

**A STORY HISTORICAL OF
CORNELL UNIVERSITY:
WITH BIOGRAPHIES OF
DISTINGUISHED CORNELLIANS**

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A Story Historical of Cornell University: With Biographies of Distinguished Cornellians by
Murray Edward Poole

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MURRAY EDWARD POOLE

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DISTINGUISHED CORNELLIANs

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BY
MURRAY EDWARD POOLE, LL.D., D.C.L.

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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

OF THE
AMERICAN

TO

ANDREW DICKSON WHITE

FIRST PRESIDENT OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

"THERE WAS A PALE-FACED YOUNG PROFESSOR IN A WESTERN UNIVERSITY WHO
DREAMED A DREAM; IT WAS OF A GREAT UNIVERSITY WHERE THERE
WOULD BE MORE LIBERAL TEACHINGS."

"WE ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH THE SHIP (CORNELL UNIVERSITY)!
THERE STANDS HER BUILDER (MRS. CORNELL)!
THERE STANDS HER CAPTAIN (ANDREW D. WHITE)!
THERE STAND HER OFFICERS AND CREW (THE PROFESSORS)!
THERE STAND HER PASSENGERS (THE STUDENTS)!"

[PARAPHRASE OF THE SPEECH OF GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS AT THE
OPENING OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY]

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FOREWORD

It was thought that this was an opportune time, on the eve of Cornell University's Semi-Centennial, to publish a book, giving a history of the University, and also showing what Cornellians have accomplished in the world.

The plan and scope of this work includes a brief history of the University; an announcement of the coming celebration and grand reunion; biographies of the founder, presidents and acting presidents; a list of distinguished professors (other than Cornellians who will be found later in the alumni list, herein), giving their chairs, and years of service at Cornell, and any other important position held, or work done by them either before coming to, or after leaving, Cornell; biographies of distinguished alumni, arranged first by classes, commencing with that of '69, and then, for a cross-reference, by public offices, positions, professions and occupations (though this arrangement may be reversed); followed by an alphabetical index.

The basis of representation in this work is the ability to appear in published books of biography of distinguished Americans.

There are also included a few who deserve recognition but have been overlooked. A few have been chosen because of their special interest to Cornellians. There are but few names from recent classes, say those of the past ten or fifteen years.

It is regretted that the names of all the alumni can not appear, but, as they number 27,000, it is not possible in a book of such limited space.

This book is of Cornell and Cornellians, for Cornellians primarily, by a Cornellian, and may also appeal to the general reading public. It seemed presumptuous for the author to write even a brief history of Cornell University, after reading Professor W. T. Hewitt's valuable and comprehensive "History" in three large volumes, and the valuable contribution to University history found in President White's fine literary production, "An Autobiography," and Alonzo B. Cornell's history (data for the future historian he calls it) of his father, Ezra Cornell, the founder.

The author felt some timidity in approaching the subject, particularly the literary side, and stated his fears to President White. "Oh," said he, "sail right in, and give your ideas in your own way, only don't use big words unless it be necessary." So, here we sail, and, if we lose compass, rudder, sails and all, yet will we cling to the good old ship "Cornell" till we get through.

As the only graduate in a regular undergraduate course to undertake such a work, we may see Cornell affairs from a different view-point than the other writers, and we will try to give our impressions as briefly and tersely as possible, only we feel put upon our mettle, to think that a layman undertakes the work, when there are so many brilliant literary and historical writers at the University to undertake it—but they don't.