

track, where no destructive disease has ever been known to prevail. The Narragansets were distinguished for their sacrifices. They had a spacious temple, and stated times for their public assemblies. A fire was kindled in the temple, into which the Powacks cast the most valuable riches of the people, voluntarily brought by them, as skins, beads, hatchets, and knives. The Indians farther north, though not disposed to imitate their example, admired their piety, imagining that this was the reason why the plague or yellow fever, which had depopulated their country, had not raged there.

*Rivers.*—The chief rivers are Providence and Taunton, both of which empty themselves into Narraganset Bay. The former, which has one of its sources in Massachusetts, is navigable for ships of nine hundred tons, to the town of Providence, thirty miles from the sea. Taunton river, which also rises in Massachusetts, is navigable for small vessels to the town of the same name, where the rise of the common tide is about four feet.

*Islands.*—In the bay of Narraganset, which is from two to fifteen miles in breadth, and thirty-three in length, there are several islands, of which the principal are, 1. Rhode Island, from which the state takes its name, fifteen miles in length, and nearly five in its greatest breadth, contains about fifty-two square miles, including three townships; Newport, Portsmouth, and Middleton. It is called the Eden of America, being considered as superior to all other places, in point of situation, soil, and climate. 2. The next in point of magnitude is Block Island, or Manasses, which is seven miles in length, and four in breadth, containing about twenty square miles. It lies seven miles to the south of Charleston, and fifteen south-west from Point Judith. The fuel of the inhabitants of this island is peat or turf. 3. The next in size is Cannonicut Island, situated three miles west of the first; it is ten miles in length, and one in breadth. The soil of this and the first is rich, and the pasture is very favorable to the growth of cattle and sheep. 4. Prudence Island, situated to the north of the river, and to the west of Rhode Island, is about six miles in length, and one in breadth. There are several other smaller islands interspersed throughout the gulf.

*Minerals.*—Iron ore is here abundant and rich; that lying in a valley at the distance of seven miles west of the town of Pro-