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**VIEWS**

FROM THE

CUPOLA OF THE STATE HOUSE,

**BOSTON, MASS.**

WITH

A MAP OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

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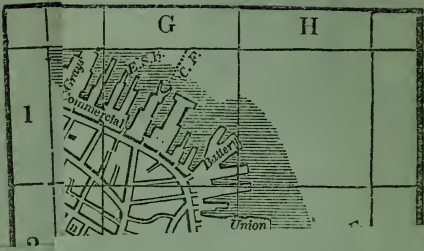


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Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1848, by GEORGE R. HOLNOR & Co., in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Massachusetts.





# ✓ GUIDE-BOOK

FOR

STRANGERS VISITING THE CUPOLA

OF THE

# STATE-HOUSE,

IN BOSTON,

Intended to enable those not acquainted with localities, the better to find the principal objects that are in sight.

WITH A MAP OF BOSTON.

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BOSTON:

WRIGHT & HASTY'S STEAM PRESS ESTABLISHMENT,  
No. 3 Water Street.

1851.

W. F. H.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1848,  
By EMERY N. MOORE,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Massachusetts.

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# INTRODUCTION.

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BEFORE the year 1800, the Legislature of Massachusetts held its session in the building at the head of State Street, where the Post Office was recently located. This present building was commenced in 1795, on land formerly belonging to Governor Hancock on Beacon Hill, and fronting the Common; the cost of the



land at that time being twenty thousand dollars. The corner stone was drawn to the place by fifteen white horses—fifteen being then the number of States in the Union — and laid with Masonic honors, by Samuel Adams, at that time Governor of Massachusetts. The dome is fifty feet in diameter, and 30 feet in height.

The ascent to the dome is by a winding staircase of one hundred and sixty-eight steps. In the lower story is a fine Statue of Washington, by Chantry, a celebrated English sculptor, the cost of which exceeded \$ 15,000. Near the back door are four large slabs taken from a monument, which was erected in the year 1789, on the ground a little to the N. E. of the State House. It was 60 feet high and 4 feet in diameter. On the pedestal were inscriptions commemorating important events as follows :

# INSCRIPTIONS

## ON THE OLD MONUMENT ON BEACON HILL.

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“To commemorate that train of events which led to the American Revolution, and finally secured Liberty and Independence to the United States, this column is erected by the voluntary contribution of the citizens of Boston, MDCCXC.

“Stamp Act passed, 1765,—Repealed, 1766. Board of Customs established, 1767. British troops fired upon the inhabitants of Boston, March 5, 1770. Tea Act passed, 1773. Tea destroyed in Boston, Dec. 16. Port of Boston shut and guarded, June 1, 1774. General Congress at Philadelphia, Sept. 4. Provincial Congress at Concord, Oct. 11. Battle of Lexington, April 19 1775. Battle of Bunker’s Hill, June 17. Washington took command of the Army, July 2.—Boston evacuated March 17, 1776. Independence declared by Congress, July 4, 1776—Hancock, President. Capture of Hessians at Trenton Dec. 26. Capture of Hessians, at Bennington. August 16, 1777. Capture of British Army at Saratoga, Oct. 17, 1777. Alliance with France, Feb. 6, 1778. Confederation of United States formed, July 9. Constitution of Massachusetts formed, 1780,—Bowdoin, President of the Convention. Capture of the British Army at York, Oct. 19, 1781. Preliminaries of Peace, Nov. 30, 1782. Definitive Treaty of Peace, Sept. 10, 1783. Federal Constitution formed, Sept. 17, 1787, and ratified by the United States, 1787 to 1790. New Congress assembled at New York, April 16, 1789. Washington Inaugurated President, April 30. Public Debts funded, August 4, 1790.

“Americans! while from this eminence, scenes of luxuriant fertility, of flourishing commerce, and the abodes of social happiness, meet your view, forget not those who, by their exertions, have secured to you these blessings.”

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*See pages 20 to 24 for a full description of the State House.*

# VIEWS FROM THE CUPOLA.

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## NORTH WINDOW.

ON the left is Cambridgeport, with Old Cambridge in the distance. Harvard University is in this town, but cannot be distinctly pointed out. To the right of Cambridgeport, is East Cambridge, with its extensive Glass Works, which can be distinguished by the tall chimney. Beyond, and a little to the left of East Cambridge, is seen the town of West Cambridge.— Directly in the range of the Glass Works, is the McLean Hospital, for the Insane, (located in Somerville,) which is a department of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and was opened for the reception of patients in 1817. All the patients are placed here by their friends, and a weekly price paid, varying from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per week. Somerville is the village seen to the left, and partly on a hill which is “ Winter Hill ;” this eminence served as a protection to the Americans, in their retreat from Bunker Hill, and cannon shot are frequently dug out of the sides. To the right of the Hospital, (in the distance,) stand the ruins of the Ursuline Convent, on Mount Benedict. This Convent was burnt in the month of August, 1834. Directly beyond the ruins is seen the town of Medford, famous for its ship building. Malden is the town seen beyond, and to the left of the Monument. Let the eye cross the water (which is a part of Charles River) directly east of the Glass Works, to where stands the Massachusetts State Prison, which is a

cluster of granite buildings, situated in Charlestown. The principal objects in that town to interest a stranger, are Bunker Hill Monument, and the Navy Yard. The former was begun in 1824, (the corner stone being laid by Lafayette,) and after encountering numerous obstacles, was completed in 1842; it is two hundred and twenty feet high, and stands upon the battle field of the first important conflict of the Revolution; strangers visiting the neighborhood, should not fail of paying a visit to this consecrated ground. The Navy Yard is to the right of the Monument, and can be easily distinguished by its Ship Houses, under which stand some of the largest ships of the American Navy. This Naval Depot is worthy of especial notice, and cannot fail to repay a visit. Its stupendous specimens of naval architecture; its massive Dry Dock, (where ships of the largest class can be repaired,) with its Steam Pumps attached; together with its Park of Artillery, Rope Walk, etc., are well worthy of inspection. In the back ground of the Navy Yard, is the town of Chelsea. In this town are located the Marine and Naval Hospitals, belonging to the United States. The former is for the reception of seamen of the Mercantile Navy, and the latter is intended for seamen and others, belonging to the United States Navy; it is the large granite building, seen a little distance from the left of the farther end of the Bridge. The Marine Hospital is situated some distance to the right of the Bridge. To the right of the town of Chelsea, in the distance, is Lynn. In Boston, on the left, the most prominent object which strikes the eye, is a large granite building, which is the Massachusetts General Hospital, the left wing of which has been erected within the past year. The funds for that purpose, (about \$60,000,) were subscribed by a few benevolent individuals of this city, the object being to afford more opportunity for free beds, for poor people. The large brick buildings to the left of the Hospital, is the Medical College for the use of students during

the season, for the Lectures on Medicine and Surgery. This building is famous from its association with the Parkman tragedy. The building nearer the spectator with a cupola is the New Jail. To the right of the Hospital is seen the "Wells School House." The church to the right of that, fronting the spectator, is the "West Church," (better known as Dr. Lowell's,) on Lynde street. The two large buildings seen directly over Dr. Lowell's Church, are the Warehouses and Depot connected with the Boston and Lowell Railroad. Between the Church and the Depot, can be seen the old County Jail. To the right of the Jail, is seen the school-house recently erected, called the "Otis School," named in honor of the late Harrison Gray Otis. At the opening of the school, in March, 1845, Mr. Otis was present, and among other things stated, that "forty years ago, the place where the school was built, was a Mill Pond, and the tide flowed into it, to the depth of ten or twelve feet." Nearer the spectator to the right of Dr. Lowell's, are seen the spires of "Grace Church," one of the most beautiful churches in Boston. The Reservoir for the Cochituate Aqueduct, is directly beneath the spectator's eye. Directly in front of Grace Church, in Bowdoin Street, is seen Bowdoin street Church, where Dr. Beecher formerly preached; to the right of that, is the Bowdoin Square Baptist Church. In the rear of the latter, is seen the National Theatre. On the extreme right, the church with the high steeple is "Christ Church," in Salem street. This church contains a set of chime-bells, the music of which is truly delightful; it is situated near "Copp's Hill," celebrated in the history of Boston. On this hill can be found the tomb of the famous Increase and Cotton Mather. The bridges, etc., are, beginning on the left, Charles River Bridge, leading to Cambridgeport; Cragie's Bridge, to East Cambridge; Boston and Lowell Railroad; Boston and Maine Railroad,—the Depot of this Road is see

to the right of the Bowdoin Square Church; and the Warren and Charlestown Bridges; the two latter are owned by the State, and are free bridges. Directly in range of Cragie's Bridge is seen a curious round building, which is used as an Engine House for the Boston and Lowell Railroad. To the right of the Boston end of the Warren Bridge is the Depot of the Fitchburg Railroad. The round building in front of the State Prison, in Charlestown, is the Engine House belonging to the Boston and Maine Extension Railroad. From this window, on a clear day, two mountains can be seen, in range of East Cambridge. By fixing the eye upon a large brick building, in East Cambridge, on the left, and raising it to the background, can be seen Mount Watutick, in the town of Ashburnham, on the borders of this State; and a little to the right of that can be seen the top of Mount Monadnock, in Jaffrey, N. H.

## EAST WINDOW.

FROM this window we have the Harbor, with its Forts, Islands, Wharves, and Shipping. The Island in front is known by the name of East Boston, and contains about 800 acres. "It was called Noddle's Island" by the first settlers, but of late years, it has been known by the name of Williams' Island. There were but two or three houses upon it as late as 1830. The population at present is about 7000. The rapid increase of this place is owing probably to the Eastern Railroad Depot being there. The large brick building is the Sugar Refinery, which is a very extensive concern, employing about one hundred men. To the right of the Sugar House is the Depot of the Eastern Railroad; and still farther to the right of that is the Cunard Wharf, used for the British line of Mail Steamers. To the right of that the Wharves and Depots of the Grand Junction Railroad.

The first island, on the right, is Governor's Island, on which is Fort Warren. To the right, in the distance, is seen the Boston Light, distant about thirteen miles. To the left of Governor's Island is a beautiful little island, known as Apple Island. To the right, is Fort Independence, on Castle Island; it was at this place that the notorious Stephen Burroughs was once confined,—the Castle at that time being used for the reception of convicts. Fort George is seen in the distance, between Governor's Island and Castle Island. In Boston we have, a little to the left of a front view, Faneuil Hall; and directly between that and the water, is Faneuil Hall Market. These two buildings are worthy of a visit; the former especially, from its association with the Revolution, being the "Cradle of Liberty," and contains the armories of the different military companies in the city. It was commenced in 1740, by Peter Faneuil, and finished in

two years. The lower rooms were first intended and used as a Market House, and the second story as a Town Hall, and it is in this room that meetings are held. The building was enlarged in 1805, by adding 40 feet to its width and 25 to its elevation. A full length portrait of the donor can be seen in the hall. Faneuil Hall Market was commenced in 1824, while Hon. Josiah Quincy was at the head of the City Government; it is nearly 600 feet in length and 50 wide. The interior is divided into 129 stalls. The cost of the building was over one million dollars. The land upon which it was built was reclaimed from the sea. To the left of Faneuil Hall is seen the long block of granite stores on Commercial Wharf, and back of that is Lewis' Wharf. To the right of the Market is seen the Custom House, easily distinguished by its granite dome; it is located on India street, between Long and Central Wharves; it is built of Quincy granite, and is said to be the most beautiful and substantial building in the country. The following description of the Custom House will be found interesting :

The order of its architecture is the Grecian Doric, which style is preserved throughout as far as is consistent with the site and the business to which the building is devoted. The extreme length of the building is 140 feet, and its depth, omitting the porticos, 75 feet. The height from the basement floor to the top of the dome is 95 feet.

Externally thirty-two fluted columns are presented, each 5 feet 4 inches in diameter and 32 feet in height. Of these, sixteen are three-quarter columns, and form part of the walls, the space between them being devoted to windows. There are four of these columns at each end of the building, and two on each side of the porticos. Then at each corner is a nearly full column, so that each end of the building presents the appearance of six of these fine columns, and the sides, including the porticos, severally exhibit twelve columns. Four antae, or square pillars, stand at the



intersections of the porticos with the body of the building.

The porticos are ten feet deep by sixty-six in width, with six columns, each of the dimensions stated above. The entablatures are ornamented with triglyph friezes and mutule cornices on a line with the cornices of the building. The porticos are reached by eleven stone steps, on the fronts and sides.

The roof throughout and the unglazed part of the dome are covered with granite tiles, which are visible from some points of view in State street.

It would be difficult to find terms of description which would convey an adequate idea of the effect produced by the architectural arrangements above detailed. All that we can say at present is, that the new Custom House is imposing in its dimensions, harmonious in its proportions, impressive in its solidity, and beautiful in its strength.

Passing from the principal external visible features of the building, we proceed to the foundation on which it rests, viz: three thousand piles, covering an area of nearly fourteen thousand feet. On these piles has been laid a platform of granite, a foot and a half thick, and well cemented together, so as to be impervious to water. On the east, south, and west margins of this platform is built a ten foot shield wall, and within the enclosure thus formed, stand the walls proper of the Custom House.

The cellar story is much cut up by arches and walls of vast thickness, required to support the immense weight of the internal stone work above. Numerous rooms, however, twelve feet high, are secured for storage, and also an apartment for the furnaces, for heating the whole establishment.

The first story open to the light of day is the basement. In addition to the thick wall partitions separating the room, four granite columns, four feet in diameter, and eight, two feet in diameter, are distributed through the rooms as supporters. In the northwest

corner are two rooms for the night inspectors, 12 feet by 22, and 15 by 24. In the southwest corner is a room, 10 feet by 13, for the engine for carrying the fans by which the heated air is to be forced up. The remainder of the rooms are for storage. They are  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height.

In the second story, the main feature is the grand entrance vestibule, or rotunda, 58 by 60, formed by 12 granite columns, 4 feet in diameter. From the north and south sides rise two grand stair-cases, 15 feet wide at the bottom, and 7 at the top, terminating in smaller vestibules above, which connect with the various offices in the third story. On the northeast side of the grand vestibule are the assistant treasurer's apartments, 19 feet by 22, 16 by 25, and 10 by 12,—the latter being the vault, or Uncle Sam's strong box. In the northwest corner, the measurers' apartment, 19 by 29, and 9 by 11. Next the superintendent's room, 12 by 16, and adjoining that, west, the room for the markers and approvers of spirits, 12 by 15. In the southwest corner are the rooms of the weighers and gaugers, 22 by 33, and 15 by 12. Southeast corner, two rooms for the inspectors, 40 by 33, and 8 by 12. In one of these rooms are four 14 foot granite columns. In most of the rooms in this story, the ceiling is arched.

In the third story we find the great business room, under the direction of the deputy collector. It is 62 feet by 58, and lighted from the dome and by six side windows, opening on the east and west, and two end windows opening on lighted passages. The dome is supported by twelve fluted Corinthian columns of marble,  $29\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height. Above them rises the dome 32 feet more. The lower circumference of the dome is 195 feet. The circumference of the eye of the dome is  $56\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and is furnished with beautifully variegated stained glass, which sends down a flood of mellowed light. This is said to be the most perfect

and superb hall, in the Corinthian style, to be found in the United States.

On the northwest corner, on this floor, are the collector's apartments, 28 by 19, and 9 by 12. Northeast corner, the naval officer's, 19 by 24, and 11 by 25. Southeast corner, the surveyor's, 27 by 19, and 11 by 9. Southwest corner, the public storekeeper's, 25 by 19.

In the attic are an extra room for the markers, 11 by 18; a room for storing papers belonging to the collector's office, 64 by 19, and another of the same dimensions, for the papers of the surveyor's office.

Throughout the building the flooring is stone.

Directly between the Custom House and the spectator is a large stone building, occupied by the Boston Museum; it is an immense granite edifice, covering about 20,000 feet of land, which was erected in 1846 for the express purpose, at a cost of upwards of two hundred thousand dollars. The collection is exceedingly curious and valuable, comprising nearly half a million objects of interest, embracing every variety of bird, quadruped, reptiles, insects, shells, minerals and fossils; an extensive gallery of costly paintings, engravings, and statuary, together with an innumerable variety of rare and curious specimens of nature and art from all parts of the world. The collection is admirably arranged for inspection, and with the extreme order and neatness everywhere observed, has risen to be one of the most prominent places of interest to strangers visiting the city. Connected with this institution, in the adjoining large building, is a spacious hall, where splendid performances are given every evening, and Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, free of charge to visitors of the Museum.

In the rear of the Museum is the Court House, which is a beautiful granite building. This building is so capacious that at times eight Courts are all in session, without interfering with one another. To the right of the Court House is the City Hall, which

was formerly used for a court house ; it was remodeled for the use of the City Government about the year 1840.

A little to the left of Faneuil Hall Market, and near the spectator, is seen the top of the church in Brattle street ; in the front of this church is to be seen a cannon ball embedded in the brick ; the ball was fired by the American army stationed in Cambridge, on the night previous to the evacuation, March 17th, 1776. The ball was picked up and firmly fixed in the cavity it had formed.

The church with the high steeple, to be seen from this window, is the beautiful Gothic church in which the Rev. Mr. Robbins formerly preached.

The little Gothic church directly beneath the spectator's eye, is the Swedenborgian church. The " Old South " is the first church on the right, near the spectator, and is at the corner of Washington and Milk streets. During the Revolution the pews of this church were taken out and used for fuel by the British soldiers, and the building itself converted into a riding school, for the dragoons belonging to Burgoyne's army.

To the right of the City Hall, nearer the spectator, is the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Hall, and to the right of that is the Tremont Temple, (formerly the Tremont Theatre,) immediately in front of which is the Tremont House. The Boston Athenæum is the large building directly beneath the spectator's eye, on Beacon street. The farthest point of land to be seen from this window, on the left, is Nahant. The hotel is seen distinctly, and is distant about nine miles.

## SOUTH WINDOW.

CASTLE ISLAND and Fort Independence can be seen from this window, directly over the spire of Federal street church. To the right, on a long island, (Thompson's Island,) is the Farm School, belonging to the city, where any person can place their boys at school, and have them labor upon a farm during a certain number of hours each day. Directly in front of this island stand the City Prisons, being the Houses of Correction, Reformation, and Industry, together with the Insane Hospital. The House of Correction is devoted to the punishment of those convicted of crimes in the Police Court of the city; the Municipal Court has, likewise, the power to imprison felons here, for a term not exceeding nine years; all beyond that time go to the State Prison. The House of Industry is for the support and relief of the virtuous poor, who seek this refuge from misfortune or age. The House of Reformation is for the punishment of juvenile offenders who have not arrived at years of discretion; the Institution is, undoubtedly, one of the best in the Commonwealth. The Lunatic Asylum went into operation in 1839, and has proved to be of great utility. Strangers wishing to visit these Institutions, should procure a permit from one of the Directors or from some member of the City Government. To the right of the Prison, on a hill, is the "Perkins Institute and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind." This is the first institution of the kind established in the United States. It was commenced in 1832, under the direction of Dr. S. G. Howe. The object is, to instruct the young blind in all the common branches of education, which is done by means of books printed in raised letters, embossed maps, globes, music, etc.

In 1833, Thomas H. Perkins, Esq. gave to this Institution his Mansion House, in Pearl street, valued at \$35,000, on condition that \$50,000 more should be raised from other sources, which was immediately done by the Ladies of Boston, Salem, and other places. The Ladies of Boston gave a Fair for this purpose, the net proceeds of which amounted to over \$12,000. In 1839 the estate in Pearl street was exchanged for the present spacious and elegant edifice, known as the Mount Washington House, which is situated on one of the hills that was fortified by order of Washington, during the occupation of Boston by the British; the breast-works upon the top are now remaining. A Reservoir has been erected upon one of these hills in connection with the Boston Water Works.

In the background is Quincy. The town to the right of Quincy is Dorchester; and to the right of Dorchester is Roxbury. The Boston and Providence Railroad, and the Boston and Worcester Railroad cross each other in the open marsh on the right: the Providence Railroad runs directly from the spectator. In Boston, the church on the extreme left is Federal Street Church, where the late Rev. Dr. Channing preached. The church close to the spectator is Park Street Church; the residence of the Hon. Abbott Lawrence is the second house from the top of this street; in rear of this house is the "Granary" Burial Ground, where is a monument to the Franklin family and also the Tomb of Peter Faneuil. To the right of the church, on Tremont street, is the Masonic Temple, which is the rough granite building. To the left of the Temple is seen St. Paul's Church; in range is seen the spire of the Baptist Church in Rowe street; the turrets of the Rev. Mr. Waterston's Church are seen between the spectator and the Rowe Street Church. To the left of Park Street Church is seen Trinity Church, which is a rough granite edifice, built in the massive Gothic style. A

little to the right of Trinity is Rev. Mr. Young's Church, (where the late President Kirkland formerly preached,) on Church Green, in the same street; to the right of that is Chauncey Place Church, which belongs to the oldest religious society in Boston. Directly over a red brick turret, (Essex Street Church,) is to be seen the Depot of the Boston and Worcester and Western Railroads; this is easily seen by its extensive roof; and beyond that is seen the new Catholic Church, in South Boston. The Depot of the Old Colony Railroad is near the Depot of the Worcester Road. Travelers now have the choice of three different railroad routes to New York—the Providence to Providence and Stonington; the Worcester to Norwich, and the Old Colony to Fall River. To the left of the Essex Street Church and near the spectator is seen the new Latin School-house. Two buildings were formerly used for the boys who now attend school in this building—one for the High School, where boys could prepare, in the most thorough manner, for almost any business in life; and another for the Latin School, where boys were fitted for college. The Latin School was commenced in School street in 1647. The High School was commenced in 1820. These Schools are the first in the State, if not in the country.

The large brick building to the north of the Depot is the United States Hotel, which is the largest in the city. The Church to the right of Essex Street Church is in Hollis street, and is the one where Rev. Mr. Pierpont formerly preached. The Common, directly beneath the spectator's eye, contains about fifty acres, and is valued by every class of citizens, as being the only place in the city to which they can resort for fresh air, and enjoyment. A recent article in one of our city papers, justly remarks: "How pleasant and significant is that name! The *Common!* Not the *Park*, nor the *Mall*, but the BOSTON COMMON—a place owned in common by all the citizens of Boston,

and in which every citizen has a common right and interest ; a place where the rich and poor may meet together and enjoy the common bounties of Heaven—fresh air, green grass, and waving trees ; a place set apart for the common good and happiness of the citizens of Boston. How rich a boon is even this one breathing-place to our city ! And as we stroll along its walks and witness the amount of happiness which this one piece of common ground can afford, we cannot but bless the memory of those to whom we are indebted for the gift of the Boston Common. It is not boys and girls alone that are made happier and healthier by this sweet Common. There are scores of men and women too, who, having been pent up all day between brick walls, refresh their weary bodies, invigorate their jaded minds, and we hope improve their hearts, by an evening's stroll along the walks of Boston Common.”

At the further right hand corner of the Common is the Depot of the Boston and Providence Railroad. The great elm, standing south of the Pond, on the Common, was planted by an ancestor of Governor Hancock's family, by the name of Henchman. Its age can never be ascertained, as the trunk is hollow ; so that boys actually went in and out at pleasure, according to tradition, within fifty or sixty years ; the concentric circles marking its growth are therefore obliterated. It is about 65 feet high ; extent of its branches, latterly, about 90 feet, and its girth, a little above the ground, nearly 22 feet.

The Fountain in the Pond is capable of throwing a six-inch jet to the height of 75 to 100 feet.



## WEST WINDOW.

DIRECTLY beneath the eye, on the left, is the house that was owned and occupied by John Hancock : it is easily noticed by its antique appearance, being built of rough stone. The bridge in front is the Western Avenue. Previous to the building of this bridge, which is entirely solid, all the lowlands to the south of it were overflowed by the tide, with as much water as there is now on the north side. A great many houses are now built on land so reclaimed. The buildings on the left of the farther end of the Avenue are known by the name of the City Mills. Directly over them is seen the town of Brookline. The water in front is Charles River. Cambridgeport is on the right. The church in front is the Charles Street Baptist Church, where the Rev. Dr. Sharp preaches. Directly in the range of the church is seen the town of Brighton. By carefully observing the horizon, a little to the right of the church, on a clear day, the Wachusett Mountain can be seen. It is about 210 feet high, and is in the town of Princeton.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE HOUSE.

THE corner-stone of this edifice was laid July 4th, 1795, on land formerly owned by Governor Hancock, near the top of Beacon Hill. (This hill, which was originally 150 feet above high water mark, was in 1804 leveled, the monument taken down, and the four slabs which formed the base, now remain to be seen at the foot of the stairs leading to the cupola.) This building is of an oblong form, 173 feet front and 51 deep. It consists of a basement story 20 feet high, and a principal story 30 feet. This is the centre of the front; is covered with an attic 60 feet wide, 20 feet high, which is covered with a pediment. Immediately above this, rises a dome 52 feet in diameter, and 35 feet high; the whole terminates with an elegant circular lantern, 25 feet high, supporting a gilded pine-cone. The lower story is finished plain on the wings, with square windows. The centre is 94 feet in length, and formed of arches which project 14 feet; they form a covered walk below, and support a colonnade of Corinthian columns of the same extent above. The outside walls are of large patent bricks.

The lower story is divided into a large hall, or public walk, in the centre, 50 feet square and 20 feet high, supported by Doric columns. In the centre, and on the north side of this story, is placed the highly finished STATUE OF WASHINGTON, which will be noticed in another place.

Two entries open at each end, 16 feet wide, with two flights of stairs in each; on both sides of which are offices. On the west wing the secretary's department in front, and the adjutant-general's in the rear. On the east wing, the treasurer's department in front, and the land agent's and library in the rear.

In 1846, for the further accommodation of the library, the legislature made an appropriation for the finishing of a room in the basement story, under the west wing. The library is accessible to the members of the general court, at all times.

The rooms above are, the representatives' hall in the centre, 55 feet square. This hall is finished with Doric columns on two sides, 12 feet from the floor, forming galleries; the Doric entablatures surround the whole; from this spring four flat arches on the side, which, being united by a circular cornice above, form in the angles four large pendants to a bold and well-proportioned dome. The pendants are ornamented with emblems of commerce, agriculture, peace, and war. Directly over the speaker's chair, on the north side of the hall, is placed the State arms, and, a little above, may be seen the gilded eagle, just ready to fly, having in his beak a large scroll, with the following inscription, in large gilt letters: "God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." On the south side, opposite to the eagle, is the mammoth codfish, an emblem of the fisheries of Massachusetts, formerly in the old State House.

The centre of the dome is 50 feet from the floor; the speaker's chair is placed on the north side; the clerk on the right of the speaker; the permanent seats, in a semi-circular form, are so arranged as to accommodate 300 members on the floor; the front west gallery is for the use of members of the legislature; the rear gallery for the use of the public; east front gallery for the ladies; the rear gallery for the public.

In the east wing is the senate chamber, 55 feet long, 33 wide, and 30 high, highly finished in the Ionic order; two screens support, with entablatures, a rich and elegant arched ceiling. This room is also ornamented with Ionic pilasters, and with the arms of the State, and of the United States, placed in opposite panels. Directly opposite the door, is placed the

president's chair ; on the right and left, are seated the members, beginning with the oldest member in office on the right of the president. Forty members in this branch of the legislature.

In the west wing is the council chamber, 27 feet square, and 20 high, with a flat ceiling : the walls are finished with Corinthian pilasters, and panels of stucco. These panels are enriched with State arms, with emblems of executive power, the scale and sword of justice, and the insignia of arts and freedom, the caduceus and cap of liberty ; the whole decorated with wreaths of oak and laurel. In the rear of this room, on the same floor, is a small room, called the governor's room, and the antechamber for the use of the committee of the council.

Besides these principal rooms, there are twenty-five smaller, for the use of the several committees. The cost of this building amounted to \$133,333 33. It was first occupied by the legislature on the 11th January, 1798.

The foundation of this edifice is 110 feet above the level of the sea ; its elevation and size make it a very conspicuous object. Two flights of stairs lead to the top of the outer dome, 170 steps from the lower floor. The view from this dome, which is 230 feet above the level of the sea, affords one of the most interesting and beautiful spectacles. It is free to the public at all times, with the exception of Sundays, 'Thanksgiving and Fast days, by order of the General Court.

Visitors to the cupola for three last years, 1845, 6, and 7, average 50,000 per annum.

## THE STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

THE plan for erecting a monument to the memory of Washington, in Boston, first originated with gentlemen who had been associated with him in early life.

A meeting was called, and a society organized, under the title of the *Washington Monument Association*, April 27, 1811.

The sum of \$16,000 was subscribed by the time the statue was finished. It cost, together with the pedestal and the temple in which it is placed, \$15,000.

As the visitor enters the State House, at the south front, he beholds the statue, through the arched passage way that leads from the Doric hall to the apartment where it is placed.

The authorities of the State signified their acceptance of the statue, on the 8th of January, 1828, when it was "Resolved, that the legislature of this Commonwealth accept the Statue of Washington, upon the terms and conditions on which it is offered by the trustees of the Washington Monument Association, and entertain a just sense of the patriotic feeling of those individuals who have done honor to the State, by placing in it a statue of the man whose life was among the greatest of his country's blessings, and whose fame is her proudest inheritance."



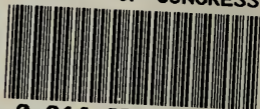


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