

Some U.E. Loyalist Homes.

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Craigie House, Cambridge, is well known to all visitors to Boston and its environments, as a home lived in for many years by the Poet Longfellow, and in the library of which, so well loved by himself, he wrote some of the famous poems which are still, and always will be, amongst the gems of the English language. But to the lover of history who always looks for that to mingle with the poetry and romance of life, the house is also known as the home of one of the earliest United Empire Loyalists. It was built in 1759 by the wealthy Colonel John Vassall, of English timber, and stands far back from the street, between Harvard Square and Mount Auburn. Its ample front of two stories extends, including the broad verandahs, to a width of more than eighty feet, and the roof is still crowned with the white railing which appeared to be an indispensable addition to the colonial residences of those days. Between the tall white pilasters which mark the width of the hallway, the front door still retains the brass knocker which announced many a visitor to the ancient hospitalities, and wonder is still felt at the cumbrous old latch with its key, which might almost have belonged to a Bastile. In the white wainscoted hall is a handsome staircase with broad low steps and variously twisted balusters. On the left opens the drawing-room which, with its deep window seats, its arched recesses, its marble mantel surmounted by a broad panel set in an architectural frame remains a fine specimen of a colonial interior. Opposite to this was a similar room; beyond, a spacious library; and above are the bedrooms whose broad fireplaces are framed in old-fashioned Dutch tiles.

The house was built in the midst of Colonel Vassall's large inherited estate, but dear as it must have been to him with its many old associations, it was left by him on the eve of the Revolution, when keeping the side of the King, he went to England and erased from his family coat of arms the motto, "Always for my Country, after for my King." Then it was confiscated to the State, and after the battle of Bunker Hill the Marblehead regiment was quartered under its roof, and later on, Washington coming to take command, established his headquarters in the Vassall House. And Mrs. Washington, her son and his wife joining him, the winter was spent there, and tradition tells of many a party in the hospitable dining-room, and notably of a Twelfth-night gathering in the beautiful drawing-room.

In January, 1793, it passed into the possession of Andrew Craigie, who immediately set up a most princely establishment, entertaining on a grand scale, many notables, amongst whom