

OBITUARIES.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS CHASE.

Charles Augustus Chase was born in Worcester, September 9, 1833. He was descended from William Chase, who came from England with Winthrop, the founder of Boston, in 1630, bringing the surname derived from the French, *chasser* (to hunt), from the ancestral seat, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, near the river Chess.

Mr. Charles A. Chase's grandfather married in Smithfield, the center of Quaker influence in Worcester, and his father, Anthony Chase, married Lydia Earle, the daughter of Pliny and Patience Earle, and sister of the late Hon. John Milton Earle, of the celebrated Quaker family of Leicester, in 1819. Mr. Charles Chase retained affiliation with the Society of Friends until his death, supporting ministrations and making a liberal contribution toward the erection of its new meeting-house, although probably not approving entirely of some of the developments of the Society in Worcester. He was inclined towards the beliefs of the Hicksite portion of the Society of Friends.

Mr. Chase's father, Anthony Chase, in 1829 became the first local agent of the Worcester and Providence Boating Company, an organization which managed the Blackstone Canal. He was secretary of the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company from 1831 to 1852, and afterwards its president, occupying that position at the time of his death, August 4, 1879. He was County Treasurer from 1831 to 1865 and held other offices of public trust and private responsibility.

Mr. Charles A. Chase, after going through the lower grades of the public schools in Worcester, graduated from

the Thomas street grammar school in 1845 into the new Classical and English High School. After passing through the regular classical course in that school, he remained another year to take a somewhat extended course in mathematics.

He entered Harvard College in 1851 and was graduated in 1855, receiving the degree of Master of Arts in 1858. Among his classmates were Phillips Brooks, Alexander Agassiz, Frank B. Sanborn, our associate, Dr. John Green, ophthalmologist, and, for the short time that he remained in college, Henry L. Higginson, banker and liberal giver. Mr. Chase was intensely interested in the affairs of the College and when the Harvard Club was afterwards formed in Worcester became its second president.

By invitation of his friend, Mr. Charles Hale, editor of the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, he joined the staff of that paper in 1855 and filled the position of reporter in the various departments and of office editor for seven years. During this time he reported for the paper Lincoln's famous speech at Gettysburg.

In 1862 Mr. Chase made a five-months' tour of Europe, seeking rest, and on his return was led by family considerations to take up his residence again in Worcester.

In the autumn of 1864 he was elected County Treasurer, succeeding his father, and held the office for eleven years. In 1875 he was chosen Register of Deeds and served during the centennial year of 1876. He was soon after elected secretary of the Worcester Board of Trade.

In 1879 Mr. Chase wrote a history of Worcester for the county history published by C. F. Jewett & Co. of Boston. Although the work was done in a limited time, there was incorporated in it considerable matter which was the result of original research and had never before appeared in print. Later, for Hurd's History of Worcester County he wrote chapters on the newspaper press in Worcester and on banking and insurance in that place, and still later an historical sketch of the Worcester National Bank issued in connection with the

centennial anniversary of the establishment of that institution.

In 1879 he served as treasurer and manager of the Worcester Telephone Company. The Western Union Telegraph Company was one of the stockholders. After spirited competition with the Bell Telephone Company which had established a rival exchange, the Telegraph Company and the Bell Telephone Company entered into a kind of partnership covering the whole country and the two Worcester exchanges were merged into one, the Worcester gentlemen selling out their stock.

On November 10, 1879, Mr. Chase was elected treasurer of the Worcester County Institution for Savings, succeeding Mr. Charles A. Hamilton who died in office, and in 1904 was promoted to the presidency of the institution as successor to Stephen Salisbury. This office he resigned in 1908 on account of ill health.

He was influential in the affairs of the city. He was secretary of the Worcester Lyceum and Library Association from 1863 to 1866; vice-president, 1867-68, and on the lecture committee from 1866 to 1880; a director of the Public Library from 1868 to 1874; director of the Citizens' National Bank from 1880 to 1889, and of the Worcester National Bank from January, 1888; director of the Merchants' and Farmers' Fire Insurance Company from 1883. He was trustee and treasurer of Memorial Hospital, corporator of the Worcester Art Museum, and an active member of the governing board of the Old Men's Home. He was, also, commissioner of the sinking funds of the City of Worcester. He was president of the North End Street Railway Company, which established a suburban line that was finally absorbed by the Worcester Consolidated Railroad Company.

For a history of Mr. Chase's connection with the American Antiquarian Society and for a list of the important offices which he held in it, as well as of the papers which he contributed to its Proceedings, see the report of the memorial meeting of the Council of the Society held immediately after his death.

He was a member of the New England Historic-Gen-
ealogical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts,
the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and The Worces-
ter Society of Antiquity. He was also a member of the
St. Wulstan Society and of the Worcester Fire Society.

Mr. Chase for most of his life was connected with a
newspaper, following in the footsteps of his father who
from 1823 to 1835 was associated with John Milton
Earle in the ownership of the *Worcester Spy*. Mr.
Charles Chase while in the High School published a boys'
paper called "The Humble Bee," and, as stated before,
from 1855 to 1862 was employed on the *Boston Daily
Advertiser*. For about 25 years he was associated with
Mr. Charles H. Doe, who had also been employed on the
Advertiser, in ownership of the *Worcester Gazette*.

Mr. Chase married, in Boston in 1862, Mary Teresa
Clark and is survived by their two children, Mary Alice
who is the wife of Thomas H. Gage, Jr., and Maud Elisa
Chase whose home was with her father. He left, also,
a sister, Miss Sarah E. Chase, and a half-sister, Mrs.
J. Russel Marble.

Mr. Chase died June 5, 1911, from the last of a long
series of hemorrhages of the brain which extended
through a period of more than 5 years. He was in his
78th year.

Mr. Chase was always regarded as a man of perfect
integrity and had the confidence of all his associates.
It was noticeable that he was especially trusted by the
poor. He was a public spirited and useful citizen and
was a quiet, generous and constant giver in charity.
He was a man of earnest convictions, but slow to criti-
cize. He was always thoughtful in speech and action.

He was a man of good business judgment and con-
ducted faithfully and successfully all the interests that
he was called on to guard, rendering acceptable service
in whatever occupation he was engaged. His business
positions were not those in which the need of initiative
is conspicuous but those in which he was mainly guided
by regulations, but such were the fidelity and precision

which he displayed in the discharge of his duties that his services were always valuable.

Mr. Chase was a delightful companion, interested in general affairs and especially in facts of local history. He imparted much information in a pleasant manner. He was naturally social, genial and witty, often irresistibly droll. He had a wide interest in art and literature. He was a noticeably fine scholar in the Latin and Greek classics and retained his interest in these branches of study throughout life. He was an authority in regard to the history of Worcester and had a passion for accuracy in regard to facts and in regard to speech and written expression.

S. S. G.

PROCEEDINGS AT A
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 7, 1911, REGARDING
THE DEATH OF MR. CHARLES A. CHASE.

Present: the President, Messrs. Paine, Utley, Engler and Rugg.

The President announced that the meeting of the Council had been hastily called to take action upon the death of Charles Augustus Chase. He gave a sketch of Mr. Chase's long connection with the Society, stating that he had been elected a member in 1880, had served as auditor from 1880 to 1887, on the committee of publication from 1882 to 1906, as recording secretary from 1894 to 1906, on the finance committee from 1901 to 1906, and upon the Council from 1884 until his death.

After remarks by Mr. Paine and Judge Utley, it was voted that Mr. Samuel Swett Green of the Council should be asked to prepare a minute regarding Mr. Chase, to be spread upon the records.

In response to this request Mr. Green prepared the following minute:—

A sketch of the life of Mr. Chase will appear in the Proceedings of the Society among the notices prepared under the supervision of the Biographer. This is the time to speak of his services to the Society and of those qualities which made it so pleasant for us to meet with him as members of the Council.

An account of the offices which Mr. Chase has filled in the Society has been given by the President. A list of his papers and other literary contributions to its Proceedings will be found at the end of this notice.

During the twelve years of his occupancy of the position of Secretary, he did the work required faithfully and acceptably; the papers which he presented to the Society were always interesting and important.

The most noteworthy services of Mr. Chase, however, were those which he as a member of the Committee of Publication rendered during the twenty-four years that he held that position. He was a man of great accuracy of expression and a fondness for details. These qualities together with his long and conscientious work in responsible positions on the *Boston Daily Advertiser* and his interest from boyhood throughout life in the preparation of articles for the newspapers made his services on that committee as a critical editor of the Proceedings very valuable.

Mr. Chase's personal and social characteristics were of a high order. Of good judgment and firmness of opinion he yet yielded readily to superiority in argument. A man of extensive and exact information regarding local and historical facts and of interest in affairs general and special, his part in conversation was always interesting and made exceedingly pleasant by his kindness of heart, conciliatory attitude and witty speech. His droll sayings were irresistible.

The Society has lost, by the death of Mr. Chase, a warm friend; the Council, a wise and delightful companion.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROCEEDINGS.

- In April, 1887, in a report of the Council, "Some great charitable trusts of Great Britain."
- In April, 1897, also as a portion of a report of the Council, "Some great trusts in the United States."
- In April, 1899, in a report of the Council, "The Boston meetings of the American Antiquarian Society."
- In April, 1901, as a portion of the report of the Council, "Land titles of the American Antiquarian Society."
- In October, 1901, and October, 1907, additional statements regarding the land titles of the Society.
- In October, 1896, an account of his attendance, as a delegate from the Society, at the laying of the Memorial Stone of the Robinson Memorial Church at Gainsborough, England, June 29, 1896.
- In October, 1891, "William Lincoln, a biographical sketch."

As portions of the reports of the Council in October, 1892, April, 1894, April, 1896, and October, 1899, obituaries of several members of the Society.

CARROLL DAVIDSON WRIGHT.

Carroll Davidson Wright died in Worcester, February 20, 1909. He was born in Dunbarton, New Hampshire, July 25, 1840, the third of seven children. His father was a Universalist minister and his ancestors on both sides had for generations lived in New England. He was educated in the public schools and academies and, at the age of twenty, began the study of law in an office, supporting himself by teaching rural schools. In September, 1862, he enlisted in the Fourteenth Volunteer Regiment of New Hampshire as a private, but was rapidly promoted and in two years, at the close of the Shenandoah Campaign, he became colonel of his regiment. Overwork and illness forced him to resign in the spring of 1865, when he engaged in business in Lynn. On January 1, 1867, he married Caroline E. Harnden, and soon after began the practice of law in Boston, specializing in patent cases. In 1871 and again the next year he was elected from Reading, Massachusetts, to the state senate where he was made Chairman of a committee on Insurance and Military Affairs. Here he began his advocacy of Civil Service Examinations. Two years before, the Legislature had established a State Bureau of Statistics and Labor, and in May, 1873, Colonel Wright was made its head. In connection with his work here, the Massachusetts ten-hour labor law was enacted and public sentiment was turned in the direction which afterwards brought about the inspection of factories, child labor laws, etc. Under his administration, the Bureau was not partisan but devoted merely to the promotion of labor legislation. The decennial census of 1875 was undertaken by it and other statistical investigations begun and a wide range of topics discussed. Colonel Wright's reputation grew rapidly and he was much in demand as lecturer and author. So success-

ful was the Massachusetts Bureau under his direction that the state urged a national bureau and in 1885 Colonel Wright was nominated and in 1888 made its head. From this period his career is of national importance and is well known. The function of the Bureau as he conceived it was the proper education of the masses in the elementary facts of political and economic science and his reports for twenty years at Washington are mines of information. He was the counsellor of several Presidents, the director of the eleventh census and an important arbiter in several of the greatest labor troubles that the country has seen, beginning with the Pullman Strike in 1894 in Chicago and ending with the great Anthracite Coal Strike in 1902, which involved 147,000 mine workers. Various states beginning with Pennsylvania in 1872 followed the example of Massachusetts in establishing bureaus of statistics and labor and in all these the influence of Colonel Wright was strongly felt. For twenty years, ending in 1905, he was president of a national association of these bureaus and had much to do in shaping their policy.

During the later years of his life in Washington, the disease which ended in his death made his work increasingly hard. The invitation to organize Clark College made it possible for him to return to Massachusetts under very congenial conditions. Although not himself a college graduate, his highly scholarly temperament, his wide experience and his sound judgment enabled him to organize a new academic institution unhampered by traditions where young men, in the terms of the founder's will, are to be educated for citizenship and their work in life. He made it a hard working academic democracy, without social distinctions or class enmities, governed by a high standard of honor, loyalty and courtesy.

High as were his attainments and eminent as was his career and great as were his services, his ideals, as H. G. Wadlin well says, were always in advance of his achievements. His influence in this state extended far beyond the college. As a member of the State Board of Edu-

cation, he conducted one of the most important reports ever made, the indirect results of which have led to the reconstruction of the board in a way to do justice to the industrial aspects of education. He was also made Professor of Statistics and Economics in Clark University in 1904, Trustee of the Carnegie Institution from its foundation in 1902, was president of the American Unitarian Association for three years ending 1899, member of various learned societies in this country and abroad, holder of the LL.D. degree from five colleges or universities, member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, wearing its cross. For a bibliographical list of his chief writings, see the Quarterly of the American Statistical Association for September, 1909, new series No. 87.

Colonel Wright's career was quite different from that which he originally chose. Incalculably great as his public services became, he would doubtless have been no less eminent had he chosen a judicial career. In personality he was genial and pleasing, very rarely making enemies and unusually endowed with common sense and tact. The range and versatility of his capacities and interests were amazing. Not only on nearly every important social and political topic, but on many religious, educational and special themes he has placed himself on record in a luminous and helpful way. The fact that in successive administrations and amidst repeated changes of parties in Washington, Colonel Wright was able to keep his Bureau not only out of politics but free and independent of all other government institutions is itself a tribute to his tact and sagacity.

Colonel Wright became a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1893. Absorbed with other activities and in declining health, his only contribution to the Society was a paper on Labor Organizations in Ancient, Medieval and Modern Times. Besides his intellectual gifts and attainments, he was a genial companion and friend and as such will be remembered by all among us who knew him.

G. S. H.

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