

SHEPHERD KNAPP

Shepherd Knapp, since 1908 a leading clergyman of Worcester and likewise well known for his literary and historical studies, died in Worcester, January 11, 1946. He was born in New York City, September 8, 1873, the son of Shepherd and Emma (Benedict) Knapp and the grandson of Dr. Gardiner Spring, pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church of New York. He was graduated from Columbia University with the degree of A.B. in 1894, and following ancestral precedent received the degree of B.D. from Yale Divinity School in 1897. He served as pastor of the Congregational Church at Southington, Connecticut, for four years and then as assistant pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York from 1901 to 1908, where he came under the inspiring influence of Henry van Dyke, noted in the field of American literature. In 1908 he was chosen pastor of the Central Congregational Church of Worcester, to begin a long and effective service of unique significance in the religious life of that city. In 1936 he retired, after a ministry of twenty-eight years, broken only by a year in France with the Y.M.C.A. during the first World War.

It was because of his family interest in the Brick Presbyterian Church of New York that in 1908 he issued a history of that Church, one of the most complete and valuable of American church histories, accompanied by a companion volume of *Personal Records* of the Church. A ready and gifted writer, he published in 1921 *On the Edge of the Storm*, a volume of reminiscences of the War in France, and in 1922 *Old Joe and other Vesper Stories*. Much of his time after his retirement was devoted to the preparation of what he entitled *The Liberated Bible*, published in 1941, and comprising a grouping of the stories and narratives of the Old Testament in a subject arrangement. He was fond of writing

poetry, and his membership in the Bohemians, a Worcester literary club, gave him an outlet for many amusing skits, produced notably at the Club's "Christmas Revels." Several of his poems were printed in pamphlet form. In recent years he annually entertained the Bohemians at his summer home in Boylston, which he called "The Shack at Kettle-holes."

Dr. Knapp was unmarried, but left two sisters, Mrs. Wilson M. Powell and Mrs. George A. Vondermuhll of New York, and a foster son, Major Neil W. Halkyard of Washington. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from New York University in 1912. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1909. A frequent attendant at the meetings, he always manifested much interest in the Society and in the growth of its Library.

C. S. B.

ALBERT MATTHEWS

Albert Matthews, who was truly an antiquarian in the best sense of the word, was killed in a railroad accident at Wellesley on April 13, 1946, which deprived us of the ultimate authority on most things relating to the early history of New England. He was born at Boston on June 26, 1860, a son of Nathan and Albertine (Bunker) Matthews and was fitted for college at the private school of George W. C. Noble. At Harvard, where he was an inconspicuous undergraduate, he showed his future bent by being a member of the college Historical Society. After his graduation in 1882 he was compelled by poor health, particularly by hay fever, to spend much of his time in travel here and abroad. His chief interest, he said, was "words, words, words," which was his uncharitable way of describing his labors in producing American material for Murray's *New English Dictionary* and in lesser philological works. The problem of

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