

**LIFE OF GOVERNOR SAMUEL
WARD. FROM THE NINTH
VOLUME OF THE LIBRARY OF
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Life of Governor Samuel Ward. From the Ninth Volume of the Library of American Biography;
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WILLIAM GAMMELL & JARED SPARKS

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OF

GOVERNOR SAMUEL WARD,

BY WILLIAM GAMMELL.

FROM THE

NINTH VOLUME OF THE

Library of American Biography.

CONDUCTED BY

JARED SPARKS.

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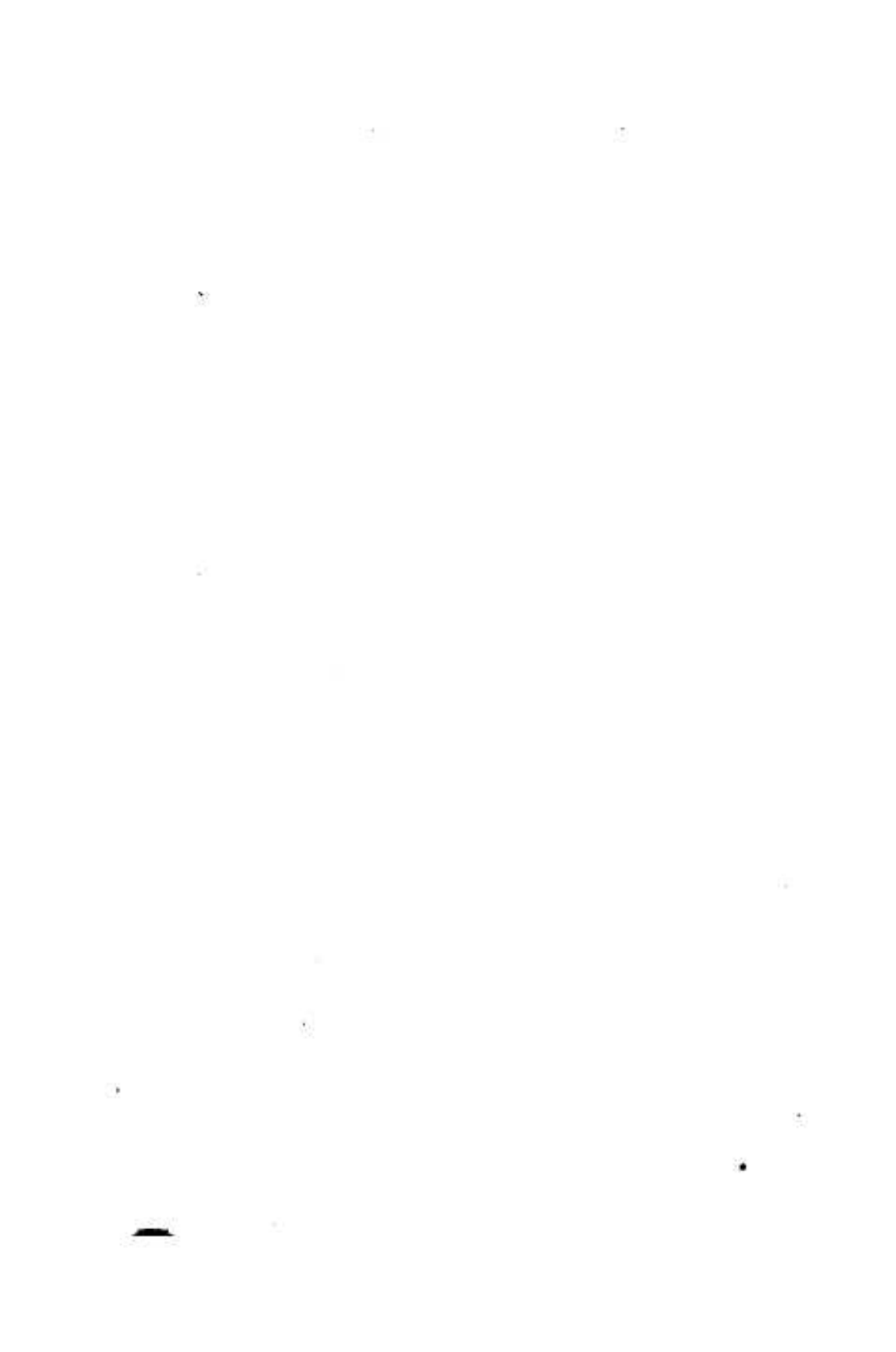
W I L L I A M G A M M E L L .

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PREFACE.

THE materials for the following sketch have been obtained principally from the letters and private papers of Governor Ward, now in the possession of his descendants in the city of New York. In addition to these, the writer has examined the legislative records and the files of ancient documents in the office of the Secretary of State of Rhode Island, as well as the published memorials relating to that period of her colonial history. His aim has been to associate the life of a worthy and a leading patriot with the important era to which he belonged, and to make the narrative illustrate, as far as practicable, the spirit which prevailed in a colony whose services in the revolution have never yet been duly chronicled.



SAMUEL WARD.

CHAPTER I.

His Ancestry. — Birth and Education. — State of Society at Newport. — His Marriage and Settlement at Westerly in Rhode Island.

THE generation who peopled New England during the middle of the eighteenth century were witnesses of a series of events, whose importance in shaping the subsequent character and the ultimate destiny of the colonies can scarcely be estimated too highly. It was the age, in which was brought to a close the protracted struggle between England and France for ascendancy upon this continent; in which were suffered the worst evils of the ill-devised legislation of the Parliament, and the earliest aggressions of the British ministry upon the rights of the colonies; and in which were seen the first acts of resistance that terminated at length in the war of American independence.

To this generation belonged Governor SAMUEL WARD, the subject of the present sketch ; and in the colony with which he was connected he was among the foremost of the patriotic actors in the stirring scenes of the age.

He was descended from an ancient and respectable family, of which the first representative in this country was his grandfather, Thomas Ward, who came to Newport, Rhode Island, soon after the restoration of Charles the Second. In England he had been attached to the republican party, and had been somewhat conversant with the affairs of the Commonwealth. He was highly respected in the colony, to which he rendered many valuable services, both as a private citizen and as a member, at different times, of both branches of the colonial legislature. Thomas Ward died in 1689, leaving a second wife, whose maiden name was Amy Smith, and their only child, Richard Ward, who was born a few months before his father's death. Richard Ward, the father of the subject of this memoir, on attaining to manhood, was an active and exemplary citizen of Newport, engaged in commerce, and devoting much attention to the affairs of the colony, in whose service he was distinguished for his fidelity and probity of character. He was for several years Recorder, or Secretary of State,