

Excursions in Massachusetts Bay.

THE EMPIRE STATE.—PROVINCETOWN AND THE ISLES OF SHOALS.—
THE MAGNIFICENT TRIP.



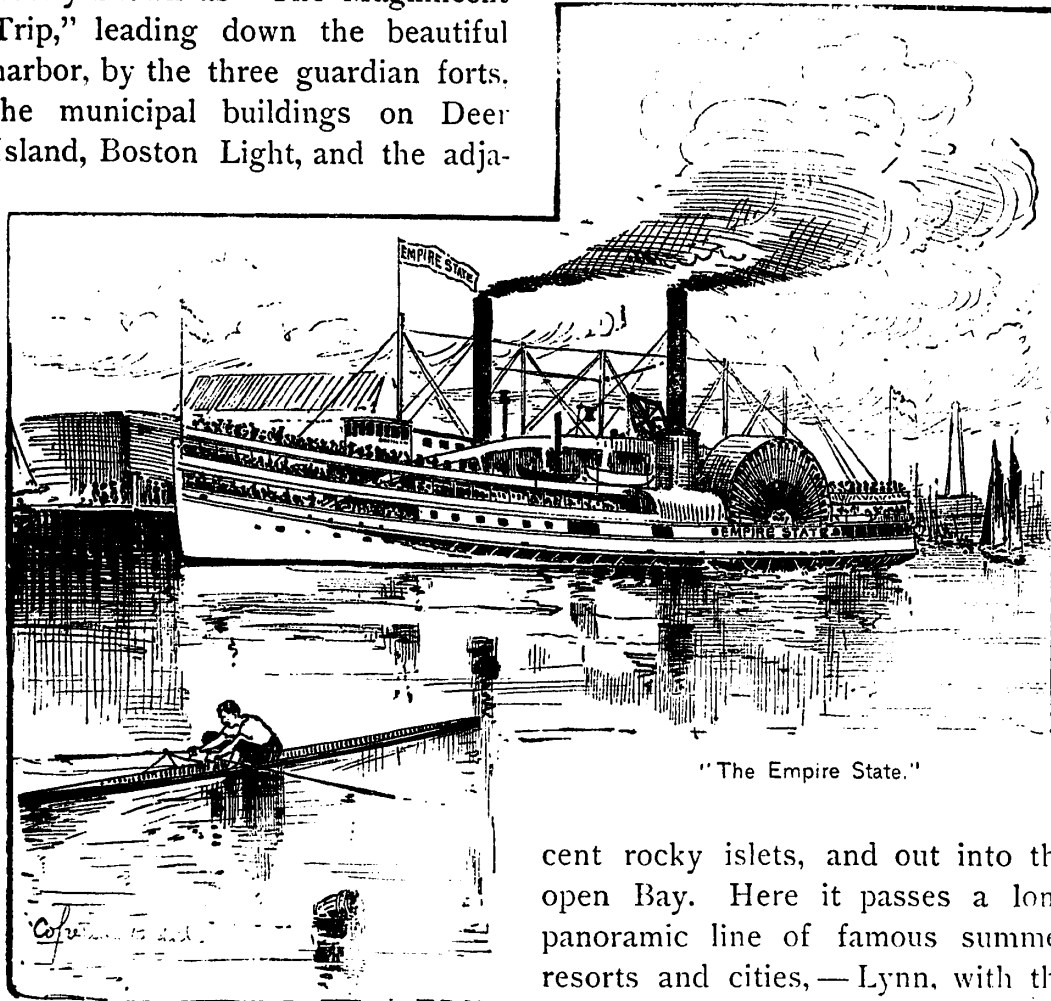
ONE of the chief factors in the summer pleasure of Boston is the immense three-decked steamer *Empire State*, of 1,700 tons, with a length of 320 feet, and 80 feet beam, and spacious and beautiful saloons, dining-rooms, promenade-decks, and other luxurious appurtenances, besides the more important items of a hull of almost imperishable live-oak, new boilers, a highly disciplined crew, and a vigilant and veteran captain. The hours of sailing are so arranged that people who live within forty or fifty miles of Boston may breakfast at home, take a sea-voyage of a hundred miles, and have supper at home, all on the same day. The expense of the journey is much reduced by the commutation of rates on the suburban railways. The trips to the North Shore, the Shoals, the Merrimac River, Provincetown, Highland Light, and the Fishing Grounds, take all day; the steamer leaving at 10 A.M., and returning by 7 P.M. The fare is one dollar. The voyage in the Bay takes from 2.30 to 5.30 P.M.; and the moonlight excursions take from 8 to 10.45 P.M.; the fare on each of these two being fifty cents. The boat does not go out unless the weather is favorable. Her pier is at Battery Wharf (379 Commercial Street), on the route of the horse-cars to Chelsea Ferry and East Boston. So perfect is the discipline maintained on the boat that disturbances are unknown, and many parties of ladies and children go out on the excursions without escort, quite secure against annoyance. On the all-day trips dinners are



Captain J. M. Phillips.

served on board, with the greatest possible variety of delicacies, at reasonable prices. The chief owners of this huge floating palace are two brothers, of Old-Colony extraction, Messrs. E. Burt Phillips (of the American Steam Gauge Co.) and J. M. Phillips, the latter of whom is its captain; and the business manager is Mr. Harry A. M'Glenen, who is favorably known to the people from his connection with the Boston Theatre.

The favorite route taken by the *Empire State* is that which has become widely known as "The Magnificent Trip," leading down the beautiful harbor, by the three guardian forts, the municipal buildings on Deer Island, Boston Light, and the adja-



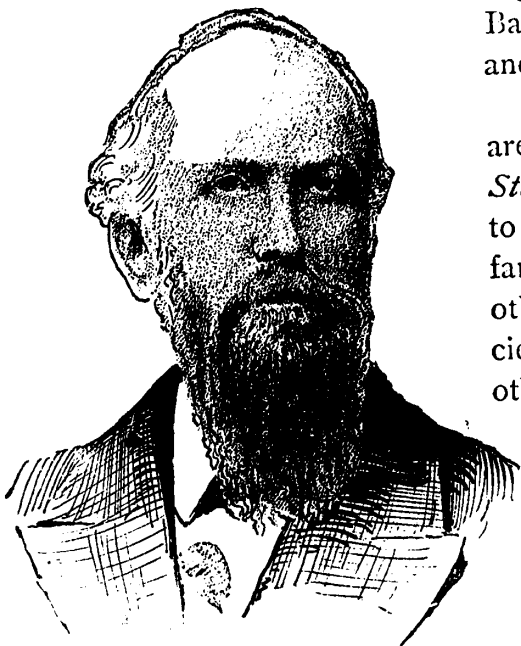
"The Empire State."

cent rocky islets, and out into the open Bay. Here it passes a long panoramic line of famous summer resorts and cities,—Lynn, with the rocky heights of Saugus and the

Middlesex Fells beyond; far-projecting Nahant, with Egg Rock off its northern point; the patrician red-roofed villas and hotels of Swampscott; the gray old legend-haunted towns of Marblehead and Salem, with their spires and towers wreathed with imperishable chaplets of poetry and romance; and the populous coasts of Beverly Farms, Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Magnolia, beloved by artists, with the great Essex woods outlined against the horizon, and the black reef of Norman's Woe in the sea. Next the white houses of Gloucester appear, and in its harbor lie many vessels of America's foremost fishing-fleet. The steamer holds its steady

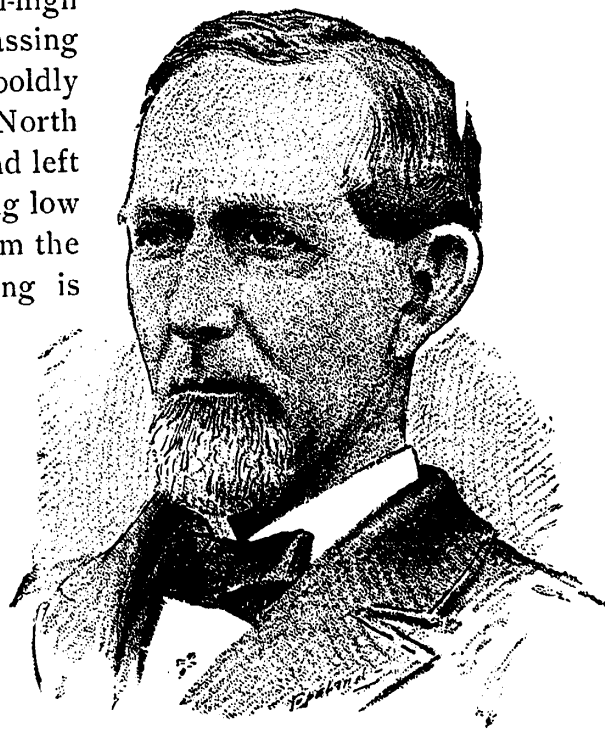
way past Eastern Point; around the tall twin granite light-houses on Thacher's Island; off the granite quarries of Rockport and the summer-hotels of Pigeon Cove; and around into Ipswich Bay, to the lovely shores of Annisquam, and within sight of the hills of Newbury.

Beyond the compass of this journey are two other trips which the *Empire State* frequently makes,—one reaching to the mouth of the Merrimac River, famous in the ballads of Whittier and other poets, and in full view of the ancient sea-city of Newburyport; and the other, passing far beyond this point, and terminating at the Isles of Shoals, those wonderful surf-beaten crags, far out in the ocean, with their great summer-hotels and the well-known cottage of Celia Thaxter. The voyage across the Bay to Provincetown is full of interest, and attracts many



E. Burt Phillips, Esq.

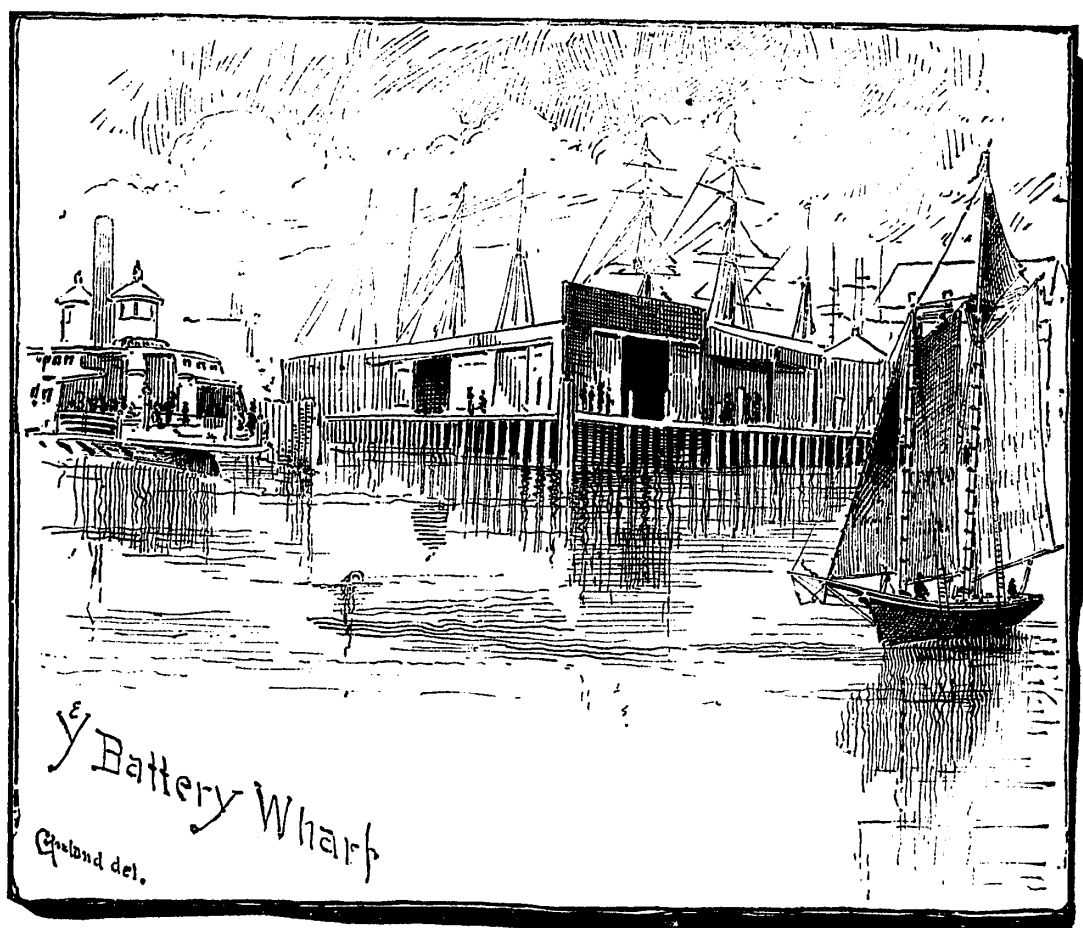
people who desire to get well-nigh out of sight of land. After passing the Light, the steamer heads boldly out to sea, with the South and North Shores unfolding on the right and left quarters, and after a time the long low line of outer Cape Cod rises from the level eastern horizon. A landing is made at the quaint old maritime village of Provincetown, which has been so long famous in the annals of New England, and has an added interest this season in being the head-quarters of Admiral Cooper and the North-Atlantic squadron, including the *Tennessee*, *Alliance*, *Vandalia*, and *Enterprise*. Occasionally the vessel passes around Cape Cod to give tourists a view of the cliffs which face the open sea, towards Europe; and runs down as far as the famous Highland Light.



Harry A. M'Glenen, the Business Manager.

Once a week the *Empire State* goes out on a fishing-excursion, running out to the Middle Ground, which is between the capes of Massachusetts, about twenty-five miles from Boston Light. The fortunate person who secures the largest fish receives a dollar for each pound of its weight.

The usual afternoon trip in the Bay is patronized by many thousands of tourists, and affords the best attainable views of the North and South Shores. The course is laid along the outside of Nantasket Beach and the Cohasset shores to Minot's Light, giving an admirable prospect of the



Battery Wharf, Boston.

hotels, headlands, and villages, and of the great stone light-house, rising directly from the lonely sea. From thence the steamer runs northward nearly to Marblehead Neck, and returns along the North Shore.

On moonlight evenings the steamer leaves her pier at about eight o'clock, and runs out past Boston Light, and along the front of Nantasket Beach, which is at such times illuminated with bonfires, electric lights, and rockets, and presents a scene of wonderful brilliancy and Oriental weirdness. On the return voyage the saloon is used for dancing, the best of orchestral music being given by the band; and by eleven o'clock the boat reaches her pier.