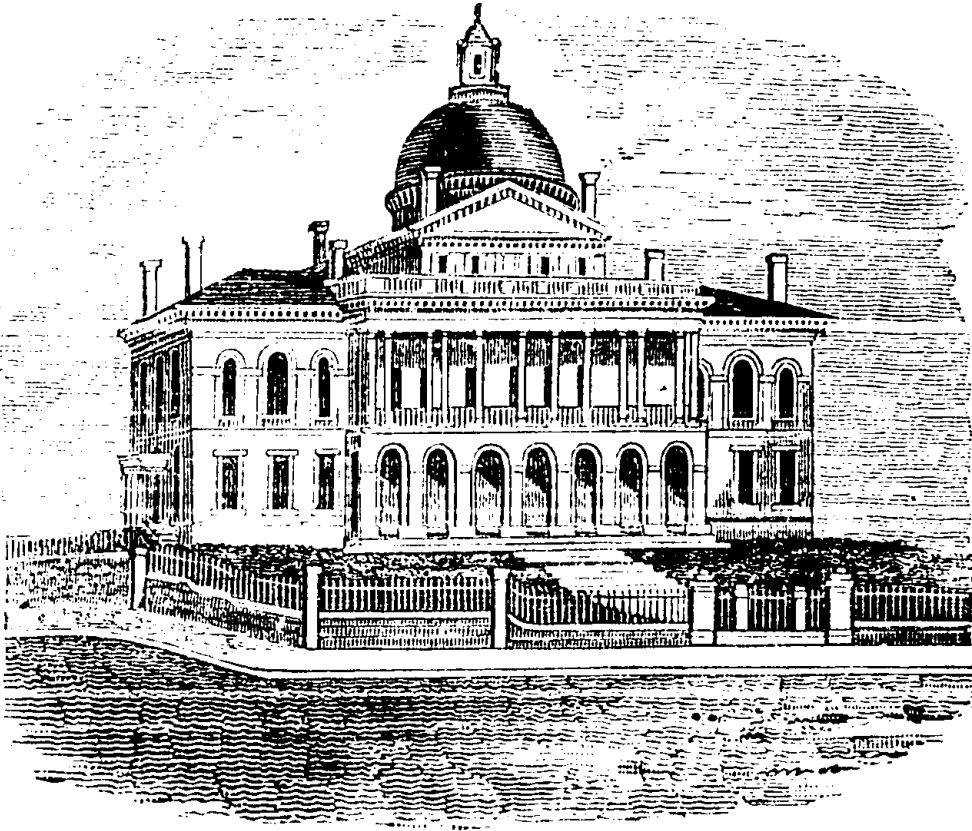


# HISTORY OF BOSTON.



BY ROBIN CARVER.

BOSTON :

LILLY, WAIT, COLMAN, AND HOLDEN.

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## CHAPTER XXII.

*Wharves. Schools. The Athenæum. Gallery of Paintings. Nahant. Roads. Charlestown. Monument. Navy yard. State prison. Cambridge. Harvard College. Mount Auburn. Conclusion.*

1. THE wharves of Boston are larger and more convenient than any others in the United States. Her commerce is very extensive. Ships from her harbor plough the waters of every sea, and bring back the luxuries of foreign lands for the enjoyment of her enterprising citizens. There are a great many among her richest merchants, who first came to the town when poor boys, and who by honest industry, have made large fortunes, and set an example which I hope my young friends will imitate.

2. I must not omit to say something about the schools, for Boston is very famous for her good public schools. In these her best citizens have been educated. Every year there is a public examination of the scholars, when prizes

are given to those who have been the best and most industrious. The money with which these medals are bought, was given by the great Franklin, who left in his will a sum to be expended for this purpose.

3. The Athenæum is a large library, placed in a handsome building in one of the finest streets of the town. It contains about 28,000 volumes, and is ornamented with statues and busts, copied from the works of ancient sculptors. To these, within a few years, have been added several fine paintings, by foreign and American artists.

4. Connected with this establishment is a Gallery of Paintings, which is open through the summer months. Most of the artists in the country send their best pieces to be exhibited here. This gallery is a place of fashionable resort.

5. The roads leading to the city are good, and the surrounding country is famous for its beauty. On every side you see fine houses, gardens, orchards, and cultivated fields. In summer there is a steamboat, plying once or twice daily, to Nahant, a rocky peninsula, about fourteen miles from the city, with a fine beach connecting it to the main land. This peninsula runs three or four miles into the sea. Its shores are very bold and steep, presenting on all sides masses of rugged and broken rocks. These rocks have been worn by the waves into the most fantastic shapes. When the tide is high, and the sea is swelling, the dashing

spray foams and sparkles among their caverns, and the roar of the waters adds to the sublimity of the scene.

6. On the southern side there is a very curious grotto, known by the name of the Swallow House. Its entrance is five feet high, and ten wide. The grotto is seventy feet long, and increases in height to twenty feet. Great numbers of swallows have taken up their abode in this cave, and it is supposed by many that they pass the winter here in a torpid state. The Spouting Horn is a deep chasm on the north shore, into which, at half tide, the water rushes with great violence.

7. Towards the East lies the immense ocean, whose waves, whether in tranquillity or tempest, present a magnificent spectacle. In a calm day, it is delightful to gaze upon the quiet waters, covered with the many vessels, lazily gliding on their path. A breeze comes up, and they scud swiftly and bravely onward, their sails filling and swelling, while their proud keels spurn the waves that are foaming in their track.

8. But the clouds gather, and the skies darken with a gloom that shuts out every ray of the sun-light. The winds rise, and the waters sound with that sullen murmur which is the sign of an impending storm. The brave ships hurry for the nearest port, or furl their white sails, to ride out the gale at anchor. Now is the time to witness the glory of the ocean, while the tempest broods over it, and drives to the rocky shores its tossing and impetuous waves.

9. You can hardly wonder that, with all its sublimity and beauty, Nahant has become a place of very great resort during the summer months. Strangers from the South, and the inhabitants of Boston and its neighborhood, frequent it in large numbers. There is a spacious stone hotel built here for their accommodation, in a commanding position; and we must do them the justice to suppose that they are as much attracted to this spot by its natural beauties, as by the sports of angling, riding, billiards and bowling, with which they can here at any time amuse themselves.

10. Immediately connected with Boston by two bridges is Charlestown, a pleasant, but irregular town, with a population of about nine thousand inhabitants. The more compact part of this town is built upon a peninsula, the centre of which is occupied by Bunker Hill. A large monument of gray granite was commenced some years ago upon this eminence. Its height is to be 220 feet, and there is every reason to hope that it will soon be finished.

11. The United States have a navy yard in this town, which occupies sixty acres of ground, and comprises a great number of arsenals, magazines and barracks. The stocks for ship-building are covered with frame houses, large enough to contain first-rate line of battle ships.

12. Here is the Dry Dock, built of hewn granite, a work of immense extent, for the purpose of receiving ships of war to be repaired. It is sufficiently spacious to admit the largest ship in our navy, being three hundred and forty-one feet

in length, eighty wide, and thirty deep. After the ship is floated into the dock, and the gates closed, the water is emptied by means of an apparatus, worked by a steam-engine of immense power. There are eight pumps, two feet and six inches in diameter, which discharge at every stroke about a hogshead and a half of water each; besides these, there are eight smaller pumps.

13. The water is first forced from the dock, into wells, and then into a capacious reservoir, from which it runs into the sea. The dock is provided with two sets of gates, called turning gates, each weighing fifty tons; besides these is the floating gate, which is built in the shape of a vessel, and is said to contain timber enough to build a ship of three hundred and fifty tons.

14. In Charlestown is the State Prison of Massachusetts, which consists of several large piles of building, surrounded by a lofty wall. Nearly all the buildings are of stone. Of the convicts confined here, some are employed in hammering stone; others as tailors, shoemakers, and blacksmiths. They are dressed in clothes of various colors, and while in the yard are guarded by soldiers with loaded muskets.

15. Cambridge lies west of Boston, on the opposite side of the river Charles. It has long been celebrated as the seat of Harvard College. This institution was founded a great many years ago, and many distinguished men have been educated there. The library numbers about thirty-five thousand volumes; and contains books of almost every

age, and language. Some of these languages are so little known, that I am afraid there are a great many more books here, than are ever read.

16. In Cambridge is the beautiful wooded eminence, called Mount Auburn, which has within a few years been consecrated to the purposes of a burial-place. It is about four miles distant from Boston. A high and substantial fence has been erected about it, having for its principal entrance a gate-way, finished in the Egyptian style, and twenty-five feet in height.

17. Part of the tract borders upon the high-way, and this has been cultivated as a garden. Within, lies the portion that has been marked out as the cemetery, or burial-place. This is covered, through most of its extent, with a vigorous growth of forest trees, many of which are of a large size, comprising numerous varieties. The grounds of the cemetery have been laid out with curved and winding avenues, smoothly gravelled, and to be bordered with shrubs and flowers. Family burial places are set off at suitable distances, along the passage ways. Elegant monuments of marble and granite, have already been erected, and others will soon be completed.

18. This spot is no where surpassed. The view from its highest point comprises a landscape, of great variety and beauty. Just below is the winding Charles, with the cultivated fields on its banks, beyond which, in the distance, rise the hills of Milton, wrapped in their blue mantle of air.

19. On another side, is a full view of the city, rising with its spires, and noble edifices, in beautiful pictures. The old buildings of Harvard college, among the neat private dwellings of the village, occupy another point of the landscape. A pretty sheet of water lies at a very short distance to the North, and villas, and country seats, in every direction, give a cheerful and picturesque appearance to the whole scene.

20. Among the other towns, in the immediate neighborhood of Boston, are Dorchester, Roxbury, Brookline, and Chelsea, all of which are pleasant and flourishing villages, ornamented with beautiful residences. Many families from the city resort to these towns, to pass the summer months.

21. I have now finished all that I have to tell you of the history of Boston. If you have read it with pleasure, and derived information from it, my labor has not been in vain. Farewell!