

Another tragic reminiscence was the sea-fight between the British brig Boxer, and the U. S. brig Enterprise, in which both captains were killed :

" I remember the sea-fight far away,
How it thundered o'er the tide ;
And the dead captains as they lay
In their graves, o'erlooking the tranquil bay
Where they in battle died."

In this beautiful city he spent his school days, and having passed through the Portland Academy, he entered Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at the age of 14. In the descriptions which we have of Longfellow as a student we see the main characteristic of the future man. His old Professor, Dr. Packard, describes him as " a light-haired, agreeable, well-bred, and well-mannered youth." His classmate, Mr. Thacker, of Boston, says he was " pure in his taste and morals, his character was without a stain." And a more noted classmate, who afterwards became a warm friend, viz:—Hawthorne, said that he was " a tremendous student and always carefully dressed."

It was during his college course that he first began to court the muse, and even then he experienced some of the woes as well as the joys of young authors. His first poem was entitled " The Battle of Lovell's Pond." It was printed in a Portland newspaper one morning, and the same evening the Chief Justice invited him to his house, to meet his son, a rising young poet, just returned from Harvard. The Judge rose in a stately manner during the evening and said to his son, " Did you see a poem in to-day's paper on 'The battle of Lovell's Pond ?'" " No sir," said the boy, " I did not." " Well sir, it was a very stiff production ; get your own poem on the same subject and I will read it to the company." The poem was read aloud, while the perpetrator of the " stiff production" sat, as he said, very still in a corner. At another time, the editor of the U. S. *Literary Gazette*, in which paper many of his early poems were published, advised him to give up poetry and buckle down to the study of law. But others did not agree with the Chief Justice and the editor. Early in his college life his writing began to attract attention. It is related that " a version of an ode of Horace, which he wrote in his sophomore year, so impressed one of the examiners, that, when afterwards a chair of modern languages was established in the college, he proposed as its incumbent, the young sophomore, whose verses had so pleased him." Longfellow graduated with honors in a remarkably talented class, and