

TESTIMONIALS.

From Rev. Geo. W. Anderson, of American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, Pa. :

I highly appreciate your proposed work, and shall be much pleased to add it to my already large collection of works in the same line. It will be a good neighbor to "Appleton's Cyclopædia," and I doubt not will supply much of the valuable matter that is not given in that extended work. . . . I would beg leave to suggest, as one of that class, Charles Carroll Bitting, D. D., whose biography, I think, after an acquaintance of forty years, will be both interesting and stimulating. I shall be happy to subscribe to your work, and to commend it to my friends, who, *me judico*, ought to have it.

From Rev. Irwin P. McCurdy, Philadelphia, Pa. :

I am glad to know that you are preparing such a valuable work as I believe the National Cyclopædia of American Biography will be. It will be useful to me. I take great interest in the study of biography.

From Hon. H. W. Cannon, President Chase National Bank, New York City :

I am glad to learn that you have undertaken this work, which, I believe, is much needed in this country.

From H. C. Bate, Signal Service, Nashville, Tenn. :

Your reputation throughout the country as a writer, especially throughout the South, and the interest you have inspired among us, especially us Tennesseans, by your beautiful histories of our earlier days as a territory and State, will, I am sure, guarantee a large measure of success in your present work.

From A. C. Bacone, President Indian University, Bacone, Ind. Ter. :

The work will prove of great value both to the present generation and to those who come after us.

From O. F. Williams, United States Consul, Havre, France :

A great work, which, I both hope and expect, will far outlive us, and be used as a valued book of reference during the coming century.

From Joseph Baldwin, President Texas Normal School, Huntsville, Texas :

The National Cyclopædia of American Biography, under your management, will be one of the wonderful achievements of this wonderful country.

From Emma Herzog, Educator, Yonkers, N. Y. :

I wish you all success in this great work. It appears to me one of stupendous magnitude, but your experience and past work is a pledge surely that what the Cyclopædia promises will be fulfilled, and the country will be the richer for this valuable biographical storehouse.

From Lewis B. Gauckel, Attorney, Dayton, O. :

While I have given no attention or favor to dozens of applications, somewhat similar, I am assured, by your connection with it, that the Cyclopædia is to be of a reputable character.

From Thomas Hicks, the Celebrated Portrait Painter :

Your book will be of great historic value.

From Hon. James T. Mitchell, Judge Supreme Court, Philadelphia, Pa. :

A really National Cyclopædia of Biography has long been needed, and I wish you all success in the effort to supply it.

From Julius H. Pratt, Esq., Mountclair, N. J. :

. . . I am glad to have my epitaph in your printed pages, adorned and glorified, as it will be, by association with the greatest and best of living and dead Americans ?

From Lester V. Ward, Esq., Geologist, United States Geological Survey, 1,464 R. I. Avenue, Washington, D. C. :

. . . I am glad to learn that a work so much needed has been undertaken.

From A. B. Carroll, Superintendent of Public Schools, Shenandoah, Iowa :

. . . Such a work as you propose will certainly meet a long felt want in this country, and will have an unparalleled sale.

From William Preston Johnston, New Orleans :

I am sure that your enterprise will be a success, as these contemporary biographical accounts have great value for reference.

From Dr. J. Harvie Dew, Washington, D. C. :

Your idea of a National Cyclopædia of American Biography strikes me as an excellent one, if carried out with the scope designed.

From S. C. Armstrong, Superintendent Hampton Government School :

From the plan adopted in preparing the National Cyclopædia, it will certainly be the greatest work of its kind ever attempted, and cannot fail to be the standard of the country.

From Geo. D. Purlington, Ph. D., University of the State of Missouri :

I am glad you propose publishing a work of the description you mention. It cannot fail to be a very valuable contribution to the sum total of the knowledge of the men of our day, and of their work.

From Joseph S. Carels, Tennessee Historical Society :

I am heartily glad that such a work as yours is in course of preparation. It is very much needed.

From Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, Bishop of California :

I shall be happy to aid you in any way in your great work.

From Prof. Wm. A. Obenchain, Ogden College, Bowling Green, Ky.:

The plan of your work is excellent, the undertaking grand, and it will be eminently successful.

From Martha J. Lamb, Historian:

I am glad you are at work on a National Cyclopædia of American Biography, which is certainly very much needed, and I shall be glad to aid you to the extent of my power.

From Ignatius Donnelly:

Your literary name has long been a household word in my family, and I am, therefore, glad to hear you are preparing such a work.

From Prof. R. H. Thurston, Sibley College, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.:

I shall be glad to be of service in any practicable manner in promoting your admirable work. The British Biographical Dictionaries, upon which we have been compelled so largely to depend for accounts of our own distinguished men, have been very unsatisfactory, omitting the most distinguished, in some cases giving credit with little discretion, and often placing the name of some comparatively obscure person in a place that should have been assigned to a really great man. I notice this particularly in the men of our own time.

From Hon. Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky:

I approve of your project, and send you my "memoirs," etc. I enclose you a photograph by Brady, æt. 78. I am now in my eightieth year. I will write you as soon as may be a few leading ideas of my life work. I subscribe for library edition \$6 = \$36.

From Hon. A. G. Riddle, Washington, D. C.:

On personal grounds I do not complain of the Appletons. Their work, on general principles, made me wish that some one with different views, and, I may say, a wider acquaintance with living men, would undertake a broader work. I am sure yours will better meet the general want.

From John M. Lea, President Tennessee Historical Society:

I gladly lend a helping hand towards the success of the work. Enter me as a subscriber for the set, in full Russia binding.

From Rev. John Anketell, A. M., New York:

Your work promises to be of great and permanent value to our country and the world, edited as it is by an author of your well-known literary reputation.

From Herbert C. Tolman, Philologist, New Haven, Conn.:

I feel that the work will supply a long felt need in American Biography, and I give it my hearty cooperation.

From P. B. Armstrong, President Mutual Fire Insurance Company, New York City:

I desire to say that I approve of the general scheme you are engaged in. Whether I am entitled to be ranked with many other names, you alone must decide.

From Carl Hecker, Art School, New York City:

I am glad to see that you have undertaken such an invaluable task, and one that will, without doubt, be fully appreciated by the thinking public. Such a work will be an indispensable addition to American literary art.

From J. M. Keating, Editor Memphis Daily Commercial, Memphis, Tenn.:

Many and hearty thanks for the honor you confer of making a place for me in your superb work of biography.

From Edwin Atwell, of Mail and Express, New York City:

The printed matter you have sent me indicates thorough comprehension of the scope, dignity and importance of the work you have undertaken. Your own character and reputation justifies us in believing it will be splendidly concluded.

From Rev. J. D. Shaw, D.D., Waco, Texas:

I approve the plan of your work, and predict for it a favorable reception by the reading public.

From Henry Day, Eminent New York Lawyer:

As you say in your circular, "No man ever did a manly work without taking a manly pride in it," and a man who has spent a true life, ought not to be ashamed to tell it.

From Marlon Mauville, La Crosse, Wis.:

A National Cyclopædia of American Biography such as you are issuing, will be a valuable addition to reference books, since it will be to history what a dictionary is to language: words make a language, and people make history. I am sure its success will be unqualified, as it deserves to be.

From Adolph S. Ochs, Esq., Editor Daily Times, Chattanooga, Tenn.:

Mr. Gilmore is so well known to the reading public of America, that it would be supererogation to point out his peculiar fitness for the editorial labor of this great and generally needed work. The corps of contributors combines the literary, historical, legal, financial, commercial, industrial and political talent of the whole country. It will be published by James T. White & Co., 765 Broadway, New York City, in six royal octavo volumes, and sold by subscription only. The work will be on the broad-gauge plan, giving sketches of the local as well as of the national celebrities, leaders and men of conspicuous achievements; a book for the people, as well as for the professional and learned classes. The advent of this publication will be looked for with keen interest by every citizen who cares to inform himself on that which may be called the personal history of his country.

CHAPIN, Alfred C., Mayor of Brooklyn, N. Y., b. at South Hadley, Mass., March 8, 1848. In Stearns Park, Springfield, Mass., stands a striking



Alfred C. Chapin

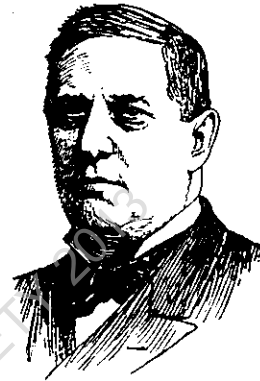
statue, modelled by Augustus St. Gaudens, the young American sculptor who has recently so successfully executed a statue of Abraham Lincoln for the city of Chicago. It is the figure of a tall, stalwart man, past middle life, and clad in the Puritan garb of two hundred and fifty years ago—a broad-brimmed, steeple-crowned hat; a long, close-fitting doublet; bagged breeches, fastened at the knees; and over all, the enormous cloak of that period. The throw-back folds of this cloak reveals, in the statue's left hand, a large Bible with brass nails and iron clasps, and in its right hand a ponderous oak staff, planted firmly on the ground as the statue seems to be moving forward. This is the figure and costume of the man who is intended to be represented, according to the tradition now current among his descendants; but of his face and features there is neither portrait, nor oral or written record, in existence. In their absence the artist has formed a composite face, from the features of some of the old Puritan's living posterity. The result is a striking physiognomy—no doubt a true conception of that grand race of men who "feared God, and kept their powder dry." The face is massive, the nose straight and prominent, the chin broad and determined, the mouth large and compressed, and so much as can be seen of the forehead is bold and protruding. He clutches tightly his oaken staff, and as he strides forward there is a fixed, resolute look in his face and downcast eyes, as if the weight of the colony were on his shoulders, but he felt fully able to support it.

This statue is intended to represent Samuel Chapin, who emigrated to New England prior to 1636, and settled at Agawam, now Springfield, in 1641. From him were descended Calvin Chapin, D.D., one of the organizers of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and for thirty-two years its secretary; the Rev. Dr. Edwin H. Chapin, the eloquent New York preacher; the late Chester W. Chapin, the railroad magnate of Massachusetts; Dr. Aaron L. Chapin, President of Beloit College, Wisconsin; and the subject of this sketch, Alfred C. Chapin, at present (1890) Mayor of Brooklyn, N. Y. The last-named is also descended, on his mother's side, from Lieutenant William Clark, who emigrated to New England in 1630, settled at Northampton in 1657, and became the ancestor of a family which has occupied an honorable position in the Connecticut Valley for nearly two and a half centuries. Alfred C. Chapin was taken by his parents when an infant to Springfield, Mass., whence they removed in 1852 to Keene, N. H., and thence, after ten years, to Rutland, Vt. In these two latter places he attended various private and public schools until 1865, when he entered Williams College, where he was graduated in 1869. He then pursued a course of law studies at the Harvard Law School, where he was graduated in 1871. The following year he spent in a lawyer's office in New York City, and was there admitted to the bar in 1872.

Mr. Chapin took up his residence in Brooklyn in 1873, and was soon elected the first president of the Young Men's Democratic Club of that city. But,

though holding this position, he took no more than a citizen's interest in politics, devoting himself closely to his profession and becoming noted for his industry, honorable methods, and attention to the interest of his clients. He was fast attaining a highly honorable position at the bar, when, in 1881, he received the Democratic nomination for Assemblyman from the Eleventh District of Kings County; and was

CORNELL, Alonzo B., b. at Ithaca, Tompkins County, N. Y., Jan. 22, 1832. He received an academic education, and at an early age engaged in the telegraph business. His first employment was at Troy, N. Y.; and since his first connection with that office Mr. Cornell has been continuously occupied, either as operator, manager, superintendent, director, vice-president, or acting president of the Western Union Telegraph Company or its predecessor companies, from 1846 to the present time.

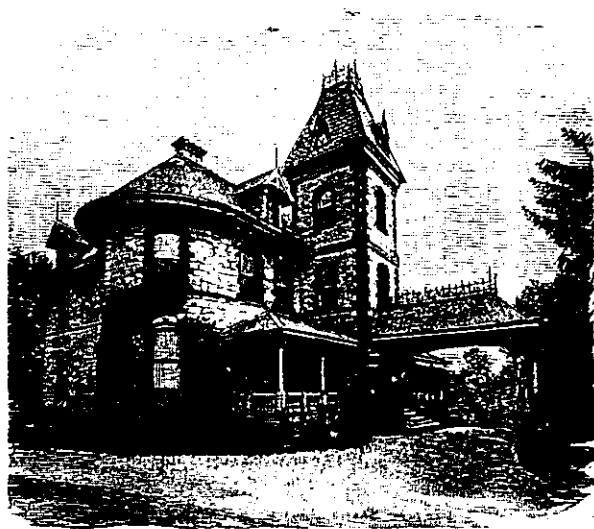


Alonzo B. Cornell

His father, the late Honorable Ezra Cornell, founder of the Cornell University, was associated with Prof. Morse in the early development of the electric telegraph; and in 1843 was appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury as the Superintendent of Construction of the first line of telegraph in America, between Baltimore and Washington. The Western Union Telegraph Company was organized in 1854 by the union of several of the original telegraph companies, located chiefly in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. Ezra Cornell, the late Hiram Sibley, of Rochester, and Jephtha H. Wade, of Cleveland, O., were the practical founders of the company.

On his accession to the Presidency, in 1869, General Grant appointed Mr. Cornell as Surveyor of Customs for the Port of New York. He performed the duties of that office with such satisfaction that President Grant, in 1870, nominated him to the Senate for Assistant Treasurer of the United States at New York, to succeed Charles J. Folger, who had been elected to the Court of Appeals. Mr. Cornell preferred the customs service, and declined to accept the Treasuryship, whereupon Thomas Hillhouse was appointed to that office.

In the performance of duty as Surveyor of Customs, Mr. Cornell was associated with Moses H.



CROSBY, Howard, clergyman and educator, b. in New York City, Feb. 27, 1826. He is a great-grandson of William Floyd, one of the signers of the



Howard Crosby

Declaration of Independence (q. v.), and also a grandson of Dr. Ebenezer Crosby, who was surgeon to Washington's life-guards during the Revolutionary War, and subsequently a professor in Columbia College. His father, William B. Crosby, having inherited from Col. Henry Rutgers nearly the whole of the present Seventh Ward of New York, was, until John Jacob Astor accumulated his vast landed property, one of the largest real-estate owners of his time. He devoted himself to the care of his property, and to deeds of public benevolence and private charity. Of him it was truly said that "He delivered the poor when he cried, the fatherless, and him that had none to help him." And so "the blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him; and he made the widow's heart to sing for joy." His son Howard, instead of giving himself to fashion and frivolity, after the manner of many wealthy men's sons, devoted his youth to study and his manhood to works that, in other directions, have emulated the good deeds of his father. Entering the University of the City of New York at the age of fourteen, he was graduated there at eighteen, and at twenty-five appointed to the professorship of Greek in that institution. In the following year he was elected President of the Young Men's Christian Association of New York, and in 1859 professor of Greek in Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J., then under the presidency of the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen (q. v.), and to which his great-uncle, Colonel Henry Rutgers, of the Revolutionary Army, had given his name and liberal donations. During a portion of the time that he filled that office he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Brunswick, but in 1863 he resigned both positions to accept the pastorate of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York. In the following year he was selected as one of the council of the University of the City of New York, and not long afterward was chosen its Vice-President, a position he still holds. In 1870 he was elected Chancellor of the University, and, still retaining his pastorate, he served in that capacity until 1881, meanwhile, from 1872 to 1881, acting as one of the American Company of Revisers of the Bible. In 1873 he was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and in 1877 its delegate to the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Edinburgh.

In addition to his clerical and educational work, Dr. Crosby has been active in benevolent and reformatory affairs of a public character. In 1877 he founded, and he has since acted as President of, the Society for the Prevention of Crime, an organization which seeks to restrict the use of spirituous liquors by means of State and municipal legislation, and his work in that direction has received such general approval that in 1888 he was appointed by the Legislature a member of the State Commission to revise the Excise Laws. These various clerical and educational employments would be enough to engross the entire thought of most men, but, in addition, Dr. Crosby has found time to write commentaries on the Books of Joshua and Nehemiah, as well

as on the entire New Testament; a volume of Yale Lectures, as well as several other works of a religious, or semi-religious, character; besides scores of pamphlets, and almost innumerable articles for the reviews. A busier, or more beneficent, life is not lived by any man in this country. The degree of D.D. was awarded him by Harvard in 1859, that of LL.D. by Columbia in 1871.

DEPEW, Chauncey M., railroad manager, b. April 23, 1834. He is of mingled Puritan and Huguenot ancestry, his mother having been a grand-niece of Roger Sherman, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his father a lineal descendant of one of the French refugees who founded the Huguenot colony at New Rochelle, about the middle of the seventeenth century. A later ancestor removed to the village of Peekskill, N. Y., not far from two hundred years ago, and built there a roomy colonial mansion, and in this old house Chauncey M. was born. He had the usual educational advantages afforded by the village



Chauncey M. Depew

schools of the period, but, owing to the moderate circumstances of his parents, was not able to enter college until his eighteenth year. He was graduated at Yale four years later, and at once began the study of the law in his native town. It was 1856, the year of John C. Frémont's candidacy for the Presidency, and the young law-student soon caught the political enthusiasm that attended the birth of the Republican party. His first public speech is said to have been delivered at this time from the village platform, and to have been a glowing eulogium upon the manifold merits of the adventurous Pathfinder. But he did not neglect his legal studies for such honors as may be won by a political orator in a small community. Applying himself diligently to his profession, in two years he was admitted to the bar, and entered upon the practice of the



law. Every one knew him, and every one trusted him, but clients did not at first rush upon him in a tidal wave. They gave him time to study politics, and to follow his natural bent for public speaking, for, then as well as now, he was nowhere so much at home as when addressing a popular assemblage. He soon acquired so wide a reputation as a political orator that in 1860—only two years after his admission