

Historical.

—The oldest sailing craft in the world is the so-called Gokstad ship, a Viking vessel discovered in a sepulchral mound on the shores of Christiana fjord. It is a thousand years old.

—Those of us interested in early American history, whether absorbed at school or acquired by maturer reading, recall Benedict Arnold, his brilliancy and treason perhaps more vividly than almost any prominent figure of the Revolution. The students of those times recall that Washington sent him, with 1100 soldiers, on the ill-fated expedition to Quebec in 1775 by the way of the Kennebec river and through the forests of Maine. Two miles below Gardiner, in Colburn's yard, his command halted long enough to construct two hundred bateaux with which he proposed to transport troops and supplies through the Northern waters. A week ago J. Rafter and Abbot Lord Gardiner, business men that fish the river for sport, brought up in their great sturgeon net, directly opposite where the bateaux were built, an anchor or grapnel, which is undoubtedly a genuine Arnold relic. The stalk is some four feet long and carries five curved arms welded to its base. It was evidently fashioned of wrought iron over an anvil. These anchors were thrown out ahead of the bateaux, by which means they were pulled through rapids and swift water. For 129 years the anchor remained in the waters of the Kennebec, now to come to light, a mute, but eloquent reminder of the man who betrayed his country.

—James Graham, who belonged to the later years of the eighteenth century, must be credited with pre-eminent splendor in quackery. He took a house in the Royal Adelphi Terrace, London, which he ornamented gorgeously, and inscribed with the words "Templum Æsculapio Sacrum," and here he delivered nightly lectures, instructing persons how they could live in health and beauty for one hundred years; the admission fee to the lectures was two guineas. A beautiful young woman, personating Hebe, added her discourse to his, and probably drew more among the disreputable parts of his audience; and it has been asserted that this was none other than the woman who afterward became Lady Hamilton, notorious for connection with Nelson. This is certainly not proved. Graham was marvelously successful, both in London and Paris, but he was compelled gradually to lower rates of admission until at last the fee reached only one shilling.

—A contemporary of Disraeli in his memoirs records this impression of that famous dandy's personal appearance: Usually he wore a slate-colored velvet coat, lined with satin, purple trousers, with a gold braid down the outside seam; a scarlet waistcoat, long lace ruffles falling down to the tips of his fingers; white gloves, with brilliant rings outside them, and long black ringlets rippling down over his shoulders. When he rose in the House he wore a bottle-green frock coat, with a white waistcoat, collarless, and a copious supply of gold chains.

—The oldest inn in the world is probably the Golden Cross at Ratisbon, England. Charles V. resided in it in 1546. John of Austria, the defender of Europe against the Turk, was born in it in 1547. Ferdinand I. sojourned in it in 1531. In the visitors' book, are the names of the old Emperor William, the Emperor and Empress of Austria, the Emperor Frederick, the Emperor of Brazil and Prince Louis Bonaparte, who resided there in 1824, before he became Napoleon III. The Emperor Maximilian spent his honeymoon there. The room occupied by Prince Bismarck when he stayed there with the Emperor is preserved.

—Whiting Tavern, Dover, Mass., was built by Lieut.-Col. Daniel Whiting in 1761. Here for nearly a century was furnished entertainment for man and beast. Here in the "big room" the Sons of Liberty in the vicinity, assembled in the trying days before the Revolution. Here the male residents gathered during the noon hour on Sunday, and discussed the weather, their cryps and public questions over a mug of flip or toddy. The old flip iron was always kept at hand and was used for half a century. Here in the old buffet was kept the stock of liquors which was dispensed to the patrons. Lieut.-Col. Whiting was the officer of highest rank in Dedham during the Revolution. In 1778 he sold the tavern property and immediately loaned every dollar which he received for it to the State, although no assurance could be given him that the money would ever be repaid. The property was later owned by Ebenezer Newell, Jr., to whose hostelry the parish meetings were frequently adjourned. Capt. John Williams bought the property in 1799 and added the north wing to the tavern, which furnished a fine dance hall and larger store facilities. The tavern was continued as a place of entertainment until about 1842, since which time it has been used as a private residence. Here was kept for nearly fifty years the village postoffice, Capt. John Williams being the first postmaster of the town.