

Greenough of Belmont, Mrs. Alfred R. Meyer of Greenwich, Connecticut, and Mr. Ralph Hornblower of Boston.

C. K. S.

### CHARLES ALPHEUS PLACE

Charles Alpheus Place, authority on American church architecture and forms of worship, died at Sterling, Massachusetts, November 17, 1940. He was born in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, April 7, 1866, the son of Alpheus Lyman and Amy Greene Place. After attending the schools in his native town, he served for a short while as station agent of East Greenwich, and then planned to enter Brown University. But ill health forced him to give up his college work, and he entered the employ of the American Electrical Works of Providence, where he remained for six years. In 1896 he decided to enter the ministry, became a student at the Harvard Divinity School and was ordained at Chelsea in 1897. Then followed pastorates with the First Unitarian Society at Chelsea, 1897-1898, the First Unitarian Society at Gardner, 1899-1902, the First Parish at Waltham, 1902-1910, the First Congregational Society at Sterling, 1910-1916, and finally the First Church of Christ at Lancaster, 1917-1928. In 1928 he retired from the ministry to devote the remainder of his life to the study of the architecture, forms of worship and music of American churches.

He was married at Providence to Martha Snow Kendall, daughter of Oliver Kendall, on September 17, 1895. She died September 3, 1936. On July 27, 1937 he married at Sterling, Massachusetts, Miss Florence Stratton, by whom he was survived.

Mr. Place's researches in church history brought him a high degree of prestige and caused him to be considered one

of the leading authorities on the subject. As early as 1920 he had published articles in *Old Time New England* on "The New South Church," and later in 1922 a series of four articles in the same magazine on "From Meeting-House to Church in New England." In 1925 came his most pretentious printed work, *Charles Bulfinch, Architect and Citizen*, a meritorious and elaborately illustrated volume on the well known architect who designed the church where Mr. Place himself preached. For the Antiquarian Society in 1929 he prepared a paper on "Early Forms of Worship in North America," a lengthy study in liturgies, origins of worship, changes in forms of service and prayer, and the beginnings of church music.

But his most important contributions were unpublished. He compiled in neatly typed manuscript a series of volumes on American church architecture and worship, these divided into three series. The first related to church architecture, consisting of seven volumes and portfolios of illustrations accompanied by interpretive data. The second comprised two volumes of a history of American forms of worship, notable for its study of pre-American and parent liturgies. The third consisted of two typed volumes of the history and use of music in the churches—one on the European and Oriental sources and one on the music actually used in America.

For many years he had purchased all the books he could find relating to his chosen subject, obtaining only those not already in the Antiquarian Society's library. For the books used in his studies he made a card catalogue, arranged by subject, covering nearly one thousand titles. In 1937 the Society issued a circular describing the Charles A. Place collection, and inviting correspondence and queries. This resulted in many letters from scholars, which are now arranged in special correspondence files.

Mr. Place was elected to the American Antiquarian

Society in 1925. He was a frequent attendant at its meetings and a constant visitor to the Library. He left a bequest of \$1000 to the Society. He was a man of culture, enthusiasm in research, and friendliness in personal contacts.

C. S. B.

### ALFRED CLAGHORN POTTER

Alfred Claghorn Potter was born at New Bedford on April 4, 1867, a son of the Reverend William James Potter, a Unitarian minister, and Elizabeth Claghorn (Babcock) Potter. He was prepared for college at Friends' Academy in New Bedford, and was graduated at Harvard in 1889. On January 1 of that year he had already begun, as a part-time assistant, his almost half century of service in the Harvard College Library. In 1904 he became assistant librarian, and in 1928, librarian. During the greater part of this period he kept in his hands the purchase of books for the institution which he saw grow from a good college library to one of the greatest scholars' libraries in the world. During his career the library grew ten-fold. Of course the greater part of this increase was automatic, but the determination of the quality of it was largely his work, for he selected perhaps a million of the accessions. Not satisfied with the catalogues of secondhand dealers, he made ten expeditions to the bookstores of Europe. With good reason the Friends of the Harvard College Library recognized his services by a special bookplate.

Mr. Potter was a member of the Bibliographical Society of America, the Cambridge Historical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Club of Odd Volumes, the International Tabakwischenschaftliche Gesellschaft, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Massachusetts

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