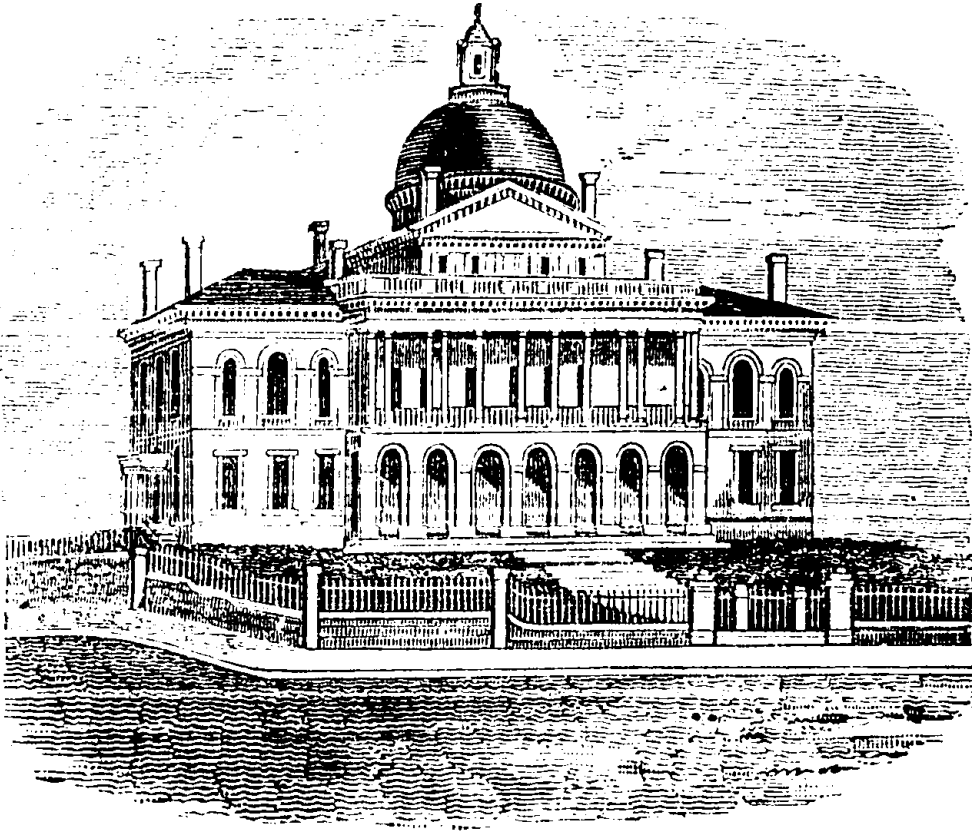


HISTORY OF BOSTON.



BY ROBIN CARVER.

BOSTON :

LILLY, WAIT, COLMAN, AND HOLDEN.

1834.

CHAPTER XXI.

*North End. Common. State House. View from its Dome.
Tremont House. Theatre. Churches.*

1. IN walking about the city, we shall find that the streets in the north part are narrow and irregular. This quarter was settled at a very early period, and the houses are mostly small and old. You will notice here, houses that have been standing more than a century, with all the odd fashions of architecture common in our old times. It is very interesting to walk among these ancient relics, and imagine the many scenes that have taken place among them.

2. In the west part of the town are a number of very beautiful houses. Around the common, are many splendid mansions, and the noble trees of the open green before them, make them very pleasant residences.

3. The Common, which is so great an ornament to the city, was formerly a public cow pasture, for the convenience of the honest housekeepers of the town. It occupies

a space of fifty acres on the southern slope of Beacon Hill, and is surrounded by a mall, planted with noble elms. It is now a famous promenade, and on pleasant evenings in summer, you find hundreds walking here, to enjoy the pleasant and cool breezes.

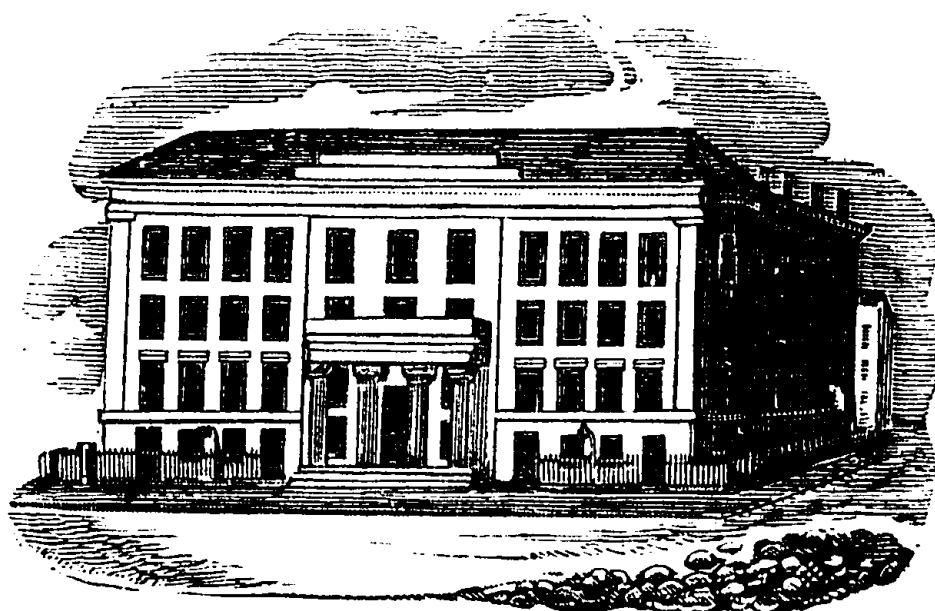
4. On days of public celebrations, it is the ground where the troops exercise and parade ; and sometimes many fine companies are reviewed here. On these occasions, tents are erected, in which refreshments are sold, and various shows are sometimes exhibited.

5. The surface of the Common is varied by slight elevations, the largest of which is near the centre, and still exhibits the remains of a fortification thrown up by the British troops in 1775. Just to the north of this is a little sheet of water, dignified with the name of Crescent Pond, that adds something to the general beauty of the scene. The Common is shaded by nearly six hundred trees, and affords one of the most beautiful walks in the world.

6. Over-looking this beautiful green, is the State House, which stands at the top of the mall, and of which you will find a neat cut on the title page. The corner stone of this edifice was laid on the fourth of July, 1795. This event was attended with great parade. The stone was carried to the spot by fifteen white horses, and laid by the governor, with the assistance of some officers of the Masonic lodge. This building is one hundred and thirteen feet in front, and sixty-one feet deep. It is surmounted by a dome, fifty feet

in diameter, and thirty feet high. It stands in a most elevated and commanding situation. On the lower floor there is a fine statue of Washington.

7. The top of the dome is about two hundred and thirty feet above the level of the sea. The view from this place is very striking. Just below you see the Common, with its beautiful green, the fine rows of surrounding trees, and the noble elm, which has spread its broad branches for a century over children sporting beneath. On every side, you see large and noble buildings, and all the signs of a busy and wealthy population. To the East lies the harbor with its many islands, and the broad waters beyond, spangled with the white sails of our ships.



Tremont House.

8. As we leave the Common and come down nearer to the business part of the city, we pass the Tremont House, Tre-

mont Theatre, and the Stone Chapel ; all very handsome edifices. The Tremont House is a spacious and splendid hotel, which is no where surpassed in the elegance of its structure, and the general style and convenience of its accommodations. Its front is of Quincy granite, ornamented with a fine portico ; the sides are brick, with the basement story of stone. There are one hundred and eighty apartments in the whole building. The corner stone of this edifice was laid in 1828, and it was open for the reception of guests in the following year. The Tremont Theatre is situated in front of the house just described. It is a spacious edifice, with a front of Quincy granite.

9. The Stone Chapel is a very plain building, being entirely composed of unhewed stone. Its style of architecture is massive and grand. It is surmounted by a tower, ornamented by a colonade of large wooden pillars. In the interior, there are several marble monuments, raised to the memory of distinguished persons, and which add to the interest with which the church is visited. It is now the only house in which the old fashion of square pews is retained.

10. Park street church is but a few rods distant from the Chapel, being situated at the head of the mall. Its steeple is of immense height, the vane on its top being two hundred and eighteen feet from the street ; this is about ten feet higher than the top of the State House. Connected with this church is the Granary burying ground, which received its name from the fact that a public granary once stood with-

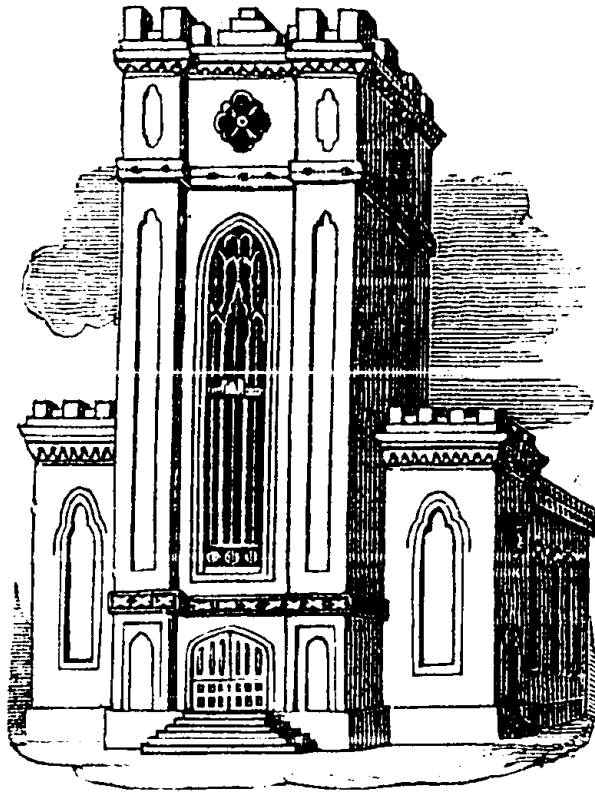
in its inclosure. In this ground is a granite monument, in the obelisk form, placed over the remains of the parents of Franklin. It was erected in 1827 by a few citizens of Boston, who desired to testify their respect to the great man whose parents reposed beneath. Here are the tombs of many, who are distinguished in the history of our city.

11. The Old South, situated near the heart of the city, is an object of great interest from its historical associations. The present building was opened for public worship in April 1730. I have already told you of the manner in which it was profaned by the British soldiers, during the revolution. It is probably the largest church in the city, and is usually selected for the celebration of religious services on great public anniversaries.

12. Brattle street church was opened for public worship in 1773; a wooden building built in 1699, formerly stood on the same spot. Governor Hancock was a liberal benefactor of this church, and his name was formerly inscribed on one of the stones at the south-west corner of the building. This was defaced by the British soldiery, and the stone remains in the condition in which they left it. On the night before the evacuation of the town, during the siege in 1775, a shot, sent from the American army at Cambridge, struck the tower. It was picked up and preserved, and is now fastened to the spot where it struck. The head quarters of General Gage were in a house opposite.

13. Trinity Church is a fine edifice of the Gothic order,

in Summer street. It is built of Quincy granite, and is remarkable for its great beauty, strength, and solidity. There



Trinity Church.

are between forty and fifty other churches in Boston, some of which possess much architectural pretension.