

unusual degree and much of his life was spent in helping others.

My own personal indebtedness to Professor Hull is immeasurable. About twenty-five years ago he spent considerable time in the South, making a study of manuscript and printed resources in the States from Virginia to Louisiana. Entirely without solicitation he took numerous notes on Southern newspaper files, entirely for the purpose of aiding me in the *Bibliography of American Newspapers* then in process of compilation. The actual physical work must have taken him hundreds of hours and aided me to an extreme degree. To no one single person have I been more indebted for assistance in the preparation of the history of early American newspapers.

Professor Hull was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1908, and although distance prevented him from attendance at many meetings, he occasionally visited the Library and was a constant correspondent, always helpful without thought of return.

C. S. B.

TRACY WILLIAM MCGREGOR

Tracy William McGregor, philanthropist and book collector, died in Washington, May 6, 1936. He was born at Berlin Heights, Ohio, April 14, 1869, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Faitt) McGregor. Nine years later his family moved to Toledo, and in 1890 to Detroit, in both of which cities his father established missions for the destitute, and otherwise occupied himself in charitable endeavors to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. When his father died in 1891, the son was in his third year at Oberlin College, and returning

to Detroit, he immediately gave up his college course, and began to carry on his father's activities in welfare work. Gradually he gave an increasing interest to his new labors, greatly enlarged the scope of his father's aims, and after his marriage to Katherine Whitney in 1901, largely devoted his life to solving the problems of humanity. His name may well have been said to be synonymous with the history of charities in Detroit and Michigan.

When nearly sixty years old, he became interested in the collecting of rare books, not only to build up a fine collection of what was best in literature and history, but also to provide some of the smaller college institutions with the means to acquire the source books of the country's early history. His appeal to the American Historical Association in 1933 to encourage college libraries to collect Americana resulted in the "McGregor Plan," whereby certain colleges could obtain from a central fund the sum of \$500 a year for rare books, with the condition that the college should appropriate an equal amount. In this way many colleges have been enabled to acquire rare books which they could not otherwise secure, and due to Mr. McGregor's generous provision for the future, the plan has continued to operate since his death. His personal library rapidly grew in importance and value. The catholicity of his taste was indication of the broad character of the man. The great books of English literature, the earliest editions of the English Bible, occasional examples of incunabula, and important books in the wide field of American history- all appealed to him. The fortunate dispersal of some great libraries of Americana at auction enabled him to add to his treasures most opportunely. His acquisition of the William G. Mather library of the writings of the Mathers in 1935 placed him in the forefront for New England collections. The writer of this sketch well remembers two visits to his library, or rather his office, in Washington, to which city he had recently removed, to marvel that so much

could be accomplished in so short a time, and to admire Mr. McGregor's familiarity with the contents of his treasured volumes and the kindness and sureness of his judgments.

Mr. McGregor was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1935, after a friendly correspondence which was continuously encouraging to the officers of this library. His grant of \$5000 to the Society to provide for the compilation of a Cotton Mather Bibliography, under the able supervision of Thomas J. Holmes, came to us only shortly before his death. It was unfortunate that he could not have lived to enjoy the completion of this important undertaking.

C. S. B.

GEORGE ARTHUR PLIMPTON

George Arthur Plimpton, publisher and collector of educational literature, died at his native town of Walpole, Mass., July 1, 1936. He was born July 13, 1855, the son of Calvin Gay and Priscilla Guild (Lewis) Plimpton, both his father and grandfather having been iron manufacturers. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and then went to Amherst College, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1876. He spent one year at the Harvard Law School, but left it to enter the publishing business with the firm then known as Ginn & Heath. He soon became a partner in the firm which, after the withdrawal of Mr. Heath, became the well known firm of Ginn & Company. He was active in the affairs of the firm until the time of his death. He married in 1892 Frances Taylor Pearsons of Holyoke who died in 1900, and in 1917 he married Fanny Hastings of Bermuda, who with two sons and a daughter survive him.

Although prominent as a publisher, Mr. Plimpton

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