

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

A Playlet in Four Scenes

By ANGEL V. CAMPOY *

CHARACTERS

A GROUP OF PILGRIMS (any number),
men and women

THEIR GOVERNOR

FIRST PILGRIM

PILGRIM GUARD

PILGRIM MOTHER

PILGRIM GIRL

A GROUP OF PILGRIM CHILDREN (any
number), boys and girls

A GROUP OF
AMERICAN
INDIANS
(any num-
ber), men
only

THEIR CHIEF

FIRST INDIAN

SECOND IN-
DIAN

THIRD IN-
DIAN

COSTUMES

Pilgrim
and Indian
costumes sim-
ilar to those
shown in the
illustration on
this page.



The Pilgrim Village

SCENE I

Place: Forest on the shores of Mas-
sachusetts.

Time: A morning in 1620.

*(Enter Indian Chief and Group of
American Indians. They carry bows and
arrows. Of course the Indian dialogue*

*in this scene would be spoken in the In-
dian language, but it is given in English
in this playlet.)*

FIRST INDIAN (*pointing toward the
bay*): Look! A ship! A large ship! It
is anchored in our bay.

SECOND INDIAN (*pointing toward the
shore*): And see! White men! There
are white men from the ship. Even now
they are on our shores. Shall we permit

them to ad-
vance, or
shall we at-
tack them?

INDIAN
CHIEF: If the
white men
come as
friends, they
are welcome
to live among
us. But if they
come as en-
emies, we
shall fight.

THIRD IN-
DIAN: Yes, if
they come as
enemies, we

shall fight.

ALL THE INDIANS: Yes, fight! Kill
the white men!

INDIAN CHIEF: Now braves, let us
go back to our wigwams. We will let
our people know that the white men have
come.

*(The Indians leave. After they are
gone a Group of Pilgrims—men only—
and their Governor enter.)*

GOVERNOR: At last we have come to

* Formerly Head Teacher, Maslog Primary
School, Sibulan, Oriental Negros.

a place where I think we can live in peace. Here we can have our homes and worship God as we wish.

FIRST PILGRIM: But it is cold here and there are no houses to provide shelter for our women and children.

GOVERNOR: We can endure the winter's cold. And we shall build log houses for our women and children. We shall make a Pilgrim village. These tall trees of the forest will furnish material from which to build our houses. Let every man do his part. Now, all men to the forest to cut logs for our needed buildings, while the women and children stay aboard the ship.

(The Pilgrims leave.)

CURTAIN

SCENE II

Place: Same as Scene I.

Time: A very little later than Scene I.

(The Pilgrim men are seen in the forest preparing to cut logs for their houses. A Pilgrim Guard, gun in hand, stands keeping watch. Suddenly the guard appears to be looking in the distance.)

PILGRIM GUARD: The Indians! The Indians! The Indians are coming. They are carrying their bows and arrows.

GOVERNOR: Let every man take up his gun. If the Indians shoot at us with their bows and arrows, we must fight. But let us try to make them our friends, so we can all live in peace.

(The Indians are heard in the distance giving war whoops. These sound louder as the Indians come nearer. The Pilgrims get in position with their guns ready to fire.)

(The Indians enter whooping and rush toward the Pilgrims.)

GOVERNOR *(As the Governor speaks he indicates the meaning of his words by*

means of signs): Stop! We are your friends. We do not wish to kill you unless you attack us.

INDIAN CHIEF *(who understands and speaks a little English)*: Me understand talk of Chief White Man. This our land. These our trees. White men steal trees. Steal land. Indians kill white men.

GOVERNOR: We are Pilgrims who have come from a land far away across the big sea-water. We want only enough of your land so we can build homes for our wives and children and ourselves. We want to be friends of the Indians and live in peace with them. We want to worship God, the Great Spirit of the white men, as we wish. There in yonder ship *(points)* are our women and children. They need houses to protect them from the winter's cold. May we have a small tract of land and trees from your forests with which to build houses, so we may live in peace with our Indian brothers? We will pay you for the land and trees.

INDIAN CHIEF: Chief White Man speaks well. If you come as friends, you may stay. These trees belong to Indians. This land belongs to Indians. But our white brothers may have land, cut trees to make houses. We all live as friends. *(To the Indians)*: These men *(pointing to the Pilgrims)* our friends. Our white brothers. Indian braves no kill white men. Indians go back to wigwams and squaws. Tell other Indians we all friends with white men.

GOVERNOR: Brother Indian Chief, we are grateful for your friendship and help. We hope that in this land we shall all find peace, plenty, and happiness, and all live together as brothers.

INDIAN CHIEF: Chief White Man speaks well. Let us smoke peace pipe.

(Please turn to page 434.)

FARMER JUAN'S DINNER

(Continued from page 411)

"Where are you, Turkey Lurkey?" he called. "Come here. I'm ready for you. What a fine Thanksgiving dinner I shall have!"

Then he looked up and down with his flash-light. In the tree and around the tree and most everywhere. But no Turkey Lurkey was to be found. Then he looked in other trees. No Turkey Lurkey.

"Where can that turkey be?" said Farmer Juan. "Well, anyway I'll cook that fat squash for my Thanksgiving dinner."

Down to the garden he went. He looked in the corner where the squash had been growing. Susana Squash wasn't there. He looked and looked. No squash.

Finally he gave up, walked to the house, and went to bed.

And on Thanksgiving Day what do you think Farmer Juan had for his Thanksgiving dinner?

Did he have squash? No.

Did he have turkey? No.

He had only some *camotes*.

QUESTIONS

1. When was Farmer Juan going to have a turkey dinner?

2. Why did he feed rice to his turkey?

GLASSES

(Continued from page 426)

people whose eyes are seemingly very good, yet for whom the use of properly fitted glasses would prove a relief from nervous strain. There are multitudes of people whose imperfect sight prevents them from seeing things which make life beautiful and worth while. There are many others for whom properly chosen glasses are the necessary means for correcting reflex nervous trouble, and whose headaches, indigestion, neuralgia, or dizziness pass away with the relief of eye strain.

But there are also many people whose eyes are perfectly normal, who are entirely comfortable without wearing glasses. For these, glasses are wholly unnecessary.

If you are in doubt as to whether or not you should wear glasses, go to a good eye physician, and then do what he advises.—*Condensed from "Good Health."*

3. What more did he intend to have at his Thanksgiving dinner?

4. How did the turkey and the squash escape from Farmer Juan?

5. What did Farmer Juan have for dinner?

FIRST THANKSGIVING

(Continued from page 416)

(Produces a long pipe which he puts to his lips as if smoking it. He then hands it to the Governor.) This is Indian peace pipe. Smoke it, brother White Chief, as sign of friendship between Indians and white men.

(The Governor places the peace pipe to his lips as if he were smoking it.)

CURTAIN

SCENE III

Place: In a field at harvest time.

Time: Some months later than the previous scenes.

(Piles of cornstalks may be seen in the background. There are also some pumpkins or squashes. Pilgrims—men and women—are busy gathering the corn and pumpkins.)

GOVERNOR *(entering)*: My friends, God has rewarded our toil with a bountiful harvest. We have corn and squashes and dried wild fruits. We have venison from the forest and fish from the streams. Wild turkeys and other fowl are in abundance. These are blessings from our Heavenly Father. Let us all give thanks to God for his kindness. Let us have a day of
(Please turn to page 439.)

FIRST THANKSGIVING

(Continued from page 434)

thanks. We will have a Thanksgiving feast and ask our Indian friends to be with us.

PILGRIM MOTHER: Yes, let all give thanks to God for His blessings.

GOVERNOR: With all my heart. Now we will return to our cabins and prepare a great Thanksgiving dinner to be enjoyed two days hence. *(Pilgrims leave, carrying corn and pumpkins.)*

CURTAIN

SCENE IV

Place: The Pilgrim village.

Time: Two days later than Scene III.

(Under a large tree near a log cabin a big table is spread. On it may be seen roast turkeys and all things needed for a very bountiful feast. As the curtain opens, the Pilgrim men are standing about talking with each other, a group of Pilgrim children are playing, and the Pilgrim women are arranging things on the table. The group of Indians and their Chief enter.)

GOVERNOR: Welcome, friends, welcome to our festive board. This is a feast of thanksgiving. Sit at our table, one and all, Indian brothers and our own people, and let us partake of the food which God has given us in abundance.

(The Indians and the Pilgrims sit on long benches at the table. As soon as all are seated, Indian Chief rises.)

INDIAN CHIEF: Chief White Man, white friends and brothers, we Indians very glad to eat with you like friends and brothers in great thanksgiving feast. We want friendship always.

GOVERNOR: So say we all. *(The Governor rises.)* Indian Chief, Indian brothers, and members of our own colony, we have set this day aside as a day in which to give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest He has given us. We are now about to partake of a Thanksgiving dinner. Kind Providence has given us of the bounty of Heaven, and to a gracious Heavenly Father we offer thanks. We are grateful to our Indian brothers for their friendship and help. Let us now bow our heads in a prayer of thanksgiving. *(All bow their heads.)*

(A small Pilgrim Girl steps forward and recites the following poem as a prayer of thanks.)

PILGRIM GIRL:
Dear Father in Heaven, we thank Thee

For a bountiful harvest this year;

Our Father in Heaven, we ask Thee

BOOKMAKING

(Continued from page 436)

books were usually very long, often covering an entire page.

Gradually there came to be a wide variety of sizes of books. The smallest of these were no larger than a postage stamp, and the largest were certain church books in Spain which were six feet high and four feet wide.

At about the beginning of the 19th century, printers began to make much better books. Better paper was used, and the old hand printing press gave place to the large cylinder press.

As the art of bookmaking has advanced, so has the demand for books, until now the production and selling of books is one of the world's great industries.

To continue Thy guidance and care.

We thank Thee for friendship and kindness,

For the beautiful land that we see;

God grant we may have peace and plenty

In the land of the brave and the free. Amen.

ALL PILGRIMS: Amen and amen!

(As the curtain closes SLOWLY, the Pilgrims and the Indians begin to partake of the Thanksgiving dinner.) CURTAIN