

**SOUVENIR GUIDE BOOK  
OF HARVARD  
COLLEGE AND ITS  
HISTORICAL VICINITY**

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Souvenir guide book of Harvard college and its historical vicinity by Various

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ILLUSTRATED.

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F. A. OLSSON, PUBLISHER,

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## Preface.

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The publisher thinks it necessary to prefix a few words of apology and explanation. He has not attempted to give in this short guide book an exhaustive description of everything to be seen; for this would neither be possible (outside of a large volume) nor practical. But he has attempted to point out the things which he thinks the most interesting to the ordinary visitor, whose time is generally limited, and he has for this reason avoided taking the visitor to such places as the Observatory and Botanic Gardens (See Appendix) which present nothing different from what may be seen in any first class observatory or botanical gardens.

He does not consider the book perfect, by any means; but hopes in future editions to make such changes and additions that he may finally achieve a comprehensive, yet practical guide book of Harvard, which will not only help the tourist while there, but be of sufficient merit to be preserved as a souvenir.

## Introductory Sketch.

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Cambridge or New Towne as it was first called, was settled in 1631. Its history is chiefly interesting in connection with Harvard, which was founded in 1636, when the state legislature granted the then large sum of £400 to found a school. The location of this school was not settled however, until 1637 when New Towne was taken as its site and the name New Towne soon after changed to Cambridge in recognition of the English University where many of the colonists had graduated.

In 1638, John Harvard, a young minister, died at Charlestown, and left to the college his entire library of about 300 volumes and about \$4000. In his honor the college was named Harvard.

The first master of the school was one Nathaniel Eaton, who soon showed himself so unfitted for the charge that he was removed and charge given, in 1640, to the Rev. Henry Dunster who was Harvard's first President.

In 1642, the general management of the college was put in the hands of a Board of Overseers and in 1650, the Legislature granted the college a charter, creating a corporate body, who had direct supervision of the college affairs. They were known as the President and Fellows of Harvard College, and

consisted of a President, five Fellows, and a Treasurer. Since then the Legislature has passed many acts concerning the government of the college; but to-day its government is practically the same as in 1650, and consists of the Corporation called "The President and Fellows of Harvard College" and the Board of 32 Overseers. The President and Fellows fill the vacancies in the corporation; but the Overseers are elected by the Alumni of the University. The University has shown a steady growth since its foundation, and at present (1895) there are 337 officers of instruction and 3290 students in all departments of the University.

#### **How to Reach Harvard.**

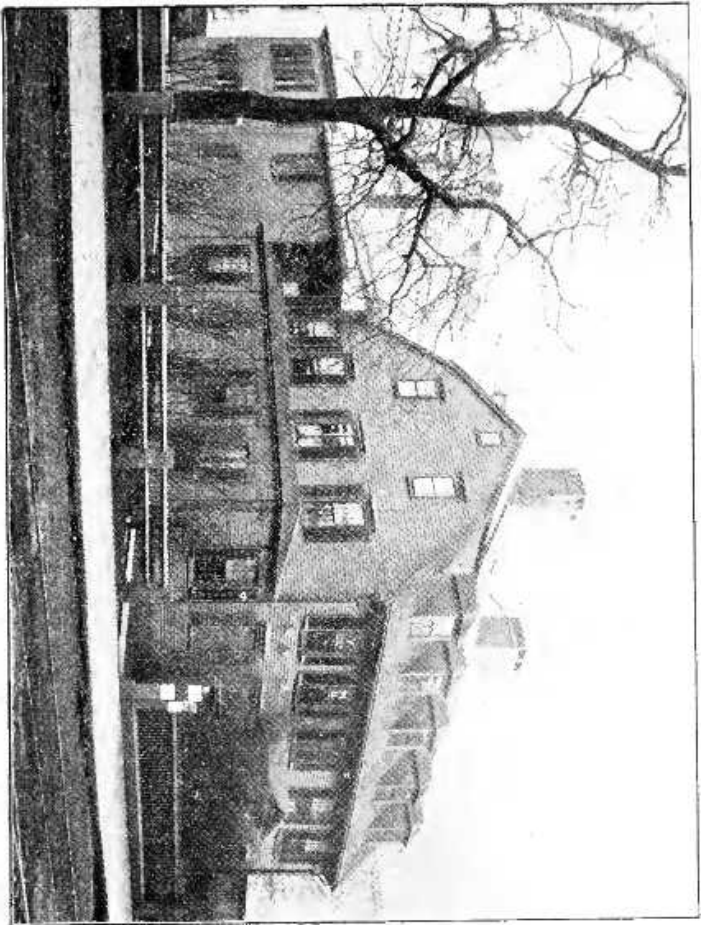
Take any Cambridge car marked Harvard Square. Such cars may be taken from Park, Bowdoin and Scollay Squares, or from the Union Station and on Tremont and Boylston Sts. Arrived at the Square we leave the car and walking back towards Boston about a hundred feet, we come to an old wooden house on the edge of the college grounds. This is the

#### **Wadsworth House,**

built in 1726 with money furnished by the state. (See picture.) It was built for "the Reverend the President of Harvard College," and was named after President Wadsworth, its first occupant. Here the college presidents lived until 1849, and here too Washington stopped for a few days before he made his headquarters at the Craigie House, better known as Longfellow's house.

Returning towards the Square, and keeping on the college side we come to





Wadsworth House.

### Dane Hall,

a plain brick building erected in 1832 for a Law School, the gift of Hon. Nathan Dane and used for such until 1883. At present it is used as a recitation hall and for the store of the Harvard Co-operative Society.

Continuing in the same direction we pass next,

### Matthews Hall,

a large brick dormitory somewhat in from the street, and of which we get a rear view. It was built in 1872 at a cost of about \$120,000, the gift of Nathan Matthews of Boston.

Crossing the street diagonally, we come to the

### First Parish Church,

a wooden church almost in the Square. This church was built about 1833 by the College in exchange for its old site and adjoining land, which is now a part of the college yard. The former site of the church was about where Dane Hall now is. From 1834 to 1872 the College held its commencement exercises in this church, and it is said that Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered his first poem within its walls.

Beside the church is

### The "Old Towne Burying Ground"

in which are buried seven of Harvard's Presidents, Dunster, Chauncey, Leverett, Wadsworth, Holyoke, Willard and Webber; Thomas Shepard, the first minister, Stephen Day and Samuel Green, the first printers, and Andrew Belcher, who first had the right to keep an inn in Cambridge.

West of the burying ground is

### **Christ Church,**

built about 1760. In 1775 the Connecticut troops were quartered here, and made bullets for themselves by melting the organ pipes. Washington is said to have attended service here while at Cambridge. Its chime of bells was the gift of Harvard graduates in 1860, when the church was 100 years old.

Returning to the front of the First Church, we see directly opposite across the street

### **The Harvard Gate.**

Although there are now two gates, this is still referred to as The Gate. (See fronticepiece.) And well it may be considered as the principal one for it stands between the two oldest of Harvard buildings: Massachusetts Hall on the right (as we enter) and Harvard Hall on the left. The gate was built in 1890, the gift of Samuel Johnston of Chicago, and although it has had quite a little adverse criticism, it is in thorough harmony with its surroundings, the first, or which should be the first principle of architecture. Two very fine pictures of this gate have been published; one an etching, the other a large photogravure. Both may be seen at the Art Store of J. F. Olsson & Co., Harvard Square.

As we enter the College Yard we pass on our right

### **Massachusetts Hall,**

the oldest of Harvard's buildings. Built in 1720, it was used as a dormitory until 1870, when it was altered for use as a recitation hall, and its three stories and a half became two.