*Hardships of the First American Settlers*

Reading the title the reader will at once think the text will be about the adversities the First American Settlers met. From the subtitle I can also know that the writer is William Bradford and that the text is from the “History of Plymouth Plantation”.

First to start reading the text I see that there is a small introduction. It says William Bradford was a fervent Puritan and one of the Pilgrim Fathers. They had to sail to America on the Mayflower in 1620 to escape religious persecution. They founded the Plymouth Colony, which he ruled from 1621 to 1656. I also understand that the text is the beginning of the “History of Plymouth Plantation”, his journal.

Reading the text I can say it makes a detailed description of colonists troubles and worries. They passed the vast ocean and then they find a cruel, unknown and wild new world. They had no friends to welcome them, nor inns to entertain and no houses where to repair. They arrived during the sharp and violent winter season, with cruel storms. It was dangerous to travel to known places and much more to search an unknown coasts. They thought they would find a desolate wildness full of dangers. But they had passed the ocean searching for a goodly country in which fell their hopes freely and now a gulf was separating them from the civil parts of the world. The text that looks like a travel report ends with a question that focuses readers attention on their rigorous religious mind and beliefs: “What could now sustain them but the Spirit of God and His grace?”. They left their land to others unknown for could practice their cults freely and they felt another reality in which they had to found a new life. Therefore the latest question underlines clearly their faith that made them thought they can trust themselves only in God’s Grace.