

them in friendship to themselves and to each other. One instance may suffice to show their mode of dealing where the Indians were concerned. During a time of severe famine a quantity of corn was found in a cave. Before it was used, a diligent but useless search was made for the owner. Months afterwards he was discovered, and paid three-fold. Whatever may be said of the other or later settlers of this continent, the Forefathers of New England at least dealt honestly by the Red Man.

It has ever seemed to me that the common representation of the course of the Colonists towards Roger Williams and the Quakers is not the most correct one. It is by these that the charge of bigotry and intolerance is mainly sought to be sustained.

To obtain correct views on this, you must remember the Pilgrims did not cross the Atlantic to form a settlement where men of all shades of opinion should be tolerated. They came for the express purpose and with the avowed intention of forming a separate organization, a community of their own, to be governed by their well-known principles. The grants gave them an exclusive title to the lands which they were to occupy, with an uncontrolled right to establish laws for its government. They owned all that tract of country lying east of the present State of Rhode Island and south of Massachusetts, which was at first bounded by Charles River and the Merrimac. Within these limits they had absolute dominion. To this spot they invited none except those who thought as they did upon law and religion. Hence Plymouth early passed laws prohibiting persons from settling within her bounds without a license from the magistrates. They sought to keep out the elements of discord by excluding those who were likely to introduce them. They had braved many dangers to obtain a quiet home. They were certainly justified in seeking by all lawful means to preserve it.

Roger Williams* was banished in 1635, after a residence of five

* See Palfrey's Hist. of N. E., vol. i., p. 405-425, where the various authorities are given in full. This is confessedly the best and only thorough history of New England.