

in our membership. Had he lived and forsaken the cares of public life, he had promised himself to write and to collect, and his connection with this Society would have been stronger.

C. S. B.

GEORGE DUDLEY SEYMOUR

George Dudley Seymour was born at Bristol, Connecticut, on October 5, 1859, a son of Henry Albert and Electra (Churchill) Seymour. His father was a banker and clock manufacturer of Bristol, and his education began in the public schools of that town. In 1878 he was graduated from the Hartford High School, and immediately he went to Washington, D. C., where he studied in the law office of his brother Henry and attended Columbian (now George Washington) University. Here he received an LL.B. in 1880 and an L.L.M. in 1881.

After practicing law with his brother for a while, Mr. Seymour moved to New Haven in 1883. He soon won distinction as a member of the firm of Seymour, Earle, and Nichols, specializing in patent cases. He will be remembered, however, for his work in making New Haven a better and more beautiful place in which to live. In 1907 he initiated a campaign of municipal improvement which in 1913 crystallized as the New Haven City Planning Committee, of which he was secretary for a dozen years. He was also an executive officer or a moving spirit of the New Haven zoning committee, the municipal art committee, the committee to build a new public library, the trustees of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the state commission for the development of New Haven Harbor, the state commission on sculpture, and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

For good reason he was called the "Father of the City Beautiful."

Mr. Seymour made and inspired many studies of old houses, and in 1914 bought the Nathan Hale birthplace near his summer home in South Coventry. This he made into a memorial, joining old houses on neighboring lots to the property and restoring them. He made Hale his special subject of interest and wrote several books about him, the last and most important being *A Documentary Life of Nathan Hale*, New Haven, 1942. Over a period of years he wrote voluminously on antiquarian subjects, his largest and last work, a volume entitled *New Haven*, is part local history, part essays on regional subjects, and part reminiscences of his own battles to promote the welfare of the city.

Neither New Haven nor New England circumscribed Mr. Seymour's interests. In 1901-02 he accompanied Gifford Pinchot on a trip to survey the resources of the Philippines. Out of this experience came a warm personal friendship for William Howard Taft. This served to increase his natural interest in Yale, and in 1908 he delicately began a campaign to bring town and gown together by inducing the University to open the Peabody Museum and the Art School to the public on Sunday afternoons. Yale appreciated his efforts and in 1913 adopted him by giving him an honorary M.A. He became an active member of the Yale Alumni Association and the Elizabethan Club, and an honorary associate Fellow of Berkeley College. George Washington University awarded him the degree of L.H.D. in 1921.

Mr. Seymour was a member of the leading patriotic societies and many clubs. Some of his closest friendships were formed through his association with the Walpole Society, of which he was an enthusiastic and loyal member for over twenty-five years. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1936, but was never able to

take an active part because he shortly thereafter suffered a stroke. His mind remained unimpaired, however, and he carried on a voluminous correspondence with us relating chiefly to the historical writing which engaged most of his time during his last years. He died on January 21, 1945, leaving no close relatives. His will, which was printed by his executor, is such a delightful piece of New England whimsy that libraries are already seeking copies. C. K. S.

ISAAC NEWTON PHELPS STOKES

Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes was born in New York City on April 11, 1867, the oldest of the nine children of Anson Phelps and Helen Louisa (Phelps) Stokes. His father was a well-known banker and philanthropist. He was educated at St. Paul's School at Concord, at the Berkeley School in New York City, and at Harvard, where he was graduated in 1891. After travelling for three months he went to work as a clerk in the office of J. Kennedy Tod & Company, which had succeeded to the Phelps-Stokes banking business. In September, 1892, he left for a tour of the world which took nearly a year. Returning, he entered his father's private office where, among other duties, he served as the president of a small western railroad.

"Business did not really satisfy my soul," he complained, so in January, 1894, he entered the architectural department of the Columbia School of Mines. The next summer he spent in Europe with a travelling group of students of architecture, and when fall came he settled down in Paris to study for admission to the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He returned to the United States and married Edith Minturn of New York City on August 21, 1895, and then resumed his studies at Paris.

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