The financial history of Boston from May 1, 1822, to January 31, 1909

Huse Charles Phillips
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THE FINANCIAL HISTORY
OF BOSTON

FROM MAY 1, 1822, TO JANUARY 31, 1909

BY

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PREFACE

This history covers the period from May 1, 1822, when the first city government of Boston was organized, to January 31, 1909, the end of the fiscal year 1908–09. Though the fiscal year never coincided with the calendar year, the author, for the sake of simplicity, refers in this book to a given fiscal year by the calendar year in which it began. For example, the fiscal year 1822–23 is referred to as 1822. He has followed the practice of the city auditor in using the terms receipts and expenditures throughout the book. The figures given are cash transactions; Boston does not keep her accounts to show accruals.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to those who have helped him in the preparation of this book. First of all, he would record his gratitude to Boston herself for the rich opportunities she laid before a college lad. The inspiration of her historic scenes and the enjoyment of her many institutions, endowed by public or private munificence, stimulated him to learn of the men and the policies that had made possible such a heritage. And so, if in these pages there be found anything of interest to the student of the city's past or of profit to the citizen shaping its future, the author will feel that in some measure the debt of the lad has been repaid.

Throughout the work, the author has had the invaluable guidance of his teacher, Professor Charles J. Bullock. For his help in the preparation of this book and in many other ways, as well, his student is deeply grateful. Information has generously been given by Hon. John A. Sullivan, corporation counsel; Dr. E. M. Hartwell, secretary of the statistics department; Mr. R. M. Hull, assistant secretary of the finance commission of 1907; and Mr. H. G. Ide of the treasury department. The task of the author has been lightened by the assistance of his good friends, Drs. Augustus Locke and F. A. Golder. To his wife, who in many ways has aided him, he is under the greatest obligations.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY,
June, 1915.

CHARLES PHILLIPS HUSE.