

conscience' sake wandered for fourteen weeks through the pathless and wintry forests, "during which time he knew not what either bed or bread did mean, neither fire nor food, nor company, nor any house but a hollow tree." When he reached the site of the future city, the friendly Indians greeted him with the words "What cheer?" a phrase which has become for all time the watch-word of the city. Here they commenced the settlement which their pious founder named Providence—"God's Providence." "I desired," he writes, "that it might be a shelter for persons distressed in conscience." While the other colonies persecuted the Quakers even to the death,* and banished the dissenters, Providence, and the other Rhode Island settlements, were always asylums for the victims of those persecutions.

The commonwealth, which Roger Williams founded, has honoured his memory. Providence is now a busy city, of over 100,000 inhabitants, and the spot where he landed, the spring at which he drank, the site of his house, and the grave in which, for two hundred years, his ashes have slept, are shown with reverent regard. Hotels, steamboats, banks, parks, bear his name, or the watchword "What Cheer." In a lovely park bequeathed by his descendants to the city, rises a noble monument, in bronze, of the grand old pioneer of liberty. He holds in his hand the grand charter of human liberty—the Word of God—on whose open page are inscribed the words "Soul Liberty."

Situated on a lofty eminence, over-looking the city and surrounded by venerable elms, are the buildings of Brown University. The oldest is a barrack-like structure, dating from 1770; the youngest is an elegant library of recent date. Some of the streets are so steep that there are steps with iron hand-rails at the side to help one to climb them, and much of the architecture is exceedingly quaint.

On the shores of Narragansett Bay may be seen what is claimed to be the oldest historic, or pre-historic, memorial in America. This is the famous Dighton Rock inscription, of which we give an engraving. It is claimed that the inscription is in Icelandic characters, recording the fact that in the year 1007 Thorfinn Karlsefne, a rich Iclander, with his wife, Gudrid, and a company of one hundred and fifty-one men and

*Four Quakers—one a woman—were hanged on Boston Common.