

**HARVARD COLLEGE,
CLASS OF
1878, SECRETARY'S
REPORT, NO. III**

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Harvard college, class of 1878, secretary's report, No. III by Joseph C. Whitney

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JOSEPH C. WHITNEY

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HARVARD COLLEGE

CLASS OF 1878

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No. III

1892

PRINTED FOR THE USE OF THE CLASS

CAMBRIDGE
The Riverside Press
1892

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Class Committee.

NATHANIEL NILES THAYER, CHAIRMAN.

JULIAN AUGUSTUS MEAD.

ALFRED WORCESTER.

Class Secretary.

JOSEPH C. WHITNEY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the Class of Seventy-eight: —

THIS third Report is now placed at the disposal of the Class. It has been in contemplation for some time past, but has been unavoidably delayed from various causes: chiefly because the information necessary to make the records complete could not be got through lack of interest among a large portion of the Class, but in no small degree, since the requisite material has become sufficient to warrant its being classified and reduced to print, because of the delay consequent upon much time spent in so preparing this material that the Report may go into the hands of those members of the Class who care to examine it, in a fairly readable form. I would that it were better reading than it is likely to prove; but Harvard indifference and pressure of business and domestic cares were lamentably to the fore in too many cases, when members of the Class, hurriedly and grudgingly, wrote a few statistics in handwriting barely legible, in some instances positively illegible, and when several who are truly and innately modest never wrote anything.

Fortunately, there is a nucleus in our Class that has a strong and abiding feeling of interest in the welfare of classmates and of the College, and which is instrumental in perpetuating our Class organization by its presence at our reunions and meetings, and by some well-digested and interesting contributions to our Class Reports. If, however, this nucleus has a weak point, it shows when writing for the Reports; for, as a rule, its dinners are better digested and even its contributions to the Class Fund are more liberal than its written communications.

We are all well aware that most men who have been out of College

for more than ten years have settled down into routine work, and that items of absorbing interest are rare in their lives ; but some of us cannot help feeling that every Harvard man might spare half an hour every few years in which to write a brief account of himself, his family, and his work, in such a form as to be readable and reasonably interesting to men who have known him and been associated with him in the past. In all fairness, classmates are entitled to hear something more from one of their number than bare statistics and a statement that he has nothing of interest to say, or else that he has made no change in his occupation.

As this Report may fall into the hands of some who are unfamiliar with what has gone before, and who in consequence may fail to understand allusions that occur in several communications, or of some who may be disposed to think, unless some explanation is offered, that the Secretary has taken unwarranted liberties in making comments on the records, or lack of records, of some classmates, and in embellishing those of others, there are appended to this letter to the Class, extracts from three circulars that were sent to every member of the Class whose address was known ; there are also appended extracts from two letters addressed to the Secretary, that give much interesting information about men who had failed to speak for themselves at the time they were written, though some of the men mentioned in the last one have since been heard from. These two letters were too entertaining not to be seen by all the Class ; besides, they tend to show how a helping hand can be given to the Secretary.

I once made the awful threat, — without realizing that if it was carried into execution the result was likely to be a printed list of names with “not heard from” after each one, or else a series of blank pages, — that unless a man was heard from his record would be stopped. How many poor, modest fellows must have wished time and again that I would do as proposed, and how many of those who take no interest in the Class and never answer circulars, would rejoice if their mail was never more encumbered by the Secretary's touching appeals for information. The threat will never be executed while the present incumbent holds the office of Secretary, if he can help it. In a few cases where men were connected with the Class for only a short time it cannot be helped, and records have stopped because nobody knows anything about the men, or

what became of them ; but if anything can be learned about any man who was ever considered by the College authorities to be a member of our Class, even though it was for the shortest time, and though he graduated with another class, the record of his life will be inquired about, and, if possible, it will be continued. As a result of this policy, it gives me pleasure to be able to say that every living graduate of our Class has been heard from or heard of since Report II (which was compiled in 1884 and printed and issued by subscription in 1885) was placed in the hands of the subscribers to it. Of those who were connected with our Class but did not graduate with it, who, by a coincidence, number seventy-eight, eight have not been heard of since that Report was compiled, and of four of these nothing has been heard since they left College.

Our graduates number one hundred and fifty-one. In Report II the names of Littlefield, McKaye, and Sparhawk were given among "members not graduates;" but they should have been classed among "graduates," as they received degrees of A. B. in 1881, as of our Class. The correction in regard to Littlefield was made under "errata" in that Report. We now also number F. W. Thayer among our "graduates." At the time of the last Report he was among the "members not graduates." The degree of A. B. was conferred upon him, as of our Class, in 1887.

We had the good fortune to have no death among our graduates during the period of nearly five years that intervened, from the time of Reed's death in 1882 till that of Spencer in 1887. Since then we have not been so fortunate, for Spencerr's death was soon followed by Dean's in the same year; while in 1888, Slade died; in 1889, Jones; in 1890, McFadon; and in 1891, Burdett. From among members not graduates of the Class, there have died, H. S. Otis, Smith, Somerby, and Tallant. The coincidence is noted that of twenty-one men who have been connected with our Class who have died, the names of six began with the letter S.

The records show that ninety of our graduates have married, a percentage of over fifty-nine, while of our other members forty-one have married, a percentage of fifty-three. If the records of these last were as complete as of the graduates, the percentage would probably be as large; and as, doubtless, there are some among our graduates whose marriages do not show in the records, it is a fair statement to say that sixty per cent of the members of our Class

have married. The record of births, which is fairly complete up to Commencement, 1891, shows that the graduates have had one hundred and twenty-six children born, and that other members have had sixty-six. From these numbers eight children of graduates have died and five of other members.

We have dined together three times since the last Report was issued, and have held a meeting at Cambridge each Commencement Day. Detailed accounts of our dinners and our meetings will be found elsewhere, as will also be an account of the Memorial Hall Window and the Report of the Committee that had charge of it, and a statement of the Class Finances.

Somewhat over a third of our number is living in or near Boston, while the cities of Boston and New York and their immediate vicinity hold over half of our number. The rest of the Class, with few exceptions, is widely scattered over the Northern States. In the Southern States there are only three or four Seventy-eight men, which is natural, considering how few came into our Class from the South. Harvard College and the Southern States had not got into line again in 1874, when we entered College. In Canada one of our number is living permanently, though from choice and not for cause, and in Europe, two.

The members of our Class have made themselves and their Harvard College education felt in all the learned professions, and in almost every reputable calling; and while some may not have been as successful as their fellows, it is pleasant to think that the rule is a good name, prosperity, and success.

I offer you all, wherever you may be, my congratulations for past successes and my best wishes for future prosperity.

Sincerely your Classmate and Secretary,

JOSEPH C. WHITNEY.

124 MARLBOROUGH STREET, BOSTON,

April 22, 1892.

(Circular No. 13.)

March 25, 1890.

"Please read this circular through and write your answer on the sheet attached, as soon as you possibly can. . . . Let your writing be so legible when you write proper names that an expert in hand-

writing can read it. Beyond proper names you need take no special pains about your writing, as your manuscript will be placed in the hands of compositors who can guess at almost any chirography, from the context, when words in common use are intended; but if instead of abbreviating words you will write them out in full, you will greatly aid the Secretary in his task of preparing the Class Report that he has hopes there will be a sufficient number of answers to this circular to warrant.

"In telling your stories make them connected and with due regard to the sequence of events. . . . The innately modest who were so chary of any account of themselves when the last Report was issued had best lay modesty aside and give an account of their doings from the time they graduated, or rather from the time they left College. Of course many of you want to know what to write about. Half of you know now and do not need to be told, but to others a few suggestions will not be out of place. Unless the last Report gave information on these points, be sure and give your wife's maiden name in full, if you are married, also the date and place of your marriage and the name of the clergyman or magistrate who performed the ceremony, the dates of births of children and their names, also the places and dates of any deaths of wife or children.

"Give occupations, professions, or businesses in which you have been engaged, when, where, and with whom; any degrees or honors received; the titles of any books or pamphlets written and a description of them.

"Give accounts of your travels; the names of associations, societies, and political organizations of which you have been a member, and dates; offices and positions of trust held by you, especially any political offices, and terms of service; anything else that has occurred in your life that will make your account of yourself connected, and interesting for others to read.

"To vary the monotony of the stereotyped Class Report, I wish that every one of you who answers this circular would incorporate in his record one of those delightful anecdotes that we all of us like to tell our friends about ourselves, and that we implicitly believe has happened to us, but about which the friends to whom we tell the story are apt to be incredulous. You all of you have had some experience, some accident, or something has happened in