

**DANGER SIGNALS: NUMBER
TWO, SECRET SOCIETIES
ILLUMINATED; WITNESSES TO
THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE HOME
AND CHURCH AND THE STATE**

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NEW ENGLAND CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

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PHILO CARPENTER.

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DANGER SIGNALS

NUMBER TWO

SECRET SOCIETIES ILLUMINATED

Witnesses to their Influence

The Home, the Church and the State

Edited and Supplied by
THE NEW ENGLAND CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, BOSTON

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PHILO CARPENTER.

As the portraiture of a lifelong friend of the Anti-secrecy reform, and especially as one of the leaders in the forward movement of these later years, the likeness of Philo Carpenter, given in the frontispiece, finds fitting place in this issue of DANGER SIGNALS.

Born, Savoy, Berkshire Co., Mass., Feb. 27, 1805: Died, Chicago, Aug. 6, 1886; these simply mark the limit of a life "by reason of strength" beyond fourscore. But

"We live in deeds, not years."

and the mere dates in the calendar reveal nothing of the quality of a life so full, so rich, and so resultful.

A true specimen,—approaching ideal,—of the Pilgrim stock in its differentiation from the Puritan, he was naturally a pioneer and leader in reform. Not gain so much as godliness was the moving force that urged him in the strength of his young manhood, to push westward as a pioneer in a land then almost a *terra incognita*.

A medical student and drug-clerk at Troy, N. Y., he had come under the influence of men like Beaman, and Finney and Kirk, and sharing, with other earnest Christians of the time, the conviction that danger threatened the highest interests of the country through the dominance of

Romanism in the Northwest, he counted it his simple duty to go thither, to help in pre-empting it for Christ. The sun had not gone down on the day of his arrival in Chicago ere he had sought out brethren there and arranged for a prayer-meeting before its close. Before the dawn of the Sunday following, notice had already been given of a Sabbath service, the first in an unbroken series reaching to the present hour.

He was, indeed, a pioneer "not slothful in business" as regards other matters. He had taken with him the first stock of drugs ever brought to the great City of the Lakes. Meeting the demands of an increasing business, he sent back to the Hudson for the first dray drawn on her uncertain streets, the first fire-proof (?) safe, and the first set of platform scales to find place in her commercial houses. The wondering eyes of the then largely half-breed town, saw him drive into the village with the first New England chaise that had ever crossed the Calumet; his interesting passenger the beautiful young bride he had brought from her Saratoga home,—according to tradition "the handsomest pair" of all these earlier days. But long ere this,—scarcely a month after he landed,—he had gathered and organized the first Sunday-school, of which he was himself the first superintendent. In the month succeeding he had drawn up and circulated the first temperance pledge, called the first temperance meeting, and the promised speaker failing him, made the first temperance address ever heard by a Chicago audience. And before the first anniversary day of his coming had arrived, he had

aided in the organization of the first church gathered, himself an elder from the beginning of its history.

As well was he found in the front rank in those days that truly "tried men's souls," when the battle was on for human rights, and the deliverance of his fellow-men from bondage. It cost something then to have the courage of one's convictions, and faithful adherence to Christ's own law of love as touching those then held in bondage, cost him, and others with him, disfellowship at the hands of his own brethren. But in no wise disconcerted or disheartened, he stood firm under the anathema of churchly authority, and as promptly as quietly gave notice before the very body that excommunicated him and those that stood with him, of divine service on the succeeding Sabbath. The little band sang for the first hymn at that service, "Cast thy burden on the Lord," and, in the days succeeding, having together sought "the way more perfectly," Deacon Carpenter led in the formation of the First Congregational Church of Chicago; his name still standing first in the long list of members of the church,—the pioneer of more than half a hundred others,—and he himself its honored "Deacon Emeritus," when this "Father of Congregationalism in Chicago" entered into his well-earned rest. Deeply interested in every good work,—religious, reformatory, educational; benevolent,—not least was his labor in the cause of Anti-secrecy. Of his benefactions, approximating, possibly exceeding, the amount of his entire estate at his decease, a large share had been devoted to the Anti-secrecy reform. While the Anti-

slavery struggle was yet on, he had said to the late Pres. Blanchard, "When we get along with this slave business, we must give our attention to the Lodge, and we must have a paper to represent us." "This," says Pres. Blanchard, "was the first word the writer ever heard about a paper. *The Cynosure* is that paper. He furnished money to issue the first number; he gave the building in which it is printed." He selected its motto-text, "In secret have I said nothing;" and only for his timely check, drawn whenever the balance persisted on the wrong side of the ledger, could it have been carried to the point of self-support, reached before the great Chicago fire of '71. His thought originated the \$50,000 Publishing Fund of the National Christian Association, with his own donation of its building laying the foundation of the fund. Of \$6,000 bequeathed for Anti-secrecy work, the larger share, expended under the direction of Dr. Jos. E. Roy, and his own daughters, Mrs. Cheney and Mrs. Hildreth, the latter of whom has already joined him in the Morning-land, has done good service in scattering reform literature at the South and West, and now aids in sending out this issue of Danger Signals. Earnest, devoted Christian that he was, modest in his own self-estimate, "every inch a gentleman, in every pulse a man," he well finds honored place among these honored names.