

## COMMODORE WILLIAM F. SPICER.

Commodore William F. Spicer, of the United States Navy, commandant of the Charlestown Navy-yard, died in Boston yesterday morning in his fifty-seventh year. A native of this City, he began his naval career as a Midshipman, on June 21, 1839, his first service being performed in the Dolphin, on the west coast of Africa. Up to the time of the beginning of the late civil war, during which years he passed through the grades of Passed Midshipman, Master, and Lieutenant, his duties took him nearly all over the world. He saw service in the Pacific, the Mediterranean, along the African coast, and in the Gulf of Mexico, besides home duties on the Coast Survey, the receiving-ship, and at the Boston Navy-yard. He was made a Lieutenant-Commander on July 16, 1862, and a Commander on Jan. 2, 1863. He served on the Cambridge and Quaker City, of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, from April, 1863, to May, 1865, and participated in the action at Fort Fisher. After being a short time on special duty at the Portsmouth Navy-yard, in October, 1865, he spent a year on the Chilcopee, attached to the Gulf Squadron. From June, 1867, to July, 1869, he was with the Dakota in the South Pacific. During the following three years, until September, 1872, he was on equipment duty at the Boston Navy-yard. He obtained his promotion as Captain on April 22, 1870. During 1873 and 1874 he commanded successively the monitors Terror and Dictator, of the Gulf Squadron. From March, 1875, to July, 1876, he was in command of the rendezvous in Boston. His promotion to the rank of Commodore was made April 23, 1877. His first duty as Commodore was performed at the Charlestown Yard as commandant. He was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

He leaves a large family, consisting of a wife and seven children, four sons and three daughters. His eldest son, William F. Spicer, Jr., is a Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, and is at present on duty at the Charleston yard. Commodore Spicer's death was caused by a tumor in the chest, from which he had been suffering a long time. On June 28 Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, and Dr. Hard, of the yard, performed an operation on him, drawing about three pints of water from the tumor. About a week ago another operation was performed, with little success. The tumor so worked upon his internal organs, principally the heart and liver, as to check all respiration, causing death virtually by strangulation, and he passed away in great distress for breath. The funeral will take place on Monday at 11 A. M., and will be private.

Of the 40 years spent in the service, 20 years had been given to active duty at sea. By the death of Commodore Spicer, Capt. Samuel P. Carty, at present a member of the Light-house Board, in Washington, is promoted to the rank of Commodore.

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