

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

CAPT JEREMIAH F. GILLEN, ENGINE 9

"In the 26 years that I have been with the Boston Fire Department I have had many narrow escapes and have been seriously injured many times. The one escape that gave me my greatest thrill was at the Chipman fire on Scollay sq.

"I was working on the top floor with Chief Cheswell and several others, when the roof fell upon us and we were caught like rats in a trap. The members of Engine 4 played their line down where we were and put out the fire that was burning all around us. They then cut a hole in the roof and pulled us out.

"We were a pretty badly used up lot of men. I was off duty with my injuries from this fire for three months.

"Another narrow escape was at a fire from box 116, Dorchester av, South Boston. I was on a ladder playing in a window on the fourth floor. The building being an old one, the windowsills were very rotten where the dog was attached, and the pressure of the hose was so great that the dog gave way and down went the ladder with the men to the street. We were all badly injured and were sent to the hospital.

"At the Webster Hall fire I had an-



CAPT J. F. GILLEN.

other close call. I was working on the top floor, when I noticed the roof was about to fall in. I dropped the line and got to the side wall, where I hung on until rescued by ladders."

Capt Gillen joined the department July, 1890, was made lieutenant in 1897 and captain 1903.