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## Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Prescott O. Clarke

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**RHODE ISLAND**

**AND  
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.**

**HISTORY.**

**CHARACTERISTICS,**

**PRODUCTS.**



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**RHODE ISLAND**  
AND  
**PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.**

A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH AND STATISTICAL  
COMPILATION

BY

PRESCOTT O. CLARKE.

TOGETHER WITH

A Catalogue of the Rhode Island Exhibit

AT THE

NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXPOSITION :

NEW ORLEANS, 1885-6.

WILLIAM CARVER BATES,  
RHODE ISLAND COMMISSIONER.

PROVIDENCE:  
E. A. JOHNSON & Co., PRINTERS.  
1885.

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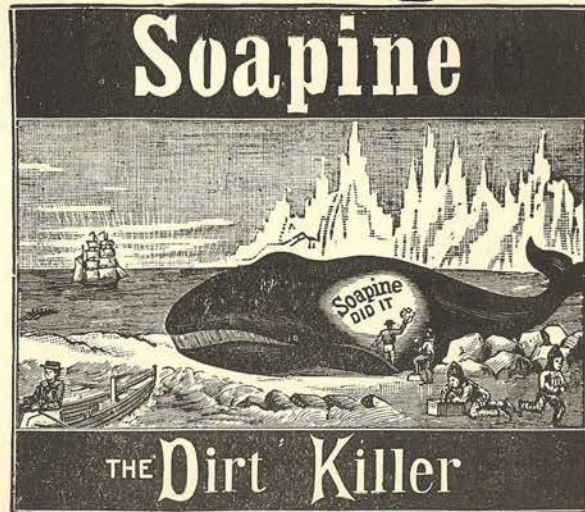
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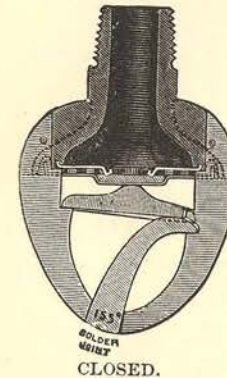
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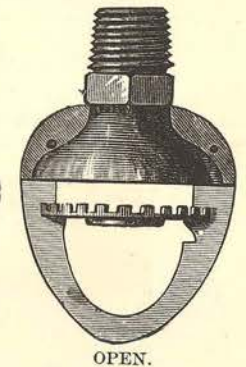
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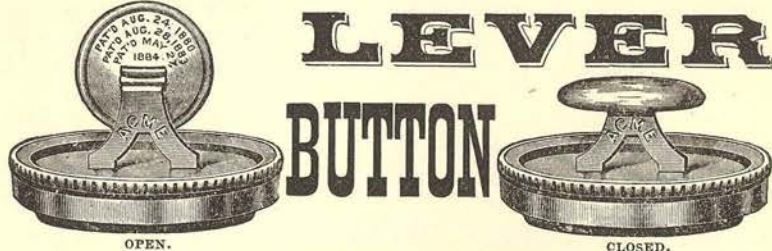
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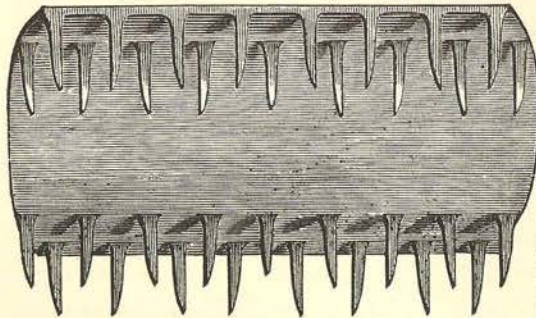
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The difficult task of condensing the history, and arranging the needed statistics, was kindly undertaken by **PRESCOTT O. CLARKE**, and how faithfully and intelligently he has accomplished this will be best appreciated by those who have attempted similar work. He is entitled to the public and hearty thanks of the undersigned, and all others whom the book may reach.

The limited amount of money available for the purposes of the Rhode Island Collective Exhibit at the American Exposition would hardly have permitted the publication of this work, had not the public spirited and enterprising manufacturers of Rhode Island come to the aid of the Commissioner, and by the insertion of a few advertisements, provided a large part of the needed funds.

The Commissioner believes that the perusal of this modest summary of one of the original thirteen, will interest readers from all the States and Territories, and perhaps contribute a little to that pride in, and affection for, our common country, which forgets all boundaries, and rejoices in "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

**WILLIAM CARVER BATES,**

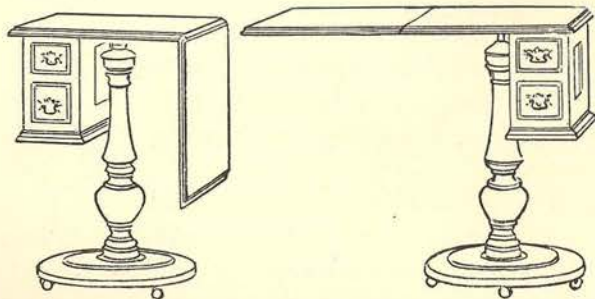
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Address, P. O. Box 218 Providence, R. I.****Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.**

In the year 1647, the four towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Providence and Warwick were united under a Parliamentary charter and became the basis of the present State of Rhode Island.

These towns had hitherto been entirely independent of one another, each making its own laws and governing its own people. They had been settled separately and at different times. Yet in several important particulars they very closely resembled each other, while differing widely from any of the other colonial settlements.

Thus, in the first place, all of them were settled by people who had been persecuted and banished:—a particular in which they did not differ from some of the other colonies, however.

In the second place, all of them maintained that the native Indians were the rightful owners of the soil, and that alone by purchase from them, with their free consent, could this ownership be transferred.

And in the third place, all of them recognized the principle of religious liberty and instituted a civil government which took cognizance of civil things only; leaving the individual free to follow the dictates of his own conscience in all matters of religious belief and ceremony.

In regard to the question of original ownership, it is worthy of notice that while many agreed with these early Rhode Islanders in practice, yet the principle was maintained by them alone. It was quite usual to compensate the Indians for their land, but this step was in general considered as subordinate to the charter grant which of itself was regarded as sufficient to give a clear title to the colonists—the king, according to this theory, being the absolute owner of the soil. Indian compensation was thus the result of

necessity or an individual—and unacknowledged—sense of justice more sensitive than the formulated beliefs of the community. In Rhode Island, on the other hand, the natives were considered the absolute owners, and the charter was subordinate to the Indian deed.

In the third particular, these towns stand in solitary glory. In them was tried, for the first time in history, the experiment of the entire separation of church and state, and by them this experiment, in the midst of the insults and oppressions of their neighbors, was successfully carried on.

Most interesting and instructive is the early history of these towns, though, for one imbued with the broad tolerant spirit of our day, difficult to appreciate in many of its aspects.

In the year 1636, the colony of Massachusetts Bay felt that the presence of the clear thinking, free speaking young preacher, Roger Williams, could no longer be endured, and the General Court decreed that :

“Whereas, Mr. Roger Williams, one of the elders of the church of Salem, hath broached and divulged divers new and dangerous opinions, against the authority of magistrates; as also writ letters of defamation, both of the magistrates and churches here, and that before any conviction, and yet maintaineth the same without any retraction; it is therefore ordered that the said Mr. Williams shall depart out of this jurisdiction within six weeks next ensuing, which, if he neglect to perform, it shall be lawful for the governor and two of the magistrates to send him to some place out of this jurisdiction, not to return any more without license from the Court.”

Williams had landed in Massachusetts in 1631, and during these years both had gained the warm love of those with whom he was closely associated and had aroused, by the radical views which he held and the fearless manner in which he published and maintained them, the hostility of the clergy and magistrates of that stern Puritan colony. Among the reasons for his banishment were the accusations that he taught: “That we have our land not by Patent from the King, but that the natives are the true owners of it

and that we ought to repent of such receiving it by patent.” And also, “that the civil magistrates power extends only to the Bodies and Goods and outward state of man.”

By reviewing the circumstances and causes of this banishment it will be found that neither of the extreme views, so generally held, are necessary.

Bigoted and narrow as was the action of the Puritans, yet, judged by the standards of the times, it was not exceptional; nor, remembering their purpose in founding a colony, can it be called inconsistent. While on the other hand, Roger Williams as little deserves to be called a disturber of the peace or a railer at authority. The age was characterized by a “contentious spirit.” Fierce debate was common and Williams was not the most prominent participater in it. He was banished not because he disturbed the peace of the colony more than many another, but because his doctrines were more far reaching, and because by his personal character he drew many to him and to his opinions.

The decree of banishment passed in November. Williams was afterwards granted leave to remain until spring, and at the same time forbidden to disseminate his doctrines. With this order he could not comply, and suddenly, in January, the permission to remain was withdrawn and the authorities determined to send him to England. Having received warning of this determination he fled and wandered in the wilderness during fourteen weeks of winter weather, “not knowing what bed or bread did mean.” At last he settled on the east bank of the Seekonk river, a few miles from the present site of Providence; but being informed by Plymouth colony that he was within their limits he embarked in his canoe, and rounding the two promontories which are now teeming with the life of a busy city, he turned to the north and landed on the banks of the Moshasuck. The spot was at that time washed by a wide river; now the growth of the city he then and there founded has rendered it inaccessible by boat.

Williams had no idea of establishing a colony. His purpose is shown by his own words: “My sole desire was to do the natives good.” He had learned the Indians’ language, and by his kind-

ness, his justice, his sympathy, he won their hearts whenever he went among them. He had intended to set out alone, believing that thus he could better accomplish his "sole desire," but "out of pity," as we learn from one of his letters, he allowed a few friends to come with him; and the land being conveyed to him by deed from Canonicus and Miantinomi he "communicated his said purchase unto his loving friends," in order that this "shelter for persons distressed for conscience" might be taken advantage of.

Thus was born a state whose history is unique.

The democratic ideas of the new town appear in the deed which, soon after his original purchase, Williams made to his twelve companions "and such others as the *major part* of us shall admit into the same fellowship of vote with us." Concerning the organization of this town government the late Professor Diman, in an address on Roger Williams says: "Thus, for the first time in history a form of government was adopted which drew a clear and unmistakable line between the temporal and the spiritual power, and a community came into being which was an anomaly among the nations. The compact signed by the Pilgrims in the cabin of the Mayflower has been praised as the earliest attempt to institute a government on the basis of the general good; surely the covenant subscribed by the settlers of Providence deserves a place beside it as a first embodiment in an actual experiment of the great principle of unrestricted religious liberty. In either case the settlements were small and the immediate results were unimportant; but the principles were world-wide in their application. The Providence document was, in fact, the more significant, since the political maxim that lay imbedded in the Mayflower compact was implied rather than consciously affirmed, while the principle to which Roger Williams and his associates set their hands was intentionally and deliberately adopted as the cornerstone of the new structure they were building."

But Massachusetts colony did not get rid of all disturbing elements by the banishment of Roger Williams.

Mrs. Anne Hutchinson, a woman of remarkable energy and intellectual power, was the founder and champion of what was known as the Antinomian "heresy." Her teaching led to a most violent and bitter controversy, and although the points at issue were purely theological, yet in the theocratic community of the Puritans a church question was at once a political question and at last "the Court saw now an inevitable necessity to rid her away." The decree of banishment extended to many beside Mrs. Hutchinson, and the party of exiles, with John Clark and William Coddington as their leaders, went to Providence intending to continue to Long Island or Delaware Bay. The genial clime and the fertile shores of the Narragansett attracted them, however, and through the influence of Roger Williams and Sir Henry Vane they were enabled to purchase from the Indians the Island of Aquidneck, now called Rhode Island. This was in March, 1638. Portsmouth was settled at the north end of the island, and the colony increased so rapidly during the first summer that in the next spring a portion of their number removed to the south end and founded Newport.

Thus a second colony came into being—a worthy companion for "Providence Plantations;" for we find it was "unanimously agreed upon that the government, which this body politic doth attend unto in this island, and the jurisdiction thereof, in favor of our Prince, is a Democracie, or popular government; that is to say, it is in the power of the body of freemen orderly assembled, or major part of them to make or constitute just Lawes, by which they will be regulated, and to depute from among themselves such ministers as shall see them faithfully executed between man and man." And "it was further ordered, that none be accounted a delinquent for doctrine." We said worthy companion, and so it proved practically to be, yet the religious freedom contemplated by the founders of Aquidneck was religious freedom for Christians—a step far in advance of the age, to be sure, yet equally far behind the position of Roger Williams, in whose eyes there was, in civil matters, no difference between Christian or Jew or heathen. However, this theoretical distinction between the settlements did

not exist in reality. We find that Jews were early residents of Newport and added much to its commercial prosperity.

Massachusetts' contributions to Rhode Island were not yet complete. Soon after the settlement of Newport, another banishment was decreed by the General Court of the Puritan colony and Samuel Gorton fled to Aquidneck. That Gorton had many traits which rendered him a dangerous citizen is shown by his subsequent career; yet his banishment was due to the religious intolerance of Massachusetts, while his own devotion to the cause of soul liberty won him a hearty reception in Rhode Island. But Gorton held opinions which threatened the civil life of the colony with which he had taken up his abode. He maintained that there could be no legitimate government except one founded upon the authority of the King or of Parliament; and so this unchartered settlement, to use his own words, had "no authoritie legally derived to deale with me \* \* \* \* and I thought myself as fit and able to governe my selfe and family, as any that were then upon Rhode Island." His unwillingness to obey the laws and submit to the civil authorities, caused his banishment from Aquidneck, and he removed to Providence. Although he agreed with Williams as to the independence of the soul, yet in civil affairs he was an absolutest, a believer in the divine right of kings. He acknowledged the authority of a charter government, but denied the power of a community to govern itself. By his persistent advocacy of these principles, he became a source of extreme annoyance to his fellow-townsmen, and it was a great relief, when, in 1642, he and his eleven companions removed into the wilderness and founded the town of Warwick.

Thus arose the independent towns of Rhode Island. They were drawn to each other by the memories of common suffering. Common dangers emphasized the necessity for union. Roger Williams was sent to England and obtained from the Long Parliament a charter uniting them under the name of "The Incorporation of Providence Plantations in Narragansett Bay in New England."

By this charter absolute independence was conferred upon the colony. There was, to be sure, a clause requiring that "the laws, constitutions, and punishments for the civil government of the said plantation, be conformable to the laws of England;" yet the addition of the words "so far as the nature and constitution of the place will admit" rendered it ineffective. No such charter had been issued before. Moreover its operation was restricted to purely civic matters by the prefixing of the word "civil" to the terms "government" and "laws" wherever they occurred. Something more than mere toleration was aimed at and obtained. The idea of toleration was not new, although rarely enough put in practice; but for the government to refrain from molesting dissenters, while at the same time it fosters and guards the established religion, is one thing; the entire separation of church and state is another and a very different thing. It was for this latter principle that Roger Williams contended and upon this principle was the colony established.

Nor did the holding of this principle justify his accusers in denouncing Williams as believing neither in civil nor religious order. Earnest and devout in his religious convictions and aware of the necessity for civil authority, he yet saw the limitations of each. This point is well illustrated by the Quaker controversy. The long and earnest discussions that Williams had with the leaders of this sect, proves both that he did not believe in their doctrines, and that he had strong beliefs of his own; yet the records show that Quakers enjoyed the full rights of citizenship, even being elected to the magistracies. When we remember the bitter and cruel persecution to which they were subjected in other colonies, and when we read that these other colonies threatened to prohibit all intercourse and trade between themselves and Rhode Island unless she would follow their inhuman example, we better appreciate the devotion of these early apostles of liberty.

The history of Rhode Island in her early colonial days—the story of trials and hardships; of experiments, both successful and unsuccessful, in self government—is sufficiently like that of the other colonies not to need repetition here. Yet there are a few



points, in addition to those already noticed, which should be dwelt upon.

And first let us glance at the treatment which the Indians received at the hands of Williams and his associates. The larger portion of the present territory of Rhode Island was inhabited by the Narragansetts, who, at the time of the arrival of the English, were the most powerful and highly civilized of the New England tribes. They were ruled over by Canonicus and his nephew, Miantinomi, and to these two "Rhode Island"—as her eminent historian tells us—"owes more than to all others, Christian or heathen, for the preservation of the lives of her founders."

We have already seen that one of Roger Williams' most cherished principles was that concerning the Indian ownership of the soil. The dealings of the colony throughout were based upon this principle. All lands were purchased from the natives and deeds made by the chiefs, and presents were usually given in addition to the payments required by the deeds. The sachems were treated as independent princes.

If the advice of Williams had been followed by the other colonies, many disastrous wars would have been averted. The most bloody and devastating conflict that befell New England—that known as King Philip's War—originating between the Indians and the Plymouth people, and increasing its dimensions until all the New England colonies became involved, was fought largely on Rhode Island soil, and resulted in the laying waste of her territory; yet the war was due to no fault of Rhode Island. She was opposed to it from the beginning, and not till the Indians, roused to fury by the merciless victories of the English, and blinded to all distinctions of friend or foe among the whites, had rendered offensive and defensive measures necessary for self-preservation, did she take up arms against her ancient allies. As the result of this war the town of Providence was nearly destroyed, and the whole mainland devastated, while the islands became fortified places of refuge. But this example of the force of circumstances cannot rightly be considered as any offset to the otherwise universal justice and good will that distinguished this colony's Indian transac-

tions. Of course there were frequent collisions with the natives. Even in our day all citizens are not law abiding, and it is little to be wondered at if now and then depredations of a more or less serious nature were committed by the savages. But the sachems were the friends of Rhode Island, and always assisted in bringing to justice and punishment their offending subjects. On the other hand it cannot be claimed that all of Roger Williams' fellow citizens were thoroughly imbued with his spirit, yet a study of the subject will show that Rhode Island's Indian policy was superior to her neighbor's, and that a justice and good faith pervaded her dealings with the Indians which is far too rarely to be met with in the history of our country.

We do not find such a pleasant picture when we turn from the Indian question to view the intercolonial relations during these early days. One would think that the settlers of America must have had difficulties enough to contend against without quarreling among themselves; and it is not easy to understand how any settlement could feel crowded with the vast continent at its back; yet the people who had settled within the bounds of Rhode Island were more harassed, and the separate existence of the colony was more endangered by their fellow countrymen than by the natives.

In several cases the evidence points very strongly to Massachusetts as the instigator of Indian plots against her neighbor, while the continued hostility of that colony to her despised offspring shows itself in many other ways. Thus in 1640 the governors of Hartford, New Haven and Aquidneck joined in a letter to the governor of Massachusetts, inquiring concerning his Indian policy, and suggesting one founded on justice and humanity. A proper reply was sent to Hartford and New Haven. Not so in the case of Aquidneck. "With them" Massachusetts "declined to have any treaty."

Perhaps the most outrageous act of all was the exclusion of Rhode Island from the "United Colonies of New England." In 1643, Massachusetts, Plymouth, Connecticut and New Haven formed a league under the above title, for mutual defense. They were driven to this by the threatening attitude of the Indians and

the fear of invasion by the Dutch colonies of New York. Rhode Island, although more exposed than any of them, was not allowed to participate. This is particularly hard to realize, when we read that Roger Williams, but a few months after his settlement at Providence, undertook, at the earnest solicitation of the Boston magistrates, and with great personal risk, to prevent the alliance of the Pequots with the Narragansetts for the continuation of a war against Connecticut and the initiation of one against all the English. Williams and his few followers would have been safe; but, except for his timely interference and great influence, the other colonies would have been devastated.

Another act was hardly less atrocious. On various pretexts the Puritan colony laid claim to Warwick and called upon Gorton and his followers to appear before their courts and answer certain charges. Whatever may have been the ends desired, the means employed have been designated by a recognized authority as illegal, unjust and dishonest. A company of Massachusetts men besieged Warwick and took the Gortonists captive to Boston, where they were placed on trial on the charge of being "blasphemous enemies of the true religion of our Lord Jesus Christ and his holy ordinance, and also of all civil authority among the people of God, and particularly in this jurisdiction." They were condemned "to be confined in irons during the pleasure of the court and set to work." But public opinion was far in advance of the rulers and at the next General Court the sentence was changed to banishment.

These two examples show the darkest portion, but not the extent, of the persecutions to which Rhode Island was subjected. She was obliged continually to contend with unjust and illegal actions. Massachusetts, Plymouth and Connecticut were all claimants for portions of her territory, and if they had all been satisfied there would have been no Rhode Island left. It would be tedious to follow these various claims most persistently urged. Suffice it to say that they were a great source of trouble and danger; necessitating frequent visits to England to ask the interference of home government, and imposing great expense upon the

struggling colony. When they were at length settled it was in accordance with Rhode Island's early demands.

In following the development of Rhode Island it is pleasant to observe what a hold Roger Williams had upon the people. Although rarely occupying high office, his advice was constantly sought; and in several colonial crises he went to England to maintain the rights of the colonists. His zeal never flagged until the day of his death, which occurred in 1683 at the age of eighty-four.

It was an anxious time for the colonists when Charles II ascended the English throne. They hardly dared to hope that the civil and religious freedom which a Parliament, hostile to the King, had secured to them under the charter of 1647, would receive the sanction of royalty. But John Clark, the colony's representative in England, so ably managed their affairs that their utmost hopes were realized; and in the year 1663 the colony organized with the name of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations under a charter as free and unique as their previous one. This charter is noticeable as being the only one ever granted which recognized the principle of original Indian ownership of the soil—a principle which was, as we have already seen, most dear to Rhode Islanders. On the question of religious liberty the new charter surpassed the old, since in the place of "significant silence" was a clause fully guaranteeing the rights of conscience. Nor was the republicanism of the former government at all disturbed. The freemen were to elect their own officers and make their own laws; the only qualifying phrase—that these laws should be, not repugnant to, but conformable with the laws of England, "as near as may be"—being again rendered practically null and void by the limiting phrase "considering the nature and constitution of the place and people."

Thus the colony continued, as it had begun, a veritable republic; and the only example in history of a community absolutely separating the affairs of church and state. How great an honor it is to Rhode Island that the principle on which she was founded, a principle for which she was despised and persecuted, should at last have been adopted as a fundamental principle of a great nation.

Under this charter the colony was governed—except during the years when Sir Edmund Andros ruled—until it became one of the United States; and under the federal government this charter remained the organic law of the state until 1842. The causes which lead to its discontinuance at that time will be spoken of later on.

The proclamation of James II, as King of England, was a blow to freedom in the colonies. Andros was appointed royal governor of New England, and four years of tyranny followed. Rhode Island, although vexed by many petty oppressions, yet suffered less than the other colonies; a fact due in part to her having yielded gracefully to the will of the king when she saw that a royal governor was inevitable; and in part to her peculiar institutions which did not suffer from the attempts made to break up theocratic governments. Religious toleration, even when the result of policy rather than principle, could not but meet her approval; while in other ways also her account against Andros for tyranny and abuse was more nearly balanced by advantages derived than that of her sisters. By concealing the charter the colony managed to retain possession of it during these years. This fact proved of great importance when William and Mary ascended the English throne and caused the recall of Andros. Then the charter was brought from its hiding place and the old form of government resumed. Afterwards the king sanctioned the resumption on the ground that the charter had never been revoked but merely suspended.

With this resumption of the charter closed what the historian Arnold calls the "formation period" of Rhode Island. Self-government was no longer an unsolved problem, and the "lively experiment" of establishing and maintaining a civil government "with full liberty in religious concerns" had been crowned with success.

From this time on, a constantly increasing similarity is noticeable in the records of the different colonies. The same feelings began to actuate them all. Step by step the attitude of England became more oppressive and threatening, and daily the spirit of

freedom throughout America was materialized in more unmistakable forms. Many harassing jealousies had died out. Rhode Island no longer remembered the early persecutions she had suffered; while on the other hand, the doctrines that had rendered her despised among her neighbors were at last winning their respect and reverence.

One of the most noticeable features in the history of this period is the growing interdependence of the colonies: their recognition of the necessity for mutual aid and action. Virginia passes resolutions denouncing foreign taxation and maintaining that the rights of trial by jury within the colony and of petition are indisputable; and the Rhode Island assembly cordially approves their action. Boston agrees to import no English goods and recommends the same policy to other towns. Providence thanks her for her "wise and wholesome" suggestion and does likewise. In Pennsylvania, appear letters from "a Farmer," against Parliamentary taxation. A Rhode Island meeting concurs in the views therein advanced, and expresses the "hope that the conduct of the colonies on this occasion will be peaceable, prudent, firm and joint." The day when the Boston Port Bill goes into effect is observed as a day of mourning throughout the colonies, and Rhode Island raises subscriptions for her former oppressor.

Thus a history of any one of the colonies during the revolutionary period must be, if complete, more or less a history of all; yet it may prove of interest just to glance at Rhode Island's part in the struggle; reviewing those features in which she was either peculiar or else in advance of the others.

More than a century before the Declaration of Independence we find the Rhode Island assembly decreeing that no tax should be assessed without a full representation from all the towns. The logical following out of this principle caused the stamp officer, appointed under the famous stamp act, to refuse "to execute his office against the will of 'our Sovereign Lord, the People.'" This stamp act was strenuously resisted in all the colonies, but Rhode Island's governor was the only governor who refused to take oath to sustain it, and Rhode Island's courts were the only courts which

continued, uninterruptedly, in their duties without reference to the stamped paper requirements.

In the summer of 1769, the British sloop-of-war "Liberty," having rendered herself needlessly troublesome in her endeavors to prevent smuggling, brought two prizes into Newport. On the same evening she was boarded and scuttled and her boats burned. The honor of this, the first overt act of the revolution, belongs to Rhode Island. Three years later, on the occasion of the capture and destruction of his majesty's war-ship Gaspee, Rhode Island beheld the first British blood shed for the subjection of the colonies. The first legally constituted body to suggest a Continental Congress was a Providence town meeting, and the first delegates to that Congress were those chosen by the Rhode Island legislature. The first naval battle of the war was fought in Narragansett Bay; when, after a sharp contest, an armed sloop in the service of the colony drove ashore and captured one of the British squadron. Societies called "Sons of Liberty" were very generally formed throughout the colonies in the early days of the struggle. Rhode Island, however, went further and united her young women in the cause under the name of "Daughters of Liberty."

A good example of the earnestness which began to pervade the people, and one that shows their thorough appreciation of the importance of coming events, was the bringing to an end of the most heated political controversy the colony had known. For ten years two opposing factions had contended for political supremacy; victory resting now with one and now with the other. But at last the contestants, realizing the presence of a danger which it would require all their mutual strength to successfully oppose, compromised their quarrel and the colony was no longer divided against itself.

The instructions given by the General Assembly to the delegates to the New York Congress of 1765 had a tone not to be mistaken. While they express "the sincerest affection and loyalty to His Majesty," yet "they would assert their Rights and Privileges with becoming freedom of spirit." In this same year a set of resolutions was adopted in which it was maintained that the

General Assembly alone had power to levy taxes; that the people of the colony were not bound to yield obedience to internal tax laws emanating from any other source; and that the officers should proceed with the general business of the colony in entire disregard of any such laws. These resolutions taste strongly of independence, though eleven years more of English mistakes and English tyranny were required to bring the fruit to its full flavor and perfection.

On the 4th of May, 1776, the General Assembly of Rhode Island repealed an act for "securing to his majesty the allegiance of his subjects;" and further decreed that in all commissions, writs and processes of law "wherever the name and authority of the said king is made use of the same shall be omitted, and in the room thereof the name and authority of the Governor and Company of this Colony shall be substituted: \* \* \* \* \* That the courts of law shall no longer be entitled nor considered the King's courts; and that no instrument in writing of any nature or kind \* \* \* shall in the date thereof, mention the year of the said King's reign." In other words Rhode Island declared herself independent just two months before the Continental Congress took the same step.

And now is Rhode Island no longer a royal colony. Formerly, "God save the King" had been written at the close of the records of the assembly. Now we read "God save the United Colonies." When the General Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence the Rhode Island Assembly approved the action and agreed to support it with their lives and fortunes. They changed the first term of their name from "Colony" to "State," and at the close of their records wrote "God save the United States."

Throughout the heroic war Rhode Island troops were ever to be found among the foremost. Many a battle-field saw their prowess and their bravery; while on many a wintry night the meager camp-fires were witnesses of that higher courage which endures and murmurs not. The tongues of admiration and of gratitude and of love took up the name of Rhode Island's most illustrious son, and honored Nathaniel Greene as "second only to the com-

mander-in-chief, in the council or the field." The fairest portion of her territory was occupied by an hostile army. Her islands were laid waste. Newport received a check in its commercial development, from which it has never recovered. Narragansett Bay was the scene of many daring exploits; and vessels that sailed from its waters became thorns in the side of the enemy.

But at length comes victory; the war is ended. Now the problems of peace are to be solved. What is to be the fate of the Nation born with so great labor? How must the freedom of each be limited that the freedom of all may be secured? Can a bond of union be formed that will obviate the difficulties and yet retain the advantages of the Confederation under which the colonies have heretofore acted? At last the constitution was framed; but Rhode Island held aloof. For more than a year after Washington had taken his seat as President she still existed a "de facto" sovereign, independent state. That she should have been the last of the original thirteen to join the union seems somewhat surprising, when we remember that she was among the earliest to propose joint action between the colonies and had most eagerly urged a Continental Congress. But Rhode Island was not opposed to union. It was the form of union suggested that she feared; and she wished to see how the experiment succeeded in the other states. Besides, other issues complicated the question. A bitter controversy concerning paper money occupied the state; and the paper money party, which became the state rights party, had control of the legislature. Owing to a provision of the fundamental law, which fifty years later caused serious trouble, the manufacturing and mercantile classes—especially in Providence—did not have their proper weight in the legislature, and thus, while the more intelligent and far-seeing portion of the community realized that utter ruin or total dismemberment would inevitably result to the state from a persistent refusal to adopt the constitution, still the General Assembly failed to call a convention, and petitions on the subject were uniformly disregarded. At length, after repeated attempts, the federal party were successful in their efforts to have a convention called, and the constitution was submitted to

the people. But victory was not yet. Great opposition was met in the convention and the arguments had to be reiterated, the sure results of a refusal pointed out again and again before a majority of the delegates favored the adoption.

Many of the arguments in opposition to the constitution were of weight. The people of Rhode Island had long known the value of liberty and had found eternal vigilance necessary for the maintenance of that liberty. What wonder then that the same sturdy, independent spirit which had repelled the encroachments even of a king should regard with jealousy any abridgment of freedom. We must remember that the constitution was a compromise measure. It was signed by only a small majority of the convention which framed it. In but three of the states was it adopted unanimously, while in several the majorities were small. There was more than one side to the question; although after its adoption by the other states there was but one wise course left to Rhode Island. Many of the people saw this and daily the number grew. Providence and some of the other towns had favored the constitution from the first and hailed the news of its successive ratification by the other states with intense enthusiasm. A few extracts from a petition to Congress adopted by a Providence town meeting will show the sentiments pervading that town as well as Newport and Bristol. After rehearsing their devotion to the cause of the United States during the war and expressing themselves as satisfied with the constitution—for the adoption of which they have made "the most unremitting exertions"—the petition continues: "We now experience the unhappy consequences of our not belonging to the Union, in being subjected to the same imposts and tonnage as foreigners. \* \* \* We claim an original relation to the American Congress, and are fully sensible that we cannot exist independent of the friendship and good will of our sister states. And as we hope the formal accession of this state to the Constitution is not far distant, and as our separation can by no means be imputed to the seaport towns, the inhabitants whereof are, almost unanimously, zealous advocates of the new Constitutions; \* \* \*

\* \* \* We therefore most humbly entreat the attention of

Congress to our distressed situation, and that they will be pleased to grant for such time as to them shall appear proper, that the vessels belonging to the citizens of this state, may be permitted to entry in the ports of the United States exempt from the payment of foreign tonnage in the same manner as vessels belonging to their own citizens \* \* \*." In addition to this Providence even threatened to place itself under the protection of the federal government if the state longer delayed its decision. Thus public opinion was educated; and in 1790 Rhode Island took her proper place beside her sisters.

For the first half century after Rhode Island joined the Union she retained, as the basis of her state government, the charter granted by Charles II. Free as this charter was and comprehensive as it was designed to be, yet—a fault pertaining to written documents—it lacked that ability to expand and progress which alone would have enabled it to keep pace with the democratic development going on in America. It was far in advance of the political ideas of the times in which it was granted; but in the course of two hundred years several of its provisions were outgrown. This charter had fixed the number of representatives that each town should send to the legislature; but on account of the unequal development of the towns the absurd situation was reached of having a majority of the legislature chosen by a small minority of the people. Again the plan of allowing only such persons to vote as owned real estate, suitable as it was to the early community of farmers, soon began to work great injustice among a people given so largely to manufacturing and mercantile pursuits. This fact, which placed the legislature in the hands of the country party, explained in part, as we have seen, the delay in joining the Union. As at the time of that crisis, so now, continued appeals were made to the General Assembly in the hope that it would take steps to remove the evil; but again the deaf ear was turned. Then at last the "People's Party," maintaining the right of the people at all times to modify, amend or change their form of government, determined to await the slow action of an hostile legislature no longer. A mass meeting held at Providence issued a call;

town meetings throughout the state obeyed the call and elected delegates; a convention was held, a constitution agreed upon, submitted to the people and adopted by a tremendous majority. There was no doubt but that the movement expressed the will of the people. Under this constitution, Thomas W. Dorr was elected governor and the legislature and other state officers chosen.

But the "Law and Order" party held the government and proceeded to carry it on in the old way; maintaining that the new constitution had not been legally adopted. A fatal mistake at the outset left the old government the de-facto government, and when it became evident that open rebellion would be necessary to secure the desired end, many who had heartily advocated the project, held back. Martial law was declared and all who excited suspicion were arrested. Governor Dorr was brought under the recognized authority and sentenced to prison for life on a charge of treason. This was a most atrocious sentence and one too much at variance with public opinion to be executed. Dorr was soon pardoned; and later the sentence of the court was, by act of legislature, annulled and "declared in all respects to be as if it never had been rendered."

Although the People's Party were thus defeated in their endeavor, yet the "Dorr rebellion" was by no means without influence. It resulted in an almost immediate call for a convention, issued in the regular way by the General Assembly, and in the framing and adoption of the present constitution in which a different, and more equal, apportionment of representatives was made and the suffrage greatly enlarged—the chief objects of the Dorr movement.

During the growth of two centuries many of the early points of difference between the New England states had disappeared. Springing from the same mother no one of them could long hold the lead in a development and progress which was their common heritage. The struggle for independence had bound them together with the sympathy of mutual hardship, danger and success. As states, their interests were identical. Continuous commingling and frequent transfer of residence still more closely united them as

parts of a common country. The early distinguishing features of Rhode Island—civil and religious liberty—were now the common property of the nation. Thus when the great question of the present century began to make itself heard it was in mutterings from many quarters. In Rhode Island were voices which took up these mutterings and helped to increase them more and more, until—re-echoing and reverberating, with all its roar and tumult and grandeur, among the clouds that hid the sun of freedom—the thunder storm, with purging lightning, burst upon the nation. Yet we cannot but feel that a trace of the early tolerance of opinion is perceptible in the absence of open violence in Rhode Island during the anti-slavery conflict. Ostracised indeed were the abolitionists and insulted to an extent that does no honor to the state, yet no such outrage as Boston's Garrison mob can be charged to her. Nor can this be accounted for on the ground of lack of incitement. In Rhode Island the abolition seed fell in good ground and the cause did not lack earnest advocates ready at all times to speak and act in its behalf.

In the colonial days Rhode Island was somewhat in advance of her neighbors on the slavery question. At the close of King Philip's war, in 1676, the captive Indians in the other colonies were sold abroad into perpetual slavery; here it was enacted "that no Indian in this colony shall be a slave, but only to pay their debts or for their bringing up, or custody they have received, or to perform covenant as if they had been countrymen and not taken in war." In place of absolute sales the plan was adopted of binding them out for a limited term in very much the way that white persons were at that time bound out. All under five years were to serve till thirty; all between five and ten, till twenty-eight; and so through a decreasing scale to those thirty or more who were to serve seven years. About twenty-five years later it was forbidden to bring captive Indians from other states to sell as slaves. As early as 1774 steps were taken to abolish the slave trade; the act which accomplished it being prefaced with the words: "Those who are desirous of enjoying all the advantages of liberty themselves should be willing to extend personal liberty to others."

And ten years later it was declared that "All negroes as well as other persons hereafter born within this colony" should be free; and at the same time the introduction of slaves for sale on any pretext whatever was forbidden. The Rhode Island convention that ratified the United States constitution also proposed certain amendments to that constitution and urged the senators and representatives who should be elected under it to "exert all their influence and use all reasonable means to obtain a ratification" of them. Among these amendments is one which is interesting in this connection. It reads as follows: "As a traffic tending to establish or continue the slavery of any part of the human species, is disgraceful to the cause of liberty and humanity, that Congress shall, as soon as may be, promote and establish such laws and regulations as may effectually prevent the importation of slaves of every description, into the United States."

It is difficult to understand how the community that had so early taken steps—and such decided ones—in the right direction, should have reached the position in which the middle of the present century found it. Supposed self-interest, based on the erroneous idea that the value of the cotton crop was dependent upon the slavery system, was, of course, to blame for it. But, just as the principles for which Rhode Island was despised in her early days, were at last recognized as the true principles of civil government, so the relentless truth which stirred the heart and loosed the tongue of the despised abolitionist, in time permeated society and prepared the whole North for the coming conflict.

When the civil war broke out the state that had been last to join the Union was among the first to take the field for its defense. Three days after President Lincoln called for troops a regiment of Rhode Islanders was on its way to Washington. Again, as in the Revolution, Rhode Island arms deserved heroic song.

The later history of the state contains much of interest, although treating rather of industrial development than of struggles and wars.

The very important reformatory question now before the country was first brought to the notice of Congress by her representa-

tive, Thomas A. Jencks, who, between 1867 and 1871 introduced six bills on the subject of civil service reform, and appeared as the solitary champion of the cause. His bills were defeated, but, as in the case of all pioneers, the value of his service cannot be measured by the immediate results of his labors.

There has several times been occasion, in the preceding pages, to call attention to the advanced position taken by Rhode Island on many subjects. In one particular, however—and that an important one—she was behind her neighbors. Public education did not receive the early attention here which the other New England colonies wisely bestowed upon it, and consequently they obtained a lead in this matter which Rhode Island has had a hard struggle to lessen and which she has not even yet entirely reduced. Yet an adequate explanation of this state of affairs is to be found in the early circumstances of the colony.

Thus, owing to the peculiar characteristics of the Rhode Island settlements, a heterogeneous company of people were attracted to them differing in religion and in purpose. Among these people there was no settled body of clergy, as in the other colonies, to both constitute an educated class and throw their influence on the side of popular education; nor was it to be expected that settlements so small and scattered, and which were obliged to devote such a large portion of their energies to controversies with their neighbors should give much time to the matter of public instruction; which, however important it may be, is yet secondary to existence.

But Rhode Island was a New England colony and free schools were peculiarly New England institutions. That the true spirit was working in Rhode Island is shown by the establishment of a school at Newport, in 1640, to be maintained at public expense. This is the earliest free school on record in New England; but it remained in existence for a short time only. In 1768, there appears to have been a free school at Providence, but in general education was carried on by private institutions. Not till 1800 was any state system attempted, and the one then urged by John Howland and adopted by the General Assembly was continued but a few years. However, a great impulse was given to public opinion

in regard to the matter, and Providence succeeded in establishing her schools on such a firm basis that they did not fall with the repeal of the school law.

A report in 1832, calls attention to various needs of the schools and then closes with the following words: "Upon a review of the subject, your committee find much cause for congratulation in the increase and increasing means of education in the State. There is not a town in which *all* the children may not have the means of acquiring a common school education, and when we consider the nature of our institutions and how much their preservation depends on the general spread of information and on the correct morals of our youth, we have much cause to rejoice at the present favorable prospects, and we look forward to the period when Rhode Island shall be as celebrated for the facilities afforded to education, as she now is for her industry and manufactures." This shows both that the importance of education was realized and that steps were being taken in the right direction. But the real rise of the public school system dates from the appointment of Henry Barnard as school agent and the passage of the school law of 1845. From that time the development has been marked, and at present no state does more for education than Rhode Island.

The following figures from the school report, for the year ending April 30, 1885, may be of interest in this connection:

Percentage of population of school age attending some school either public or private.....	81.3
Number of public day schools (an average of four public schools for every five square miles of land area).....	882
Number of pupils attending public day schools.....	47,990
Average percentage of attendance to whole number of pupils enrolled	66.1
Number of teachers regularly employed (of these a little less than five-sixths are females).....	1,007
Average number of pupils to a teacher (per average belonging)...	35
Total amount paid teachers.....	\$453,687 25
Average salary of teachers.....	450 53
Average salary of male teachers.....	745 95
Average salary of female teachers.....	406 50
Average length of school year.....	.9mts. and 6 days.
Amount paid teachers per capita of school population.....	\$7 54
Amount paid teachers per capita of average attendance.....	14 29



Other current expenses per capita of school population.....	1 57
Other current expenses per capita of average attendance.....	2 97
Total amount expended per capita of school population.....	9 11
Total amount expended per capita of average attendance.....	17 26
Average cost for each pupil per month in day schools (including all current expenses).....	1 80
Number of public evening schools.....	33
Average length of evening schools.....	13 weeks.
Number of pupils attending.....	4,714
Number of teachers, male, 87; female, 139; total.....	226
Total amount paid male teachers.....	\$7,956 40
Total amount paid female teachers.....	9,568 94
Total paid evening school teachers.....	\$17,525 34
Other current expenses.....	2,763 55
Total current expenses of evening schools.....	\$20,288 89
Total cost of evening schools per capita of average attendance....	8 56
Permanent expenditures during year for sites, buildings, libraries, apparatus, &c., &c.....	168,537 38
Total current expenses of public day schools.....	547,995 44
Total current expenses of public evening schools.....	20,288 89
Total amount expended for public schools, day and evening, for year ending April 30, 1885.....	\$736,821 71
Estimated value of all public school property in state.....	2,227,135 00

In addition to the public schools the state is well supplied with private educational institutions; among which the Friends' School, situated at Providence, has a well deserved reputation.

Brown University, the seventh college founded in America, ranks high among the colleges of the land. It was established in 1764, at Warren, with the name of Rhode Island College, but was moved to Providence in 1770, and later its present name adopted in honor of its greatest benefactor, Nicholas Brown. It owns 1,133,435 square feet of real estate with an assessed valuation of \$413,577.00, and some ten or more buildings which, with their contents, are insured for \$161,700.00; a sum much less than their real value. The cash funds in the hands of the treasurer amount to about \$774,900.00. Two hundred and thirty-nine students are this year attending the university under the instruction of a faculty consisting of twenty-six members. The income of nearly \$147,000.00 is yearly devoted to the tuition of students

requiring pecuniary aid, and the income of over \$7,800.00 paid in prizes for excellence in various departments. There is a fund of \$25,500.00 exclusively for the library, which contains over 62,-700 volumes and a large number of pamphlets; many of the collections being of great value.

Among the other notable libraries in the state may be mentioned the Redwood Library, of Newport—established in 1747, and a literary centre in colonial days; the Providence Athenæum—a continuation of the Providence Library, founded a few years after the Redwood, and possessing some 44,000 volumes; and the Providence Public Library—recently established but already proved to be of great advantage to the community and growing every year more valuable—containing about 32,000 volumes. The development of free libraries has been rapid during the last few years. Ten years ago there were but seven in the state; now there are thirty-two, containing an aggregate of over 112,000 volumes, and having a circulation during the past year of more than 300,000 volumes among 55,000 different persons.

There are many valuable private libraries in both Newport and Providence. Some eight of them, in the latter city, contained in 1878, more than 54,000 volumes. Of these libraries the most famous is that of the late John Carter Brown, which contains 10,000 volumes of rarest works; all of date previous to the present century.

Beside the opportunities offered by the institutions of learning already mentioned, Rhode Islanders enjoy many privileges for special study. Much attention is now paid to art. The Rhode Island School of Design and a flourishing Art Club are both doing good work, and artists studios are becoming more numerous.

Notwithstanding the existence in the state for so many years of a literary class, and notwithstanding the present excellent school system and numerous educational facilities open to the people, the traces of the long neglect of popular education can still be seen.

According to the United States Census for 1880, 11.2 per cent of the inhabitants of Rhode Island above ten years of age were unable to write. Twenty-seven states and territories—headed by

Wyoming with only 3.4 per cent unable to write—make a better showing than this, although the average for the Union is as low as 17 per cent. Rhode Island's low standing in this regard is in part explained by the large number of foreign born persons, especially French Canadians, working in her mills; for by the same census we find that but 2.9 per cent of her "native white" population are unable to write; the list in this case being headed by Massachusetts with 0.7 per cent, and the average for the Union being 7.8 per cent. In this classification Rhode Island stands eighteenth instead of twenty-eighth. Under the operation of a compulsory act, recently passed by the General Assembly, the percentage of school attendance has greatly increased and the next census will undoubtedly show a corresponding decrease in the percentage of illiteracy.

Thus we see that one of the chief causes for Rhode Island's low standing in educational matters can be traced directly to her great development in the manufacturing industries; a development unequalled by any other state.

But before giving our attention to her manufactures it will be well to glance at her native resources and then at the forms in which the enterprise of her early citizens displayed itself.

The geological formation of the western portion of the state is, as in a greater part of southern New England, that of the Montalban gneis; while in the eastern portion, and under Narragansett Bay, there are quite extensive coal fields. These fields have been considerably worked, more than 750,000 tons of anthracite coal having been mined at various times. Rhode Island is one of the three states in which this variety of coal is found, and its yield in 1880 was about 6,000 tons, valued at \$15,000. This coal is, for many purposes, equal to the average Pennsylvania anthracite; while for the smelting of copper and iron ores it is much better than any mineral coal known. Arrangements have recently been made for the shipping of a very large quantity of it to Pittsburg, Pa., where it is to be used in the working of iron by a new process which promises to reduce, greatly, the cost of production.

There are also deposits of graphite in the state of considerable value, and used largely for foundry facings.

In the northern portion of the state is situated the Cumberland "iron mountain;" the most extensive and valuable deposit of magnetic iron in this part of the United States. It is a homogeneous mass of iron ore having a bulk of about a million tons above water level and of unknown depth. Other varieties of ore have been found to yield a stronger iron when mixed with this, and it has been used more or less for that purpose—a quantity having been sent to Pennsylvania. But it has not been, and is not, worked as much as it might be, though the probabilities are that at no distant day this immense deposit, easy to get at and surrounded by an abundance of fuel and flux, will receive the attention it deserves. Indeed, schemes are already on foot for its further development. There is also a small deposit of soft or hematite ore at Cranston. Preceding the war of 1812, cannons were made from Cumberland and Cranston ores, under contract from the United States government, and the metal proved to be of excellent quality. In the early days of the colony bog ore, found along the eastern border of the state, was considerably used but produced a poor grade of iron.

The earliest known manufacture of lime in the colonies was in Rhode Island in 1662; the town of Providence having given a certain Mr. Hacklet permission "to burn lime and to take stone and wood from the commons for that purpose." There are now many kilns scattered through the north part of the state.

Granite is a valuable product of Rhode Island. According to the United States Census for 1880, there was nearly a half a million of dollars invested in granite quarries here. Only four states had a larger amount thus invested and—a fact which shows the superior quality of Rhode Island granite—while five states produced a larger quantity, the product of but two was of greater value. The greater portion of the state's product is made up of the well-known Westerly granite.

The precious metals are not found in Rhode Island, although

there are some evidences that the search for them was at one time carried on here; many seemingly purposeless excavations at Cumberland Hill being explained by Jackson, in the last State Geological Survey, published in 1840, on the supposition that copper pyrites had been mistaken for gold.

Among the natural resources of the state, water power must not be forgotten. It was early taken advantage of and has proved the most important of all. The Blackstone, the Pawtuxet and the Pawcatuck are the largest rivers, and these, together with numberless smaller ones, are the motive power of an immense and valuable industry.

However, throughout colonial days, and in fact until the war of 1812, Rhode Island was an agricultural, and especially a commercial, rather than a manufacturing community; for although the latter part of the eighteenth century saw the birth and early—and even the successful—struggles of many manufactures, yet the greater portion of the wealth of the state was invested in commerce. Trade was carried on with the East and West Indies and with China. As many as eighteen West Indiamen are said to have entered Newport harbor during a single day, and that port employed, in 1769, two hundred ships in the foreign trade and from three to four hundred coasting vessels, besides having a regular line of London packets. Whaling was undertaken in 1733 and became an important industry, but many years ago was absorbed by other ports. Other kinds of fisheries have developed, however, and in 1880 yielded a product valued at nearly \$900,000, about one-half of which came from the menhaden and oyster fisheries. Owing to the demands of the commercial enterprises of the state ship building early became a large business. It must have been commenced before 1646, since the New Haven colony had a vessel built in Rhode Island in that year. By 1708 the colony owned one hundred and forty ships; and during the various European wars, previous to the Revolution, in which the colonies were involved, numerous privateers were fitted out. In the Revolution the ships and sailors hailing from Narragansett Bay were recognized as an important element in the contest. During the early

days of the slave trade Rhode Island vessels and Rhode Island capital were engaged in it. The war of 1812 put an end to foreign commerce, and the ship building industry rapidly declined. At present, with the exception of repair work, the attention of builders is given almost entirely to small craft; but in the building of pleasure boats, especially steam yachts, a Rhode Island concern—the Herreshoff Manufacturing Co., of Bristol—holds a high place; many ingenious inventions having been made by them until at last Rhode Island claims to be the birth place of the fastest steam vessel ever built.

The first settlers of Rhode Island were of course obliged to till the soil, and did so with satisfactory results, though no portion of the state is particularly fertile. Of late years less has been done in agriculture, yet there are many highly cultivated and productive farms still to be found; market gardening and the dairy products being the chief source of profit. In 1880, only three per cent of the inhabitants were engaged in farming.

While the war of 1812 drove Rhode Island vessels from the sea, it was yet the cause of great activity in the manufacturing industries; and so, although the citizens of Providence may lament because they no longer see “the white sails of the stately Indiaman glisten in the sun as they move proudly round to India Point,” and while Rhode Islanders may mourn the death of that commerce which laid the foundation of so many fortunes, they may yet console themselves with the sight of glowing forges and the sound of whirling spindles.

With the decay of commerce and the opening up of the fertile lands of the West capital sought new investments; and first the cotton, then the woolen, and then other manufactures sprang up until at the present day the variety and value of the products of the state is truly wonderful, especially when we remember how short a time it is since “the old-fashioned spinning wheel and hand loom were the emblems of our industrial status.”

Some branches of manufacture were undertaken very early. A saw mill must have existed before Providence was six years old, since in that year a law was passed regulating the “prices of

boards and clap-boards at the mill." Wind-mills were early used for manufacturing flour and meal; the first having been established at Newport in 1663. This was blown down a few years later and the old stone mill, concerning which there has been so much antiquarian discussion, was very possibly built to take its place.

The cotton manufacture, although begun at a later date than some others, was yet the first to become firmly established as a great industry. It has long held the place of chief importance in the state and recognizes Rhode Island not only as its most congenial abode but also as its birth place. Previous to 1790, at Providence, New York, Beverly (Mass.), Worcester, and several other places, "jennies" and "billies," with cards, had been introduced for the spinning of cotton filling which was used with linen warps in the manufacture of jeans, velveteens, fustians, etc.; but the machinery was so imperfect that cotton cloth or cotton yarn for warp could not be made. Great Britain had attached heavy penalties to the exportation of machinery or models, and the American manufacturers were despairing. White, in his memoirs of Samuel Slater, says "that every attempt to spin cotton warp or twist, or any other yarn, by water power, till 1790, had totally failed, and every effort to import the patent machinery of England had proved abortive. \* \* \* \* Distrust and despondency had affected the strongest minds; disappointment and repeated losses of property, had entirely disheartened those brave pioneers in the production of homespun cloth. At this moment, Mr. Slater had left Belper, and was on his passage to America, with a full and decided plan to construct and erect the Arkwright machinery in the United States. The evidence \* \* is \* \* that previous to 1790, no such machinery existed in this country; and that Samuel Slater, without the aid of any one who had ever seen such machinery, did actually, from his personal knowledge and skill, put in motion the whole series of Arkwright's patents; and that he put them in such perfect operation, as to produce as good yarn, and cotton cloth of various descriptions, equal to any article of the kind produced in England at that time."

This first successful attempt was made in Rhode Island, as

appears in the following extract from a letter written by Moses Brown, October 15, 1791:

"I received a letter from a young man, then lately arrived at New York, from Arkwright's works in England, informing me, his situation, that he could hear of no perpetual spinning mills on the Continent but mine, and proposed to come and work them. I wrote him and he came accordingly; but on viewing the mills he declined doing anything with them, and proposed making a new one. \* \* We had by this time got several jennies, and some weavers at work on linen warps, but had not been able to get cotton warps to a useful degree of perfection on the jennies; \* \* However, we (I say we, because I had committed the immediate management of the business to \* \* Almy & Brown,) contracted with the young man from England, to direct and make a mill in his own way, which he did, and it answered a much better purpose than the former; \* \* \* There are also several other persons who manufacture cotton and linen by the carding machines and jennies, but when they make all cotton goods, they have the warps from Almy & Brown's mills, Samuel Slater, the young man from England, being concerned therein."

On another occasion, Moses Brown refers to Slater as having perfected "the first water spinning in the United States," and Alexander Hamilton, in his report as Secretary of the Treasury made in 1791, gives the Rhode Island manufactory the credit of being the first in the country to introduce the celebrated Arkwright cotton machinery.

From these beginnings, made by Slater and his Rhode Island co-workers, the cotton industry spread rapidly; and by 1812 there were fifty-three cotton mills within a radius of thirty miles of Providence, thirty-three being within the limits of the state. In 1823, it is estimated that there were over one hundred cotton mills in Rhode Island and adjacent parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut owned chiefly in Providence. In 1880 Rhode Island had a larger aggregate amount of capital invested in the cotton manufacture than any other state except Massachusetts, while in proportion to her population or her area she exceeded even that state;

and while Massachusetts had a cotton mill for every forty-six square miles of area, Rhode Island had one for every nine square miles.

Messrs. B. B. & R. Knight, manufacturers of the "Fruit of the Loom," are the largest cotton manufacturers in the United States; and the Lonsdale Co., making the well-known "Lonsdale Muslin," the Social Manufacturing Co., the Manville Co., the Fletcher Manufacturing Co., and many other Rhode Island concerns might be mentioned as among the large spinners of the country.

The woolen manufacture was begun at Peace Dale, R. I., in 1804, where a machine was set up which carded wool into rolls; the spinning being done by hand. The plant was soon sold to Rowland G. Hazard, and has developed into the large concern known as the Peace Dale Manufacturing Co. The first power looms for wool successfully operated in America were probably those used at Peace Dale in 1814; and it is said that the first application of water power to the spinning jenny was made at the same place. Other concerns soon started; among them the Providence Woolen Manufacturing Co., which set up a thirty horse power engine in 1812—the first steam engine used for manufacturing purposes in the state.

The woolen manufacture has not reached such a development in Rhode Island as the cotton, either absolutely or relatively, yet in 1880 there were but two states in which a larger capital was invested in it; while in this as in many other industries, a per capita computation places Rhode Island at the head. Among the large woolen manufacturers are the Weybosset Mills, the Lippitt Woolen Co., the Blackstone Woolen Co., the Harris Woolen Co., and many others; while the worsted manufacture, in which Rhode Island stands only third in aggregate capital, is represented by the Atlantic Mills—one of the largest if not the largest manufactory of ladies' worsted dress goods in the world,—the Wanskuck Co., manufacturers of worsted coatings, also an immense concern; the Riverside Mills, the Providence Worsted Co., the Peace Dale Manufacturing Co., and many more.

It is recorded that a forge was destroyed at Pawtucket, in 1675, by the Indians; whence it appears that the colonists had by that time commenced to work iron. One hundred years later muskets were made for the colonial militia, and the manufacture of small arms was carried on quite extensively. About that time the first cut nails ever made from cold iron were manufactured at Pawtucket, and at the same place anchors were forged for Providence vessels, and the heavy machinery made which was used at Nantucket and New Bedford for pressing out the whale and sperm oil.

At Pawtucket also were manufactured the power looms which were introduced in 1815 into several Rhode Island cotton mills.

The development of the iron industry has gone on until, in 1880, there were but eight states of which the foundry and machine shop products were more valuable; the capital invested in it in that year, including foundry and machine shop products, files, firearms, wrought iron pipe, iron and steel, and screws, being nearly ten millions of dollars; of which three and one-quarter millions were invested in screws alone, in the manufacture of which the city of Providence leads every state in the Union. Among the more important concerns in the various branches of the iron industry may be mentioned the Corliss Steam Engine Co., the Harris-Corliss Steam Engine Co., the Prov. Steam Engine Co., the R. I. Locomotive Works, the Amer. Screw Co.—said to be the largest screw manufactory in the world—the Brown & Sharp Mfg. Co., the Nicholson File Co., the Domestic Sewing Machine Co., the Fales & Jencks Machine Co., the Prov. Steam and Gas Pipe Co., the R. I. Horse Shoe Co., the Builders Iron Foundry, the Phoenix Iron Foundry and the Barstow Stove Co.; but this list by no means includes all those which are well known either for their size or their product.

The manufacture of jewelry is an important Rhode Island industry. It traces its parentage to Seril Dodge, who began to make shoe buckles in 1788. Others commenced about the same time in various branches of the business, but it was not till some six or eight years later that the cheaper grade of jewelry, which now forms such a large part of the product, was first introduced.

In 1805 there were four establishments in Providence employing about thirty hands; by 1820 the number of hands had increased ten fold, and the product for the year was over half a million of dollars.

Somewhere in the neighborhood of 1831, Jabez Gorham, who had before been a manufacturing jeweler, turned his attention to silver spoons, and little by little increased his business both in variety and extent, until the Gorham Manufacturing Co. of the present day—one of the largest manufactories of silverware in the world—was developed.

In 1880\* there were 142 jewelry manufacturing establishments, with a capital not much short of three millions. The hands employed numbered over three thousand (about one-quarter being women), and more than a million and a half was paid in wages. Material to the value of nearly two and a half millions was used and the product for the year was about five and a half millions. No other city equals Providence in this industry.

Aside from the Gorham Manufacturing Co., preëminent in its line, and the Ladd Watch Case Co., the only watch case manufactory in the state, the honors of the jewelry business are so evenly divided between a large number that special mention is impossible.

The first calico printing of much importance in the state was at Providence, in 1794, although the first attempt in America was made several years before this, at East Greenwich, R. I. The best known concerns at present engaged in this pursuit are S. H. Greene & Sons, the Richmond Mfg. Co., the Dunnell Mfg. Co., and the Allen Print Works. In dyeing, bleaching and finishing textiles, Rhode Island has but one superior. The chief representatives of this industry are the Prov. Dyeing, Bleaching and Calendering Co., established in 1814, W. F. & F. C. Sayles, who run the largest bleacheries in the country, the

\*This estimate does not include "plated and britania ware," in the manufacture of which another million was employed.

Silver Spring Bleachery, the Bolton Bleachery, and the R. I. Bleaching and Dye Works.

In addition to the foregoing branches many other manufactures are extensively carried on in Rhode Island. A few among the better known are the following: The Pawtucket Hair Cloth Co., one of the few manufacturers of hair cloth in the country; the Union Wadding Co, the largest wadding manufactory in the country; the National Rubber Co.; the Woonsocket Rubber Co.; the Kendall Soap Mfg. Co.; the Rumford Chemical Works; and the Richmond Paper Co., an extensive establishment for the manufacture of paper from wood.

There are nine different industries in Rhode Island, each employing a capital of over one million of dollars. The following table will show the relative importance of each in the state, and also the rank which the state holds in each industry, with reference to the other states, as to both aggregate capital invested and amount invested per capita of population:

Computed from the U. S. Census of 1880.	Capital invested.	Rank per aggregate capital invested.	Rank per capita of population.
Cotton.....	\$29,260,734	2d	1st
Woolen.....	8,448,700	3d	1st
Dyeing and finishing textiles	5,912,500	2d	1st
Foundry and machine shop products.....	4,823,867	9th	1st
Worsted goods.....	4,567,416	3d	1st
Screws.....	3,250,000	1st	1st
Jewelry.....	2,836,620	1st	1st
Mixed textiles.....	1,591,000	5th	1st
Plated and britania ware ..	1,025,000	2d	2d
There are 23 other industries which each employ a capital of from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000; amounting in all to.....	8,827,632	.....	.....
All other industries.....	5,032,474	.....	.....
Total capital invested in manufacturing in R. I....	\$75,575,943	9th	1st

The following table gives some of the more important statistics

of Rhode Island, and shows her rank among the states and territories, both by aggregate amounts, and by ratio of population and of area; comparison being also made with two wealthy and thickly populated states:

Computed from the U. S. Census of 1880.	Total amounts.	Rank per total amts.	Amounts per capita of population.	Rank per capita of population.	Amounts per sq. m.	Rank per sq. m.
Land Area of R. I....	1,085 sq. m.	{ 47th smallest	.....	.....	.....	.....
Population of R. I.*..	276,531	33d	.....	.....	254.9	1st
Assessed Valuation of R. I.....	\$252,536,673	19th	\$913 00	1st	\$232,752	1st
Assessed Valuation of Mass.; the most densely populated state next to R. I... .....	.....	.....	890 00	.....	197,114	.....
Assessed Valuation of New York, having the largest valuation of any state.....	.....	.....	521 00	.....	55,714	.....
Amount of Capital in- vested in manufact- ures in R. I.....	75,575,943	9th	273 00	1st	69,655	1st
Amount of Capital in- vested in manufact- ures in New York.. .....	.....	.....	101 00	.....	10,800	.....
Amount of Capital in- vested in manufact- ures in Mass.....	.....	.....	170 00	.....	37,787	.....

\*The census of 1880 is the latest basis for comparison with all the states. The population of Rhode Island by the State Census of 1885, is 304,284.

From a study of these tables it appears that Rhode Island, the smallest in area and considerably below the middle in population, stands high among the states in aggregate wealth and manufactures; and by a pro rata comparison, leads them all.

The thrift of the people is shown by the fact that in 1884 the thirty-eight savings banks in the state contained deposits of over fifty-one millions of dollars, made by nearly one hundred and

sixteen thousand different depositors—more than forty per cent of the entire population. Besides the savings banks there were some seventy other banks with a capital of about twenty-two millions. The state debt in 1884 was \$1,372,000; having been reduced over a million since 1880.

The climate of Rhode Island is mild. From observations taken at Providence during 1884, it appears that the average temperature for the year was 49.5°; the highest being 94° and the lowest minus 10°. The average for the coldest month in the year, January, was as high as 24.3°, while the average for August, the hottest month, was no higher than 70.1°. Twice the wind reached a velocity of 33 miles per hour, but the highest monthly average was 11 miles, the average for the year being 9 miles; while there were but four days on which the wind did not reach a velocity of 4 miles per hour. The rain fall for the year was 57.5 inches, September having the smallest, 1.48 inches, and December the largest, 7.8 inches; 36 days were recorded as clear, 127 as fair, 166 as rainy or snowy, and 37 as variable.

Rhode Island scenery, though not at all of the grand order, has much to offer the lover of natural beauty. There is a pleasing variety of hills and valleys; and the ubiquitous mill stream, though checked in its course by the frequent dam and compelled to work before it again is free, yet passes many hours of its life idling in pleasant pasture lands or skirting the foot of wooded hills. For thirty miles Narragansett Bay divides the state, the varied outline of its shores and many islands giving a frame of ever changing color and form to the varying monotony of its waters; all uniting in a scene of quiet beauty rarely equaled. Crowning the old isle of Aquidneck, whose sloping sides display its well kept farms and whose windmills tell tales of the past, is America's most famous resort, the city of Newport; all man's attempts at adornment reduced to insignificance by her natural grandeur and beauty.—On the one side, Old Ocean, fawning or moaning on her sandy beaches, or dashing in play or in wrath against her rocky cliffs;

on the other, the harbor, with its varied shipping of war, of industry or of pleasure, and the quiet bay beyond.

The Rhode Islander, gazing on such a scene as this and recalling the past history of the state, even to the time of its birth—the time when Roger Williams and the principles of liberty and justice took up their abode within its confines—believes that he is justified in giving honor and love to his state.

## →:FRIENDS' SCHOOL,←:

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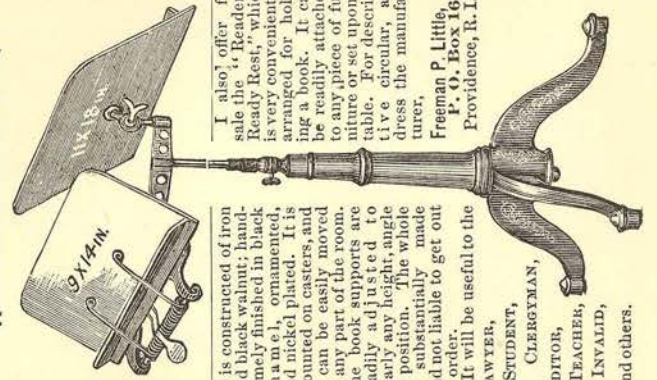
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
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## CATALOGUE

—OF THE—

### Rhode Island Collective Exhibit

—AT THE—

NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXPOSITION,  
NEW ORLEANS 1885-6.

WILLIAM CARVER BATES,

*Commissioner for Rhode Island.*

Charts, illustrating the school system of the state, showing number of schools, teachers, pupils and expenditures, area, population, etc., furnished by the Secretary of the State Board of Education, Thomas B. Stockwell.

Bound volumes of school work of the public schools of the city of Providence, furnished by H. S. Tarbell, Superintendent Public Schools.

Albums and framed views of public buildings, fire stations, monuments, etc., of the city of Providence, kindly loaned by Mayor Doyle.

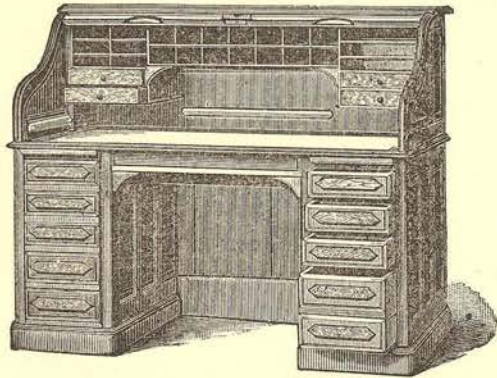
Large framed views of Brown University, interiors and exteriors, with the church built it 1775, "for the worship of Almighty God, and to hold commencements in."

Large framed views of the Friends' School.

The Forestry of Rhode Island, shown by photographs of native trees, nearly every variety, furnished by Professor Russell of the Bridgman Street School, Providence.

Exhibit of the Providence Amateur Photographic Association, of upwards of two hundred photographs, taken by members

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C. A. Luther & Co., Hand Vises.

T. A. Chalk, Patent Oil Cans and Oilers.

Nichols, Black & Co., Jewelry Exhibit.

Salisbury & Chase, Jewelry Exhibit.

Atwood & Colwell, Jewelry Exhibit.

Charles Downs, Jewelry Exhibit.

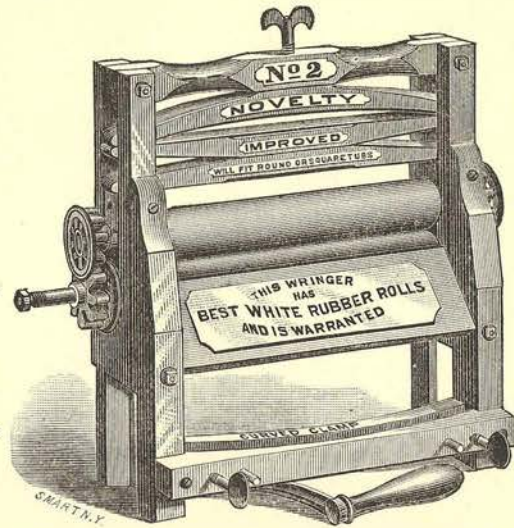
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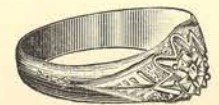
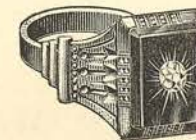
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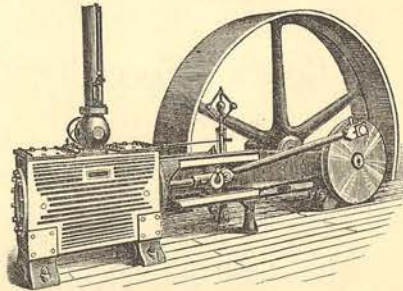
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