

might qualify as our most frequent correspondent in the years since. In 1906 he and Mrs. Bolton began riding over from Shirley on the trolley, bent even more on her research than his. He was elected to membership in October, 1918, and in our *Proceedings* for 1931 he published an article on "Nathaniel Bolton; a Forgotten New England Poet." After I became librarian, he rode over frequently with me to labor on his "Workers with Line and Color in New England, 1620-1870," a five-volume manuscript of great usefulness now in the Boston Athenæum. During the War his visits ceased because of difficulties of transportation, and after it his shyness about his failing hearing kept him away. He was always one of the most frequent participants in discussions at our meetings, so his absence was generally noticed. He died at Ayer, after a short illness, on May 19, 1950. He is survived by Mrs. Bolton and by two sons, Stanwood Knowles and Geoffrey.

C. K. S.

FRED TARBELL FIELD

Fred Tarbell Field, the seventeenth Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, died in Newton, after a long illness, July 23, 1950. He was born in Springfield, Vermont, December 24, 1876, the son of Frederic Griswold and Anna Melanie (Tarbell) Field. After a school education at Vermont Academy in Saxton's River, he entered Brown University, where he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1900. He then took the three years' course at Harvard Law School and immediately entered the office of the attorney-general. Here he served under three attorney-generals, specializing in the field of taxation and earning a high reputation. In 1912 he entered private practice, a few years later becoming a member of the law firm of Goodwin,

Proctor, Field and Hoar. During this period he lectured at Harvard and other universities, became a recognized authority on tax matters and served on the United States Advisory Tax Board. In 1929 he was appointed an associate justice of the Massachusetts supreme judicial court, the first in many years to receive such an appointment directly from the bar, without prior service in the lower courts. In 1938 he was appointed chief justice to succeed Arthur P. Rugg. Here he served with distinction until 1947, when at the age of 70, he retired. He married Gertrude Alice Montague, October 11, 1922, and had a daughter, Ann Montague Field, by both of whom he was survived.

Chief Justice Field was a prodigious worker, bringing to his office an immense and consuming devotion to the law. His judicial opinions were notably fair and impartial, and yet tinctured by kindness and sympathy. He did not allow himself to be diverted by outside interests, such as amusements, athletics or political preferment, although he was a wide reader, especially in the field of history. One of his chief interests, outside of his profession, was in the affairs of his alma mater, Brown University, of which he was a trustee from 1920 to 1926, and a fellow from then until his death. He was accorded the honorary degree of doctor of laws by several colleges—Dartmouth, Amherst, Williams, University of Vermont and Boston University. He was a member of various legal associations, of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of the Club of Odd Volumes.

He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1938, his name having been suggested to the Council by Arthur P. Rugg, his predecessor as chief justice, only a few years before his death. He attended most of the Boston meetings and always showed a real interest in the work and aims of the Society. Although he permitted himself few occasions for social contacts, he was genial and likeable. I

knew Fred Field especially well in college days, and followed his career with interest ever since his graduation. He was in every way a worthy successor of our great Puritan chief justices.
C. S. B.

LATHROP COLGATE HARPER

The death of Lathrop Colgate Harper on August 11, 1950, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, removed one of the last remaining links between bookmen of the present generation and those of the closing decades of the nineteenth century. His career in bookselling carried back through sixty-three years to the later Brinley sales and failed to reach by one year only the Samuel L. M. Barlow sale of 1886.

Lathrop Harper was the complete bookman. Throughout his long business life his mind was continuously absorbed in problems of book buying, bookselling, or book collecting. In the course of those years he saw everything and met everybody in his field of interest, and he forgot nothing that came within his experience. In his ordinary conversation memorable figures of the past walked in and out as if they were still in the flesh and living just around the corner, such figures as those of the well-remembered New York bookseller, Charles L. Woodward, and his young clerk, Wilberforce Eames, later to become the greatest of American bibliographers. Reminiscences of notable copies of great books, of booksellers of America and Europe, of auctioneers and auctions, of collectors, or of bibliographers crowded one another in that timeless world of books in which he lived and which, without conscious intention, he reconstructed for those who sat and listened to his words. Especially notable in this procession which passed in review in Mr. Harper's talk were the collectors—Lefferts, Have-

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