

## OBITUARIES.

## EDWARD LIVINGSTON DAVIS

Edward Livingston Davis was born April 22, 1834, and died March 2, 1912. His residence always was Worcester, Mass. He was the son of Isaac Davis, a father distinguished during a long life by good business judgment and faithful public service. A graduate of Brown University in the class of 1854 and a student at Harvard Law School, he was admitted to the bar in 1857. In the following year he became connected with the railroad development of that day by engaging in the manufacture of railroad iron and car wheels. He was treasurer of the Washburn Iron Co. until 1882 when he retired. Although then withdrawing from dominating leadership in business, he remained through life a director in the Worcester National Bank, in the Boston & Albany Railroad, and in other corporations where his ripe experience brought strength to business and financial enterprise. He was earnestly and efficiently devoted to Worcester. The conspicuous offices of member and president of the common council, mayor, and state senator were his by the votes of his townsmen. In less prominent but no less important positions he served his native city until his death. He was one of the Park Commission from 1884 to 1900, during the years while the system was being established, which has given to every section of the city its place of recreation and beauty. He was a donor of Lake Park and its attractive stone tower. He was a member of the Sinking Fund Commission for thirty-four years, from 1878 until 1912, and its chairman during the last twenty-three years. He was intensely interested in these vital municipal

functions and the value of his service can hardly be measured. It can be estimated only in terms of honest efficacy and uplift of civic ideals. With financial, social and ecclesiastical affiliations, which would have tempted many to remove to a residence in the neighborhood of Boston, his affectionate loyalty continued firm to the city of his birth. As president of the Worcester County Musical Association, Trustee of Rural Cemetery, and in many other relations, he contributed largely to the purity, potency and elevation of the business, political and social atmosphere of Worcester. He was a devout Episcopalian and in different capacities aided in the management of the charitable, missionary and other religious work of that church. His own conduct and standards illustrated the ennobling force of Christianity in every day affairs. Married in 1859 to Hannah Gardner, who died in 1861; in 1869 he married Maria Louisa Robbins, who survived him. Three children were born to them of whom two are now living. He was elected a member of this Society in 1867 and became one of its council in 1884. He prepared the report of the council for April, 1908, and for October, 1911. His attendance at meetings was constant and he was a frequent participant in discussions. To the Society he was a discriminating donor of valuable books and a generous contributor of material resources.

The details of a life, even so full of varied interests and useful activities as was that of Mr. Davis, are few and briefly told. He was a strong man. He bore the burden of large responsibilities with the consciousness of power. His unobtrusive democracy, his refined tastes, the charm of his presence, his trained intellect and the kindness of his disposition made him a warm friend, a trusted adviser, a helpful associate, a wise public servant, and a citizen hopeful and effective in high adventure for the common good. He was one by whose character the life of the city and commonwealth grows richer and more sound. Society is more wholesome for his having lived.

A. P. R.

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