

## OBITUARIES.

## CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Charles Francis Adams was born in Quincy, Massachusetts, on May 27, 1835, was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1891, and was elected Secretary for Domestic Correspondence in 1895. He has made the following contributions to the Proceedings: "Battle of Bunker Hill from a Strategic Point of View," October, 1895, "The Confederacy and the Transvaal, a People's Obligation to Robert E. Lee, (1865-1900)," October, 1901, "Address upon the laying of the Corner Stone of the new building," October, 1909. "Correspondence of John Quincy Adams, 1811-14," edited by C. F. Adams, April, 1913.

Mr. Adams died at his house in Washington, March 20, 1915, in the eightieth year of his age. Funeral services were held at the Stone Church, Quincy, on Tuesday, March 23, where his great grandfather and grandfather are buried.

He was graduated from Harvard College in 1856; spent two years in the Harvard Law School, and was for some time in the office of Rufus Choate. He was admitted to the bar in 1858, but never practiced. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he obtained a commission in the First Massachusetts Cavalry. In the last year of the War, he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry, and entered Richmond at the head of his regiment on April 9, 1865. He was subsequently brevetted Brig-

adier-General. After the War, he devoted himself to the study of railroading and published many papers on this subject, among them "Chapters on Erie" in which he recommended government supervision of railroads. Among other things he said: "Finally, a responsible department of the Executive should have charge of the subject, and should be empowered to decide as to the amounts of private capital directly or indirectly paid into construction, and authorize the issue of securities accordingly." This was twenty years before the establishment of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which does not yet possess the power which Mr. Adams thought it should exercise. From 1869 to 1879, Mr. Adams served on the Massachusetts Railroad Commission, the first in the United States, and was its chairman for seven years. He became president of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1884, and continued in that office for six years.

He was always a student of history, particularly that of New England, and has written many essays and monographs on historical and economic subjects; also a biography of his father and of Richard H. Dana.

He served as Overseer of Harvard University from 1882 to 1894, and from 1895 to 1907. In 1895 he received the degree of LL. D., and in 1899 he was President of the Alumni Association.

Of his characteristics, President Eliot said:

"Charles Francis Adams was not naturally inclined to respect precedents, or to imitate in his own mental processes the methods of other men. He was always independent, and sometimes recalcitrant. No wisdom of the ages, or of the multitude, necessarily commanded his respect. He was by nature inclined to believe that long-established practices of governments, institutions of education, and financial or industrial organizations were likely to be wrong, or at least capable of great improvement. Thus, he testified in his Phi Beta Kappa address of 1883, twenty-seven years after his graduation at Harvard College, that he should

never be able to overcome, no matter how long he might live, some serious disadvantages which the superstitions, wrong theories, and worse practices of his alma mater inflicted upon him. The educational wisdom of five hundred years went for nothing with him. In the same famous address, entitled 'A College Fetich'—the fetich was the prescribed study of dead languages and particularly of Greek—he described the world for which the College ought to have fitted its graduates of 1856, but had not, as an 'active, bustling, hard-hitting, many-tongued world, caring nothing for authority and little for the past, but full of its living thought and living issues.' It was that kind of a world in which Adams rejoiced to live, and did live, intellectually and morally."

Mr. Adams was President of the Massachusetts Historical Society from April, 1895, until his death, the second longest term in the history of the Society. Governor Long spoke of him as "the most inspiring and contributory man that ever sat in its presidential chair." His communications to the Society were more voluminous than those of any other member.

His last publication was of a course of four lectures on American History delivered at Oxford University during the Easter and Trinity terms of 1913, published under the title "Trans-Atlantic Historical Solidarity." At this time Oxford conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters.

Mr. Adams was a great grandson of John Adams, delegate to the Continental Congress, Diplomatic Agent in France, Minister to the Court of St. James, Second President of the United States, member of this Society from 1813 until his death in 1826. He was a grandson of John Quincy Adams, United States Senator, Minister to Russia, one of the negotiators of the Treaty of Ghent, Minister to England, Secretary of State, sixth President of the United States, Representative in Congress, member of this Society from 1839 until his death in 1848. He was the son of

Charles Francis Adams, member of the Massachusetts Legislature, leader of the "Conscience Whigs," "Free Soil" leader, member of Congress, Minister to England during the Civil War, Arbitrator for the United States at the Geneva Conference. Since Colonial times members of the Adams family have occupied positions of great distinction and have a record of public service unequalled in this country and in England.

C. G. W.

### LUCIEN CARR.

Lucien Carr was born in Troy, Mo., December 15, 1829, and died in Cambridge, Mass., January 27, 1915. He was graduated from St. Louis University in 1846, receiving the degree of A. B. which was followed by that of A. M. For many years he was occupied with historical studies and in 1877 was made assistant curator of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard, remaining there till 1894, when he resigned and has since been engaged in writing on scientific subjects. He was author of "The Mounds of the Mississippi Valley, Historically Considered," "Missouri," in the American Commonwealth's series and "Prehistoric Remains of Kentucky" (with the late Prof. N. S. Shaler). He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, of the Missouri Historical Society, and of the Anthropological Societies of Paris, London, Moscow and Washington. He was elected to this Society in 1886, and contributed to its Proceedings these papers: "The Food of Certain American Indians and their Methods of Preparing It" (April, 1895), "Dress and Ornaments of Certain American Indians" (April, 1897), and "The Mascoutins" (April, 1900). He also made many gifts to the Library. He married Miss Cornelia L. Crow, who with two children survives him.

S. U.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.