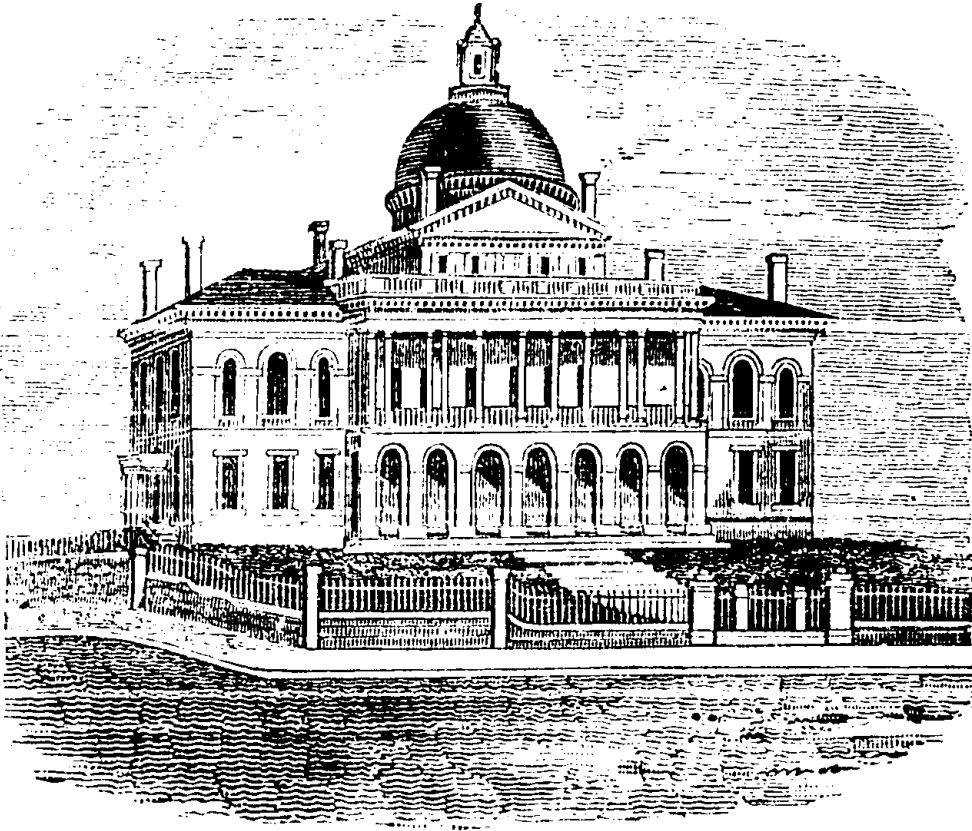


HISTORY OF BOSTON.



BY ROBIN CARVER.

BOSTON :

LILLY, WAIT, COLMAN, AND HOLDEN.

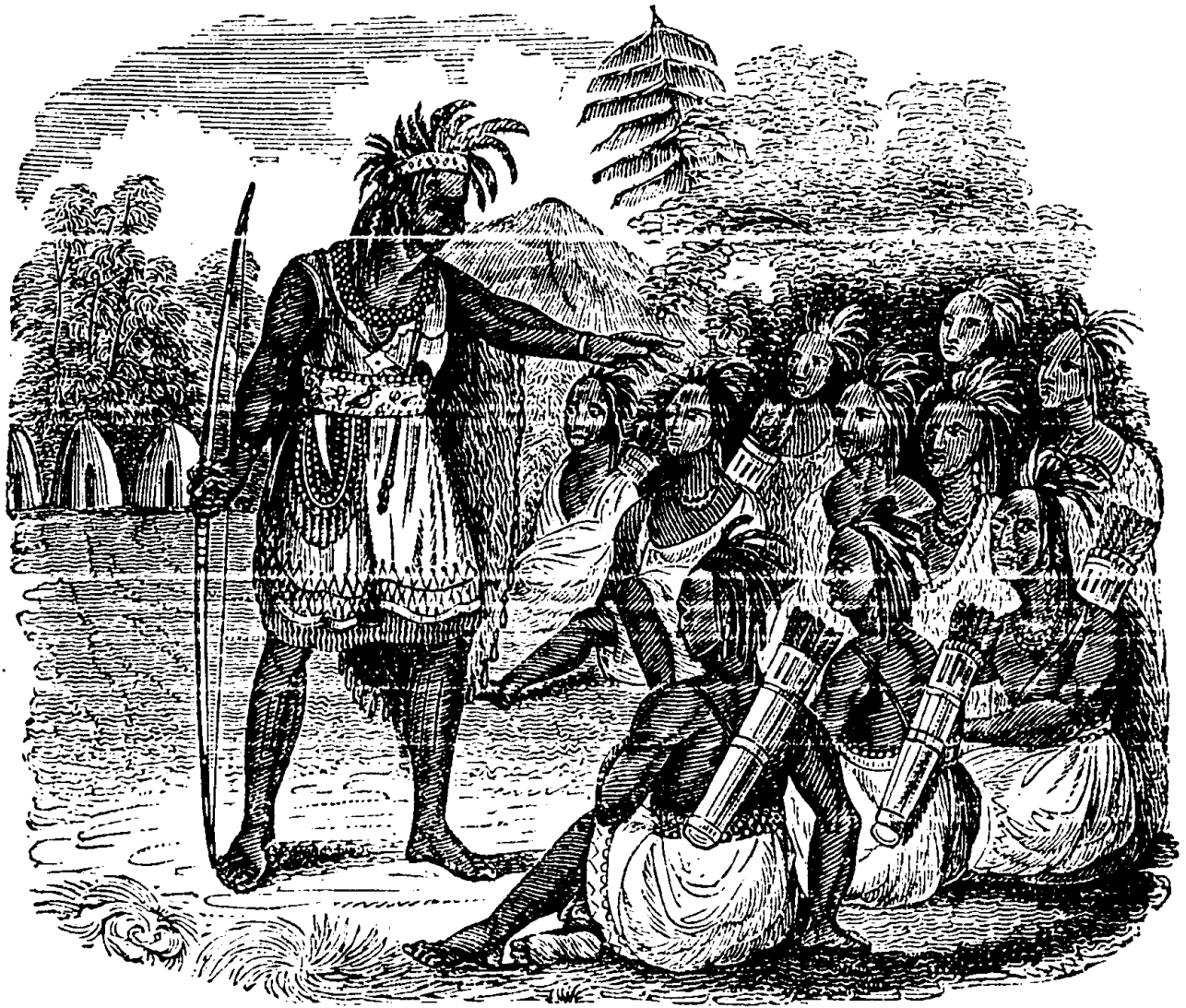
1834.

CHAPTER V.

Indian Tribes. King Philip. Attack on Swansea. Another Expedition. Anecdote of the Periwig. Death of Philip. One-eyed John.

1. I AM now going to tell you something about the Indian Wars. The inhabitants of Boston were never very much troubled by the natives in their immediate neighborhood; but the little inland settlements and villages were often distressed by them.

2. The Indians throughout Massachusetts were separated into a number of distinct tribes. These tribes were not united under one head, nor bound together by any common government. They were entirely separate and independent. One after another, they had made treaties with the white men, and agreed to submit to their authority. For a long time they lived together in great friendship. The white men were just and cautious; and the savages kept their promises, and hunted and fished in peace.



Philip addressing his Tribe.

3. About the year 1670, the conduct of the Indians began to appear suspicious. It was thought prudent to take precautions against them. In Rhode Island there was a very cunning and brave chief by the name of Philip. He lived at Mount Hope, a beautiful hill, which has become quite famous, as having been the residence of this king. He possessed a great deal of power, and was a bitter enemy of the white men.

4. It was an evil sight to him, to see the natives of the soil displaced by the rapid growth of the English colonies. He was unwilling to part with the fields and hills, which had so long been the pleasant hunting grounds of his ancestors. He was crafty, bold, and vigorous. His people looked upon him as a great warrior, and obeyed him. They were glad to listen to his counsel, and were easily excited to hate and persecute the strangers, who had come to drive them away from the homes and the graves of their fathers.

5. Philip was too cunning to appear at once as an enemy. He pretended to be a friend of the colonists, and made many promises and professions of peace. Meanwhile he was going about among the different tribes, and endeavoring to rouse them to war. He laid a plot for the Indians to rise at the same time in all quarters, and drive the English entirely out of the country.

6. As the confidence of Philip and his adherents increased, it began to display itself in acts of violence. In June 1675, a party of the hostile Indians entered the town of

Swansey, in the Plymouth colony, and, after killing the cattle, plundered the houses, and murdered or wounded several of the inhabitants. The troops of Plymouth colony immediately marched to the relief of this devoted village. In the flight which followed their depredations, the Indians marked their course by burning buildings, and by poles at the wayside, on which they placed the hands and heads of the whites whom they had killed.

7. Information of this attack was at once dispatched to Boston. A company of foot soldiers under Captain Henshman, and a troop of horse, were sent to the relief of the settlement. Having arrived at Swansey and rested there one night, the whole force passed over the bridge that led to Mount Hope, and obliged the enemy to retreat some distance. An ensign by the name of Savage, a young man about twenty years of age, quite distinguished himself in this skirmish. As he boldly held the colors in front of his company, he was shot at by ten or twelve of the savages, and received a bullet in his thigh. Another passed through the brim of his hat.

8. New troops arrived to the assistance of the colonists, and the Indian tribes in those parts were soon routed. Philip fled to the western part of the colony, and some of the Boston troops returned. Captain Henshman was sent on another expedition, in November of the same year. Hearing of a number of Indians at Mendon, he went with his soldiers to attack them in their wigwams.

His men behaved in a very cowardly manner, and deserted him just at the moment of the combat. So he was obliged to give up his purpose.

9. Rather a laughable incident occurred in one of these expeditions. About sixty white men met with a party of three hundred Indians, in an open plain, and both sides made preparations for battle. When every thing was ready, the captain of the whites plucked off his wig, and put it in his pocket, to prevent any accident happening to it, and that it might not hinder him in fighting. As soon as the Indians saw that, they raised a most hideous yell, crying out ‘*Umh, umh, me no fight Engismon, Engismon got two hed; if me cut off un hed, he got noder, a put on beder as dis!*’ Away the whole tribe fled, and could not be overtaken.

10. In the following winter, there were a good many encounters with the Indians, in which the colonists were sometimes successful, and sometimes unfortunate. The savages still advanced towards Boston, with the intention to burn the town, and kill the inhabitants. It was thought necessary to post a guard at the entrance of the town, and no Indian was suffered to go in or out unless he was strictly watched.

11. Before the close of the year, the great Indian king and warrior, Philip, was slain. Captain Clark, with a faithful and brave band of soldiers, pursued him to the recesses of Mount Hope. Here he was shot by an Indian friendly to the whites. He was very brave and sagacious, and a great

terror to the settlers. The lock of the gun with which he was killed, and a wooden dish taken from his wigwam, have been carefully preserved to this day.

12. There was a famous Indian called One-eyed John, who had made great threats and boasts, and was quite as insolent, though not so wise and powerful as Philip. This fellow was taken prisoner, and after being marched through the streets of Boston with a halter about his neck, was hanged at the end of the town.