

OBITUARIES

EDWARD SYLVESTER MORSE

Edward Sylvester Morse, son of Jonathan K. and Jane Seymour (Becket) Morse, was born at Portland, Me., June 13, 1838 and died, Dec. 20, 1925, at Salem, Mass., as full of honors as he was ripe in years. Without college education he attained the highest dignities, was a member of innumerable literary and scientific societies, both domestic and foreign, and received high honorary degrees from Bowdoin, Yale and Harvard Universities. He was the first American to be decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun, conferred upon him by the Emperor of Japan in 1898, in recognition of his distinguished studies of Japanese zoölogy, archaeology and ceramics.

He began his education at Bethel, Me., Academy but left at an early age to become a mechanical draftsman at Portland. There, as at Bethel, he devoted his spare time to natural history, with a love of which study he seems to have been born. In 1859 he became a special student at Harvard and, for three years, was assistant to Professor Louis Agassiz. He made a speciality of the study of brachiopoda which he successfully demonstrated to be worms, instead of mollusca, with which they had been previously classified. After a period as professor of zoölogy at Bowdoin College he became a lecturer at Harvard but, in 1877, went to Japan to study zoölogy and, for three years, was professor of the science at the Imperial University of Tokio. During this time he began his collection of Japanese pottery which, finally, became the most complete in the world and which, since 1892,

has been one of the most valued possessions of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. He made other visits to Japan, during which he made important researches in archaeology and ethnology, in which studies he was nearly as diligent as in zoölogy, and published in 1896 a valuable work entitled "Japanese Homes and their Surroundings," illustrated with drawings by himself. His life work was in connection with the Peabody Museum at Salem of which he was director from 1880 to his death. He was president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1875, president of the American Association of Museums in 1911, president of the Boston Natural History Society from 1911 to 1919, and director of the Peabody Museum at Salem from 1880 to his death. He was elected a member of this Society in April, 1898, was constant in attendance at its meetings and endeared himself to all the members whom he met by his genial and lovable character.

W. L.

BERNARD CHRISTIAN STEINER

Few members of the American Antiquarian Society have been more appreciative of the privilege of membership in the organization, or more aware of the distinctive character of its traditions and present activities than Bernard Christian Steiner. From the time of his election to membership in October 1913 until his death in 1926 his interest in the Society underwent neither change nor abatement. In spite of the distance between Baltimore and Worcester, he succeeded in frequent attendance at its meetings, and in April 1915, he contributed a paper to the Proceedings entitled, "Connecticut's Ratification of the Federal Constitution." In accordance with a desire expressed to his brother, Dr. Walter H. Steiner of Hartford, a gift of \$150 was made to the Society, which after his death was increased to \$1000 and designated the Bernard Christian Steiner Fund.

Bernard Christian Steiner was born at Guilford,

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