

HARVARD REMINISCENCES

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Harvard Reminiscences by Andrew P. Peabody

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ANDREW P. PEABODY

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REMINISCENCES**

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REMINISCENCES

BY

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PREFACE.

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My purpose in this book is to give my reminiscences of the college officers whose names appeared with mine in the several annual catalogues in which I was registered as undergraduate, theological student, and tutor. Of some of these men I have very little, of others much, to say. Much of what I tell, I saw and heard: the rest was derived from authentic sources of information. I undertake this work mainly because it ought to be done, and there are few who are old enough, yet able, to do it. There were, sixty years ago, associated with the several departments of the University, men who ought not to be forgotten, yet of whose worth and services there remains no record except in the fading memory of their few surviving pupils, as whose self-appointed representative I write. I have adopted the order of graduation for my sketches,

which embrace fifty-six years of college-age, from 1776 to 1831 (inclusive).

To these biographical notices, I have appended a chapter containing some of my reminiscences of Harvard College as it was during my novitiate as a student.

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HARVARD REMINISCENCES.

AARON DEXTER.

(1776.)

THIS was the only name on the catalogue in my college days that bore the then rare and almost mysterious title of *Emeritus*, which Dr. Dexter retained for thirteen years, after having filled the chair of Chemistry and Materia Medica for thirty-three years. In his time chemistry was almost an unknown territory, while the field of *materia medica* was immeasurably large; drugs and (so-called) specifics having been not only in more ample use, but employed in a very much greater variety, than in the practice of the present day. Dr. Dexter was chosen to office in 1788, — the year after the formation of the Medical School. His professorship was unendowed until 1790, when William Erving, moved by affection for Dr. Dexter, his physician and friend, left a thousand pounds, the income thereof to be applied to the increase of the salary of the Professor of Chemistry. Hence the name of the Erving Professorship now held by Professor Cooke. In 1816 Dr. Dexter ten-

dered his resignation, which was accepted with a vote recognizing "his good services to the cause of science, and his zealous attachment to the interests of the University."

HENRY WARE.

(1785.)

DR. WARE was born in Sherborn, Mass., in 1764. His father was a farmer; and, till his father's death in 1779, he performed on the farm such labor as was not beyond his strength, with no intermission except attendance at a ten-weeks' winter school. He once told me that he nearly lost his life in what, half a century ago, was still called "the great snow,"—a storm, which, in rapidity and depth of snowfall, had not then been equalled within the memory of man. He had ridden to mill for his father; and on his return, with the impediment of heavy meal-bags, he and his horse were so far buried in the snow, that he was extricated with difficulty, and hardly alive.

I first saw Dr. Ware when he examined me in the Greek Testament, on my admission to college. I was then profoundly impressed by his paternal bearing and manner, and by the rare blending of sanctity and sweetness in his deportment. He thus in my early boyhood won my affectionate reverence; and in after-years, when I was associated with him in the college Faculty, and a frequent visitor at his house, I revered him none the less, and could hardly love him more.