

good friend to the Society, some of whose officers knew him intimately and appreciated his breadth of knowledge, his genial character and his unfailing spirit of co-operation.

C. S. B.

### WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

William Howard Taft, twenty-seventh President of the United States, and since 1912 a member of this Society, died in Washington on March 8, 1930. The facts of his life are so well known that only the briefest outline of his career will be here attempted. He was born at Cincinnati, September 15, 1857, the son of Attorney-General Alphonso and Louisa Maria (Torrey) Taft. He was graduated from Yale in 1878 with the degree of A.B. and from the Cincinnati Law School with the degree of LL.B. He immediately entered upon the study of the law and after holding various local appointments, became Judge of the Superior Court at Cincinnati in 1887. He was appointed Solicitor-General of the United States in 1890, United States Circuit Judge in 1892, President of the United States Philippine Commission in 1900, Governor of the Philippine Islands in 1901, Secretary of War in 1904, and elected President of the United States in 1908. After the splitting of the Republican party in 1912 and his subsequent defeat for re-election, he was elected Professor of Law at Yale in 1913, which position he held until 1921. In the latter year he was chosen Chief Justice of the United States, which position he retained until his death.

Mr. Taft was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in October 1912, in the year when the Society was celebrating its one hundredth anniversary. As President of the United States, he was the leading speaker at the Centennial Dinner, held at the Worcester Club on the evening of October 16,

1912. In the years following, Mr. Taft frequently showed his interest in the Society. He wrote to influential friends to try to enlist their support for the Society, himself contributed to the invested funds in 1921, and made occasional gifts of manuscript and printed material to the Library. In 1917 he was elected a member of the Council of the Society. Although his duties upon the Supreme bench at Washington prevented his attendance at Council Meetings, he continued his interest and in 1921 represented the Society at the inauguration of President Angell at Yale University. The facts that Mr. Taft traced his immediate ancestry to the nearby town of Millbury, where he was a frequent visitor in the summer months, and that his father, Attorney-General Alphonso Taft, was long a member of this Society, were reasons why he was in closer touch with us. In one of his last letters he expressed his regret that Mr. Lincoln felt it advisable to resign the Presidency and wished that the Society should "continue on its distinguished and useful career."

C. S. B.

#### CLAUDE HALSTEAD VAN TYNE

Claude Halstead Van Tyne died at Ann Arbor, Mich., March 21, 1930. He was born at Tecumseh, Mich., October 16, 1869, the son of Lawrence M. and Helen Rosacrans Van Tyne. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1896, studied at Heidelberg, Leipsig and Paris in 1897-1898, and received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1900. He married Belle Joslyn, June 19, 1896, who with four children survived him.

Mr. Van Tyne's life career was largely devoted to the teaching of history. From 1900 to 1903 he was senior fellow in history at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1903 he went to the University of Michigan

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