

52 Power.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1901

FAMOUS MANSION BOUGHT BY MARSDEN J. PERRY.

See...
Mason's #37
ALBUM

THE GAMBELL HOUSE AT POWER AND BENEFIT STREETS IS SURPASSED BY ONLY ONE OTHER COLONIAL RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE RECENT SALE OF THE GAMBELL RESIDENCE AT THE CORNER OF POWER AND BENEFIT STREETS TO MARSDEN J. PERRY BRINGS ONCE MORE INTO PUBLIC NOTICE ONE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES OF PROVIDENCE. A GENUINE COLONIAL RESIDENCE, BUILT MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, THE HOUSE STANDS TODAY UNCHANGED SINCE ITS ERECTION, AND IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT RESIDENCES IN THE CITY. ONLY ONE HOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES; THE BROWTON HOUSE, CHARLESTOWN, MASS., CAN BE SAID TO SURPASS IT AS A TYPE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL DWELLINGS. THE GAMBELL HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1786 FOR JOHN BROWN.

NOT ONLY THE HOUSE ITSELF, BUT THE GROUNDS ABOUT IT AS WELL, ARE MUCH THE SAME AS THEY WERE PLANNED BY THEIR ORIGINAL OWNER. GIANTIC ELMS THAT LOOK AS THOUGH THEY MIGHT BE SURVIVORS OF THE PRIMEVAL FORESTS TAKE THE PLACE OF THE SHRUBBERY THAT USUALLY FORMS THE ORNAMENTATION OF THE GROUNDS OF MODERN RESIDENCES OF LIKE PRETENSIONS. THESE GROUNDS ARE ABOUT AN ACRE IN EXTENT. THE ENTRANCE TO THE PREMISES IS EQUAL IN ITS WAY, FROM AN ARTISTIC STANDPOINT, TO THE HOUSE ITSELF. HEAVY MANGROBY GATES HUNG ON BROWN STONE POSTS 10 FEET IN HEIGHT AND SURMOUNTED BY MARBLE BUSTS, MAKE AN IMPOSING PORTAL. ON EITHER SIDE OF THE GATES IS A HEAVY WALL OF BRICK INTO WHICH IS BUILT THE STAIRWAY THAT LEADS FROM THE STREET.

THE HOUSE STANDS WELL BACK FROM THE STREET ON SLIGHTLY RISING GROUND. ITS SHAPE EXCLUDING AN "L" WHICH WAS ADDED TOWARD ABOUT A HALF CENTURY AGO, IS VERY NEARLY THAT OF A CUBE, ALWAYS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PERFECT TYPE OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE. IT WAS BUILT OF BRICK, IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND, LAID IN WHITE MORTAR. A HEAVY SALUSTRADE FOLLOWING THE GABLES COMPLETELY AROUND THE STRUCTURE ORNAMENTS THE TOP OF THE BUILDING. THE MAIN DOORWAY OPENS ON TO A PORCH SUPPORTED BY TWO LARGE BROWNSTONE COLUMNS.

THE HOUSE IS THREE STORIES IN HEIGHT AND ON EACH FLOOR THERE ARE FOUR ROOMS, TWO ON EACH SIDE OF THE LONG HALLWAY, WHICH EXTENDS THROUGH THE LENGTH OF THE HOUSE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. IN THE BASEMENT ARE KITCHENS AND LAUNDRIES.

AMONG THE ATTRACTIVE FEATURES OF THE INTERIOR, ALL AS OLD AND ARTISTIC AS THE HOUSE ITSELF, ARE TWO ROUND PEDESTALS, SIX FEET IN HEIGHT, UPON WHICH REST MARBLE BUSTS IN THE MAIN HALLWAY; THE LONG, MAIN STAIRCASE WITH RAIL AND BALUSTERS OF BEAUTIFULLY POLISHED MANGROBY; THE DOORWAY LEADING FROM THE PARLOR INTO THE LIBRARY, ORNAMENTED WITH TWO PILASTERS, SUPPORTING BUSTS OF DIANA AND JUNG; THE ARCHED WINDOWS IN THE RECEPTION ROOM LOOKING OUT ONTO BENEFIT STREET, WITH AN OLD FASHIONED FIREPLADE BETWEEN THEM, AND MANY OTHER BITS OF DECORATION, WHICH WITH ALL THE ARTS OF TODAY CANNOT BE FAITHFULLY REPRODUCE.

THE RESIDENCE WAS FOR MANY YEARS OWNED BY THE GAMBELL FAMILY. IT FIRST BELONGED TO ROBERT IVES, WHO PRESENTED IT TO HIS DAUGHTER WHEN SHE BECAME THE WIFE OF PROF. WILLIAM GAMBELL. UPON HER DEATH MRS. GAMBELL BEQUEATHED THE PROPERTY TO HER TWO DAUGHTERS, HARRIET IVES, NOW MRS. THOMAS SHAW SAFE, AND HELEN LOUISE, NOW THE WIFE OF ARTHUR HERBERT. THE HUSBANDS OF BOTH OF THE DAUGHTERS ARE ENGLISHMEN.

AFTER THE DEATH OF ARTHUR GAMBELL, A SON, THE FAMILY USED THE OLD RESIDENCE VERY LITTLE, LIVING EITHER IN NEWPORT OR IN EUROPE. THE DEATH OF MRS. GAMBELL AND THE MARRIAGE OF THE TWO DAUGHTERS TO WHOM THE HOMESTEAD WAS BEQUEATHED CAUSED THE FAMILY TO GIVE UP ITS RESIDENCE IN PROVIDENCE, AND THE PROPERTY WAS, THEREFORE, PLACED IN THE HANDS OF A BROKER TO BE SOLD. MR. PERRY IS VERY MUCH PLEASED WITH HIS PURCHASE. HE SAYS THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD COULD INDUCE HIM TO MAKE ANY CHANGE IN THE HISTORIC OLD MANSION. A FEW NECESSARY REPAIRS TO THE SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE THE ONLY WORK THAT WILL BE DONE ON THE HOUSE BEFORE ITS OWNER OCCUPIES IT.

CHAD BROWN, THE ANCESTOR OF THE BROWNS OF PROVIDENCE, CAME OVER FROM ENGLAND IN THE GOOD SHIP MARTIN ARRIVING IN BOSTON IN 1638 WITH HIS WIFE, ELIZABETH, AND THEIR CHILDREN. HIS RELIGIOUS VIEWS DIFFERING FROM THOSE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SETTLERS, HE AND HIS FAMILY MOVED TO PROVIDENCE THE SAME YEAR. BEING A SURVEYOR HE WAS APPOINTED BY THE TOWN A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE TO COMPILE A LIST OF THE HOUSE LOTS AND OF THE MEADOWS TO THEM. WE OWE OUR FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ALLOTTED LAND TITLES TO HIM. HIS OWN LOT FRONTED ON "THE TOWNE STREET," THE FIRST STREET LAID OUT IN PROVIDENCE, NOW NORTH AND SOUTH MAIN STREETS. THIS LOT WAS 112 FEET WIDE, AND IT WEN FROM MARKET SQUARE OVER THE HILL TO WHAT IS NOW HOPE STREET, COLLEGE STREET AND THE COLLEGE GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS NOW INCLUDE A LARGE PART OF THIS HOME LOT.

HAVING NO CHURCHES AND NO GENERAL CEMETERY, EACH FAMILY OF THE FOUNDERS BURIED ITS DEAD ON ITS OWN PREMISES. IT WAS ON THIS LOT, WHERE THE COURT HOUSE NOW STANDS, THAT CHAD BROWN WAS BURIED. IN 1792 HIS REMAINS AND THOSE OF HIS WIFE WERE REMOVED TO THE NORTH BURIAL GROUND AND A STONE WAS ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY BY THE TOWN OF PROVIDENCE.

HE WAS ONE OF THE RECOGNIZED LEADERS OF THE INFANT COLONY. WITH TWELVE OTHERS HE SIGNED THE FIRST COMPACT OF PROVIDENCE, THAT PRECIOUS INSTRUMENT GREATING THE FIRST STATE FOUNDED UPON GOVERNMENT "ONLY IN CIVIL THINGS." IN THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THESE FOUR SIMPLE WORDS UPON THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT LAY THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION OF THAT AGE TO THE SCIENCE OF GOVERNMENT, NOW ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE LAND AND INCORPORATED INTO THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE STATES AND OF THE UNITED STATES, THUS ENSURING COMPLETE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.

THE SECOND COMPACT, OFTEN SPOKEN OF AS THE FIRST WRITTEN FORM OF GOVERNMENT HERE, WAS DRAWN UP BY A COMMITTEE OF WHICH CHAD BROWN WAS A MEMBER, AND HIS NAME IS THE FIRST OF THE SIGNERS. IT CONTINUED IN FORCE UNTIL 1647, WHEN THE CHARTER BROUGHT OVER BY ROGER WILLIAMS WAS ADOPTED.

IN 1664 CHAD BROWN WAS ORDAINED AS THE FIRST SETTLED PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. HIS MEMORY IS PRESERVED AND HE IS REVERED FOR HIS CHRISTIAN SPIRIT AND HIS SOUND JUDGMENT. A LONG LINE OF NOTED DESCENDANTS OF THIS PIONEER INCLUDES THE NAME OF GROVER CLEVELAND.

JOHN, THE SON OF CHAD, WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1630 AND DIED IN PROVIDENCE ABOUT 1706. LIKE HIS FATHER HE WAS A SURVEYOR AND BAPTIST ELDER. HE WAS ALSO TOWN MODERATOR, MEMBER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT. HIS SON JAMES WAS BORN IN 1666 AND DIED IN 1732. HE, TOO, WAS A PASTOR OR ELDER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, AND HE DIED WHILE IN THAT OFFICE. FROM 1705 TO 1725 HE SERVED ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY AS MEMBER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. HE WAS ALSO TOWN TREASURER FROM 1714 TO 1718.

HIS SON, JAMES, WAS BORN IN 1698 AND DIED IN 1739. HE LIVED ON SOUTH MAIN NEARLY OPPOSITE THE PROVIDENCE NATIONAL BANK. HE MARRIED HOPE POWER, DAUGHTER OF NICHOLAS POWER AND MERCY TILLINGHAST, GRANDDAUGHTER OF ELBER PARSON TILLINGHAST. HE WENT INTO BUSINESS WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, OSADIAN, AND THUS FOUNDED THE COMMERCIAL HOUSE OF THE BROWNS, AFTERWARDS SO SUCCESSFUL. DYING AT THE EARLY AGE OF 41 A POOR MAN, HE LEFT HIS WIDOW AND SIX CHILDREN TO STRUGGLE WITH FORTUNE. FOUR OF THESE CHILDREN, NICHOLAS, JOSEPH, JOHN AND MOSES, THE FOUR BROTHERS, BY THEIR SUCCESS IN LIFE, THEIR ABILITY, PUBLIC SPIRIT AND LIBERALITY, HAVE LEFT THEIR ENDURING MARK UPON THEIR NATIVE TOWN. THEIR MOTHER SURVIVED HER HUSBAND 53 YEARS, DYING IN 1792 AT THE AGE OF 91. THE TOWNSTONE RECORDS THE FACT THAT SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF NICHOLAS, JOSEPH, JOHN AND MOSES. IN COMMEMORATION OF HER THE FOUR BROTHERS GAVE HER NAME TO THE "HOPE FURNACE" IN CRANSTON, WHERE THEY CAST MANY CANNON DURING THE REVOLUTION. THE NAME CHANGED TO THAT OF SHOPE FOUNDRY" HAS LASTED TO THE PRESENT DAY. SIMPLY BRED AND BROUGHT UP BY HER, THE FOUR BROTHERS DERIVED FROM HER CHARACTERISTICS THAT AFTERWARDS MADE THEM ALL LEADERS IN THIS COMMUNITY.

THE TRADITION IS THAT WHEN THE OLD COLORED "MAMMIE," THEIR SLAVE NURSE USED TO CALL THEM IN TO BREAKFAST, SHE WOULD SING OUT TO THEM:

"JOHNNIE, JOBIE, NICKIE, MOSIE,
COME AND EAT YOUR PUDDIE 'LASSIE."

THE FOUR BROTHERS BECAME ASSOCIATED UNDER THE NAME OF NICHOLAS BROWN & Co., AND CONTINUED THE MERCANTILE BUSINESS OF THEIR FATHER AND UNCLE. WITH SKILL, A GOOD BUSINESS AND PROPITIOUS TIMES, THEY SOON ACQUIRED AMPLE FORTUNES THAT ENABLED THEM, IN THEIR SEPARATE CAREERS AFTERWARDS, TO TAKE A SHARE IN NEW ENTERPRISES AND GENERALLY TO LEAD IN THEM. THEY THUS BECAME RECOGNIZED, CONSULTED AND FOLLOWED.

NICHOLAS WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, NOW BROWN UNIVERSITY. HIS SON, NICHOLAS, WAS TRUSTEE, TREASURER OR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF FELLOWS FOR NEARLY FIFTY YEARS. HE WAS ITS MOST MUNIFICENT BENEFACTOR AND THE COLLEGE WAS NAMED AFTER HIM. FROM THIS BRANCH OF THE BROWN FAMILY SPRING THE IVES, GODDARDS, GAMMELLS, MOODS AND RUSSELLS ARE DESCENDED.

JOSEPH, THE SECOND OF THE FOUR BROTHERS, WAS BORN IN 1733, AND DIED IN 1785. HE WAS DISTINGUISHED BY HIS PHILOSOPHICAL TASTES AND PURSUITS. HE RETIRED EARLY FROM THE FIRM OF THE FOUR BROTHERS WHEN HE HAD ACQUIRED A COMPETENCE, TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO HIS LOVED PURSUITS. A TRUSTEE AND BENEFACTOR OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, HE BECAME ITS PROFESSOR IN EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY. IN 1769, WITH HIS BROTHER MOSES ASSISTANT, HE TOOK AN OBSERVATION OF THE TRANSIT OF VENUS, IMPORTING THE REQUISITE ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTS. THE NAME OF TRANSIT STREET STILL PRESERVES THE MEMORY OF THIS OBSERVATION. WITH JAMES SUMNER, HE WAS THE ARCHITECT OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ERECTED IN 1774-1775. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MORE CORRECT TO SAY HE WAS ITS DESIGNER, FOR IN THOSE DAYS THERE WERE NO ARCHITECTS IN THIS COMMUNITY IN THE SENSE IN WHICH WE NOW USE THE TERM. JOHN HOWLAND IN HIS "RECOLLECTIONS" TELLS US THAT THE MECHANICS OF BOSTON, THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT BY THE CLOSING OF THE PORT UNDER THE BOSTON PORT BILL OF PARLIAMENT, FLOCKED TO PROVIDENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE ERECTION OF THIS CHURCH.

FOLLOWING THE DESIGN OF JAMES GIBBS' STONE CHURCH IN LONDON OF ST-MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, IT IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FINEST SPECIMENS OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE IN NEW ENGLAND. THE BUILDING NOW OCCUPIED BY THE PROVIDENCE NATIONAL BANK ON SOUTH MAIN STREET WAS ALSO DESIGNED BY JOSEPH. BUILT BY HIM IN 1774, IT WAS HIS HOME. HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH STEPHEN HOPKINS IN DESIGNING AND BUILDING THE TOWN-MARKET HOUSE IN MARKET SQUARE, NOW THE BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING. THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID IN 1773 BY HIS BROTHER, NICHOLAS. JOSEPH WAS ALSO THE ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER OF HIS BROTHER JOHN'S HOUSE ON POWER, STREET, OF WHICH MORE ANON.

HIS ISSUE ARE NOW EXTINCT, HIS LAST ISSUE BEING MRS. ELIZA B. ROGERS, WHO LIVED ON THE CORNER OF BENEFIT AND GEORGE STREETS.

MOSES, THE YOUNGEST OF THE FOUR BROTHERS, WAS BORN IN 1738 AND DIED IN 1836. BEING ALWAYS FEIBLE IN HEALTH, HE RETIRED FROM THE FIRM EARLY IN LIFE WITH A COMPETENCE, TO PASS THE FEW REMAINING YEARS HE EXPECTED TO LIVE IN QUIET UPON HIS FARM, THEN OUT IN THE COUNTRY, NOW KNOWN AS THE MOSES BROWN FARM. LIVING, HOWEVER, TO THE AGE OF 98, HE BECAME KNOWN FOR HIS PHILANTHROPY, HIS ACTIVE IN THE WELFARE OF HIS NATIVE TOWN AND OF HIS FRIENDS DESERVING ASSISTANCE AND FOR HIS SCIENTIFIC TASTES. JOINING THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS HE BECAME ONE OF ITS LEADERS. HE FREED ALL HIS SLAVES IN 1773, BECOMING A FIRM BELIEVER IN EMANCIPATION. HE WAS THE FOUNDER AND PATRON OF THE FRIENDS SCHOOL, AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER FROM 1764 TO 1771 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND A CO-WORKER WITH HIS BROTHERS IN ESTABLISHING BROWN UNIVERSITY. HE BUILT RED BRIDGE ACROSS THE SEEKONK, NEAR HIS FARM. THROUGH HIS SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND MECHANICAL TASTES, HE INDUCED SAMUEL BLATER, AN ENGLISHMAN, TO UNDERTAKE WITH HIM THE WEAVING OF COTTON CLOTH BY MACHINERY DRIVEN BY WATER POWER, AT THE FALLS IN PANTLUCKET, THEIR FIRST EXPERIMENTS BEING CONDUCTED WITH POWER FURNISHED BY A MALE GOING AROUND IN A GIRGLE. THE INSTRUCTION THUS FURNISHED HIS BROTHER NICHOLAS LED HIM INTO COTTON SPINNING AS A BUSINESS AND HAS GREATLY ADDED TO THE WEALTH OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

JOHN, THE THIRD OF THE FOUR BROTHERS, WAS BORN IN 1736 AND DIED IN 1803. AFTER JOSEPH AND MOSES RETIRED FROM THE FIRM HE REMAINED IN IT WITH NICHOLAS UNTIL 1782, WHEN HE WITHDREW AND ENTERED INTO DIRECT TRADE WITH CHINA AND THE EAST INDIES. IN "TRAVELS THROUGH THE UNITED STATES" IN 1795, BY THE DUKE DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD-LIANCOURT, SPEAKING OF HIS VISIT TO PROVIDENCE, THE WRITER REFERS TO JOHN BROWN AS THE LEADING MERCHANT OF THE PLACE, AND NOTES THE ENTERPRISE WITH WHICH HE HAD DEVELOPED THAT PART OF THE TOWN ON THE WATER. THE NAMES OF INDIA WHARF AND INDIA POINT STILL SUGGEST THIS TRADE WITH THE DISTANT AND THEN MYSTICAL EAST, ITS TEAS, SPICES, CAMPHORS, AND SILKS.

JOHN WAS A MAN OF BOLD ENTERPRISE AND INITIATIVE. DISCARDING THE ANCIENT FULLER FERRY ACROSS THE SEEKONK, HE BUILT WASHINGTON BRIDGE, SO CALLED FROM THE STATUE PLACED AT ITS ENTRANCE, THUS SIGNALIZING HIS ADMIRATION FOR THAT GREAT MAN. HE LED THE PARTY THAT DESTROYED THE GASPEE, JUNE 10, 1772, CONSISTING OF EIGHT WHALE BOATS, EACH UNDER THE COMMAND OF ONE OF HIS CAPTAINS, WITH CAPTAIN, AFTERWARD COMMODORE WHIPPLE AT THEIR HEAD. WITH POWER CAPTURED BY HIS VESSELS HE SUPPLIED THE ARMY AT CAMBRIDGE AND BOSTON WHEN THEIR STOCK WAS NEARLY EXHAUSTED, FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE THANKS OF WASHINGTON. FOR 20 YEARS HE WAS TREASURER OF BROWN UNIVERSITY. HE CONTRIBUTED LIBERALLY TOWARD IT, WAS INFLUENTIAL IN SECURING ITS REMOVAL FROM WARREN TO PROVIDENCE AND IN MAY, 1770, HE LAID THE CORNER STONE OF UNIVERSITY HALL, ITS FIRST BUILDING, ERECTED ON PART OF THE "HOME LOT" OF HIS ANCESTOR, CHAD BROWN. THIS LOT HAD PASSED OUT OF POSSESSION OF THE FAMILY, WAS NOW RE-PURCHASED BY JOHN AND MOSES AND BY THEM DEEDED TO THE CORPORATION. THE SECOND BUILDING ERECTED, HOPE COLLEGE, PERPETUATES THE NAME AND MEMORY OF THE MOTHER OF THE FOUR BROTHERS.

HE WAS ALSO A BENEFACTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST SOCIETY, IN WHICH HIS ANCESTORS HAD BEEN ELDERS FOR THE FIRST THREE GENERATIONS.

FOR 30 YEARS, FROM 1760 TO 1790, ONE OR MORE OF THE FOUR BROTHERS WERE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AN EXAMINATION OF THE INDEX TO ITS SCHEDULES, WITH ITS NUMEROUS REFERENCES UNDER THEIR NAMES, SHOWS THE ACTIVE PART TAKEN BY THEM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY IN EVERYTHING RELATING TO OUR SUCCESS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE WITH ENGLAND. DR. GUILD'S HISTORY OF BROWN UNIVERSITY SHOWS THE CONSTANT INTEREST AND PERVADING INFLUENCE OF THE BROWN BROTHERS IN EVERYTHING RELATING TO THE ELEVATION OF EDUCATION AND LEARNING AND THEIR STRENUOUS ENDEAVORS TO PROVIDE FOR LATER GENERATIONS THE OPPORTUNITIES NOT OPEN TO THEM IN THEIR YOUTH. TO THE SAME END JOHN AND MOSES SERVED ON THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE TOWN IN 1767 TO INTRODUCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN PROVIDENCE, A MEASURE THAT FAILED; HOWEVER, AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL IN 1800 THAT FREE SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WERE PROVIDED BY AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

JOHN MARRIED SARAH SMITH, DAUGHTER OF DANIEL SMITH, AND DORCAS HARRIS, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS INCLUDE THE WOODS, FRANCISES, HERRESHOFFS, GROSVENORS AND EATONS OF THE PRESENT DAY. HIS HOME AFTER HIS MARRIAGE WAS ON SOUTH MAIN STREET, NEXT TO HIS BROTHER NICHOLAS. IN 1786 HE BUILT THE HOUSE ON POWER STREET, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN PURCHASED BY MR. MARSHEN J. PERRY. IT WAS DESIGNED BY HIS BROTHER JOSEPH, AND A NOBLE MONUMENT TO HIS ARCHITECTURAL ABILITY. HERE JOHN AND HIS FAMILY PASSED THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. HE WAS NOTED FOR THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY OF THIS HOME, ESPECIALLY TO STRANGERS OF NOTE VISITING IN TOWN. ON A STONE SLAB OF FREESTONE OVER AN OUTSIDE DOOR IN THE REAR OF THE HOUSE IS STILL TO BE SEEN THE ORIGINAL INSCRIPTION: "THIS HOUSE FOUNDED BY JOHN BROWN, ESQ., 1786".

MR. BROWN'S DAUGHTER, SARAH, MARRIED CHARLES FREDERIC HERRESHOFF, WHO DIED IN 1819. THE ONLY SON OF MR. BROWN, JAMES, UNMARRIED, LIVED IN THIS HOUSE UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1834. MRS. HERRESHOFF AND HER CHILDREN CONTINUED TO LIVE HERE UNTIL, AFTER HER DEATH IN 1846, THE FAMILY MOVED TO BRISTOL, WHERE NOW THE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN OF JOHN BROWN, NATHANIEL GREENE HERRESHOFF AND HIS ELDER BROTHER, JOHN BROWN HERRESHOFF, HAVE ACQUIRED FAME AS BOAT BUILDERS. ABOUT 1854 THE HOUSE WAS BOUGHT BY ROBERT H. IVES FOR HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. WILLIAM GAMMELL, WHO LIVED IN IT UNTIL HER DEATH.

THE HOUSE WAS NOT OPENED AGAIN UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1788, UPON THE MARRIAGE OF JOHN'S OLDEST DAUGHTER, THIS ANNOUNCED IN THE PROVIDENCE GAZETTE OF JANUARY 5, 1788: "ON TUESDAY EVENING LAST WAS MARRIED, JOHN FRANCIS, ESQ., MERCHANT TO MISS ABBY BROWN, DAUGHTER OF JOHN BROWN, ESQ.; A YOUNG LADY WHOSE TRULY AMIABLE DISPOSITION AND ENGAGING MANNERS CANNOT FAIL TO ADORN AND DIGNIFY THE DOMESTIC STATE."

THE HOUSE WAS STILL UNFINISHED, AND THE ENTERTAINMENT ON THIS OCCASION TOOK PLACE UPSTAIRS. THEIR SON, JOHN BROWN FRANCIS, AFTER THE EARLY DEATH OF HIS FATHER, LIVED WITH HIS MOTHER IN THIS HOUSE UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1821, WHEN HE MOVED TO HIS FARM, SPRING GREEN, WARWICK, AND IN 1822 MARRIED HIS COUSIN ANNE, THE DAUGHTER OF NICHOLAS BROWN. THROUGH A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE AND UNITED STATES SENATOR, JOHN BROWN FRANCIS PROVED HIMSELF TO BE THE WORTHY GRANDSON OF THE MAN WHOSE NAME HE BORE.

AFTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS ACCEPTED IN RHODE ISLAND, WASHINGTON VISITED PROVIDENCE. HE WAS ENTERTAINED IN THIS HOUSE AND RODE IN MR. BROWN'S COACH, WHICH IS STILL PRESERVED AT SPRING GREEN.

THE MEMORY OF THE ENTERTAINMENTS AND OF THE ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT DINNERS GIVEN IN THIS HOUSE TO THE GRADUATES OF BROWN UNIVERSITY AND THEIR FRIENDS STILL LINGER AMONG THE TRADITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH IT. IT WAS HERE, AT A DINNER PARTY, WITH MANY MINISTERS PRESENT THAT HIS RELATIVE OBADIAH BROWN, GAVE THE TOAST: "HERE'S A SHORT RESPIRE TO THE DAMNED IN HELL". THE CHARITY OF THE MOST ORTHODOX COULD NOT REFUSE SUCH A CHRISTIAN WISH, AND AFTER A MOMENTARY CONFUSION, ALL JOINED IN THE TOAST, THEIR MOST LEADING OFF, SAYING: "TRULY, GENTLEMEN, A MOST ADMIRABLE SENTIMENT IN WHICH WE CAN ALL HEARTILY JOIN."

ANOTHER TRADITION TELLS OF A DINNER IN THIS HOUSE TO WHICH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WERE HASTILY SUMMONED TO ENTERTAIN A MESSENGER SENT FROM BOSTON TO STRIP THE GOLD FROM THE PROVIDENCE BANK. THIS, THE FIRST BANK HERE, WAS ANOTHER OF THE IMPROVEMENTS FOR WHICH THE COMMUNITY WAS INDEBTED TO THE FOUR BROTHERS. IN THOSE DAYS IT SEEMS IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE RIGHT AND GOOD COMMERCIAL POLICY FOR ONE BANK TO GET ALL THE DRAFTS IT COULD UPON A RIVAL BANK, PAYABLE IN GOLD, AND TO EMBARRASS AND PERHAPS CAUSE THAT BANK TO SUSPEND PAYMENT BY PRESENTING THESE DRAFTS, DEMANDING IMMEDIATE PAYMENT.

ON THIS ERRAND THERE ARRIVED ONE DAY IN PROVIDENCE A GENTLEMAN FROM BOSTON. SUSPECTING HIS PURPOSE, BUT WITHOUT GIVING HIM TIME TO STATE IT, MR. BROWN OVERWHELMED HIM WITH ATTENTION AND TOOK HIM AT ONCE TO HIS HOUSE. HIS HORSE WAS PUT UP AND HE WAS SHOWN TO A GUEST CHAMBER TO REMOVE THE DUST OF TRAVEL. WHILE THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN TO SEND OUT FOR FRIENDS THE GENTLEMAN FROM BOSTON WAS HOSPITABLY ENTERTAINED WITH ANECDOTE AND REMINISCENCE AND KEPT AT THE DINNER TABLE UNTIL LONG AFTER BANK HOURS.

MEANWHILE TRUSTY FRIENDS WERE SCOURING THE TOWN AND GETTING TOGETHER GOLD COIN ENOUGH FOR THE EMERGENCY. THUS HOSPITABLY ENTERTAINED OVERNIGHT, WHEN THE MESSENGER PRESENTED HIS DRAFTS THE NEXT DAY THE GOLD WAS ON HAND AND THE DRAFTS DULY HONORED.

MR. BROWN STRENUOUSLY SUPPORTED THE UNION OF THE STATES AND SERVED TWO YEARS IN CONGRESS. HIS INFLUENCE WAS LARGELY INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING THE TARDY RATIFICATION BY THIS STATE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, HIS BROAD MIND HAVING ALWAYS FORESEEN AND URGED THE BENEFITS OF CLOSER UNION WHEN THE FEEBLE TIES OF THE CONFEDERACY FAILED. TRADITION TELLS NOW, UPON THE DAY WHEN THE FINAL VOTE IN THE CONVENTION WAS TO BE TAKEN, HE SECURED THE LOSS OF ONE VOTE TO THE PARTY OPPOSED TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION BY KINDLY LENDING HIS HORSE AND CHAISE TO A MEMBER FROM THE COUNTRY, AN ELDER OF A CHURCH IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT DRIVE OUT AND PREACH ON THAT DAY.

BUT WE LINGER TOO LONG OVER THE TRADITIONS SUGGESTED BY OUR SUBJECT. ENTERING BY THE BROAD STEPS EMBRACED BY THE SWEEPING CURVE OF THE FREESTONE WALL ON POWER STREET, WE NOTICE THE TWO WEATHER-BEATEN STATUES SURMOUNTING THE GATE POSTS. THE GENIUS OF HAWTHORNE WERE REQUIRED FOR THE PLAY OF FANCY SUGGESTED BY THE TRADITIONS CONCERNING THESE STATUES. FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY THEY HAVE LOOKED DOWN ON PASSERS-BY AND UPON THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED IN POETRY BY SARAH HELEN WHITMAN.

SOME SAY THEY PERSONIFY SUMMER AND WINTER; OTHERS GIVE THEM THE NAME OF SOME MYTHOLOGICAL GOD AND GODDESS. FOR GENERATIONS THE FANCIES OF SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE BEEN STIMULATED BY THE TALE OF HOW THESE STATUES COME DOWN FROM THEIR PEDESTALS AND EMBRACE EACH OTHER WHEN THEY HEAR THE CHURCH BELLS STRIKE MIDNIGHT. AT HIGH NOON SATURDAYS, GROUPS OF CHILDREN HAVE GATHERED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDEWALK WAITING TO SEE THESE STATUES TURN AROUND AT THE STROKE OF 12. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE FAILURE TO SEE THIS PHENOMENON WAS THAT THE CHILDREN WERE NOT THERE AT THE RIGHT TIME, OR THAT THEY MISTOOK THE HOUR. ASCENDING THE STEPS, THE SOLID MAHOGANY GATES ATTEST THE THOROUGHNESS OF CONSTRUCTION EVERYWHERE MANIFEST THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING. THE BRICKS WERE MADE IN ENGLAND IMPORTED. ALL THE PARTITIONS, OF SOLID BRICK, RUN FROM FOUNDATION TO ATTIC. UPON ENTERING THE MAIN DOOR, OUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE MAIN HALL, 12 FEET WIDE AND 46 FEET DEEP, IMPRESSES US WITH THE AIR OF DIGNITY AND NOBLENESS OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE. ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE WAY DOWN THE HALL, SUGGESTIVE OF A LINE OF DIVISION OR SEPARATION, SOMETIMES INDICATED BY AN ARCH IN COLONIAL HOUSES OF THIS CHARACTER, WE FIND A SEMI-DETACHED CORINTHIAN COLUMN ON EACH SIDE, EACH SURMOUNTED BY A BUST, ONE EVIDENTLY CERES, ITS COMPANION NOT SO CLEARLY INDICATING ITS SUBJECT. TWO HEAVY MAHOGANY DOORS ARE SURMOUNTED BY CARVED ENTABLATURES WITH BROKEN CURVED PEDIMENTS, ONE ON EACH SIDE.

BEYOND THE COLUMNS ARE TWO SIMILAR MAHOGANY DOORS, BUT DIFFERENTLY TREATED THE PEDIMENTS BEING STRAIGHT AND BROKEN, WHILE STILL ANOTHER DOOR IS SURMOUNTED BY A PLAINER TRIANGULAR PEDIMENT. THE MAHOGANY WAINSCOT GAP AND BASE, THE CORNICE WITH ELABORATELY CARVED FRIEZE AND ARCHITRAVE FORMING A COMPLETE CLASSIC ENTABLATURE AROUND THE HALL, ARE NOTICEABLE FEATURES. THE GRAND STAIRCASE HAS ELABORATELY CARVED AND TWISTED BALUSTERS, EACH ALTERNATE ONE DIFFERING IN PATTERN, STRINGS, BALUSTERS, RAILS AND NEWEL POST ALL OF ST. DOMINGO MAHOGANY, THE STAIR RAIL TERMINATING AT THE BOTTOM IN A LARGE AND ELABORATE WREATH, WITH A SIMILAR WREATH OR VOLUTE ON THE WAINSCOT GAP ON THE WALL. THE STAIRS ARE EASY OF ASCENT WITH A TREAD OF 13 INCHES AND A RISE OF SIX AND A HALF INCHES, FOUR AND A HALF FEET WIDE. ON THE LEFT SIDE UPON ENTERING IS A RECEPTION ROOM 19 BY 20 FEET, WITH A FINE DENTAL CORNICE IN WOOD, A VERY LARGE CHIMNEY PIECE ENRICHED WITH IONIC COLUMNS BELOW THE MANTEL SHELF, WITH CORINTHIAN COLUMNS FOR THE OVER-MANTEL, HAVING CORINTHIAN ENTABLATURES ELABORATELY CARVED, WITH CURVED BROKEN PEDIMENTS. ON EACH SIDE OF THE MANTEL ARE ARCHED RECESSED WINDOWS WITH SEATS OF MAHOGANY, WITH MAHOGANY WAINSCOT GAP AND BASE. ALL THE MAHOGANY IS OF THE HEAVIEST KIND, DARK IN COLOR, BROUGHT FROM ST. DOMINGO FOR THIS HOUSE IN MR. BROWN'S OWN SHIPS.

NEXT TO THIS ROOM WAS A SIDE ENTRY, NOW FORMING PART OF THE ADJOINING ROOM, AS IS STILL SHOWN BY THE HANDSOME CLOSED DOOR LEADING INTO THE GROUNDS FACING BENEFIT STREET. UPON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE MAIN HALL UPON ENTERING IS THE PARLOR 19 X 27 FEET. AT THE END AN ARCHED DOORWAY, WITH FOLDING DOORS OF MAHOGANY LEADS INTO THE LIBRARY 19 X 19 FEET. THE TYMPANUM OF THIS ARCH IS FILLED WITH ARCHED WOODWORK. ON EACH SIDE IS A PILASTER WITH CARVED CAPITAL AND ELABORATE ENTABLATURE, ONE WITH A BUST OF DIANA, THE OTHER WITH THAT OF APOLLO. THE PEDIMENTS OVER THE DOORS HAVE ELABORATE CARVED SWELL FRIEZES AND ORNAMENTED MODILLIONS AND MOLDINGS WITH BROKEN PEDIMENTS. THE MAHOGANY WAINSCOT GAP, BASE, PLINTHS AND DOORS WITH MAHOGANY PILLARS OF THE MANTEL PIECE, AGAINST THE WHITE WOODWORK, GIVE THE ROOM A DISTINGUISHED CHARACTER, WHICH IS BORNE OUT BY THE WINDOWS, WITH DEEP REVEALS FOR THE SHUTTERS, AND WITH GENEROUS DEEP WINDOW SEATS. THE LIBRARY HAS ARCHED WINDOWS, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE SHIMNEY, WHICH HAS AN OVER-MANTEL WITH PILASTERS AND PEDIMENT.

PROCEEDING UP THE STately STAIRCASE THE UPPER HALL RUNS TO THE FRONT, WHERE THERE IS A HANDSOME PALLADIAN WINDOW WITH IONIC PILASTERS AND WINDOWS DEEPLY RECESSED, WITH paneled THREE JAMBES AND SOFFIT TO THE ARCHIVOLT. LOOKING THROUGH THIS WINDOW WE SEE A NOTICEABLE COLONIAL BALUSTRADE OVER THE FRONT DOOR, WITH BURNED AND TWISTED BELUSTERS OF THREE PATTERNS.

THE BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL ROOMS ON THIS FLOOR HAVE FINE CORNICES OF WOOD, OF DENTAL PATTERN, DEEP-RECESSED WINDOWS WITH SEATS SUGGESTIVE OF COMFORT, SHUTTERS RECESSED AND CARVED MANTELS WITH MODILLIONS, WITH ENRICHED MOLDINGS. PROCEEDING TO THE THIRD STORY, THE MAIN STAIRWAY BEING CONTINUOUS, WE FIND THERE FOUR MORE AMPLE COLONIAL ROOMS OF THE SAME SIZE, ALL FINISHED IN THE BEST COLONIAL WOODWORK, ALTHOUGH SIMPLER IN PATTERN.

IN THE MORE RECENT ADDITION TO THE HOUSE IN THE REAR ARE THE KITCHEN, BUTLER'S PANTRY, SERVICE HALL AND STAIRS, ROOMS FOR THE SERVANTS, ETC. DETACHED STILL FURTHER IN THE REAR STANDS THE ORIGINAL STABLE, SHEDS, ETC. BUILT IN COLONIAL STYLE OF THE SAME IMPORTED BRICK. AMBIENTLY A TERRACED GARDEN, EACH TERRACE WITH STEPS, ROSE TO BROWN STREET, AND ANOTHER SERIES OF TERRACES, TRACES OF WHICH ARE STILL DISCERNIBLE, LED DOWN TO BENEFIT STREET.

FORTUNATE, INDEED, IS THE OWNER OF THIS, PERHAPS THE FINEST COLONIAL MANSION IN NEW ENGLAND. MAY IT LONG ENDURE, A NOBLE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TWO BROTHERS, JOSEPH AND JOHN BROWN.

52 Power Street

JUNE 7, 1936 PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR TWO YEARS. MISS ABBY BROWN WANTED TO BE MARRIED, WINTER 1788. BUT JOHN BROWN, PROUD OF HIS DAUGHTER AND ALSO PROUD OF HIS HOUSE, SO OPENED FOUR LOWER ROOMS. ON A DECEMBER FRIDAY THE WEDDING GUESTS MADE MERRY THERE, AND THE WEDDING PARTY BECAME THE HOUSEWARMING OF THE HOUSE THAT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS WAS LATER TO CALL THE "MOST MAGNIFICENT AND ELEGANT MANSION" HE HAD EVER SEEN ON THIS CONTINENT. TWO LETTERS CAME TO LIGHT RECENTLY --ANNA AND ELISA, OTHERWISE NOT KNOWN, BUT BOTH WRITING TO "DEAR ROSELLA", MRS. ABIGAIL GODDARD OF BALTIMORE.

"THE BALL WAS GIVEN AT THE NEW HOUSE, WHICH IS ALMOST FINISHED. AS THEY HAD NO FURNITURE IN IT, THEY ONLY SENT A DOZEN OR TWO OF CHAIRS IN AND FOR THE REST WE HAD LONG BENCHES COVERED WITH GREEN CLOTH, WHICH LOOKED EXTREMELY WELL. YOU KNOW THE EAST END OF THE HOUSE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO ORIGINAL ROOMS. AS THOSE BELOW WERE UNFINISHED, WE DANCED ABOVE IN BOTH ROOMS -- AND A MERRIER CREW I NEVER LAUGHED WITH.

"WE BEHAVED WITH TOLERABLE DECORUM TILL ABOUT ELEVEN, WHEN WE SAT DOWN TO A GOOD SUBSTANTIAL SUPPER OF MEATS AND CHOCOLATE. AFTER WHICH SOMEBODY PROPOSED A CUT-OUT JIGG. I FORGET WHO BEGAN IT, BUT A RING WAS INSTANTLY FORMED ROUND THE ACTORS, AND EVERY CREATURE THAT NEVER CUT A CAPER BEFORE NOW TRIED THE SUBPLENESS OF THEIR FEET...NEVER WERE SUCH SHOUTS -- SUCH BURSTS -- SUCH ACCLAMATION AS WHEN THE ELDER GENTLEMEN AND THE NOVICES STEPPED IN. THEY WERE IN A MOMENT SURROUNDED BY GIRLS WHO WERE STRUGGLING TO DANCE NEAREST THEM -- AS TRUE A BUSTLING FROLIC AS EVER YOU SAW.

"WHEN THE NOVELTY OF JIGGS WAS OVER, WE PLAYED BLIND MAN'S BUFF -- AND COL. NIGHTINGALE MADE A GREAT DEAL OF FUN BY THROWING HIMSELF IN THE WAY OF THE BLIND MAN, WHO HAPPENED TO BE O! BROWN, IN THE DROLLEST MIXTURE OF MALE AND FEMALE DRESS. ONE OF THE LADIES WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT REFUSED TO BE BLINDED, AND SO WE RETURNED TO COUNTRY DANCES AGAIN....THE BRIDE LOOKED THE VERY GODDESS OF TRANQUIL AND COMPLETE FELICITY. A SWEET AND GENTLE SMILE ENLIVENED HER EXPANDED COUNTENANCE, AND MODEST TENDERNESS GLOWED ON HER CHEEK WHEN SHE TURNED HER EYES ON HER BELOVED FRIEND. HE, POOR FELLOW, IS VERY FAR FROM WELL -- BUT I HAVE HOPES THAT NOW ALL DOUBTS AND SUSPENSE ARE AT AN END, THEY WILL BOTH ENJOY RETURNING HEALTH AMONG THEIR ACCUMULATING BLESSINGS."

ELISA WELL, DEAR ROSELLA, AFTER A WEEK SPENT IN THE MOST TEDIOUS CEREMONY OF DRESS, ETC. I HAVE A MOMENT OF CALM WHICH I WILL FILL WITH THE RECITAL OF THE OCCUPATIONS OF THE LAST WEEK, AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT SWIMS ON THE SURFACE OF MY MIND.

LAST TUESDAY EVENING WITNESSED THE UNION OF MY TWO FRIENDS FRANCIS AND ABBY. I WAS PRESENT AND OFFICIATED AS BRIDESMAID IN UNISON WITH MISS FRANCIS AND STILLMAN.....

ON FRIDAY MR. BROWN GAVE A SMART BALL AT HIS HOUSE ON THE HILL. INDEED IT WILL BE A MOST ELEGANT PLACE. WE HAVE FOUR ROOMS LIGHTED UP ON THE SECOND STORY -- ONE FOR SUPPER, ANOTHER FOR CARDS, AND TWO FOR DANCING. WE DANCED IN THE LARGE CHAMBER OF THE HALL AND CONTINUED THROUGH THE DOORS INTO THE NEXT ROOM, WHICH MADE THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE HOUSE.

THE ROOMS ARE ALREADY GENTEEL, BUT WILL BE ELEGANT WHEN FINISHED AND FURNISHED. TWO OF THE LARGEST AND MOST ELEGANT MIRRORS I EVER SAW ORNAMENTED THE ROOMS. STANDING IN THE DOOR WHICH IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARTITION YOU ARE JUST IN THE LINE WITH THEM, SO THAT AT THE HEAD OF THE DANCE YOU CAN LOOK DOWN THROUGH A VARIEGATED CROWD OF SPRIGHTLY DANCERS, AND IF YOU ARE A LITTLE ELEVATED ABOVE THE COMMON RACE OF MORTALS OR CHANCE TO BE MADE SO BY HIGH HEELS OR LONG FEATHERS, YOU CAN THEN HAVE THE PLEASURE

OF CONTEMPLATING YOUR IMAGE AND SEEING IT REFLECTED 52 FEET. SO AT THE FOOT OF THE DANCE YOU MAY DO THE SAME. THE EFFECT WAS CHARMING TO LOOK IN AND SEE SUCH A MOVING MULTITUDE.

I HAD THE HONOR OF DANCING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM IN CONSEQUENCE OF MY BEING ONE OF THE BRIDESMAIDS. YESTERDAY CLOSED THE DUTIES OF THE BRIDESMAIDS. THIS OCCUPATION BROUGHT INSTANTLY TO MY MIND THE OCCASION ON WHICH I FIRST ASSUMED IT. THOSE REFLECTIONS DIFFUSED A SHADE OF MELANCHOLY OVER ME, WHICH I WAS OBLIGED TO SHAKE OFF TO FULFILL THE DUTIES OF MY STATION..... WELL, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I HAVE BEEN BRIDESMAID, AND I THINK 'TIS OR OUGHT TO BE MY TURN NEXT TO BE A BRIDE."

THE CIPHER BOOK OF JOHN BROWN 1752 R.I.H.S. FOR THE SON OF ONE OF THE FIRST PROVIDENCE SEA CAPTAINS WHO VOYAGED TO THE WEST INDIES AND FOR A BOY LATER TO SEND THE FIRST SHIP FROM THE PORT ON A VENTURE TO THE EAST INDIES, SOME ADROIT PEDAGOGUE HAD DEVISED PROBLEMS INVOLVING TOBACCO, THE COASTING TRADE AND THE SHOP, THE FINDING OF A SHIP'S LATITUDE, THE MEASURE OF A "SHIP'S TUNNAGE" FROM HER DIMENSIONS, EDUCATION COULD NOT BE MORE PRACTICAL. "SUPPOSE IT 45 MILES TO BOSTON. HOW MANY BARLEY CORNS WILL REACH THERE?" THE YOUNGSTER PLACED HIS KERNELS "END TO END" IN THE APPROVED STATISTICAL MANNER, SOLVED THE PROBLEM, AND SEEMED SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT. HE SIGNED HIMSELF "JOHN BROWN, THE CLEVEREST BOY IN PROVIDENCE TOWN."

TERM ON COASTING CRAFT. BACK IN PROVIDENCE IN 1762 FOUR BROTHERS, JOHN AND JO, NICK AND MO PLUNGED INTO LEGALIZED AND PROFITABLE PIRACY OF PRIVATEERING DURING THE COLONIAL WARS.

RISE PROMINENCE. JOHN APPOINTED TO DIVIDE PRIZES FOR THE NEWPORT COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY. NICOLAS FROM WHOM FIRM "NICOLAS BROWN & Co." BECAME BENEFACTOR OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, NOW BROWN. JOSEPH, INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH THE UNIVERSITY AS TRUSTEE AND FACULTY MEMBER, WAS CO-DESIGNER OF THE FIRST "COLLEGE EDIFICE", THE BAPTIST CHURCH, THE MARKET. AS PROFESSOR OF EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY, WHICH INCLUDED THE NATURAL SCIENCES, HE OBSERVED THE TRANSIT OF VENUS IN 1769, WITH IMPORTED ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTS, AND THUS GAVE THE NAME TO TRANSIT STREET. MOSES, A FRIEND, INDUCED SAMUEL SLATER TO COME TO PAWTUCKET TO FOUND THE COTTON INDUSTRY. IN MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER, HOPE, THE BROTHERS GAVE THE NAME OF HOPE FURNACE TO THE FOUNDRY IN CRANSTON WHICH LATER CAST REVOLUTIONARY CANNON, NOW HOPE FOUNDRY. JOHN REMAINED IN THE FIRM OF NICOLAS BROWN & Co. UNTIL 1782, WENT DIRECTLY INTO TRADE WITH CHINA AND EAST INDIES. DEEP IN THE AFFAIR OF THE GASPEE, 1772, WHICH DREW THE FIRST BLOOD OF THE REVOLUTION.

WILLS 5-79
1786

INVENTORY of the Personal Estate of JOSEPH BROWN Esq. deceased
as set forth by Mrs Elizabeth Brown, March 15. 1786.

SOUTH PARLOUR

1	Wilton Carpet	4.0000
1	Pr Brass Hand Irons	1.10.0
6	Mahogany Chairs, Hair Bottoms at 30/	10.16.0
1	Ditto China Table	2.08.0
1	Ditto Stand Table	1.16.0
1	Ditto Three Feet Leaf Table	1.16.0
1	Pair Looking Glasses..18 by 30 Inches	8. 0.0
2	Enamelled China Dishes	12.
4	Ditto Smaller	16.
2	Ditto Blue and White	10.
1 1/2	Doz China Plates 20/	1.10.0
1	Tureen, 1 Dish Blue & White	1. 4.0
1	Two Quart Bowl..Red & White..cracked	6.
4	Pewt Bowls	8.
6	Ditto	8.
1	Quart Ditto	4.
1	Doz Cups and Saucers..Burnt China	6.
1	Doz Ditto with Handles	7.
4	Small Plates 3/	3.
1	Cream Pot..1 Tea Do..1 Sugar Bowl & Cannister	5.
8	Cups and Saucers Burnt China 8/.. 17 Brown China Cups	4/ 1.17.0
1	and Saucers 15/..1 Pr Glass Decanters 10/..4 Beer Glasses	1. 9.0
1	3/4 Doz Wine Glasses 9/..1 pr Small Globes 20/	14.
1	Japan Tea Tray 14/	4. 8.0
	Sum brought forward	41. 5.0
	Carried Over.....	41. 5.0
	<u>In the GREAT BEDROOM</u> <i>deussaus</i>	
1	Bed Bolster and Pillows	5. 0.0
1	Callico Bed Quilt	1.16.0
4	Blankets	1. 8.0
1	Pair Cotton Sheets	1. 0.0
2	Pillow and 1 Bolster Case	6.0
1	Set Blue & White Curtains and Spread	2. 2.0
1	Bedstead and Cord	12.0
		1. 4.0
2	Blankets and 1 Coverlet..poor	15.0
1	Pair Sheets	15.
1	Palet Bedstead and Cord	6.
		15. 4.0