

1921. He was elected to this Society in 1930 at the suggestion of his friend, the late Calvin Coolidge, but died before he had the opportunity to attend a meeting. Mr. Kingsley married, June 19, 1884, Mary M. Mitchell, and secondly, December 3, 1895, Josephine I. McCall, daughter of John A. McCall, former president of the New York Life Insurance Company. He was survived by his widow and five children.

C. S. B.

JOHN BACH McMASTER

John Bach McMaster, elected in 1884 and the senior member of this Society, died at the home of his son at Darien, Connecticut, May 24, 1932. He was born in Brooklyn, June 29, 1852, the son of James and Julia (Bach) McMaster. He was graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1872 with the degree of A.B. and entered upon an engineering career, working as a civil engineer from 1873 to 1877 and serving as instructor in civil engineering at Princeton until 1883. In that year he changed his allegiance from engineering to American history, a subject in which he had always been deeply interested and which he had studied to a considerable extent. Several years before on one of his engineering trips to the west, he had been impressed with the drama of early pioneer civilization and also with the value of writing history from the viewpoint of social changes as well as legislative documents. He had planned and written by the year 1883 the first volume of a comprehensive History of the United States, beginning with the close of the Revolution. When the Wharton School was founded at the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. McMaster was offered the professorship of American history, one of the first departments in the United States especially devoted to that study. He took the position in 1883 and served in that capacity until he was retired as professor

emeritus in 1920. On April 14, 1887 he married Gertrude Stevenson of Morristown, N. J., daughter of Richard Wilson and Eleanor Lea (Duryée) Stevenson. She died in 1922, leaving one son, Philip D. McMaster, who survived his father.

Dr. McMaster's great contribution to American literature was his "History of the People of the United States from the Revolution to the Civil War," published in eight volumes from 1883 to 1913, with an additional volume devoted to Lincoln's administration, published in 1927. Although recognizing political and legislative history, he emphasized for the first time among American historians the social and economic conditions of the country. For this he derived his material from newspapers, from manuscripts, from diaries and journals and from other contemporary records. The style is attractive and the constant allusion to little known and graphic happenings makes interesting reading. It is true that sometimes the narrative is disjointed, that many irrelevant matters are related, and that there is no attempt to group his facts around a broad and sweeping interpretation of events, but the history is more useful to the student and more frequently used as a guide and help than any other general history of the period.

He received many honors as a result of his literary labors, being granted the degree of Litt.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1894, and from Princeton in 1925, and of LL.D. from Washington and Jefferson in 1901 and from the University of Toronto in 1907. He was president of the American Historical Association in 1905. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1884, just after the publication of the first volume of his History. Almost immediately he began a period of research in this Library which was to last over several years. He came each summer, working many days on the early files of newspapers in the search for source material. One of the greatest literary tragedies of his life happened to

him in Worcester. In carrying the completed manuscript of his second volume from the Library to his hotel, in some way the volume became lost or was stolen, and although he advertised for it for several days, the lost manuscript was never found and he had to write the entire volume over again from the beginning. He once remarked that he was so downcast by this loss that he almost resolved not to finish his series. After the completion of his third volume, he mostly relied upon correspondence for answers to his queries, especially since the newspapers of the first half of the nineteenth century became more available in local libraries. In October 1910 he joined with Dr. J. Franklin Jameson and the late Edward Channing in delivering before the Society a symposium on "The Present State of Historical Writing in America." Although he did not come to a subsequent meeting, even in his later years he maintained a friendly interest in the Society and was ready to favor it in any way in his power.

C. S. B.

FREDERIC WINTHROP

Frederic Winthrop died at his home in Boston, May 6, 1932. He was born in New York on November 15, 1868, the son of Robert and Kate Wilson (Taylor) Winthrop. He was a direct descendant of Governor John Winthrop and owned the original miniature portrait of Governor Winthrop which belonged to Wait Still Winthrop in 1691. He attended the private school of Duane L. Everson in New York City and then entered Harvard where he was graduated in 1891 with the degree of A.B. Although christened Frederic Bayard Winthrop, after leaving college he omitted for convenience his middle name. He entered the banking firm of Robert Winthrop & Company in 1894 with whom he remained until 1900, in which year he

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