

**SAMUEL BILLINGS
CAPEN; HIS
LIFE AND WORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649208531

Samuel Billings Capen; his life and work by Chauncy J. Hawkins

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHAUNCY J. HAWKINS

**SAMUEL BILLINGS
CAPEN; HIS
LIFE AND WORK**



Samuel B. Capen.

SAMUEL BILLINGS CAPEN

HIS LIFE AND WORK

by

CHAUNCY J. HAWKINS

Author of : The Mind of Whittier : Will the Home Survive
The Ned Brewster Books : Etc.



THE PILGRIM PRESS

BOSTON : NEW YORK : CHICAGO

Copyright, 1914
by
Luther H. Cary

THE PILGRIM PRESS
BOSTON

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I HIS PLACE IN OUR TIME	1
II THE MAKING OF THE MAN	9
III BUSINESS CAREER	22
IV PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PUBLISHING SOCIETY	32
V THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE	53
VI PRESIDENT OF THE BOSTON MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	79
VII IDEALS OF CITIZENSHIP	95
VIII INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION	111
IX PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BOARD	127
X MAKING DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY	153
XI THE LAYMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT	164
XII WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES	179
XIII THE JOURNEY ABROAD	193
XIV THE FUNDAMENTAL MOTIVE	227
XV CHARACTERISTICS	236
XVI THE LAST DAYS AND RESUME	248

CHAPTER I

HIS PLACE IN OUR TIME

Some men are great because of certain powers they possess within themselves. Others are great and are remembered by posterity because of what they have accomplished. Homer, Dante, Abraham Lincoln, were great souls apart from anything they did; they possessed that divine gift we call genius and they belong by birth to the immortals. Others are not great either by virtue of their intellect or imagination, but impelled by their consecration to some fine ideal they accomplish important results which compel us to hold them in loving remembrance. They are great because of what they do.

In this latter class we must place Samuel Billings Capen, a man who belonged to what may be truly called the new Christianity and who brought about results that have made a distinct impression upon the social and religious life of our time.

The excuse for adding another biography to the many that have come to our generation is that Mr. Capen stood for an ideal which is becoming increasingly the glory of the Christian Church, an ideal which is saving the Church from the shame which had come upon her and promises to make her the most glorious of all the institutions of tomorrow. To call our age materialistic is far from

SAMUEL BILLINGS CAPEN

the truth. Our age is in some respects the most idealistic of all times. The fight for social righteousness has never enlisted so many brave hearts nor been so intense as at the present hour. The cry for economic justice and for a more democratic method both in the production and the distribution of wealth, the demand for civic righteousness, for the substitution of arbitration for war, for the promotion of peace and good will between nations, and the growing consciousness of the need for the brotherhood of rich and poor, employer and employed, have never been so intense or persistent. Editors, lecturers, social workers and clergymen have all become preachers whose gospel is that of the social uplift.

Yet in spite of this fact, it is also probably true that there were never more men living on the outside of things than at the present hour. The great springs of life are not only neglected; they are mistrusted. The confidence of man is placed in the dollar rather than in ideals, in material conditions and comforts rather than in the soul of Christianity. Men are living by bread alone rather than by the words that proceed out of the mouth of God. They deem it much more important to "get in on the ground floor" of a paying business than to spend time in the Upper Room, and consider it more worth while to stand among many with the winning interests than to stand alone with God.

This subtle distrust in idealism, though few men will confess to it, gives form today to the working creed of the vast majority of men. It is at bottom