

served more than ever to keep him in Salem. He died, after a long illness, on September 19, 1946. He was unmarried, but is survived by a brother, Mr. Francis Belknap of Marblehead.

C. K. S.

THOMAS FRANKLIN CURRIER

The world of Thomas Franklin Currier was the world of bibliography, deemed by many to be dark and dull, but not by such as Evans, Pollard, or Currier. Born at Roxbury, February 26, 1873, he was graduated from Harvard in 1894 with the degree of B.A. After a few months at the old Boston Athenæum, directly following graduation, he was projected at once upon the stage where he was destined to act out his life work: the matchless library of his Alma Mater. In 1913 he was appointed assistant librarian in charge of cataloguing and, in 1937, associate librarian. In 1940 he retired, with a letter of high appreciation from President Conant.

A serious handicap which he surmounted cheerfully and successfully was his chronic deafness, from which he suffered during all his adult life. Having early learned to practise an admirable philosophy of living, he would refer, almost playfully, to his serious impediment as a welcome excuse, leading to immunity from much dull duty on boards and committees. This infirmity precluded also his acceptance of an offer to teach mathematics, seemingly a far cry from a librarian who graduated with honors in French.

His life-work was divided between cataloguing and bibliography, the latter emerging first as an avocation. A scholar, but never a recluse, ever a genial and popular companion, he was a loyal and life-long member of the American Library Association, and, as a keynoter of a Committee of Five, appointed to draft rules for cataloguing for general

use in libraries, joined in creating a splendid manual published in 1907, revised substantially in 1941, and still considered a definitive authority in its field.

Approached at first as a hobby, but presently developing into a full-time job, exacting and exclusive, his incomparable Whittier bibliography (a stout, crimson volume of nearly 700 octavo pages, published 1937) is definitely his princely contribution to the world of scholarship. To the wide ranks of Whittier collectors, the world over, it is of primary importance, including the most meticulous collation of editions also (what the experts consider his own personal addition to an up-to-date author-bibliography) careful statements as to precisely where the rarest Whittier items were to be found in 1937. The almost Herculean labors of the competent bibliographer today, who brings to successful conclusion such a task as this, involving, in this special case, as an additional responsibility, the minute study and comparison needed to determine the inclusion or rejection of a horde of Anti-Slavery editorials, scattered fugitive through country newspapers, during a quarter-century, demand of the compiler not only an infinity of brains, patience, and perseverance, but also sound judgment, breadth of vision, a perfect sense of values; in short, all the highest qualities of mind and heart.

In addition to this his magnum opus, for which he has received from the reviewers such warm applause as to put it practically by itself, as the perfect bibliography, he devoted a large amount of time, both professional and private, during thirty-four active years at the Harvard Library, to the preparation and revision of the A.L.A. Catalog Rules, before mentioned. Only those conversant with the labor involved, including monumental correspondence and revision, in such a triumph of brains and industry, for the use of libraries in a country which has taught the world what a public library

ought to be, can justly evaluate his unselfish devotion to this enterprise. A check-list of his other contributions, chiefly to literary and professional periodicals, exceeds twenty-three titles.

On October 14, 1908, he married Florence May Wyman, of Cambridge. Their only surviving child, Margaret, is now in charge of the Peabody Museum Library, Cambridge.

He was elected to this Society in 1942. He had temporarily suspended work on his almost complete Oliver Wendell Holmes bibliography when death unexpectedly overtook him on September 14, 1946.

R. K. S.

ALLEN FRENCH

Allen French, historian and novelist, died in Concord on October 6, 1946. He was born at Boston on November 28, 1870, a son of John James and Frances Maria (Stratton) French. From the Public Latin and English High schools of Boston he proceeded to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received his B.S. in 1892. After two semesters at the University of Berlin he entered Harvard to study English and the Fine Arts, and took a B.A. in 1894. Being enrolled at that time in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, he was somewhat surprised to find later that he was a member of the Class of 1894 in Harvard College.

Poor health drove French to Europe again. Upon his return he was married at Providence, Rhode Island, to Ellen Richmond Dorrance, on April 4, 1898. They settled at Concord, Massachusetts, where Mr. French gardened, wrote, raised three daughters, and regained his health. Mrs. French died on April 28, 1918, and Mr. French married Aletta Aycrigg Lillibridge of New York City on June 17, 1922. In the years from 1901 to 1918 he wrote three novels, two practical books on gardening, and a number of juveniles

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