THE WATKINSON LIBRARY,

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 1st 1884

My dear Mr. Hosford:

Manhasset and Manhansack are two of the many forms of the name for any "small island" (munnohans, munnhans) with the locative affix — one meaning "at the small island", the other "small island land, or place". In the Records of the United Colonies, 1652 (in Conn. Col. Rec. III. 476) it was "Menhansick Island"; in the deed to Easthampton, 1651, Manhansuk. The descriptive name, in Thompson, was, I conjecture, copied from Nath^l Sylvester's will, and the translation ~~he~~ Thompson gave may have been obtained from an Indian, or may have been handed down by tradition. It certainly is not a correct translation — but it may be an explanation of the name. The only Indian word with which I can connect it — in the form ahaqushuwamock — is one that signifies 'to go into a burrow', (Mass. aqushau, 'he goes into a burrow' — like a rabbit, e.g.), and which in the conditional form, would become ahqushuwámog, or something like it. If this is, as I conjecture, the origin of the Indian name, "Manhansack-ahaqushuwamock" means, either, "the small island [hid, or sheltered] as in its burrow"—or, "the small island to which you go as into a burrow" (or shelter). So little is or can be known of the grammatical forms or peculiarities of vocabulary of the Indians of East Long Island, that no one can be confident of the accuracy of an analysis of any long place-name, of that region: but I am tolerably certain that if this name as it comes to us, in the will of 1680, and in Dwight and Thompson, is not much corrupted, the interpretation I have suggested is not far from correct.

Of the other local names you mention, Mashammock, Hashamomock, and Menantick, I have no knowledge, and can offer no interpretations. Very often, -mock final denotes a "fishing place" (Mass. -amaug, -amâg), the species of fish being named by the syllables that precede; but I know no fish-names that correspond to Mashom- or Hasha-, in these two names.....

Just here—leaving my desk to glance at a m

"Mashommock" became plain to me. It is, unquestionably, the equivalent of Mass. Muss

wonuk (the Indian name for Boston; and

of the corresponding point in Charlestown

the Indian ferry.) The name denotes a pla

"where you go by canoe", a crossing place

I guess, that "Hashamomock" on the main

island is, or originally was, written by a clerical erro

for "Mashamomock"—and is another eq

alent of the name of a crossing place.

I am glad to learn that you propose to e

a monument to good Nathl Sylvester, and o

look with interest to the report of the unveiling.

I am very truly Yours,

J. H. Trumbull

SYLVESTER MANOR ARCHIVES
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thare lies the savege race unnoticed and untold not one decendant left all buried in oblivions dark night here on the western part of this island they us-d to fight the hasshamomocies indians upon the south part of the island the indian name is mentiua upon this point their settlement must be verry great by oyster shells thare is a small lake containg fresh water their settlement must ben very old for stone axees and morter pestals have ben dug up very deep in the erth near the high way as you enters the woods is a rock the print of a mans foot cut into it no dout for some superstion or other upon the south part of the island Call-d the hot house near the sea shore between fresh and salt water for what purpose tradishon has only the name but no dout for medical purposes near this place is is a large buring Ground and in a few more ages the storms and tempests will wash them from their resting place and their bones will be tumbling out out of Cliff i Can point many of their habitations to the right hand as you go to the ferry near the Creek is the Celler whare stood an indian hut i remember of an old indan that liv-d there who had a large family further west on as you enter the Beach of Esqire tuthill is now the hole whare stood the house of the govenor I remember of going thare with mother when I was verry small his name was will but most all that I remember then liv-d on sachem-s neck in wigums one old indian by the name of stephen liv-d beside of henry havens swamp his well remains thare yet some trees grows out of it the sachem of this island liv-d on muntalk his name was pogatacut his brother name wimowdance the Indian name of this Island was manhasset thare is one large buring place on sachems neck in what is Call-d thicket some of their names I remember verry well peter indian with both feet frose off mol daniel old an she drownded her Child in the mill pond sam gonnac geffery keziah his wife an two Children old Jack and his wife sabina and six Children Joe pot eg. old sip sarah an betty toby with Children old. Bet Stephen governor will and his wife Cuffy cuff and sarah his wife two Children old Stephen perhaps when a few more ages have roold away this island may be inhabited by still more different race Could but the savage look up and see the valies standing thick with Corn and fields of wheat waving like the sea and his wilderness blooming as the rose his gase woul be like the savage Chief gasing upon dying General woolb