

Plan of a Hemp Mill, 1765

REVERE'S Plan of a Hemp Mill was engraved in 1765 to accompany Edmund Quincy's *Treatise of Hemp-Husbandry*, printed at Boston by Green & Russell, in a pamphlet of thirty-five pages, in 1765, by order of the House of Representatives. The author acknowledges that he has done little more than collect "the best experiments and observations he could meet with, from Europe, and in America, relative to the growth and management of Hemp." Marcandier's treatise on hemp had been translated from the French and published in London in 1764, and the subject was engrossing space in the newspapers.

Revere's plate, which appears following page 32 of the pamphlet, is headed "Plan of a Hemp Mill to go by Water," and measures $4\frac{7}{8}$ high by 5 inches wide. It is signed below by "G. Flagg Inv." and "P. Revere sculp." (See Plate no. 4.) The Massachusetts Historical Society, in its Quincy Papers, has the original manuscript of Edmund Quincy's *Treatise*. This includes the original plan of the Hemp Mill, entitled "Plan of a Hemp Mill Model, P M [Per Mr.] Gershom Flag." Gershom Flagg was a Boston housewright and glazier, born April 20, 1705, married Lydia Callender in 1731 and second, Elizabeth Pitson in 1736, had seven children, lived on Hanover street in Boston, removed to Harvard about 1769, and died at Boston, March 23, 1771. The Thwing card index in the Massachusetts Historical Society has many references to his purchases of land and the settlement of his estate, and J. W. North's *History of Augusta, Maine*, 1870, page 859, has an excellent sketch of the family.

Quincy's pamphlet was advertised as "This day is Published" in the *Boston Post-Boy & Advertiser* of April 8, 1765, and in the *Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News-Letter* of April 4, 1765.

The Massachusetts House *Journal*, under date of March 1, 1765, page 283, mentions the treatise and says: "The Committee appointed to consider of the Util-

ity of the Treatise of Hemp Husbandry reported . . . that it is adviseable for this Court to order the printing of four hundred Copies of the said Treatise.”

Revere does not enter the charge in his Day Book. But W. G. A. Turner of Malden sent me about twenty years ago the wording of an original document which he had seen, as follows:

MAR. 6TH, 1765

MR. PAUL RIVERRE

You are desired by the Committee of the House of Representatives, who were to agree for an Impression of 400 copies of a treatise of hemp husbandry, to cut the view of a hemp mill Model, & to impress 400 Copies thereof — to be delivered to Mess. Green and Russell, — for which (including the paper) you are to be paid, Forty four shillings —

THO. CLAPP
JNO. WINSLOW
JOS. WILLIAMS

The only charges in Revere's Day Book against Edmund Quincy, whom he calls "Edmund Quincy Tertius," are two accounts for the making and engraving of silver, both in January, 1768. In the charge of January 5, 1768, Revere also includes an expense of £2 for "Printing 100 Prints." I do not know what these prints were. Edmund Quincy did not have a bookplate or an advertising card, so far as is known. It is remotely possible that Quincy had more copies printed of his Treatise on Hemp, and needed more copies of the plate.

Copies of Quincy's *Treatise* are to be found in the American Antiquarian Society and in most of the larger libraries which have collections of Americana.