

EDWARD EVERETT HALEBY REV. AUSTIN S. GARVER.

New England may well be proud of her long roll of illustrious citizens, who by their rare gifts and lofty ideals, and costly service, take their place among the world's truly Representative Men." Their work has shaped our institutions, their influence is stamped on our culture and our laws, and the tone of our civilization,—what is best in its past and most hopeful in its future, is due to their natural leadership. Like Greece, New England is but a rocky corner of the earth, and like the Athenian state, is she in the number and renown of her famous sons. Their names and example shine from the page of our history, and constitute our most precious heritage from the past.

Of this great race of the world's leaders, and nature's noblemen, worthy of such rank by the greatness of his personality, and the beneficent, far-reaching power of his influence, was Edward Everett Hale. He was, himself, a connecting link with the heroic times that are gone; he received at first hand the traditions of the Revolution; and he lived in close association with the poets, patriots and philanthropists who represented the highest ideals and hopes of the nineteenth century. Thus related and inspired, it was but natural that he became the trumpet voice of the prophecy of the twentieth century.

His uneventful but, to himself, highly romantic career began in Boston on the morning of April 22, 1822. It was an atmosphere of plain living and high thinking into which he came, and in which he grew to manhood. Of the simplicity and dignity of that life he has left, in "A New England Boyhood," a record of unfading vividness and charm. He was one of those once-born souls who have no need of

a second birth. On both sides he came of distinguished stock, and he was true to type. Edward Everett, whose name was honored by his bearing it, was his uncle; the eminent patriot, Captain Nathan Hale was his great-uncle; both his grandfathers were ministers. His father was a man of scholarly tastes and active pursuits, the founder of railroads and Editor of the *Advertiser*; and his mother was a woman of gracious culture with a "genius for education." So all the elements that were mixed in him owed their distinction to public service, to love of letters, and to high ideals of religious and patriotic duty. The traditions and spirit of the home into which he was born, with its wholesome excitements, and natural religious sentiments, were the formative influences of his young life. It was here, under the stimulating sympathy of his father, and the "velvet touch" of his mother, where it was taken for granted that he would be interested in whatever was worthy of interest, that he received his real training.

Of formal education he had his share from his second year; but it was always hard for him to "keep on the rails," and after his first experience of its routine he detested school. He afterward praised his father's wisdom in sending him to school for four years to a simpleton. Still he made such good use of his opportunities, that at the age of thirteen he was ready to enter Harvard College from which he was graduated with honors four years later in the class of 1839. In literature and mathematics he found his chief delight; for the classic languages he had a strong aversion, yet for two years after his graduation he taught Latin and Greek in the Boston Latin School. During this period he pursued studies, more or less desultory, that were supposed to be a preparation for the ministry. It was still his good fortune to live in the charmed circle of the home, where men like Webster, Lowell, Story and Sumner, were familiar visitors, but he spent the most of his leisure time, and got the best part of his professional training in his father's office. He says of himself that he was cradled in the sheets of the *Boston Advertiser*. He was expert in all the details of newspaper work, and there was nothing

from the gathering of the news or putting it into type to writing leading articles, that he did not heartily enjoy doing; while the contact with the real world outside, which it gave him, was much more to his mind than learning Hebrew conjugations. Samuel Bowles remarked that they were spoiling the best newspaper man of the day down in Boston by trying to make a minister of him.

Then after a portion of a year more spent in similar theological studies, as assistant in the United States Geological survey of the White Mountains, he was in 1842 licensed to preach. He had no desire for immediate settlement, and went here and there as there was opportunity or call for his services, spending the exciting winter of 1844 and 1845, the Texan winter, in Washington. Returning home in wild excitement, he wrote and printed at his own charge his first pamphlet, entitled "Freedom in Texas." In it he advocated the plan of northern emigration, anticipating by nine years the adoption of a similar plan in Kansas. The pamphlet was not noticed or read, and the ardent enthusiast was turned back into the quieter channels of his life's work.

On April 29, 1846, he was settled over the newly-founded Church of the Unity in this city, where he remained for ten years, when he was called to the South Congregational Church in Boston, in whose service as minister and minister *Emeritus*, he passed the rest of his days.

Here in Worcester he found a congenial atmosphere and gathered about him a company of men and women whom he inspired with his own spirit. The city, its people and its interests were ever afterwards close to his heart. Here he formed some of his dearest and most lasting friendships. The young men were drawn to him; there are members of this Society present to-day who were his intimate associates and who cherish the memories of that early time among their most precious blessings.

The spirit which he brought to his new work was characteristic of his whole thought of himself and of his professional duty. He could not be shut in to a little circle of official routine, or content himself with a zeal expended

on important trifles. He wanted to take hold wherever there was need, and lift wherever there was a burden. It shows the bent of his nature that when he was asked to serve on the School Committee, he said he preferred to be an Overseer of the Poor; and such he was made. His democratic heart went out to those who were most in need of sympathy and help. The treatment of immigrants, of pauper and dependent children engaged his earnest attention, and recommendations then made by him were later embodied in state legislation. He sought to promote a better social life, and was influential in the formation of the Natural History Society and the Public Library.

It was during his residence here that he became connected with the American Antiquarian Society. Sixty-two years ago, October 23, 1847, this young, active Worcester minister was elected to membership. Throughout this long period the purposes of the Society commanded all that he had to give of faithful and punctual service. He was on the important Committee of Publication for nearly half a century, from 1849 to 1897. He was a member of the Council, either by election or by virtue of other office, almost as long, from 1852 to 1899. He performed the duties of Recording Secretary from 1854 to 1857. He was Vice-President, 1891 to 1905, President, 1906, and was again elected Vice-President in 1907, which office he held at his death. It is a record without a parallel in the history of the Society, less remarkable even for its length than for the variety and value of the service it represents. The work of the Society was eminently congenial to him; it appealed to and doubtless helped to develop one of his strongest inclinations, his love of historical study. Dr. Hale loved New England; its history and legends and customs were very dear to him. He was never happier than when in the company of the students and scholars who gathered at these meetings for the consideration of these and kindred topics. He possessed inexhaustible stores of information, and fascinating incident and anecdote, which he was ever pouring out in impromptu suggestion and remark touching the subjects under discussion.

Among the more elaborate papers contributed by him to the Proceedings of the Society, are the following:—

Memoir of Albert Gallatin	1849
Life of Sir Philip Lane (collections)	1860
Discovery in the Pacific	1871
Cosmogony of Dante and Columbus	1872
Early Maps in Munich	1873
Coronado's Discovery of the Seven Cities	1881
Memoir of Samuel Jennison	1901
Gosnold of Cuttyhunk	1902
George F. Hoar	1905

It is not possible to record in detail all that he did for the Society. The mere list of formal papers gives little idea of the character of the service he rendered through all the years of his membership. Besides his important labors in the Council and on the Committee of Publication, his presence at the meetings was in itself a contribution of the highest value.

Yet the work which Dr. Hale did for this Society, important as it was, and excellent in quality, was a slight indication of the scope and variety of his intellectual and literary activity. His powerful mind ranged with the sweep and flash of a searchlight over many fields. No human interest was alien to him. He cared little for the critical and philosophical aspects of thought, but to every phase of the Divine Comedy of human life he was keenly alive. His brain teemed with the suggestions that arose from his observations and studies. Composition was a joy to him, for his was the pen of a ready writer; and his style was but the limpid, unpremeditated flow of a stream from a brimming fountain. A man of prodigious industry, he could not have produced so much except for the fact that he could write under any circumstances, on railway trains and in waiting rooms as readily as in his library.

In his historical studies it was largely the human elements that attracted him; to body these forth as vividly as they pictured themselves in his mind was the task his genius set for him, and which he accomplished so well. To another

temperament the task would have presented itself differently, and would have been performed in another manner, but not more effectively. His method was essentially that of the artist, with an unerring vision for the salient and picturesque features of a subject. If it be said that he looked on history with the eye of the impressionist, it must also be said that he had the artist's sense of the values of light and shade. If in some respects he may be "exceeded by the height of happier men," where shall we find combined such power and directness and brilliance of representation? If the chief end of a book is to be read with pleasure, one need not be apologetic in regard to anything he wrote.

Moreover he had no illusions about himself in this respect. He was free from any touch of literary pretension, and quite disclaimed the title of author. With characteristic modesty he placed on the title page of the little volume containing his collected poems, this motto from Colonel Ingham's life: "If it were his duty to write verses he wrote verses; to fight slavery, he fought slavery; to write sermons, he wrote sermons; and he did one of these things with just as much alacrity as another." That, said Dr. Hale to a friend, he was willing to take for his epitaph.

Dr. Hale did not pretend to be an authority in the scholastic world; he was something better than that, he was the inspirer of noble and beautiful life. Some one has said that we do not ask for dogmas from our greatest men; we are content that quickening impulses should be imparted by them. In this respect Dr. Hale was incomparable. No other man has so touched the young life of America. His aim in writing was to kindle patriotism, and awaken the spirit of loyalty and service. Many of his books have had a wide popularity and exerted a profound influence; they made his name known and loved throughout the land. Notably is this the case with "Ten Times One," and that little masterpiece, "The Man without a Country." Phrases of his invention, like the Lend-a-Hand motto, have become sacred scripture to thousands of young and generous hearts.

In story, biography and history, in memoir and essay, in ballad and verse, in a legion of articles for magazine

and journal, he has left a production large enough and significant enough for a great reputation.

And yet so marvellous was his versatility, and his capacity, that this product, amazing as it is, represented but a part, and that not the most important part of his activity.

First of all and last of all he was a minister. That was the one title he was glad to wear. The ministry, as he conceived it, was a devotion to the common weal. Pre-eminently the friend of men and student of the things that make for their welfare, his predominant tastes and aims were social. He had a genius for sympathy which made it easy for him to get into friendly relations with all sorts and conditions of people. A prime article of his creed was "I believe in this life." He believed that this life could be made what it ought to be, if all worked together. Therefore he threw himself into every enterprise for human betterment with an ardor that knew no bounds. And so he was foremost in every good cause. There were few beneficent enterprises started during his life in which he did not lead or share. His capacity for work was unlimited; he was always ready for the next thing, and he never stopped for difficulties. One cannot think of his activity without amazement that one man could do and endure so much. It left its mark on his careworn face, but never impaired the freshness of his heart or hope.

Nor did he simply follow where others had prepared the way. It was an evidence of his extraordinary genius, that he anticipated more than one of the important movements of his time. Before he was out of College he saw the political importance of the Pacific ocean, and stated in 1848, that it was destined to be the theatre of the future history of the world. He advocated Civil Service Reform long before it was enacted in law. In his earliest publications he urged reforms in dealing with immigrants, in the care of homeless children, in the treatment of youthful delinquents, and the management of charities, which are modern to-day.

He was one of the foremost champions of international peace and brotherhood. Ten years before the first Hague Conference he insisted that the next step was the establish-

ment of a Supreme Court of the nations for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. By his undaunted advocacy of this plan, he did much to win support for it, and to cause its adoption. In this, as in other things, he was called visionary, but happily he lived long enough to see many of his prophetic visions coming true. In his sane and fertile brain germinated ideas which have grown into institutions.

There is not time to refer to his part in the Kansas Emigration, or to his labors in behalf of the Indian and the Negro, or to his devoted service for the soldier and the country during the Civil War. It is a story of almost incredible activity. Dr. Holmes called him the "Living dynamo." From youth to age his long life was an untiring, blessed ministry. And through it all he retained the hopefulness and the fresh enthusiasm of youth; the warmth of his sympathies was never chilled; however far he roamed on his knightly errands for God and man, he returned with an unchanged heart to the friendships and fellowships that were so dear to him. He was like one playing a part in a drama in which each day opened a new and wonderful scene. He declared that his daily life was one wild romance. He has left us the image of a busy, happy, efficient, triumphant life.

As we thus recall him, how clearly his personal traits stand out in our recollection—the massive frame, the tall, cloaked figure, the Jove-like head, the impetuous utterance, the deep tones of a voice made to sound over vast assemblies. We remember the magnanimity of mind, the rich vein of humor with its touch of drollery, the union of earnestness and playfulness in his disposition, the unlimited capacity for sympathy, and the unfailing geniality that made him so rare a companion.

Though living to a great age, he never lost the buoyancy, the hopefulness, the naïve enthusiasms of youth. He never grew old, because as Meredith says "he kept the young generations in hail." To the last he was full of the joy of life, ready for every new adventure, keeping step with, if not leading the very front ranks in the march of

progress. Never for a moment did he believe that the best things had happened. Without an elaborate philosophy of life, he ever maintained a brave and expectant attitude in face of all the confusion and need of the world. Reverent student of the past, he was in spirit the most modern of the moderns.

It is difficult indeed to sum up a career of such variety and interest and noble accomplishment, so that the minor elements shall keep their subordinate place, and the commanding traits appear in true proportion. No enumeration of the things he did can give us the full measure of the man. Back of his unusual natural gifts, and sleepless activities, and vast achievement, lay a few simple principles which were the sustaining and impelling forces of his life.

Chief of these was the unquestioning conviction that this is God's world and that we are his children. He believed this with all his strength. It was as natural for him to think of himself as a child of God, as it was to think of himself as a citizen of Boston. It was one of the beautiful facts of life to be accepted with joy.

Therefore, the call of the world which was ever sounding in his ears, came with a divine meaning, and in answer, he simply said—"Here am I, send me." He gave all he had without stint or measure or thought of self, and was glad to be used in establishing the divine order. We call that response consecration; he called it, in his objective way, doing the Father's business. Nothing could disturb this central trust or cloud its childlike simplicity. It gave him the sufficient interpretation of 'duty, and inspired the note of unfaltering cheer in his message. He could look out on the world, he could bow his mighty soul beneath its burdens, and share its sorrows, and not

bate one jot
Of heart or hope, but still bear up and steer
Right onward,

because he was sure every moment, that the Kingdom of God was at hand.

Given a soul like his, animate it with the "eternities we are sure of" as he called Faith, Hope and Love, and you

have a life like his with its serene centre, its dynamic power, its unflinching courage, and its infinite capacity for service.

We bring our tribute because he was our beloved friend and honored associate, because of his pure and world-wide fame, and most of all because of his immortal place in the highest rank of the world's heroes and benefactors,

Souls tempered with fire
Fervent and heroic and good
Helpers and friends of mankind.

To our affection and memory, he will always appear as the shining figure of

One who never turned back, but marched breast forward;
Never doubted clouds would break;
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph.
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.