

Packet Ship "Boston"

F. H. Lane

THE  
ESSEX INSTITUTE  
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

VOL. LXXIX — 1943

ISSUED QUARTERLY



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SALEM, MASS.

PRINTED FOR THE ESSEX INSTITUTE

SALEM, MASS.  
 NEWCOMB & GAUSS Co., PRINTERS  
 1943

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## THE PACKET SHIP "BOSTON" OF GLOUCESTER.

BY ALFRED MANSFIELD BROOKS.

Harvey Coffin Mackay of Gloucester, Captain of the Packet Ship, *Boston* sailed from Boston to Charleston where he took on a cargo of cotton for Liverpool. The tragedy which befell the *Boston* is herewith described as taken from the ship's journal.

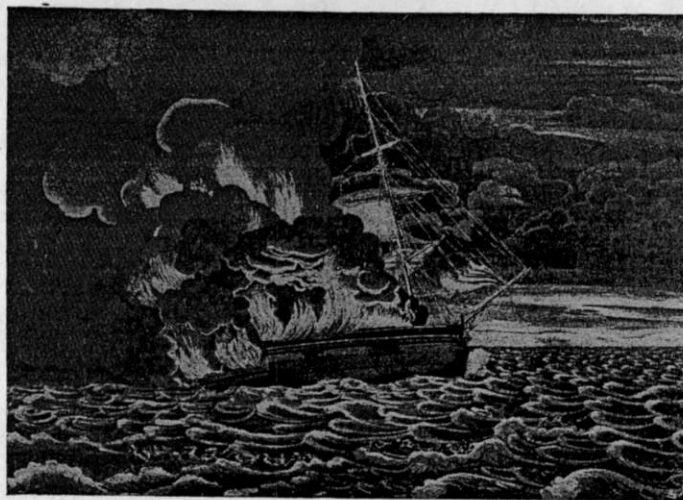
The picture of the burning is accounted for by the following extract taken from a letter dated Boston, August 15, 1869, written by the First-Officer of the *Boston*, at the time of the disaster, Elias Davis Knight. "The picture (a water-color 20" x 28") was drawn the same year by Mr. Lane (Fitz Hugh Lane, 1804-1865, well-known Gloucester artist) from a sketch I (Captain Knight) made soon after the disaster, aided by one of the passengers, Charles Osgood Esq., afterward a distinguished portrait painter (of Salem.) Mr. Lane had made no pretension of course at this time as an artist and probably had received no instruction."

Extracts from the Journal follow:

"Charleston towards Liverpool  
"26th day of May, 1830.

"Commences with fresh breezes and squally weather at 1 P. M. Squally at 2 P. M. Heavy rain which continued until sunset. At 8 P. M. forked lightening in S. West, and dark & heavy clouds rising from the Westward. At nine the wind hauled to the westward. At ten a heavy cloud began to rise in the S. W. At half past ten sharp lightening. Clued up the top galt. sails and hauled up the mainsail. At 11 P. M. very thundering and sharp lightening. The second flash struck the ship, burnt the main hatch and knocked down the steward, Isaac Hopkins, a sailor. Filled the ship full of electric fluid. We examined the ship immediately & searched to ascertain if the masts were injured, or if the lightening had passed through the deck, but the main mast appeared uninjured. A

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