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MASSACHUSETTS.

Length ^{miles.} 150 } between { 41° 20' and 42° 50' N. Latit.
Breadth 60 } { 2° and 5° 30' East Longitude.

BOUNDED north, by New-Hampshire and Vermont ; west, by New-York ; south, by Connecticut, Rhode-Island and the Atlantick ; East, by the Atlantick and the Bay of Massachusetts.

Rivers.] Merrimack river before described, runs through the north-eastern part of this State. Besides this, are Charles, Taunton, Concord, Mystick and Ipswich rivers, in the eastern part of the State; and Chicabee, Westfield, and Deerfield rivers, all emptying into Connecticut river, in the western parts of the State.

Capes.] The only Capes of note on the coast of Massachusetts, are Cape Ann on the north side of Boston Bay, and Cape Cod on the south. The latter is the terminating hook of a promontory, which extends far into the sea ; and is remarkable for having been the first land which was made by the first settlers of Plymouth on the American coast, in 1620.

Islands.] Among other islands which border upon this coast, are Kappawak, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Kappawak, now Dukes county, is twenty miles in length, and about four in breadth. It contains seven parishes. Edgarton is the shire town. This county is full of inhabitants, who subsist principally by fishing.

Nantucket lies south of Cape Cod, and is considerably less than Dukes county. It formerly had the most considerable whale fishery on the coast ; but the war almost ruined them. They are now beginning to revive their former business. Most of the inhabitants are whalers and fishermen. The island of itself constitutes one county by the name of Nantucket. It has but one town, called Sherburne.

Religion.] The religion of this Commonwealth is established, by their excellent constitution, on a most liberal and tolerant plan. All persons, of whatever religious profession or sentiments, may worship God agreeably

80 MASSACHUSETTS.

ably to the dictates of their own consciences, unmolested, provided they do not disturb the publick peace.

The following statement shews what are the several religious denominations in this State, and their proportional numbers.

Denominations.	Number of Congregations.	Supposed number of each denomination.
Congregationalists,	434	348,502
Baptists,	99	79,497
Friends or Quakers,	36	28,808
Episcopalians,	12	9,636
Presbyterians,	6	4,818
Universalists,	4	3,212
Roman Catholics,	1	803
Total		475,276

In this statement, it is supposed that all the inhabitants in the State consider themselves as belonging to one or the other of the religious denominations mentioned; and that each religious society, of every denomination, is composed of an equal number of souls; that is, each is supposed to contain 803, which, if we reckon the number of inhabitants in the State at 475,287, will be nearly the proportion for each congregation.

Although this may not be an exact apportionment of the different sects, yet it is perhaps as accurate as the nature of the subject will allow, and sufficient to give a general idea of the proportion which the several denominations bear to each other.

The number of congregational churches in 1749 was 250.

In 1760, the number of inhabitants in this State was about 268,850. The proportion of the sects then was nearly as follows, viz.

Sects.	Congregations.	Supposed number of souls of each sect.
Congregationalists,	306	225,426
Friends meetings,	30	16,192
Baptists,	20	14,723
Episcopalians,	13	9,568
Presbyterians,	4	2,944
Total		268,850

Civil Divisions.] The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is divided into sixteen counties, and subdivided into upwards of 355 townships. The following TABLE exhibits a comparative view of the population of the several counties in this State.

COUNTIES.	Number of Inhabitants.	Acres of improved land.	Ditto unimprov.	No. Towns.	Towns where the courts are held.
Suffolk,	44,875	105,635	77,556	23	Boston.
Essex,	57,913	171,893	47,801	22	Salem, Ipswich and Newbury-Port.
Middlesex,	42,737	163,834	199,548	40	Cam. & Concord
Hampshire,	59,681	142,375	671,344	60	Springf. North.
Plymouth,	29,535	92,513	145,191	14	Plymouth.
Barnstable,	17,354	39,202	45,720	10	Barnstable.
Dukes (island)	3,265	18,198	12,172	3	Edgart. Tisbury
Nantucket (an island)	4,600	16,092	1,431	1	Sherburne.
Bristol,	31,709	97,360	130,767	14	Taunton.
Worcester,	56,807	207,430	510,236	49	Worcester.
Cumberland, } York, } Lincoln, } Washington, } Hancock, }	96,500	165,810	1,325,594	94	Portland, York, Biddef'd. Pownalborough, Waldoborough and Hallowell.
Berkshire,	30,291	87,028	234,497	25	Lenox.
Total	475,287	1,207,377	3,711,481	375	

Literary and Humane Societies.] The literary, humane and charitable institutions in Massachusetts, exhibit a fair trait in the character of the inhabitants. Among the first literary institutions in this State, is the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, incorporated May 4th, 1780. The design of the institution is to promote and encourage the knowledge of the antiquities of America, and of the natural history of the country; to promote and encourage medical discoveries, mathematical disquisitions, philosophical inquiries and experiments, astronomical, meteorological and geographical observations; improvements in agriculture,

culture, arts, manufacture, commerce, and the cultivation of every science that may tend to advance a free, independent, and virtuous people.

Besides this, are the *Massachusetts Charitable Society*, the *Boston Episcopal Charitable Society*, the *Massachusetts Medical Society*, the *Humane Society*, and the *Society for propagating the Gospel among the Indians*.

Next to Pennsylvania, this State has the greatest number of societies for the promotion of useful knowledge and human happiness ; and as they are founded on the broad basis of *benevolence* and *charity*, they cannot fail to prosper. These institutions, which are fast increasing in almost every state in the union, are so many evidences of the advanced and advancing state of civilization and improvement in this country. They prove likewise that a free, republican government, like ours, is, of all others, the most happily calculated to promote a general diffusion of useful knowledge, and the most favourable to the benevolent and humane feelings of the human heart.

Literature, Colleges, Academies, &c.] According to the laws of this Commonwealth, every town having fifty householders or upwards, is to be constantly provided with a school-master to teach children and youth to read and write ; and where any town has 100 families, there is also to be a grammar school.

Next in importance to the grammar schools, are the academies, of which there are the following, viz.

DUMMER ACADEMY, at Newbury, which was founded many years since, and incorporated in 1782. PHILIPS'S ACADEMY, at Andover, founded and handsomely endowed, 1778, and incorporated October 4, 1780. LEICESTER ACADEMY, in the township of Leicester, incorporated in 1784. At Williamstown, in Berkshire county, is another Academy, which is yet in its infancy.

These Academies have very handsome funds, and are flourishing. The designs of the trustees are, to disseminate virtue and true piety, to promote the education of youth in the English, Latin, Greek, and French languages, to encourage their instruction in writing,

writing, arithmetick, oratory, geography, practical geometry, logick, philosophy, and such other of the liberal arts and sciences, or languages, as may be thought expedient.

HARVARD COLLEGE takes its date from the year 1638. Two years before, the general court gave four hundred pounds for the support of a publick school at Newtown, which has since been called Cambridge. This year (1638) the Rev. Mr. John Harvard, a worthy minister residing in Charlestown, died, and left a donation of £.779 for the use of the forementioned publick school. In honour to the memory of so liberal a benefactor, the general court the same year, ordered that the school should take the name of HARVARD COLLEGE.

Cambridge, in which the college is situated, is a pleasant village, four miles westward from Boston, containing a number of gentlemen's seats which are neat and well built. The university consists of four elegant brick edifices, handsomely enclosed. They stand on a beautiful green which spreads to the north-west, and exhibit a pleasing view.

The names of the several buildings are, Harvard Hall, Massachusetts Hall, Hollis Hall, and Holden Chapel. Harvard Hall is divided into six apartments; one of which is appropriated for the library, one for the museum, two for the philosophical apparatus, one is used for a chapel, and the other for a dining hall. The library [in 1791] consists of 13,000 volumes; and will be continually increasing from the interest of permanent funds, as well as from casual benefactions. The philosophical apparatus belonging to this university, cost between 1400 and £.1500 lawful money, and is the most elegant and complete of any in America.

Agreeable to the present constitution of Massachusetts, his Excellency the Governour, Lieutenant Governour, the council and senate, the president of the university, and the ministers of the congregational churches in the towns of Boston, Charlestown, Cambridge, Wattertown, Roxbury, and Dorchester, are, *ex officiis*, overseers of the university.

The corporation is a distinct body, consisting of seven members, in whom is vested the property of the university.

The instructors in the university, are a president, Hollisian professor of divinity, Hollisian professor of the mathematicks and natural philosophy, Hancock professor of oriental languages, professor of anatomy and surgery, professor of the theory and practice of physick, professor of chymistry and materia medica, and four tutors.

This university, as to its library, philosophical apparatus and professorships, is at present the first literary institution on this continent. Since its first establishment, 3281 students have received honourary degrees from its successive officers, more than 1000 of whom have been ordained to the work of the gospel ministry. It has generally from 120 to 150 students.

Chief Towns.] BOSTON is the capital, not only of Massachusetts, but of New-England. It is built on a peninsula of an irregular form, at the bottom of Massachusetts Bay. The neck or isthmus which joins the peninsula to the continent, is at the south end of the town, and leads to Roxbury. The length of the town, including the neck, is about three miles; the town itself is not quite two miles. Its breadth is various. At the entrance from Roxbury, it is narrow. The greatest breadth is one mile and 139 yards. The buildings in the town cover about 100 acres. It contains about 2376 dwelling-houses, and 18,038 inhabitants.

The principal wharf extends 600 yards into the sea, and is covered on the north side with large and convenient stores. It far exceeds any other wharf in the United States.

In Boston are seventeen houses for publick worship; of which nine are for congregationalists, three for episcopalians, two for baptists, one for the friends, one for the universalists, or independents, and one for Roman catholicks.

The town is irregularly built, but, as it lies in a circular form around the harbour, it exhibits a very handsome view as you approach it from the sea. On
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the west side of the town is the Mall, a very beautiful publick walk, adorned with rows of trees, and in view of the Common, which is always open to refreshing breezes. Beacon hill, on which is an elegant monument, overlooks the town from the west, and affords a fine variegated prospect.

The harbour of Boston is safe, and large enough to contain 500 ships at anchor, in a good depth of water; while the entrance is so narrow as scarcely to admit two ships abreast. It is diversified with many islands, which afford rich pasturing, hay and grain. About three miles from the town is the Castle, which commands the entrance of the harbour. Here are mounted about forty pieces of heavy artillery, besides a large number of a smaller size. The fort is garrisoned by a company of about fifty soldiers, who also guard the convicts that are sentenced, and sent here to labour. These are chiefly employed in the nail manufactory.

The town next to Boston, in point of numbers and commercial importance, is SALEM. It is the oldest town in the state, except Plymouth. In 1790, it contained 928 dwelling-houses, and 7921 inhabitants. In this town are five churches for Congregationalists, one for Episcopalians, and a meeting-house for the Friends. Salem is sixteen miles north-eastward of Boston, and is considered as the metropolis of the county of Essex.

NEWBURY-PORT, forty-five miles northwardly from Boston, is situated on the south-west side of Merrimack river, about two miles from the sea. The town is about a mile in length, and a fourth of a mile in breadth, and contains 616 dwelling-houses, and 3972 inhabitants. It has one Episcopal, one Presbyterian, and two Congregational churches. The business of ship-building is largely carried on here. These towns, with *Marblehead**, *Gloucester* or *Cape Ann*†, and *Beverly*‡, carry on the fishery, which furnishes the principal article of exportation from Massachusetts.

WORCESTER

* 618 houses, and 5661 inhabitants.

† 673 do. 5317 do.

‡ 472 do. 3290 do.

WORCESTER is one of the largest inland towns in New-England. It is the shire town of Worcester county, is about forty-seven miles westward of Boston, and contains 2095 inhabitants.

On Connecticut river, in the county of Hampshire, are a number of very pleasant towns. Of these Springfield is the oldest and largest.

Northampton, Hatfield, and Deerfield, are all pleasant, flourishing towns, succeeding each other as you travel northerly on the west side of the river.

Constitution.] The constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, established in 1780, contains a declaration of rights and a frame of government. By the frame of government, the power of legislation is lodged in a general court, consisting of two branches, viz. a senate and a house of representatives, each having a negative upon the other. They meet annually on the last Tuesday in May. No act can be passed without the approbation of the Governour, unless two-thirds of both branches are in favour of it. Senators are chosen by districts, of which there cannot be less than thirteen. The number of counsellors and senators, for the whole Commonwealth, is forty; the number of each district is in proportion to their publick taxes; but no district shall be so large as to have more than six. Sixteen senators make a quorum. The representatives are chosen by the several towns, according to their number of rateable polls. For 150 polls one is elected; and for every addition of 225, an additional one. The supreme executive authority is vested in a Governour, who is elected annually by the people, and has a council, consisting of the Lieutenant-Governour, and nine gentlemen chosen out of the forty, who are returned for counsellors and senators.

Official qualifications are as follows: For a voter, twenty-one years age, one year's residence, a freehold of three pounds annual value, or sixty pounds of any other estate; for a representative, £.100 freehold or £.200 other estate, and one year's residence in the town; for a senator, £.300 freehold, or £.600 other estate

estate in the Commonwealth, and five years' residence in the district ; for Governour or Lieutenant-Governour, £.1000 freehold, and seven years' residence. Every Governour, Lieutenant Governour, Counsellor, Senator, or Representative, must declare that he believes the Christian religion, and has the legal qualifications. In 1795, if two-thirds of the qualified voters desire it, a convention shall be called to revise the constitution.

Bridges.] The principal bridge in this state, or in any of the United States, is that which was built over Charles river, between Boston and Charlestown, in 1786, 1503 feet in length.

This bridge was completed in thirteen months ; and while it exhibits the greatest effect of private enterprize within the United States, is a most pleasing proof how certainly objects of magnitude may be attained by spirited exertions.

Another bridge, of a similar construction, has been erected over Mytlick river, between Charlestown and Malden, 136 rods in length ; and another at Beverly, 92 rods long, which connects that flourishing little town with Salem. These are works of much enterprize, ingenuity, and publick spirit ; and serve to shew that architecture, in this state, has arisen to a high pitch of improvement. It is a consideration not unworthy of being here noticed, that while many other nations are wasting the brilliant efforts of genius, in monuments of ingenious folly, to perpetuate their pride ; the Americans, according to the true spirit of republicanism, are employed almost entirely in works of publick and private utility.

Trade, Manufactures and Agriculture.] In the year 1787, the exports from this state exceeded their imports. The exports from the port of Boston, in the year 1788, consisting of fish, oil, New-England rum, lumber of various kinds, pot and pearl ashes, flax-seed, furs, pork, beef, corn, flour, butter, cheese, beans, peas, bar iron, hollow ware, bricks, whale-bone, tallow and spermaceti candles, soap, loaf-sugar, wool-cards, leather, shoes, naval stores, ginseng, tobacco, duck, hemp, cordage, nails, &c. amounted to upwards of £.345,000
lawful

lawful money. New-England rum, pot-ash, lumber, fish, and the produce of the fishery, are the principal articles of export.

History.] On the 19th of March, 1627, the Plymouth council sealed a patent to Sir Henry Roswell, and five others, of all that part of New-England, included between a line drawn three miles south of Charles river, and another three miles north of Merrimack river, from the Atlantick to the South-Sea. This tract of country was called MASSACHUSETTS-BAY. The Massachusetts tribe of Indians lived around, and gave their name to the large bay at the bottom of this tract, hence the name Massachusetts-Bay. The Indian word is *Mais Tchusaeg*, signifying the country this side the hills.

In 1630, seventeen ships from different ports in England, arrived in Massachusetts, with more than 1500 passengers, among whom were many persons of distinction. Incredible were the hardships they endured. Exposed to the relentless cruelties of the Indians, who, a few months before, had entered into a general conspiracy to extirpate the English; reduced to a scanty pittance of provisions, and that of a kind to which they had not been accustomed, and destitute of necessary accommodations, numbers sickened and died; so that before the end of the year, they lost 200 of their number. About this time, settlements were made at Charlestown, Boston, Dorchester, Cambridge, Roxbury, and Medford. The first General Court of Massachusetts was held on the 19th of October, 1634, not by representation, but by the freemen of the corporation at large.

In the years 1632 and 1633, great additions were made to the colony.

The year 1637 was distinguished by the Pequot wars, in which were slain five or six hundred Indians, and the tribe almost wholly destroyed. This struck such terror into the Indians, that for forty years succeeding, they never openly commenced hostilities with the English.

The year 1638 was rendered memorable by a very great earthquake throughout New-England.

In 1640, the importation of settlers ceased. The motives for emigrating to New-England were removed by a change in the affairs of England. They who then professed to give the best account, say that in 298 ships, which were the whole number from the beginning of the colony, there arrived 21,200 passengers, men, women and children; perhaps about 4000 families. Since then more persons have removed from New-England to other parts of the world, than have arrived from thence hither. The present inhabitants therefore of New-England, are justly to be estimated a natural increase, by the blessing of Heaven, from the first 21,000 that arrived by the year 1640. It was judged that they had, at this time, 12,000 neat cattle, and 3000 sheep. The charge of transporting the families and their substance, was computed at £.192,000 sterling.

In 1648, we have the first instance of the credulity and infatuation respecting witchcraft, which, for some time, prevailed in this colony.

Margaret Jones, of Charlestown, was accused of having so malignant a quality, as to cause vomiting, deafness, and violent pains by her touch. She was accordingly tried, condemned and executed. Happy would it have been, if this had been the only instance of this infatuation. But why shall we wonder at the magistrates of New-England, when we find the celebrated Lord Chief Justice Hale, and others of high rank, in Old England, shortly after chargeable with as great delusion. The truth is, it was the spirit of the times; and the odium of the witchcraft and other infatuations ought never to have been mentioned as peculiar to New-England, or ascribed to their singular bigotry and superstition, as has been injuriously done by many European historians. The same spirit prevailed at this time in England, and was very probably brought from thence, as were most of the laws and customs of the first settlers in America. The same infatuation sprang up in Pennsylvania soon after its settlement.

The scrupulousness of the people appears to have arisen to its height in 1649, and was indeed ridiculous.

The custom of wearing long hair, 'after the manner of ruffians and barbarous Indians,' as they termed it, was deemed contrary to the word of God, 'which says it is a shame for a man to wear long hair.' This expression of the Apostle Paul induced these pious people to think this custom criminal in all ages and nations. In a clergyman it was peculiarly offensive, as they were required in an especial manner to go *patentibus auribus*, with open ears.

The use of tobacco was prohibited under a penalty; and the smoke of it, in some manuscripts, is compared to the smoke of the bottomless pit. The sickness frequently produced by smoking tobacco was considered as a species of drunkenness, and hence what we now term smoking, was then often called 'drinking tobacco.' At length some of the clergy fell into the practice of smoking, and tobacco, by an act of government, 'was set at liberty.'

In 1656 began what has been generally called the persecution of the Quakers. The first who openly professed the principles of this sect in this colony, were Mary Fisher and Ann Austin, who came from Barbadoes in July of this year. A few weeks after, nine others arrived in the ship Speedwell from London. On the 8th of September they were brought before the court of Assistants. It seems they had before affirmed that they were sent by God to reprove the people for their sins; they were accordingly questioned how they could make it appear that God sent them? After pausing, they answered that they had the same call that Abraham had to go out of his country. A great number of their books, which they had brought over with intent to scatter them about the country, were seized and reserved for the fire.

Severe laws were enacted against the Quakers, among which were the following:—Any Quaker, after the first conviction, if a man, was to lose one ear, and for the second offence, the other—a woman to be each time severely whipped—and the third time, whether man or woman, to have their tongues bored through with a red hot iron.

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The persecution of any religious sect ever has had, and ever will have a tendency to increase their number. Mankind are compassionate beings; and from a principle of pity they will often advocate a cause which their judgment disowns. Thus it was in the case of the Quakers; the spectators compassionated their sufferings, and then adopted their sentiments. Their growing numbers induced the legislature, in their October session, to pass a law to punish with death all Quakers who should return into the jurisdiction after banishment. Under this impolitick as well as unjust law, four persons suffered death, and these had, in the face of prudence as well as of law, returned after having been banished. That some provision was necessary against these people, so far as they were disturbers of civil peace and order, every one will allow; but such sanguinary laws against particular doctrines or tenets in religion are not to be defended.

The most that can be said for our ancestors is, that they tried gentler means at first, which they found utterly ineffectual, and that they followed the examples of the authorities in most other states, and in most ages of the world, who with the like absurdity have supposed every person could and ought to think as they did, and with the like cruelty have punished such as appeared to differ from them. We may add, that it was with reluctance these unnatural laws were carried into execution.

The laws in England at this time were very severe against the Quakers; and though none were actually put to death by publick execution, yet many were confined in prison, where they died in consequence of the rigour of the law. King Charles the second also, in a letter to the colony of Massachusetts, approved of their severity. The conduct of the Quakers, at several times, was such as rendered them proper subjects of a mad house, or a house of correction; and it is to be lamented that ever any greater severities were used. I will mention one or two instances of their conduct, which clearly manifest a species of madness. Thomas Newhouse

Newhouse went into the meeting-house at Boston with a couple of glass bottles, and broke them before the congregation, and threatened, *Thus will the Lord break you in pieces.* Another time M. Brewster came in with her face smeared as black as a coal. Deborah Wilson went through the streets of Salem naked as she was born.' While we condemn the severity with which the Quakers were treated on the one part, we cannot, at the same time, avoid censuring their imprudent, indelicate and insatuated conduct on the other.

In 1692, the spirit of insatuation respecting witchcraft was again revived in New-England, and raged with uncommon violence. Several hundreds were accused, many were condemned, and some executed. Various have been the opinions respecting the delusion which occasioned this tragedy. Some pious people have believed there was something supernatural in it, and that it was not all the effect of fraud and imposture. Many are willing to suppose the accusers to have been under bodily disorders which affected their imaginations. This is kind and charitable, but scarcely probable. It is very possible that the whole was a scene of fraud and imposture, began by young girls, who at first perhaps thought of nothing more than exciting pity and indulgence, and continued by adult persons, who were afraid of being accused themselves. The one and the other, rather than confess their fraud, suffered the lives of so many innocents to be taken away, through the credulity of judges and juries.

That the odium of this tragick conduct might not rest upon the New-Englanders alone, it ought here to be observed, that the same insatuation was at this time current in England. The law by which witches were condemned, was a copy of the statute in England; and the practice of the courts was regulated by precedents there afforded. Some late instances prove that England is not entirely cured of that delusion.

In 1721, the small-pox made great havock in Boston and the adjacent towns. Of 5889 who took it in Boston, 844 died. Inoculation was introduced on this occasion,