Mr. Shipman

Mr. Toastmaster and Members of the
Society of Descendants of Henry Wolcott:

You should have selected one of your own members to speak to you tonight. I should like to own myself a Wolcott but I apologize for the unattractiveness or obstinacy of some unknown ancestress of mine for not annexing a Wolcott husband. I am, however, through the female line a Loomis of Windsor, but most of my male ancestors were of Saybrook, and of the land acquired through the Pequot War. Indeed my great grandfather, from one of his letters which has been preserved, looked upon Governor Wolcott -- your Oliver Wolcott, Jr. -- as a renegade Federalist. He prophesied, when Wolcott was nominated for Governor in 1817 by the Republicans, that they had caught a Tartar. He was a true prophet. The Tartar, however, stuck in the office for ten years, was one of the ablest men of his time and of all the Wolcotts as well.

I appreciate that I can say nothing new of Henry Wolcott, your distinguished and first American ancestor. Nor shall I praise, as one can in all propriety, the achievements of his descendants. All I shall attempt is to give reasons why Henry Wolcott was moved to cross the ocean at fifty-two years with his wife Elizabeth and three of their sons, leaving behind two daughters and another son then only five years old. I also desire to picture, if I can, the kind of place in the Bay Colony, three hundred