

A HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO CLUB

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A History of the Chicago Club by Edward T. Blair

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EDWARD T. BLAIR

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THE CHICAGO CLUB



HENRY W. BISHOP
PRESIDENT 1892-94



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CHICAGO: MDCCCXCVIII

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1918

IN different ways and through various disadvantages our attention has been called to the losses suffered by the Club in the total destruction of its records by the fire of 1871, and the partial destruction of the same by fire, November 3, 1887, and to the total absence of any system for the preservation of our current documentary history. The Club has, for example, no file of its Annual Reports. We have not even copies of any of our Club books as issued from time to time. We have, therefore, invited Mr. Edward T. Blair to undertake the task of preparing and publishing for us a history of our Club from its very beginning, and he has kindly accepted the responsibility. Such a work will be of the greatest interest to us all, and will be an important contribution to the history of Chicago.

—TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CHICAGO CLUB

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Few remain of the generation which founded the Chicago Club, and as its early records were destroyed by fire, it has been thought desirable to preserve in permanent form what can be gathered from those still living of the early history of the club and its members. In writing of those who have gone before it is impossible to avoid personal mention of some who were prominently associated with them, although they are still among us. The writer, however, has made an effort to do this with discrimination, lest any should be unduly elated or depressed. The position the Chicago Club has occupied in its own sphere is unique. It has not only been the pioneer club of the West, and the parent from which many similar institutions have been modeled, but it has been practically without a rival in its

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own field. Being for many years the only club in the city, it may be said, without boasting, to have included all of Chicago's prominent citizens who have had any use for a club, a patronage which in other cities is usually found divided.

E. T. B.