

**ENGLAND IN 1815 AS SEEN BY A YOUNG
BOSTON MERCHANT; BEING THE
REFLECTIONS AND
COMMENTS OF JOSEPH BALLARD ON A
TRIP THROUGH GREAT BRITAIN IN THE
YEAR OF WATERLOO**

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JOSEPH BALLARD

From a water-color portrait painted by John Rubens Smith in 1813

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ILLUSTRATIONS

- JOSEPH BALLARD *Frontispiece*
From the water-color portrait painted by John
Rubens Smith in 1813.
- THE SHIP "FRIENDSHIP" OF SALEM. A
TYPICAL PACKET OF THE DAY 3
From a painting.
- ADVERTISEMENT OF SAILING OF THE SHIP
"LIVERPOOL PACKET" 6
From the Boston Gazette of February 27, 1815.
- BOSTON HARBOR IN 1823 FROM CITY POINT . 181
From an old engraving.

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INTRODUCTION

THIS journal has a personal interest to Mr. Ballard's descendants as being the work of their ancestor, but they have published it in the hope that it may be found to be of interest to others as a picture of the life and times in England in the year of the battle of Waterloo, as seen through the eyes of a patriotic young American.

Joseph Ballard was born June 2, 1789, on Bromfield's Lane, formerly Rawson's Lane, now Bromfield Street, in Boston, where his father conducted a livery and hack business, having established the first hackney carriage in Boston. In 1795, the family moved to West Street, which was then considered far uptown, and in 1824, Mr. Ballard purchased a house on Washington Street, near Hollis Street, where he continued to live for fifty-three years until his death in 1877.

Mr. Ballard's school education ended when he was fourteen years old, at which time he

INTRODUCTION

received a Franklin Medal at the hands of President John Adams in Faneuil Hall. In 1808, he became an apprentice to Standfast Smith, an Englishman, who was a dealer in carpets, cutlery, upholstery goods, and other household wares in Franklin Street. At the end of his apprenticeship, Mr. Ballard and his brother John became partners of Mr. Smith. Later the firm was J. and J. Ballard, and, afterwards, Ballard and Prince. The firm was located at No. 168 Washington Street from 1822 to 1846, when it moved to No. 11 Bromfield Street.

One of Mr. Ballard's boyhood friends and fellow apprentices was S. F. B. Morse, who later became noted as a portrait painter in England, and afterwards famous as the inventor of the Morse telegraph system and alphabet.

Mr. Ballard retired from the active management of his business at middle age, and devoted the remainder of his long life to his family, his books, and his farm at Hampton, New Hampshire, where he spent more than six months of every year. He was twice married. He was left a widower with three young children in 1822. He