REMINISCENCES OF FUGITIVE-SLAVE LAW DAYS IN BOSTON

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Reminiscences of Fugitive-slave Law Days in Boston by Austin Bearse

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AUSTIN BEARSE

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Londing a fugitive stave at Drakes Whar! South Econ, from the Yacht "Moby Disk." Capt. Austin Bearse, on the night of Univ 18, 1983.

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OF

Fugitive-Slave Law Days

IN BOSTON.

BY AUSTIN BEARSE

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REMINISCENCES.

THIS publication is dictated by the quick-hearted sympathy of my anti-slavery friend, Rev. PROTUS FISE, chaplain United States Navy, who in the best spirit of his native land, classic Greece, has reared appropriate monumental stones to commemorate the deeds of martyrs who have suffered in several States of America for aiding the escape of slaves from galling bondage.

At Mount Auburn, to Rev. CHARLES T. TORREY, who died in a Baltimore jail; at New Bedford, to Captain DRAYTON, who endured a terrible imprisonment for years in Washington — for which Charles Sumner wrote the inscription; at Lake Harbor, Michigan, to Captain JONATHAN WALKER, who, in 1844 was cast into a dungeon, and pierced in the hand with a hot iron, by Florida slaveholders — the hero of Whittier's soul-stirring verse, "The Branded Hand." All Massachusetts citizens,

> "Breasting the full tide of wrong, Unappalled by the danger, the shame, and the pain, And counting each trial for Truth as their gain."

So, in the slight record of these pages, gratefully dedicated to THE COMMITTEE OF VIGULANCE, would this lover of his fellowmen seek to keep green the memory of the faithful service done to humanity in Boston harbor and streets, in which hunted fugitive , slaves were snatched from kidnappers, sheltered, housed and fed, and forwarded with all speed and secrecy to Canada; their rescuers defended in the courts of prosecution, and when Sims and Burns fell victims, their cause plead with unexampled eloquence, till Freedom's fame found wings on every wind.