

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

#### CAPT J. F. McMAHON LADDER 1

"A fire that I will always remember, and one that came near proving fatal to the members of Egnine Company 8, was a fire on a Sunday in the old Tremont Temple. I had been in the department only a short time when this fire occurred.

"The company was ordered to run a line up the stair way to the upper balcony, where the heat and smoke were intense. After passing water some time, it was suddenly shut off, leaving the company in a bad way.

"When we found that the water was gone, we shut the nozzle almost off and started to grope our way to a window. As we left the pipe, a large safe fell through an office floor from above and crashed through the balcony floor, just where we had been working.

"The water came and we were right on the job, when an order was received to drop everything and get out quick. On making the stairway the roof fell burying the members of the company. We helped each other out from under the debris and found that one was missing.

"We searched, and rescued hoseman J. M. Elliott, who had been completely buried. We were fortunate that none of us was seriously injured, but we were



CAPT J. F. McMAHON

a hard-looking lot when we reached the street."

Capt J. F. McMahon is in charge of Ladder Company 1, Friend st, one of the busiest fire companies in the United States. He has made and assisted in many rescues; his name is in the Roll of Merit of the department, and he has worked at many hazardous fires. He was appointed in 1892 and has served with Engine 8-4, Ladder 24, 2 and 1.