MEMOIR OF GEORGE BARRELL EMERSON, LL.D. PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAY 10, 1883

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649503346

Memoir of George Barrell Emerson, LL.D. Presented at the Meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, May 10, 1883 by Robert C. Waterston

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ROBERT C. WATERSTON

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Trieste

With the Writer's

best regards.

BOSTON, 71 CHESTER SQUARE,

1884.

Geo. B. Emerson

MEMOIR

OF

GEORGE BARRELL EMERSON, LL.D.

BY

ROBERT C. WATERSTON.

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With a Supplement.

CAMBRIDGE:
JOHN WILSON AND SON.
University Press.
1884.

MEMOIR.

In the town of Wells, Maine (then a part of Massachusetts), Sept. 12, 1797, George B. Emerson was born; and in March, 1881, at the house of his son-in-law, Hon. John Lowell, at Chestnut Hill, Brookline, he died, at the advanced age of eighty-four. His father was an able physician, a graduate of Harvard, a man of uncommon ability, with scholarly tastes and acquirements. Beloved and respected, he not only had a wide professional practice, but he made the schools a special object of his care. In the choice and appointment of teachers he was consulted, and as a visitor of the district schools his face was familiar, while his counsel and encouragement were always welcome. He had the right word both for parents and pupils, and exerted a beneficent influence wherever he went. Mr. Emerson's grandfather was a clergyman in Hollis, New Hampshire, and he not only was a very acceptable preacher, but he was widely known through all the county of Hillsborough for the pre-eminent skill with which he fitted young men for college. Thus the rare gift of teaching seemed to have been transmitted from generation to generation. As an inherited quality it had come down from father to son, not evidently wearing itself out, but gaining, with time, fresh impulse and inspiration.

Mr. Emerson's boyhood had nothing in it of special excitement. He was contented and happy with the simplest