

**SIR HENRY VANE, JR.,
GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND FRIEND OF ROGER
WILLIAMS AND RHODE ISLAND**

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Sir Henry Vane, Jr., Governor of Massachusetts and Friend of Roger Williams and Rhode
Island by Henry Melville King

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HENRY MELVILLE KING

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GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

AND

FRIEND OF ROGER WILLIAMS
AND RHODE ISLAND

BY

HENRY MELVILLE KING,

PASTOR EMERITUS

OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

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PREFACE.

This historical study was undertaken for the purpose of forming a correct estimate of the character of one of the most interesting leaders in the English Commonwealth, of ascertaining the nature and value of his service in the struggle for freedom of conscience in England and New England, and more particularly of setting forth his important and exceedingly helpful relation to Rhode Island and his claim upon the lasting gratitude of its people. Few lives have a greater fascination for the student of English and Colonial history than the life of Sir Henry Vane, Jr. Born of a noble family, early catching the spirit of Puritanism, surrendering position and prospects out of love for the truth and the rights and liberties of the people, laboring unweariedly, self-sacrificingly, courageously, for the cause which he had espoused, leaving the impress of his influence

upon Old England and New England and linking them together as no other man of that period did, the intimate friend and coadjutor of Oliver Cromwell, and yet daring to oppose and resist him when he believed him to be wrong, and patiently suffering the consequences of such resistance, and finally in the prime of life unrighteously condemned and cruelly executed by the treachery of Charles II, Vane's portrait stands out amid the smoke, the confusion, the strife of his time, calm, serene, consistent, heroic. If this little book shall help to make one who has been to many only a name, a living reality, and a vital force in the upward struggle of humanity, the author will be fully compensated.

The substance of the book was presented in a paper read in Boston at the mid-winter meeting of the Backus Historical Society, January 18, 1909, and read also in Providence at a regular meeting of the Rhode Island Historical Society, February 9, 1909. Such added material is now included, in what is still only a monograph making no pretension to a full biography, as

will give, it is hoped, a clear and intelligible portrait of Vane and a true account of his connection with the greatest movement in modern history.

HENRY MELVILLE KING.

Providence, August, 1909.

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