SKETCHES OF OLD BOSTON BUILDING 1882

GEO. R. TOLMAN
PLATE I. No. 517 North Street. This house was a witness to the historical events surrounding the Boston Massacre, which occurred on March 5, 1770, at the corner of North and King Streets. The friction between the Bostonians and the British soldiers escalated to a point where they were on the verge of fighting. It is said that the soldiers were quartered upon him, but impatiently expecting the arrival of a friend, a sea captain, who was watching the movements of the regulars.

If the British marched BY touch or sea from the ship to the house, a letter contained in the following letter is written:

"Hanging a lantern aloft in the hall of the North Church town common light. One (of hand, and two (of sea and I, on the opposite sides, will be ready to attend you through every Middlesex village and farm in your line of march."-- Paul Revere.

Mr. Newman succeeded in chilling the vigilance of his unwelcome guests, took down the church keys, and, with two lanterns in his hand, went out, met his friend, bore the news he brought, opened the church door, and went down the street. He did not tell his wife what had happened, but on reaching home, he found the house burn, and went

"Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread."-- The Boston Tea Party.

And started the passengers from their post to the street. The watchmen around him made a general and concerted effort to put a wooden post on a brick wall,--a custom much in vogue with colonial builders.

The watchman satisfied to have been built about 1729-35.

PLATE X. No. 129 North Square. The Homestead of Paul Revere.--"An ingenious goldsmith, as able to engrave a harness as to rally a council; was the ready, confidential messenger of the patriots, and the great leader of the mechanics."-- Frothingham.

Paul Revere resided here at the time of his famous ride. Both he and Robert Newman were Free Masons, which may account for the confidence they reposed in each other. This building was erected soon after the great fire of 1676, which swept away this portion of the old city. Drake tells us that from this house Paul Revere gave the striking exhibition of transparency on the evening of the anniversary of the Boston Massacre.

The old pump in the rear was never known, when in repair, to refuse the purport of spring water to man or beast, and it continued in constant use until the introduction of Cochituate water. Teams would come down from Middle Street (now Hanover) and the horses, by putting their heads through an opening in the fence, could quench the thirst of a dusty day to their satisfaction. When the South End was built across to South Street, it was then a passageway leading to the rear of this house.

This is the second best example of houses with overhanging eaves, and the window at the rear is made of rough handmade bricks, laid "Prominent bond," like other buildings of this period. The chimney on the right side of this house is an old one, the window on the front and the window on the front are modern; portions of the interior also have been remodeled. The kitchen yet remains with only slight change, and the rear yard was once a public square.

PLATE XI. No. 100 Prince Street. The Col. Gardiner House. This is a relic of the colonial period. An elderly lady, now living, aged 95, who was born in this house, told an old house who witnessed the burning of the house. A descendant of Col. Gardiner considers it to be between 160 and 169 years old. The window-drumes, like those of Plate III, which they never saw work. The stonework is in excellent condition, and the windows on the front are modern; portions of the interior also have been remodeled. The kitchen yet remains with only slight change, and the rear yard was once a public square.

PLATE XII. No. 143 Prince Street, surrounder Lafayette Apartments. This house, which is built upon raised ground, which stood up towards the water, was used as a hospital by the British troops after the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. To conceal their heavy loss from the citizens, the British ordered the streets with soldiers, compelling the citizens to keep within doors until the dead were buried. They buried many of them in what was then the surrounding fields of this house. Laterly, in making excavations, human bones have been found near the building; nothing like considerations of the discoverer of the discoverer were any other bones.
Corner of Lafayette Ave. and Prince St.