

**CENTENNIALS OF
PORTLAND, 1675,
1775, 1875 AND 1975**

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Centennials of Portland, 1675, 1775, 1875 and 1975 by Charles P. Ilsley

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CHARLES P. ILSLEY

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BY CHARLES P. ILSLEY.

SOMERVILLE, MASS:
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1876.

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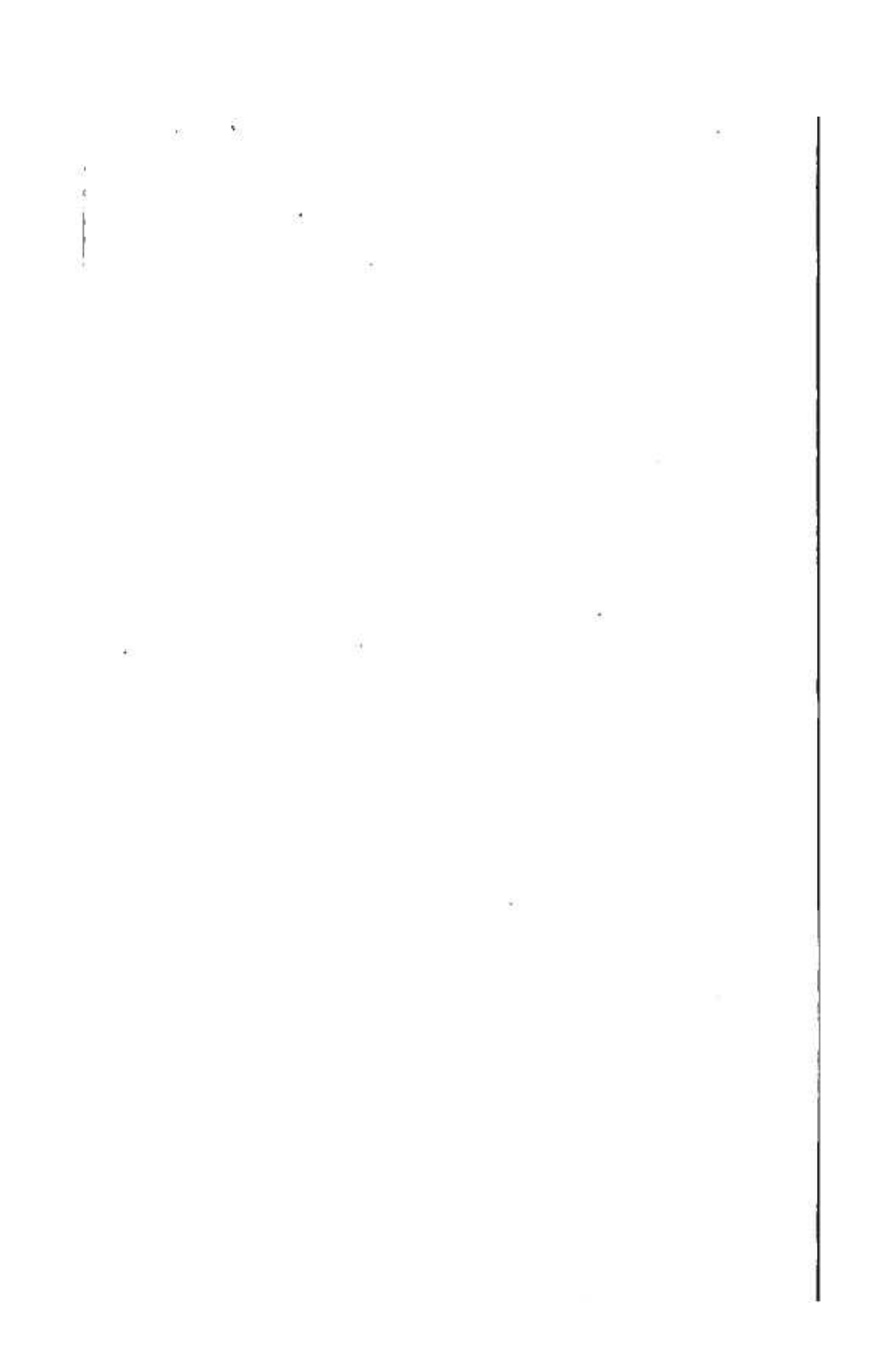
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PREFACE.

A portion of this work may have fallen under the notice of the reader. A desire having been expressed that it should be presented in a form different from the original, the author has been induced to add to and offer it in its present shape. A glimpse is given of Falmouth in 1675; of its destruction in 1775; of Portland in 1875, and of her supposed appearance in 1975.

As everybody now-a-days is bringing forth Centennial memorials, the author, not to be behind the age, herewith contributes his trifle to the common stock.



TO THE AGED BROTHERHOOD.

To you, my brethren of the olden time,
I dedicate unbid my humble rhyme.
It may be held by some an idle strain —
Will not the theme at least *your* favor gain?
A theme on which we all delight to dwell —
The dear old town we all do love so well!

Heaven's blessing rest upon her and abide!
Bearing her on with ever-swelling tide,
'Till she attain to that exalted height
It shall be said — "The prophet augured right!"

10. 11. 2019

11. 11. 2019

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THE VISIONS.

I.

WAS it a vision of the night—
A dream — or gift of second sight?
Slept I or not I wis not well :
This I but know — by some strange spell
It seemed that powers were granted me
Beyond all human potency.

'Twas mine, methought, the veil to raise
That shrouds the future from our gaze ;
To bid the dusky past once more
Its scenes long buried to restore :
What time so e'er I might denote,
Or what event, near or remote,
Before my view distinct and clear
At my volition would appear.

A thought — a wish — vague, undefined,
Flashed meteor-like upon my mind :
As speedy as the glancing thought,
Behold, the miracle was wrought !