

OBITUARIES

JAMES FORD RHODES

James Ford Rhodes was born at Cleveland, Ohio, May 1, 1848, the son of Daniel Pomeroy and Sophia Lord Rhodes. He studied both at New York University and at the University of Chicago, but was not graduated from either college. This lack of a bachelor's degree, however, was made up in later years by his receiving the honorary degrees of LL.D. from Western Reserve, Harvard, Yale, Wisconsin, New York, Princeton and California; and of Litt.D., from Kenyon, Brown and Oxford, England.

Mr. Rhodes in 1869 entered into business with his father, who was an iron manufacturer in Cleveland, but in 1886 when nearly forty years old, he definitely retired from business life, and turned to the writing of history, having resolved to compile an exhaustive and authoritative history of the periods of the Civil War and Reconstruction. He removed to Cambridge for purposes of study and finally settled permanently as a resident of Boston. The fruit of his years of research was entitled the "History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850," carrying the narrative to 1877, and published in seven volumes from 1893 to 1906. It was followed by the "History of the United States from Hayes to McKinley," 1919, and "The McKinley and Roosevelt Administrations," 1922. Mr. Rhodes differed from most of his predecessors in his method of writing history. With an entire absence of panegyric and with no striving for literary style, he wrote a plain and straightforward narrative, supporting his statements by contemporary evidence, by incidents and by

documents, and delivering his judgment of men and measures in a way that was both impartial and human. His mode of expression but reflected his own character.

Mr. Rhodes received many honors as a result of his monumental work. In addition to the honorary degrees previously noted, the Berlin Academy of Science awarded him the Loubat prize in 1901; the National Institute of Arts and Letters gave him its gold medal in 1910; and he was awarded the Pulitzer prize for history in 1918. He was connected with many learned societies, including the American Historical Association of which he was president in 1899. He was elected to this Society in 1900, and contributed to its Proceedings in April 1913 a paper entitled "Some Humors of American History." He died January 22, 1927, being survived by his widow, who was Ann Card of Cleveland, and a son, Daniel P. Rhodes.

C. S. B.

JOHN ADAMS AIKEN

John Adams Aiken, formerly chief justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, was born September 16, 1850 at Greenfield, and died there January 28, 1927. He was of a family which furnished many distinguished members of the bar, and his father, David Aiken, who was one of the leading lawyers of western Massachusetts, was an associate justice of the Court of Common Pleas when that Court was abolished.

Chief Justice Aiken was educated in the public schools of Greenfield, at Phillips Andover Academy, and at Dartmouth College where he was graduated in 1874. After two years in the Harvard Law School he was admitted to the bar of Franklin county in 1876 and immediately entered into partnership with his father, which continued until the latter's death. In 1882 he was elected to the State legislature as representative and in 1889, though a democrat in politics, he was chosen district attorney in the strongly republican

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