

*Home.* He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1933 and maintained a constant interest in the Society.

C. S. B.

### JOHN WOODBURY

Our associate John Woodbury died on January 4, 1940. His was one of the oldest of American names, for he was a direct descendant of the John Woodbury who was sent to Cape Ann by the Dorchester Company in 1624. He was born in Lynn on January 26, 1856, a son of John Page and Sarah Elizabeth (Silsbee) Woodbury. He was prepared by a private tutor for Harvard, where he gathered a good collection of honors and was graduated in 1880. Harvard Law School followed, but one gathers that it interested him much less than the Dante Society of which he was secretary for nine years while it was under the guidance of Longfellow, Lowell, and Norton.

Mr. Woodbury settled down to the practice of law in Boston and on February 18, 1885, married Jennie Russell Churchill. His varied interests are illustrated by the fact that he was at one time president of the Lynn Board of Trade, and an active member of such institutions as the Boston Art Club, the Archaeological Institute of America, and the Young Men's Democratic Club. In 1897 he became secretary of the Class of 1880, and he served many times on Harvard visiting committees. For thirty-one years he was one of the trustees of the public reservations of Massachusetts. In 1896 he relinquished his law practice to become secretary and executive officer of the Metropolitan Park Commission, and for some time he was a member of the Massachusetts State Board of Publication. He retired from the Park Commission in 1911, thinking to spend the rest of his life serving as a trustee of private estates and practicing in the probate courts. The unexpected development of income tax complexities kept him busier than he had expected. Among his various trusts the Bemis Library was one of the more important. In 1924 Frank B. Bemis

appointed Woodbury and Harold Murdock as trustees of his library, to have control of its disposition after his death. This occurred in 1935, and Woodbury was associated with different trustees for the next five years, taking upon himself much of the detail regarding the library and various matters connected with the Bemis Estate.

During the latter part of his life Woodbury was an active member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Union Club, the Club of Odd Volumes, and Grolier Club. He was elected to the Antiquarian Society in 1918. Few have more faithfully attended its meetings. Not long after his election he gave to the Society his father's almost complete set of the signed proofs of E. D. French's bookplates, which became a cornerstone of the Society's now vast collection.

Woodbury was accustomed to belittle his own scholarship and historical knowledge. He set for himself the task of playing Martha to the Mary of the professional scholars, and did so by carrying much of the routine work of the societies of which he was a member. He is survived by two nephews, Mr. Ernst M. Parsons of Brookline and Mr. Harold Woodbury Parsons of New York City.

C. K. S.

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