

**1861-1892, FIFTH REPORT
HARVARD COLLEGE
CLASS OF 1861**

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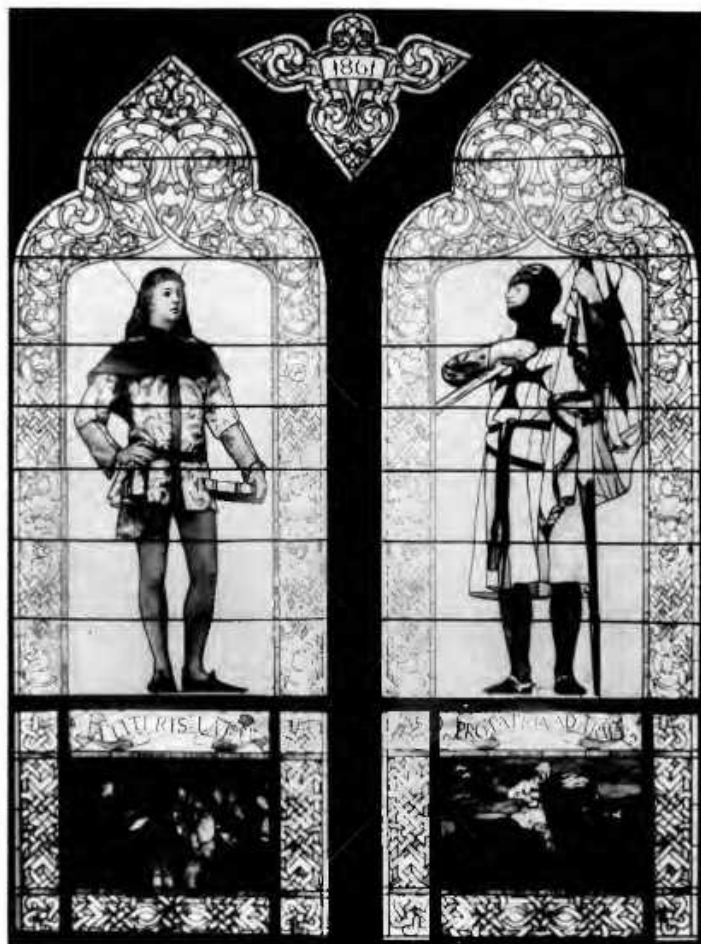
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VARIOUS

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HARVARD COLLEGE
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THE CLASS WINDOW.

DESIGNED BY F. D. MELET,
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SET IV: MEMORIAL HALL, JUNE, 1886

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1861—1892

FIFTH REPORT
HARVARD COLLEGE
CLASS OF 1861



NEW YORK
PRINTED FOR THE USE OF THE CLASS
1892

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PREFATORY NOTE

DEAR CLASSMATES: It is a long time since it was suggested and voted that this FIFTH CLASS REPORT should be prepared, and made to comprise the substance of all its predecessors, together with such added information as might be obtained. The undertaking has proved to be much more than the task of a few hours to be accomplished with paste-pot and scissors, and the work has dragged rather wearily for several years. It has involved the re-writing of much that had been recorded, the correction of many errors, and the securing, by dint of persistent epistolary persuasion, of a large amount of new matter.

At last your Secretary issues his *magnum opus*, not as complete and free from errors, but as the product of much effort to secure fullness and accuracy. In this effort others have generously shared, and he owes a weighty debt of gratitude to Garrison, who has most kindly devoted much time and care to seeing the Report through the press, revising the proofs, supplying omitted data, and preparing summaries.

With the hope that the result of these labors of love will in the main win the approval of the Class, these pages are sent forth by one who feels an increased interest in his fellow-graduates of thirty-one years ago with each fresh review of their careers.

Yours faithfully,

J. EDWARD WRIGHT,
Class Secretary.

N. B. My old chum, Richard Stone (50 State Street, Boston), kindly consents to serve as *locum tenens* and perform the duties of Class Secretary during my contemplated absence from the country.

JUNE 1, 1892.

J. E. W.

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CLASS OF 1861

GRADUATES

* **Leonard Case Alden** was born in Boston, December 22, 1839, and was a descendant of John Alden, passenger in the *Mayflower*; and, on his mother's side, of John Vinton, who came to this country about 1640. He received his early education entirely in the public schools of Boston. In 1846 he entered the Brimmer Grammar School, Joshua Bates master; in 1852, the English High School, under Thomas Sherwin; and in 1855, the Public Latin School, under Francis Gardner. At each of these schools he received a Franklin Medal, besides winning four Lawrence Prizes in the English High School and one in the Public Latin School. During his college course Alden never lost a day from his duties. He was a member of the Rumford Society, of the Institute of 1770, of the Temperance Society, and of the Phi Beta Kappa. Though fond of philological study and literature, his tastes led him principally toward physical and mathematical science. In his biography prepared for the Class Book, he says:

During my Senior year I have been engaged in reading Dante with Professor Lowell, and have spent many pleasant evenings with him over the pages of the "*Divina Commedia*." Of my devotion to mathematics I have also given a painful proof by continuing alone the study of that science with Professor Peirce, all the other members of the mathematical division having relinquished the study at the close of the Junior year.

He expected to make civil engineering his profession, looking forward to that from his English High School days; but at the close of his college course his plans were less definite. His Commencement part—the second oration—was on “National Character Elevated by National Affliction,” and clearly revealed the patriotic trend of his thought; but he continued for nearly two years in studious pursuits. From September, 1861, to May, 1863, he was associated with Professor Cooke, as proctor and assistant in chemistry. During his summer vacation in 1862 he was in charge of a pupil at Salisbury, Vt. His father, William Vinton Alden, died suddenly, October 20, 1862. In the spring of 1863 the long struggle in regard to his duty to his country was settled, and, on recommendation of our classmate Hallowell, colonel of the 55th Massachusetts, he was commissioned second lieutenant in that regiment of colored troops, May 12. They were ordered first to Newberne, N. C., then to Folly Island, S. C., where they were soon engaged in the siege of Fort Wagner.

October 5, 1863, Alden died of chronic diarrhœa in the hospital at Hilton Head, while on his way home—protracted sickness having compelled him to resign his commission. March 11, 1864, funeral services over his remains (which were obtained by his brother with great difficulty, and only after an appeal to President Lincoln) were held in Shawmut Church, Boston, conducted by Rev. Dr. Adams and Rev. Mr. Webb; E. P. Gould, R. Stone, Mumford, Pettee, and Wright of our Class being present. The body was deposited in the Vinton family tomb in Braintree, Mass.

Few can understand how great was the sacrifice made by Alden—so averse to war, from his physical, mental, and moral constitution—when he gave up the most congenial studies to fight, by the side of despised negroes, for Liberty and Union. But when once he had determined that it was his duty to take up arms, moved by the conviction that the colored troops needed officers of ability and high principle, and affected not a little by the death of lamented classmates in the holy cause, nothing could keep him back. The entreaties of relatives, the reluctance of friends to recommend him for a commission, who felt that he could serve his country better with the pen than with the sword, were all overcome; and he went forth to gain in a brief service the encomiums of his superiors for his able and faithful performance of every duty, and to fall by the