

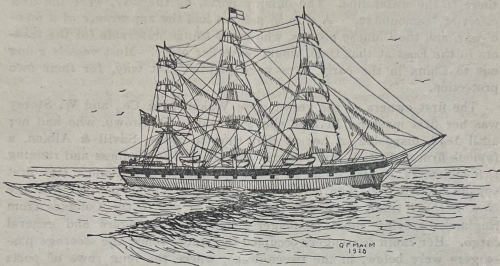
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"STAR OF INDIA"

Gerald MacMullen

As the old Star of India rides beside the Embarcadero today, there is little about her which indicates a past filled with voyages in all climates, battles with wind, wave and ice, and the carrying of thousands of oddly assorted passengers and seamen.

It is through the generosity of James W. Coffroth that the old ship is here, preserved so that those here today and those who will come in the future years, may see a vessel which was typical of the time when the world's commerce was moved by the winds of the sea, rather than by steam. He bought the old vessel when she was doomed to the wreckers' torch, and presented her to the Zoological Society, for a maritime museum and the first unit of the proposed aquarium. The day of the sailing-ship is gone, and the few pitiful remnants of a once proud fleet will, in a short time, be but memories. Most have gone their way already—wrecked, broken up for junk, or, more pitiful yet ending their days as coal-hulks and storage barges. Few have been preserved; the old Charles W. Morgan has been re-conditioned and is open to visitors at South Dartmouth Mass.; the Cutty Sark, famous tea-clipper, is similarly preserved at Falmouth. And Star of India is serving a two-fold purpose—a museum of the past, and a training-ship for the youth of today.

