

he was carried in a wheeled chair to the meetings of the Society, nearly his only diversion. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1914, and was a faithful attendant at the meetings. He gave to all of the special funds, when called upon, and left to the Society in his will the sum of \$10,000. His familiar figure at our meetings will be greatly missed.

C. S. B.

NATHANIEL WRIGHT STEPHENSON

Nathaniel Wright Stephenson, historian and writer of biography, died at Claremont, California, January 17, 1935. He was born in Cincinnati, July 10, 1867, the son of Reuben Henry and Louisa (Wright) Stephenson. He attended the University of Cincinnati in 1888-89, and Harvard in 1889-91, but not until 1896 did he receive his degree of A.B. from Indiana University. In the meanwhile, from 1891 to 1895, he had served as assistant professor of English at the State University of Iowa and acted as editorial writer and staff correspondent on the *Cincinnati Tribune*. After his graduation from Indiana University he taught English at that College, became literary editor of the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* in 1898-1900, and finally entered upon a long career as professor of history at the College of Charleston from 1902 to 1923. In the latter year he was chosen editor of the "Chronicles of American Photoplays," which important position kept him busy for five years. When Scripps College was founded at Claremont, California, in 1927 Professor Stephenson elected to cast his lot with the new college and there remained as professor of history and biography until his death. He was married in 1909 to Martha Tucker Mazyck.

Professor Stephenson's earlier writings were in the field of literature, represented by three novels and "The Spiritual Drama in the Life of Thackeray." In

1913 he wrote "An American History," followed by "Lincoln and the Union" 1819, "The Day of the Confederacy" 1919, "Texas and the Mexican War" 1921 (the last three volumes in the "Chronicles of America" series), and "Lincoln" 1922. The last named volume was undoubtedly the most read of all his works. "Here is a volume," said the criticism in the *American Historical Review*, "quite without a parallel in the long list of Lincolniana. The author has attempted not a mere biography, but, what is more difficult, a progressive character study of one of the most complex figures of history. The result is a picture more nearly like the original than any so far offered by biographers of Lincoln." Later works were "An Autobiography of Lincoln" 1926, "Nelson W. Aldrich" 1930, "Typical Americans and their Problems" 1930 and a two-volume "History of the American People" 1934. His historical writing was characterized by philosophical insight and by revelation of the human side of history—not the physical facts, but man's reaction to those facts. That the chronicling of fact was merely a necessary scaffolding for thought was the abiding quality of his work.

Professor Stephenson received the degree of Litt.D. from Dartmouth in 1923, and of LL.D. from the College of Charleston in 1927. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1920.

C. S. B.

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