

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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FOUR members of the Society have passed away in the interval since our last meeting.

**Gardiner Greene Hubbard**, who has been aptly spoken of as the first citizen of Washington in civil life, died at his home, at "Twin Oaks," December 11, 1897. He was elected a member of this Society April 25, 1894, and joined the Society immediately after. He was much gratified by his election. He took great interest in the objects to which the Society is devoted, and made his arrangements to attend each one of the meetings held in the interval before his death. He looked forward to these meetings with great satisfaction and delight. But he was prevented on each occasion by his own illness or that of a member of his household. He had been President of the National Geographic Society for ten years. He was one of its principal founders.

Mr. Hubbard was born August 25, 1822. He came from an ancestry from which he could not help inheriting patriotism, public spirit, and a strong interest in the history and antiquities of New England. He was descended from William Hubbard, who sailed from London on the ship *Defence* and landed at Boston, October 6, 1635. William came from Ipswich in Suffolk. He was a man of wealth, the purchaser of large tracts of land, a lover of learning, the founder of the Ipswich Grammar School. He was deputy to the General Court in 1638 and 1646, and held other public employments. He is spoken of by a contemporary as "a very learned man, being well read in State matters, of a very affable and humble behaviour, who expended much of his estate to help on this worke."

Next in the line of Mr. Hubbard's ancestors comes William Hubbard, fourth child and second son of the foregoing. He was born in Essex County, England, came to this country with his parents, and received the Master's degree at Harvard in 1642. He studied medicine at Harvard, but was ordained to the ministry in 1658. He became pastor of the Congregational Church in Ipswich, where he remained for forty-three years. His historical works are well known. Eliot describes him as "equal to any in the Province for learning and candor, and superior to all his contemporaries as a writer." His son, John Hubbard, born in Ipswich in 1648, a leading merchant in Boston, married Ann Leverett, second daughter of Sir John Leverett, a Boston merchant, soldier under Cromwell; delegate to the General Court, member of the Governor's Council, Deputy Governor, Governor, ten years Major-General of Massachusetts, knighted by Charles II., probably the ablest of New England's soldiers and statesmen after the times of Winthrop and Bradford and Sir Henry Vane until the generation of the Revolution.

John Hubbard, son of the last named John Hubbard, was born in 1677, graduated from Harvard in 1695, ordained pastor of the church in Long Island in 1698. He died in 1705, and is described as a man of gentle disposition and greatly beloved by his flock, who deplored his early death. In 1781 this John Hubbard married Mabel Russell, granddaughter of Richard Russell, and granddaughter, on the mother's side, of Samuel Wyllis. Richard Russell, born in Herefordshire, England, in 1612, came to Massachusetts in 1640; was treasurer of the Colony from 1644 to 1674; many years member of the General Court; several times Speaker; and Assistant from 1659 to 1674.

Samuel Wyllis was born in Warwick, England; settled at Hartford, Connecticut; was graduated from Harvard in 1653; in 1654 chosen a Magistrate, in which office and

that of Assistant under the charter of Charles II. he was retained by annual election until 1685. It was on his estate directly in front of his house that the famous Charter Oak stood, under which the Charter of Connecticut was hidden in 1687. He died in Hartford, May 30, 1709.

The wife of Samuel Wyllis was Ruth, daughter of Governor John Haynes. John Haynes was born in Copford, England, in 1594. He was a man of wealth and learning. He came to Massachusetts in the *Griffin* in 1633. He was elected Assistant in 1634 and became Governor of Massachusetts in 1635. A year later he removed to Hartford, Connecticut, and in 1639 was elected the first Governor of Connecticut. He was one of the five authors of the Connecticut Constitution of 1638. He was a man of steadfast integrity, of strong convictions, refined in character, and greatly beloved by his people.

The father of Samuel Wyllis was George Wyllis, born in Warwick, England, about 1570. He was a Puritan. He purchased an estate in Hartford on which to erect a house for himself and family. He came to Massachusetts two years later. He was one of the framers of the Connecticut Constitution of 1638; was chosen one of six magistrates of Connecticut at its first election, which office he held until his death in 1645. In 1641 he was chosen Deputy Governor, and a year later he was chosen Governor. Governor Wyllis was famed for his social and domestic virtues, civil manners, and a love of civil and religious liberty.

The material for the foregoing account of Mr. Hubbard's ancestry is chiefly taken from a sketch by Dr. Marcus Benjamin, historian of the Society of Colonial Wars, of which Gardiner G. Hubbard was Governor.

Daniel Russell Hubbard, the son of John Hubbard, was born in 1706, after the death of his father; was graduated from Yale in 1727; afterward tutor a year; settled as a lawyer in New London, Connecticut, where he died in

1742. His son William married as his second wife, Joanna, daughter of James Perkins, a merchant of Boston, and Joanna Mascarene. She was the daughter of Jean Paul Mascarene, a Huguenot refugee. He was born in Castres, France, in 1684; fled to Geneva in 1696, and afterward to England. He was naturalized in England and became a lieutenant in the British army in 1706. He settled and married in Boston in 1714 or before. His house was in School Street. He was afterward made Commander-in-Chief for the Province of Nova Scotia, and died at Annapolis, Nova Scotia, in 1760. The Mascarenes are said to have been an ancient family in the south of France, whose members were either in the law or in the army.

There are many persons now living who remember Samuel Hubbard, one of the most eminent lawyers and jurists of Massachusetts. He was the son of William Hubbard and Joanna Perkins Hubbard, and was born in Boston, June 2, 1785. He was one of the great judges of our great old court who had practised in their youth before Parsons and later sat on the bench with Shaw and Wilde.

Judge Hubbard was regarded by the men of his generation at the bar as a model of the professional character. He was a model magistrate upon the bench. He was profoundly religious, a firm believer in the old Calvinistic creed, of courteous, kindly and benevolent nature, elegant manners, and great public spirit. The following epitaph, written for him, but never inscribed on his monument, is worth preserving:

"OF AN ANCIENT FAMILY:  
OF COMMANDING PRESENCE:  
OF URBANE MANNERS AND A  
KINDLY HEART:  
LEARNED IN THE INSPIRED

ORACLES AS WELL AS IN HUMAN LAW :  
 A SOUND DIVINE NOT LESS  
 THAN A JUST JUDGE :  
 ACTIVE AS A PHILANTHROPIST  
 BECAUSE EARNEST AS A  
 CHRISTIAN ; HE MOVED  
 WITH AUTHORITY AMONG MEN,  
 AND WALKED WITH GOD, AND WAS  
 NOT, FOR GOD TOOK HIM."

Judge Hubbard was married to Mary Ann, the daughter of Gardiner Greene, an eminent Boston merchant, and a man of large wealth and ability. Mr. Greene's second wife, the grandmother of the subject of this sketch, was Elizabeth Hubbard. They were second cousins. The first wife of Gardiner Greene was the daughter of Copley, the celebrated painter, and a sister of Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst.

GARDINER GREENE HUBBARD, married Gertrude Mercer McCurdy, October 21, 1846. Their children were :

ROBERT MCCURDY, born December 9, 1847; died October 11, 1849.  
 GERTRUDE MCCURDY, born October 1, 1849; died November 13, 1886; married Maurice N. Grossmann, died November 10, 1884, and had :

GERTRUDE M. GROSSMANN, born April 23, 1882.

MABEL GARDINER, born November 25, 1857; married Alexander Graham Bell, July 11, 1877. Their children were :

ELSIE MAY BELL, born May 8, 1878.

MARIAN HUBBARD BELL, born February 15, 1880.

EDWARD BELL, born and died August 15, 1881.

ROBERT BELL, born and died November 17, 1883.

ROBERTA WOLCOTT, born June 4, 1859; died July 4, 1885; married Charles James Bell, May 11, 1881. Their children were :

HELEN ADINE BELL, born March 16, 1882.

GRACE HUBBARD BELL, born November 3, 1883.

GRACE BLATCHFORD, born October 8, 1861; married Charles James Bell, April 23, 1887. Their children were :

GARDINER HUBBARD BELL, born May 7, 1889.

CHARLES JAMES BELL, born May 15, 1891; died May 2, 1892.

ROBERT WOLCOTT BELL, born June 14, 1894.

MARIAN, born April, 1867; died August, 1869.

It is difficult to compress the fascinating story of Mr. Hubbard's useful life within the limit permitted to such sketches by the customs of this Society. He accomplished great things himself. He was the stimulant of great accomplishment in other men. He was, I think, in these respects, surpassed by few persons in his generation, certainly by no person he has left behind.

Mr. Hubbard was graduated at Dartmouth in the year 1841. He studied law at Harvard University. He was admitted to the bar in 1843, when he entered the office of Benjamin R. Curtis, retaining a connection with that firm until Judge Curtis took his seat on the Supreme Bench in 1852. He became very eminent in his profession. He was distinguished for his thorough preparation and mastery of his cases. He was always modest, and liked to associate with himself in the service of his clients men like Webster and Choate and other eminent advocates, in great cases, to the sole management of which he would doubtless have been competent. He practised law for twenty years in Boston, and then was compelled by his health to leave New England for a milder climate, and moved to Washington. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws at Columbian University, Washington, in 1888, and at Dartmouth in 1895. His active and humane public spirit had been conspicuously manifested while he dwelt in Massachusetts. His home was in Cambridge. He was a zealous promoter of all the interests of that city. He was president of the street railway between Cambridge and Boston, the first street railway ever built outside of New York City. He was president of the Cambridge Gas Light Company. He was ten years an industrious and faithful member of the State Board of Education. One of his daughters was deaf and dumb. That led Mr. Hubbard to look into a scheme, which had been proposed and carried into effect in a very few cases in Germany, for teaching deaf mutes articulate speech. He gathered half a dozen

pupils and employed a teacher and started a school, the cost of which he largely paid. He tried to get a charter from the legislature, but was refused for the reason that his plan was deemed impracticable. But he took his pupils, including his own child, before a legislative committee, and finally secured the founding of the Clark School at Northampton, said by Dr. Hamlin to be the best of its kind in the world. He was the first president of the trustees of that school, and a member till his death. He was also for many years the first Vice-President of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf.

He was the Massachusetts Commissioner in 1876 to the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia.

He had already manifested, as a patent lawyer, and in other ways, great interest in all mechanical inventions, and a great capacity of his own in that direction.

In 1876 President Grant appointed him chairman of a special commission to investigate the entire question of railway mail transportation. Largely through his thorough and faithful work, that has been brought to a high degree of efficiency.

After his removal to Washington he took zealous interest in the establishment of a postal telegraph system; in the establishment of a free library; and of a national university.

He was president of the Alumni Association of Dartmouth College, where he established a lectureship at his own cost.

He was a regent of the Smithsonian Institution; President of the National Geographic Society; President of the General Commission of Scientific Societies in Washington; First Vice-President of the American Association of Inventors and Manufacturers; Commissioner of Awards at the Tennessee Exposition; Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia; an earnest counsellor and friend of Johns Hopkins University, and

the founder of the journal known as *Science*; Vice-President of the Columbia Historical Society; member of the Commission for the Omaha Exposition in 1898; and Director of the Central Dispensary and Emergency Hospital of Washington.

Mr. Hubbard was an enthusiastic collector of engravings. His magnificent collection is said by a competent expert to compare favorably with the Randall and Gray collections, now the property of Harvard College. Mr. Hubbard's collection is superior to those in Rembrandts and Durers, possessing some rarities which are believed to be the only examples in existence. The very interesting papers on Napoleon by Miss Ida M. Tarbell, published recently in *McClure's Magazine*, are illustrated largely, if not wholly, from the riches of the Hubbard collection. This collection, in execution of what was believed to be his desire, has been presented by Mrs. Hubbard to the National Library where a beautiful apartment has been set apart for its use and custody.

Mr. Hubbard was one of the most charming of hosts. His beautiful residence on Connecticut Avenue, crowded with works of art and attractive household ornaments, and his country residence, "Twin Oaks," two or three miles from the solid part of the city of Washington, he liked to fill with guests. The gracious and quiet host was, however, more attractive than painting or statue. Every person of distinction in public life or literature visiting the capital of the country was to be met there. His circle of friends grew wider as he grew old. I suppose many famous men have made fast friendships with one another through the opportunity which his hospitality offered.

When Mr. Hubbard died not only a great light went out in Washington, but it seemed as if a great institution had come to an end.

But Mr. Hubbard's greatest single benefaction to mankind remains to be spoken of. It was a rare good fortune

that it is due to the same man, that communication by oral speech has been established with the benumbed and darkened soul of the deaf and dumb, and that men have been enabled to hear across the continent the quiet tones of the human voice as if they were speaking together face to face. Under the inspiration of Gardiner Greene Hubbard the vocal speech of the deaf and dumb became a practical reality. Under the same inspiration the telephone, which till then had been but a toy, became the one most valuable instrument in the communication of mankind.

Mr. Hubbard seldom spoke of himself or his own achievements. His sense of justice and modesty alike would have prevented him from sanctioning any claim for himself which should fail to do justice to those to whose genius these two great benefits to mankind are owing. Least of all would it have been possible for him to consent that any claim should be intruded after a fashion that would tend in the least to dim the glory of Alexander Graham Bell. But the wisdom which saw earlier than all other men the value to mankind of these two great discoveries, the large business sagacity, the courage, the untiring energy, which made them at once available for the service of the human race, were his. Mr. Bell, the inventor of the telephone and the husband of the child who was among the first to be benefited by teaching the deaf to converse with the lips and to understand the oral utterance of others, has himself borne generous testimony to the benefit conferred on mankind by Mr. Hubbard in this way. He well says of him, "His views were not confined to narrow horizons. Without making any claim to be a specialist in science himself, he had an exceedingly clear conception of the relation of the sciences to one another."

Mr. Hubbard had a genius for friendship. He was, as has been said, a charming host. He had the hospitality of the intellect and of the soul,—that hospitality which receives and welcomes new friends, new thoughts, new

plans for the service and advancement of mankind. To his house every man who visited Washington, famous in any department of science or letters, loved to repair to enjoy the delightful converse of that refined and brilliant circle, always sure of kindest welcome. But it was not only to famous men and women, whose presence conferred honor on him, that Mr. Hubbard's courtesy was extended. Young men and women, unknown to fame, with the capacity and the honorable aspiration to become worthy and useful citizens, found from his kind heart a generous welcome, wise counsel and unflinching sympathy.

It is a great misfortune to this Society and a great disappointment to those of us who knew him best that his desire for a closer intimacy with our associates and to take a part in our work was disappointed.

Of the other three deceased members, memorials follow: of Ebenezer Cutler, by Rev. Daniel Merriman, D.D.; of Justin Winsor, by James L. Whitney, A.M.; and of Thomas L. Nelson, by Rockwood Hoar, A.M.

**Rev. Ebenezer Cutler, D.D.**, the eldest of six children, was born at Royalston, Massachusetts, August 21, 1822. He was in the eighth generation from John Cutler, an English Puritan, who settled in Hingham in 1637. His mother was Betsey Atkins, born in Phillipston, Massachusetts.

When Dr. Cutler was a lad of twelve, his father, who was an intelligent and prosperous farmer, removed to Waterford, a town in northern Vermont, and there, on a farm largely devoted to stock raising, young Cutler grew up. He was fitted for college at Newbury Academy, Vermont, and entered the University of Vermont in 1841, where he took high rank as a scholar, and was graduated in 1845. Among his associates there were the late Mr. Henry O. Houghton, the well known publisher, and the

Rev. Nathaniel G. Clark, D.D., for many years the distinguished Foreign Secretary of the American Board of Missions.

Immediately after leaving college he entered Andover Theological Seminary in preparation for the ministry, where he had as instructors those famous Professors, Moses Stuart, Henry B. Smith, Leonard Woods and Edwards A. Park, and among his classmates, one who became another eminent Secretary of the American Board, the Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D.D.

After he was graduated at Andover in 1848 he preached at various places, chiefly at Derby, Vermont, and in 1850 he was ordained and installed as the fifth pastor of the Congregational Church in St. Albans, Vermont, where he remained five years, when he was called to be the pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, and was installed there September 5th, 1855. He occupied this position with ability for twenty-five years when failing health compelled him to resign, and he was dismissed in 1880. He was afterwards, however, made pastor *Emeritus* of the church, and held this title until his death from pneumonia, January 16th, 1898, in Worcester.

Dr. Cutler received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Vermont in 1866. He was invited to become the President of the same college in 1865, and shortly afterwards was asked to take a professorship in the Hartford Theological Seminary, but he preferred to remain in the pastorate.

In 1871 he was elected a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, but resigned in 1896, because no longer able to attend the meetings. He served as a Director of the Free Public Library in Worcester from 1864 to 1869, and was elected a member of this Society in April, 1885, but he seldom attended our meetings. He was one of the leading pro-

jectors of the Congregational Club of Worcester in 1874; was its first President and continued for a long time active in its affairs. For several years after his retirement from the pastorate, he conducted a class of ladies at his house in the study of Shakespeare, Chaucer and Wordsworth.

Dr. Cutler married July 25, 1849, E. Jane, daughter of John Charlton of Littleton, New Hampshire. She was born April 19, 1826, was graduated at Mount Holyoke Seminary in 1846, and died in Worcester, June 5, 1859. By her he had two sons and one daughter. The eldest son and the daughter died in childhood, leaving one son, George Rutherford, who was born June 3, 1853, was graduated at the University of Vermont in 1876, and is now practising law at the west.

For his second wife Dr. Cutler married January 10, 1861, Marion Chappell, the daughter of the Rev. William Eaton, who survives her husband.

Dr. Cutler for years before his death was in delicate health, which limited his activity. He was a tall, spare man, very erect, with a grave face and a commanding air. His temperament was conservative and his manner reserved, but those who knew him well discovered in him great geniality, a rich vein of humor, deep and tender sympathies and a capacity for hearty laughter.

He possessed a vigorous and well trained intellect, high character and sincere piety. He was a clear and discriminating thinker, a writer of pure and strong English, and an accurate scholar.

In his theology Dr. Cutler was a pronounced Calvinist, firm and well reasoned in his convictions, broad in his judgments and exalted in his conceptions, but not very familiar or sympathetic with the methods or results of the new learning or new theology.

As a preacher and pastor Dr. Cutler was one of the very finest and latest examples of the old fashioned type of

minister—a type rapidly passing away. In the pulpit, he was intellectual, logical, massive, forcible, disdaining every art of the sensationalist, winning no commonplace applause, but in his prime holding firmly a full congregation of able, thinking, devoted people, by the power of his thought, the charm of his style and the manifest sincerity of his purpose. A few of his sermons were printed from time to time: such as "The Rights of the Sword," preached in the Civil War, and "Social Privileges and Obligations," delivered on Thanksgiving Day. These show the hand of a master.

As a pastor Dr. Cutler possessed none of the qualities, methods or ambitions of the modern high pressure church organizer, but was unobtrusive, faithful, sympathetic. In the ordinary sense of the term he was very far from being a popular man. He was too much of a Puritan for that, with a bearing too dignified and austere. He had no art or desire to keep himself before the world. He took little part in public affairs and was very unskilled in business, though he was an extremely good judge of horses, of which he was very fond and with which he was familiar in his youth.

His influence in the community was mainly due to his thoughtful preaching, and to a certain balance and seriousness of character which made people reverence him as a noble man and minister of the old school. D. M.

**Justin Winsor**, the son of Nathaniel Winsor and Ann Thomas (Howland) Winsor, was born at Boston on the second day of January, 1831. Here and at Duxbury, the home of his grandparents, his early years were spent. Through them he became interested in Duxbury, and began when a boy to collect materials for its history, finding his way, as he himself has said, "to many of the aged inhabitants of the town, to whose tales I have listened with interest, and whose words I have taken from their lips." In 1849, when he was eighteen years old, this

material was published as "The History of the Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, with Genealogical Registers." All the region made memorable by the Pilgrims was enchanted ground to him, and its history and traditions never lost their charm. In none of his writings is a more glowing enthusiasm shown than in his address at the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Duxbury, "The Mayflower Town," as he called it.

Mr. Winsor's school days were passed at Sandwich and at the Chauncy-Hall and Public Latin schools of Boston. He entered Harvard College in 1849. Seeking a greater freedom of choice in his studies, he left college at the end of his junior year and studied for two years at Paris and in the University of Heidelberg.<sup>1</sup>

On his return Mr. Winsor devoted himself to literary work, becoming a contributor to the "*Round Table*," the "*Crayon*" and the "*New York World*." Through a school-mate he had become interested in the drama, and especially in the career of David Garrick. The entry in a blank book still preserved, "Books examined for preparation for a Life of Garrick, 1851," shows that this subject was engaging his attention while in college. These notes in time filled ten folio volumes, but absorption in other directions prevented their being brought to a perfected work. His father was the treasurer of the newly founded "Church of the Unity," and Mr. Winsor himself became interested in its affairs. With the pastor of the church he compiled a hymn book, for which he wrote numerous hymns.

Mr. Winsor was appointed a Trustee of the Boston Public Library in 1867. He was chosen Chairman of the Finance Committee and selected by the Committee of Citizens for the Examination of the Library to write its

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<sup>1</sup> The degree of A.B. was conferred by Harvard College upon Mr. Winsor in 1868; the degree of LL.D. by the University of Michigan, in 1887, and by Williams College, in 1893.

report. This document excited attention in this country and in Europe. At the death soon after of the Superintendent, Mr. Charles C. Jewett, Mr. Winsor was appointed Trustee in charge and later Superintendent of the Library.

All the dissatisfaction he may have felt at his own achievements hitherto, passed away at the threshold of his new career. In his own words, "I found myself in a position congenial to my tastes, conscious both of the excellent condition in which the institution was placed for a career of development, and ambitious of enlarging its scope in accordance with the principles which wise men had made its fundamental laws."<sup>1</sup> It was his aim to accomplish this by granting a greater freedom in the use of books, by reducing the age limit of borrowers, by establishing branch libraries in parts of the city distant from the centre, and by the preparation of a printed card catalogue. He sought also a close contact with readers and to guide them in the selection and discriminating use of books by means of annotated catalogues. By reason of these and other measures the use of the library increased seven-fold and the interest in its progress was wide-spread.

Mr. Winsor became Librarian of the Harvard College Library in 1877. He brought to this office the same purpose and the same vigor as to the management of the Boston Public Library. That purpose was "that books should be used to the largest extent possible and with the least trouble."<sup>2</sup>

The new system of education which substituted independent research for recitations from text-books, required that students be brought directly to the books needed. For this, provision was made by the enlargement of the reading-rooms and the transfer thereto of a working library to which unrestricted access was given. Libraries for special departments were established, while the collections

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<sup>1</sup> Annual report of the Boston Public Library for 1876.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Librarian of Harvard College, 1878.

of the graduate schools were brought into closer relations with the central library. A new classification of the library was begun and the card catalogue was made more serviceable, and was supplemented by bulletins and bibliographical lists. As a result of these efforts the recorded use of books increased from fifty-seven per cent. to ninety-five per cent. of the number of enrolled students, and the library became the centre of the University system, as from the first Mr. Winsor intended.

In these busy years Mr. Winsor had not lost his interest in historical studies. His transfer to the Harvard College Library had been a welcome one because of the increased opportunity offered for the prosecution of those studies. At the Boston Public Library he devoted himself especially to the study of its collections of historical literature, the results of which were embodied in its well known catalogues of history and historical fiction. Later he traced the sources and authorities in American history in a series of critical articles in the bulletins of the library, of which the part relating to the Revolution was published in 1879 under the title "The Readers' Handbook of the American Revolution."

The approach of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Boston suggested the preparation in connection with his friends, of a memorial history of the city. This history, as Mr. Winsor has said, was "cast on a novel plan, not so much in being a work of coöperation, but because, so far as could be, the several themes, as sections of one homogeneous whole, have been treated by those who have some particular association and, it may be, long acquaintance with the subject."<sup>1</sup> It was published in 1880, in four volumes, and its success led to a coöperative undertaking of a much wider scope, namely, the "Narrative and Critical History of America," which was issued from the press in eight volumes between the years 1884 and

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<sup>1</sup> Preface.

1889. In both these works the narrative is accompanied by minute and discriminating references to manuscript sources and printed authorities, and is enriched with illustrations and fac-similes of maps and documents. Although Mr. Winsor called himself only an editor, every chapter is illuminated by his learning and research. His additions took the form of bibliographical appendixes and notes, which have been called his greatest contributions to human knowledge.

In later years four works followed, chronological in their course of historical narrative, namely: "Christopher Columbus and How He Received and Imparted the Spirit of Discovery"; "Cartier to Frontenac, Geographical Discovery in the Interior of North America in its Historical Relations, 1534-1700"; "The Mississippi Basin, the Struggle in America between England and France, 1697-1763"; and "The Westward Movement, the Colonies and the Republic West of the Alleghanies, 1763-1798." The last mentioned of these Mr. Winsor left in the printer's hands as he sought rest, in the summer of 1897, in a visit with his family to England. When to a group of friends who accompanied him on the voyage he said that the work he had planned was now finished, they little realized the significance of his words.

These writings have an especial interest in their lucid and attractive presentation of the views of early voyagers and geographers on the cartography of America. This was a favorite study with Mr. Winsor and one in which he became an authority. At the time of the Venezuela boundary controversy, at the request of the United States government, he made a report on the maps of the region under discussion, which report forms a part of the published proceedings of the Commission.

Other writings of Mr. Winsor have appeared, independently, or in the publications of the libraries at Boston and Cambridge and the historical societies of which he was a member.

When Mr. Winsor began his work as librarian there were comparatively few libraries in this country, and these were conducted almost without community of interest and coöperation. It was his first endeavor to acquaint himself with the workings of these institutions at home and abroad and to make this knowledge available to all. This might justly be called the beginning of the movement which has established a library in nearly every town in Massachusetts and in hundreds of places in other states, and which movement received its chief impulse in 1876, at the formation of the American Library Association, of which Mr. Winsor was the first President. To this office he was again chosen twenty-one years later, when, as its representative and also that of the United States government, he was one of the presiding officers at the International Conference of Librarians at London in 1897. During this period probably no library enterprise of significance has been undertaken in this country without his counsel.

Descended from a line of men of affairs, Mr. Winsor had great executive force and tenacity of purpose. He was at the same time affectionate and trustful, inviting a quick response and loyal service from his associates. He had, as one of his friends has said, "what may almost be called a genius for friendship—a human, gentle, considerate, hospitable intimacy which comprehended many lives in many lands for many years."<sup>1</sup>

As his companions and sharers of this friendship, the members of this Society may well offer tribute to the memory of their associate in the words of one who has been called England's greatest living poet:

"Tis human fortune's happiest height, to be  
A spirit melodious, lucid, poised, and whole;  
Second in order of felicity  
I hold it, to have walk'd with such a soul."<sup>2</sup>

J. L. W.

<sup>1</sup> Professor Francis G. Peabody at Appleton Chapel, Harvard University.

<sup>2</sup> William Watson: "The Hope of the World."

**Thomas Leverett Nelson, LL.D.**, died in Worcester, Massachusetts, Sunday, November 21st, 1897. He was born in Haverhill, New Hampshire, March 4th, 1827, and was one of twelve children, four sons and eight daughters, of John and Lois Leverett Nelson. His father was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1803, studied law with Christopher Gore of Boston, and practised in Haverhill until his death, in 1838. His mother was the daughter of John Leverett of Windsor, Vermont, and was born in Middletown, Connecticut, where her parents had moved from Boston at the outbreak of the Revolution. His Leverett ancestors filled conspicuous and honorable places in Massachusetts history. Thomas Leverett, for whom Judge Nelson was named, was Alderman of the Borough of Boston, England, and Ruling Elder of the First Church in Boston, Massachusetts, for seventeen years. His son John was Captain in the Parliamentary army and the friend of Cromwell, agent of the Colony to the English Court, Major-General of the Massachusetts forces, Deputy Governor, Governor from 1673 to 1679, through the stormy period of King Philip's War, and knighted afterwards, as it is asserted, by King Charles the Second, perhaps in recognition of the distinguished service he then rendered. The family was of great antiquity in Lincolnshire and is mentioned in the Herald's Visitation as bearing arms in 1564.

Judge Nelson was fitted for college at the Kimball Union Academy at Meriden, New Hampshire, and entered Dartmouth College in 1842. After remaining there two years he entered the University of Vermont at Burlington, from which he was graduated in 1846. He entered upon the profession of engineering and for several years was actively engaged in railroad construction in New England, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

In 1851 he received a severe injury to his knee which threatened to disable him permanently. In the tedious

recovery from this accident he began the study of the law, completing his course in the office of the late Judge Francis H. Dewey of Worcester and was admitted to the bar in 1855. He entered into partnership with William W. Rice and later with Dwight Foster. After Judge Foster's removal to Boston he continued his practice alone in the same offices with George F. Hoar.

He was elected to the General Court as Representative in 1869 and served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In 1870 he was elected City Solicitor of Worcester and held the office for four years. During that period much important legislation affecting the city's interests was enacted and carried into force. The Union Station act of 1871 was framed by him, which consolidated the passenger stations of the five roads centering in Worcester and required great ingenuity and clearness in adjusting the conflicting interests involved.

Modest and diffident in manner, with little of oratorical power or of firmness or vigor of utterance, yet he made himself known as being profoundly versed in the principles of law and equity, and of an acute and subtle intellect. He was full of resources—never more so than when a cause seemed hopeless or an adverse decision inevitable. In doubtful and intricate matters his advice was frequently sought. There was scarcely a man of large affairs in the county who did not know that in Mr. Nelson was to be found a man of keen insight, untiring mental activity, and profound knowledge. His early mathematical training must have been of great value to him as a mental discipline. His memory of decided cases and his power of applying them to every phase of a question to be considered, was most remarkable. It was a fascination to be with Judge Nelson while he was preparing an opinion or a brief for argument. First came the case, name and often numbered volume of the reports, then with unerring recollection the vital point of its decision with the process of

reasoning by which the conclusion was reached and its application established. Power was not given him to overcome prejudice or to arouse the passions or mislead the minds of unthinking men. Eloquence of speech was denied him. But in the close and searching study of legal principles he was a master and his briefs reached a very high standard of legal excellence. He won deserved prominence in rank in the estimation of the court. He was appointed by it one of the committee to frame rules for its equity practice. He was thoroughly versed in the principles of the bankruptcy law. The remedies in equity which supplemented the less elastic and less far-reaching judgments of the court of law were known to him.

Men in general love great physical achievements or business successes. He rejoiced in intellectual triumphs. I never knew him boast to an opponent of his victory, but no gratification ever brought keener joy to lover or warrior than did the winning a case upon a point of law to this modest and retiring lawyer.

He suffered most keenly from the blows of pain or sorrow or ill fortune. In the generous fellowship of the bar he was ever ready with acute suggestion to his brethren. No one put a case to him who did not bear away a most valuable contribution towards the solution of his difficulty.

He was a most delightful companion. His taste in poetry, literature, art, in all the beauty of nature, its star or flower, its wood or field or lake, was exquisite and unerring. Had fortune given him the adornments and surroundings of wealth as nature gave him intellectual refinement, he would have made his home the abode of a delicate and refined hospitality, which his own personality would have adorned.

Judge Nelson was twice married: first to Anna Hastings Hayward of Mendon, by whom he had two children, Mary Hayward Nelson, a girl of great sweetness and delicacy who died in youth, and Harry Leverett Nelson, a man of

great brilliancy and promise, who died shortly after his admission to the bar in 1889. He later married Louisa A. Slocum of Millbury, who with four of their five children survives him.

His fellow-citizens brought him many expressions of their esteem. He was chosen a member of this Society in October, 1878. He was a member of the Worcester Fire Society; a director of the Central National Bank from 1863 and its solicitor almost until his death. In 1872 he was elected a director of the Worcester Free Public Library and during the last four years of his six years' term was chairman of the board. He was a director of the State Mutual Life Assurance Company, and was for years the commissioner for Massachusetts of the Providence and Worcester Railroad.

Other men might perhaps have done it, but to him and to him alone the student, the lawyer and the judge owe it that Worcester County has one of the finest and best equipped law libraries for practical use that can be found. The college from which he was graduated gave him the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1885.

In 1879 he was appointed Judge of the United States Court for the District of Massachusetts, succeeding Judge John Lowell who had been appointed to the Circuit Court. This appointment was made by President Hayes on the recommendation of General Devens, his Attorney-General, and with the cordial approval of those who knew him. He soon mastered the duties of his new office and filled it to the satisfaction of the bar and of his associates until years brought him the right to retire from engrossing duties to the calm delights and agreeable occupations of dignified old age. This, however, was not to be. A fatal disorder seized upon him early in 1897, while still upon the bench, and though he rallied so as to resume, to some extent, his duties, his life ended near the close of the year. The daily papers and the records of the associations with

which he had been so honorably connected contain fitting expressions of the sense of loss which the community thus sustained. A memorial containing the proceedings before the United States Court will soon be published. In accepting the resolutions presented to the Court in his honor, Judge Webb said: "His life was filled with faithful and honorable work and affords an example of unpretentious usefulness which must be valued more and more the more it is examined and known." The feeling of his judicial associates towards him is shown by these few words from a letter written by Judge Aldrich, when the tidings of his death were received: "Of course I cannot do otherwise than view his departure as a loss to our judicial family, but above and beyond I grieve for the loss of a friend: I had come to be so fond of him and to enjoy so much his lack of pretension, his bright, epigrammatic sayings, his honesty, his frankness and his courage. It needed no long time to learn his honorable nature and his great ability, and to form for him sentiments of confidence, affection and esteem. He was a man of pure life, of vigorous intellect, of refined and elevated tastes, and of a true and affectionate heart."

R. H.

For the Council,

GEORGE F. HOAR.

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