ADDRESS OF MARTIN P. KENNARD, IN BEHALF OF THE SUBSCRIBING CITIZENS, ON PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN OF A MEMORIAL PORTRAIT OF THE LATE BRIG.-GEN'L EDWARD AUGUSTUS WILD Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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Address of Martin P. Kennard, In behalf of the subscribing citizens, on presentation to the town of a memorial portrait of the late Brig.-Gen'l Edward Augustus Wild by Martin P. Kennard

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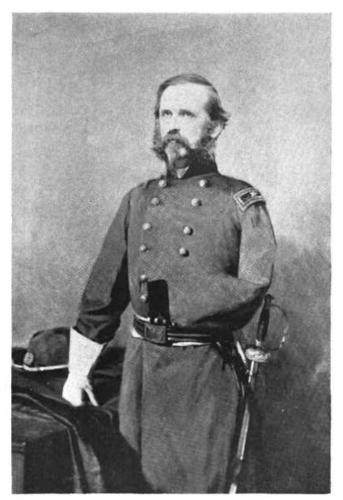
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MARTIN P. KENNARD

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BRIGADIER-GENERAL EDWARD AUGUSTUS WILD. From a painting by J. Hervey Young. The head a study from a photograph taken in 1863.

ADDRESS OF MARTIN P. KENNARD,

IN BEHALF OF THE SUBSCRIBING CITIZENS, ON PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN OF A

MEMORIAL PORTRAIT

OF THE LATE

BRIG. GEN'L EDWARD AUGUSTUS WILD,

TOURTHER WITH THE

RESPONSE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
AND THE IMPROMPTU REMARKS OF OTHER
GENTLEMEN PRESENT.

BROOKLINE, MASS.: PRINTED FOR THE TOWN. 1894. us 6293,15.5

THEYARD COLLEGE THEY ARY

BROUKLINE, MASS.:
PRESS OF C. A. W. SPENCEN,
MARYARD SQUARE.

1200

THE Great Civil War of 1861-5 in the United States will ever hold a conspicuous place in the world's history, for its magnitude, and as one inevitable in the moral advancement and civil progress of its time.

This inadequate portrayal of the remarkable career and character of Edward Augustus Wild, a cherished son of Brookline, as set forth in the following pages, with the presentation to the town of his memorial portrait, May 24th, 1893, was not prompted by a too zealous partisanship or from the partiality of social relations, but because of his unalloyed patriotism and his signal service in that contention, in the cause of the Union, and when under its strain the administration of Abraham Lincoln called for the aid of loyal men.

The initial steps for this presentation were informally taken by the following well-known citizens, General Wild's cotemporaries, familiar with his life, and who thus realized the public duty of giving him exemplary permanence in the annals of the town, viz.: Edward Atkinson, William I. Bowditch, John W. Candler, William L. Candler, Dr. Tappan E. Francis, Williard Y. Gross, Charles E. Hapgood, Martin P. Kennard, Albert L. Lincoln, Jr., James P. Stearns and Fergus B. Turner.

At the meeting of this self-acting committee the subject was delegated to a sub-committee with full powers, consisting of Mr. Kennard, Mr. Lincoln, and Col. William L. Candler.

The suggestions of these gentlemen were readily responded to by the generous contributions of the citizens at large, and it is gratifying that the town authorities, in concert with the popular feeling, supplemented this action by the publication of the proceedings at the expense of the town.

M. P. K.

DECEMBER, 1893.

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ADDRESS OF MARTIN P. KENNARD.

Mr. Chairman of the Selectmen, the Trustees of the Public Library, and Fellow-Citizens:

In conformity with the patriotic and well-timed thought of the Chandler Post, G. A. R., of this town, that some appreciative memorial of Brookline's distinguished son, the late General Edward Augustus Wild, should be considered, a meeting of a number of our citizens was called to confer upon the subject. This conference, with warm unanimity, deemed it desirable to perpetuate, as far as possible, the interesting personality of a citizen who had won such renown, by a commemorative portrait of him for a gift to the town, to be tendered as a spontaneous and enduring tribute of his fellow-citizens to his virtues and valor. It was also their wish that this portrait, with your permission, should be placed in this hall of the Public Library, in the custody of its Trustees, and to that end the gracious duty of its presentation was delegated to a committee with full powers.

That committee, Mr. Chairman, I have now the honor to represent, and while its obligations are in some degree pleasurable, still the occasion comes tinged with the shadow of another and a more recent sorrow. He of this committee, and the one of us all who from his long intimacy and affectionate admiration for his comrade, having achieved with him much signal service in the field, whose amiable and unselfish interest in this object gave inspiration to his colleagues, and to whom they looked as the one especially fitted for this duty, which has now unhappily devolved upon me, has, pending the consummation of this felicity, suddenly been called to join the innumerable army that has passed into the infinite silence.

The inseparable names of General Edward A. Wild and Colonel William L. Candler are thus in the order of events entwined anew in our regard, and with added reason associated in our local annals.

Ordinarily, it would be well-nigh superfluous for me, here in this presence, or indeed in Brookline, to dilate upon the achievements of General Wild, or otherwise than succinctly allude to his citizenship and interesting military record.

But, Mr. Chairman, in the swift flight of time a generation has passed since the advent of that grievous epoch, when the guns of a misguided and rebellious State were trained on Fort Sumter, and a slave-holding oligarchy threw down the gauntlet of war against our union of States and the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln; and, therefore, a brief and incidental mention of General Wild's extraordinary career, marked especially by his early enlistment in the defence of the Union, and his uncompromising and patriotic devotion thereto until its establishment was assured, may be pardoned on this occasion.

General Wild was descended from old English stock. He was born in Brookline, Nov. 25, 1825, and, like his pleasantly remembered father, the late Charles Wild, M. D., of this town, was a graduate of Harvard College. His class was that of 1844. He studied medicine and began its practice here in 1847. He, however, went abroad for study, and for further hospital experience, in 1848, and during a rejuvenating pedestrian tour in Switzerland was tempted to go down into Italy. Europe was then in the throcs of a halting republicanism, and many dynasties seemed to be tottering. It was an interesting and exceptional era of political unrest. Louis Philippe had been dethroned, and France was an incipient republic under the lead of Lamartine and his associates, while Louis Napoleon had not yet by his audacity beguiled that people to accept his presidency, under the leverage of which, in his selfish ambition to found a dynasty, he subsequently usurped political power and grasped the imperial sceptre! Germany was struggling for unity and for the setting aside of no end of petty monarchies and titular creations claiming inheritance of divine right,

"Drawn from the mouldy rolls of Noah's ark."

Frederick William the Fourth, King of Prussia, and brother of the future Emperor William the First, was then busy with the stamping out of republican fire, and with the expatriation of such political re-