

the latter, by the citizens twice a year. Each township has one representative. In his legislative capacity the governor has but one voice, and cannot give a negative to any act of the two houses. All judicial and executive officers are annually elected by the governor and company, or by the upper and lower house of assembly. Every process is issued in the name of the governor and company. The oaths of office and allegiance are made conformable to the principles of the revolution.

*Religious Professions.*—All men professing a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, are equally protected by the laws, which leave the support of clergymen to the voluntary contributions of individuals. There are no days set apart for public fasting, as in some of the other states, but there is an annual thanksgiving, authorized by a proclamation from the governor. The religious denominations are: Baptists, Congregationalists, Quakers, Episcopalians, Moravians, and Jews. The first, the most numerous, have five churches in the towns of Newport and Providence. According to the report of the general convention of Baptists, held in Philadelphia, in May 1817, the number of churches was fifty-seven; that of members 5945. The second sect have the same number, in the same places; the Quakers and Episcopalians each two; the Moravians one; the Jews a synagogue. In the western parts, including a surface of thirty miles in breadth and fifty in length, and embracing one half of the population, there is but one minister of a regular classical education.

*Humane Societies.*—The slave trade has greatly interested the humanity of the inhabitants of Rhode Island, who have established a society, not only for its abolition, but also for the improvement of the African race. A Marine Society has been established at Newport, for the relief of the widows and orphans of seamen.

*Literature.*—It was a favorite tenet among the first clergymen of Rhode Island, "that human learning is no way necessary to a Gospel preacher," and this unfortunate opinion has probably operated against literary institutions, for which no great zeal is yet manifested. Dr. Morse observes, "that in the whole region west of the bay, scarcely a meeting-house or school-house is to be seen. Only a small part of the people have a Bible in their houses, and a very great proportion of them are unable to read or write. The college, founded in 1764, at Warren, and re-