

**THE LIFE OF
GEORGE
AUGUSTUS GATES**

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The Life of George Augustus Gates by Isabel Smith Gates

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FOREWORD

I SEND this little book out with fear and trembling lest it may seem an unworthy offering. It is not a literary production, it is not a critical estimate of a man's worth to his fellow-creatures, nor to the institutions to which his life was related. It was not written for the public, nor with this larger world in thought, but because of inward compulsion and the joy found in the work, as well as with a desire to leave on record for my sons a summary of their father's life and something concerning the spirit in which his life was lived. Many of the inner circle who have read this sketch feel that because of its intimate touch it has special and peculiar value for that large number of young men and women who have spent their happy college years under his administration. So, I take courage and send it forth to speak its own message in its own way.

ISABEL SMITH GATES.

Cambridge, Mass.,
April, 1915.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
FOREWORD	v
GEORGE AUGUSTUS GATES	ix
I BOYHOOD AND YOUTH	1
II LIFE AT GRINNELL COLLEGE	11
III A YEAR IN THE PASTORATE	27
IV THE YEARS AT POMONA COLLEGE	33
V PRESIDENT OF FISK UNIVERSITY	45
VI THE LAST CHAPTER	55



GEORGE AUGUSTUS GATES

A TRIBUTE

My first meeting with President Gates occurred shortly after his acceptance of the presidency of Iowa College. I was leaving for my first year in Europe; he had already spent some years there. In a few incisive and memorable words he gave me advice for which I am under lasting obligations. How often did I recall and act upon it when hesitation through diffidence or doubt would have meant failure to attain a much desired end. So I became, at the very beginning, acquainted with one of our President's most characteristic traits, his clear-sighted, direct and ready helpfulness.

When I returned to the college a full year of the new administration had passed and I was struck by certain manifest changes. There was new order and decorum in chapel, an achievement which had long baffled the earnest efforts of an experienced faculty. "How has this been done?" I asked, and the only answer I could get was, "Gates did it." This was not sufficient for me. I wanted to know *how* Gates did it. No one could tell me; and after serving with him in most confidential relations for many years I am still unable to fully explain