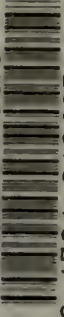


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OLD STATE HOUSE

OLD BOSTON

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON FROM 1630 TO 1800

BY
JAMES OSGOOD
AND
JOHN W. COOPER



OLD STATE HOUSE

OLD BOSTON

REPRODUCTIONS OF ETCHINGS IN HALF TONE

ETCHINGS AND
TEXT BY
HENRY R. BLANEY
//

BOSTON
LEE AND SHEPARD PUBLISHERS
10 MILK STREET
1896

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OLD BOSTON

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TYPOGRAPHY BY C. J. PETERS & SON, BOSTON

PRESSWORK BY ROCKWELL & CHURCHILL

PREFACE

THOSE who are interested in the preservation of the memory of the Revolutionary period of Boston's history will find in this collection of reproductions of Mr. Henry R. Blaney's etchings, many plates which retain the flavor of the old city from A.D. 1695 to 1800.

The etchings were made from pencil studies, on the spot, of the old passage-ways, streets, and by-ways which still show buildings of the period referred to; and care has been taken in many plates, while inserting the exact effect of the gambrel roofs and quaint chimneys of those buildings standing at the time, from 1886 to 1893, to also add, in conjunction with these, the present-day color of the local life of the quarter.

In addition to these original sketches from nature, there have been inserted prints from rare wet-plate negatives, taken from 1855 to 1869, owned by Mr. Blaney, not to be found on sale, and also from negatives taken by the author.

About the year 1663 Boston was described in "Johnson's Wonder-Working Providence" in the following manner: "The form of this town is like a *heart*, naturally situated for fortifications, having two hills on the frontier part thereof next the sea, the one well fortified on the superficies thereof, with store of great artillery well-mounted. At the descent of the hill, in the extreme point thereof, betwixt these two strong arms, lies a cove or bay, on which the chief part of the town is built, overtopped by a third hill; all these, like overtopping towers, keep a constant watch to see the approach of foreign dangers, being furnished with a beacon and loud babbling guns. This town is the very mart of the land; Dutch, French, and Portugalls come here to trafique."

The Etchings have been reproduced by the half-tone process and somewhat reduced in size.

HENRY R. BLANEY

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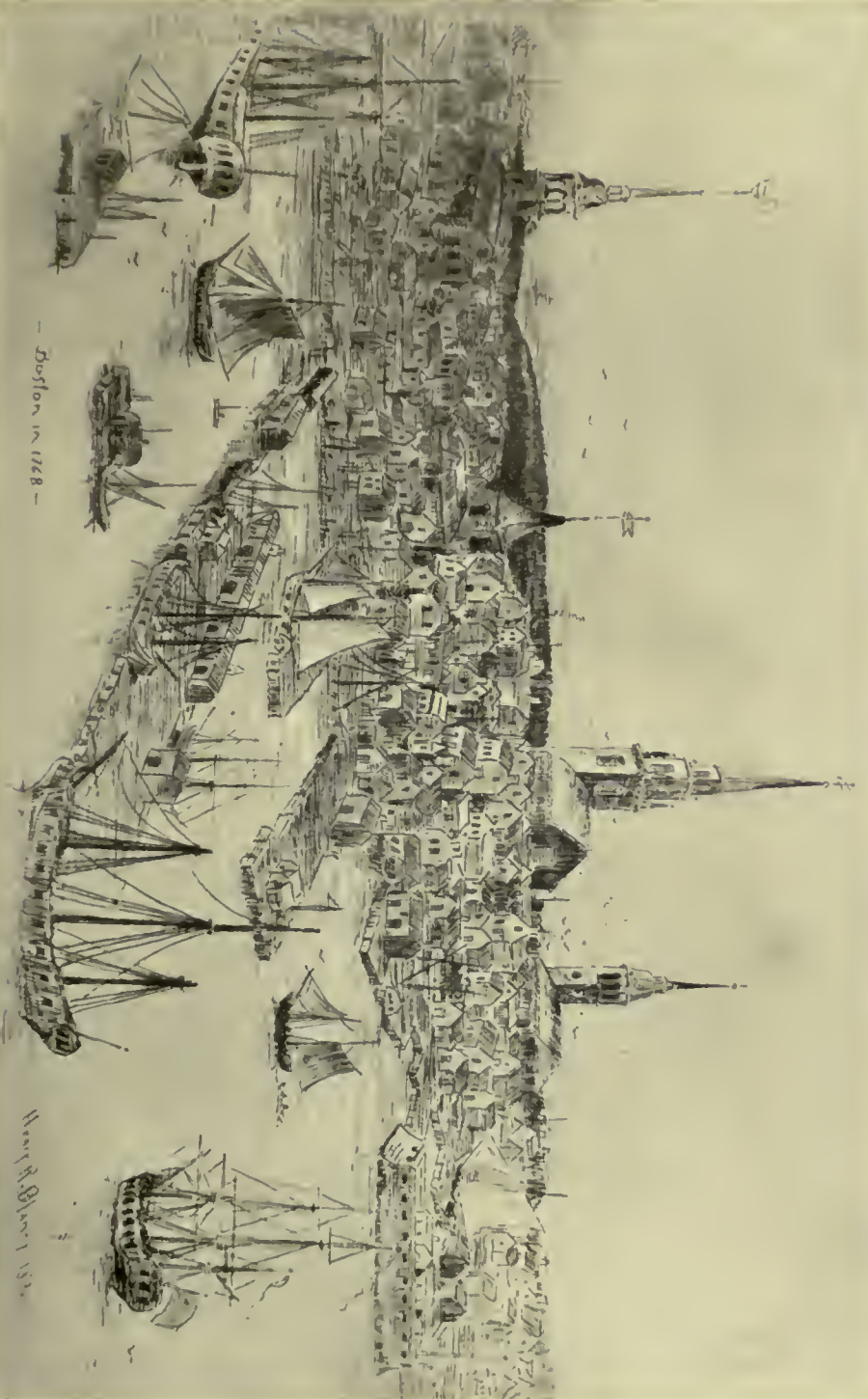
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BOSTON IN 1768

REPRODUCED from a very rare old etching by Paul Revere.

All the old churches are shown, with Long Wharf, built in 1710, and the Battery. This view of Boston antedates by only a few years the period when the agitation for the repeal of the tax on tea was constantly being brought to the attention of the citizens of Boston, ultimately resulting in the formation of the Boston Tea Party in 1773. In 1768 a vessel loaded with wine was seized in the harbor, and the collector's boat drawn through the streets, and burned on the Common by a mob.



Boston in 1768 -

BOSTON IN 1768.

Henry R. Brown, 1872

STATE STREET AND OLD STATE HOUSE

ETCHED from a photograph taken in 1888. Many changes have been made in the buildings on this street since this view was taken. The old State House is shown at the upper end of the street as it looks to-day; but the Merchants' Exchange on the left has since been removed, and an enormous office-building substituted. From the foreground to the State House is the spot where all military organizations make a special effort in their parades. "Going up State Street" has been their watchword for many years; and the writer well remembers the thrill experienced while marching up this street as a member of the First Regiment M.V.M. and the Cadets, passing through crowds of shouting and cheering citizens, in celebration of numerous centennials of the past.



STATE STREET AND OLD STATE HOUSE.

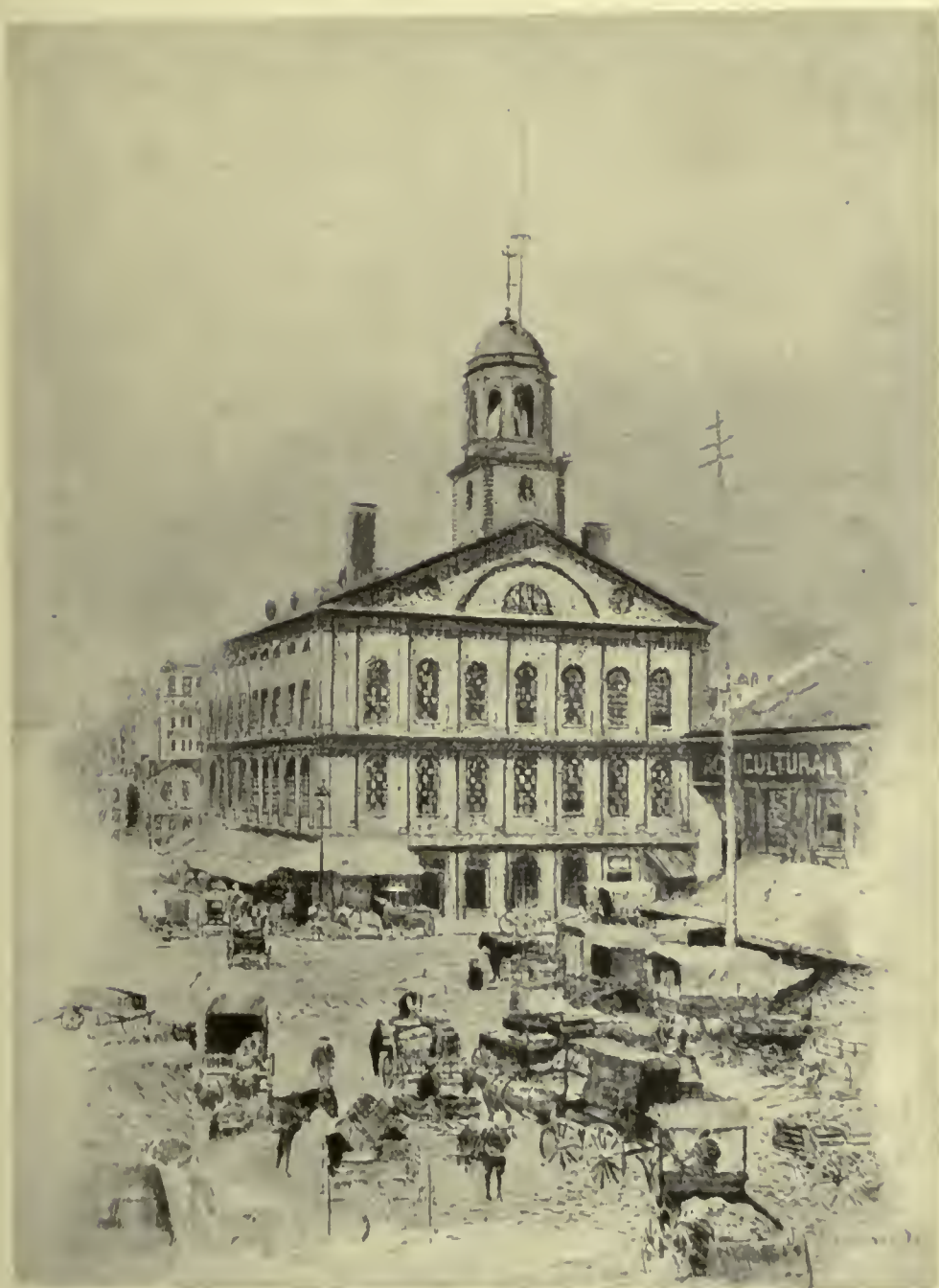
FANEUIL HALL

(The Cradle of Liberty)

ETCHED from a photograph taken in 1888. Built in 1740, and presented to the town by Peter Faneuil.

It was burned in 1761, rebuilt, and in 1805 enlarged. During the seige of Boston by the Americans, the hall was used as a theatre by the British officers. The large hall was the scene of all the great gatherings of the people previous to and during the Revolution. In Shaw's "Historical Description of Boston" is found the following:—

"In the year 1740, Peter Faneuil, Esq., an opulent merchant of Boston, made an offer to the town to build at his own expense a commodious market-house near Dock Square, where provisions were then exposed for sale. The proposal was thankfully received, and the building was immediately commenced. The whole was completed in a most substantial and elegant manner in September, 1742. In 1761 the inside woodwork and roof of the building were consumed by fire; measures were immediately taken for repairing the building, and the expense was defrayed by a lottery granted by the General Court for the purpose. From this period the history of Faneuil Hall is intimately connected with that of our country. Here Lee, Otis, Quincy, Adams, Hancock, and other patriots exerted their talents to impress on a people jealous of their rights the necessity of vigilance against foreign encroachments; and became the centre where resolutions were formed and measures adopted, which quickly spread with pervading influence round the wide circle of the State and Continent, and terminated in the establishment of American Independence."

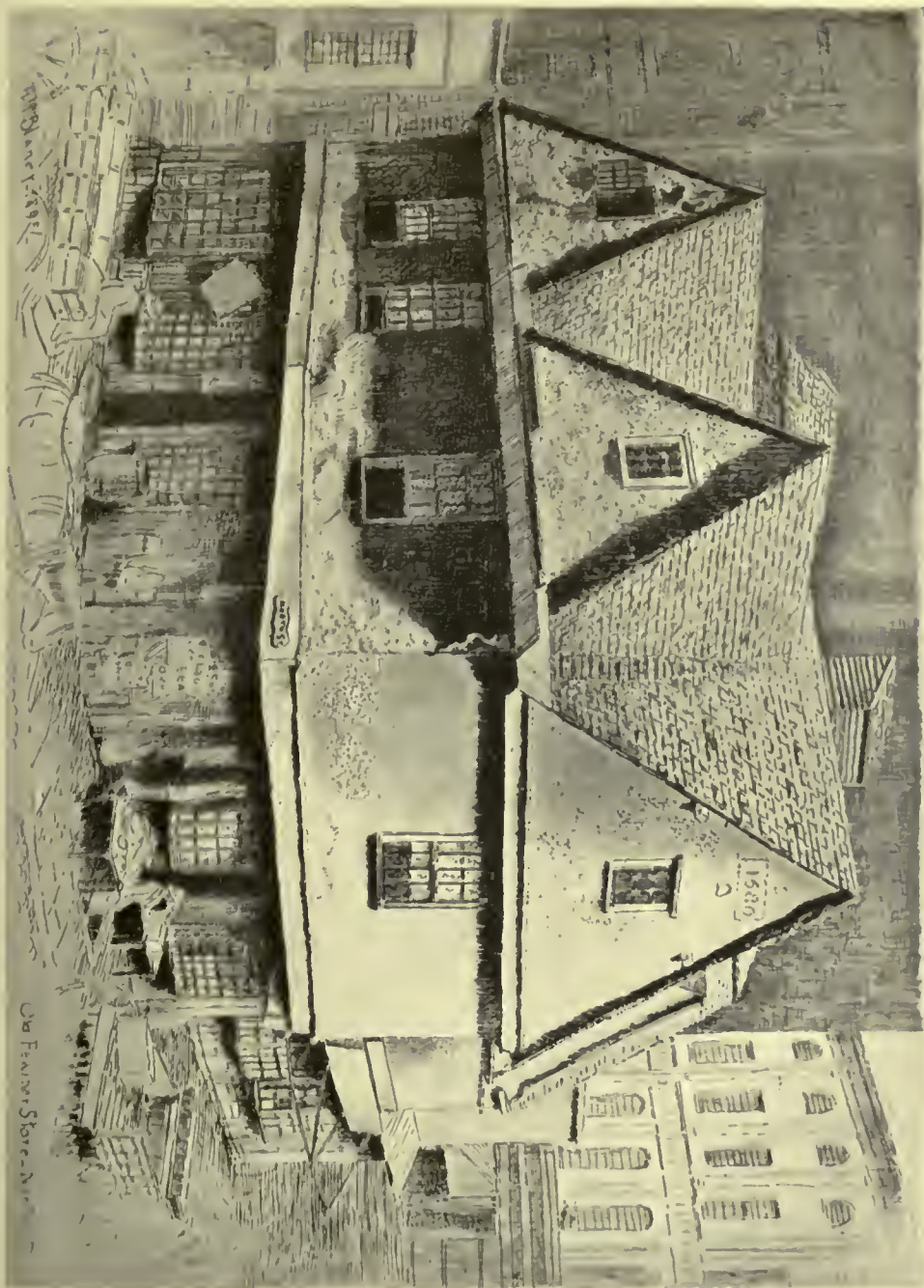


FANEUIL HALL

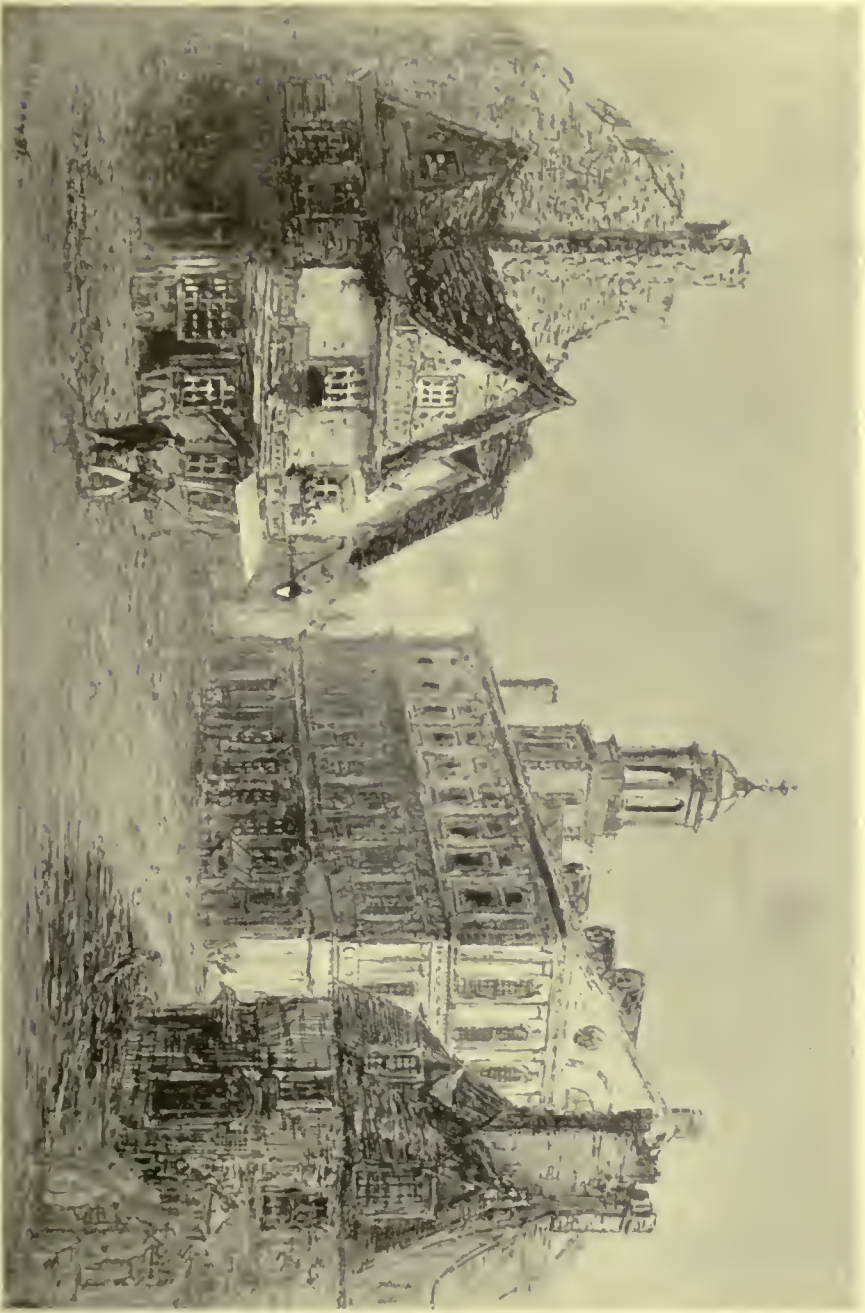
THE OLD FEATHER STORE

NORTH AND MARKET STREETS

ERECTED in 1680, and razed about 1860. It was considered the most picturesque building in this country, and should have been owned by the city, for the sake of its remarkable architecture, and kept as a reminder of the old order of things. The name given to it refers to the feathers and furniture kept there for sale; another name for it was the Cocked Hat. Built of heavy oak timbers, it was in excellent preservation when torn down. The front was covered with stucco mixed with fragments of glass. Faneuil Hall shows through on the right. The size of the building was thirty-two by seventeen feet, and two stories high.



OLD FEATHER STORE, NORTH STREET



OLD FEATHER STORE AND FANEUIL HALL.

THE PROVINCE HOUSE

PROVINCE COURT

THIS fine old building was built in 1679, and destroyed by fire in 1864. There are no photographs of it in existence; the etching was made from an engraving. For many years it was used as a residence by the royal governors, Shirley, Gage, Howe, and others. The weather-vane, representing an Indian about to shoot an arrow, is now in the collection at the Old State House. Sometime before it was destroyed by fire, it was used as an inn and boarding-house under the proprietorship of Mr. T. Wait.

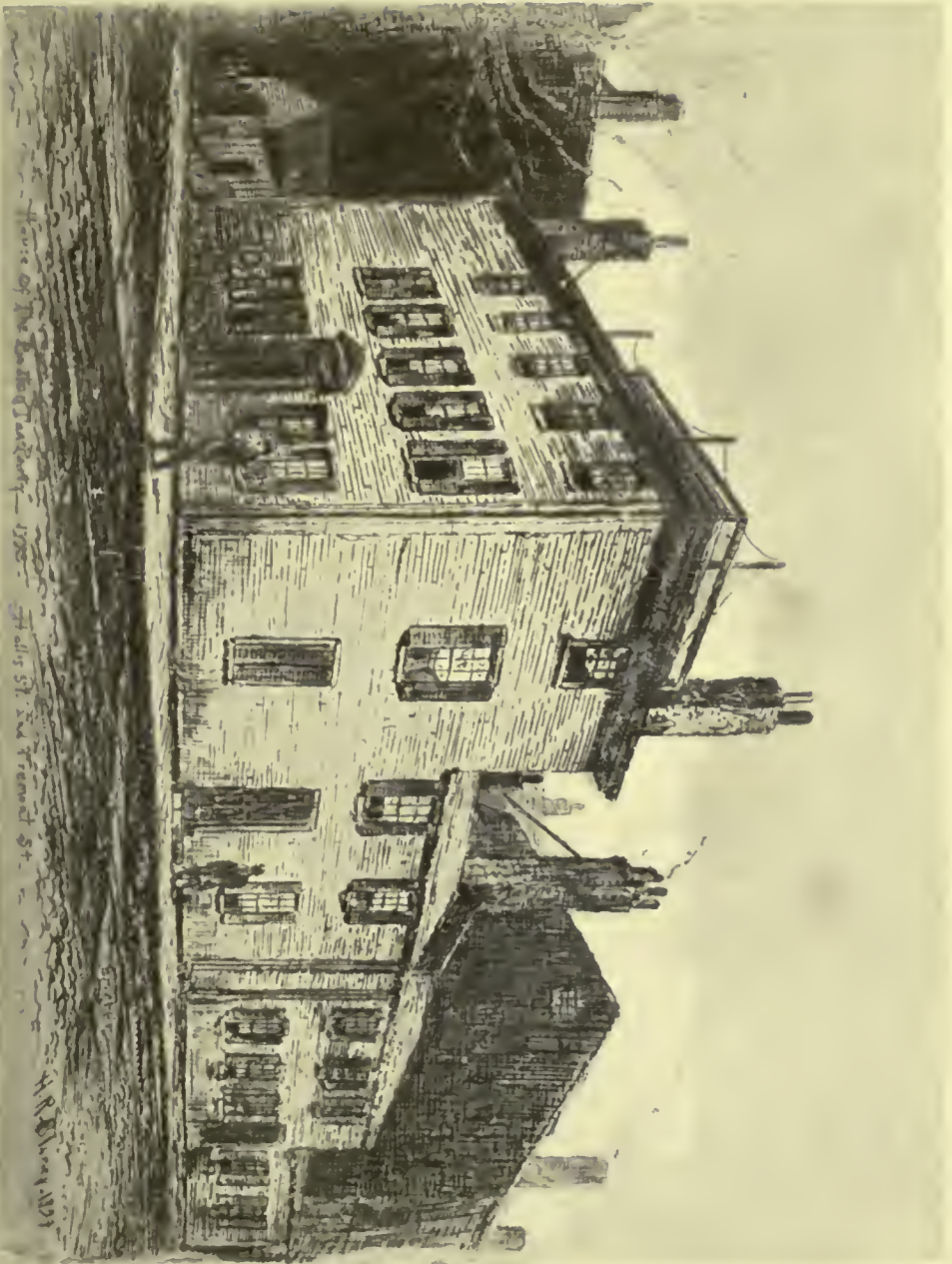


PROVINCE HOUSE

HOUSE OF BOSTON TEA-PARTY

HOLLIS AND TREMONT STREETS

THE preliminary meetings of the Boston Tea-Party of 1773 are supposed to have been held in this house. A number of other houses claim the honor, but this house has been more particularly marked out. The house was built about 1700, and consequently is nearly two hundred years old. A rather neat and tidy house this must have been during the Revolution; for it stood in the best residential quarter, with the cows pastured in front behind prim fences. It is wonderfully well preserved, and is the oldest house in this part of the city, with possibly one exception, which is directly across the way, on Tremont Street.



HOUSE OF THE BOSTON TEA-PARTY, HOLLIS AND TREMONT STREETS

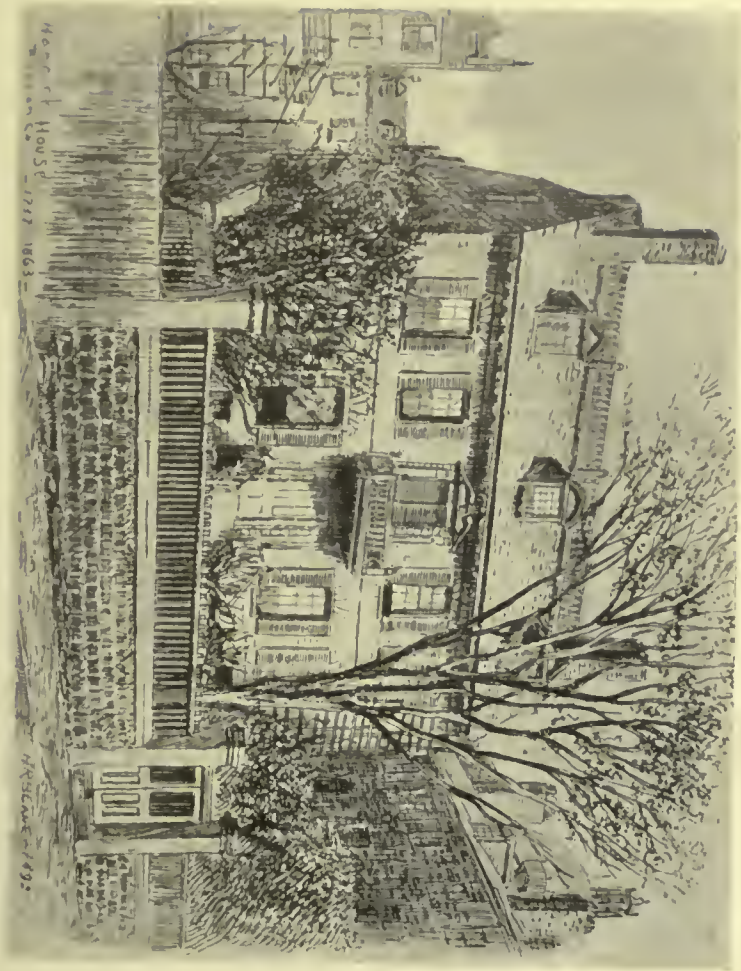
HANCOCK HOUSE

UNTIL the year 1863, near the State House, stood the mansion of the patriot John Hancock.

It stood on Beacon Street, fronting south, and presented a quaint and picturesque appearance, surrounded by trees, flowers, and shrubs.

It was built of hewn stone, and raised thirteen feet above the street, the ascent being through a garden. The front was fifty-six feet in breadth, and two stories high. In the time of Governor Hancock a hundred cows fed opposite the mansion, upon the Common, and in some Colonial blue plates that one can find to-day may be seen the house with several cows in front.

The east wing formed a spacious hall, and the west wing was used for domestic purposes. The State building at the World's Columbian Exposition was modelled after this unique residence. The etching from which this plate was made, was drawn from a print of a rare wet-plate negative, owned by the author. The tower of the State House is seen on the right.



HANCOCK HOUSE

LIBERTY TREE

THE tree stood at the south-east corner of Washington and Essex Streets.

The tree was felled by a party led by Job Williams, and it made fourteen cords of wood. A British soldier was killed at the time while trying to remove one of the limbs. A pole was fastened in the tree; and the remnants of the flag used in 1775 are said to be owned by H. C. Fernald, and have been exhibited in the Old South Loan Collection. On the stump which remained, a liberty pole was erected after the war, and this was replaced by another, July 2, 1826.

In 1833 Liberty Tree Tavern stood upon the spot. Andrew Oliver, British Stamp Distributer, was hung in effigy from this tree, Aug. 14, 1765, by a party of Boston mechanics called the "Sons of Liberty." After the effigies hung there a few days, they were burned by the patriots in front of Oliver's house on Fort Hill. The Liberty Tree marked the spot where many patriotic meetings were held antagonistic to the tax on tea by the British government. This end of Washington Street was formerly called Orange Street.



Corner of
- Elm and Orange St. N.Y.
- House built in 1788 -

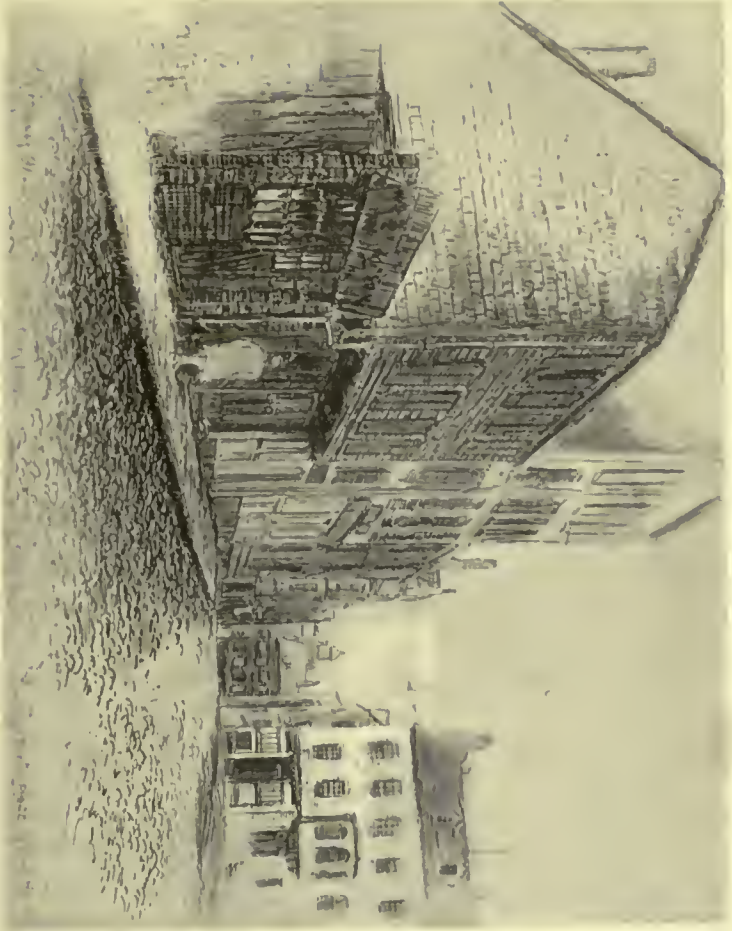
LIBERTY TREE

THE BIRTHPLACE OF PAUL REVERE

BUILT in 1676. The sketch was taken in 1891. Paul Revere was born here, and occupied the house for many years.

The house still stands, and is located in North Square off North Street. Since the sketch was made, the small store on the left has been demolished, and a large tenement erected. Paul Revere was a noted patriot and leader, encouraging resistance at all times against the iniquitous taxes of the British crown.

He was a copper-plate engraver and dealer in copper, and ranks high among the prominent Revolutionary heroes.



BIRTHPLACE OF PAUL REVERE

HOME
OF THE
REV. COTTON MATHER, D.D., F.R.S.
HANOVER STREET

PHOTOGRAPH taken in 1893.

Cotton Mather was a celebrated minister and writer, and a native of Boston; born Feb. 12, 1663. A man of unequalled industry, vast learning, and great benevolence; also distinguished for his credulity, pedantry, and want of judgment.

No person in America had so large a library, or had read so many books, or retained so much of what he had read. So precious did he consider his time that to prevent visits of unnecessary length, he wrote over his study door, "*Be short.*" He understood Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Spanish, and Iroquois, and wrote in them all. He died Feb. 13, 1727, aged sixty-five years. This building, where he lived as a boy, is now a Portuguese boarding-house.



HOME OF COTTON MATHER

THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH

It is situated on the corner of Washington and Milk Streets. Erected in 1730, it is still in fine preservation.

Joseph Warren delivered an oration on the Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770, in this building, and many exciting meetings were held within its walls. It was occupied at one time as a riding-school by the British troops. The meetings to resist the tax on tea were also held here. The first Old South Church was erected in 1669, where the present one now stands, and was removed on account of its decayed condition. In this church Benjamin Franklin worshipped and was baptized.



OLD SOUTH CHURCH

THE OLD NORTH CHURCH

CHRIST CHURCH, SALEM STREET

BUILT in 1723. The oldest church edifice in Boston. From the steeple Paul Revere's signal lanterns were displayed on the eve of the battle of Lexington. The communion service was presented by King George II. in 1733. A beautiful chime of bells hangs in the belfry, which has lately been put in perfect order, and is rung in the old-time fashion by bell-ringers. The bells date from 1744. Every year thousands of pilgrims from the West and South visit this centre of Revolutionary activity.

A tablet was placed on its front, Oct. 17, 1878, with this inscription:—

“THE SIGNAL LANTERNS OF PAUL REVERE
DISPLAYED IN THE STEEPLE OF THIS CHURCH, APRIL 18, 1775,
WARNED THE COUNTRY OF THE MARCH OF
THE BRITISH TROOPS TO LEXINGTON AND CONCORD.”

The original spire was overthrown in the great gale of 1804; a new one, built by Chas. Bulfinch, preserves the original lines of the old spire.



OLD NORTH CHURCH

THE "OLD BRICK" CHURCH

ETCHED from an old engraving. This building stood from the year 1713 to 1808. It was three stories high, and was built of brick. It was afterwards known as the "Old Brick," the regular name for the congregation being the First Church. It stood formerly where "Joy's" building now is, corner of Court and Washington Streets. A clock was attached to the centre of the roof, and there was a large belfry. How much one envies and condemns the citizens who lived in those times! They saw many curious buildings, but lacked the ability or interest to perpetuate them by engraving or etching; yet Rembrandt had been dead for nearly two centuries at that time, and great knowledge existed in Europe of the art of engraving.



"Old Brick" Church - Washington St. - 1713 -

OLD BRICK CHURCH

LAMB TAVERN.

THIS little tavern stood formerly upon the site of the present Adams House, Washington Street, and for more than fifty years was kept by Mr. Laban Adams. The Lion Tavern was near by. In Drake's "Landmarks," page 392, it says, "mention is made of this tavern as early as 1746." The first stage-coach to Providence started from here in 1767. Its sign was struck by a shot from the American lines during the siege of Boston. Joel Crosby kept the tavern until 1808. Laban Adams pulled it down in 1845, and opened the old Adams house on the same spot in 1846. The building was built of wood, and the addition in the rear, which contained the dining-room, was built of brick, in 1822.



LAMB TAVERN

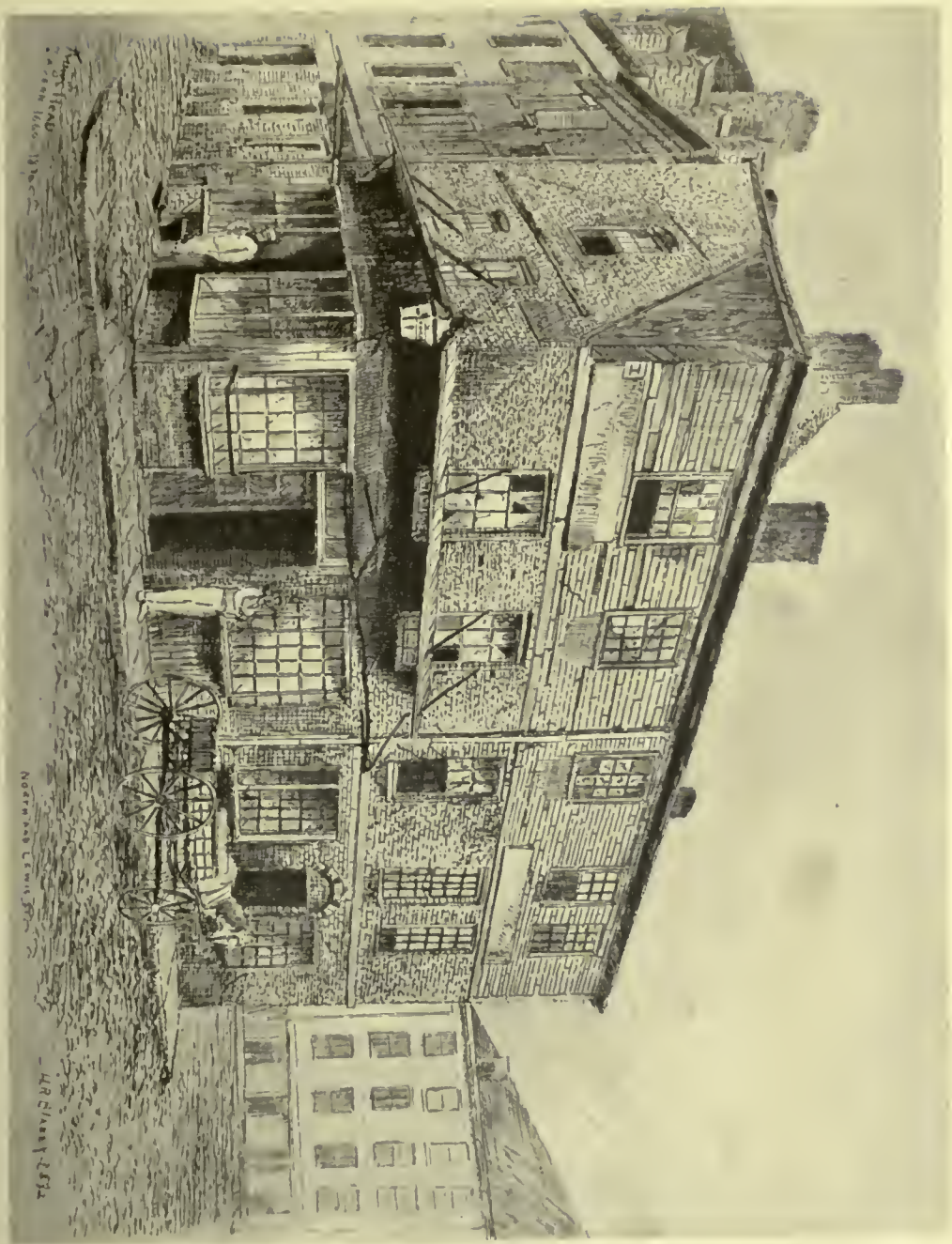
KING'S HEAD TAVERN

THIS building was built in 1691. The etching was drawn from a wet plate negative taken in 1855, now owned by the author.

It stood on the corner of Fleet and North Streets, near Scarlett's Wharf.

Other taverns stood near it; notably, The Ship Tavern, 1650-1866; and The Red Lyon, 1654.

When Josselyn made his second voyage to New England in 1663, he landed in Boston, and "having gratified the men," he writes, who rowed him ashore, "we repaired to an ordinary (for so they call their Taverns there) where we were provided with a liberal cup of burnt Madeira wine, and store of plum-cake." In 1647, "upon complaint of great disorder that hath been observed, and is like further to increase by the use of the game called shovel-board in houses of common entertainment, whereby much precious time is spent unfruitfully and much waste of wine and beer occasioned thereby," the use of it is forbidden at inns.



KING'S HEAD TAVERN, NORTH AND LEWIS STREETS

King's Head
Tavern
1850

North and Lewis Streets

W. S. W. 1852

THE GREEN DRAGON TAVERN

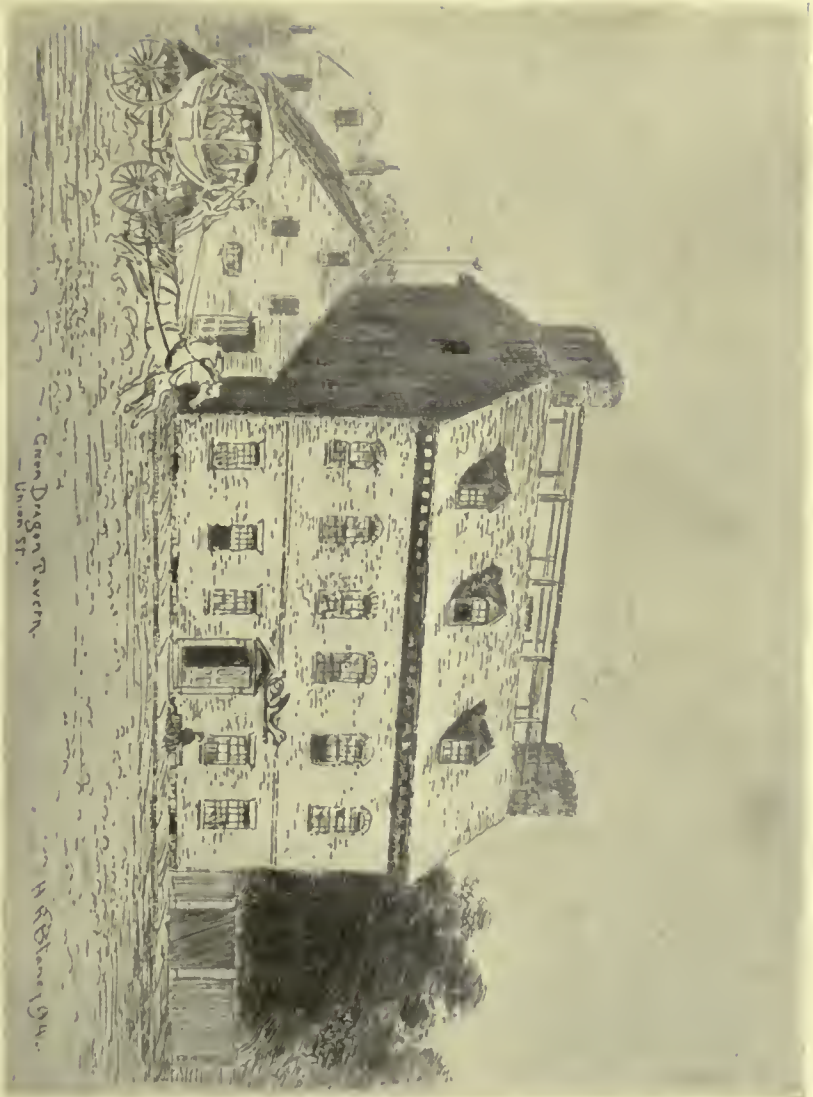
UNION STREET

A HANDSOME tablet is inserted in the wall of the present building, now located on the spot on which stood this noted building.

Here met the Revolutionary patriots (Paul Revere and others) who were agitating secession from England, and, as a preliminary, the abolition of the tea taxes.

It was also the first headquarters of the Masonic fraternity, and the property is still owned by the St. Andrew's Lodge of Freemasons. The building was a two-story brick building with a pitch roof, but of greater elevation in the rear; and over the entrance an iron rod projected, and upon it was crouched the copper dragon which was the tavern's sign. It was probably selected as a meeting-place by the patriots of the Revolution because Warren was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons, who had their quarters here.

Paul Revere records how he was one of upwards of thirty men, chiefly mechanics, who banded together to keep watch on the British designs in 1774, 1775, and met here. The old building disappeared in October, 1828, when the street was widened. — SHURTLEFF, *Description of Boston*, p. 605.



Green Dragon Tavern.
Union St.

H. B. Brown 1914.

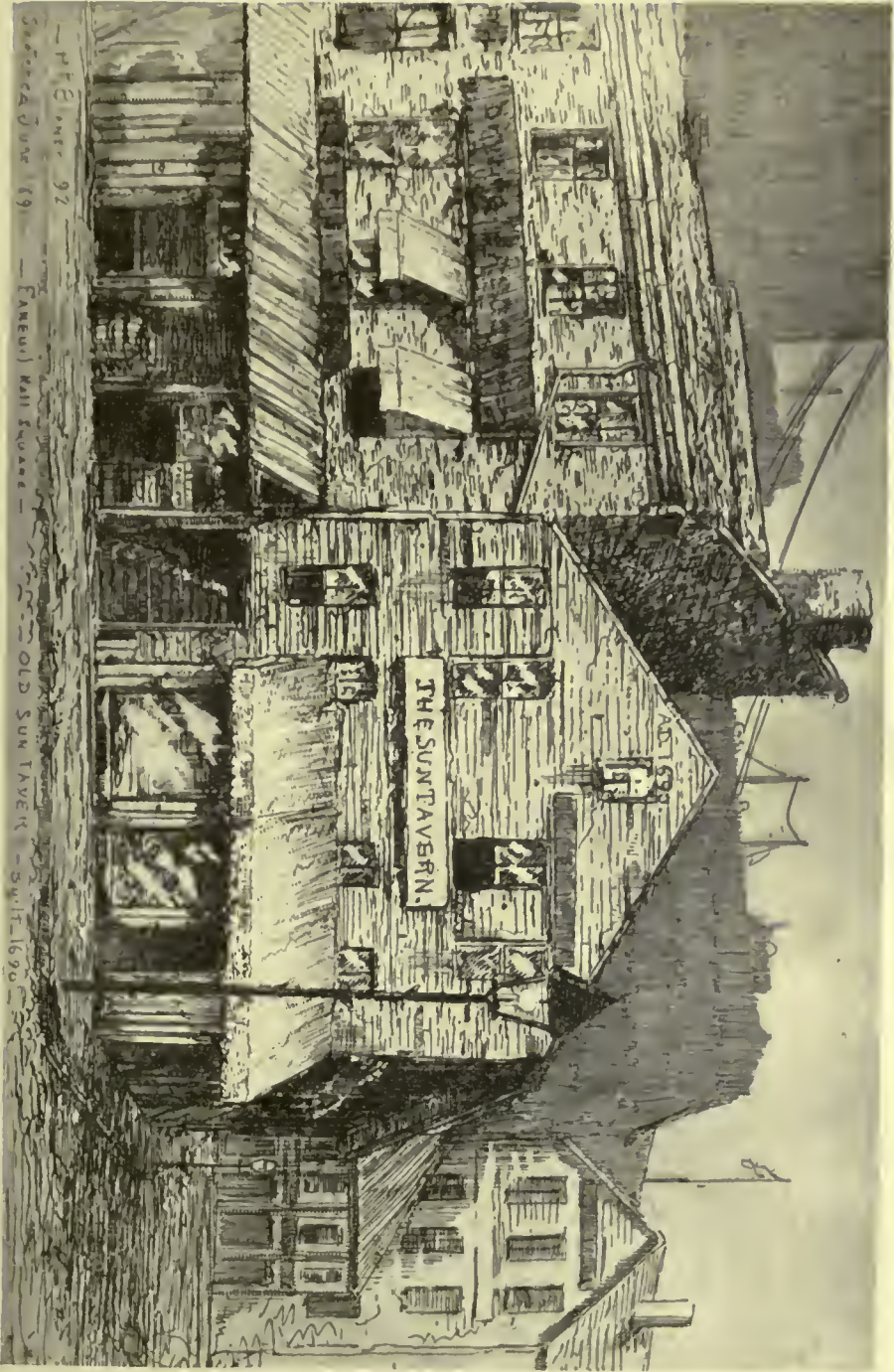
GREEN DRAGON TAVERN

THE SUN TAVERN

THIS building still stands; built 1690, in Faneuil Hall Square.

James Day kept this tavern in 1753. When the stage coaches ran regularly to Portsmouth, this was a famous centre for them; and many a choice dinner was given here in the past to royal visitors.

The tavern is built of wood; and a barber-shop and dining-saloon occupy the second floor, a fish-dealer the street floor. It will not last many years; the building will soon no doubt be removed for lordly sky-scrapers, and the memories of old coaching-days will depart forever. To the author, the decay and passing by of these old structures has been a great grief; but perhaps the etchings and this book will still keep their memory green in the minds of all good Bostonians and lovers of Revolutionary history.



— Pl. Engr. 92 —
— Faneuil Hall Square —

— OLD SUN TAVERN —

— built 1690 —

SUN TAVERN, FANEUIL HALL SQUARE

CITY HOTEL

A HALF-TONE reproduction of a photograph taken in 1860. The City Hotel stood until 1868, or thereabouts, on the north side of Brattle Street, about where Messrs. Leopold Morse & Co's store now stands. It was a well-known headquarters for the northern stage-coaches in its day, and was about on a par with the Old Bromfield House, of pleasant memory to the writer. In the distance, on the left, is a rear view of the Old Brattle-street Church, in whose walls stuck for nearly one hundred years a cannon-ball fired by the American troops during the Revolutionary War. The old house has a worn and draggled appearance, and at the date when the photograph was taken was no doubt at the end of its usefulness.



CITY HOTEL

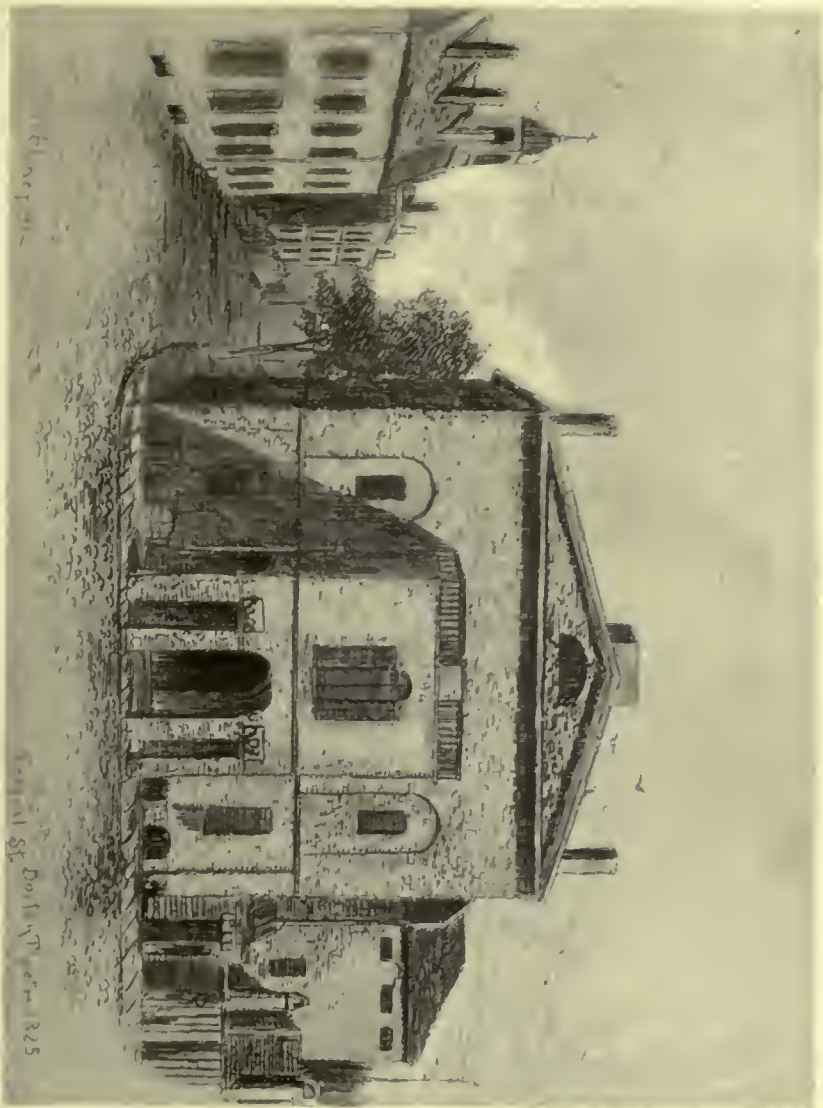
THE OLD BOSTON THEATRE

REPRODUCED from engraving dated 1825. Erected in 1794 on the corner of Franklin and Federal Streets, where Jones, McDuffee, and Stratton's building now stands.

On the left is shown the tower of the Catholic Cathedral, built 1813, corner of Franklin and Devonshire Streets. The theatre building was torn down before the introduction of photography, so nothing but a few engravings can be found to-day, that give only a dim idea of this quaint building.

It was first opened Feb. 3, 1794, with the tragedy of Gustavus Vasa Erickson, the deliverer of Sweden, under the management of Mr. Charles Stewart Powell. It was burned Feb. 2, 1798, immediately rebuilt, and reopened Oct. 29 the same year.

It contained three rows of boxes, and the receipts were usually in the neighborhood of twelve hundred dollars a night.



OLD BOSTON THEATRE

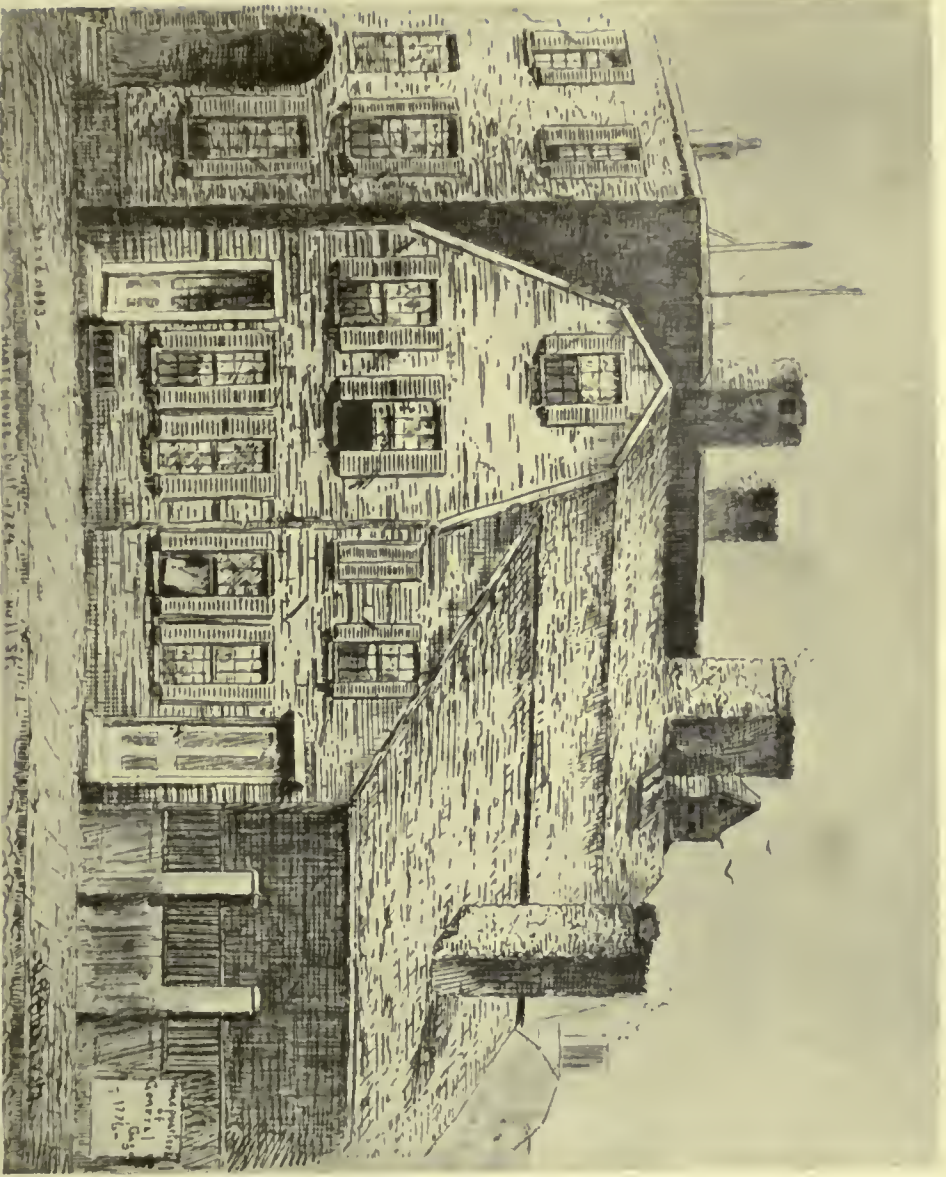
HARTT HOUSE

HULL STREET.

THIS building, numbered 26 Hull Street, was built A.D. 1724, and was the headquarters of General Gage during the battle of Bunker Hill.

Razed July, 1893. The artist's sketch was luckily taken a month previous. Photographs of this building may be found; but they do not show the side view of the roof, nor the quaint chimneys.

The house faced Copps Hill burying-ground. A strong battery of artillery was placed opposite in the burying-ground, which bombarded the Americans at the battle of Bunker Hill.



HARTT HOUSE, HULL STREET

NEWMAN HOUSE

THIS house, which stood on the corner of Sheafe and Salem Streets, was the home of the sexton of the Old North Church; his name was Robert Newman. It is claimed by many that he was the one who was designated by Paul Revere to show the signal lanterns in the tower as a warning to the Americans that the British had determined to march upon Lexington for the purpose of destroying the stores placed there by the Revolutionists. It is said that he returned to his home safely after performing this act; and that the British soldiers, searching for the perpetrator, suspected him, but upon entering his room found him in bed.

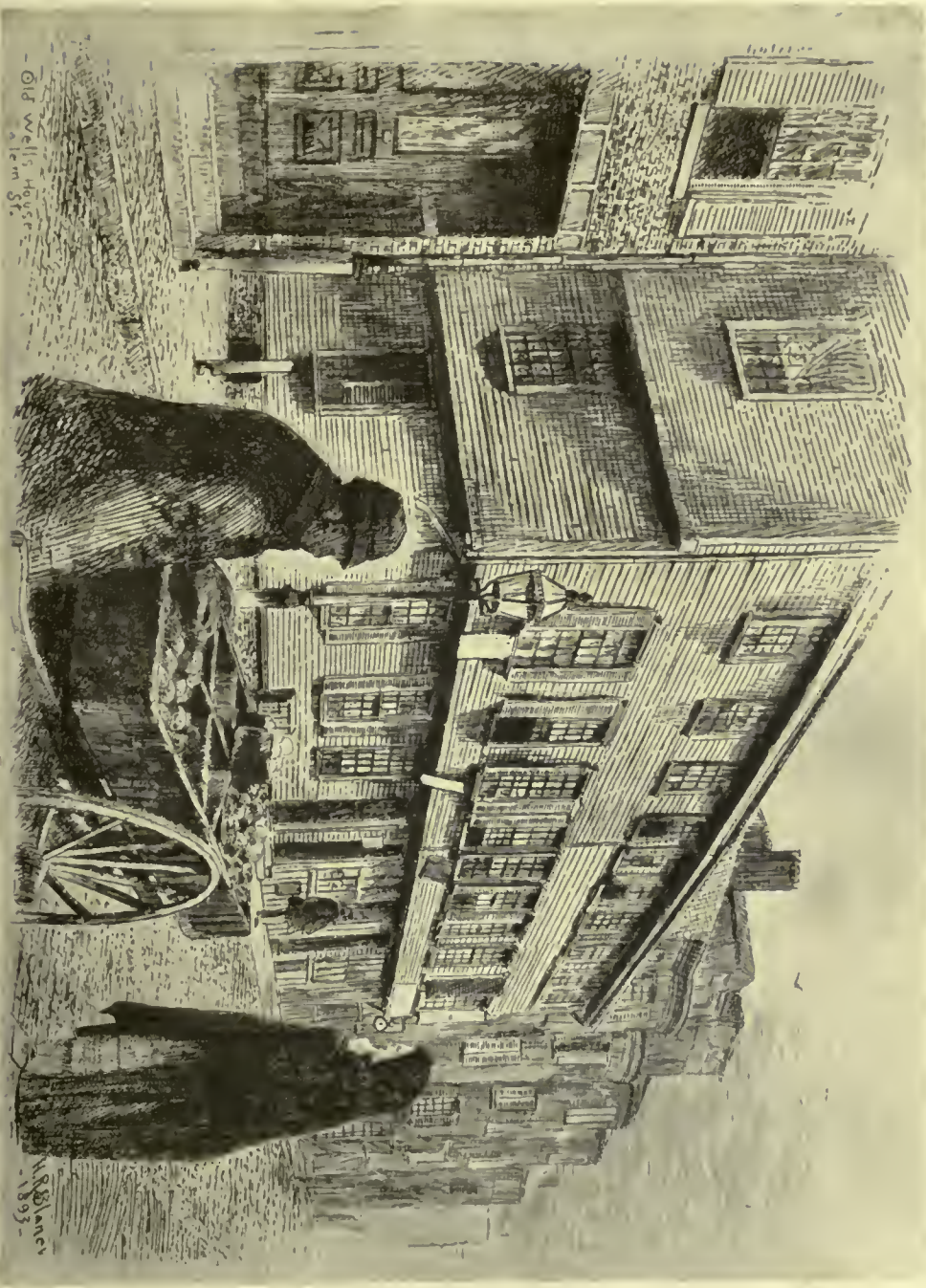


NEWMAN HOUSE, SHEAFE AND SALEM STREETS

OLD WELLS HOUSE

SALEM STREET

RAZED June, 1894. Built in 1650. The only example of what is called double overhang that came down to our day. Situated on the corner of Elmer Place and Salem Street, it imparted a decidedly antique appearance to the quarter; and a view of the old stack of chimneys from the rear was most remarkable. The overhang was given to the building (according to some authorities) to preserve the walls from rotting—the drip of the rain falling clear; to others, it was made to enable the guards to cover the doors and windows in case of an attack from Indians.



WELLS HOUSE, SALEM STREET

Old Wells House -
112m St.

W. B. Bancroft
1895

STODDARD HOUSE

130 PRINCE STREET

USED during the battle of Bunker Hill as a hospital by the British troops.

Major Pitcairn was taken to this house after the battle, and died there of his wounds.

The old house still stands, in 1895, but has lost some of its quaintness, having been painted and overhauled generally. The etching was made in 1892 from a pencil sketch of 1890. Major Pitcairn was shot by a negro named Peter Salem while scaling the redoubt at Bunker Hill, and fell back into the arms of his son. He was brought over the ferry to Mr. Stoddard's house, and there bled to death. His remains were placed under Christ Church, Salem Street.



STODDARD HOUSE, PRINCE STREET

GREENWOOD HOUSE

SALUTATION STREET

THE etching of this building was made from a pencil-sketch taken in 1894. It is still standing. On the right-hand side of Salutation Street, going from Hanover Street, your attention is attracted by the enormous high stack of chimneys, towering above the flat and narrow roof. The windows are picked in, as it were, at random seemingly; but there was, no doubt, reason for their madness, possibly to allow for the passage of the chimneys. The old house, which was built in the year 1650, has a bad joint in its front wall to accommodate the winding alley perhaps in old times; and the heavy stone post, which used to guard the house from wagon-wheels when there was no sidewalk, now complacently blocks the sidewalk of modern Boston. It is one of the oldest houses in the north end of the city now standing; there is hardly another older to be found.

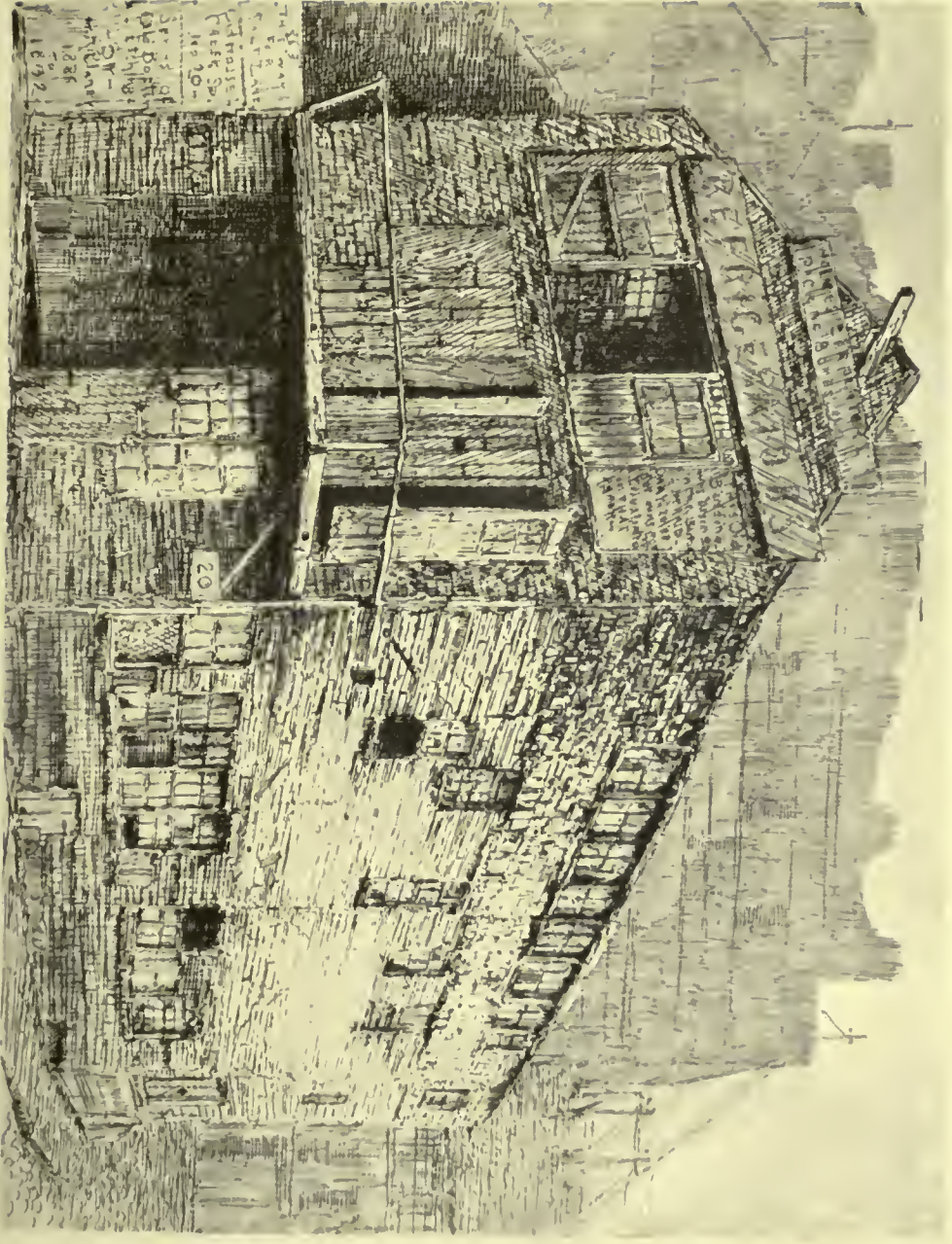


GREENWOOD HOUSE, SALUTATION STREET

OLD HOUSE, CREEK SQUARE

IT will be hard to find this old rattletrap of a building; for it is in Creek Square, which leads out of Salt Lane, which leads nowhere in particular, unless you somehow find yourself in Union Street, or Hanover Street, or Salem Street, or two or three other places besides, without knowing exactly how you did it. The old building has been rejuvenated, and painted and powdered out of all recognition since 1890. At that time, as you will notice in the half-tone reproduction of the original etching, the windows had a remarkable arrangement on the side of the building, and had not been touched from the earliest times, the old clapboards and shingles of Revolutionary times still adhering here and there, and largely revealing the underlining. It had a three-sided effect on the southern side, with numerous cracks and evidences of extreme old age.

It has never been illustrated before, and should any one desire to study this queer effort of some old-time architect, he will find it well painted and rejuvenated; for the frame was well made in the first place, however careless the owners might have been in modern times. I cannot find any special information in relation to this building anywhere. It was nothing more than the modest home of some cordwainer or grocer.

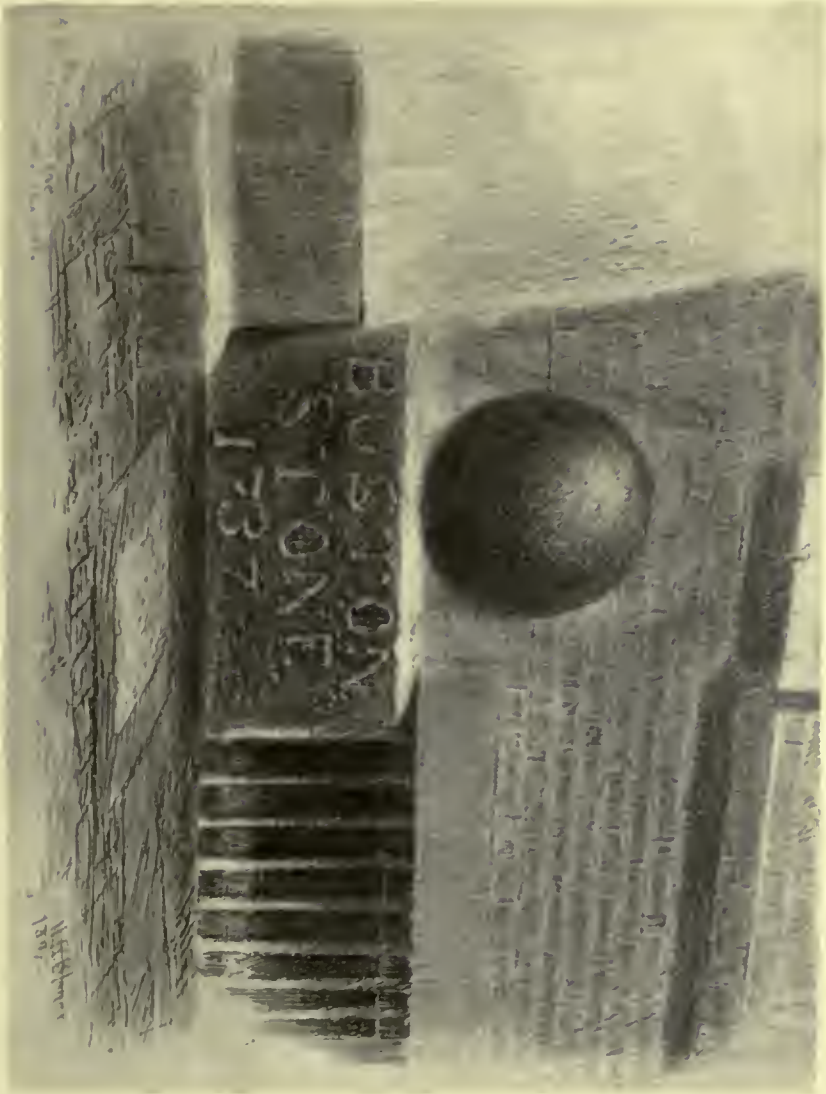


OLD HOUSE, GREEN SQUARE

THE BOSTON STONE

It is inserted in the wall near the corner of Marshall Street and Hanover Street, and dates from 1737. It is supposed to be a paint-muller used by the early settlers of Boston.

It was named after the famous London Stone which marked the centre of business for that great city. It is not easy to find to-day, only the oldest of our citizens keeping it in friendly remembrance.



THE BOSTON STONE

W. H. P. 1891

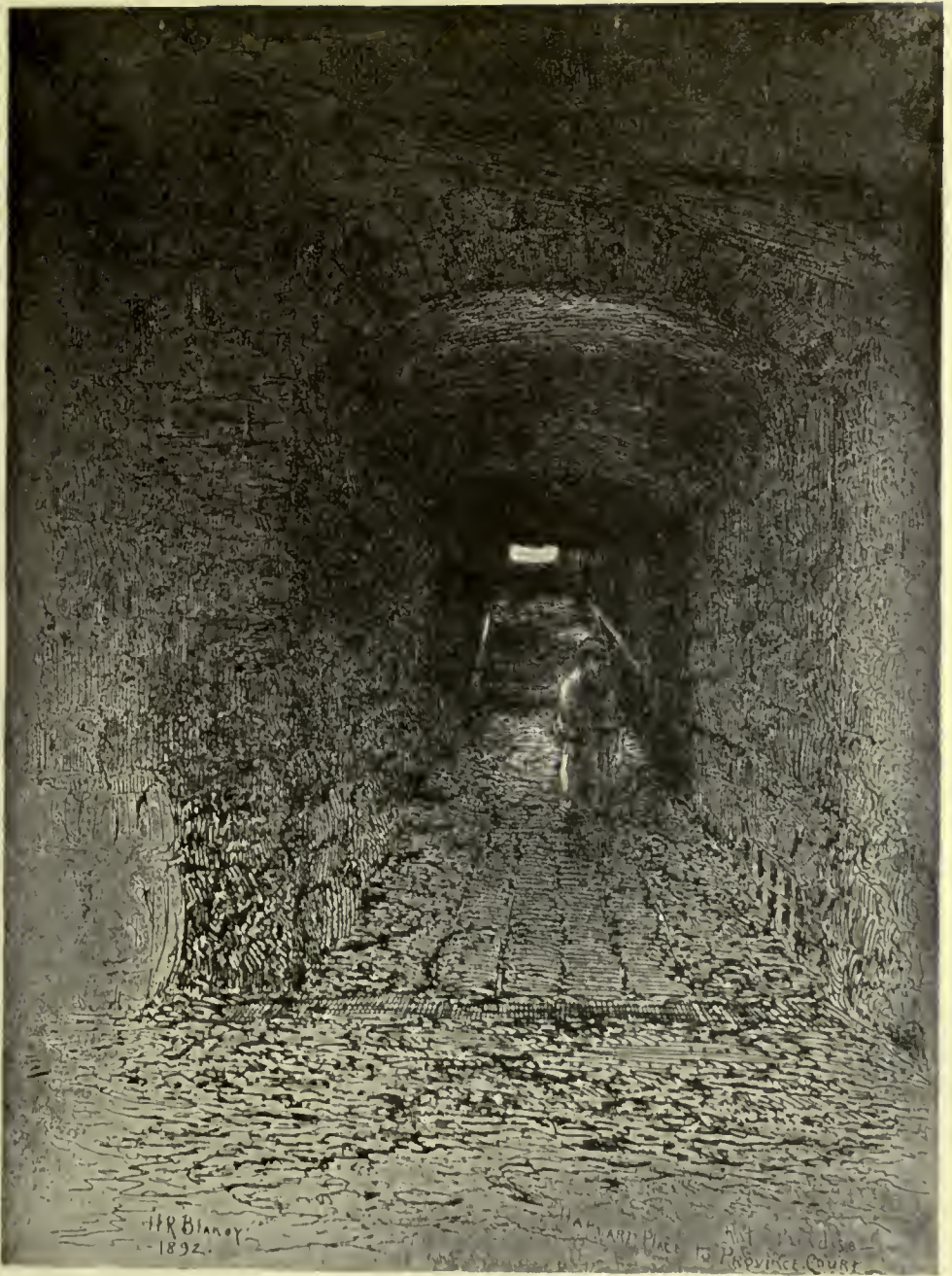
RATS' PARADISE

PROVINCE COURT

RUNNING from Province Court to Harvard Place, down under the foundations of enormous buildings, you may yet find this old Revolutionary passage. It is about two hundred feet long, ten feet high, and five feet wide.

Passing along Province Court on the north side, half-way down, you find a doorway leading into darkness and gloom ; not a ray of light to be seen. As you grope your way amid groaning of hidden machinery above, and the squeak of rats below, it gives a pleasing variety to the usual sounds lately heard in the streets you have just left.

The view is looking south towards the entrance on Province Court.



RATS' PARADISE, PROVINCE COURT

OLD HOUSES

RICHMOND STREET

HALF-TONE from a photograph taken by the author in 1894. The rarity of any gambrel-roofed houses in Boston to-day led the writer to photograph these two fine specimens of Colonial architecture. They have not been illustrated before, and are hard to find, as they are lost in a dirty desert of squalid tenements between Salem and North Streets.



OLD HOUSES, RICHMOND STREET

BENDALL'S LANE

AN old passageway leading from Salem Street to Faneuil Hall Square, showing the tower of Faneuil Hall, on which is the famous grasshopper weather-vane. This lively insect was reproduced from the coat-of-arms of Peter Faneuil. The wooden building on the right has just been torn down at the moment of writing. There is a story current, that some years ago repairs were found necessary for the weather-vane, and that the workmen found a bottle of Medford rum inside the body of the grasshopper. It is too good to be true, I fear; I won't vouch for it. The passageway dates from the earliest times, and is the oldest alley in the city.

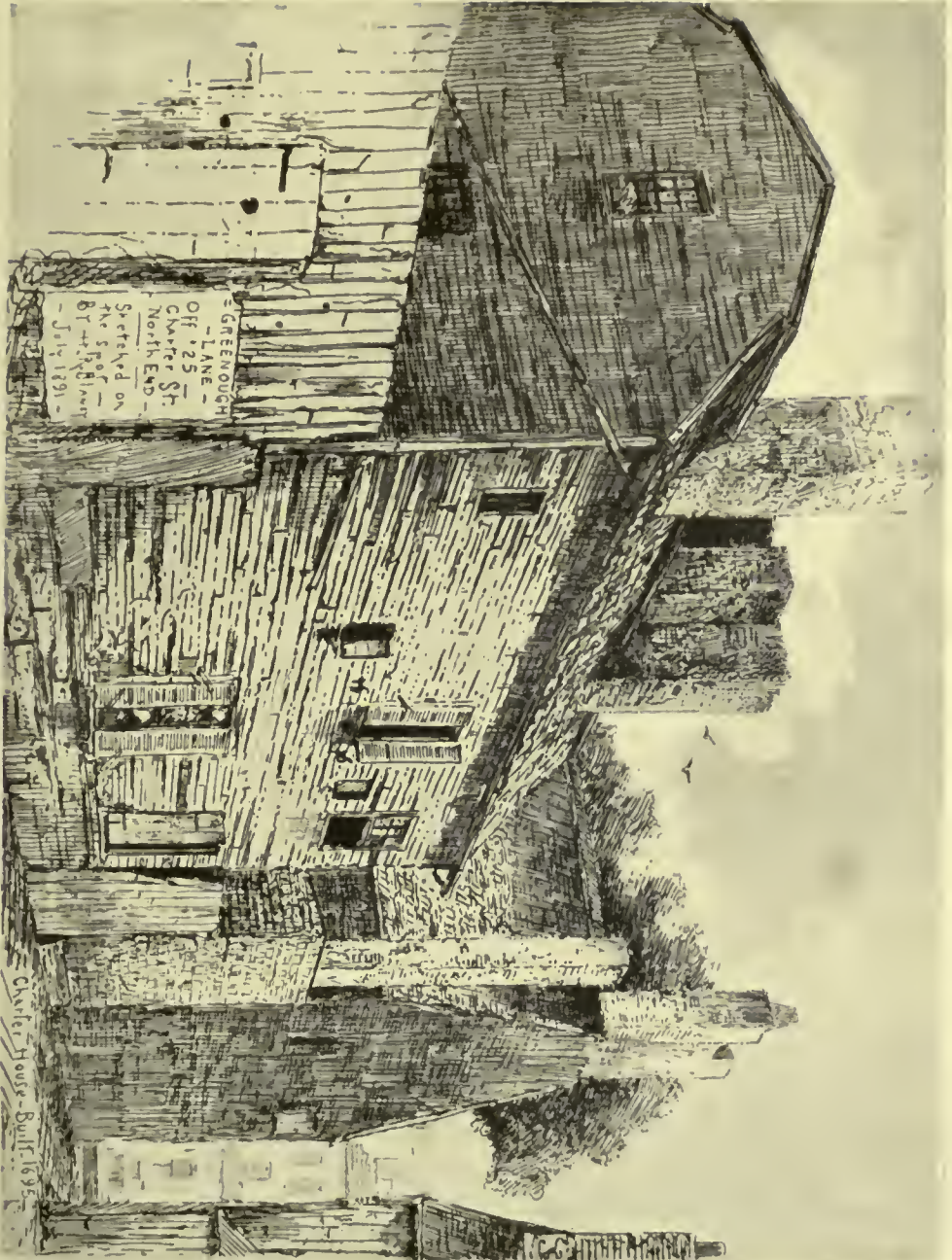


BENDALL'S LANE

GREENOUGH LANE

A VERY old passageway leading into Charter Street, North End.
From a pencil sketch made in July, 1891.

The lane is still the same as ever, and retains more examples of Colonial gambrel roofs, all in excellent preservation, than any other locality. The Charter House, built 1685, still stands on the corner as seen in the sketch.



GREENOUGH
LANE
OFF. 25 -
Charles St.
North End.

Sketched on
the spot
by
- July 1891 -

Charles House - Built 1695

GREENOUGH LANE

ELMER PLACE

ELMER PLACE still exists, but the curious old-fashioned effect which appeared as one looked towards Salem Street has vanished.

The Wells House, the end of which is shown on the left, was demolished a year ago last July to make place for a large tenement. Elmer Place was the home of numerous Russian Jews and Hungarians, whose numberless progeny swarmed upon the brick pavement of the court which was in Revolutionary times a part of the garden of the old mansion. The double overhang on the Wells House was exceedingly rare; for many years this example, I think, was the only one in Boston, and I know of none at present in the city proper.

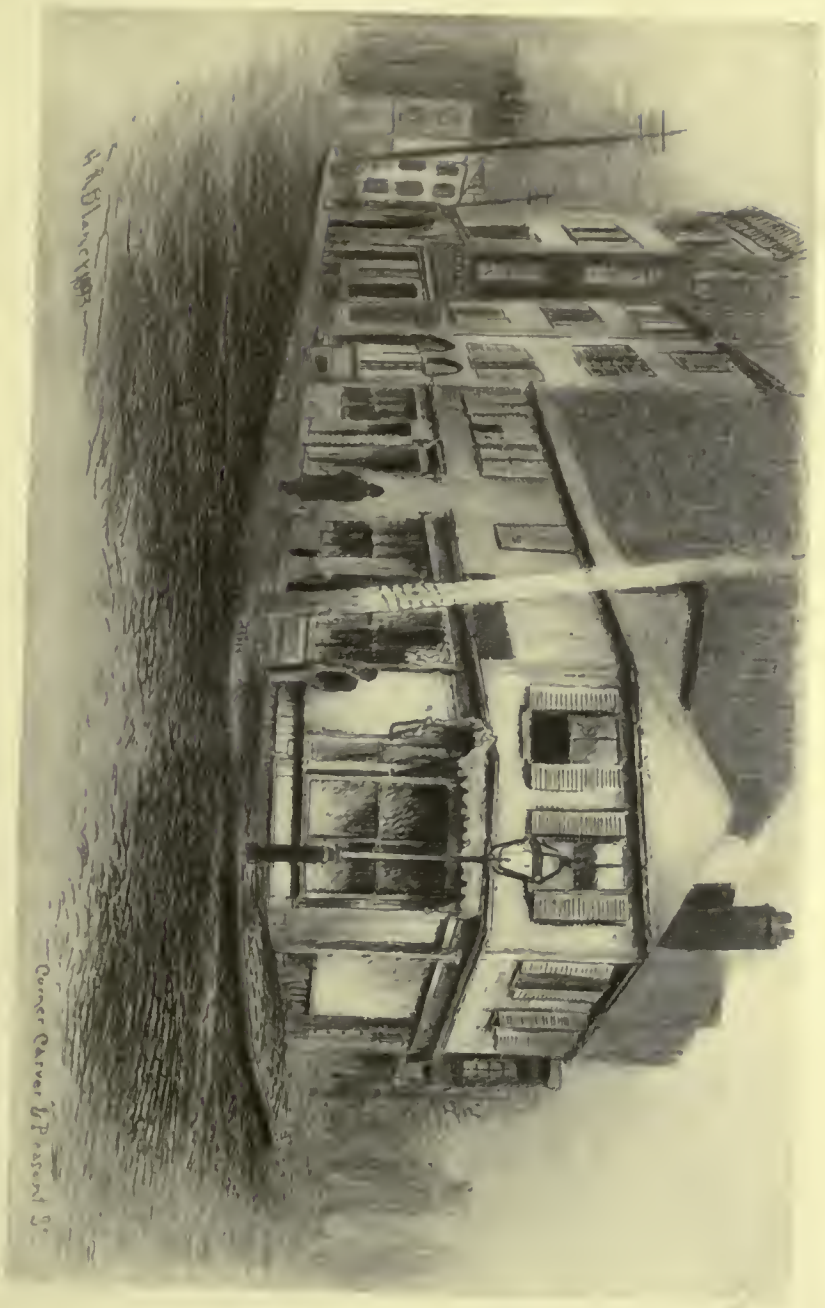


ELMER PLACE

OLD CORNER

CARVER AND PLEASANT STREETS

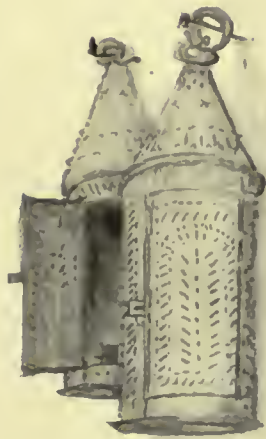
QUAINT and curious is this rare example of Old Boston. It is well remembered by old inhabitants of the past of this quarter, for the locality was very fashionable and retired between the years 1840 and 1865. The view to the right is Carver Street ; the other street is Pleasant Street. There is nothing historical about this building, but the picturesqueness of its lines attracted the etcher's notice.



St. Blanche

OLD CORNER, CARVER AND PLEASANT STREETS

Corner Carver & Pleasant St.



PAUL REVERE LANTERNS

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