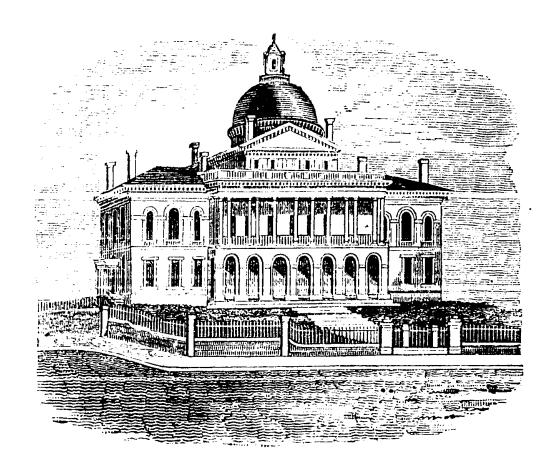
HISTORY OF BOSTON.



BY ROBIN CARVER.

BOSTON:

LILLY, WAIT, COLMAN, AND HOLDEN.
1834.

CHAPTER IX.

The riots are unnoticed. A mob. Their outrages. Mr Hutchinson. Attack on his dwelling-house. Town meeting. Declaration of Mr Oliver. Burning stamp papers. Repeal of the stamp act. Great rejoicings. Fire Works. Liberty Tree illuminated.

- 1. The officers of government were obliged to pass over these riots, without punishment. They knew the state of public feeling too well, to imagine that it could possibly be resisted. Such deep and general indignation had been excited, that even the more moderate and respectable citzens hardly dared to discountenance the violence of the mob.
- 2. On the twenty-sixth of August another mob was collected, and a very dangerous and destructive one. It began to come together about dusk, when a bonfire was lighted before the town-house. A large number of boys and men soon assembled, ready for any means of displaying their anger. Their cry was 'Liberty and Property.'
 - 3. They made their first visit to the house of Mr Paxton,

who held the office of surveyor of the port, and was on that account obnoxious to the people. Here they found the owner of the house, who seems to have been a shrewd and sensible man, and who told them that Mr Paxton and his furniture had been removed. He moreover added, that he was himself the only person they would injure by any violence, that he had never done them any harm, and that if they would go with him to the tavern, he would treat them to a barrel of punch.

- 4. 'Hurrah! Hurrah!' shouted the ringleaders, 'he is a clever fellow and no tory, so come along and we will drink his health, and down with the Stamps.' The party then went to the tavern, to drink the punch, and the house was by this means saved.
- 5. As soon as they had finished their punch, they began to feel a return of their desire to pull down a house. This they soon found an opportunity to gratify. After breaking into one or two dwelling houses, and making a few bonfires, they took up their march to the mansion of the lieutenant governor, Mr Hutchinson.
- 6. This person is quite distinguished in the history of the colonies, and did more than any one else, to produce their final separation from the mother country. He was born in Boston, and was for a long time much beloved and highly respected. But in the events immediately before the revolution, he behaved with a meanness and hypocrisy, which rendered him contemptible, and have made his memory odious.

- 7. When he heard that the mob was approaching his residence, Mr Hutchinson was taking tea with his family. He immediately sent away his children, and after a while determined to follow them. The mob soon arrived. They had become very powerful and violent, and, breaking into the house, commenced their work of destruction.
- 8. Every thing moveable was soon broken to pieces, or carried away. A large amount of plate, manuscripts, money, jewels, and valuable furniture was exposed to their fury. They worked very hard to tear down the house, but it was built in a very strong style, and they gave up the attempt. They were only able, after three or four hours' labor, to throw over the cupola, and take up part of the roof. The walls were left not much injured, though the mob worked till daylight. This house was afterwards repaired, and remained standing till the summer of 1833, when it was removed.
- 9. The greatest loss, upon this occasion, was the destruction of a large number of valuable manuscripts. Mr Hutchinson had been for years gathering interesting letters, and papers, connected with the early history of the colonies. His efforts had been very successful, and he had accumulated an extensive and valuable collection. These were destroyed, and their loss was not again to be repaired.
- 10. Early on the next day, the more temperate and orderly citizens called a town meeting. They then expressed their

strong disapprobation of these violent measures, and instructed the magistrates of the town to use their endeavors to prevent such disturbances in future. During the month of September a quantity of the stamps arrived, and were deposited for safe keeping in the Castle.

- 11. Early in December, a report was circulated, that Mr Oliver intended to accept the office of distributor of stamps, though he had previously resigned it. This caused considerable excitement, and the people determined to ascertain its truth. A large meeting of the merchants and principal inhabitants, was held at noon-day, under Liberty Tree. A message was then dispatched to Mr Oliver, with the compliments of the people, requesting his appearance.
- 12. He complied with the invitation, and made oath that he would never attempt to enforce the stamp act in America. Three cheers were then given, and Mr Oliver made a short speech. In the course of it, he declared that he held the stamp act in utter detestation, and would do all that lay in his power to serve the town and province. He then desired that he might no longer be looked upon as an enemy, but as a friend. His remarks were received with shouts and cheers.
- 13. In February of the following year, a day was appointed for a public burning of one of the stamped papers, in every town through the province. In Boston the ceremony was performed with much spirit, and the bonfire was increased, and graced, by effigies of two of the enemies of the province, in full court dresses.

- 14. In May, the glad news was received in Boston of the repeal of the stamp act. The greatest joy was excited by this event, and every mark of public rejoicing was displayed. Cannon were fired under the Liberty Tree, and in many other parts of the town; bells were rung, bonfires blazed, and the people were shouting and cheering in all directions.
- 15. The nineteenth of the month was appointed for a day of general festivity, in honor of this great event. On this day people were up very early, and immediately after one o'clock in the morning, the bells of all the churches were set in motion. In about an hour drums were beating in all the streets, guns were fired, and there was noise enough made to rouse every man, woman and child in the town.
- 16. Liberty Tree was hung round with banners, and the steeple of Mr Byles's Church, in the neighborhood, was decorated in a similar manner. Flags and pendants were displayed from the tops, and at the windows, of the houses. All night the whole town was illuminated, and there was a brilliant display of fire-works on the common, where a pyramid was erected, and lighted with nearly three hundred lamps. Several private entertainments were given, by gentlemen who were interested in the popular cause.
- 17. About midnight, a signal was given for the citizens to retire. The lights were extinguished, the music was silenced, and all sought their dwellings. On the following eve-



Liberty Tree hung with Banners.

ning, all the gentlemen in town united to furnish lanterns for an illumination of Liberty Tree.

18. This tree had grown to be a great favorite with the people, and men had been employed to prune and trim it. On this evening, every bough was laden with lanterns, and it presented a very beautiful appearance. A flood of light was shed from it to a great distance, on the faces of a happy and rejoicing crowd, collected from all quarters of the town.