

published material at his house in Wickford, and a nearly completed book on John Holden Greene, architect of many notable Providence buildings. It is to be hoped that his literary executors will arrange for the publication of some of this highly valuable material, the fruits of a lifetime of collecting and compiling. It is true that in such publication the style which pervaded all of Mr. Isham's writing would be lost, for he had a way of telling his narrative which made him a part of the centuries about which he wrote, but at least much of the accumulation of his knowledge would be preserved for posterity.

C. S. B.

WILLIAM VAIL KELLEN

William Vail Kellen, vice-president of the Society and a member since 1925, died in Boston, December 20, 1942. He was born at Truro, Massachusetts, July 3, 1852, the son of the Reverend William and Rosetta (Meservey) Kellen. Entering Brown University he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1872, followed by the degree of A.M. in 1875. During the time that he was studying for his master's degree, he taught at the University Grammar School in Providence. He received the degree of LL.B. at Boston University Law School in 1876 and was admitted to the bar. He soon became interested in legal publication and in 1882 edited an edition of Parsons on Contracts. In 1888 he was appointed reporter of decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts and held this position until 1892. He again entered the field of publication by compiling in 1886 an *Index-digest to the Reports of Cases decided by the Supreme Judicial Court*, covering the years 1761 to 1884, which was followed in conjunction with other authors by supplements in 1899 and 1913, covering the reports to 1912.

He continued the practice of law, but during the latter part of his life retired and devoted most of his time to literary and historical pursuits.

Fond of historical studies and social contacts, Mr. Kellen greatly enjoyed his association with various learned societies. He was a prime mover in the affairs of the Club of Odd Volumes to which he was elected in 1891, was president in 1916-1917, and at the time of his death was the senior member. He was elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1907, served on its Council for three years, and wrote occasional papers and frequent memoirs. With Brown University he was closely associated all of his life. He served as a trustee from 1892 to 1914 and in the latter year was elected to the Board of Fellows where he served for nearly thirty years and took seriously his part in the conduct of the University. He was on the Committee of Management of the John Carter Brown Library from its inception in 1901 until his resignation in 1933. When the Library building was being reconstructed and furnished and the institution itself being made over from a gentleman's private collection to a semi-public institution, Mr. Kellen bore the larger part of the responsibility, and thereafter took an extreme personal interest in the Library. The University gave him the honorary degree of Ph.D. in 1891 and of LL.D. in 1903.

To the American Antiquarian Society he was elected in 1908 and throughout his life took an active interest in the Society. He was elected to the Council in 1925 and vice-president in 1936. He made frequent gifts of money and books and entertained the members at the Boston luncheons on four different occasions. Constructive in his counsels and stimulating in his opinions, he always acted for the best interest of the Society and for the increase of its usefulness.

Mr. Kellen was a ready writer and especially felicitous in preparing memoirs of his friends. His memoirs of William Bradford Homer Dowse and his life-long friend Dr. Charles

Lemuel Nichols were scholarly and heartfelt tributes. He also published in 1902 an address on Henry Wheaton on the one hundredth anniversary of Wheaton's graduation from Brown University.

He was married, June 28, 1879, to Ella F. Sturtevant, daughter of Benjamin F. Sturtevant. Mrs. Kellen survives him, with four children. Mr. Kellen was fond of travel and sports, especially golf. For many years he played in the senior tournament at the Apawamis Golf Club at Rye, and continued to play until his eighty-sixth year. He was an unassuming, scholarly man, gifted with the charm of making friends and devoted to any cause which he espoused. To those of us who have known him for many years, his passing means the loss of an adviser and a friend. C. S. B.

A. LAWRENCE LOWELL

President Lowell was born in Boston on December 13, 1856, a son of Augustus and Katharine Bigelow (Lawrence) Lowell. He came from a line which excelled in every field in which New Englanders were famous—in the ministry, business, scholarship, and literature. He was prepared for college at Noble's School, in Boston, and was graduated at Harvard College in 1877. After two years in the Harvard Law School and another reading law in the office of Russell and Putnam, he entered into private practice in Boston. On June 19, 1879, he married Ann Parker Lowell, a distant cousin; they had no children.

Mr. Lowell had the qualities of mind of a good jurist, and his genius for organization carried his interests far beyond his practice. In 1899 he brought out a volume of *Essays on Government*, which was followed six years later by his *Government and Parties in Continental Europe* which resulted, in 1897, in an invitation to become a lecturer on government

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