

poetry, and his membership in the Bohemians, a Worcester literary club, gave him an outlet for many amusing skits, produced notably at the Club's "Christmas Revels." Several of his poems were printed in pamphlet form. In recent years he annually entertained the Bohemians at his summer home in Boylston, which he called "The Shack at Kettle-holes."

Dr. Knapp was unmarried, but left two sisters, Mrs. Wilson M. Powell and Mrs. George A. Vondermuhll of New York, and a foster son, Major Neil W. Halkyard of Washington. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from New York University in 1912. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1909. A frequent attendant at the meetings, he always manifested much interest in the Society and in the growth of its Library.

C. S. B.

ALBERT MATTHEWS

Albert Matthews, who was truly an antiquarian in the best sense of the word, was killed in a railroad accident at Wellesley on April 13, 1946, which deprived us of the ultimate authority on most things relating to the early history of New England. He was born at Boston on June 26, 1860, a son of Nathan and Albertine (Bunker) Matthews and was fitted for college at the private school of George W. C. Noble. At Harvard, where he was an inconspicuous undergraduate, he showed his future bent by being a member of the college Historical Society. After his graduation in 1882 he was compelled by poor health, particularly by hay fever, to spend much of his time in travel here and abroad. His chief interest, he said, was "words, words, words," which was his uncharitable way of describing his labors in producing American material for Murray's *New English Dictionary* and in lesser philological works. The problem of

acquiring an accurate knowledge of small things fascinated him. Although he denied being a genealogist or a bibliographer, his knowledge of early New Englanders and of their books, and his ability to solve problems relating to them, were without peer in our time. Although he worked all of his life on minutia, there was never anything petty in his interests or his way of thought. He was like a stonemason who worked always on keystones. No one was ever bored by his conversation. The subjects on which he was at work and the play of his mind over them made him and his letters fascinating.

It was as a result of our correspondence with Mr. Matthews that he was elected to this society in October, 1901. He made frequent use of the Library and corresponded often with the four successive librarians. Appreciative of the needs and service afforded by the Society, he promised to waylay his wealthy friends on its behalf, and he contributed generously from his own pocket: "It gives me great pleasure to do what little I can, for I owe much to the Society, and I know what great aid its librarian and library force can give to scholars." At the April, 1908, meeting he read a paper, typical of his scholarship, on the subject of the name "Uncle Sam." He was one of the first champions of Mr. Brigham's bibliography of newspapers.

Mr. Matthews will always be identified with the Colonial Society of Massachusetts of which he was editor from 1905 to 1924. Under his guidance the publications of that society, enriched with the jewels of his own learning, became one of the most important learned series in the world. The same wisdom and skill were generously given to the Massachusetts Historical Society which he served as a member of the publication committee. As an editor his kindness and gentleness were as unique as his knowledge. He read every one of the mountain of words in the last four volumes of the Sibley

series and made innumerable corrections with a delightful humor which tempted the author to make more errors. An editor who can make an author enjoy being corrected is a genius.

In general Mr. Matthews avoided administrative posts in the organizations with which he was connected, although he did serve as a trustee of the Boston Athenæum. In 1910 he began to have serious trouble with his eyes, and a few years later there began a progressive deafness which eventually caused him to shun the meetings of the learned societies. His mind was so teeming with ideas to be investigated that he could not bear to waste time on meetings at which he could hear nothing. At the time of his death he was fifth in seniority on the list of members of our society.

Mr. Matthews leaves two sisters, Mrs. H. LaBarre Jayne of Philadelphia and Sister Paula Margaret of St. Margaret Convent in Louisburg Square.

C. K. S.

CHARLES TAYLOR TATMAN

Charles Taylor Tatman died in Worcester, after a period of ill health, on December 23, 1945. A lineal descendant of Daniel Gookin, one of the three original Worcester proprietors of 1674, he was born in Worcester, December 16, 1871, the son of R. James and Susan M. (Taylor) Tatman. Finishing high school in 1889, as president of his class, he entered Worcester Polytechnic Institute, but after two years of technology, he decided to change to the law and was graduated from Harvard Law School with the degree of LL.B. in 1894. He immediately began to practice in Worcester and so continued to the day of his death, building a high reputation for knowledge of the law, and for assiduousness and character. He was active in political life, was one of the founders and the first president of the Young Men's Republican Club of Worcester, and served as representative

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