

OLD BOSTON LIGHT

The First Mariners' Beacon to Be Kindled in America.

TWICE BURNED AND REBUILT.

Then It Was Destroyed by the British Revolutionary Naval Forces and Again Rebuilt Through the Efforts of Governor John Hancock.

The first lighthouse of which there is any record was built by Ptolemy II. on the island of Pharos, at the entrance to the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt.

Probably the most famous lighthouse of modern times is the Eddystone light, which was one of the first built in Britain and which has been famous because of its dangerous situation and of its having been four times destroyed by the angry waters of the English channel.

Minots Ledge light, at the entrance to Boston harbor, is among the most noteworthy of American lighthouses and shares with Old Boston light the interest of every voyager who enters the tortuous channel to the city of Boston.

Boston light is famous in its way. It was the first lighthouse built in America. It is one of the most important lighthouse stations on the north Atlantic coast. Every seafarer and seagoer knows Boston light. Every school boy and girl has read the many tales of shipwreck in which Boston light figures. It was captured and recaptured several times in the early days of the Revolution.

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 14, 1776, the light was first "kindled," to use the expression of the chronicler of the day.

For some years the shipowners and merchants of Boston agitated the project of establishing a lighthouse at the entrance to the harbor. The general court took the matter up on petition of John George and others. The town officials of Boston also considered the proposition and urged the colonial authorities to make an appropriation to erect a suitable light. At last favorable action was taken by the authorities, and the building of the light on the outer Brewster began.

When the light was ready to put into commission George Worthington was appointed keeper. He and his wife and daughter were drowned two years later.

Benjamin Franklin wrote a ballad on the drowning of the family. The salary of the first keepers of the light was \$250 a year.

On the death of Worthington Captain John Hayes, a shipmaster, was appointed.

The early lightkeeper had many other duties to perform besides looking after the light. He had to act as pilot for vessels and discharge the duties of health officer of the port. In the case of a vessel being in distress it was his duty to go to its rescue.

In 1720 the lighthouse was burned and rebuilt. Again in 1751 the lighthouse and other buildings were burned and were again rebuilt.

Robert Ball, the keeper who succeeded Captain Hayes, remained until the British fleet sailed from Boston to Halifax during the Revolutionary war. According to the stories at that time, Ball sailed away with the fleet and never returned.

The British wantonly destroyed the harbor property, including the light, before they sailed away when they evacuated Boston. Thus it is that the island on which Boston light stands is the last soil in Massachusetts occupied by British armed forces.

The destruction of the light was a great loss to mariners and the merchants, and shipping interests induced Governor John Hancock to send a special message to the Massachusetts legislature recommending an appropriation for the rebuilding of the light. With commendable promptitude the legislature complied with the request of Governor Hancock, and plans were made for one of the finest and largest lights on the coast. This was in 1780.

The new structure was of stone. Oil lamps furnished the light. Then the government took over the lighthouses and assigned their care and maintenance to the treasury department, under whose jurisdiction they still remain. The island and the light were formally ceded to the United States government in 1790.

The treasury department has always given Boston light a great deal of attention because of its importance and because it is the most widely known landmark to the entrance to the second port in America.

It has been improved and enlarged from time to time, and the accommodations for the keepers and their families are all that could be desired. Despite its age the light station is, for all practical purposes, essentially modern and up to date. It displays an incandescent oil vapor light, giving a white flash of 100,000 candle power every thirty seconds, visible sixteen miles in clear weather, and as an auxiliary aid in foggy weather sounds a powerful first class siren, with a double blast of five seconds each every minute.—Boston Globe.

Some Exception.
"It must be hard to see people scramble for a meal."
"Yes, unless it's eggs."—Baltimore American.

Accept nothing that is unreasonable; discard nothing as unreasonable without proper examination.—Buddha.

BAGPIPES ARE ANCIENT.

Scotland Didn't Adopt Them Till the Fifteenth Century.

Neither Scotland nor Ireland can claim to have invented the bagpipes. Greeks, Romans, Assyrians and Chinese all played bagpipes of sorts long before the time of Christ, and the instrument actually figures on one of the coins of Nero, who may have played it. The Breton bignoon, the Calabrian zampogna, the German sackpfeife and the French cornemuse are all bagpipes under different names.

It was actually a Scotsman and no less a man than the lord advocate of the time who publicly declared fifty years ago that "the bagpipe is an English instrument, essentially English. The English were the original bagpipers." He pointed out that, while Shakespeare often speaks of bagpipes, he never does so in "Macbeth" and that it is in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire that he localizes the pipes. To Chaucer and Spenser also they are English. James IV. and other Scottish kings paid for "Ingils pyperis" at their court, while Edward I., Edward III., Henry VI. and Henry VIII. seem to have had native pipers.

The highlanders never used the pipes in war before the fifteenth century. The war was Scotland's instrument.—London Chronicle.

WEIGHING A PIG.

It Was a Perplexing Problem, but the Farm Lad Solved It.

A Massachusetts boy has solved a problem which ought to be of interest to all farm youngsters. If you had a pig and wanted to weigh him, but owned a pair of scales recording only twelve pounds, what would you do about it?

This eastern farmer boy had entered a pig in a contest conducted by the agricultural department and had to keep monthly records of gains in weight, but he suffered the handicap described above. His solution was a credit to his ingenuity.

The boy notched a high board fence, put a long pole evenly across it, resting in the notch, and fastened a crate to one end of the pole and a box to the other. He put sand in the box until the pole was exactly balanced. Then he enticed the pig into the crate by means of corn, fastened him and put small stones into the box until the pole again balanced. These stones he weighed on his little scales, load after load, and their total gave him the weight of the pig.

That boy when he grows up may invent the much talked of substitute for gasoline.—Des Moines Register and Leader.

A Profitable Reduction.

The capitalist knew that the new company was spending too much money; also he knew that in some way they had got to put a stop to it. So anxious was he to reduce expenses that he offered his private secretary \$25 a month extra if he could find a way to cut down current expenses.

The young man overhauled his accounts, but he failed to find a single expense that could be judiciously cut down. Just as he was about to give up the promised increase in salary it occurred to him that he was already getting \$80 a month. Brimming over with enthusiasm, he sought the capitalist.

"I have found a way," he said. "You can save \$10 a month on me. I have taken that amount off my salary."

It took the capitalist just about a tenth of a second to see that the young man was still \$15 a month ahead, but the bargain stood.—New York Times.

Wrong Interpretation.

A city official tells of a conversation he and a Spanish maiden had when he was a sergeant with troops stationed on the island of Porto Rico.

"The senorita," said the official, "had become infatuated with a certain soldier named Harry, and she had learned his name. One morning she approached me and asked:

"Where Harry?"
"He was asleep, and I laid my head on my hand and closed my eyes to tell the girl. She misunderstood the signs and, with a cry, pointed to heaven. I shook my head and pointed down. The senorita raised her hands in silent supplication. Later Harry was seen on guard, and the girl looked at me reproachfully."—Indianapolis News.

His Wail.

"She's like all the other women."
"In what way?"
"She imagines all a man has to do to get his salary raised is to ask for it."
"Well?"
"And I can't convince her that the boss won't give me more money unless I earn it. She insists on blaming me because we're poor."—Detroit Free Press.

Scrambled.

"No," she said to the grocer, "we got some eggs the other day by parcel post."
"How many?" ventured the grocer.
"Well, I don't know how many, but I would say about a gallon and a half of 'em."—Farm Life.

Rocks.

Blotbs—He has made quite a study of geology, hasn't he? Slobbs—I believe so. At any rate he is going to marry a girl with the rocks.—Philadelphia Record.

A wound inflicted by firearms can still be healed, but one inflicted by tongue will never heal up.—Persian Proverb.

HER GIFT OF MIMICRY.

Cissie Loftus Could Imitate Irving and Bernhardt Equally Well.

Walter Pritchard Eaton in the American Magazine says in an article about famous mimics:

"In the days when Cissie Loftus was delighting vaudeville audiences with her imitations she used to give an imitation of Lillian Russell. Miss Russell countered by giving an imitation of Miss Loftus' imitation of her. But to an artist like Miss Loftus that presented no difficulties. She merely came back with an imitation of Miss Russell's imitation of her imitation of Miss Russell! The fair Lillian thereupon retired from an unequal contest.

"Cissie Loftus could imitate anybody. The present writer once heard her in the course of a casual conversation imitate most thrillingly Sir Henry Irving in a blank verse death scene. Then an imaginary curtain descended, and you heard Sir Henry, in a totally different voice (no less unmistakably his), inquiring in very Saxon prose, where the deuce were the red lights?"

"Standing on the stage of a theater, without change of costume, with the flicker of a smile on her rather wistful face, she would range from Sarah Bernhardt to Ethel Barrymore, so that you almost gasped at the uncanny cleverness of it, and if you shut your eyes you could hardly believe that the actual persons were not present.

"Hers of course was an extraordinary gift of mimicry, and it brought her in \$1,000 a week, much more probably than she could command as an actress."

Zulu Songsters.

The arrival of a European in a Zulu village, the opening of a railway, a war, a famine, a plague of locusts, a pestilence may become topics for semi-public songs that are soon circulated among the people. Songs are used at the public functions of chiefs, such as the feast of the first fruits and at royal marriages. War and tribal songs are possessed by every chief and tribe. At marriages and other public ceremonies it is the Zulu custom to render not only the songs of the living chief, but those made famous by his father and grandfather.

Waiting For Him to Start Something.
"I'm just waiting for my husband to complain about my extravagance this month."

"Ready to give him an argument, eh?"
"You bet I am. By mistake his golf club checks came to the house, and I've got 'em."—Detroit Free Press.

The Masked Ball of the season. At the Hippodrome, November 29,---Ave. 28c.

Took the Hurt Out of Her Back. Mrs. Anna Byrd, Tusculumbia, Ala., writes: "I was down with my back so I could not stand up more than half the time. Foley Kidney Pills took all the hurt out." Rheumatic pains, swollen ankles, backache, stiff joints and sleep disturbing bladder ailments indicate disordered kidneys and bladder trouble.—Adv.

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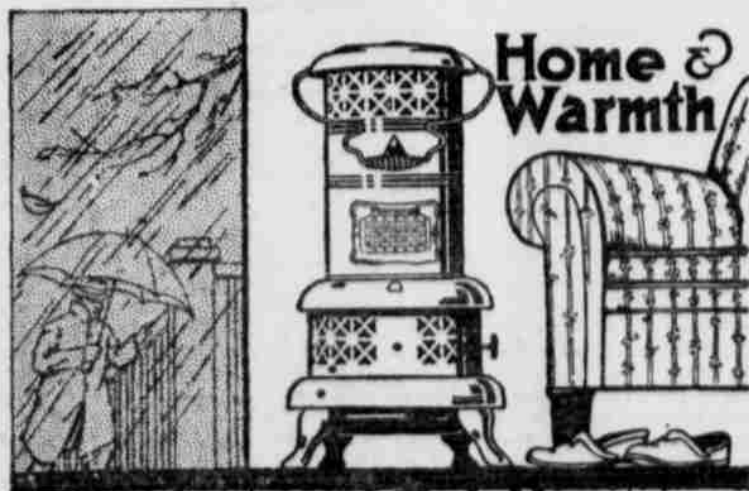
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