THE

CHARTER

Granted by His MAJESTY

King CHARLES II.

TO

The Governor and Company

O F

The English COLONY

OF

Rhode-Island

AND

PROVIDENCE - Plantations,

IN NEW-ENGLAND

IN

AMERICA.

NEWPORT, Rhode-Island:

Printed by the Widow Franklin, and to be Sold at the Town School-House. M,DCC, XLIV

Joseph Manton Int

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place during the period included in this volume. These are the dispute with the Colony of Connecticut for the jurisdiction of the Narragansett country, and the difficulties arising therefrom, and King Philip's war. The correspondence and proceedings of the two Colonies, connected with their claims to the Narragansett country, are printed at length, for the first time, in their proper places in this volume. Much of this correspondence was copied a few years since from the records and files in the public Archives of Connecticut, for the Rhode Island Historical Society. From those copies these documents have now been printed.

A number of valuable documents have been taken from the manuscript collection of John Carter Brown, Esquire, of Providence, who kindly placed this collection at my disposal, for the use of the State. Other documents of value have been obtained from the office of the Secretary of State, of the State of New York.

J. R. B.

PROVIDENCE, May, 1857.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

RECORDS

OF THE

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

IN

NEW ENGLAND.



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INTRODUCTION

THE General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, at its May session, A. D. 1855, passed a resolution authorising the Secretary of State to transcribe, and cause to be printed, its Colonial Records; in accordance with which resolution this volume has been printed.

The present State of Rhode Island had its origin in four towns, viz.: Providence, Portsmouth, Newport and Warwick. Providence colony was first planted by Roger Williams in the year 1636, Portsmouth by other colonists in 1638, Newport in 1629; but of the precise year when the first settlement was made in Warwick, the records of that town furnish no evidence. It was, however, during the same period. In the year 1643, the first three towns were united under a Charter from Charles the First, obtained by Roger Williams, under the title of the "Incorporation of Providence Plantations in the Narragansett Bay in New England." It was not, however, until the year 1647, that the government was organized under this Charter, at an assembly of delegates or commissioners from the four towns named, which met at Portsmouth in May, of that year. Warwick whose name was not included in the Charter, was admitted at this time, with the same privileges as Providence.

is proper here to state, in what the Colonial Records of the State consist, and from which the present volume has been compiled.

The earliest book of records in the archives of the State begins with the settlement of Portsmouth on the Island of Rhode Island, in the year 1638. The first portion of ten or twelve years is continuous; the latter quite detached, and extends to the year 1696. This volume contains the transactions on Aquidneck or Rhode Island, embracing the history of the first settlements at Portsmouth and Newport. From 1638 to the present time, the records are complete in various volumes of the colony proceedings. In this volume are also copies of the deeds of lands from the Indians as originally recorded, as well as conveyances from the early settlers to each other; also early lists of the freemen in the Colony. The narrative or journal of proceedings has been printed at length as far as it goes in this volume, as well as the lists of freemen, and the deeds of land from the Indians; but all other land evidences have been omitted.

The records of Portsmouth commenced in this manuscript volume, were continued in the records of the town. From the original volume the records of Portsmouth were made complete down to the organization of the Colonial government in 1647.

A second and very large folio volume of Records commences in 1646, and continues to the year 1669. This embraces the official journals of the "General Assembly," the "General Court," or the "Court of Commissioners," as that legislative body is at different times called. These records are in a tolerable state of preservation. There are however, some mutilations, chiefly near the

edges of the leaves, from constant use for two hundred years. This volume also contains the "Proceedings of the Governor and Council;" the records of the "Court of Trials;" some Indian deeds, and other early land evidences.

A third volume contains the proceedings of the General Assembly from the year 1669 to 1686.

From the year 1686 to 1715, the original journals or "schedules" (as they are usually called), in the archives of the State were quite imperfect. Those of some sessions were wanting entirely, while others were so defaced as to be scarcely legible. To make them complete, a resolution was passed by the General Assembly in the year 1827, directing a committee, appointed for the purpose, consisting of Henry Bowen (then Secretary of State), and Christopher E. Robbins, to collect the manuscript schedules of the General Assembly of the period referred to, preserved by the different towns, and make a copy of the same for the State. This was accordingly done, and a clear and well written volume of five hundred and forty-four pages, folio, in the handwriting of Henry Bowen, Esquire, embracing the "acts and resolves" from 1686 to 1715 now exists among the archives. From the latter period the journals are complete and in excellent condition, in manuscript or in print, to the present time.

In addition to the journals of legislative proceedings, there are among the old records of the State the following, viz.: four volumes of land evidences; an early digest of public laws, entitled, "Bodye of Lawes of the Colonye of Rhode Island from 1663 to 1705," and a volume entitled "The Book of Records, containing the acts and orders by the Governor and Council, both generall

particular since the 1st May, 1667." The records and documents of the Revolutionary period are complete and in good condition.

The printed "acts and resolves" of the General Assembly in the archives of the State commence in 1758, from which period they are complete to the present time.

In view of the dilapidated condition of the early journals of the proceedings of the General Assembly and other transactions of the first colonists, and the frequent use of the same, which would tend to their entire obliteration, a committee was appointed by the General Assembly at its October session, 1822, consisting of Christopher Ellery Robbins and Henry Bull, Esquires, to examine these records and report the best method of collecting and preserving them. In conformity with their recommendation, Mr. Charles Gyles, of Newport, was employed to transcribe these records, which labor he accomplished under the direction of the committee in a most satisfactory manner. In order to make this copy as complete as possible, the copies of the proceedings of the Colony, preserved in the clerks' offices of different towns were used to fill up any chasms, mutilations or imperfections that might be found to exist in the State's copy. This transcript was carefully collated by the committee having the work in charge, with the originals, and their certificate of its correctness appended. The same volume contains a transcript from the records of the Supreme Judicial Court of the county of Newport, of proceedings of the commissoners under the government of Sir Edmund Andros, in the years 1667 and 1668, which are properly a portion of the Colonial records.

The records of the city of Providence previous to the organiza-

tion of the government in 1647, are very meagre. I supposed they were kept in greater detail and were destroyed in the year 1676, when the town was burned by the Indians, as those that remain bear the traces of fire and water. To make up for the want of a regular journal of events, such documents as would elucidate the history of the period have been used. These are the Indian deeds connected with Providence, with a variety of other documents of a historical nature, or connected with the purchase of the Indian lands, their transfer from Roger Williams to his associates, the first allotments of lands to the early settlers, &c., &c.

In selecting the materials for this volume, the Indian deeds of each of the four towns, and the town records to the year 1647, have been used. From that period, the official journals of the proceedings of the General Assembly have been followed to the close of the volume.

It is proper to state that many letters and documents of a public character not found in the archives of the State have been discovered elsewhere and inserted in their proper places. In the official records, there are frequent references to documents and eletters, written and received, which were not recorded, and which are found on the files. This hiatus has fortunately been filled by a reference to the files of the General Court of Massachusetts, and to the records of that Colony; also to copies of letters and papers in the possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Some papers of a public nature connected with our colonial history have also been found in Hazard's State papers (2 vols. 4to., Philadelphia, 1792), and in Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts Bay. The editor is also indebted to John Carter Brown, Esquire, of Providence, for the use of a large and valuable collection of man-

pts relating to New England in general and Rhode Island in particular. These papers, which fill ten folio volumes, were copied by the order, and at the expense of Mr. Brown, from the State Paper Office, in London. Among the papers used from this collection, are the letters of John Clarke, while acting as agent for the Colony in London, to King Charles the Second, connected with the Charter of 1663.

The papers selected from the volumes referred to, are letters written by the government of Rhode Island to that of Massachusetts and Plymouth, as well as letters from those colonies. Other documents, having a direct bearing upon matters before the Assembly have been added in the way of notes.

A large number of letters and documents both public and private, exist in old printed volumes; in the manuscript collections, referred to, and among the files of New York, Massachusetts and Plymouth colonies, which would tend to illustrate the history of this State; but they are too voluminous to include in these printed records. Among these are the papers relating to the Gortonian controversy; the dispute growing out of the jurisdiction claimed by Connecticut, Massachusetts and Plymouth; the Indian wars, &c. These are quite sufficient for one or more volumes, and it is to be hoped, that on the completion of the printing of the Colonial records, one or more volumes of these valuable papers may be collected and printed as illustrations to these records.

In transcribing these records for publication, the original orthography has been closely followed. To those not familiar with the quaint language and peculiar spelling of the period to which these records refer, it would, doubtless, have been more agreeable

destroyed its interest historically. Modern spelling would not have been in character with the style used two hundred years ago; and with the same propriety, the quaint language of that period should be put in the language of our day. It was therefore thought advisable to adhere to the originals in these respects. Where the original had been obliterated, words, and in a few cases, short sentences have been supplied to preserve the connection; these have been enclosed in brackets. The abbreviations, except ye for the, and yt for that, have not been followed, as many required characters expressly cast for them; besides, these abbreviations were not the universal custom of the time, but were often employed by writers at the end of a line, or to save space.

The records being in the handwriting of different Secretaries, some of which were evidently not familiar with the pen, and not well versed in the rules of grammar and punctuation, it has been found necessary, in a few instances, to make slight corrections, in order to preserve the sense. In the use of capital letters, no system was followed by the writers; and as these did not alter the sense, it was deemed best to conform to the modern use of them.

In proper names there is the greatest diversity in spelling; and great as it is, it has been followed in printing, for it was not for the editor to say how a family name should be spelt. After undergoing various changes, these names settled down into the form in which they now appear. In the index to this volume, the various names intended for the same individual, are placed together and referred to as the same; as Howlden, Houldon and Holden; Jefferyes, Jeoffries and Jeffries; Almie and Almy; Esson and Easton; Timberleggs and Timberlake; Wildbore, Wilbore, Wil-

and Wilbur, &c., &c. The difference in the spelling of these names by different persons, was doubtless from their depending upon the ear.

Notes and connecting paragraphs have, in a few instances, been added, which are enclosed in brackets. These might have been extended with advantage to readers unfamiliar with the annals of the State; but it was thought best for the reader to rely, as far as possible on the records themselves, without the addition of extraneous matter. These are but the materials for history, and to the diligent historian, whose duty it is to weave in all he can gather from other sources, must the public look for a more particular and better digested history.

The reader should bear in mind, where reference is made to the 1st, 2d, 3d 4th month, &c., that the Old Style, or Julian method of computing time was in use at the time these records were made, when the year commenced on the 25th of March, which was consequently the first month, and February the twelfth.

Great pains have been taken in preparing the Index appended to this volume, a labor which few will appreciate unless they have attempted a similar task. This seemed necessary, as in a volume like the records, it was impossible to prefix any table of contents or other references to the matter contained in it. It is a work, too, where many will seek for genalogies or family history. To render it useful in this respect, every proper name mentioned, is alluded to in the Index, however frequent its occurrence.

RECORDS

OF THE SETTLEMENTS AT

PROVIDENCE, PORTSMOUTH, NEWPORT AND WARWICK,

FROM THEIR COMMENCEMENT TO THEIR UNION UNDER THE COLONY CHARTER.

1636 TO 1647.

RECORDS

OF THE

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

1 8

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,

VOL. II.

1664 TO 1677.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.:

A. CRAWFORD GREENE AND BROTHER, STATE PRINTERS.

1857.

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED

FROM THE HOLDINGS OF

THE NEW HAVEN COLONY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REMARKS.

THE Second Volume of the Colonial Records of Rhode Island commences with the adoption of the Charter of Charles the Second, and the organization of the government under the same, in March 1663—1664, and extends to the close of the year 1677, thereby including fourteen years of the Colonial Annals.

The Records of the proceedings of the General Assembly are printed verbatim from the original manuscript copy in the Archives of the State. In addition to these, there are inserted in their proper places, the records of the "Proceedings of the Governor and Council," which held frequent meetings between the Sessions of the General Assembly, during certain periods, and whose proceedings are of equal historical importance with those of the former body. These are also printed from the original book of records.

The great Charter of Charles the Second precedes the Records, and is an exact reprint from the original document.

Two important events in the history of the Colony '

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED FROM THE HOLDINGS OF THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RECORDS

OF THE

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND,

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,

LOI" III"

1678 то 1706.

PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., STATE PRINTERS.
1858.

REMARKS.

THE Third Volume of the Colonial Records of Rhode Island commences with the proceedings of the April session of the General Assembly, in the year 1678, and ends with the October session of that body, in the year 1706; thereby including twenty-nine years of the Colonial Annals.

The events of this period are among the most important in our Colonial History. They include first, a discussion of the several claims for the ownership of Mount Hope and the Narragansett Country; the latter, from royal grants, the limits of which had never been defined. The Duke of Hamilton, the Earl of Arran, Major Atherton, Governor Winthrop, of Connecticut and his associates, with others, claimed large portions of this country. Connected with these, is the official Report of the Narragansett Commissioners, who were appointed by Charles the Second, to inquire into the respective claim and

titles of individuals, as well as Corporations, to the jurisdiction of that country, known also as the King's Province.

Next follow the complaints to the King against the Colony, by Edward Randolph, with articles of misdemeanor; in consequence of which, writs of quo warranto were issued by the King against the colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut, the latter of which was also the subject of complaint. The documents connected with these transactions, including the orders in Council, and the addresses from the Colony, elucidate much in the annals, which would otherwise be obscure. The proceedings of Joseph Dudley, Governor of the New England Colonies and President of the Council, close this portion of our history.

The subversion of the Charter government, and the administration of Sir Edmund Andros, render the year 1686 an important era in our Colonial history. The Colony was now merged into the government of New England, under that Royal Governor, and degenerated into a mere county. No meetings of the General Assembly took place under his government, and the only records that in any way show what was done in the Colony during this period, are those of the Courts of Quarter Sessions. These, though meagre, have been introduced into this volume as a link in the chain of our annals. Further to elucidate this portion of our history, the commission of, and instructions to, Sir Edmund Andros, from James the Second, with a variety of letters, addresses, etc., have been introduced. The particulars connected with the arrest and imprisonment of Andros in Boston, and the first revolution in New England that followed the accession of William and Mary to the English throne in 1689, complete the history of his administration of the American colonies. No

Andros are known to exist. It appears that they were forwarded to England, during the administration of Sir Edmund, but they are not now to be found in the English State Paper Office.

The valuable documents so important to fill up this chasm in our annals, are taken from the collection of papers in the possession of our townsman, John Carter Brown, Esq., for whom they were copied from the originals in Her Majesty's State Paper Office, London; from the "Usurpation Papers," or documents relating to the administration of Sir Edmund Andros, in the "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society;" and from the "Documents relating to the Colonial History of New York," recently printed by that State.

The Colonial Records, beginning with the assumption of the Charter in Februrary, 1690, after the fall of Andros, are now followed to the year 1706, where the volume ends. It is to be regretted, however, that the proceedings of certain sessions are wanting in 1691-93, '94 and '95, and are not known to exist among the State Records, or among the archives of any towns in the State. Our little Colony continued to suffer greatly from without; and it is probable that among the constant calls from the Home government for the proceedings and public acts of the Colony, that the original records now missing, were sent to England.

This opinion is strengthened from the fact, that after the printing of this volume had proceeded to the year 1695, there was found among the manuscript volumes in Mr. Brown's collection, copies of the entire proceedings of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, for the sessions of May and June,

J. R. B.

1691; two sessions, in the proceedings of which, the State was deficient; thus filling an important hiatus in its records. As these could not be inserted in their proper place, they have been added at the end of the volume, preceding the index. From the endorsement on these papers, it appears that they were transmitted to England by the Earl of Bellomont, who was sent to Rhode Island, under a commission from the King, to inquire into certain "irregularities."

The next serious troubles which the Colony had to contend with, was in consequence of "Representations to William and Mary about irregularities in the government." This led to the appointment of a commission of inquiry under the Earl of Bellomont. The full instructions to this nobleman, with the queries he was directed to put to the Governor and others in authority; the various letters of the Board of Trade to and from the Governor, in relation to this matter; the Report of the Earl of Bellomont on the irregularities charged against Rhode Island; the Journal of the Earl's proceedings in the execution of his Majesty's Royal Commission, when he visited Newport; with a number of letters, to and from the prominent men of that day, appear at length in this volume. These important papers, so indispensable to the elucidation of our history, are almost entirely taken from Mr. Brown's magnificent collection of manuscripts, generously placed by him at the disposal of the editor. Some other papers have been kindly furnished by the Secretaries of State of New York and Connecticut, from their public archives.

The concluding documents in the volume appertain to the history of the privateers and pirates, which infested our waters,

among which the notorious Captain Kidd appears. The facilities with which privateers' commissions were obtained of the authorities led to serious complaints, and involved the Colony in many difficulties. For the papers illustrative of these, which are inserted where the events are referred to in the legislative proceedings, the editor is also indebted to Mr. Brown.

PROVIDENCE, May, 1858.

RECORDS

OF TRI

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,

SECRETARY OF STATE.

VOL. IV.

1707 to 1740.

PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., STATE PRINTERS.
1859.

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED

FROM THE HOLDINGS OF

THE NEW HAVEN COLONY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE fourth volume of the Colonial Records of Rhode Island, includes thirty-three years of its annals. It begins with the proceedings of the February session of the General Assembly 1707, and ends with the October session of 1740.

The plan followed in selecting the matter for the present volume, is the same as that of the previous volumes, except that all legislative business of a private nature, has been omitted. In the early volumes, private matters were so blended with those of a public nature, and had so direct a bearing upon our colonial history, that it was deemed advisable to notice them. But during the period embraced in this volume, the business of a private character had so much increased, and possesses so little interest after the lapse of a century and a quarter; and, moreover, has so little bearing on the history of the state, that it was thought best to omit it, after the printing of the volume had been commenced. The matter thus left out, includes all resolutions authorizing parties to sell real estate; the granting of letters of administration; the appointment of guardians; the payment of salaries and accounts; records of decisions of law cases before the General Assembly, and proceedings relating thereto.

But even with the matters above stated, whenever the proceedings seemed to have a bearing upon, or illustrated the history of the time, they have been printed.

The public acts passed during the period in question, have also, with few exceptions, been omitted, as all, save those which were subsequently repealed, have already been printed in the volumes of public laws of 1719, 1730 and 1744. A few of these laws had been inserted before it was decided to change the plan, and insert merely the titles, with a reference to the printed volumes where found.

Notwithstanding the decision to omit the public laws, certain ones, which had a direct bearing upon, and important connection with the history of the state, have been inserted in their proper places. Some of these appear in the early printed digests of laws before mentioned, while others have been repealed. Among these, are the acts for the division of towns, with all that relates to their boundaries and organization; and the acts relating to, and growing out of the wars of England with France and Spain. The proceedings of the colony, growing out of these wars, would not be complete or understood, without presenting the public laws arising therefrom. These acts provide for the defence of the colony; for raising and subsisting soldiers, both for defence and for foreign expeditions.

The acts relating to the disputed boundaries, both those of Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as the proceedings and correspondence relating thereto, are also inserted at length.

The index will be found to contain a larger number of names than either of the previous volumes, as all who were admitted freemen, are referred to. The original orthography of these names is retained.

For many of the letters and public documents inserted in the volume, the editor is indebted to the liberality of his townsman, Mr. John Carter Brown, whose valuable manuscripts, copied from the originals in the state paper office, London, have been used in the previous volumes.

J. R. B.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

RECORDS

OF THI

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT, SECRETARY OF STATE.

VOL. V.

1741 то 1756.

PROVIDENCE: KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., STATE PRINTERS. 1860.

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED

FROM THE HOLDINGS OF

THE NEW HAVEN COLONY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE present, or fifth volume of the Colonial Records of Rhode Island, includes but sixteen years of its history. It commences in 1741, closes with 1756, and is chiefly devoted to that portion of its annals which includes the wars between Great Britain and France. These wars were the beginning of the great struggle for empire in North America. At the commencement of this struggle, the British colonies were confined to a narrow belt of territory, scarcely reaching, at its broadest point, three hundred miles from the Atlantic coast. Part of New England, the greater portions of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, as well as all the vast region to the west of these colonies, were then included in Louisiana, or New France; while the Spanish possessions crowded close upon Georgia and the Carolinas, under the general name of Florida, and extended nearly to the Mississippi. The New England colonies and New York were the most prominent in these wars, but none of them more so than Rhode Island. The ships fitted out by her and sent against the enemy, were more numerous than those of either of the other colonies; while her soldiers were prominent in all the expeditions for the reduction of Canada, and other poitions of the French empire, in America. In the expeditions sent against Louisburg, Cape Breton, Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Oswego, Quebec and other places, her troops or ships took part; and the correspondence, in this volume, of her Governors with the home government, the British admirals and generals, as well as with the Governors of the other English colonies, show the position which she held, and the aid she offered in the struggle for supremacy on the continent.

In the war between Great Britain and Spain, Rhode Island also furnished her contingent, by sending troops to Cuba, as the proceedings of the General Assembly, and the correspondence accompanying will show.

The issuing of bills of credit, or paper money, to a vast amount, by the English colonies, which was absolutely necessary, to enable them to meet the heavy expenditures required of them to carry on their several campaigns, is another prolific subject for discussion in this volume. The numerous acts for the emission and calling in of this paper money, the several objects for which the emissions were made, the correspondence with the other colonies in relation to the same, and with the British government, in its efforts to curtail and check the enormous emissions, are given at length. Among these documents, the official report of Governor Ward to the lords commissioners of trade and plantations, written in 1740, giving a full history of the paper money emissions from 1710 to 1740, the causes of these issues, the exertions and sacrifices made by the colony to assist the mother country in her foreign wars, will be found of great interest.

The originals received by the colony, of all the orders of the King and council; the letters, commissions, instructions and other documents, printed or referred to in this volume, are among the archives of the secretary of state's office, in Providence, chronologically arranged and bound in volumes, where they may be conveniently referred to. Besides these, there are among the archives, many military returns, and other papers connected with the French wars, showing the names of the officers and men of the Rhode Island regiments, with a variety of original letters and documents of a private nature, belonging to the period embraced in this volume, which are not printed.

Providence, January, 1860. J. R. B.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

RECORDS

OF THE

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDE'NCE PLANTATIONS,

1 N

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,
SECRETARY OF STATE.;

VOL. VI.

1757 то 1769.

PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., STATE PRINTERS.
1861,

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED

FROM THE HOLDINGS OF

THE NEW HAVEN COLONY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIRTEEN years of the annals of Rhode Island are included in this volume; i. e. from the year 1757, to the year 1769, both inclusive. The struggle between Great Britain and France for the ascendancy in North America, the beginning of which was narrated in the previous volume of these records, is continued in this; indeed, the history of, and correspondence connected with, this important event, constitutes the larger portion of its matter. In the campaigns against the French, on the northern frontier, the troops of Rhode Island took an active part, as the correspondence of the principal actors in these events, will show. The letters of General Lord Amherst, General Abercrombie, Lord Loudoun, Admirals Colville, Durell, the Commissioners of Trade and Foreign Plantations, William Pitt, the Earls of Hillsborough and Egremont, etc., etc., are quite numerous in the volume. Among other topics of interest to which it has reference, are the campaigns against Canada, and the French fortresses at Fort William Henry, Ticonderoga, Oswego, Niagara, etc.

The particulars connected with the convention of British colonies at New York, in the year 1765, in which Rhode Island took part, with the instructions from the respective

colonies to their commissioners; the resolutions passed; the report of the convention; together with the memorials to the King, and Houses of Lords and Commons,—will be found at length in this volume.

The important paper drawn up by Stephen Hopkins, by order of the General Assembly, in 1764, entitled "The Rights of the Colonies Examined," is printed at length. This celebrated essay was printed in Providence, and afterwards re-printed in London, where it produced a sensation. The events connected with the passage of the famous stamp act, by the British Parliament, the resistance to which was but a foreshadowing of the more serious resistance which followed a few years later, also took place during the period included in this volume, and are duly recorded therein. The originals of nearly all the letters and documents published in this volume, are among the archives of the State.

J. R. B.

PROVIDENCE, January, 1861.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED FROM THE HOLDINGS OF THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RECORDS

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OF THE

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

I N

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT, SECRETARY OF STATE

VOL. VII.

1770 to 1776.

PROVIDENCE:
A. CEAWFORD GREENE, STATE PRINTEB..

2862.

THE present volume includes but seven years of the Colonial Records. It begins with the year 1770 and ends with the session of September, 1776. So voluminous are the proceedings of the General Assembly of the latter year (that of the Declaration of Independence), that it was found impossible to include them all in this volume, without increasing its size much beyond that of the previous volumes.

The events which took place in the colony immediately preceding the Declaration of Independence, are of deep interest, and are given at length in the volume, accompanied by the letters and documents connected therewith. The most important of these, is the destruction of His Britannic Majesty's schooner Gaspee, Lieutenant Dudingston, in Narragansett Bay, on the night of the 9th of June, 1772. The history of this interesting event, accompanied by the correspondence which grew out of it, the action of the General Assembly thereon, and the official journal of the proceedings of the commission of inquiry, appointed by King George the Third, upon the same, are given at length. The documentary portion of this history, is more complete than any before published. For several of these, the Secretary is indebted to the kindness of the Hon.

George Bancroft, who furnished him copies from those in his possession, which are transcripts from the originals in Her Majesty's State Paper office, in London. These copies, together with the original documents referred to, are bound together among the public archives in the Secretary of State's office, Providence.

J. R. B.

PROVIDENCE, January, 1862.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

THE FOLLOWING TITLE WAS MICROFILMED

FROM THE HOLDINGS OF

THE NEW HAVEN COLONY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RECORDS

OF THE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

IN

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,

' VOL. VIII.

1776 TO 1779.

PROVIDENCE:
COOKE, JACKSON & CO., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1863.

The eighth volume of the Colonial Records embraces but little more than three years of our history. It commences with the October session of the General Assembly, 1776, and closes with the year 1779. The editor was desirous to lose the publication of the work with this volume; but so oluminous are the proceedings of the General Assembly uring the revolutionary period, that it has been found impossible. In the year 1777, there were eleven sessions of a General Assembly; in 1778 and 1779, seven each, so at the present volume contains the proceedings of a public ature of twenty-five sessions. The volume is also rich with the correspondence of the period, and includes letters of Vashington, Greene, Sullivan and other generals of the evolution.

J. R. B.

Providence, January, 1863.

RECORDS

OF THE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

1 8

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,

VOL. IX.

1780 то 1783.

PROVIDENCE: ALPRED ANTHONY, PRINTER TO THE STATE, 1864.

The present volume of the Colonial Records comprises four years of the history of Rhode Island, commencing with the January session, 1780, and closing with the December session, 1783, in which year the war of the Revolution terminated. The annals of the state during this period, almost wholly appertain to the great struggle then going on to secure our independence, as the raising of troops by means of bounties, the furnishing of supplies for the army, and the means for carrying on the war. In addition to the record of passing events, the volume contains the correspondence of the Governor with Generals Washington, Greene, Heath, Varnum, the Count de Rochambeau, de la Luzerne, the President of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Governors of various states, etc., etc.

J. R. B.

PROVIDENCE, January, 1864.

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PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

NEW ENGLAND.



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The tenth and last volume of the Colonial and State Records of Rhode Island, commences in 1784, and terminates with the October session, 1792, the last of the year. During the latter year, the State of Rhode Island adopted the Constitution of the United States. Its existence, therefore, as a sovereign state, ceased with this important act; and it became a component and permanent part of the United States. The history of the latter, will, from that period, embrace the history of all the States in the Union; and the history of Rhode Island, from the period when she became merged in the great Federal Union, will be confined to transactions within her own State limits.

J. R. B.

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Rhode Island Court Records

RECORDS OF
THE COURT OF TRIALS
OF THE COLONY OF
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
1662—1670

VOLUME II



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