

ROGER WILLIAMS TO JOHN WINTHROP¹

For his much honoured Mr. Gouverneur these

NEW PROVIDENCE this 6^t instantis [*ca.* June 30, 1637]²

MUCH HONOURED SIR, It having againe pleased the most High to put into your hands another miserable droue of Adams degenerate seede, and our brethren by nature: I am bold (if I may not offend in it) to request the keeping and bringing vp of one of the Children. I haue fixed mine eye on this litle one with the red about his neck, but I will not be peremptory in my choice but will rest in your loving pleasure for him or any etc.

Sir, Capt. Patrick giues me a hint of the likely returne of most of your forces (Sasacous and about a score of men with him and other Companies, 4 score in one, surviving) I shall humbly propound whether it be not considerable, that better now then hereafter the Pursuit be continued.

1st Because it may stop a Conglutination betweene them and the Mowhauogs, which longer time is like to make.

2^{ndly} Longer time will put many opportunities of occasionall revenge into

¹ Stoughton, in his next letter to Governor Winthrop, says that this letter was written "about the end of June." It must have been written long enough before the end of the month to have made it possible for the pinnace which conveyed it to convey also the letter which Roger Williams wrote Winthrop from Providence on June 30, printed immediately following.

² W. 2. 98; 4 *Collections*, vi. 195-196; *N.C.*, vi. 35-36.

³ In view of Williams's common practice of dating his letters as of "this present week," it is assumed that he intended that here, rather than "this present month." Furthermore, the date June 30 seems to accord completely with the chronology of other letters of this period and with the corresponding entries in Winthrop's Journal.

their hand, as we see in the 3 last cut of vpon Qunnihticut river, after the fort cut of.

Capt. Patrick also informes me of a great Itch vpon the Souldiers to fall fowle vpon our Neighbours: Little sparkes proue great fires. The God of Peace, who is only wise be pleased to guide vs: Capt. Patrick confesseth that they were the chiefe Actors in the last Captiues, and had taken all by a wile and slaine 2 before the English came: I heare no speech at present about inæqualitie, but Content and affection toward vs.

I must reioice that (as he sayth) some of the chiefe at Qunnihticut (Mr. Heynes and Mr. Ludlow) are almost averse from killing women and children. Mercie outshines all the worckes and Atributes of him who is the Father of mercies, vnto whome with earnest supplications for you and yours I rest
Your w[orshi]ps vnfeined

ROGER WILLIAMS

My best respects to good Mrs. Wintrop, Mr. Deputie Mr. Bellingham and theirs.