

OBITUARY.

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JOHN D. WASHBURN. About ten years have passed since there suddenly disappeared from our midst a widely esteemed and picturesque personality; one which had long been honorably prominent in affairs of city, state and nation; an efficient and sagacious factor in the councils of societies and corporations; a favorite in social circles. While his stalwart frame was unbowed and vigorous, his mind as clear as ever, his wonderful memory unimpaired, Hon. John Davis Washburn abandoned all the activities wherein for many years his ambition, tastes and abilities had found useful occupation. Thenceforward he led a life of seclusion, very seldom emerging from the quietude of the home circle. He had received one of those sharp warnings of human frailty which come to all of us sooner or later, and he had surrendered apparently without any such struggle as strong men usually make to hold their place in the front rank and to fight in the van of life's battle to the last. He had made humble confession to himself that his appointed work was accomplished, and he soberly awaited with chastened spirit the coming of the all-conqueror. We could hardly have missed him more had he then died, but he lived on for years and finally fell asleep at his Worcester residence April 4, 1903, just one week after his seventieth birthday.

He was born in Boston, March 27, 1833, but when he was five years old his father, John Marshall Washburn, retiring from mercantile business, bought a small farm in Lancaster, Mass., where he resided during the rest of his life, becoming an influential citizen. He was a gentleman of stately bearing, with much of the old school formality in his courteous manners. Our associate's grandfather, Nehemiah Washburn, of Raynham, Mass., was a brother of that Israel Washburn who settled in Livermore, Maine, and had three sons in the United States Congress at one

time, representing three different states. His mother, Harriet Webster (Kimball) Washburn, was the daughter of Reverend Daniel Kimball, of Needham, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1800. She was a woman of strong character and bright intellect, and was universally beloved for her neighborliness and other Christian graces.

Having been fitted for college in the school of his uncle, Henry C. Kimball, at Lancaster, John Davis Washburn entered Harvard University in 1849. He was graduated with creditable rank in 1853, and after a year's reading in the law offices of Honorable Emory Washburn and Honorable George F. Hoar, in Worcester, entered the Harvard Law School, and received the degree of LL.B. in 1856. He began the practice of his profession in Worcester in partnership with Honorable Henry C. Rice, and gained some repute as an insurance attorney. In 1866, upon the election of Alexander H. Bullock to the office of governor, he succeeded him as general agent of the insurance companies, and this became the business of his life.

June 5, 1860, he was married to Mary F. Putnam, of Worcester. She survives him with their only child, Edith, wife of Richard Ward Greene. The title of Colonel, by which Mr. Washburn was familiarly known, was not won in military service, being due to his appointment as Chief of Staff to Governor Bullock in 1866; but his two brothers, Captain Edward R. Washburn of the 53d Massachusetts Infantry and Brevet Brigadier-General Francis Washburn, colonel of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry, died of wounds received in action during our Civil War. Two married sisters, Mrs. George M. Bartol and Mrs. Henry H. Fuller, reside in Lancaster.

Colonel Washburn's political service for Worcester included three terms in the lower branch of the legislature (1876, '77 and '78), and one in the State Senate (1884). He was elected representative for the Worcester District a fourth time (1879), but resigned his seat on account of ill health, and spent several months in foreign travel. While a member of the House he proved himself a confident, ready and persuasive debater, and won personal popularity by his ability and genial disposition. He rendered valuable service to various state and city institutions, being a trustee of the Worcester Lunatic Hospital

from 1871 to 1881; of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded from 1875 to 1885, and of the Worcester Memorial Hospital, of which he was also treasurer. He was one of the original board of trustees of Clark University; for fourteen years a director in the Citizens National Bank; director and president of the Merchants and Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

In 1889, Colonel Washburn was appointed by President Harrison Minister Resident and Consul General to Switzerland, and the office was the next year raised to the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. He served in this capacity with marked credit for three years, when he returned home with nervous system seriously disordered, probably owing to a sunstroke received in Paris, and from that time took little part in public affairs.

In April, 1871, Colonel Washburn became a member of this Society, and in October of that year succeeded Reverend Alonzo Hill, D.D., as Recording Secretary, an office which he held until his resignation, October 24, 1894, serving the Society for twenty-three years with an intelligent devotion which ensured him the cordial esteem of all his associates. He was a member of the Council until his decease. He was also a member of the Council of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1893-95, having been elected to resident membership in 1882. His contributions to our Proceedings have been as follows: The Discovery of the Bay of San Francisco, 1872; Introductory Remarks to a Memorandum of John T. Doyle on the Bay of San Francisco, 1873. Reprinted 1874; Verazzano and his Voyages, 1876; Edward Johnson, his life and poetry, 1877. Reprinted 1877. 8°. pp. 32; The Battle of Otumba and its Effects on Mexican history, etc., 1879. Reprinted 1880. 8°. pp. 35; Foundation of the Swiss Republic, Copy of the Latin Pact of 1291; also furnished brief obituary tributes upon the decease of Sir Roderick Impry Murchison, Hon. Emory Washburn, LL.D., Samuel F. Haven, LL.D., Andrew Bigelow, D.D., Nathaniel Thayer, A.M., Hon. Isaac Davis, LL.D., Holmes Ammi-down, Edward H. Davis, Sidney H. Gay, Ebenezer Torrey, A.M., and Joseph Sargent, M.D. He contributed to the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society a

Memoir of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, LL.D. Reprinted, Worcester, 1885. 8°. pp. 58. Of his public addresses five were printed by him: An Address, July 4, 1876, at Lancaster, Mass. 8°. pp. 58; Remarks of John D. Washburn and Reply of Francis W. Bird in Mass. House of Representatives, May 16, 1878. 8°. pp. 10; Memorial Address at Lancaster, Mass., May 29, 1880. Worcester, 1880. 8°. pp. 15; One-and-twenty years from Sumter, an Oration before Francis Washburn Post, No. 92, G. A. R., at Brighton, June 4, 1882. Worcester, 1882. 8°. pp. 29; Poem at the one hundredth anniversary of the Worcester Fire Society, January 21, 1893. Worcester, 1893. 8°. pp. 8. These compositions give us some evidence of his varied talents, his taste in historical studies, and his lofty ideals respecting the duties of the citizen; and I think we may see in their literary style, and especially in that of the addresses with their exuberance of illustration and rhetorical phrase, something of the man himself. His extraordinary gifts of memory stood in the way of his acquiring in early life the habit of persistent industry, which might have made him a profound scholar or a famous lawyer.

H. S. N.

WILLIAM WIRT HENRY. On the fifth day of December, 1900, died in the city of Richmond, Va., William Wirt Henry, grandson of the orator and statesman, Patrick Henry. He was born February 14th, 1831, at "Red Hill," Charlotte Co., Va. Mr. Henry was the eldest son of John and Elvira Bruce Henry, and his father was the youngest son of Patrick Henry and his second wife Dorothea Spottswood Dandridge. His mother, Elvira Bruce, was the granddaughter of Col. William Cabell, of "Union Hill," Amherst Co., Va.

Mr. Henry graduated as Master of Arts at the University of Virginia, in 1850. Three years later he commenced the practice of law in Charlotte, and was for some years Commonwealth's Attorney for that county. Before the war he was a member of the Whig party, and was opposed to secession till the alternative of the coercion of South Carolina was presented. After the ordinance of secession he was one of the first to volunteer for service, and en-

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