

**MEMORIAL OF ALEXANDER  
LYMAN HOLLEY, C. E., LL.  
D., BORN JULY 20, 1832,  
DIED JANUARY 29, 1882**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649230853

Memorial of Alexander Lyman Holley, C. E., LL. D., born July 20, 1832, died January 29, 1882  
by American Institute of Mining Engineers

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**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS**

**MEMORIAL OF ALEXANDER  
LYMAN HOLLEY, C. E., LL.  
D., BORN JULY 20, 1832,  
DIED JANUARY 29, 1882**





Yours truly  
A. F. Holly

MEMORIAL

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OF

ALEXANDER LYMAN HOLLEY, C.E. LL.D.

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS, VICE-  
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, VICE-  
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGI-  
NEERS, MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS,  
AND OF THE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE OF GREAT  
BRITAIN, ETC., ETC.

BORN JULY 20, 1832.

DIED JANUARY 29, 1882.

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PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS,  
AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

13 BURLING SLIP, NEW YORK CITY.

1884.

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
560384  
J. J. LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.  
1912

## CONTENTS.

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|   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| PREFACE, . . . . .  | 5    |
| I. Funeral Services, . . . . .  | 9    |
| II. Memorial Session of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, . . . . .                     | 18   |
| III. Memorial Session of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, . . . . .                  | 56   |
| IV. Memorial Resolutions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, . . . . .                    | 97   |
| V. Joint Action of the Three Societies, . . . . .   | 98   |
| VI. Memorial Address before the Three Societies, . . . . .  | 99   |
| VII. Catalogue of the Books, Professional Papers, etc., Written by Alexander L. Holley, . . . . . | 143  |
| VIII. Action of the Cleveland Civil Engineers' Club, . . . . .                                    | 151  |
| IX. Action of the Trustees of the Reussener Polytechnic Institute, . . . . .                      | 157  |
| X. Action of the Century Association, . . . . .   | 159  |
| XI. Action of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, . . . . .                            | 160  |
| XII. The Pittsburgh Testimonial, . . . . .  | 162  |
| XIII. Speech at the De Lesseps Banquet, . . . . .   | 167  |
| XIV. A Metallurgist's Ode to Spring, . . . . .  | 169  |
| XV. The Nomenclature of Iron and Steel, . . . . .   | 171  |
| XVI. The Manufacture of Iron and Steel, . . . . .   | 182  |
| XVII. Technical Education, . . . . .  | 205  |





## PREFACE.

THE Chairman of the Memorial Session of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, held at Washington in February, 1882, was charged with the duty of preparing an address, in commemoration of the life and life-work of ALEXANDER LYMAN HOLLEY, and the Council of the Institute was at the same time requested to take into consideration the publication of a Memorial Volume, to contain the above-mentioned address, the proceedings of that meeting, and such other matters as it might be deemed expedient to include in it.

In accordance with that request, the Council now issues the present volume, concerning the contents and scope of which a few words may fitly be said in this place.

It was evidently proper that the proceedings of other societies, as well as our own, in honor of Mr. Holley, should be published in this connection. Upon that head no explanation is needed, beyond the expression of regret that the record is incomplete—the action of various societies and the eulogies pronounced by many admirers not having been communicated to the secretary of the Institute. The testimony of the press, technical and non-technical, was overwhelmingly abundant; but, upon due consideration, it was decided that the obituary notices and articles published in American and foreign journals should be omitted, because to publish them would be to occupy many pages with but slightly varied repetitions of the leading facts of Mr. Holley's career.

It was the general desire of members of the Institute that Mr. Holley's professional papers and addresses, and also, if possible, some or all of his brilliant speeches should be included in the volume.

With regard to the former, a reference to the catalogue, beginning on page 143, will show that their number was so great as to

preclude all idea of comprehending them in a single book. Moreover, most of them were accompanied with plates, which could not well be reproduced or included in a work of the present character. A few papers and addresses, not illustrated with drawings, and adapted to display the versatile ability of their author, have, therefore, been selected; and it is believed that the choice thus made will be generally approved.

Concerning his humorous and eloquent speeches on special occasions, difficulty of another sort has been encountered. It is, perhaps, not just to the memory of any man to make public after his death what he deliberately and intentionally withheld from publication during his lifetime. In this case, the notes for many occasional speeches, found among Mr. Holley's papers by his biographer, would give, if published, no adequate notion of the speeches themselves. They do not even accurately convey what he said—still less, the personal charm of his presence and manner. As the editor of *London Engineering* has justly said: "We think that American engineers cordially acceded to him the place of orator *par excellence* of the profession. . . . Holley was both orator and poet in his speech; his voice was beautiful and under perfect training; his power of language as remarkable as his readiness at all times to employ it to good and emphatic purpose."

It is notoriously impossible to preserve in printed words the power and the effect of such gifts. Some hint of them may be obtained from his speeches, in reception of the Pittsburgh testimonial, and at the De Lesseps banquet, which are given in full in the following pages, and from several extracts contained in the Memorial Address. As an example of his wit and ready command of language, the "Metallurgist's Ode to Spring," read at the Baltimore banquet of the Institute, has been selected.

To complete the record contained in this book, it is necessary to add a brief statement of the circumstances of Mr. Holley's death, January 29th, 1882. He had already once recovered, in the summer of 1881, from a supposed bilious attack, which was universally expected to prove fatal, and had enjoyed another year of sufficient