

ernor and company, and have fifty pounds, the salary of the deputy-governor, annually. He was obliged to print the election sermons, the proclamations for fasts and thanksgivings, and laws which were enacted at the several sessions of the assembly. He came to Connecticut in 1714, and fixed his residence at New-London. He and his descendants were for a great number of years printers to the governors and company of Connecticut.

This respectable author mentions, in a note, that Mr. Thomas Short was sent by Mr. Green, in 1709, and should be considered as the first printer in the colony.

The typographers of America, and all who reflect how much indebted we are to the printing-press for the diffusion of knowledge, will ever respect the name of GREEN.—For mine own part, I experience a sensation similar to what I feel when I read the history of the family of Medici—

—parva componere magnis.

A. Z.

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL SETTLEMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS IN AND ABOUT THE LANDS OF THE NARRAGANSET-BAY, IN NEW-ENGLAND.

Anno 1634. **M**R. Roger Williams purchased lands of the Narraganset sachems, bordering on Pauctucket river; and, with others that came to him, built a town, and called it Providence; and in a short time after, purchased an island in said bay, and called it Providence, being about or near 7 miles long, and may be counted 3000 acres.

1637. Mr. William Coddington and his friends purchased an island of the said sachems, called Aquetneck, and next year settled it with inhabitants, and named it Rhode-Island; built two towns on it, about ten miles asunder, and called them Portsmouth and Newport. The island may be about 15 miles long, and the broadest place may be 4 miles wide, and may contain 20,000 acres. The inhabitants, by consent, erected a government amongst themselves, and were ruled by judge and elder, Mr. Coddington being judge.

1641. Mr. Richard Smith purchased a tract of land of the same sachems, in the Narraganset country, amongst the thickest of the Indians, who were very numerous, and reputed

puted to be 30,000, and erected a house for trade, being far from English neighbours, and gave free entertainment to all travellers, it being the great road of the country.

1642. Some persons, to the number of 11 or 12, purchased also a tract of land about 14 miles to the northward of Mr. Smith's trading-house, built a town, and called it Warwick.

1643. The inhabitants of the Massachusetts-Bay procured an order from the Earl of Warwick, Oliver Cromwell, and other persons, for the rule and government of the Narraganset country. In the same year, afterwards, Mr. Roger Williams procured the like order, from the same persons, for the rule and government of the said tract, with whom the inhabitants of Rhode-Island joined, and made a government between them.

1650. Sundry disputes and differences arising among them, Mr. Coddington went for England, and procured a commission from the powers there regnant, for the government of Rhode-Island, distinct from the main land, to which the inhabitants submitted; but in seven or eight months overthrew the government, and forced the governor to flee for his safety, and then returned to the late government they left.

When Oliver Cromwell assumed the throne, they ruled by a letter from him, &c.

1657. Mr. William Coddington and Mr. Benedict Arnold purchased an island of the same sachems, called Quononoquot, for themselves and friends, and settled it, and is now made a town, and called Jamestown.

In the same year, Mr. John Hull, Mr. John Porter, and three persons more, purchased a large tract of land in the southern parts of the Narraganset country, and called Pot-taquamscut purchase, and have settled a part of it.

1658. Mr. Richard Smith, jun. purchased an island, called Hog-Island, of Wamscotts, sachems of Whampinages, and lies in the mouth or entrance into Bristol harbour, may contain 2 or 300 acres.

In the bay are many more islands, most of them small; were all, one or other, purchased of the natives.

1659. Mr. John Winthrop, Major Humphrey Atherton, and associates, purchased of the Narraganset sachems, two tracts of land, joining to the bay, one lying to the southward of Mr. Smith's trading-house, and the other to the northward of it, and settled it with inhabitants.

1660. Mr. John Winthrop, Major Humphrey Atherton, and their associates, paying a sum of money for the Indian sachems to redeem their lands that they had mortgaged, for the payment, took a mortgage of them of the same lands, and allowing them a longer time for payment, and failing therein also, anno 1662, surrendered up their lands to them, and gave them quiet and peaceable possession and seizin, by turf and twig.

1662. Connecticut people, by their agent, obtained of his majesty, king Charles II. a charter of incorporation for a government, including the Narraganset country.

1663. The inhabitants of Rhode-Island, &c. petitioned his majesty for a charter, and to include the Narraganset country; which bred a dispute between the two agents, who both agreed to a reference, and was accorded and issued, under four heads, two whereof were;—that property should not be destroyed, and that the inhabitants and proprietors of the lands about Mr. Smith's trading-house, should choose to which government they would belong; and they chose Connecticut. Upon this agreement of the two agents in England, a patent was granted to the agent for Rhode-Island, mentioning the agreement in the charter.

Note, that all the lands in the Narraganset country, and islands in the bay, were purchased by several persons of one and the same sachems, and their successors, before any charter of incorporation for government for those lands, so contested for, was granted; and his majesty, in the charter granted to Rhode-Island, allows and confirms all our purchases already made.

1664. Four commissioners were deputed, by commission from his majesty, to settle all differences between colony and colony, namely, Mr. Richard Nichols, Sir Robert Carr, Mr. George Cartwright, and Mr. Samuel Maverick; but the power lay in Mr. Nichols, for without him they could act nothing that was valid. The other three, without Col. Nichols, passed some orders in Narraganset country, and took the country from both governments (as they said) until the king's pleasure was known, and called it the king's province, and ordered fourteen persons to exercise authority there, as justices of the peace, until, &c. Col. Richard Nichols, understanding what the other three commissioners had done without his knowledge, reversed their orders, and declared them null and void, and that all and every one should

should keep their possession until the king's pleasure were known.

1665. The government and council of Rhode-Island, &c. passed an order for outlawing the people called Quakers, because they would not bear arms, and to seize their estates; but the people in general rose up against these severe orders, and would not suffer it.

1672. The general assembly of the colony of Rhode-Island confirmed all the purchases of Major Atherton and his associates, as may be seen in page

1675. A war broke out with the Indians round about us, and continued about two years; but at length the Indians were killed and fled away.

1678. Capt. Randal Houlden and Capt. John Greene, agents for the town of Warwick, in a private difference went for England, and informed his majesty that both government and soil of the Narraganset country belonged to him, and that there was never any legal purchase there made.

1678, 9. His majesty writes to all the colonies in New-England of this information, and commands them forthwith to make their right and title, both of soil and government, to appear before him at Whitehall, or else he would proceed so and so, &c.

1679. In obedience to the king's command, the colony of Rhode-Island and Providence plantations made their address to his majesty, claiming only right to the government of the Narraganset, by virtue of the charter, and laid no claim to the soil, desiring his majesty would bestow it on them. The colony of Connecticut employed one Mr. William Hains to carry the address to his majesty, laying no claim to the soil, but to the government by virtue of a prior charter to the charter of Rhode-Island, &c. Major Atherton's associates made their address to his majesty, and claimed the soil by virtue of purchase from the natives.

The commissioners of the united colonies (so called from their annual meeting) laid the matter before his majesty in a very methodical manner, laying no claim either to soil or government, only Connecticut aforesaid, as by their several addresses to his majesty may more plainly appear.

1683. Upon these several addresses, his majesty grants a commission to Edward Cranfield, Esq. Mr. Samuel Shrimton, and sundry other persons, to examine into the right with the several claims, and to make a report thereof to his majesty.

In the same year, in obedience to his majesty's commands, the said Edward Cranfield, Esq. with a competent number of the persons, convened at Mr. Richard Smith's house, in the Narraganset country; where was the greatest appearance of the most ancient English and Indians that were then living (that the like can never be again) to testify to the truth of their knowledge, &c. And from thence the commissioners adjourned to Boston.

1683. Edward Cranfield, Esq. and the rest of the persons commissioned, that met, made their report to his majesty in full and ample manner, declaring that the government of said country belonged to the colony of Connecticut, and the soil to Major Atherton and his associates.

1685. Upon this report, his majesty, king James II. declares his pleasure, and grants a commission to Col. Joseph Dudley for the government of the Massachusetts-Bay, &c. Narraganset country or king's province being included in it.

1686. Col. Dudley exerts the government of the said Narraganset, and takes possession thereof; establishes courts of judicature, and constitutes officers proper for such courts, and made justices of the peace, and did all acts suitable for a government; and all persons, there inhabiting, submitted to it. In the same year, Sir Edmond Andros came into New-England governor of the Massachusetts, New-Hampshire, Narraganset, and Rhode-Island. The president and council having examined the right and titles of Major Atherton and associates to the lands of the Narraganset, by them claimed, approved and allowed thereof.

1689. The Massachusetts seized their governor and imprisoned him, and overthrew the government. After some time he made his escape from them, and came to Rhode-Island for safety; but the people there following the example of the Massachusetts, imprisoned him, and delivered him up to those that before imprisoned him.

From that time forward to this day, the strongest party in Rhode-Island, &c. who imprisoned their governor, have ruled with a high hand, by virtue of their charter, and compelled, by force, the people of Narraganset to submit to them, and are now selling and disposing their old proprietors and rights to whom they see good.

FRANCIS BRINLEY.