

**RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL
TRACTS. SECOND SERIES.
NO. 5. RHODE ISLAND'S
GIFT TO THE NATION**

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Rhode Island Historical Tracts. Second Series. No. 5. Rhode Island's Gift to the Nation by
Sidney S. Rider

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SECOND SERIES.

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RHODE ISLAND'S GIFT
TO THE
NATION.

AN INQUIRY CONCERNING THE VALIDITY OF THE CLAIMS MADE
BY ROMAN CATHOLICS THAT MARYLAND WAS SETTLED UPON
THAT BASIS BEFORE ROGER WILLIAMS PLANTED
THE COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND.

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PRELIMINARY NOTE.

THE following Tract consists of a series of papers published by the writer in *Book Notes*, during the autumn of 1894, very much enlarged, but upon the same lines. The question was not one of the establishment of the principle of Religious Liberty here in Rhode Island, but whether such a principle had been already established, and then existed in Maryland when Rhode Island was planted, in 1636; whether the Roman Catholic Church in Maryland planted Religious Liberty before Roger Williams planted this principle here in Rhode Island. This claim by the Roman Catholics is herein denied, and, as we believe, overthrown. The very law under which this claim is set up (see p. 11) destroys the claim. If the words "Holy Church" in that law mean, as it is claimed that they mean, the Holy Roman Catholic Church, then that church was the only church, or religion, whose "rights, liberties, and immuni-