

**COMMERCE, MANUFACTURES
AND RESOURCES OF THE CITY
OF PROVIDENCE AND ENVIRONS.
A DESCRIPTIVE REVIEW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649552849

Commerce, Manufactures and Resources of the City of Providence and Environs. A Descriptive Review by National Publishing Co.

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Cover @ 2017

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OF THE

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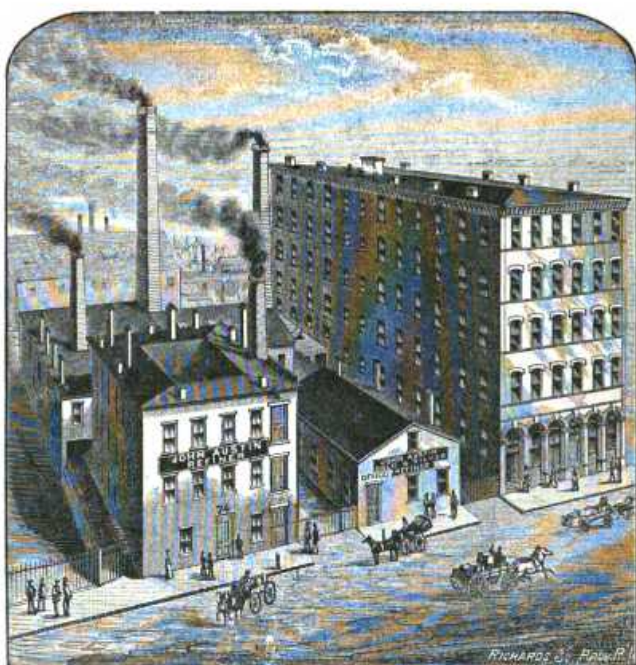
A DESCRIPTIVE REVIEW.

INDUSTRY, DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE.

NATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, (LIMITED),

1882.

Providence Press Co., Printers.



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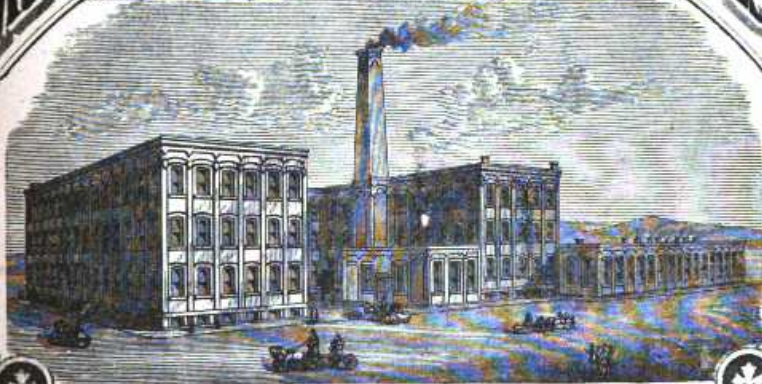
ALSO, JEWELERS' SUPPLIES.

See Article, Page 104.

1882

COMMERCE,

MANUFACTURES & RESOURCES
OF



BROWN & SHARPE MANUFACTURING CO.'S WORKS.

PROVIDENCE, R.I.

A Historical, Statistical

& DESCRIPTIVE REVIEW.

NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO. (LIMITED.)

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July 24, 1917.

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PREFATORY.

THE vast extent of our country, the distance that often separates producer and manufacturer, and the obstacles to universal travel, form an amply sufficient excuse for the publication of this work.

It is highly desirable that information with regard to a community so useful and progressive in commerce, trade and manufactures, should be as widely diffused as possible; and though no claim is made that this volume is a perfect reflex of Providence in this respect, it is confidently asserted that no previous publication, with a similar object, has contained so much new or valuable matter.

That it is not more fully and completely representative, is a fault that cannot justly be ascribed to the publishers—the work necessitated a certain amount of public support and co-operation; it is therefore obvious that no interest has been willingly slighted or purposely omitted.

The reader may be assured that an account of the best, most honorable, intelligent and successful corporations, firms and individuals in Providence, together with a detailed description of their enterprises, will be found within these pages, and that all exaggerations with regard to such have been sedulously avoided.

Designed especially for circulation among those residing in other localities and unacquainted with the true magnitude of this city, and its extraordinary manufacturing facilities, we are assured that this work will perform a mission of the highest utility, and with this belief we commend it to the preservation and attentive perusal of our readers.

NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO.
Limited.

As the circulation of this work is largely complimentary, anyone receiving more than one copy will oblige the publishers by forwarding extra copies, where they think it will do the most good.

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

There are few business men who find either time or inclination for the study of National Histories, and those are still more rare who discover an interest in the chronicles of any locality other than that in which their energies center.

On the other hand none can be found who are indifferent to such facts in relation to any important community as shall more clearly convey an idea of its industries and resources, why it prospers and develops in certain directions, and what claims it has to commercial distinction.

For such this work was designed, and to such it is dedicated.

Intended especially to convey information concerning Providence to those unfamiliar with its characteristics this work will probably contain little not already patent to every intelligent dweller in this city, but will excite attention and will prove most useful the further it circulates from the subject of its theme.

To the present, therefore, more than to the past, we devote this sketch; our business is with living men and their daily occupations, enterprises and successes; what they are doing for themselves and others in commerce, trade, manufactures, finances, or by individual talent in the arts, sciences and professions.

To the past, however, we are not oblivious; and if only for the sake of comparison there are some salient points of historic interest relating to Providence that should be in possession of every well-informed reader.

There seems to be convincing evidence that the Northmen, who visited the North American coast in the tenth and eleventh centuries, and planted their colonies there, explored the waters of Narragansett Bay and established one of those colonies on Aquidneck (or Rhode) Island, near the present site of Newport, and that the Vinland of which they speak so often was that island. It is the belief of many antiquarians that the round stone tower at Newport, which now forms so picturesque a ruin, was built by these colonists, and the inscriptions on Dighton Rock, in Taunton River, are also said to be Icelandic or Norse runes. In 1554, Verazzano visited Narragansett Bay and remained there about two weeks trading with

the Indians who were then very numerous. The founder of the present city of Providence and State of Rhode Island, was Roger Williams, an eminent English clergyman and scholar, who emigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and became pastor of the church at Salem. A vigorous and original thinker, of logical mind, and great moral courage, he soon startled the leading ministers, who were the ruling spirits of that colony, by the avowal of his doubts, (which soon ripened into disbelief,) of the propriety of infant baptism, and his conviction that immersion was the only scriptural mode of baptism. He had come to these conclusions by no instruction from others, but solely by his own investigations and logical reasoning. When called to account by the ministers and magistrates for these departures from their faith, he boldly annunciated a doctrine which seemed to them more heretical and pestiferous than those he had previously avowed; it was this: that the civil power had no authority to bind men to the belief or maintenance of any religious doctrine—that the human conscience in all these matters was responsible to God alone; and while he admitted the right of the civil magistrates to punish any violations of the moral code, he contented earnestly for "soul-liberty." These doctrines were deemed by the clergy and civil magistrates subversive of all the purposes for which they had left their native land; they had come to escape persecution and to maintain their own religious views, not to establish a place of refuge for others who differed from the dominant party in England; and they would not hear anything in favor of Mr. Williams's views. They labored very earnestly with him to induce him to give up these doctrines, which they regarded as heretical, but finding him fixed in his opinions they notified him in the winter of 1635-6, to leave the colony within six weeks, under penalty of being sent to England by the first vessel. He left Salem, and plunged into the wilderness in what is now Bristol County, Mass., and after six weeks of extreme hardship eventually came, in the early Spring of 1636, in a canoe, to the present site of Providence, and was greeted on landing by an Indian with the words, "What Cheer Owannux?" the last being the Indian word for