

***Mourt's Relation:
A Relation or Journal of the Beginnings and Proceedings of the
English Plantation Settled at Plimoth in New England***

Mourt's Relation was first published in London in 1622. Below is an excerpt from the concluding essay, *Reasons and Considerations Touching the Lawfulness of Removing Out of England Into the Parts of America* written by Robert Cushman, a leader and organizer of the *Mayflower* venture.

....But some will say, what right have I to go live in the heathens' country?

Letting pass the ancient discoveries, contracts and agreements which our Englishmen have long since made in those parts, together with the acknowledgment of the histories and chronicles of other nations, who profess the land of America from the Cape de Florida unto the Bay of Canada ... is proper to the King of England, yet letting that pass, lest I be thought to meddle further than it concerns me ... I will mention such things as are within my reach, knowledge, sight and practice, since I have traveled in their affairs.

At first, seeing we daily pray for the conversion of the heathens, we must consider whether there be not some ordinary means, and course for us to take to convert them, or whether prayer for them be only referred to God's extraordinary work from heaven. Now it seemeth unto me that we ought also to endeavor and use the means to convert them, and the means cannot be used unless we go to them or they come to us: to us they cannot come, our land is full: to them we may go, their land is empty.

This then is a sufficient reason to prove our going thither to live, lawful their land is spacious and void, and there are few and do but run over the grass, as do also the foxes and wild beasts. They are not industrious, neither have art, science, skill, or faculty to use either the land or the commodities of it, but all spoils, rots, and is marred for want of manuring, gathering, ordering, etc. As the ancient patriarchs therefore removed themselves from straighter places into more roomy, where the land lay idle and waste, and none used it, though there dwelt inhabitants by them, as Gen. 13: 6, 11, 12, and 34:21 and 41:20, so it is lawful now to take a land which none useth, and make use of it.