

business on his own account at the corner of Washington and Essex Streets, and continued in this business for several years. Then, in 1868, he took up the manufacturing and selling of billiard tables, a business in which, under the name of Oliver L. Briggs & Sons, he was eminently successful and remained actively engaged until a short time before his death.

He was a member of various Masonic bodies and of the Boston Art Club, was one of the first members of the Algonquin Club before it was reorganized, and was for many years a member of Trinity Church.

Mr. Briggs married, 5 September 1860, Mary Sabin Stone, born in India 8 November 1837, daughter of Rev. Cyrus Stone, a missionary in India. Mrs. Briggs and their son, Frederick Huntington Briggs of Boston, survive him.

SAMUEL WALTER WOODWARD of Washington, D. C., elected a resident member 2 May 1917, was born at Damariscotta, Me., 13 December 1848, the son of Samuel and Jerusha Baker (Erskine) Woodward, and died at his summer home in Stockbridge, Mass., 1 August 1917. He was a descendant, in the tenth generation, of Nathaniel Woodward, who settled in Boston in 1633; and through his grandmother, Lavinia Wadsworth, he was descended from Elder William Brewster, Francis Cooke, Stephen Hopkins, Richard Warren, Henry Samson, Edward Doty, and John Alden, all of whom came to New England in the *Mayflower* in 1620.

He was prepared for Bowdoin College at Lincoln Academy, Newcastle, Me., but did not enter upon a collegiate course, the bent of his mind determining him to choose a mercantile career. In 1865 he came to Boston and entered the employ of Shepard Brothers, dealers in dry goods at 320 Hanover Street. Later he was employed by Cushing & Ames on the same street. In 1873, in company with Alvin M. Lothrop, he opened a dry goods store in Chelsea, Mass., and conducted a successful business there for several years. Desiring a larger field, he sold out his business in 1880 and started anew in Washington, D. C. Here, under skilful management and close application, the business rapidly increased, requiring constantly enlarged space and facilities until, at the time of his decease, it had become established as the largest department store in the country, south of Philadelphia.

Early in life Mr. Woodward identified himself with religious work, and when he went to Washington he joined the Calvary Baptist Church. Through his endeavors the church was enlarged and a new Sunday school house built at a cost of \$125,000, of which he contributed the larger part. The Young Men's Christian Association of Washington was another institution which received his strong support. He was its president for ten years, during which its membership increased from one hundred and sixty-four to over five thousand. At the close of his ten years of service, on 15 February 1909, he was tendered by the citizens of Washington a public reception and banquet, in which many of the people of the city who were prominent in public and private life participated. He was also one of the or-

ganizers of the Laymen's Missionary Movement and a member of its executive committee of fifteen, and was one of the first two commissioners to visit the foreign fields, sailing from San Francisco 12 February 1907.

Though for many years a Democrat in politics, he refused in 1896 to support Mr. Bryan and voted for Mr. McKinley; and when the latter was inaugurated, Mr. Woodward was offered the chairmanship of the Inauguration Committee, but was obliged to decline this position by reason of business pressure. He was identified with many charitable and financial institutions in Washington, and was a member of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

He married at Chelsea, Mass., 24 June 1874, Mary Catherine Wade, daughter of William and Irene (Nichols) Wade, who died in the June preceding his own death. One son and three daughters survive him.

JOHN TAYLOR SLOAN of New Haven, Conn., a resident member since 1913, was born in New York City 12 February 1846, the son of Thomas George and Jane Earle (Paton) Sloan, and died at New Haven 12 October 1917.

He was educated in the seminary that was established by his father in New Haven, and was prepared for the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale College. But in October 1861 he entered the Union Army, enlisting in the First Connecticut Light Battery, in which he served three years, being one of the youngest members of the battery.

In 1882 he entered the real-estate firm of his father, which afterwards became the John T. Sloan Company, with which he remained until his death. This firm was one of the largest and most prosperous real-estate firms in New Haven, and was widely known throughout the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Sloan was a Mason, and was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the New Haven Historical Society, and various other organizations. He was much interested in Colonial history, being regarded as an authority on the early history of New Haven.

He married, 25 December 1868, Elsie M. Watrous, daughter of Elihu and Charlotte (Rogers) Watrous, who survives him, together with three children, Charlotte Watrous Sloan, Thomas George Sloan, a physician at South Manchester, Conn., and John Taylor Sloan, Jr., the head of the John T. Sloan Company.

GEORGE VASMER LEVERETT, A.M., LL.B., of Boston, elected a resident member in 1890 and made a life member in 1891, was born at Charlestown, Mass., 16 February 1846, the son of Daniel and Charlotte (Betteley) Leverett, and died in Boston 18 October 1917. The family home in Charlestown was on Richmond Street, now Rutherford Avenue, in the house that is still standing behind the Episcopal Church on Bow Street.

He was prepared for college at the Harvard Grammar School in Charlestown and at the Charlestown High School, ranking first in his class, and entered Harvard College in 1863. There he was graduated

in 1867, again taking the first rank, and then entered the Harvard Law School, where he received the degree of LL.B. in 1869. Meanwhile, from 1868 to 1870, he was instructor in mathematics at Harvard, and received the degree of A.M. from his *alma mater* in the latter year. In 1871 he was admitted to the bar, and entered upon the practice of law in Boston, in the office of Chandler, Thayer & Hudson, with Professor James B. Thayer of the Harvard Law School, an association which continued until the latter's death in 1902.

Early in his career Mr. Leverett became connected with the American Bell Telephone Company, the parent company, it is believed, having been organized in his office. In 1886 he was made official attorney of the Company, and, after a few years, its general counsel. Acting in this capacity for the Bell Company and for its successor, the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, "he was obliged to assume the entire responsibility for its legal matters. Every contract . . . of the company, every law of state legislatures or of Congress that might effect the company's interests, every decision of a court of last resort in the United States that bore upon those interests was subject to his scrutiny, and was taken into account in his daily work." The Trustees of the Huntington Avenue Lands, organized in 1871, had their headquarters in his office, and he was their clerk and later one of their number. Besides these interests Mr. Leverett had a large professional practice, and was trustee for many estates. Being an authority in his profession, the lawyers of neighboring offices were accustomed to bring their difficulties to him, and he was always ready to help them.

Mr. Leverett was a director in the Conveyancers' Title Insurance Company, the State Street Trust Company, and other corporations, a trustee of the Franklin Savings Bank, a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Harvard Club of Boston, the Harvard Club of New York, the University Club of Boston, the University Club of New York, the University Club of Chicago, the Union Club of Boston, the Oakley Country Club, the Bostonian Society, and the Bunker Hill Monument Association. He always maintained also his interest in the affairs of his native place.

Although so actively engaged in professional duties, Mr. Leverett found time to pursue his favorite studies in Greek and mathematics, to read widely, and to enjoy the concerts given by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His genial disposition won and retained for him a host of friends, and his generous nature led him to assist many worthy unfortunates, to whom he gave, but never loaned, money.

In 1880 he moved with his mother from Charlestown to Cambridge, Mass., and on 3 April 1888 he married his first cousin, Mary E. L. Tebbetts of Cambridge, who died 5 June 1897. They had no children, and after his wife's death Mr. Leverett moved to Boston, which was his residence for the rest of his life.

CHARLES FREDERIC FITZ of Watertown, Mass., a resident member since 1899, was born at Kingston, N. H., 20 March 1835, the son of Asa and Susan (Burroughs) Fitz, and died at Watertown 24 October

1917. He was descended from Robert Fitts, who was at Salisbury, Mass., in 1639. On his mother's side he was connected with George Burroughs, a martyr of the Witchcraft Delusion.

He was educated at the public schools in Cambridge, at Nathaniel Allen's school in Newton, and at the Normal School in Bridgewater, Mass. He began his business life in the office of the *Boston Traveler* in 1855, and in December of the same year became a clerk in the Suffolk Bank, Boston. In 1866 he entered the Old Boston National Bank, from which he was transferred in 1870 to the National Union Bank of Boston, where he remained until his retirement in 1912.

Mr. Fitz was deeply interested in historical and biographical research and devoted much time to copying and preparing for publication, in collaboration with others, the old town records of Watertown, which were published in several volumes, under the auspices of the Watertown Historical Society. He took a keen interest, also, in the Watertown Public Library, of which he was for three years a trustee, and in other public and philanthropic institutions. He was a member, and at one time president, of the Watertown Historical Society. He instituted at Watertown the Unitarian Sunday afternoon lectures, which were given for three or four successive years by John Fiske; and in early life he had helped to promote other free lecture courses by prominent speakers. He was a strong advocate of many so-called reforms in politics and economics, and was one of the early members of the Free Trade League and the Free Religious Association of America.

He served his town faithfully as one of the selectmen in 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1895, being chairman of the Board in the last-mentioned year, and he was chairman of the committee charged with the erection of a new high school in Watertown.

He married, 18 June 1863, Annie Gibson Cummings, daughter of Daniel Gibson and Maria Louisa (Forbes) Cummings, who survives him, together with two children, Abby Manley Fitz and Charles Frederic Fitz.

EDWARD OSCAR PUNCHARD, PH.G., of Winchester, Mass., a resident member since 1913, was born at Chelsea, Mass., 1 March 1855, the son of Thomas and Nancy Maria (Parker) Punchard, and died at Winchester 15 November 1917. He traced his descent from William¹ Punchard of Salem, through John,² John,³ Samuel,⁴ John,⁵ and Thomas,⁶ his father.

He was educated in the public schools of Chelsea, and when sixteen years old went to work for a shoe findings firm on High Street, Boston, and later became apprentice and clerk with his uncle, Dr. John Buck, pharmacist, in Chelsea. During his stay with Dr. Buck he attended the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and was graduated there in 1876. After that he went to the Parker House, Boston, where his uncle, Harvey D. Parker, the proprietor and owner, placed him in the hotel as steward. From that position he rose to be junior partner, and after the death of Mr. Parker in 1884 he carried on the management of the hotel for five years, when he sold the business to the late J. Reed Whipple, and, in 1891, retired to Winchester.