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## King's Chapel

Clara Louise Guild

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## King's Chapel.

King's Chapel, which is on the corner of School and Tremont Streets, was one of the first buildings of Boston.

It is not very beautiful in architecture, but its massiveness shows that it was intended that it should remain.

The corner-stone was laid by Governor Shirley, August 11<sup>th</sup> 1749. The stone for the building was brought from Braintree, ~~which~~ <sup>and</sup> has a very rough appearance, owing to the limited knowledge of cutting it.

The architect designed to have a beautiful steeple; <sup>4</sup> When it was about a third done, it was found that the funds were exhausted, so that it was finished the best it could be. This explains ~~for~~ the peculiar shape of the dome. <sup>(11)</sup>

Another peculiarity is the windows. There are two rows, which are very small. It is said that when Mather Byles, who



was a renowned punster, first saw them, he remarked, "that he had often heard of the canons of the church, but had never seen the post-holes before."

No plans had been made by the architect for a portico, but after the church was completed, the people began to raise money for it. Among those who contributed was General Washington, who was visiting the city at that time.

As time went on, ~~new~~ additions were made. A gallery was first added. Next an organ, which was the first ever used in Boston. A bell and a clock followed. The organ now used is supposed to have been selected by Handel.

The pews have never been altered. They are square, like a box, and have a door.

As you enter the chapel, on the right hand is a tablet to the memory of the young men of the chapel, who fell in the late war. On the left, opposite, is a monument erected to William Vassal.



There are tablets on the School Street side, to many of the prominent men, that have been members of the church. In the chancel are the busts of the former rectors.

These monuments and tablets add interest to the church, and remind me slightly of Westminster Abbey.



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Clara L. Guild.  
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