

reminiscence, and because of his clear memory, his stories of the early days of American book collecting, fifty or more years ago, were stimulating and informative. It is unfortunate that he did not preserve in print the memories of an interesting life.

C. S. B.

JOHN HUSTON FINLEY

John Huston Finley died in his sleep on March 7, 1940. Although his health had been poor for some time, he was still carrying the weight of his seventy-six years lightly, and on the day before his death had gone to his office and written an editorial. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Martha Ford Boyden Finley, a daughter, Mrs. William H. Kiser, Jr., and by two sons, Mr. Robert Lawrence Finley of New York and Professor John Huston Finley of Harvard University. His death brought messages of sorrow from many countries. In New York, where love rather than mere popularity is the word to describe the attachment which thousands of people from different groups had for him, flags were ordered at half-mast.

Finley had the rare ability to draw people to him because of the very qualities which usually narrow the circle of friendship. He was once described as one of the ten most cultured men in America, and yet he was beloved by people who never had the opportunities for culture. His scholarship was vast, but, far from drying his wit, it made him the most charming of after-dinner speakers and presiding officers. He attracted everyone to him without changing in one iota the characteristics which he had inherited. His lifelong consistency was one of the most remarkable things about him. His ancestry was colonial Scotch-Irish, and his last scholarly work, completed three days before his death, was a volume on the *Coming of the Scot*; but his friendship was international. President Masaryk was an intimate friend, and the Czecho-Slovaks of America officially mourned his death. Twelve governments bestowed thirteen decorations upon him. His back-

ground was strict Presbyterian and he himself was an elder of the Presbyterian church and active in its councils, but he gave just as much time and interest to the more recent immigrant groups of other faiths, and is mourned by their clergy.

Born on a farm at Grand Ridge, Illinois, on October 19, 1863, Finley, for all his years in New York, never lost some of his childhood habits and enthusiasms. When Commissioner of Education for the State of New York he familiarized himself with his problems by tramping from one village school to another; when head of the Red Cross commission in Palestine he literally walked from Dan to Beersheba (with the cooperation of Allenby, who considerably advanced the British lines for the purpose); and when editor of the *Times*, once each year tramped the circuit of Manhattan. He learned Latin and Greek at the plow, throughout his life advocated the emphasis of the classics in education, and was largely instrumental in the restoration of the Parthenon. To finance his education he learned the printer's trade, and never lost his love of the ink.

Finley graduated from Knox College in 1887 and went on to Johns Hopkins to study politics and history in order to prepare himself for journalism. However, in 1889 he went to New York as secretary of the State Charities Aid Association. At the age of twenty-eight he was recalled to become president of Knox College, but an offer of the editorship of *Harper's Weekly* lured him back seven years later. There followed a professorship at Princeton, ten years (1903-13) as president of the College of the City of New York, and seven as Commissioner of Education for the State of New York. Finally, in 1921, he became associate editor of the *New York Times*, with which he was identified for the rest of his life. Of his many other activities his nearly twenty years as president of the New York Association for the Blind and his work on the national executive board of the Boy Scouts are typical.

In 1928 Finley was elected to the American Antiquarian Society, but his other activities, which may be measured by his thirty-one honorary degrees, prevented his participating in our work. For a

time he wrote pleasant notes of regret in answer to notices of our meetings, each time giving some sound reason for not attending. Once when urged to give a paper he replied telling of the press of his duties and suggesting that an effort be made to obtain another speaker. "But," he concluded with typical thoughtfulness, "if as the time approaches you do not find one please call upon me." The fact that he can no longer be called upon to give generously of his time and wisdom is tragedy to thousands. C. K. S.

JOHN CLEMENT FITZPATRICK

On February 10, 1940, John Clement Fitzpatrick closed a career of brilliant scholarship to which every student of American history is indebted. He was born in Washington, D. C., on August 10, 1876, a son of James Nicholas and Elizabeth (Combs) Fitzpatrick, and was educated in public and private schools in that vicinity. In 1897 he entered the service of the Library of Congress, with which his name will always be associated. In 1902 he became assistant chief of the Division of Manuscripts, which grew to be one of the world's great collections of source materials under his hands. The need of a national archives department was always close to his heart, and he served for a time on the commission to consider the problem. His scholarly interests lay in the period of the Revolution, and he ventured outside of it only to edit his *Autobiography of Martin Van Buren*. Within his chosen field he wrote *The Spirit of the Revolution*, *George Washington Colonial Traveler*, and *George Washington Himself*. He edited the *Journals of the Continental Congress* and the *Diaries and Writings of Washington*. It was to edit the last that he resigned from the Library of Congress in 1928, but he continued to do his work there and to serve in an advisory capacity. When he died twenty-six volumes of the *Writings* were published and the remaining eleven were in page proof.

Fitzpatrick's devotion to his task was so great that it was practically impossible to get him away from Washington. He so

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