

**SIXTY YEARS'
MEMORIES OF
ART AND ARTISTS**

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Sixty years' memories of art and artists by Benjamin Champney

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BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY

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BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY.

Art. B
C

*Sixty Years' Memories
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Art and Artists.*

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By BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY.

WOBURN, MASS.,
MCM.

DEDICATION.

I reverently dedicate this little volume of memories to the dear friends among the artists, who in my earlier life were my fellow students, good companions and earnest sympathizers in all my aspirations for development in art. Their encouragement was always a stimulus to renewed effort,—but, alas! they have fallen by the way, and I have now only the memory of their kindness and loving comradeship.

PREFACE.

I have to apologize to the readers of this little book of "memories" for appearing before the public as a writer, for I have no claims to literary merit. My friends have urged me to this because they say I am one of the very few links remaining to connect the older generation of artists with the present schools, and they have thought what I might say of the long past and succeeding years might be of interest at the present time to students in art. Much of this story was written some six or seven years ago and put aside as of no value, but again I was urged to go on, and now have recorded my impressions and clear recollections of times past.

B. C.

Woburn, 1900.

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I.

I WAS born at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, November 20, 1817, my father, Benjamin Champney, a lawyer by profession, having resided there for many years, and where he was associated with my grandfather, Ebenezer Champney, in the transaction of law business. My father was unfortunate in business, and when he died, my mother—whose maiden name was Rebecca Brooks—was left with seven children to look after, and with little to depend upon.

I remember my father well as a kind, gentlemanly man, with scholarly tastes and urbane manners. I remember when I was about five years of age he took me on his lap one evening, and to amuse me drew upon a slate a head in profile of a man. Nothing could have amused or amazed me more than this. It seemed to me almost like magic, and awakened a dormant love for drawing unknown till then. At that time in a country place nothing in the way of art was to