

....The publication of the first of the four volumes of *The Memorial History of Boston* gives the inhabitants of that patriotic city substantial reasons to believe that they are to have in these volumes an unrivaled monument to commemorate and illustrate their history. The credit of having originated this immense undertaking belongs, we suppose, to Clarence F. Jewett, though, if we are rightly informed, he has been overtaken in this matter by the well-known gentlemen who constitute the committee in charge of the publication—the Rev. E. E. Hale, Samuel A. Green, M. D., and Charles Deane, of the Historical Society. Justin Winsor, librarian of Harvard University, undertook the responsibility of editing the whole, and thereby laid at the foundation of the work a guaranty both of excellence and success. The Messrs. Osgood, Ticknor & Co. are the publishers. County histories of Worcester and Middlesex had previously appeared in quarto form; and it was considered that Boston, as representing Suffolk, the original of them all, should, not be behind the others. The year 1850—being two hundred and fifty years from the settlement of the town—was considered a fit time to inaugurate a commemoration, which had, indeed, been thought of a hundred and fifty years before, when the outbreak of some epidemic put an end to the undertaking. The list of contributors is imposing and may be said to embrace all who have anything worthy to contribute. The committee give a distinct pledge that there shall be no “cheap garret” work; but that all shall be done by the writers named and according to promise. In the first volume we have maps,

early and late; drawings to illustrate all manner of subjects; representations of Colonial life and furniture. The scope of the work is exceeding broad. As a substitute for the mythic genealogy running back to Priam, or to Paris, or to beings yet more august, which the Old World towns and families delight in, this work begins with an exposition of the pre-historic period. After this satisfactory beginning, the Northmen are summoned out of their shadows, and their gropings along the coast are put into the palpable shape of map and history. Then comes the Colonial period, which occupies the remainder of this volume. Vol. II will be devoted to the Provincial period.