WILLIAM H. BALDWIN: PRESIDENT OF THE BOSTON YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN UNION 1868 TO 1907

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William H. Baldwin: President of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union 1868 to 1907 by Various

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VARIOUS

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PRESIDENT EMERITUS

July 1, 1907, to June 8, 1909

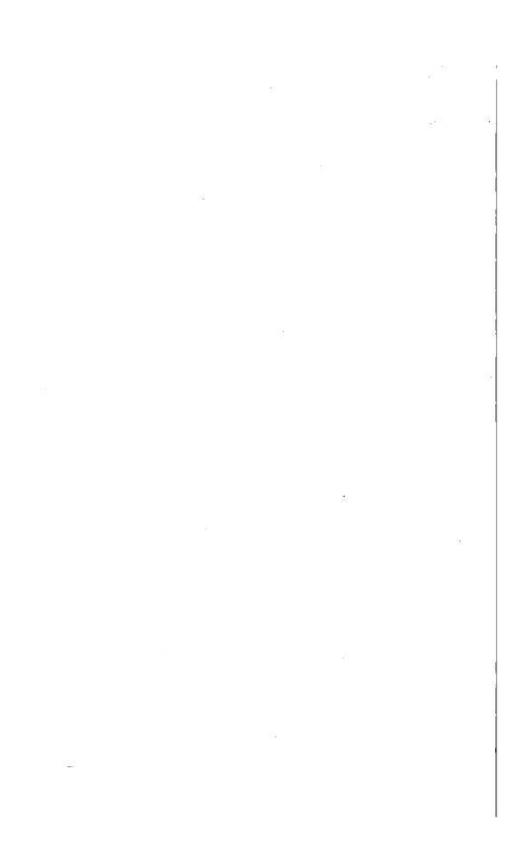
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1910

This brief account of the life of William H. Baldwin has been prepared on behalf of the Board of Government of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union for distribution amongst its members, in loving memory of their honored President for so many years.

It seems most fitting to open this memorial with an introduction by one who for many years was close to Mr. Baldwin in the work for humanity; who knew the work that he was doing; who has lived for young men as he lived for them, and who, while President of Harvard College, showed his appreciation of the life of William H. Baldwin by offering to him at that time, on behalf of Harvard University, an honorary degree in recognition of his devoted life.

George S. Baldwin, Boston, May 15, 1910.

A further account of the life of William H. Baldwin may be found in "An American Citizen" (the life of William H. Baldwin, Jr.), by John Graham Brooks, soon to be brought out by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.



A TRIBUTE

BY

DR. CHARLES W. ELIOT PRESIDENT EMEBITUS OF HABVARD UNIVERSITY

It is for the public good that such a man as William H. Baldwin should be remembered, and his experience be set forth to encourage others to disinterested labors and to helpful and sympathetic relations with society and especially with the young. His life was long and full, and it was happy beyond that of most men. He had the respect and good will of all who knew him, and as his life went on his satisfactions increased. He saw the good fruits of his work. He encountered many trials and sorrows; but joys abounded, and greatly predominated. His work grew, and he grew with it. Its disinterested quality enlarged him.

His example is all the better for young Americans because he possessed no remarkable gifts or acquirements of either body or mind. He was very energetic and industrious, and he had a contagious enthusiasm in doing good. When he asked people to give money or labor to the Young Men's Christian Union,



he fanned into flame within them every spark of public spirit or humane feeling which was still aglow. When he talked to young men about health, purity, honesty and honor, he made them see that genuine success and happiness are found only on the path of virtuous living. He was cheerful and hopeful, and expected good from nature and mankind. His religious faith was broad and free, and had in it no element of exclusiveness or of distrust towards man or God. He brought up happily a large family, and saw them making themselves useful in their turn.

Such are the normal joys and satisfactions of diligent and disinterested living. Such a career any healthy, sensible, right-minded young American, who means to make good will to men the keynote of his life, may reasonably aspire to. He may not attain to William H. Baldwin's full measure of success, but he will travel through life the happiest road.

WILLIAM H. BALDWIN

WILLIAM H. BALDWIN was born on October 20, 1826, in the town of Brighton, which later became a part of Boston, Mass., the son of Henry Baldwin and Mary Brackett Baldwin. His boyhood was spent in Brighton, where he attended the public schools, also the private school of Mr. Josiah Rutter, graduating from the Brighton High School in 1843.

Immediately after graduation he entered the employ of Messrs. Kelley & Spring of Brighton, their business being that of dry goods, clothing, tailoring, boots and shoes, etc. At that time Brighton Village was a very active place, being the center of a large

cattle market.

To quote from some of Mr. Baldwin's own

writings on the subject:

"The days were long for a young man in such a store as this where I had my first experience. Up early in the morning, down to the store before breakfast, unlock the store, take down the wooden shutters, sweep the store, also the piazza and sidewalk, dust the entire store, trim the camphene lamps, display some merchandise on the piazza, wash up and make myself ready to go to my home for breakfast as soon as one of the firm should make his morning appearance.

"From early in the morning to late in the evening, from nine to ten o'clock, and on