

ladies avoided appearing in pleasure-boats as much as at the play, owing to the freedom of language then prevalent, both at the theatre and on the river."

In course of time, however, an improvement came alike over the theatre and the river. One Doggett, an actor, who had removed from his native Dublin to London in the time of William III., and who retired from the stage just before the end of the reign of Queen Anne, was as fervent in his

indefinite period. But money is now given in lieu of a costume which is at present rarely even seen. The first race for "Doggett's Coat and Badge" was rowed in 1716, the course being from the "Swan" at London Bridge to the "Swan" at Chelsea. These and intermediate hostelries of the same name have since passed away, but this contest continues annually over the same course, and one of the leading regulations of the match is still retained, such being that the start shall take



THE FIRST BOAT USED BY CAMBRIDGE.

loyalty as he had been prominent in his profession. His attachment to the Hanoverian line of monarchy, coupled with his love for aquatic sports, led him to offer a prize for competition on the first anniversary of the accession of George I. It was to be rowed for by six young watermen just out of their apprenticeship. The prize consisted of a coat of antique cut, but which the actor's loyalty ordained to be of orange colour, and bearing on the right sleeve a silver badge carrying a figure of the White Horse of Hanover. The bill of the Drury Lane Theatre, in announcing the prize, stated that it was "given in honour of the king's "happy accession," and that it was to be rowed for annually on the 1st of August "for ever," and Doggett left the means for supplying the annual prize for that rather

place when the tide is strongest against the rowers, so that the strength and endurance of the jolly young watermen are rather severely tested. Dibdin made this annual race the subject of one of his ballad operas. The prize is presented to the winner with some ceremonies at Fishmongers' Hall, that company being trustees of the same. In connection with this, it is interesting to state that at a banquet given by the Fishmongers' Company some years ago to the Prince of Wales, a score or so of winners of this race, in their quaint orange coats with plaited skirts, and with bright badges on their right arms, acted as a guard of honour in lieu of the usual military guard.

The next important incident chronologically in the aquatic history of the great metropolis is a