

**EZEKIEL CHEEVER,
SCHOOLMASTER**

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Ezekiel Cheever, Schoolmaster by Elisabeth Porter Gould & Edward Everett Hale

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ELISABETH PORTER GOULD & EDWARD EVERETT HALE

EZEKIEL CHEEVER, SCHOOLMASTER

EZEKIEL · CHEEVER

HVVS · SCHOLAE · PRAECEPTOR
PER · ANNOS · PROPE · OCTO · ET · TRIGINTA
LONDINII · NATVS · A.D. MDCXIV · VIII · KAL. FEB.
IBI · EDVCATVS · IN · SCHOLA · CHRISTI · HOSPITAL · DICTA
IN · NYMERYM · CIVIVM · ACADEMICORVM · COLLEGII
EMMANVEL · IN · VNIVERSITATE · CANTABRIGIENSI
ASCITVS · A.D. MDCXXXII · PRIDIE · ID. IAN.
HANG · PETIIT · TERRAM · A.D. MDCXXXVII
PRAEPOSITVS · HVIC · SCHOLAE · A.D. MDCLXX · VIII · ID. IAN.
OBIIT · A.D. MDCCVIII · XII · KAL. SEPT.
VIXIT · PIE · ANNIS · LXXXIV

COTTON · MATHER · DISCIPVLVS · GRATVS · HVIC
OMNEM · NOVAE · ANGLIAE · ERVDITIONEM · ASCRIPSIT

TABLET IN THE BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL.

Ezekiel Cheever Schoolmaster

INTRODUCTION BY
EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D.



By Elizabeth Porter Gould

*Author of "JOHN ADAMS AND DANIEL WEBSTER AS SCHOOLMASTERS;"
"THE BROWNING AND AMERICA;" "ANNE GILCHRIST AND WALT WHIT-
MAN;" "A PIONEER DOCTOR;" "ONE'S SELF I SING AND OTHER POEMS."*

Introduction



I WAS greatly pleased when I learned that Miss Gould had consented to write the life of Ezekiel Cheever, for I knew how careful had been her study of the career of this interesting man. She knew more of him than anyone did; and now that I have read this valuable book, I need hardly say that I am delighted with her success.

I thought I knew something of Cheever myself. In one of the *Prize Books*, Mr. Benjamin A. Gould, the head master of the Latin School after 1816, had given a little sketch of Cheever's career; and as schoolboys in that old school we knew of his *Accidence*, and that he was one of the heroes of the school. I graduated at that school in 1835. The exhibition exercises of our class marked the second centennial anniversary of the school. In 1840 the Latin School Association was formed, of which I have now the honor to be President. I was the first Secretary of that Society and I edited its first catalogue. It thus became my pleasant duty to find what I then could of Cheever's life, and I like to acknowledge here the help which I received from that distinguished historian, Mr. Samuel Francis Haven, the accomplished Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society.

I say all this because it is with peculiar satisfaction, I may even say surprise, that in reading Miss Gould's book I see that she has found clues which we had not

suspected, and has so followed them back that she presents Cheever to us in our generation as a character much more real than he was even to the Latin School boys of fifty years ago. The history of New England is much better known than it was sixty years ago; and whoever traces the annals, which are so interesting, of the steps which made out of a trading corporation an independent state in one hundred and fifty years, has to consider among the initial agencies of that advance the education freely given by the State. Miss Gould has done me the honor to print at length in her Appendix a paper of mine prepared for *Education*. I have said in that paper that I do not believe that any other trading village in the world in the eighteenth century gave to one third of its boys and young men such instruction in the Latin language as Boston did. Whether trade carried them to Cadiz, to Lisbon, to Havana, to Brest, or anywhere else in the world, they could speak in the Latin language to the foreigner. No man can follow the history of the American Revolution without accounting for the make-up of such men as Sam Adams, James Bowdoin, Henry Knox, Joseph Warren, John Hancock. Four of these were pupils of the Boston Latin School, and Warren would not have been Warren but for its avail as a metropolitan school.

When one says this, he ought to know what made a school like that. Mr. Emerson left to us no wiser phrase than when he said, "It does not matter so much what you study as with whom you study." Who gave the Boston Latin School its repute? Who set the stand-

ard for the little village, which, at the common charge, gave every boy the best training of which that time had any idea?

Simply it was EZEKIEL CHERVER, in the years between 1639 and 1708.

A first-rate life of such a man makes a very important addition to the history of New England.

EDWARD E. HALE.

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