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1875

“THE CENTURY.”

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MEMORIAL NOTICES.

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1875.

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“THE CENTURY.”

*Century association, New York*

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At a meeting of the CENTURY Association, held on the second day of October, 1875, it was resolved :

That a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to prepare a memorial notice of the members of the Club deceased during the past summer.

The Chair appointed as such Committee, Messrs. DORR, HENRY R. WINTHROP, and MACDONOUGH.

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At a subsequent meeting of the Association, held on the 4th day of December, the following memorial, prepared by Mr. Dorr, was read, and ordered to be printed.



## MEMORIAL NOTICES.

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It is not often that on meeting again, after our summer holidays, we find so many vacant places which were but lately occupied by some of our most honored associates. They had attained distinction in many pursuits, and the varied gifts and culture which they brought to our assemblage, were worthy of the breadth of its foundation, and maintained ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> ideal standard. Their departure from among us calls for some expression of our sense of their worth. The CENTURY has assigned to its Committee the utterance of a few words of kindly remembrance before their names disappear from our roll.

Mr. GEORGE TEMPLETON STRONG was a native of the City of New York. In Columbia College, he was conspicuous for scholarlike attainments, according to the high standard of that learned institution, and he graduated with the honors of his *Alma Mater*. Entering upon the study of the law, he brought to it the same conscientious thoroughness which had distinguished his college days. He was equally laborious and exact in gaining a knowledge of the highest principles of legal ethics, and in mastering the details of daily practice. He was familiar with the traditions of the eminent advocates and judges of a former generation, with whom his father had been conversant. He inherited a lofty ideal of his vocation, and he always upheld its honor by his own example.

He was aided in his professional pursuits by a memory tenacious of its acquisitions. As years went on, he was ready in imparting them to others who were just entering upon the field which he had explored before them. His judgment was singularly firm and independent. Its balance was swayed neither to the one side nor to the other, by temporary impulse or excitement, or by undue deference to the opinions of other men. This quality of mind gave value to his counsel, not only in the legal profession, but in the public trusts which he was compelled to assume. When burdened with grave professional cares, he did not suffer the classical studies of his youth to fall into neglect or forgetfulness. To his reading of ancient authors he added that of ecclesiastical and mediæval antiquities, architecture and art. One of the chief enjoyments in which he sought relaxation from professional duties, was the collection, and still more the use of a library of classical old English and mediæval authors. Upon first editions and rare copies he spared neither labor nor expense, and he was conversant with them all. His library became (in its department) one of the foremost private collections in New York.

Mr. STRONG's extensive learning was no private or unfruitful luxury. He was deeply interested in all that pertained to the higher institutions of learning. Columbia College gladly availed itself of Mr. STRONG's labor and judgment as one of its trustees. He was one of the most active members of its council, and was greatly influential in raising the standard of under-graduate studies, and in enlarging the sphere of its utility by new schools of Science and Law.

Mr. STRONG sought relief amid the burdens of professional life, while he facilitated Academical improvements, by gathering around him an assemblage of friends eminent in letters and in public life. His delicate and re-

finer humor gave new attractions to a society rich in the converse of men of artistic skill, of practical experience and varied learning.

In the midst of his quiet labors, the War of the Union called suddenly for every talent which could be available in the public service. Mr. STRONG recognized the claim of the country. He sought no emolument or notoriety in its service, but laying aside other pursuits, he devoted himself to the work of the Sanitary Commission. He was, from the first, one of its five Commissioners, and also its Treasurer, during the whole period of its existence. The place was one of labor and responsibility equal to that of a general in the field. The difficulties were many and unforeseen. Conflicting theories were to be harmonized or rejected, prejudices to be overcome, subordinates to be firmly controlled, while counsels, perhaps not always disinterested, were obtruded from without. Amid these now forgotten trials, Mr. STRONG'S executive ability, his minute and conscientious care, his judgment, which would not be turned aside or overborne by unreasoning complaint or cavil, were soon appreciated, and added confidence to an institution over which he was known to have control. He sought no acknowledgments in the bulletins of the day. The regiments which profited most by his labors and by those of his associates, perhaps never knew the names of those to whom they were indebted for much of their own efficiency in the field. Nothing of this discouraged him. He persevered until his work was done. With the re-establishment of peace, the great work in which he had been a principal actor was recognized, both here and in Europe, as one of the most original and American, as well as one of the most thorough and effective, philanthropic enterprises of this century.

When this was accomplished, Mr. STRONG returned to

his professional pursuits. During many years he had been a lover of music, especially of ecclesiastical music, and had given much time to its scientific study. This now took a practical direction. He became a founder of the Church Music Association, which has lent valuable aid to the improvement of sacred art. After a few years, failing health admonished him to seek relief from professional burdens. He accepted, in 1872, the Comptrollership of Trinity Church, of which he had been during many years an efficient vestryman and warden. In this, as in all former occupations, he evinced the same conscientious attention to minute and daily cares. He persevered while strength remained, and thus, worn out by the labors of his callings, he closed a life of devotion to duty, whose quiet earnestness and freedom from display, were in just proportion to the value and the permanence of its results.

Mr. GOUVERNEUR KEMBLE was of one of the old English families of New York. Its members had been, during several generations, conspicuous in commercial pursuits. Mr. KEMBLE graduated at Columbia College in 1803. He cherished through life, amid all the distractions of business and politics, the literary and artistic tastes of his youth. In early manhood he was appointed Consul at Cadiz. His attention was attracted by the process of casting cannon, then used by the government of Spain. He acquainted himself with all its details, with a view to its introduction into the United States. The obstacles to success were many. It seems singular at this day that an American should have looked to Spain for instruction in mechanical science. Little aid could then be expected from England, where the severe penalties against the emigration of mechanics and artisans were rigidly exacted, and where, so late as 1816, Mr. John

Quincy Adams, then Minister in London, was compelled to solicit an Act of Parliament permitting the construction of some mint machinery for the United States Government.

Mr. KEMBLE made his first experiments at Cold Spring. These proving successful, he established the foundry opposite West Point. From the casting of ordnance, he proceeded to other manufactures of iron, enlarging the sphere of his operations with the wants of the times. The establishment at Cold Spring became known throughout the country for the conscientious thoroughness of its work. Its quality has been proved by engines constructed for some of the chief waterworks and manufacturing establishments of the United States and Spanish America. At its beginning, skilled artisans were few. American iron work had not attained its present excellence, and many important machines could not be constructed in the United States. For raising the standard of an important mechanical art, Mr. KEMBLE may justly be esteemed a public benefactor. He was not wholly engrossed by private interests. Surrounded by numerous workmen, he was not unmindful of their sanitary and moral good. He was also an active participator in public affairs. From 1837 to 1841 he was a member of Congress, and in 1846, of the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York. It must suffice to say at present, that in public station Mr. KEMBLE sought no private gain for himself or for his friends. But such were not his most congenial pursuits. During the many years of his active life, he found ample opportunity for the cultivation of intellectual tastes. In the course of ninety years, he had known the most distinguished residents and visitors of New York. He was the friend and associate of its earlier artists and *litterati*—of Irving, Paulding and Drake. He had grown up

among a colonial generation ; had seen a provincial seaport slowly rising into a great metropolis. He had known those who had been conspicuous in arms in 1776 and 1812; was conversant with local traditions, and handed them on to another generation. His hospitality was known for nearly forty years to artists and to men of science, especially of the Academy at West Point. Those who enjoyed it, preserve a lively recollection of his Saturday dinners, when social enjoyment closed the labors of the week. Anecdote and reminiscence mingled with scientific and professional discussion, and gave zest to entertainments widely celebrated, and pleasantly remembered among good things which have passed away.

As a member of the Century, Mr. KEMBLE deserves our gratitude as not the least active among the thirty who, with Mr. Verplanck and Mr. Bryant, gave it a foundation, and name and character. During its earlier years, he was a frequent visitor at its then humble dwelling, and partook of the enjoyment of its social hours. When, oppressed with the burden of fourscore years, he ceased from farther attendance, his kindly benevolence was not chilled, nor had he lost interest in the studies of his youth. With yet unclouded faculties, the companionship of men of scientific, literary and theological attainments was the solace of his tranquil and honored age. It may be regretted that his portrait is not among those of our founders. If we have accomplished anything in cultivating or diffusing a love of science or art, Mr. KEMBLE merits a share of the honor, and we may well believe that the Century is not the least benefaction of a life of liberal studies and useful deeds.

Mr. OGDEN HAGGERTY was also one of the founders of the Century, and during more than half of its past years was deeply interested in its fortunes, and actively parti-

icipated in its affairs. He was bred to business in his father's well-known house, and inherited his commercial enterprise and integrity. Mr. HAGGERTY's early associations were with artists and men of letters. In their pursuits he found relaxation after the labors and heat of the day. With a few of these, he became a founder of the "Column," the germ of the "Century," and attained a just critical taste in their companionship. This he exhibited in his choice works of art, of which he had numerous fine specimens of landscape. In his early manhood, he was a zealous participator in political controversies now obsolete. He was an ardent admirer of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. He followed their political leadership with unswerving faith, and was not their least influential supporter in the City of New York. In later days he relinquished none of his old convictions, while he recalled political failure and disappointment without asperity and without regret.

Mr. HAGGERTY practiced a liberal hospitality, which is remembered with pleasure by his friends among artists and men of letters. In private life he showed a generous appreciation of the merits of other men. He was not envious of their prosperity, and gave practical sympathy in their misfortunes. His pecuniary liberality was known in private experience rather than displayed to public sight. It was often most abundant and beneficial when it found no expression in the published subscription lists of the day.

Mr. HAGGERTY showed his interest in the Century by lending active aid to the arrangement and decoration of our present abode. His service at that time deserves our grateful acknowledgment. In later years failing health, withdrawal from the cares of business, and residence abroad, removed him from participation in our affairs. During his occasional visits to New York, he still availed

himself of every opportunity to join in our social meetings, where he revived old recollections by his artistic and dramatic criticisms, and in fighting over again, with genial humor, the political battles of days gone by. He deserves well of the Century for his zealous and effective service in a time when there was, as yet, no eager competition for its membership, and the days of its prosperity had not begun.

Mr. WILLIAM OLIVER STONE was a native of Derby, in Connecticut. His taste for art was exhibited in boyhood, but he had, at first, only few opportunities for its scientific study. He had little early training but such as he received from Mr. Joslyn, an artist of local celebrity in New Haven. He struggled resolutely against the *res angusta domi* until all obstacles were overcome, and he was enabled to devote his life to his profession. Mr. Ehninger, his nearest friend, and from intimate association best able to appreciate his worth, has related with sufficient fullness Mr. STONE's resolution and self-sacrifice amid his early privations, in the discharge of filial duty. The recital increases the respect which is due to his memory.

Mr. STONE passed most of his professional life in New York, and gained a high rank among its artists. He became an Associate of the National Academy of Design, then in due time an Academician, and sustained during several years some of its most honorable and responsible trusts. His works display conscientious care in execution. His mastery of color, his power of expressing character in its more refined exhibitions, his delicate appreciation of feminine grace and beauty, will preserve his memory among the artists of New York.

Mr. STONE was for sixteen years a member of the Century, and bore his part of the labors of its offices

and committees. His social qualities were of a high order. His conversational powers were invigorated by wide experience and observation. He had large store of information, a keen sense of honor and justice and right. Those who knew him longest will preserve most pleasant remembrance of his companionship, and will most deeply regret that he passed away before he had attained the full development of his artistic powers.

Mr. JOSEPH GAILLARD was of French descent, but passed the greater part of an active life in the city of New York. Many years ago he became a member of a distinguished and eminently successful commercial house. After a long career of probity and uprightness, he retired, and amused his leisure with literary and artistic studies in this city and in Europe. Eighteen years ago he became a member of the Century, and a constant attendant upon the meetings. He proved his interest in its welfare by active service as a member of its committees. In his later years, failing health required a residence abroad. His studies among the most celebrated Art Collections of Europe, gave evidence of his knowledge and taste. His social qualities and judicious services deserve acknowledgment by the members of the Century.

The late Professor SAMUEL D. TILLMAN was a native of Utica, and a graduate of Union College. He passed nearly twenty years in the practice of the law, and in public office, in Western New York. Literary and scientific studies had always more attractions for him than the pursuit of his profession. Twenty years ago, he removed to New York, and devoted himself to scientific researches. In these he found ample scope for a fine mechanical and inventive faculty. During these twenty

years he was a prominent member of the American Association for the advancement of Science, having for friends and associates President Barnard, Professors Morse and Henry, and others of like eminence. He was for many years Professor of Science and Mechanics in the American Institute, and its Corresponding Secretary. He was, during the same time, editor of the Annual Transactions of the Institute, published by the State of New York. He was also chairman of the Polytechnic Club. In his official capacity, he was often consulted by inventors or improvers of machines and processes, and sometimes by over-sanguine projectors and theorists. The first he aided by valuable suggestions or counsel. To the others he rendered no less service, by dissuading them from further indulgence in unprofitable day-dreams.

The scientific attainments of Professor TILLMAN were recognized by learned institutions, especially by Union College, in their conferring of honorary degrees. Few were more conversant than he with every department of mechanical science and practical invention. He had made the laws of sound an especial study. His publications and school chart have been of great value in promoting a knowledge of music. He also devised and perfected a simple nomenclature of chemistry. His theory of atoms has received the highest commendations from men of science in America and Europe. His latest invention was a planisphere for schools and libraries, facilitating the use of maps and globes. We are indebted to him for the instrument in our library.

Professor TILLMAN had great geniality of manners and character, which gave relish to his companionship in his hours of relaxation from mechanical and mathematical studies. His stores of information were always at the service of others, and he cheerfully encouraged and aided

the researches of younger and less experienced enquirers. He felt especial interest in studies which promised some beneficent improvement or reform, for he earnestly believed that there was no science, however abstract, which could not be transmuted into social good. His premature decease may justly be accounted a loss to useful art and learning.

The Century, and especially those of its members who met Mr. WILLIAM HEGEMAN at our last meeting, have little need to be reminded of his worth. It is within the knowledge of us all, that he commanded the highest esteem by integrity of character, and by scientific and literary acquirements, which gained for him the respect of men of culture in many and varied pursuits.

By his knowledge of chemistry, and by his promotion of scientific studies, while President of the College of Pharmacy, he raised the standard of his profession.

Amid the cares of business, he cultivated a taste for letters and art. He was not only a student and a critic of painting, but he amused his leisure by a not unsuccessful practice of the art. A judge of music, he was also a proficient who gave pleasure by his performance in the social circle. His genial humor gave additional attractiveness to his extensive information and practical wisdom. His sound judgment was eagerly sought and readily given, in aid of some of the best benevolent institutions of the day. His professional pursuits enabled him to know something of the distress of a great city, and his counsel and liberality were never wanting in its alleviation.

During the last ten years, Mr. HEGEMAN was a constant attendant at the Century. As one of the "House Committee," he was a watchful guardian of our interests, neglecting no duty of his place. In the enjoyment of

our last social meeting he passed the latest hours of his conscious life. His name will be honored, not by the Century alone, but far beyond its limits, wherever his benevolence was so actively and usefully displayed.

Your Committee well hoped that they had completed this testimonial to so many honored associates, when they were informed of the decease of Mr. WILLIAM TILDEN BLODGETT. So widely was he known in the Century, and in social life, and so many were his claims to our regard, that while the topics of commendation are so numerous, they seem to render eulogy less necessary. It is but justice to ourselves that we should recall, in few words, his title to our respectful remembrance.

Mr. BLODGETT was a native of Western New York, and received his earliest training in its schools. His first studies of the picturesque in nature, were among its lakes and woods. These lessons of his youth never faded away. Through self-dependence, even in boyhood, he gained an early development of vigorous character and will.

Coming to New York in early manhood, he entered upon commercial life, with no special advantages of fortune. Whatever was wanting, he supplied by integrity, by quickness of perception, and by accuracy of judgment in the choice of agents and associates. His course thus begun, was marked by uprightnes, energy, and eminent success. Early in his residence in New York he became a parishioner, and afterwards a vestryman, of St. George's Church. He accepted the position as a means for the accomplishment of practical good. During his whole service, ending only with his life, he was ever ready to give judicious counsel to those who sought it, and to those in need he was an unfailing benefactor and friend. His charities sought no publicity. They some-

times were, but oftener were not, known, and do not admit of intrusion or enquiry. His executive ability made him a valuable accession to all benevolent undertakings which he deemed to have a claim upon his sympathy, and some of these may ascribe to him the first beginnings of their success.

One of his kindly labors yielded, in later years, a singular and unexpected fruit. Before the occupation of Rome by the present government of Italy, Mr. BLODGETT, Mr. Botta and a few others, became warmly interested in behalf of the Italians resident in New York, many of whom were men of education—exiles of the old *regime*. To these they afforded relief and occupation in their necessity, and established schools for the education of their children. The occasion passed away, and Mr. BLODGETT had almost ceased to retain it in his recollection. Years after, he visited Rome in furtherance of his artistic designs. He was surprised (on the day following his arrival) by a visit from an officer of rank in the king's service. He learned that Count Cavour had known and remembered the work which had been done in New York. Mr. BLODGETT received a decoration and honorable attentions from King Victor Emmanuel, which aided him in his acquisition of valuable works of art.

Mr. BLODGETT regarded increasing resources as imposing new responsibilities. He was not neglectful of intellectual culture. In his hours of leisure he became conversant with English history and poetry, and at a later day, by his studies in Continental literature, he became well versed in the history of Art. Not neglecting private charities, he rose to a wider view of the means of diffusing scientific knowledge, and a better public taste. Of the American Museum of Natural History he was one of the earliest Trustees. The grateful testimonial of his associates has reminded us that he lent valuable aid

in placing it upon a broad foundation, and in procuring the appropriation by which its permanence was secured. Early in his mercantile career he became known as a man of public spirit, who gave freely of his labor and income for the promotion of the general good.

The natural refinement of Mr. BLODGETT's character and his delicacy of taste led to an interest in art, especially in painting. His friendships with its professors were of early date. More than twenty years ago he had commenced the formation of a gallery of American Art, and his purchases were judicious and discriminating. He had made some progress, when his design was suddenly interrupted and laid aside. In the hour of its peril Mr. BLODGETT became a most energetic and liberal supporter of the National Union. Was there need of money, nowhere was there a more liberal contributor, or one who knew better how to arouse the sympathies of others. Was a committee to be appointed for some laborious service, Mr. BLODGETT's name was among the first which was suggested. Such duties he never declined or slighted. He was ready to aid in raising new levies for the field, and in relief to the families of the disabled or dying. One of his patriotic services was so remarkable in its design and its results as to be worthy of especial commemoration. Mr. BLODGETT was one of the chief promoters of the Fair in aid of the Sanitary Commission. He was early conversant with it, if it did not originate in his suggestions. During four months he gave it the full benefit of his administrative talent, and none could claim a larger share in its plan, its details, and its success. It contributed one million of dollars to the sanitary uses of the Army of the United States.

So many were the labors which he shared with others during the restless activity of the time, that it must suffice to mention but one beneficial work which Mr. BLOD-

GETT, almost alone, prompted and sustained. He made liberal provision for the publication of loyal and national tracts, from the pen of his friend Dr. Lieber, and others of our most eminent publicists and historical scholars. They entered with enthusiasm into his project. Their essays, thus given to the world, were everywhere reproduced by the daily press. They had no trifling influence in confirming the wavering and doubtful, and in enlightening public conscience and opinion, both in America and Europe.

Quiet came again, and Mr. BLODGETT resumed his purpose of diffusing an enlightened public taste. Soon after the war, a number of men of culture proposed the foundation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mr. BLODGETT was one of the first who saw the value of the conception. By generous gifts, and by purchasing, at his own risk, an excellent representative collection of the Dutch and Flemish schools, he, with a few associates, gave to the Metropolitan Museum of Art its earliest title to its name. He assisted in perfecting the details of its plan, and in kindling the enthusiasm of others who could aid in its accomplishment. He saw its success assured, and left it with a future full of promise and hope.

In many of the best enterprises of the last ten years, Mr. BLODGETT was in some manner active, as an originator or a promoter. Among these should be mentioned the establishment of a journal of the highest literary ability, which, in political philosophy and literary and artistic criticism, bears no unfavorable comparison with those of London and Paris. Mr. BLODGETT was a principal founder of the *New York Nation*.

As years went on, Mr. BLODGETT's views expanded with his resources, while he became more conversant with the history and literature of Art. He determined on the formation of a gallery of the best masters of

America and Europe. For such a collection, "The Heart of the Andes" was a noble beginning. In prosecuting the work, his acquaintance with artists rendered him eminently successful. His enthusiasm grew with his acquisitions. He availed himself of the judgment of the ablest experts, and spared no expense for their services or their counsel. His own knowledge of his subject everywhere commanded respect. He had become well known in Italy, in Belgium, and in Paris, as one to whom nothing of inferior merit could be offered with any hope of success. The result was, a rare assemblage of the best works of modern art. French, Dutch and English landscape and portraiture were represented by specimens such as had not before been the prizes of an American collector. Some of these still remain in Europe. As others were brought to New York and placed upon his walls, they were freely opened to the view of students and lovers of art. Men eminent in letters, the welcome associates of many years, who were partakers of his abundant hospitality, derived much gratification from the treasures which added to the social enjoyment of their genial possessor.

While so many liberal acts had given a wide-spread popularity to his name, Mr. BLODGETT sought nothing from political life. He well knew that public office is not often, now, the school of public spirit. His zeal for public improvement showed itself in nobler ways—in the earnest performance of the duties of a citizen—through the press, in the cultivation of the public conscience and taste, and in giving the aid of his wealth and executive ability to institutions of benevolence. He labored with equal zeal, let us hope, in the end with no less success, for the reform of our municipal institutions, and the requirement of a higher standard of character in public office.

Mr. BLODGETT's private sympathies were not narrowed by prosperity. The successful business of many years did but increase the kindliness which had marked his life, and which never faltered until its close. When friends had fallen upon adverse fortunes, and needed sympathy or aid, he did generous acts in the most delicate way. He conferred the deepest obligations with such natural refinement of feeling, that he accomplished the highest good without wounding the sensibilities of the receiver. It is sufficient to make this brief reference to things which abound in the memory of the living, but which could not be further mentioned without awakening recollections which belong only to the sanctity of private life.

How far Mr. BLODGETT would have prosecuted his designs for the promotion of artistic studies, what would have been the extent of his acquisitions, and what their ultimate destiny, it is useless to speculate. Let us hope that his labor may not be lost, that his collections may remain as the fittest monument of his liberal and far-seeing wisdom. His life, sadly shortened as it has been, has accomplished its object if other men can take up the burden where he laid it down,—if it can be known, as he knew, that the true service of art is not, as too often regarded, like that of plate and equipage, as the badge and decoration of social success. A school of art founded under such degrading auspices, produces nothing which the world cares to remember. It was not with such a collection that Mr. Blodgett hoped to associate his name. It was his ambition to create institutions through which a love of science, and a taste for things elevated and refined, may come to be esteemed not as alien to, but as a part of, the things of daily life. He may thus be counted among those who, in private station, have labored for the highest public good, and have

found that unconsciously they have achieved works more enduring than the rewards of party, and abiding the test of time.

With the Century, a Society for the promotion of Science and Art, of which Mr. BLODGETT was for sixteen years a member, his associations were of especial intimacy, and his departure will be sensibly felt among us. He was warmly interested in our prosperity, during four years filled some of our most responsible offices, and found great pleasure in frequent attendance at our social meetings. He brought to them the judgment and experience of a man of business not narrowed by his calling—a knowledge of Art and its history not perverted or made extravagant by sentiment or by enthusiasm—an acquaintance with the literature as well as the politics and interests of the day. We have noted the wide variety of his topics,—the facility of his recollection,—the readiness with which his information became available—and above all, the uprightness of his character, the kindness of his judgments, and his interest in the welfare of other men. In social ~~and~~ in graver hours, he inspired that regard which followed him through life, and with which we assembled to pay the last honors to his remains.

In conclusion, your Committee can only express their regret, that in the time allowed them they can do but scanty justice to so many of our associates, whose wide attainments and vigorous characters won success or eminence in such varied and honorable callings. They are assured that your memories will supply what is wanting in their commendation as patriots, scholars or artists, and will give due honor to the worth of our departed brethren.

**L. O. C.**



