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years and more since, where Henry Wolcott found himself; what kind of associates he had, and why, six years later, he removed to this Connecticut Valley.

It is not difficult to say why Henry Wolcott joined the Dorchester party in Plymouth in the spring of 1630, having first sold most of his property in England, leaving -- I apprehend -- a sufficient portion for the care of his daughters and little son. He was a Puritan of the Puritans. So was his brother John but with a difference -- John wrote Henry in 1639 in apparent thorough loyalty to Charles I but complaining bitterly about his conscription not only of soldiers but of private property to prosecute the Scottish War. John was also grieved at that time that the dead brother Christopher had left Colton Hall in Somersetshire to his brother Henry, instead of to his own son John, and couldn't refrain from writing to Henry as much.

No, Henry Wolcott was a Puritan. Today many historical writers -- I don't say historians -- use the word Puritan with little respect. They seem to be ashamed and try to excuse us with Puritan shortcomings. They give grudging praise to the Puritan's courage and faith but criticise his intolerance and narrow-mindedness. On the other hand, there rises now and then a defender who hurts the reputation of our ancestors rather than helps by overlauding their virtues.

We must remember that the men and women who planted the Bay and later removed to the three river towns -- Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford -- were the product of their time, and that they were selected by tests, which, like many examinations, were far from infallible. I say "selected" for while many came by their own elec-