699, aged 90. She was therefore born about 1609. As he had two older children, he must have been married about the time we have stated; and must, therefore, been born as early as 1583, perhaps earlier. He was consequently about 26 years of age when he emigrated to Holland, and about 37 when he came to Plymouth.

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