

author could be sweet, gentle, and truly modest. Those who had the good fortune to visit him at his homes in Beaufort, South Carolina, and overlooking Lake Owasco near Auburn, New York, say that it was his practice to begin his daily stint of writing at five in the morning, and to be through in time to spend the afternoon at tennis, swimming, or entertaining passing visitors or large groups in the social parties which he so much enjoyed.

Considering the really sound quality of Adams' writing (when Warner Fabian was not in possession), it is curious that he received only one honorary degree, an L.H.D. from Hamilton in 1926. He came to know the library of the American Antiquarian Society as a "pleasant treasure house" which yielded much, such as the Maelzell collection, which went into his novels of Upper New York. When a lameness which set in a dozen years ago hindered his moving about, he and Clarence Brigham settled down to a vast correspondence. He was elected to membership in 1946, and he became one of the most regular contributors to our book funds. He was still hard at work, still inquiring for available source material for projected novels, when death took him at Beaufort on November 16, 1958. C. K. S.

LOUIS HENRY DIELMAN

Louis Henry Dielman was born in New Windsor, Maryland, on January 16, 1864, a son of Louis and Theodora (Muller) Dielman. His father was an innkeeper but his own childish ambition was to read everything in print. He attended Calvert College in New Windsor, and in 1881 apprenticed himself to a Baltimore druggist and enrolled in the Maryland College of Pharmacy. Later he attended the

Philadelphia College of Pharmacy where he was graduated in 1885. Then he returned to New Windsor, opened a pharmacy, and obtained appointment as postmaster. He soon decided that he had chosen an uninteresting and unprofitable profession, so in 1900 he went to Annapolis as a cataloger in the State Library. In 1904 he went to the Enoch Pratt Free Library as assistant to Bernard Christian Steiner, and in 1911 he became executive secretary of the Peabody Institute, in 1928 taking over the librarianship as well. Beginning in 1905 he was active in the Maryland Historical Society, serving as chairman of the library committee from 1914 to 1943, and as editor of the *Maryland Historical Magazine* from 1910 to 1938.

Mr. Dielman's service to these institutions was selfless. During the depression he bought books from his own pocket, telling his protesting colleagues that he had no use for personal possessions. Sometimes he built up collections on which an institution would not feel that it should expend funds, and then gave them to one of his libraries. The most important of these was a collection of some 5000 pieces of early sheet music, mostly of Baltimore printing. After 1920 one of his chief interests was a vast morgue of Maryland biography which now fills a room at the Maryland Historical Society.

In 1922 Mr. Dielman's connection with the American Antiquarian Society began with correspondence and developed after Clarence Brigham visited him in connection with his newspaper bibliography. In 1925 he was elected to the Society. Like Mr. Brigham he believed in swift and wholesale exchanges without accounting, and would have been ashamed to keep a rare item which obviously belonged in another institution. Some of the unique numbers of Maryland newspapers which Mr. Brigham turned up went immediately into Mr. Dielman's files. His letters, like his

manners, were witty and informal, and we missed them after his retirement in 1942.

Mrs. Dielman, the former Anna Good Barkdoll, to whom he was married in 1890, died in 1935, leaving no children, but when he retired to New Windsor in 1942, he was by no means alone. He established himself in the forty-room inn (significantly known as "the Sheltering Arms" to the townspeople) whose other tenants immediately became his personal friends. The children of the town, particularly, swarmed to visit "Mr. Lou," who would start the conversation with baseball but work around to history without frightening them. His correspondence with professional friends was crowded out by the demands of that with ill or absent children, and he had become the most revered as well as the oldest inhabitant of his town when he died, on March 9, 1959, after a single day's illness. C. K. S.

THOMAS JAMES HOLMES

Thomas J. Holmes was born at Newcastle-under-Lime, England, on December 26, 1874, a son of Elisha and Maryjane (Rhodes) Holmes. As a child he was an insatiable reader, and in his teens he took up theology, studying not only the authors congenial to his own strict Puritan background, but those who expounded other systems as well. Nor did he neglect the literary background of Puritanism. He went to public schools and at the age of thirteen was apprenticed to a bookbinder and publisher. In this connection he spent three summers working in the library of the Duke of Sutherland and some weeks in the library of the Bishop of Lichfield, an experience which developed in him a great love for old and beautiful books.

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