

SALISBURY MEMORIAL

At a meeting of the Council held on October 15, 1907, on motion of Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN it was voted that the proceedings of the Council on the occasion of the death of our late President, Mr. STEPHEN SALISBURY, be incorporated in the next number of our Proceedings with a suitable portrait of Mr. SALISBURY.

SALISBURY MEMORIAL.

The Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY, for eighteen years President of the American Antiquarian Society, died at his residence in Worcester after a short illness, on Nov. 16, 1905.

A special meeting of the Council was called for 3.30 P. M. on the day of the funeral, Nov. 20.

A quorum was present, but as many members of the Council were still in attendance at the interment, the meeting was adjourned without formal action.

The Council met again at the Hall of the Society in Worcester on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 2.30 P. M.

Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, LL. D., the Second Vice-President, occupied the chair.

Dr. GREEN said:—

It is on rare occasions that special meetings of the Council of this Society are ever called; and then only to pay a passing tribute to the memory of an officer who has been closely identified with its work and its welfare. Not long ago a similar meeting was held in this room to testify our respect for the memory of Senator HOAR; and now we are called together again to show our loving regard for the graceful and modest officer who presided on that occasion.

STEPHEN SALISBURY will be greatly missed at the meetings of the Antiquarian Society, on which he spent so much time and thought in order to make them both instructive and attractive. His personality was so pleasant

that the members will long bear in mind the impression he made on them not only as the presiding officer of the Society, but as the gracious host of many social gatherings in his family mansion. In this respect he was only following the example set by his father, which in no degree was lessened by the son. I was often a guest under his roof, and less than a month before his death I enjoyed his hospitality; and I find it hard now to realize the fact that he is gone, and forever. Born to great wealth, as his father before him was, he knew the responsibility of riches, and duly appreciated the trust. After leaving college he had many inducements to lead a life of ease and leisure, but he never yielded to the temptation, as he was not built that way. He then passed several years in foreign travel for pleasure and study, and afterward took a full course at the Harvard Law School, where he learned the technical intricacies connected with the management of a large property. A member of many learned societies, a director of many corporations and financial institutions, a manager of many charitable and educational organizations, his civic duties were manifold, but his ability and readiness to work and his willingness to serve the public were great enough to include all these responsibilities in his care and attention.

To the Worcester members of the Council, who are so familiar with Mr. Salisbury's activities in this neighborhood, I leave the duty to deal with the more special analysis of his character.

The following communication was received from the Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D. D., first Vice-President:

At the annual meeting of the Society in October, no member present seemed in better health or spirits than our President. There was the same thoughtful and cordial welcome for every one, the same real interest in every subject presented, the same intelligence in those private discussions which give the life to our meetings, and the same quiet hospitality in his own house which made every one of us regard him as a personal friend. Personally, I like to say that as I went and came in Worcester, I was greatly touched to see how generally men looked upon his death, each as a personal loss in his first thought, speaking afterwards of the great loss of such a life to the community.

The years of his connection with our Society will always be noticed by its friends as prosperous and successful.

The administration of his father marked a signal advance in the work of the Society. Our late President himself, entered with spirit into such work when he was quite young, and after his father's death of course he was chosen President, and it became the central pleasure of his life to set forward the work of the Society.

His early interest in Central America was increased by his intelligent visits to Yucatan and other provinces, and every year brought to our cabinet and to our library and to our transactions new results of his personal interest in the antiquities of those regions. But he did not by any means confine his antiquarian studies in one direction. From one meeting to another he would occupy himself in the wide range of historical interests which are so well represented in the membership of our society, and he would take care that at each meeting and in each publication a sufficient number of such interests should be represented. The papers prepared and read at his request during his short administration fully justified our founder in taking the large continental name of America for the Antiquarian Society. Mr. Salisbury would not leave it to the hasty special work of a few days to prepare for a semi-annual meeting. On the other hand, whenever he read or whenever he talked, he had us in mind and was asking himself or asking somebody who would prepare a fit paper on such a subject or such a subject in which he thought the Society had a concern.

In a review of the work of the Society since he was a member, the simple list of his own suggestions and contributions has a special interest to-day. The munificent gifts which he has made to the Society would of themselves have furnished a fit memorial of his life and service. But there was no need of such a memorial. His administration itself would be always remembered by any who have joined in our work or shared in the interest which it involved.

The wide range of Mr. Salisbury's interest in the welfare of all around him is shown in the remarkable list of his benefactions to individuals and to societies.

Mr. NATHANIEL PAINE said:—

Mr. Chairman:—As one of the oldest members of the Antiquarian Society, may I be permitted to say a few words in addition to what has already been said of our late president.

Mr. Salisbury was one of my oldest and best friends, and what I shall say will be largely of a personal nature. My acquaintance with him goes back to my school days and for the last twenty or more years I have been very closely connected with him in the affairs of this Society and otherwise. Speaking from this experience I can truly say that no member has been so faithful in his duties and constant in working for its good. He has always manifested a most practical interest in its welfare; in season and out of season he always had its interests at heart and was always ready to give up other business and cares to consult and advise with those associated with him in its management. Months before the regular meetings, it was his custom to plan and prepare for them by securing some one to write the reports of the Council and to read papers upon antiquarian or historical subjects, that the meetings might be successful. Very few of our members, I think, knew of the great amount of time and thought he gave to the Antiquarian Society and its objects, and I fear it will be a long time before we shall find one who will fill his place in this regard.

He was constant in his visits to our rooms to look after details of management and to encourage by his presence those who were employed there. That he was most generous in his financial help as shown in the large addition to our Building Fund founded by his honored father, we all know, but of his smaller contributions made most quietly and without thought of any thanks, we shall never know. His very generous thought of the Society has been shown since his death by the liberal bequest in his will. Of his quiet and unostentatious method in helping other educational and charitable institutions of Worcester, it is not necessary to speak at this time; suffice it to say they have been most timely and generous and highly appreciated by those directly interested.

I have not words at my command at this time to express my personal admiration of him as a man and a citizen.

We all know and admire his great modesty where he himself was most concerned. He was most democratic in his intercourse with all men. He was a gentleman of the old school who thought more of a good character in his friends than of any financial or social distinction. Although a man of great wealth, the humblest of his friends were never made to think of it when in his presence, and were always treated by him with the same courtesy and consideration as was manifested by his honored father. His charity and appreciation of the good deeds of others was a prominent trait of his character. One rarely heard him speak ill of anyone; he was more ready to defend than to criticise and find fault with his fellowmen. To his near friends he was most loyal and had ever in mind their welfare and he was always prompt to extend his sympathy in time of trouble, and to rejoice with them in any good fortune that might come to them. A man of strong feelings and perhaps somewhat decided in his own views, he was always thoughtful of the views of others and ready to hear them with patience even if not agreeing in their conclusions.

I wish that some fitting and appropriate memorial of our late president might be displayed in our Hall, some lasting memento of one so long active in promoting the best interest of the Society.

As one of my best and trusted friends, one to whom I could go for advice or counsel in the full assurance of his sympathy, I could not let this occasion pass without expressing, even if very inadequately, my grateful and loving tribute to the memory of our honored President and to express my high appreciation of the great loss we have sustained by his untimely removal.

Mr. SAMUEL SWETT GREEN said:—

Mr. President, There was conspicuously displayed on the temple at Delphi an inscription which characterized Mr. Salisbury. It is "Nothing too much." He was never extreme in his opinions, but always conservative.

His position in Worcester was such and his connection with institutions of different kinds and with business corporations so manifold that his influence was very widely felt. His presence was everywhere sought, and he had to perform somewhat perfunctorily many of the duties

imposed upon him as a member of numerous boards of trustees and directors. In many cases, however, he gave much time and thought to the furtherance of the interests of the organizations of which he was an officer.

The community, as I have written elsewhere, seems to me to have lost a much needed balance-wheel in Mr. Salisbury. His mind moved slowly, but the result of its working was very sure to be most sensible. I presume that all the gentlemen present in noticing his hesitation in speech, when presiding, have wished to prompt him and supply a word for which he seemed to be seeking, but have found that when the word came it was the one that best expressed the idea he wished to convey and a better one than we should have offered had we interposed to aid him. His mind was working although the decision was slowly reached.

As a few of us have sat together to discuss a subject his views were presented only after several others had spoken but when expressed were generally correct. It has been noticeable, however, that Mr. Salisbury increased in fluency as he went on in life and, generally, as in the instance of his father, that he grew in mind as he grew in years.

Whatever Mr. Salisbury did he wished to do thoroughly, and with much regard of details. This disposition made work burdensome to him at times. Especially was this the case immediately after the death of his father. The latter had attended, himself, to the management of his estate and when the care of a large property came upon the son it overwhelmed him. At that time he felt the need of intimacy with someone and chose me to receive his full confidence. I advised him, as did other friends, to secure the services of an able assistant. He did so, and his usual method of conducting business came to be the plan of selecting a good executive officer and putting large confidence in him in the different trusts for which he was responsible, reserving to himself only the final decision.

A characteristic of Mr. Salisbury in conducting a transaction was to throw himself into the position of the other party, and his conclusions were never reached without doing full justice to the man with whom he was dealing.

He had an interesting trait of liking to kill two birds with one stone. For example he was a generous contributor to the funds of the American Unitarian Association, but it

added to his pleasure in giving to have as many persons made life members of the society as could be so constituted by the amount of his contribution. The result is that more members of that association belong to the Second Parish in Worcester than to almost any other church.

If he were helping someone by having work done for him, he liked to have the work performed by some person who needed assistance. He often aided new business enterprises, but while he might not feel at all sure that they would be successful he wanted to have stock for his gift and take the chance of benefit from a prosperous outcome.

The most striking feature in Mr. Salisbury's character was his readiness to do fine things and make generous gifts unprompted and unsupported by enthusiasm.

He was to be found in his seat in the church to which he belonged, every Sunday forenoon. He would have preferred to spend pleasant Sundays in driving into the country and joining in a picnic. He was not a man of strong religious feeling nor did he have assurance in regard to our knowledge respecting a future life. He went to church because he felt it to be a duty to go and because he believed that religious institutions should be supported on account of their usefulness in the community.

Mr. Salisbury was a pessimist. Twenty years ago he had a great lack of confidence in men and women and was especially disturbed by what he considered the bad manners of the children of to-day. He thought that they were not properly brought up and believed that young people, at the present time, are over-educated.

Seeing so much of the seamy side of life as he did, Mr. Salisbury grew more and more distrustful of men and of their ways of doing things. Still he was an humble man, and when he believed he had obtained the consensus of opinion among persons most trusted by him he acted in accordance with that agreement. A marked example of such action was the expenditure, with little enthusiasm, of large sums of money in advancing the interests of educational institutions. He was guided in this matter solely by duty.

Again, Mr. Salisbury had no strong interest in art. He could encourage the destruction of a row of old trees and, without lamenting their loss, speak in praise of their removal

because of the clearness of the view obtained and from practical and business considerations. His eye was not offended by the presence of an ugly bridge which at a small expenditure could have been made slightly or even an ornament. Still, having had it brought to his attention forcibly and convincingly that there was need of an art museum in Worcester he established and endowed one; and having become convinced of its possible utility and the largeness of its needs left it a magnificent legacy.

I do not say these things in disparagement of Mr. Salisbury, but in admiration of a man who without strong interests could do great things from a sense of duty.

He once said to me, "Men say to me that I must feel great satisfaction in the acts of benevolence I am able to perform, but the fact is they give me very little pleasure."

It is not true, however, that Mr. Salisbury found no satisfaction in beneficence. During his life his gifts were widely distributed and bestowed upon a great variety of institutions, representing different groups of citizens, and upon an untold number of individuals. The result was that he was generally respected and regarded with the kindest feelings. He found a moderate enjoyment in the prominence which was awarded him and in the consciousness that he had the favorable regard of the entire community. Still this enjoyment never became a passion. Neither did it make him proud. Mr. Salisbury was in heart and in manner an humble man and a true democrat. He looked coolly upon himself, and while he underestimated most of his fellowmen, never over-estimated himself. Once and again he said to me, "I have enjoyed a very unusual number of privileges. I hope that no one believes that I regard myself as better than other men. It is my luck only which has given me a fortune and position."

Mr. Salisbury might have had high political honors had he wished for them, but he steadily refused to allow his name to be used in candidacy for places of especial distinction. Worcester was a good enough place for him; he preferred it to Washington. He could on several occasions have been chosen Mayor of Worcester, but he did not want the place.

Mr. Salisbury's manner was always pleasant and he had a winning smile; however much irritated he controlled his feelings. He was frank but studiously polite.

Mr. Salisbury's tastes were very simple.

Those of us who belong to a little social organization, the members of which dine together once a fortnight in winter, and discuss some interesting subject afterwards, remember with especial pleasure his geniality and his drollery. But I have felt that he was happiest when, free from care, a few intimate friends sat with him around his dining table at a midday meal on Sunday and talked unrestrainedly after dinner, or when the same group dined together at some other house, or attended an evening reception in the beautiful studio of a neighbor. A little party of congenial men and women, including singers and musicians, would spend an evening together singing and playing, conversing, and saying witty things, observing carefully all the proprieties of good society and yet enjoying a slight strain of bohemianism. Mr. Salisbury beamed when participating in a simple entertainment of that sort and perhaps reached his most unalloyed enjoyment when at the close of the evening everybody in the little circle seized some musical instrument, or sat, one at a grand piano, another at an organ, a third at a harp, while a fourth person would station himself in front of a chime of Swiss bells, and a lively tune was started, all joining; there would come forth mingled sounds and there would be felt a mild excitement resembling, I presume, the wilder strains and the noisier expressions of mirth which characterize such a function at a Spanish fandango.

Before Mr. Salisbury's will was made public, it would, I think, have been the spontaneous wish of the citizens of Worcester to erect a statue in his memory. There is a present dissatisfaction with the provisions of that instrument, but twenty years hence when it is called to mind that almost the whole of his large estate has been given to Worcester, when men realize that there is hardly an institution in that place that did not share in his beneficence during his life time, and when in walks about the city a beautiful park is pointed to as his gift, a fine building in a conspicuous place is shown as the stately house he provided, by his will, for this Society, when his gifts to the Polytechnic Institute, to Clark University and the Society of Antiquity are considered, and there appear the magnificent buildings and collections of a remarkable Art Museum,

and its valuable influence on the industries of the city and on the taste of its citizens becomes evident, the feeling of the greatness of the indebtedness of Worcester will be realized and in addition to whatever memorial the governing body of the Art Museum may provide there will arise a strong desire for a monument to express the revived public appreciation of the beneficence of an unusually wise and good man.

Mr. Salisbury made me a confidant in regard to the provisions of the first will which he made after his father's death, but apparently destroyed afterwards. In that instrument his purpose seemed to be to lighten the burden of the municipality of Worcester by giving large aid to the City Hospital, the Free Public Library and other city institutions. He also favored especially such societies as had to do with provision for the needy, of such elementary requirements as food and clothing. Apparently when he made his last will he had concluded that the city and eleemosynary institutions could be confidently left for support to others, and that it was well for him to provide mainly for the interests of history, education and art.

Mr. FRANKLIN B. DEXTER said:—

I have not deemed it incumbent on me to prepare anything for this occasion, though my presence from a distance will show in part my appreciation of our late President and of all that he has done for us. I count it a privilege, however, to express my hearty concurrence with what has been said by those who knew him so much longer and more intimately, both in respect to the sense of personal loss and the loss to our Society.

Mr. SALISBURY impressed me most deeply by his entire genuineness, his courtesy, his simplicity and lack of ostentation, and the remarkable sanity and good sense of his judgments. Perhaps he went too far in the subordination of his individuality; but he will always stand in my remembrance as a man who responded sympathetically to an unusually wide circle of interests and who gave himself up to the task of filling well his destined place. We, his friends, can best honor his memory by doing our work in the same thorough, quiet, conscientious, and self-effacing spirit in which he did his.

Mr. ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS said:—

We meet as officials of the American Antiquarian Society to bear testimony to the respect and esteem in which we hold the memory of our late President. Yet, while our minds turn back to the years of faithful service and the benefactions which have identified his name with this Society, and while each of us perhaps desires that his own name shall be associated on the records of the Society with some appreciative testimonial in his behalf, I can not but feel that, whatever phase of his life may suggest itself to the individual as a topic for special development to-day, whether it be that of the generous public benefactor, the philanthropist, the faithful citizen, the astute financier, the friend and protector of literature and art, or the simple honest man, the prevailing sentiment of those who now listen to my voice must at this moment be that of affectionate sorrow at the loss of a personal friend. Our records bear upon their pages the story of his devotion to our service, too plainly engrossed to require renewed testimony on our part. Within the membership of the Society and outside the field of the records, the mention of his name will always bring to the minds of those who were permitted to enjoy them the hospitable courtesies which he was accustomed to extend to us, and will call up the picture of the urbane host whose greatest pleasure it was to administer to the comfort and enjoyment of his guests.

There are those among us who can bear testimony, through years of daily contact, to his untiring devotion to the different corporations and societies with which his name was associated. Others connected with the educational institutions of this vicinity can develop the value of his gifts in that direction. The story of his philanthropic contributions may not be so easy to disclose, for acts of this sort were not ordinarily performed by him in an open, public way, nor were gifts of this kind ever made by him with a view to secure the approval of his fellowmen, nevertheless, there are some here to-day who know more or less even of these.

We were all of us personal friends of his, and several of us date the inception of this friendship in the days of early boyhood. I am one of these, and as I look back upon his career I am struck with its parallelism to that

of his father. Both father and son were Presidents and benefactors of this Society. Both were for brief periods members of the Massachusetts Senate. The father, the second of the name of Stephen Salisbury, was interested in educational matters and like the son evinced that interest in substantial form. In selecting avenues for the distribution of his philanthropic benefactions, he too was guided by his cool judgment and not by any desire to secure the approval of others. Both father and son were contributory to the industrial growth of Worcester, not as manufacturers, but as providers of suitable buildings for the conduct of manufacturing enterprises.

Look back sixty years or thereabouts and see the little brick mill at Salisbury pond, the east end occupied by Deacon Washburn as a wire factory, the west end by Phelps & Bickford, manufacturers of looms. Think for a moment to what extent the subsequent prosperity of Worcester is due to the two industries then housed in this small building. Then turn to Lincoln Square and see the activity at that time at Ruggles, Nourse & Mason's plough factory, but a short distance away from the square, where seeds of future growth were being planted by pioneers in that great industry, the manufacture of agricultural implements. At Lincoln Square also, sheltered in the block now standing opposite this hall, were several firms engaged in the manufacture of pegged boots and shoes, the Howe sewing machine not having been at that time invented and the possibilities of our Lynns and Brocktons not being then suspected. This backward glance associates the name of Salisbury with the material welfare of the town and city in which the father and son spent their lives and in whose prosperity they both took such a lively interest.

We, who compose the Council of the Antiquarian Society, mourn the loss of a friend—not only a friend to us personally—but also to the institution to which we are all bound by ties of membership and which has honored us by placing us in charge of its affairs.

The City of Worcester will miss the presence of a loyal son, who during his entire career never wavered in his devotion to the place of his birth, and never faltered in the performance of his civic duties.

The various societies, organizations, and institutions, religious, historical, philanthropic, literary, artistic, or social, of which Mr. Salisbury was a member, will unite in the assertion that he was a man who never thrust himself forward and never shirked an obvious duty.

Calm; reserved; equable in temperament; not over confident in himself, yet not easily swerved from an opinion which he conceived to be well-founded; courteous in bearing; dignified in deportment; never self-asserting and never acting with a view to secure popular approval; loyal in friendship, but not demonstrative; honest, upright, and straight-forward; Stephen Salisbury passed through life making hosts of friends, among whom there were but few however, who could claim that this friendship was intimate.

When lying prostrate upon his last bed of sickness, all Worcester watched with apprehension the discouraging quality of the daily bulletins issued by his physicians, and the sad character of the news was flashed over the wires so that those not near at hand were also prepared for the fatal termination of the disease. Cut off thus in the full plenitude of his power our first thought was how unfortunate that this career of usefulness should have been extinguished while so great possibilities for the future remained in force. Yet we may well doubt, whether, if he had possessed the power to control events he would not have ordained that it should be as it is; that our last vivid impression of him should comprehend the quiet dignity with which he presided at our October meeting; the good fellowship of his friendly greetings; and the pleasant associations which now surround his memory, since we think of him only at his best. His failing vision made possible that at no distant day he would become—for a time at least—a sightless prisoner in his lonely mansion.

His death under conditions like these would have been looked upon as a happy release from suffering. Is it not probable that he would have preferred that he should be removed from our midst under circumstances which would arouse sorrow rather than sympathy, so that his passing away would be thought of as a loss to the public rather than as a release for himself?

We who have watched him from year to year as he presided over the Society, can recall the manner in which he

conquered the hesitancy with which he at first handled our meetings, until at last the impression made by his easy dignity when in the chair, was the same that he made elsewhere. How his appearance affected our fellow members was well expressed by one who was present at our last meeting and who wrote: "He will linger in my memory as a pleasant type of the old New England gentleman."

Mr. E. HARLOW RUSSELL said:—

I have perhaps less warrant than any other member of this Council to detain you with any contribution that I can make to the tributes proper to this sad occasion. My personal relations with Mr. Salisbury, while always friendly, did not extend over a long period of time, nor were they ever very close; but within certain moderate limits of intimacy I saw a good deal of him and felt that I got some understanding, or at least some clear impressions, of the character of the man and of his attitude to the community and to the age in which he lived. His friends all know that he often expressed himself with considerable frankness about men and things, and though uniformly dignified and considerate, with the reserve and courtesy of a gentleman, he knew his own mind and did not hesitate to state his views with definiteness and sometimes with the emphasis of strong conviction. Though usually more inclined to listen than to talk, he did not seem to have much in his mind that he was studious to conceal.

My first and most constant feeling when in his presence was a delighted sense of his genial manner, particularly his sweet and gracious smile of greeting to his friends, which for genuine unaffected affability with no excess of effusiveness, I have never seen surpassed and seldom equaled or even approached. Though unflinching and uniform, this did not seem exactly like a habit, it seemed more like a fresh expression of present pleasure focused for the moment upon you alone, and you could not doubt its sincerity. If any portrait of Mr. Salisbury could have caught the expression I speak of, that feature alone would have made it a work of art. A similar refinement and sweetness often appeared in his voice, something like what Mr. Henry James says our speech in this country conspicuously lacks, a tone suggesting music but far removed from any quality of singsong.

When I have looked, from time to time, at the three miniatures hanging on the wall yonder—our late associate, and the father and grandfather whose common name he bore—I have sometimes felt oppressed with a sense of the responsibilities which devolved upon him as the inheritor not only of the large estate that fell into his possession at his father's death, but of the many offices and honors to which, as his father's only son, he naturally succeeded whether he would or no, by no means least among them being the presidency of our Society, a function that he has performed in all its details with so much diligence, devotion and success. I question whether we have realized the hours of thought and labor that have gone to the providing of our semi-annual programmes, things so easy to sit and enjoy, but so hard to arrange, year after year, to the edification of a company largely made up of accomplished and critical scholars. Then reflect that this was only one of scores, perhaps hundreds, of duties and functions, to the scrupulous fulfilment of which our friend gave up his whole time, and alas! more than his whole strength. Reflect, further, that in addition to the demands of duty, which he always gladly met, there pressed upon him innumerable interruptions and solicitations from all quarters of "the shipman's card," and the shrill voices of "the daughters of the horse-leech," sounded ever in his ears, that the unworthy out-numbered the deserving three to one, and where was the man to find rest or refuge, not to speak of recreation or leisure? My wonder is that he did not break down long before. I remember finding him one evening, soon after his benefaction in founding the Art Museum had first been made public, opening his mail. News of the gift, had, of course, gone over the country, and begging letters were pouring in upon him, mostly from strangers, setting forth the "claims" of this, that and the other institution or community upon his further bounty. With a patient shrug, he handed one after another of these missives to me, but betrayed no vexation, and I realized then, as I have realized increasingly since—especially since his death—how vast and manifold and insatiable is the demand made by a greedy public upon a man of wealth who shows a generous disposition. Let us not regret that the chorus of cavilling and dissent

which, to our shame, arose when Mr. Salisbury's will was published, could not reach his ears. But for all the weight, all the alternatives, that must have rested upon and perplexed his conscience, how patient and equable he seemed; his manner kindly, his mind open, his hand generous, his voice always on the side of whatever promised good for any individual or for the community at large. And this with no motive or thought of personal advantage, no taint of self-seeking, no thirst for praise or fame.

Mr. Salisbury played a difficult rôle, perhaps not of his own choosing, played it well and played it to the very end. He was a unique figure, a pillar of beneficence in the structure of this city. Where shall we look for his successor?

Much has been made—none too much—of his loyalty to duty, ignoring the beckonings of ease and pleasure. I recall the admiration with which he once told me of the resolute conduct of his friend Alexander Agassiz, who on a certain occasion had turned his back on a reunion of his college class because the ship in which he was to embark on an exploring expedition was ready to sail, although he could by a word have detained her for a day to attend the meeting. Mr. Salisbury's warm approval of the act showed that there had been given to him,

“ * * * Made lowly wise,
The spirit of self sacrifice.”

But our friend was no ascetic. He had a relish for the good things of life and was a genial companion. Like his father, he had a rare humor, a quaint way of saying incisive things, not describable but very enjoyable. His tastes were strikingly simple. Although possessed of means to do whatever he pleased in the way of luxurious living, and associating constantly with people touched more or less with love of display, how plain everything was about his house, his dress, his carriage, his mode of travelling, and how much he did with his own hands that many another would have called a servant to perform. As a host, we all know, his hospitality was always bountiful and elegant, but never extravagant or ostentatious.

His service to this Society was not so brilliant as it was conservative, comprehensive, well-balanced, and far-

reaching. No interest escaped his attention and no need appealed to him in vain. He gave full recognition and scope to every member's talents, and we all remember his unfailing courtesy as a presiding officer. He had little occasion to use tact or finesse,

"His armor was his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill."

Mr. Salisbury fills a niche by himself and fills it well; and the type of citizen which he represented shows, I fear, some signs of approaching extinction.

Mr. SAMUEL UTLEY said:—

It is a remarkable circumstance that three generations of the family of SALISBURY have lived within a few rods of the spot where the family started in Worcester one hundred and thirty-eight years ago. It is also remarkable that our late President was surrounded by so many men of mark in this community, who have known him so intimately for so long a time that neither could tell when the acquaintance began. Compared with these gentlemen my acquaintance of forty-one years may well be deemed short, and though not intimate it has been of increasing friendliness, which our relations in church and in this Society have greatly fostered.

It is hardly to be supposed that anything new can now be said concerning his life and work, but it seems fitting that this Council which has been a witness of so much of his constant and conscientious effort and this Society which has been the object of this effort in his life-time and of his great benefaction at his death, should place on record their appreciation of what he has been for it, as well as for the community in which he lived.

To call the roll of the public charities and institutions of the City of Worcester, is to give but a partial and incomplete list of his beneficiaries; for it is but the simple truth that for many years nothing has asked aid of any considerable circle without having Mr. Salisbury in the list of contributors. This has been done so quietly and so unostentatiously that though in a general way, known and noted, still I doubt if it was fully appreciated until it was so suddenly ended.

What has not been and now never can be fully known is the extent, variety and amount of his private gifts and the aid, material and otherwise, rendered to persons and their affairs. With hardly more than one exception his larger public gifts in his life-time have been to institutions that were organized by others, and this was done on the well thought out plan of stimulating contributions from the general public; but when it came to his will it was quite natural and logical that his attention should be centered on the Art Museum, which he had founded with great liberality and whose future he might well prefer to assure instead of giving largely and widely to causes, however worthy, which he might feel appealed to a constituency sufficiently extended to make their future secure.

Probably few appreciated at how many points he touched affairs of public interest, or how important a factor he had become in the life of the city, which can well be tested by observing how many people who were interested in a special cause have found Mr. Salisbury's attitude towards it, such that they inferred that their particular cause was the one nearest his heart.

Without doubt Mr. Salisbury would have been surprised could he have known of the deep and wide-spread sorrow at his sickness and death, a feeling to which our life and character gives no opportunity for expression, and which his modest estimate of himself did not allow him to suspect.

There will be great and universal satisfaction when it is known that it may now be hoped that the treasures of this Society will soon be safely housed, and so arranged as to be readily accessible to all. The people of Worcester can also feel that their present excellent Art Museum will soon be extended and perfected until it will take a high rank throughout the country.

I call attention to these particularly, because it has often been noted that in Worcester the material aspect in life has been much in evidence, for it thus appears that other matters have received and will continue to receive their proper share of attention; and when we consider the number, variety and character of the institutions of learning situated here, it seems clear that many things that make for the highest good of the people are also giving their proper contribution to the development of the city.

By reason of his great industry and executive capacity Mr. Salisbury was able to do many things and thus gave not only of his means but also gave himself, to a degree extremely unusual, and came to occupy a position entirely unique in the community in which he lived, and which will long remain unfilled.

It has been a great good fortune to the city to have had for so long a time a conspicuous example of safe, sound, conservative living, free from ostentation or extravagance. This good fortune is made apparent when we consider the effect which the opposite course of life would have had not only in fostering a like course in the whole community, but also in thus expending his large income in passing splendor, instead of its being conserved for the public use as it has been.

A noticeable trait in Mr. Salisbury's character was his extreme deference to the opinions of others and his willingness to aid while he plainly preferred some other cause or some other way. With this went an ardent desire that others should receive their full share of notice and be treated with the kindest attention. Accordingly there never was any question of whether he could or would work with any person or for any meritorious cause.

A TRIBUTE FROM YUCATAN

MERIDA, November 23, 1905.

LYMAN A. ELY, Esq., Worcester, Mass.,

Dear Sir:—

When the sad news of Mr. Salisbury's death reached his friends in Yucatan there was a spontaneous, almost universal desire to put in some concrete form the expression of their sorrow and to transmit to the different societies and institutions of learning of which he was a most conspicuous member, and to his Worcester friends at large, their expression of a mutual loss.

Under the impulse of this desire these friends held an informal meeting at the home of David Casares, the deceased's oldest and most intimate friend in Yucatan, and there were written the heartfelt lines above the signatures.

It is the earnest desire of these friends that you transmit to such societies and institutions and such friends as you deem fit, and as your intimate knowledge of Mr. Salisbury's ideas calls you to do, a copy of the resolutions enclosed, headed by the signature of Señor Olegario Molina, Governor of the State.

In deepest sorrow we sign ourselves,

Your true and sincere friends,

DAVID CASARES,
EDWARD H. THOMPSON.

The resolutions are as follows:—

The numerous friends that the Honorable STEPHEN SALISBURY had in Yucatan have been afflicted by deep sorrow on learning the sad news brought them by telegraph of his having passed away in Worcester, Massachusetts, his home, on the 16th inst. after a short sickness. The profound grief we have felt has not been only caused by the feelings of piety innate in the human heart toward those that have left the paths of life forever. Mr. SALISBURY had made himself worthy of and won our personal affection and gratefulness as children of this dear strip of land where most of us had the blessed lot of seeing the first light, and some one of us has been as one of them. These regards, this affection and these feelings of unalloyed gratefulness have sprung in our hearts as naturally as the seed germinates under the soil warmed by the sun; for he had nourished them in our minds by the great concern he had for everything that had any connection with this country, its history, its social, moral and intellectual development, its material progress and improvements.

He showed always great respect for all those that worked with good faith for the prosperity of the country, and above all for those who spend their life energies in the diffusion of knowledge among their fellow citizens, and for public benefactors. He had marked liking for our literature, and there was not a work on the history, geography and statistics of our Peninsula that came to his knowledge that he did not acquire for his library or for those of the societies and corporations he patronized. But the chief title and tie he had on our affections was the hearty sympathy he felt for our habits, customs, peculiar social being, and our popular ways.

Compelled by these motives we consider it a sacred duty to get together and take appropriate resolutions as an humble homage of respect and gratefulness to the memory of the eminent philanthropist, the distinguished citizen and the great friend of Yucatan; and to that effect, we, the friends of the Honorable STEPHEN SALISBURY in this country, presided over by one whom he honored with an unbroken friendship for more than half a century, unanimously agreed to send to his mourners, and to the scientific and beneficent societies and boards of education of which he

1907.]

Salisbury Memorial.

XLVII

was a most conspicuous member, the following words of condolence:

With the shock of a great surprise and deep sorrow, we learn of the death of the Honorable STEPHEN SALISBURY.

Under the influence of this sorrow, and with the memory of his great kindness, his words of wisdom and cheer to all, indelibly impressed upon us, we the undersigned, have met together for mutual condolence, and to send to the distant friends in whose midst he lived and passed away, our grief and heartfelt sympathy.

SENOR OLEGARIO MOLINA,
and others.

MERIDA, YUCATAN, Nov. 1905.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.