

**A STORY HISTORICAL OF
CORNELL UNIVERSITY,
WITH BIOGRAPHIES OF
DISTINGUISHED CORNELLIANS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649078745

A story historical of Cornell University, with biographies of distinguished Cornellians by
Murray Edward Poole

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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MURRAY EDWARD POOLE

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BY
MURRAY EDWARD POOLE, LL.D., D.C.L.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

1916
PUBLISHED BY
THE CAYUGA PRESS
ITHACA, N. Y.

TO

ANDREW DICKSON WHITE

FIRST PRESIDENT OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

"THERE WAS A PALE-FACED YOUNG PROFESSOR IN A WESTERN UNIVERSITY WHO
DREAMED A DREAM; IT WAS OF A GREAT UNIVERSITY WHERE THERE
WOULD BE MORE LIBERAL TEACHINGS."

"WE ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH THE SHIP (CORNELL UNIVERSITY)!
THERE STANDS HER BUILDER (EZRA CORNELL)!
THERE STANDS HER CAPTAIN (ANDREW D. WHITE)!
THERE STAND HER OFFICERS AND CREW (THE PROFESSOR)!
THERE STAND HER PASSENGERS (THE STUDENTS)!"

[PARAPHRASE OF THE SPEECH OF GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS AT THE
OPENING OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY]

FOREWORD

It was thought that this was an opportune time, on the eve of Cornell University's Semi-Centennial, to publish a book, giving a history of the University, and also showing what Cornellians have accomplished in the world.

The plan and scope of this work includes a brief history of the University; an announcement of the coming celebration and grand reunion; biographies of the founder, presidents and acting presidents; a list of distinguished professors (other than Cornellians who will be found later in the alumni list, herein), giving their chairs, and years of service at Cornell, and any other important position held, or work done by them either before coming to, or after leaving, Cornell; biographies of distinguished alumni, arranged first by classes, commencing with that of '69, and then, for a cross-reference, by public offices, positions, professions and occupations (though this arrangement may be reversed); followed by an alphabetical index.

The basis of representation in this work is the ability to appear in published books of biography of distinguished Americans.

There are also included a few who deserve recognition but have been overlooked. A few have been chosen because of their special interest to Cornellians. There are but few names from recent classes, say those of the past ten or fifteen years.

It is regretted that the names of all the alumni can not appear, but, as they number 27,000, it is not possible in a book of such limited space.

This book is of Cornell and Cornellians, for Cornellians primarily, by a Cornellian, and may also appeal to the general reading public. It seemed presumptuous for the author to write even a brief history of Cornell University, after reading Professor W. T. Hewitt's valuable and comprehensive "History" in three large volumes, and the valuable contribution to University history found in President White's fine literary production, "An Autobiography," and Alonzo B. Cornell's history (data for the future historian he calls it) of his father, Ezra Cornell, the founder.

The author felt some timidity in approaching the subject, particularly the literary side, and stated his fears to President White. "Oh," said he, "sail right in, and give your ideas in your own way, only don't use big words unless it be necessary." So, here we sail, and, if we lose compass, rudder, sails and all, yet will we cling to the good old ship "Cornell" till we get through.

As the only graduate in a regular undergraduate course to undertake such a work, we may see Cornell affairs from a different view-point than the other writers, and we will try to give our impressions as briefly and tersely as possible, only we feel put upon our mettle, to think that a layman undertakes the work, when there are so many brilliant literary and historical writers at the University to undertake it—but they don't.

The author hopes that he will be pardoned if at times he appears to use large or flowery language, for he can not bring himself to speak in commonplace terms of the great University and its makers and teachers.

With these few remarks, we close, hoping that the verdict of the readers will not be against the University for anything that author has either said or omitted. Reader, be charitable. "Criticism is easy, art is difficult."

Ithaca, N. Y.

MURRAY E. POOLE, A.B., '80.

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SCHURMAN

To Graduates and Former Students of Cornell University:

Mr. Murray Poole informs me that, as a sort of contribution to the coming Semi-Centennial of the Foundation of the University, he is publishing a partial list of Cornellians, with a classification of the vocations they have followed, and notes of the distinctions they have achieved.

In response to Mr. Poole's request, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to send friendly greetings to the men and women who have been enrolled in Cornell University during the past forty-seven years of its existence. From the studies they pursued here, and the associations they formed, I am confident they have gained a larger and more intelligent outlook on the world, a deeper inspiration for their work, and enhanced ability to perform it, while the friendships they made in those student days have been among the most precious possessions of their lives.

The members of this great family will appreciate and be grateful for the nurture they have received from their Alma Mater. And now that she is to celebrate in 1918 the close of the first half-century of her existence, they will desire to express their sentiments in such varied manner as each may deem appropriate. I make no suggestions as to the manner in which Cornellians may best express their feelings on this interesting and historical occasion. But I do take this opportunity of expressing the hope that all who find it practicable will revisit these scenes in October, 1918, and once more see their Alma Mater face to face.

JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN.

February 4, 1916.

GREETINGS FROM MRS. GERTRUDE SHORB MARTIN ADVISER OF WOMEN

Ithaca, N. Y., February 28, 1916.

To Fellow Alumnae and Former Women Students:

Mr. Poole has asked me, in connection with his forthcoming History of the University, to extend to you a special greeting in addition to the cordial words of greeting and invitation already addressed to you and your fellow alumni by President Schurman. Does the fact that it should be thought requisite,

or at least desirable, that a special word should be addressed to the alumnae imply a lingering sense of our separateness from the rest of the University? I have an uneasy suspicion that it does; that we who regard ourselves so confidently as true daughters of *Alma Mater* are still looked upon by some members of the family as changelings, slipped into the cradle by stealth, and to be admitted to full membership, if at all, only after prolonged scrutiny, and then not by right but by an act of grace.

Sed tempora mutantur. Last night I was reading in the current number of the Alumni News extracts from letters written by Goldwin Smith in the very early days of the University. "I believe," he wrote, "I have also done something towards averting, for the present, female students, a crotchet of Horace Greeley, who was driving us in that direction apace." That was written a trifle less than fifty years ago by one of the most scholarly and liberal minded men of his time. Since then co-education has become in this country the prevalent form of higher education for women. Out of the thousands of young women now pursuing their studies in institutions of higher learning, it is a constantly dwindling minority that find themselves in separate institutions for women. Horace Greeley's crotchet has gotten itself accepted as a normal social arrangement.

How bold a step it was that Cornell University took in admitting women almost from the beginning to equal privileges with men only those can know who have read the utterances of the period on the subject of co-education. The fact that this new institution, struggling for a foothold among the old and conservative institutions of the East, nevertheless had the courage to adopt so radical a policy, must always give it a special claim upon the affection and the loyalty of its women. With the approach of the semi-centennial celebration will come the opportunity for expression of that loyalty. I am confident that in the chorus of gratitude to *Alma Mater* that will be called forth by that occasion the feminine note will not be lacking.

Faithfully yours,

GERTRUDE S. MARTIN.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY : A STORY HISTORICAL

THE FOUNDING AND EARLY DAYS

Sons and daughters of fair Cornell,
Here's to her we love so well!

There is an old saying:

"Great oaks from little acorns grow."

There is another:

"There were giants in those days."

When we remember that only about fifty years ago, in the small inland town of Ithaca, on a barren hill-side farm, there was founded an institution of learning which has become one of the greatest in the world, we can liken it only to a modern instance of "Aladdin and his wonderful lamp." Ezra Cornell

could bring the young dreamer and afterwards great executive, Andrew D. White, and the latter could wave the magic wand of scholarship and bring a faculty of the most noted educators. The founder sank beside him, but he kept bravely on.

The one has left an imperishable name.

The other will be awarded a high niche in the Hall of Fame.

It is not our purpose to tell in detail the early struggles and calumny under which they labored, but only to strew roses in the way, as we approach the Golden Age of Cornell.

There was a beginning, of course. The magnetic telegraph flashed the money to the founder, and the kindly fates brought him face to face with the man who could point the way for both to become great benefactors of the human race.

Our *Alma Mater* owes its material existence to the combined bounty of Ezra Cornell and the State of New York.

It was chartered in 1865, and opened its doors to students in 1868. President White wished the infant university located in his home city, but Ezra Cornell chose, more wisely, his beloved Ithaca, where,

"Far above Cayuga's waters,
With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble *Alma Mater*,
Glorious to view."

—C. K. URQUHART '76.

on the most sightly and beautiful campus in the world.

No author has ever yet been able adequately to describe, or poet sing, or artist paint, the beautiful scene from its towers, with the quiet lake at the north, the busy city at the west, and the lovely vale lying to the south, with great gorges within the bounds of its campus, and down in their depths grand and beautiful falls, where dwells, according to Indian legend, "The Spirit of the Fall."

The 7th day of October, A.D. 1868, one of the most glorious in the history of Cornell, was set apart for the formal public exercises, when its doors were flung wide open to the student world. There were speeches by many distinguished orators.

There were at the opening nineteen professors, four assistant professors, and eight non-resident professors. The last named were a university all by themselves.

Three hundred students applied for admission, some of them from other colleges. Those early students were among the founders of the University.

They came to find Cornell University, as did the seekers after the "Golden Fleece," or Ponce De Leon after the "Fountain of Youth." They thought that they could study and work their way through—and many of them did.