

## *Obituaries*

### SAMUEL VERPLANCK HOFFMAN

Samuel Verplanck Hoffman was a descendant of that Martin Hoffman, by tradition an officer under Gustavus Adolphus, who came from Revel to New York about 1655, and a son of the Very Reverend Eugene Augustus and Mary Crooke Elmendorf Hoffman. He was born at Brooklyn on May 12, 1866, and received his early education at Philadelphia, where his father was rector of St. Mark's Church. He was graduated from Stevens Institute in 1888 with a degree in mechanical engineering. The next year he spent in study at the College of Physicians and Surgeons whence he went to Johns Hopkins where he spent eight years as student, assistant, and fellow in astrophysics and chemistry.

After leaving the university Mr. Hoffman settled at Morristown where he built a small observatory and gathered a famous collection of astrolabes. His business activities were mainly in connection with the management of the Manhattan real estate holdings of the Estate of Eugene A. Hoffman, of which he was president and vice-president for many years. He was also a director of the North River Insurance Company, but history interested him more than business. After the death of his father in 1902, he was chosen to succeed him as president of the New York Historical Society. After a decade in this capacity, he served as chairman of the executive board for some years, and finally as honorary president. Through all these years he was the faithful and devoted servant of the Historical Society and one of its greatest benefactors. He found time to serve also the New

York Genealogical and Biographical Society as trustee and vice-president, and to be active in the Sons of the Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Holland Society, the Grolier Club, and the Seventh Regiment. He was likewise a trustee of the General Theological Society, of which his father had been dean.

Mr. Hoffman was elected to this Society in 1910. That he was interested in our work is shown by the fact that he gave \$5000 to our Centennial Fund and later \$1000 for the building of the new book stack; but naturally his first love was always the New York Historical Society, where he was one of the most generous donors. Of late years his poor health completely broke the thread of his contact with us. He died at his winter home in New York City after a long illness on February 23, 1942. He is survived by his widow, the former Louisa Norwood Smith, by their daughter, Miss Margaret Elmendorf Hoffman, and by their son, Mr. Eugene Augustus Hoffman.

C. K. S.

### WILLIAM LAWRENCE

The Right Reverend William Lawrence was born in Boston on May 30, 1850, a son of Amos Adams and Sarah E. (Appleton) Lawrence. He attended the Pierce Grammar School in Brookline and was fitted for college in the Epes P. Dixwell private school. He was graduated at Harvard in 1871 and, under the influence of Phillips Brooks, went to Andover Theological Seminary, where he studied for two years. After further study at the Divinity School in Philadelphia he returned to Cambridge, where he took the degree of S.T.B. at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in 1875. The next year he became assistant at Grace Church, Lawrence, and was elected rector in 1877. Thence he was

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