

degrees of Litt.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1925, and of LL.D. from La Salle College in 1927. His printed contributions were mostly in the field of American constitutional history. In 1896 he won the first awarding of the Justin Winsor prize for the best monograph based on original investigation in history with his "Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the United States during the First Century of its History." He also published an "Outline of Lectures on American Political and Institutional History" which went through three editions, edited a volume of "State Documents on Federal Relations" in 1906, and compiled in 1900 the "Report on the Public Archives of Pennsylvania." Professor Cheyney, in writing a sketch of Dr. Ames for the *American Historical Review*, said that "His attitude toward the Constitution was one of liberal interpretation, but he deprecated any intrusion upon its political character. When the eighteenth amendment grafted in it what he considered an alien provision, which should have been a matter of legislation, not of constitutional requirement, he protested and prophesied it would not remain permanently a part of the Constitution, which proved to be the case."

Dr. Ames was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1909 and contributed to its Proceedings in April 1919 a paper on "John C. Calhoun and the Secession Movement of 1850."

C. S. B.

### FRANK BREWER BEMIS

Frank Brewer Bemis died at Boston, March 10, 1935. He was born in Boston, October 15, 1861, the son of Francis Theodore and Mary Haskell Fay (Brewer) Bemis. His education was obtained at the Rice Grammar School and at the Boston English High School. He did not prepare for college, but went

immediately into business, with the Boston banking firm of Brewster, Bassett & Co., This firm later became known as Brewster, Cobb & Estabrook, and finally as Estabrook & Co. Until he retired from active participation in business in 1923, Mr. Bemis was an important member of the firm, being especially concerned with the investment department. He was prominently identified with the light and power industry and served as director in such companies and in other financial and business institutions. He was a member of various clubs and societies, being particularly interested in the Club of Odd Volumes, of which he was President until shortly before his death. He was survived by his sister, Mrs. Arthur T. Bradlee of Chestnut Hill, his brother, Harry Haskell Bemis having died only a week previous to Frank Bemis's death.

Mr. Bemis was widely known as a collector of rare books and manuscripts. His library was especially notable for its first editions of the works of Keats, Shelley, Wordsworth and other nineteenth century poets. Nearly all of his copies were in original binding, and many of them autographed by the authors. His Keats manuscripts were among the finest owned in this country, including the original manuscript of "Lamia," with the corrected proof-sheets, and several sonnets and poems in the poet's own hand. Among the Shelley manuscripts were an annotated copy of "Adonais" and other letters and documents.

His collection of American literature was remarkable both for its completeness of the first editions of the New England poets and for the unusual number of autographed copies. His collection of Poe was nearly complete, including one of the finest known copies of "Tamerlane." His entire library was turned over to trustees ten years before his death, with instructions that it should be sold for the benefit of the Children's Hospital of Boston. He also owned fine collections of Georgian silver and Chinese porcelain, which were willed to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Mr. Bemis was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1925. He made frequent gifts of rare books to the library and was always ready to contribute to the Special Gifts Fund for the purchase of books. A constant attendant at the meetings, he entertained the members at the Boston meeting in April 1928. In his will he bequeathed to the Society the sum of \$5000. He was a man of unusual modesty, reserved almost to the appearance of shyness. He would not speak in public regarding his remarkable library, one of the finest privately owned in this country, yet in conversation with intimate friends he talked interestingly and authoritatively on his literary treasures. To those who really knew him, he was highly valued as a friend and a courteous gentleman, and his passing has taken away much of the pleasure of the meetings of those societies with which he was connected.

C. S. B.

#### WILLIAM LAWRENCE CLEMENTS

William Lawrence Clements, founder of the Clements Library of Americana, died in Bay City, Mich., November 6, 1934. He was born at Ann Arbor, April 1, 1861, the son of James and Agnes (Macready) Clements. After graduation from the University of Michigan with the degree of B.S. in 1882, he became associated with his father in the Bay City Industrial Works, and carried on the business so successfully that he was able to retire at the age of fifty. He married Jessie N. Young of Pittsburgh, February 7, 1887, and secondly, Florence Katherine Fisher of Bay City, April 22, 1931.

Mr. Clements was a truly great book collector. He was one of the few wealthy Americans who brought to the problem of building up a library a scholarly historical and bibliographical knowledge and a fine sense of discrimination. He set out to form a collection

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