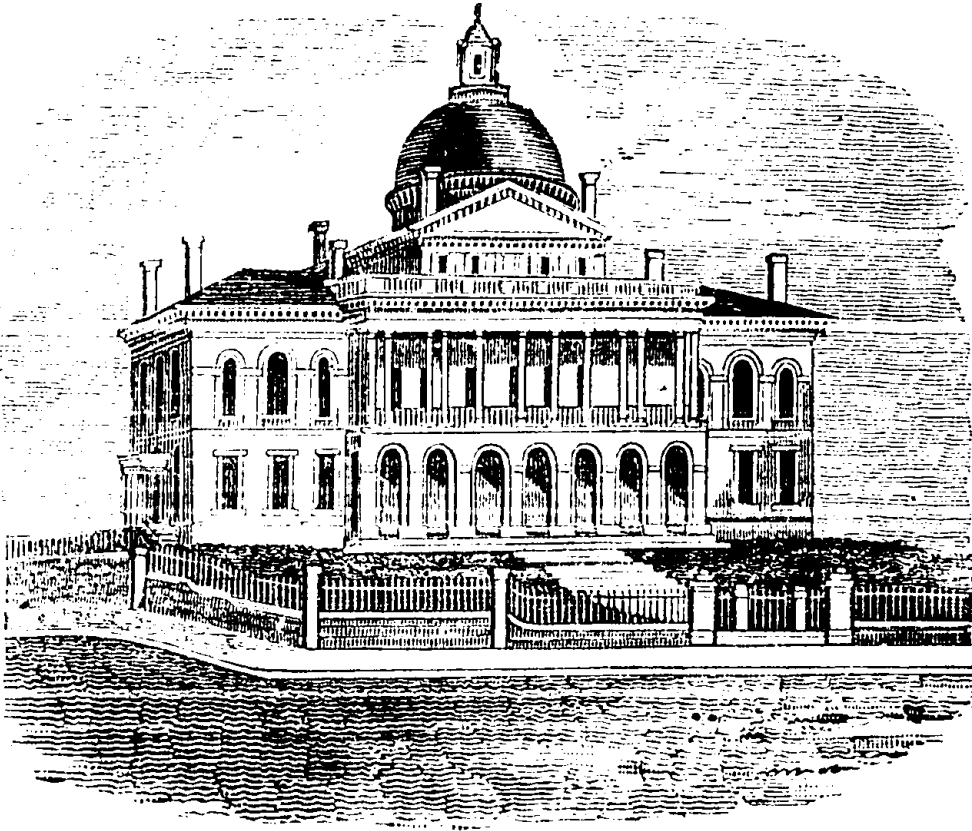


HISTORY OF BOSTON.



BY ROBIN CARVER.

BOSTON :

LILLY, WAIT, COLMAN, AND HOLDEN.

1834.

CHAPTER II.

Trimountain. Mr Blackstone. Settlement of Boston. Death of Lady Johnson. Mr Johnson. Condition of the Colony. Arrival of the Lion. Whipping. Vessel built. Monthly Trainings. Mr Josias. Festival. Increase of Boston. Old account of the Town.

1. ON the south side of the mouth of Charles river, there is a small peninsula of high ground, about a mile in breadth, and two and three quarters in length. A peninsula is a portion of land almost surrounded by water. In 1630, when seen by the settlers at Charlestown, on the opposite side of the river, this spot presented the appearance of three large hills; one of which was crowned by two or three smaller hills. They accordingly gave it the name of Trimountain. The Indian name was Shawmut.

2. These hills were covered with bushes and trees. There was only one little cottage in the whole place. The Indians, who had formerly lived there, had been swept away

by a pestilence. Mr William Blackstone was the only inhabitant, and the first white man who ever slept on Shawmut.

3. Mr Blackstone had found a spring of very excellent water at Shawmut, and was desirous that the poor sufferers at Charlestown should partake of it. He accordingly sent to Governor Winthrop, and invited him over to his side of the river. The chief persons of the company were induced, by this invitation, to remove immediately.

4. The foundation of a town was laid, by the erection of several small cottages; and on the seventh of September 1630, it was ordered that Trimountain should be called **BOSTON**. This was the commencement of what has since become a great city.

5. The change of residence did not restore the sufferers to immediate health. The sickness still continued, and by December over two hundred of their number had died. Among them was Lady Arabella Johnson, a woman of great resolution and virtue, very much beloved by all the colony. She died in the latter part of the summer, and was buried at Salem.

6. The death of her husband soon followed. He was one of the wealthiest and most venerated of the colonists. It was owing in a great measure to his efforts, that the settlement of Boston was determined upon. At his own request, he was buried in a corner of the lot, which had been marked out for his house and garden. This was in the spot

where the burial ground attached to the Stone Chapel now stands.

7. Notwithstanding all the sickness and distress, the colonists kept up a good heart, and continued to busy themselves in clearing away the land, and building their poor cottages. They had arrived too late in the season to plant any thing, and their provisions began to fail them. When the winter set in, it was very cold and stormy, and they had but little to eat. You may well suppose that they were anxious to hear from their friends on the other side of the ocean.

8. Some weeks thus lingered on, and they were beginning to fear that they might perish of hunger. The long winter nights were dull and cheerless, and when the snow and tempest descended on their solitary huts, and the chill winds whistled through the bare forest trees, they thought of their comfortable homes in England, and perhaps with a thought of regret. But this soon passed away, and amid all their sorrows and sufferings they relied, with a humble but firm confidence, on the goodness of an overruling Providence.

9. It was on the fifth of February 1631, that Governor Winthrop was walking upon the elevation that is now called Fort Hill. He was full of sadness for the distress of his companions. As he raised his eyes, and directed them to the waters of the bay, they caught the glad sight of a sail

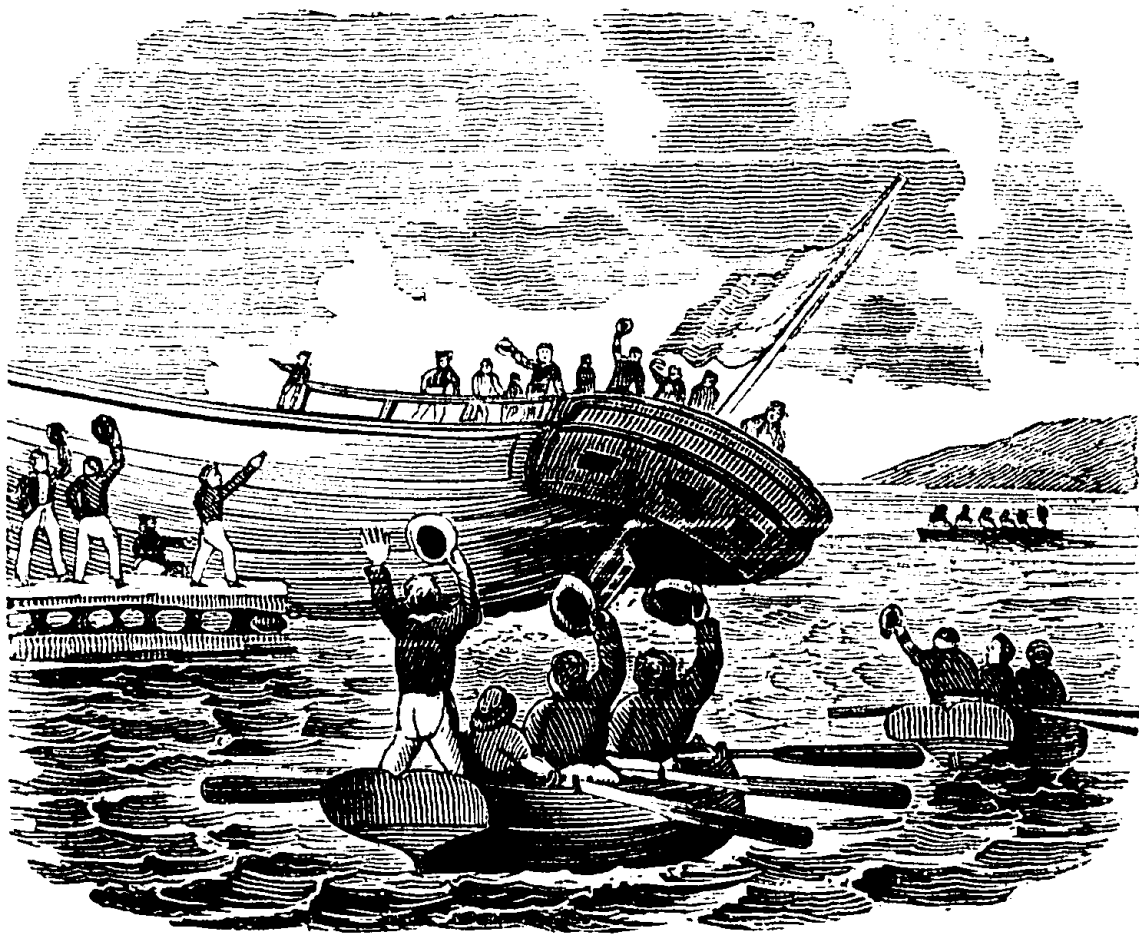
in the distance. It was a messenger from his friends in the old world.

10. The little colony was immediately informed of this happy circumstance. They soon thronged to the sea-shore to welcome their visitors. Men, women and children, hurried to embrace their friends, and hear what had happened in the land they had left behind. The ship proved to be the *Lion*, under the command of Captain William Pierce. It was laden with supplies of food and clothing, which afforded the colony great relief.

11. To give you an idea of the old manners and customs of Boston, I will tell you a few things that may seem a little singular. It was the fashion at this time, and a great many years afterwards, to have those who broke the laws publicly whipped. A man, for instance, was whipped for stealing a loaf of bread, and another for shooting a fowl on Sunday. Another was sentenced to pay a fine of five pounds, or be whipped, for selling a quack medicine.

12. On the fourth of July 1631, the first vessel built in the colonies was launched. It had been built by the direction of Governor Winthrop, and was called the *Blessing of the Bay*. During the ensuing summer and fall, this bark made several little voyages along the coast.

13. About this time, the inhabitants were ordered to be trained every month. This was for the purpose of keeping them in readiness to fight, if they were attacked by the Indians.



Launch of Blessing of the Bay.

Six watchmen were also chosen to keep guard during the night. In September 1631, a Mr Josias stole some articles from the Indians. He was discovered and fined. In addition to this punishment, he was condemned to lose the title of 'Mister,' and to be called plain Josias.

14. In November of the same year the **Lion** again arrived at Boston. Among the sixty passengers, whom it brought from England, were the children and wife of the governor, and the Rev. John Eliot, who afterwards devoted himself to teaching and civilizing the Indians. He was a benevolent and able man of great worth, and his labors were crowned with success.

15. The inhabitants of Boston determined to take this occasion to show publicly their great respect and esteem for the governor. They ordered the vessel to be detained below the islands two days, that they might find time to make preparations to receive his lady.

16. When the governor and his family were passing in the barge to the shore, the captain of the **Lion** saluted them with a discharge of several guns. On landing, they were received with due military honors. The officers had provided a guard for their escort, and they were welcomed with volleys of small arms and three pieces of artillery.

17. A number of people had assembled from the neighboring villages to witness the ceremony. Numerous presents of venison, kids, geese and partridges were brought to the governor, and every thing was as joyful and happy as

possible. It was the first show of any thing like a public festival in New England.

18. Boston soon began to take a stand above all the other towns. It was thought the best place in the Bay to hold public meetings. A house of correction was built by order of the court of assistants; and fortifications were erected upon an eminence, which afterwards received the name of Fort Hill. This same Court ordered in 1632, that no person should take tobacco *publicly*; and that every one should pay a penny for every time of taking tobacco in any place.

19. The number of inhabitants increased rapidly. Two ferry boats were kept upon Charles river, to accommodate the passengers between Charlestown and Boston. 'This town,' says a traveller who wrote in 1633, 'although it be neither the greatest nor the richest, yet is the most noted and frequented, being the centre of the plantation where the monthly courts are kept. Here likewise dwells the governor. This place hath very good land, affording rich corn-fields and fruitful gardens, having likewise sweet and pleasant springs.'