

JOHN HENRY EDMONDS

John Henry Edmonds, State archivist, died at his home in Cambridge, October 27, 1929. He was born in Boston, September 29, 1873, the son of Michael and Joanna M. L. (Fechter) Edmonds. After graduation from the Boston English High School in 1891, he entered the city surveyor's office where he remained until 1895, continuing in the city engineer's office until 1907. During this period he became intensely familiar with early Boston maps, transfers of estates and much of the historical lore regarding persons and places. He was largely responsible for the valuable historical "List of Maps of Boston," which was published by the engineering department in 1903, with a supplement in 1904.

In 1907 Mr. Frederick Lewis Gay, of Brookline, then the leading collector of early New England books and manuscripts, engaged Mr. Edmonds as his librarian and research secretary. Here he had opportunity to increase his knowledge of early Massachusetts history, as he aided in increasing the notable Gay collection. When Mr. Gay died in 1916, leaving the major portion of his printed books to Harvard University, Mr. Edmonds entered the College library as curator of his patron's bequest. When the late James J. Tracy retired as State archivist in 1918, Mr. Edmonds was immediately mentioned as his successor and was appointed to the office. Here he served with honor and ability until his death. An article in the *Boston Transcript* of September 11, 1918, concerning Mr. Edmonds' career and the magnitude of the State archives collection, showed how naturally the man fitted the position. His special field of knowledge was the earlier periods of Massachusetts history and here he helped scholars with his detailed knowledge and with unflinching unselfishness. He was married, July 19, 1899, to Elizabeth Frances Ruttle of Fall River, who survived him.

Mr. Edmonds's special hobby was the subject of early New England pirates, and he compiled a documentary study upon "Captain Thomas Pound" for the Colonial Society in 1918, and joined with George Francis Dow in 1923 to write "Pirates of the New England Coast." He also published a paper before the Bostonian Society in 1915 on "The Burgis Views of New York and Boston." He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1918. He was one of its most interested members and served on the Committee on Publications from 1919 until his death. To the Proceedings he contributed articles on "The Massachusetts Archives" in April 1921; "An Account of the Mather-Byles Portraits" in October 1923; and "How Massachusetts Received the Declaration of Independence" in October 1925. His voluminous unpublished notes on New England Pirates he bequeathed to the Society's Library.

C. S. B.

WILLIAM HERBERT PERRY FAUNCE

William Herbert Perry Faunce, for thirty years President of Brown University, died at Providence, January 31, 1930. He was born at Worcester, Mass., January 15, 1859, the son of Rev. Daniel Worcester and Mary P. Perry Faunce. He prepared for college at the high school at Concord, N. H., where his father held a pastorate, and was graduated from Brown University in 1880 with the degree of A.B. He was instructor in mathematics at Brown in 1881 and 1882, received the degree of A.M. there in 1883, and was graduated from Newton Theological Institution in 1884. He married Sarah R. Edson of Lynn, June 18, 1884. Upon entering the ministry, he held his first pastorate at the State Street Baptist Church at Springfield, Mass., from 1884 to 1889, followed by the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church of New York from 1889 to 1899.

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