

filled successively the offices of member of the council, corresponding secretary, and finally president, to which position he was elected in 1937. He had a remarkable organizing ability and had he lived, would undoubtedly have aided in placing the Society on a more firm financial foundation. Of the American Antiquarian Society he was made a member in 1922, and elected to the Council in 1933. He aided the Society frequently with his interest and advice, and entertained the members on two occasions at his house in Boston, social meetings which long will be remembered by those members who were present.

C. S. B.

#### WILLIAM THOMAS

William Thomas, of San Francisco, died in that city, October 18, 1936. He was born at Worcester, September 5, 1853, the son of Benjamin Franklin and Mary Anne Park Thomas, and the great-grandson of Isaiah Thomas, founder of the American Antiquarian Society. At the early age of fifteen he entered Harvard University and was graduated with the degree of A.B. in the Class of 1873, followed by a course in the Harvard Law School, from which he was graduated in 1876. In March, 1875, he married at Cambridge, Massachusetts, Miss Emma Gay, daughter of Joel and Salome Parker (Wyatt) Gay, and after receiving his law degree, he and Mrs. Thomas travelled in Europe for a year. On their return, they went to San Francisco, where Mr. Thomas was admitted to the California Bar and practiced his profession until the time of his death. A memorial issued regarding Mr. Thomas stated that it was due to his genius for organization that California was indebted for many new and successful enterprises. He took a prominent part in the organization of the California Fruit Canners Association and the California Title Insurance and Trust Company. After the San Francisco

fire in 1906 numerous fire insurance companies refused to recognize any liability on their policies. He was selected by sixty law firms to go to Europe in the interests of their clients, who were policyholders. He succeeded in satisfying the European companies that they were liable under their policies, the result of which brought large returns to his clients.

Mr. Thomas was always an enthusiastic Harvard man. He organized the Harvard Club at San Francisco and was its president for seven terms. He was elected an overseer of Harvard and served from 1916 to 1922, and in spite of the long distance, was faithful in attendance at the meetings, wisely and diligently performing the duties of his office. In 1922, he was elected president of the Harvard Law School Association and served from year to year until the time of his death. For many years he took an active interest in the Associated Harvard Clubs and was its president in 1926.

Mr. Thomas was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1919. Although distance prevented him from attending its meetings, he was interested in the Society which his great-grandfather founded, and wrote occasional friendly letters. He was survived by his widow and four children.

C. S. B.

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