

**COLLECTIONS OF RHODE-
ISLAND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY. VOL. II**

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Collections of Rhode-Island Historical Society. Vol. II by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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COLLECTIONS

OF THE

RHODE-ISLAND

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. II.

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MDCCCXXXV.

G. DeC.C.

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May 1912

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RHODE-ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
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Elected by the Trustees, July 19, 1833.

ALBERT G. GREENE,
ROMEO ELTON,
THOMAS F. CARPENTER.

C I R C U L A R .

The Society would call the attention of members and correspondents, to the following subjects :

1. Topographical Sketches of towns and villages, including an account of their soil, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, natural curiosities and statistics.

2. Sketches of the history of the settlement and rise of such towns and villages; and of the introduction and progress of commerce, manufactures, and the arts, in them.

3. Biographical Notices of original settlers, revolutionary patriots, and other distinguished men who have resided in this State.

4. Original letters and documents, and papers illustrating any of these subjects; particularly those which shew the private habits, manners or pursuits of our ancestors, or are connected with the general history of this State.

5. Sermons, orations, occasional discourses and addresses, books, pamphlets, almanacs and newspapers, printed in this State; and manuscripts, especially those written by persons born or residing in this State.

6. Accounts of the Indian tribes which formerly inhabited any part of this State, their numbers and condition when first visited by the whites, their general character and peculiar customs and manners, their wars and treaties, and their original grants to our ancestors.

7. The Indian names of the towns, rivers, islands, bays, and other remarkable places within this State, and the traditional import of those names.

8. Besides these, the Society will receive donations of any other books, pamphlets, manuscripts and printed documents.

P R E F A C E .

ON presenting the public with the second volume of the Collections of the Rhode-Island Historical Society, the Committee of Publication deem it proper, very briefly to state the reasons which have induced them to select the present work, for that purpose.

It has been the wish of the Society, to publish, in chronological order, all those works of the early settlers in Rhode-Island, which contain materials relating to the history of the State, or which would furnish means for a just estimate of the characters and conduct of those who were most distinguished during its early periods. That course would have been adopted and steadily pursued, had the resources of the Society been sufficiently ample, or had a sufficient degree of interest in its general objects, been manifested by the public, to warrant such an undertaking. In the prosecution of that design, all the writings of Roger Williams which could answer either of the above purposes, would have been first republished, and have been followed in regular order, by those of his cotemporaries and successors. But with the limited degree of encouragement and assistance which the Society has as yet received, the course which it was so desirable to have pursued, and which would have added so materially to the value of the Collections as a whole, is known to be entirely impracticable. Such being the case, the Committee felt it to be their duty, to select from the materials at their command, some work, not only valuable in a historical point of view, but which, from its own peculiar character, would probably excite the most general interest. They were, therefore, happy to avail themselves of the labors of Mr. Staples, who had been for some time preparing for the press, an edition of *Simplicity's Defence*; and who, as the Committee were well aware, had been indefatigable in his researches for such materials as might, in the form of Notes and Appendixes, enhance the value of the work, by explaining the references and allusions which it contains, or which could throw any light upon the biography, the characters or motives of the individuals who are mentioned in the Narrative. This task, Mr. Staples has performed, fully and impartially. He has given every authentic means of information in his power, on both sides of the question:

and in embodying this work, with his additions, in the present Collections, the Committee have full confidence, that neither himself, nor the Society, can be obnoxious to the slightest imputation of any other motive than a desire to furnish the means by which a true judgment may be formed respecting facts which are of much importance in the history of this State.

With regard to the eventual republication of this work by the Society, even in its original form, the Committee presume there can be but one opinion; and they are gratified by the opportunity of presenting it, with additions so interesting and extensive as those by which it is now accompanied.

ALBERT G. GREENE, } Committee
 ROMEO ELTON, } of
 THOMAS F. CARPENTER, } Publication.

PROVIDENCE, April, 1835.

SIMPLICITY'S DEFENCE

AGAINST

SEVEN-HEADED POLICY.

BY SAMUEL GORTON,

ONE OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF WARWICK, B. I.

WITH NOTES EXPLANATORY OF THE TEXT: AND APPENDICES
CONTAINING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THE
WORK.

BY WILLIAM R. STAPLES,

Member of the R. I. Historical Society.

PROVIDENCE:
MARSHALL, BROWN AND COMPANY.
MDCCCXXXV.

G. O. C. C.

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