

## OBITUARIES.

## ERNEST LEWIS GAY.

Ernest Lewis Gay was born in Boston, December 14, 1874, the son of Dr. George Henry and Elizabeth Greenough (Lewis) Gay, and died November 25, 1916, on the train returning from New Haven. He was graduated from Harvard in 1897, with the degree of A. B., and then studied at the Harvard Law School and at the New York State Library School in Albany. Having inherited a large share of the library of his grandfather, Dr. Winslow Lewis, and being possessed of independent means, he soon devoted himself to the collecting of books and to the pursuit of bibliographical subjects. The most important objects of his search were the works of John Gay, the Poet and Dramatist, and he amassed a collection which numbered several hundred editions and was the most complete in the world. He purchased in England several manuscripts relating to John Gay and became widely recognized as an authority on the subject. Other specialties in his collection were New England Primers, of which he had forty specimens, early American almanacs, the writings of the Mathers and examples of the Cambridge Press prior to 1700. He was intensely interested in the subject of early Americana and inserted many valuable descriptive notes in the copies of the books which he owned.

Mr. Gay belonged to the Prince Society, the Bostonian Society, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Club of Odd Volumes and the Bibliographical Society of London. He was elected a member of this Society only a month pre-

vious to his death, but in this short interval he was helpful to the Society in many ways, especially in regard to the collections of his brother, our late associate Frederick L. Gay.

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### SAMUEL HART.

Samuel Hart was born in Saybrook, Conn., June 4, 1845, the son of Henry and Mary Ann Witter Hart. He died at Middletown, Conn., February 25, 1917. He was graduated from Trinity College in 1866 with the degree of A. B., followed by that of A. M. in 1869, and in the latter year he was admitted to the diaconate of the Protestant Episcopal Church. From that time until 1899 he was a member of the faculty of Trinity College, successively as tutor, professor of mathematics, and the head of the Latin department. In 1899 he came to the Berkeley Divinity School to serve as professor of doctrinal theology, and later as vice-dean. In 1908 he was elected dean, which position he held until his death. Dr. Hart was much interested in the study of church history, and since 1898 was historiographer and registrar of the Protestant Episcopal Church. He wrote widely on subjects pertaining to the church, including a history of the American Book of Common Prayer, published in 1910. He was President of the Connecticut Historical Society from 1900 until his death, President in 1892 of the American Philological Association, President in 1894 of the Connecticut Library Association, and a member of several national and local historical societies. He was elected to this Society in 1915. He had the following honorary degrees conferred upon him: D. D. and D. C. L. by Trinity, D. D. by Yale and LL. D. by Wesleyan.

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