

was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1927 and contributed to its Proceedings in 1935 a paper on "New England Almanacs and the American Revolution." He was a constant correspondent with the Library and a frequent visitor, especially during later years when he was working on his Bibliography of Prose Fiction. His friendliness and his warm appreciation of aid made the members of the Library staff always eager to help him in his researches.

C. S. B

### FRANCIS RUSSELL HART

Francis Russell Hart, a member of the Council of this Society, died at his Boston home, January 18, 1938. He was born at New Bedford, the son of Thomas Mandell and Sarah Davis (Watson) Hart, January 16, 1868. Upon finishing his schooling at the Friends Academy in New Bedford, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1889, he left college to embark upon an engineering career in the West Indies, acting first for the Massachusetts Electrical Engineering Company and the Boston Fruit Company in Jamaica. He soon became interested in the financial as well as the technical aspects of railway building, and in 1891 became general manager of the Cartagena-Magdalena Railway in Colombia. He was elected president of this railway in 1893 and retained the office until 1906. From 1908 to 1919, he was in the consular service in Colombia, first as vice-consul and then as consul. Much of his time was spent in Boston, where he formed connections with many financial and commercial organizations. He became vice-president of the Old Colony Trust Company in 1896, and in 1908, vice-chairman of the board of directors, which position he held until 1934. He was a director of various railroads, steamship companies and commercial corporations, his leading interest being in the United Fruit Company, of which he was made a director in

1901 and president in 1933. He was actively connected with the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, having been elected a member of that body in 1907.

Mr. Hart was profoundly interested in the history of the West Indies and the Caribbean. He gathered historical information wherever he lived in the tropics and followed up his studies by research in English and American archives. During these years of active business life, he found time to publish four books: "Personal Reminiscences of the Caribbean Sea and the Spanish Main," 1914; "Admirals of the Caribbean," 1922; "The Disaster of Darien," 1929; and "The Siege of Havana," 1931; and to write papers for the various historical societies with which he was connected. His knowledge of conditions in the West Indies and the northern coast of South America was comprehensive, as many of his friends found who travelled to those regions with his helpful advice. He married, June 4, 1896, Helen Bronson Hobbey, of Northampton, by whom he was survived with three children.

Due to his interest in historical research, Mr. Hart was a member of several learned societies—the Royal Geographical Society and the Imperial Institute of London, the American Geographical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received the honorary degree of A.M. from Tufts College in 1935. Of the several historical and social organizations to which he belonged in Boston, he gave the most time to the Club of Odd Volumes, where he was a welcome participant at the meetings and served as President in 1921–1923. Because of his long friendship with Frank B. Bemis, he was chosen a trustee of the Bemis Library, serving with Mr. John Woodbury in that office until his death. In the latter part of his life his primary interest was in the Massachusetts Historical Society, to which he had been elected in 1920. He read occasional papers at the meetings, served for many years on the finance committee and

filled successively the offices of member of the council, corresponding secretary, and finally president, to which position he was elected in 1937. He had a remarkable organizing ability and had he lived, would undoubtedly have aided in placing the Society on a more firm financial foundation. Of the American Antiquarian Society he was made a member in 1922, and elected to the Council in 1933. He aided the Society frequently with his interest and advice, and entertained the members on two occasions at his house in Boston, social meetings which long will be remembered by those members who were present.

C. S. B.

#### WILLIAM THOMAS

William Thomas, of San Francisco, died in that city, October 18, 1936. He was born at Worcester, September 5, 1853, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Mary Anne Park Thomas, and the great-grandson of Isaiah Thomas, founder of the American Antiquarian Society. At the early age of fifteen he entered Harvard University and was graduated with the degree of A.B. in the Class of 1873, followed by a course in the Harvard Law School, from which he was graduated in 1876. In March, 1875, he married at Cambridge, Massachusetts, Miss Emma Gay, daughter of Joel and Salome Parker (Wyatt) Gay, and after receiving his law degree, he and Mrs. Thomas travelled in Europe for a year. On their return, they went to San Francisco, where Mr. Thomas was admitted to the California Bar and practiced his profession until the time of his death. A memorial issued regarding Mr. Thomas stated that it was due to his genius for organization that California was indebted for many new and successful enterprises. He took a prominent part in the organization of the California Fruit Canners Association and the California Title Insurance and Trust Company. After the San Francisco

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