

**ALBERT BENJAMIN  
PRESCOTT: DECEMBER 12,  
1832. FEBRUARY 25, 1905**

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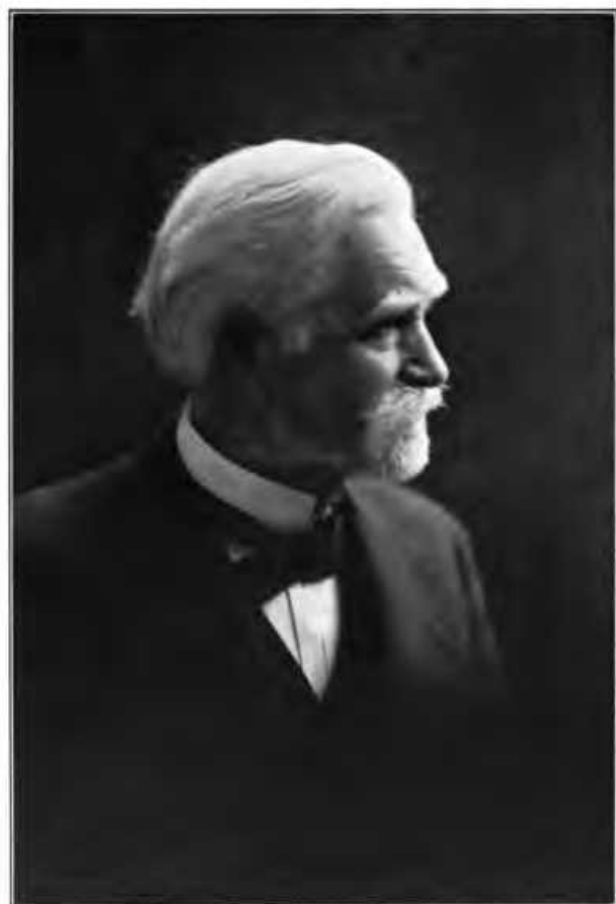
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**VARIOUS**

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*Albert Benjamin Prescott*

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December 12, 1832  
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## Albert Benjamin Prescott

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**A**LBERT BENJAMIN PRESCOTT was born in Hastings, Oswego County, New York, December 12, 1832.

His parents were Benjamin Prescott and Experience Huntley Prescott.

Albert was the ninth generation in lineage from John Prescott of Standish, Lancashire, England, who came to Boston in 1640. Of the same lineage were also William H. Prescott, the distinguished historian, and his grandfather, Colonel William Prescott, the commander in the battle of Bunker Hill. On a farm located near the then flourishing village of Hastings Albert first saw the light, as the youngest of four children. The old home is still in the possession of the family, and the acre of ground given by his father for the site of a schoolhouse continues to be used for the same purpose.

The father of the household was a man of unusual intelligence and refinement, quiet in manner, and a leader in the community and in the Baptist Church. His hospitable home gave welcome to ministers, teachers, and to others who were especially interested in the well-being of the church and state. He was an ardent advocate of the freedom of the slaves and prominent in all movements of social reform.

The mother was a woman of rare dignity of character and repose of manner, endowed with the gifts of beauty of person and a most amiable disposition.

Blessed with such a parentage and in such a favorable environment, the son, who possessed a keen sense of humor and

an active and quick mind, gave early promise of a career of distinguished usefulness and honor.

But in the ninth year of his age this promise seemed destined to disappointment. From a severe fall resulted an injury to the right knee which made the lad a cripple for life. The best medical skill that could be found failed to make a complete cure. But for the wisdom of his mother, who stoutly opposed amputation of the limb, this physical disability would have become still more serious. For about five years the young lad was confined to the house, often to his bed, for months at a time. But these years of suffering and privation were "the seed-time of his future." His sister, who had graduated from an academy in the neighboring town of Mexico and who afterward became a well-known teacher, gave up her studies in Miss Willard's Academy in order to devote her time to the care and education of her beloved brother. Under her inspiring and gentle guidance his eager mind turned to good reading. The district circulating library, which was kept in the parental home, contained a good collection of choice books. In those years the invalid boy made the acquaintance of many volumes of history and of travel in foreign lands, but the English poets became his especial delight. He early showed marked ability in writing. As he had no companions of his own age to whom he could communicate his thoughts and purposes, he formed the habit of committing these to paper and of writing short reviews of the books that he had read. His fond mother, in later years, never tired of telling about "the stories that Albert used to write when he was a boy."

With the aid of his sister he gained a fair knowledge of Latin, and from other private teachers he received instruction in French and German and in various branches of science.

In 1848, when Albert was in his sixteenth year, the father of the family was removed by death. Fortunately, the young man could soon lay aside the crutches that had so many years