

**BOSTON COMMON:
SCENES FROM
FOUR CENTURIES**

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Boston Common: Scenes from Four Centuries by M. A. De Wolfe Howe

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M. A. DEWOLFE HOWE



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Estate of Mr. & Mrs. George F. Drake

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PREFACE

IN 1910 an edition of five hundred and fifty copies of this book, lacking what are now its final pages, was issued from The Riverside Press. The author can ascribe the instant sale of these copies only to the beautiful form in which the book appeared. But of any author it must be said that he is wont to crave a wider audience than that of bibliophiles, and takes no special comfort in hearing that copies of his book have been picked up by collectors at twice the original cost. In the present instance he has suggested to his publishers on several occasions that the time for a simpler edition of the book, accessible to the larger company of readers, had come. For various reasons, probably valid, they have never shared this view until this moment. Now that they have done so, the author realizes that at no earlier date could the story of Boston Common have been brought to so appropriate a conclusion as that which permits a retrospect of those recent war-time years through which it served a great and memorable purpose.

Boston, June, 1921

M. A. DEW. H.

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