

# **THE BOSTON BOOK**

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The Boston Book by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

**THE  
BOSTON BOOK**





BOSTON FROM THE EDITORIAL WINDOWS OF THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

## THE PILGRIM SIGHT-SEER IN BOSTON

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The most picturesque of American cities, the richest in historic associations, the heart of the Puritan Commonwealth, is Boston. From what place can the visitor best begin to study and enjoy its points of interest? Near to the center of its most important historic localities, of its government and much of its wealth and culture, is the Congregational House, on Beacon Hill. The offices of *The Congregationalist* overlook Boston, its harbor and surrounding country.

It is easy, from this point, to mark the outlines of the ancient town. In its center, near the head of State Street, stood the meeting-house of the First Church, erected in 1631. In that year the court at Charlestown ordered that Trimountain be called Boston. The second, or North, dedicated in 1650, stood yonder on North Square, at the North End. The third, or South, erected in 1670, stood where the Old South meeting-house now stands, at the head of Milk Street, at the South End. The early settlers drove their cows to pasture on the slopes of Beacon Hill and on the Common. They carted their grain to be ground into flour in the windmill on Copp's Hill or the mill at the foot of Summer Street. Beside the cart-paths and the cow-paths houses were built from time to time, till the crooked streets were outlined. Old Boston was not planned — it grew.

Next to Plymouth Rock and its surroundings, no place is so dear to American Congregationalists as that now before us. John Cotton, the famous pastor of the First Church from 1633, who has been called the spiritual father of Boston, lived on and owned a portion of what is now Pemberton Square. Increase Mather lived on North Street, and Cotton Mather on Hanover Street — father and son, pastors of North Church.



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OLD SOUTH MEETING-HOUSE.

### *The Pilgrim Sight-seer in Boston*

Next to the Old South meeting-house was the residence of John Winthrop, the most renowned governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony. This whole region is crowded with sites of the homesteads of famous families and with spots where events of great historic interest occurred.

But with our limited space we must confine our attention to landmarks still standing. At the head of State Street, on Washington, is the Old State House, built in 1748, on the site of the Town House, built in 1657. John Adams said that here Independence was born. It would require columns to give a list of the great events of colonial history which occurred here. But its historic tablets and its museum of relics and antiquities are open to visitors daily. The museum of the Old South meeting-house, a few steps away, must not be passed unvisited. Close at hand is School Street, near the head of which the Latin School stood for more than 200 years, where Franklin, Hancock, Adams, Otis, Sumner, Henry Ward Beecher, and a long list of other famous men studied. Next to it was, and still is, King's Chapel, on the site of the First Episcopal Church in Boston. The present building is 150 years old and has an interesting interior. The Burial Ground beside it is the oldest in the city, and here Winthrop and other colonial governors, with John Cotton, John Davenport, and many other eminent clergymen, judges, and merchants, were laid to rest. Two minutes' walk brings you to the Granary Burial Ground, which surpasses all the others in the number of its distinguished dead. Here lie the remains of John Hancock, Samuel Adams, James Otis, Paul Revere, Peter Faneuil, Judge Samuel Sewall, the parents of Benjamin Franklin, and a long list of names renowned in colonial history. It was named from the Granary, a great building for the storage of grain reserved to be sold to the poor at cost. It stood on the site now occupied by Park Street Church.



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Not far away, off Washington Street, in what is now known as Province Court, stood the old Province House for nearly two centuries, in colonial times the residence of vice-regal governors. Burned down in 1864, its walls still remain in other buildings on the same site. Returning now to the Old State House, we pass into Dock Square, facing Faneuil Hall. This is "The Cradle of Liberty" which, since before the Revolution, has been the scene of many famous meetings in behalf of patriotism, reforms, and other public movements. It is opened for assemblies whenever, under certain conditions, a request is made, signed by fifty citizens. Many a memorable oration has been delivered from that platform. Portraits of famous men adorn its walls. It is open daily to visitors. A look at Faneuil and Quincy Markets is well worth a half hour's tarry before leaving this neighborhood.

Returning again toward the Congregational House, one may see the statues of Samuel Adams in Adams Square, of John Winthrop in Scollay Square, and of Benjamin Franklin in School Street, in front of the City Hall. A short detour will bring you to Christ Church on Salem Street, the oldest church edifice in the city. It was built in 1723, and its interior has many quaint relics. From its tower the signal lights of Paul Revere were hung, and here General Gage witnessed the battle of Bunker Hill, whose tall monument, across in Charlestown, invites a visit. Near the church is Copp's Hill, whose burial ground contains the tombs of the Mathers and other honored families.

We must turn from historic places, without even having named many that Bostonians love to linger over, and regard the Boston of to-day. Once more in the street by the Congregational House, we study for a few moments the four historic tablets on its façade which tell so well the story of the foundations of the Commonwealth laid by the Pilgrims and the



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CHRIST CHURCH.

### *The Pilgrim Sight-seer in Boston*

Puritans — Law, Religion, Education, Philanthropy. Opposite is the headquarters of the Unitarian denomination, which in the early part of this century appropriated so large a portion of the material heritage of Congregationalists. Next door is the Athenæum, with its wealth of literature. Next block to the north, past the buildings of Boston University, is the magnificent Suffolk County Court House, costing nearly four million dollars. Its rotunda, with fine frescoes and sculptures, invites inspection. On Tremont Street, near the end of Beacon, is Tremont Temple, the Baptist headquarters, where most of the meetings of the International Congregational Council are to be held. On the summit of Beacon Hill stands the State House, with its new addition completed, its gilded dome glistening in the sun by day and crowned with electric lights at night. Dr. Holmes called it the Hub of the solar system, but that was before the system of electric lighting was invented. It contains the first State library in America, and its busts and statues and flags and trophies and portraits will require considerable time and repay thoughtful study. Here may be seen the original manuscript of William Bradford's history of Plymouth Colony, known in England as the Log of the *Mayflower*, and returned to this country in 1897 by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of London.

Leaving the State House grounds and entering the Common, we pass the Shaw Monument, St. Gaudens' masterpiece, around which some interested spectators are nearly always standing. Nothing in the city is more characteristic of its spirit than this monument to the brave officer who died in the Civil War at the head of his regiment of negroes. Colonel Shaw belonged to one of the first families of Boston. He took the command of negro troops when the position involved much obloquy and sacrifice. You are now in the famous park which is the pride of all Bostonians. Recall the great open-air meetings, the