



Note the large bee-hive shaped oven built in the rear of the fireplace. This kind of oven is seldom seen as they are found only in the Cape Cod houses built before 1750.

flanked by two small rough-hewn bedrooms where the youngest children slept. In one of these rooms you will see the wide, thick, and very hard upright boards that support the house without benefit of studding. Originally they were the siding of some magnificent old ship. Along with the oak support-

ing beams and the random width pine plank flooring, they provide the secret to the house's impressive longevity. In the master bedroom you will see a floor board twenty three inches wide. The widest were always put upstairs as an early tax dodge as King George the third taxed the colonists accord-



COMMERCIAL STREET, SHOWING PLAYERS THEATRE, PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

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Storm

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ing to the width of the planks, so often a loud sigh of relief was heard if the tax collector left without checking upstairs.

Next I ask you to look at the military chest at the further end of the room. This all dove-tailed British officer's campaign chest is a rare object. It was made about 1710 and is one of the very few in existence. We have it from a good authority there is only one in the Metropolitan Museum. A chest-on-chest, the drawer fronts are cherry and black walnut. The sides and top are Honduras mahogany. When the officer was in Asia, he would hire four coolies to carry this extremely heavy chest packed with guns, swords, uniforms, etc. It would be carried from one battlefield to another - often two hundred miles or more through steaming hot jungles. Before its was transported the legs and knobs were unscrewed and put into a drawer. Incidentally the screws that hold the legs and knobs were all beautifully carved out of hard wood. Then the top chest was lifted off from the one underneath. That one has two wooden pegs which held the top one on when the chest was not being transported. Before transportation the chests were separated and heavy canvas was wrapped around each one to protect them from injury. Then wide leather straps were fastened tightly around each end. One coolie would grasp one side strap, and another the other side, and off they would go into the wild grim yonder.