



# PREACHER LEADS MASHPEE REVOLT

MASHPEE Wampanoag in Cape Cod have won a degree of self-rule following the Mashpee Revolt, *writes our civil rights correspondent, March 31, 1834.*

The Mashpees became unhappy about the way the state was running their reservation after ending self-government. They were also angry at the theft of wood from their forests by white men.

Led by William Apess, a

Pequot preacher who moved to Massachusetts, the group informed the state that they would rule themselves from now on and that white men could no longer take wood without their permission.

The Massachusetts authorities were alarmed at first, but then agreed to return a degree of self-government.

It was Mashpee Wampanoag whalers who planned, wrote, and executed the laws that

resulted in self-government. They claim to have been inspired by the freedom of whales.

Despite the victory, there are lingering fears the state will intervene to break up the Mashpee tribal lands.

As elsewhere in America, Wampanoag and other Native people in Massachusetts suffer discrimination and the denial of basic rights.