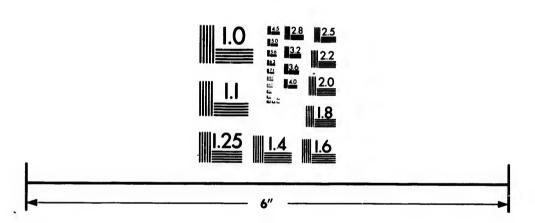


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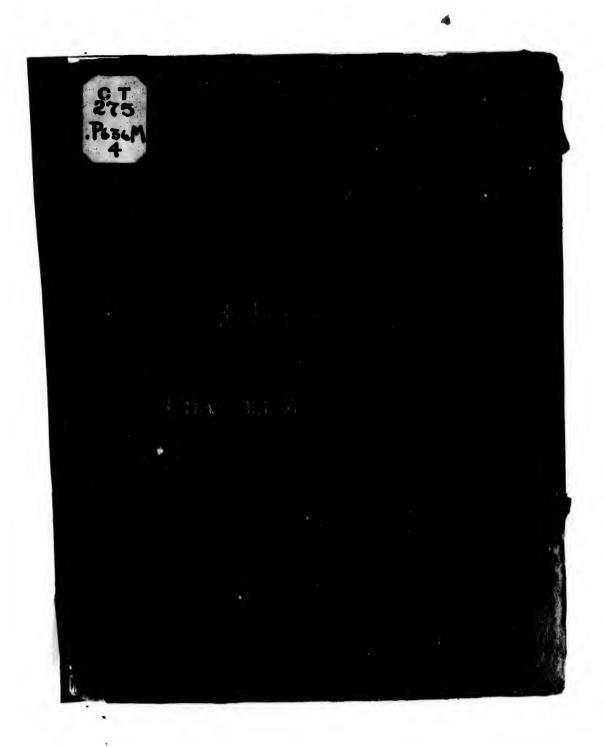
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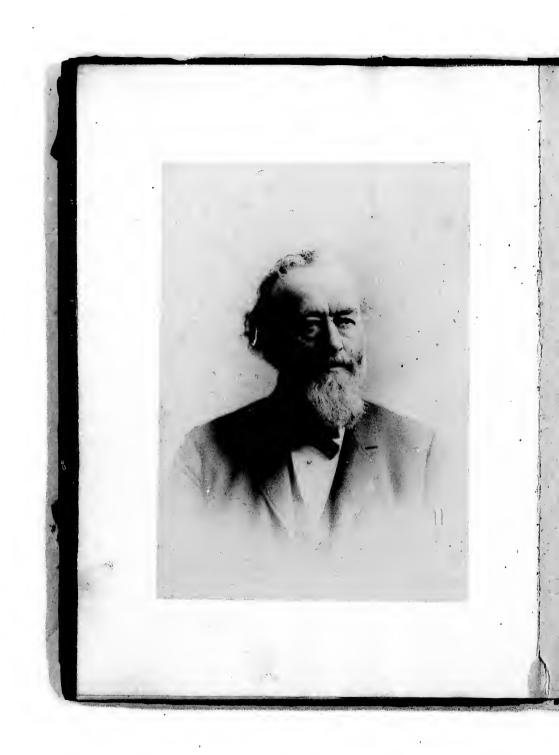
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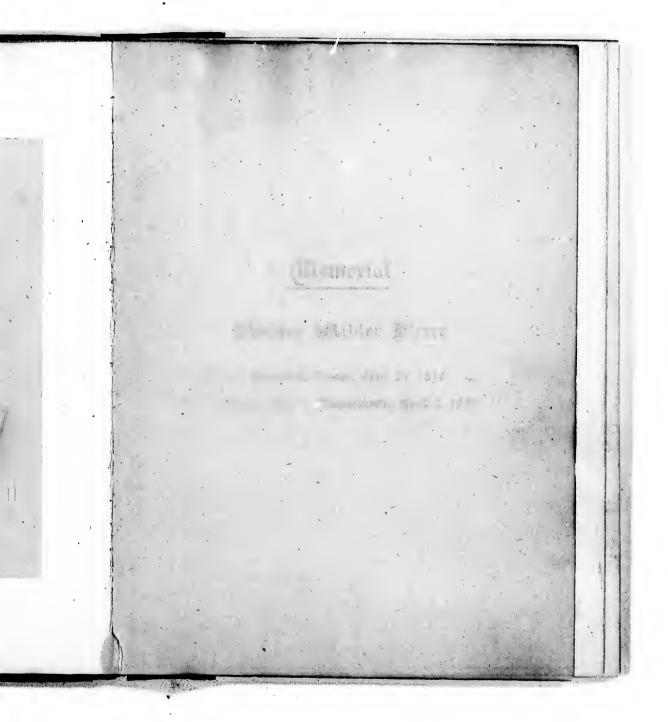
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Memorial

Charles Wilder Pierce

Gorn in Stanstead, Canada, Gpril 23, 1818.

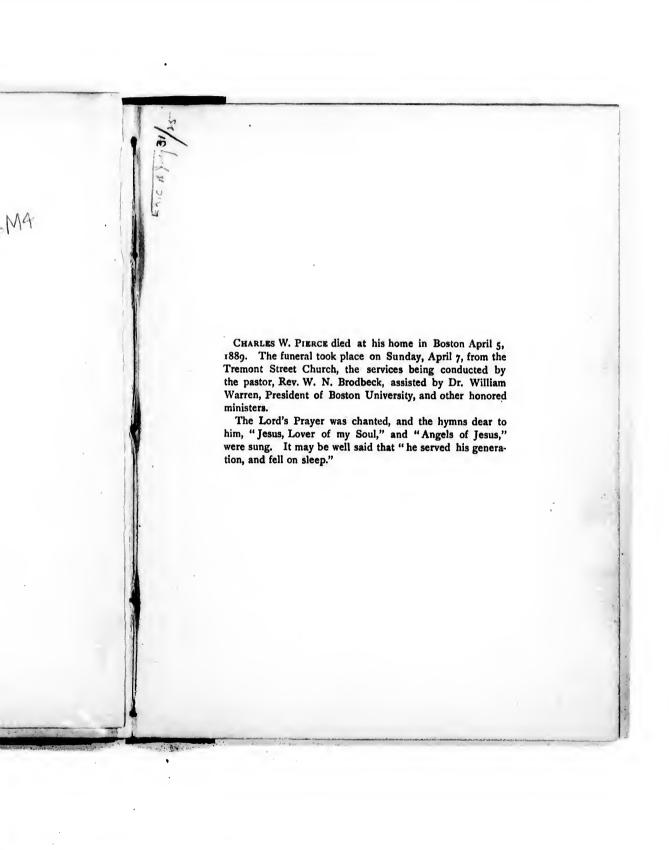
Died in Boston, Massachusetts, April 5, 1889.

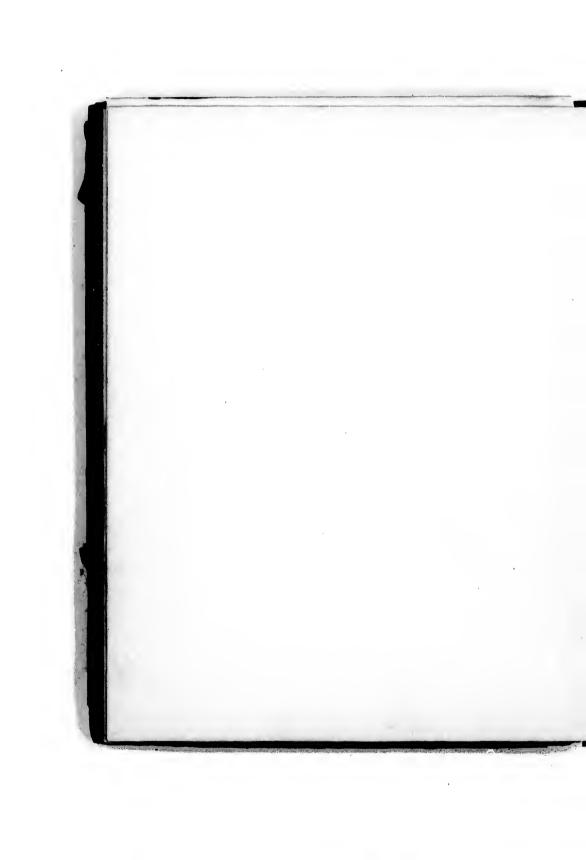
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Memorial

"The chamber where the good man meets his fate Is privileged above the common walk of virtuous life, Quite on the verge of heaven."

While the benediction of such a place and hour lingers, we chronicle, with chastened joy, the facts of a noble life, and give in barest outline its controlling characteristics.

Mr. Pierce was born in Stanstead, Canada, April 23, 1818. His parents were Wilder and Nancy Parsons Pierce. His father was a substantial and honored citizen, and early impressed his children with habits of thrift and business energy. His mother, a native of Hatfield, Mass., was eminent in social qualities, which made the Pierce homestead a centre of influence in the community. Family affection was unusually marked between the six daughters and five sons, of which our friend and brother was the eldest. Of that family circle, only four sisters remain.

Mr. Pierce's active religious life dated from his

early boyhood. At the age of fourteen, he united with the church at Stanstead. Afterwards coming to Boston, he was to the day of his death in continual fellowship in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

His membership in Boston was first at Bromfield Street, later at Hedding Church, and last at Tremont Street Church, which now mourns his vacant seat at the head of the family pew.

The current of his religious life was deep and strong, but never boisterous. His tones in family devotion were not confident, but often tremulous with reverent importunity. In the social services of the church, the goodness and mercy of God were the theme of his subdued and sometimes tearful testimony. His religious emotion found fitting expression in music: his own rich voice was always heard in divine worship. His preference was for the dignified psalmody of the former time and the grand oratorios and classic symphonies of the masters. His finely organized nature brought him instinctively into admiring perception of the purest expressions of art. The material interests of the church he made his personal concern. When the society at Hedding Church desired a larger sanctuary, he bore great he united ards comdeath in Episcopal

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ew. deep and in family tremulous al services y of God sometimes tion found rich voice His preferthe former assic symorganized admiring art. The de his per-

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responsibilities in the business details of the new enterprise. Well did his words declare

"I love Thy Kingdom, Lord, The house of thine abode."

He was always right on the temperance question. In the long years of generous hospitality which his home afforded, no guest was ever tempted with wine. He brought to the performance of citizen duties the same sense of personal responsibility which marked the discharge of his business and religious obligations. He was very far from being, in popular phrase, a politician. He sought no personal preferment or recognition of political service, but good government, pure politics, and righteous administration of law found in him ready and constant support.

He remembered the Sabbath day to keep it holy, whether in his own country or travelling in foreign lands. The modern innovations of so-called liberalism found in him no sympathy. The demands of large business and financial concerns were not permitted to trespass on sacred hours, neither could he bear without pain any irreverent demonstration on the Sabbath in the house of God. The unspotted purity and

quiet dignity of his own nature were adorned with a grace of reverence which shrank from any approach to a profanation in word or work of the Sabbath day.

Many years of close attention to the details of active business, and varied railroad and financial enterprises, brought him a competency and to his children an honored name. In his earlier years, he built up an extensive wholesale dry goods business; Messrs. Clark, Reed, Flanders, and his own brothers—the late George Pierce and the late Carlos Pierce—being at different times associated with him.

He did not escape the financial reverses of the years immediately preceding the war, but met them with courage, and passed through them with an unblemished reputation.

When the great West had uncovered its treasures at the touch of early homesteaders, he, in association with the late Hon. Henry Keyes, his brother-in-law, of Vermont, and his brother, the late Carlos Pierce, projected the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Railroad. They foresaw that the tide of European immigration which rolled in on the country after the successful termination of the Civil War must break still

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d its treaslers, he, in Keyes, his rother, the Atchison, y foresaw ion which cessful teroreak still further to the westward, and that populations born east of the Alleghanies would transplant their thrift and enterprise to the broader fields and wider range of the new West. To none more than to them were due the early enterprise and the substantial growth of the road. Mr. Pierce was its first secretary and treasurer, filling those offices eight years. Its first office was opened in his store. He was influential in its policy and management until his retirement from the directory a few years ago.

He was a faithful steward of the bounty wherewith God honored his diligence in temporal concerns. His benefactions to religious, educational, and charitable interests were many and generous, but never ostentatious. It is impossible — were it desirable — now to make a record of them.

Pastors and official brethren know how unfailing was his discharge of responsibility to the local church and its connectional obligations. Closely allied and very touching was his devotion to the home church in Stanstead. He and his brothers were large contributors to a magnificent edifice (built on the plan of Tremont Street Church, Boston), whose corner-stone was laid in the centennial year of American Method-

ism. It was burned May 19, 1883; and at once he with others took up the burden of building a second temple to the Lord. In this last enterprise, his sisters, who survive him, joined, as they also did in generous donations to the Stanstead Wesleyan College, which is doing a grand work for Protestant education in the Province of Ouebec.

To the hour of his death he remembered the home of his childhood and God's Acre where the bodies of his sainted parents and his loved brothers await the resurrection morn.

He was one of the earliest life-members of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association. He believed in the convicting and converting power of the grace of God, and strove to aid young men to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Of education he was a liberal patron. Lasell Seminary, Wesleyan University, Boston University, New England Conservatory of Music, the Stanstead Wesleyan College, as already stated, and kindred institutions in the West and the South shared in the accumulations of his laborious business life; and with pleasure he referred his children to the recorded will of a distant

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ancestor of the name of Pierce, who in 1630 bequeathed "twenty shillings to Harvard College."

Meagre, indeed, are these scant recitals of the life that has passed from among men: its choicest fragrance was shared by those nearest to him.

In his journal, found after his death, was the following minute of a visit made to the bedside of the late Amos B. Merrill. His own comment at the end breathes the whole spirit of the man, for it is his heart's testimony:—

Words of Amos B. Merrill: "Am glad to see one of my old friends,"—with much feeling.

"I think I shall die - am willing to die."

"I prefer to die, unless God has something more for me to do."

"I throw myself into the arms of Christ."

A blessed testimony, given as coolly and with as clear a brain as ever he had.

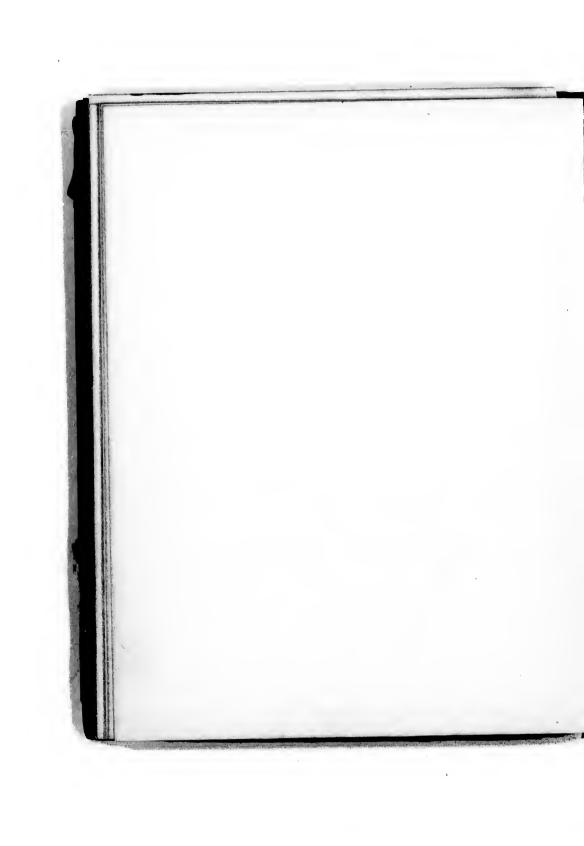
Oh, may it be my lot, when God shall call me, to be able thus to say. August 21, 1872.

His widow, three sons, and two daughters are bereft of tender devotion and never-failing care. A large circle of relatives and friends attest the record of his honorable life and embalm his precious memory. His life went out gently and with little physical pain. For months his friends

saw his strength failing: then came a few days of great weariness, then a few hours of pain, and then with thankfulness he welcomed sleep. Soon he was beyond the reach of medical aid or the call of watching friends. Then angels came and ministered unto him, and crowned him with eternal youth.

J. ELLEN FOSTER.

w days of pain, and ep. Soon aid or the came and him with N Foster. RESOLUTIONS. .



From the Trustees of the Tremont Street Pethodist Episcopal Church.

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church, held April 10, 1889, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove our beloved brother, Charles W. Pierce, by death,—

Resolved, That we bow with sorrowful resignation to His will; and, while we sincerely mourn our loss, it is with the full assurance that our departed brother is safe home to his reward in heaven.

Resolved, That the bright example of his life, and his faithful labor in the line of duty, in the church, in the world, and in his own loved home, are to us a constant reminder of the power of his example and a stimulus to us to renewed faithfulness and conscientious devotion to faithfully fulfil the duties devolving upon us as Christian men and members of the Church of Christ.

Resolved, That we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved wife and family, with an earnest prayer that God, in His infinite mercy, may give them grace to bear their great affliction, and comfort them with the consolation of His Holy Spirit.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the records, and a copy thereof be sent to the family of our deceased brother.

CHARLES L. LANE, Secretary.

From the Boston Wesleyan Association.

Whereas the painful intelligence is borne to this Association, while still in sorrow, that another associate, Charles W. Pierce, is suddenly removed to his reward at the age of seventy-one years,

We are thus impressively reminded of the rare and noble qualities that made the deceased a delightful and helpful

coworker and friend.

Posessed of superior judgment, with excellent business capabilities, with refined and cultivated tastes, with loyal love for the Methodist Church and all that made for its advancement, with prompt and ready sympathy for all good causes, with the light and life of the Christian faith, he was always the unpretentious but genial servant of this Association.

We place with grateful but tender recollection upon our records our appreciation of the larger and more useful place which he filled in business circles, in church and social life, in charitable and reformatory effort, but especially in

the delights of home.

We recognize with gratitude his benefactions to the church of his choice, to his connectional causes, and to all claims for financial help and support. His life, though quiet and modest, was characterized by that spirit that "went about doing good."

To the surviving members of the family, the Association proffers tender and prayerful sympathy, and, as a body, the

Trustees will attend the funeral obsequies.

The Secretary is requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the bereaved family, and to Zion's Herald for publication.

In behalf of the Association,

EDWARD H. DUNN, President. John G. Cary, Secretary.

Boston Wesleyan Association Rooms, April 6, 1889.

From the Boston Pethodist Social Union.

Whereas the "Boston Methodist Social Union" has again been sorely bereaved in the death of one of its earliest and most honored members, Brother Charles W. Pierce; and

Whereas we esteem it a sad privilege to place on record, in permanent form, our high regard and warm affection for our departed brother,—therefore be it

Resolved (1), That we bow in humble submission in the presence of this dispensation of Divine Providence; sorrowing deeply because of the great loss which we through it have sustained, but rejoicing in the work our brother was permitted to accomplish while living, and in his entire readiness for the summons which called him from labor to reward, when it came.

Resolved (2), That we will sacredly cherish his memory, seek to emulate his virtues, and strive by renewed diligence in every good word and work to make up the loss to the cause of God and our common Methodism which his death has occasioned.

Resolved (3), That we extend to the bereaved family and friends our heartfelt sympathies and assurances of lasting interest and regard, while in their sorrow we prayerfully commend them to the God of all comfort and grace.

Resolved (4), That the Secretary of our Union be hereby instructed to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the family of our deceased brother, and to the Zion's Herald for publication, and also to spread them upon our permanent records.

WM. N. BRODBECK, Committee.

Adopted by the Boston Methodist Social Union, May 27, 1889.

WILLARD S. ALLEN, Secretary.

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NN, President. Secretary.

From the Arustees of Boston University.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Boston University, held April 8, the following minute was unanimously adopted:—

By the sudden and lamented death of our late esteemed associate, Charles W. Pierce, Esq., at his home on Friday, April 5, this Board is once more called to recognize the value of the services and of the Christian fellowship which it loves, and to express upon its records its appreciation of the life and character of the friend and fellow-laborer just departed.

For a long period an active, successful, and respected merchant of this city, often honored with responsible business positions, a loyal and faithful member of the Church of his choice, an intelligent and generous supporter of her institutions, Mr. Pierce has ever manifested a thoughtful interest in the progress and success of the University on whose Board he has been, for many years, an efficient Trustee.

We enter upon our records this tribute to the memory of our former associate, and proffer to his surviving family our sincere and prayerful sympathies, while we receive afresh for ourselves the solemn lesson of Providence that, "while it is day," the work of our life must be accomplished, "for the night cometh, when no man can work."

(Signed) WM. R

WM. R. CLARK, Secretary.

BOSTON, May 8, 1889.

From the Muarterly Official Board of the Stanstead Methodist Church.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Quarterly Official Board of Stanstead Methodist church, moved by Brother H. D. Homes, seconded by Brother A. B. Nelson, and carried:—

Whereas we, the members of the Official Board of the Methodist church, Stanstead, recognize in the death of Mr. Charles W. Pierce the taking away of one who for many years was a member and official of the church, and throughout life its faithful friend and benefactor,—therefore,

Resolved, That we do hereby place on record our high esteem for the character and life of our departed brother and for the eminent devotion to the interests of Christianity ever displayed by him;

That we desire to express our high appreciation of the great service rendered to this church by him through his unfailing sympathy, wise counsels, and generous benefactions;

That we hereby tender to the bereaved wife and family our heartfelt sympathy in their sore affliction, yet rejoicing that to them is a legacy of tender precious memories and the faith that "gives beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

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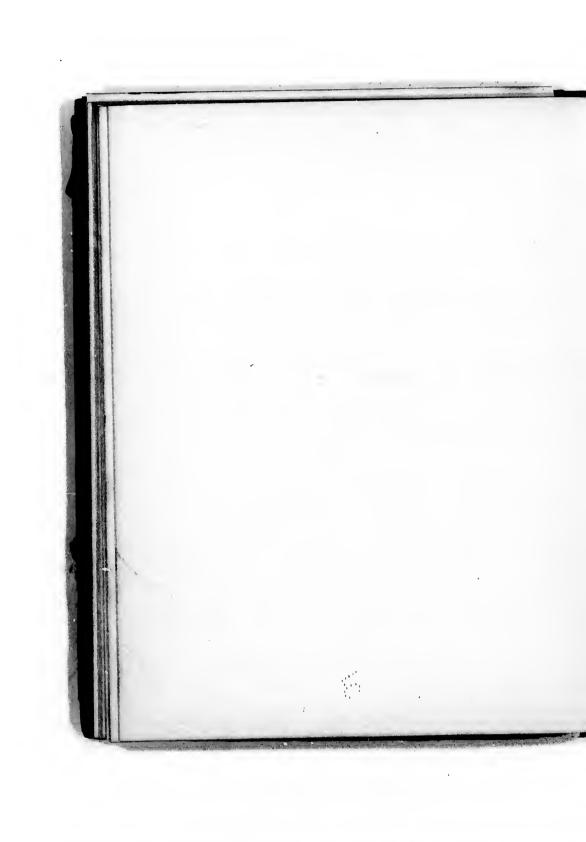
From the Trustees of Stanstead Mesleyan College.

The Committee appointed by the Trustees of the Stanstead Wesleyan College to prepare a resolution of condolence with the family of the late Mr. C. W. Pierce reported the following resolution, namely:—

That the Trustees of Stanstead Wesleyan College hereby express their extreme sense of loss occasioned by the recent and widely lamented death of our esteemed colleague, Charles W. Pierce, Esq., of Stanstead and Boston. His zealous services and noble benefactions in promoting the existence and permanent influence of our college, of which he has been a valued director and trustee from its very origin, and especially his large contribution to our Endowment Fund, are gratefully remembered as one example of his enlightened generosity. We also respectfully tender our deep sympathy to Mrs. Pierce and family, together with their numerous kindred and friends, to whom the death we so greatly deplore must have come as a deeply sad bereavement.

On motion by Mr. Hanson, the resolution was adopted; and the Secretary instructed to forward a copy of the same to Mrs. Pierce.

College. the Stanof condoe reported ege hereby the recent colleague, oston. His moting the e, of which m its very our Endow-example of LETTERS. tender our gether with ne death we ad bereaveas adopted; of the same



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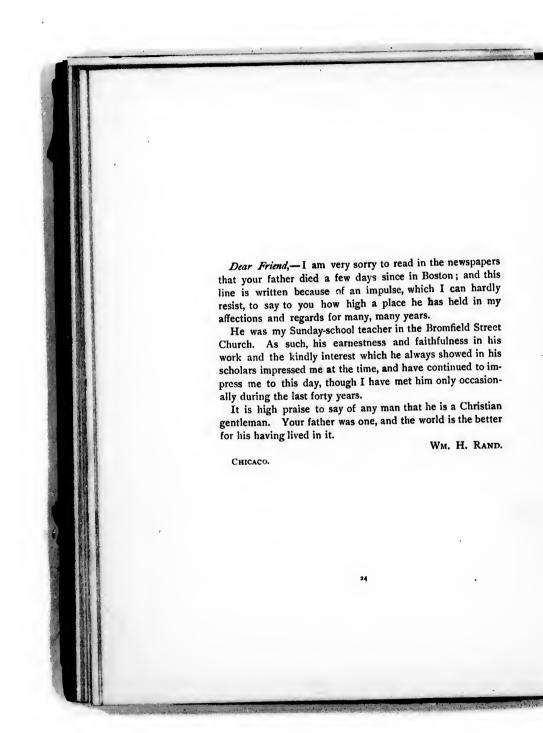
My dear Mrs. Pierce,—The news of the departure of your honored husband came with surprising suddenness, and grieved me for your sake. There are, however, so many sweet recollections of him to comfort you. He ever seemed to me the noblest of the noble. He was every whit a man. He was one of the most manly men I have ever known. His life was not in vain. He lived for a grand purpose. His family, his church, and his city will miss him; and, as they more and more miss him, they will realize to a larger extent their loss. But he is now enjoying the fruition of his faith. He has entered into the activities of an eternal life.

Let this comfort you and the dear ones at home. Mrs. Newman will join me in words of consolation. May you now realize that "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

With many prayers for you all,

I am your friend,

JOHN P. NEWMAN.



EVANSTON, April 14, 1889.

My dear Mrs. Pierce,—Your sad bereavement has made a great impression upon our hearts. I often find myself going back in memory to our Bromfield Church days, when your dear husband stood as a prince among that noble band of honorable men that filled so many of its pews. How simple and yet how grand he looked, when he arose to bear his testimony in favor of religious truth and a religious life! He had the moral grandeur that always accompanies a divinely consecrated heart. . . .

I trust God will give you courage as well as strength to bear your great loss without murmuring; for the love of such a husband never dies, and the influence of such a father is a rich legacy to his children. . . .

My love and sympathy are ever with you and yours.

Most affectionately yours,

D. S. CUMMINGS.

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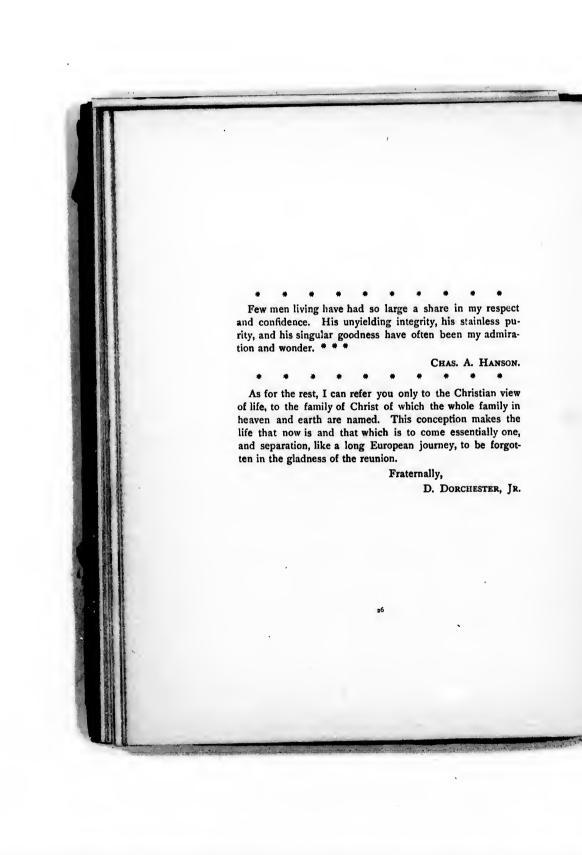
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VM. H. RAND.



BOSTON, April 24, 1889.

Dear Friends,—My heart is drawn towards you in your bereavement, and I find no words so fitting as an expression of my feelings as the language of the Sacred Scriptures:—

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."— I PETER i. 3, 4, 5.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you evermore. Amen.

Yours in the fellowship of Christ,

DANIEL DORCHESTER.

my respect stainless pumy admira-

A. HANSON.

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CHESTER, JR.

Hark! hark! my soul: angelic songs are swelling
O'er earth's green fields and ocean's wave-beat shore;
How sweet the truth those blessed strains are telling
Of that new life when sin shall be no more!
Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night.

Onward we go, for still we hear them singing, "Come, weary souls, for Jesus bids you come," And, through the dark its echoes sweetly ringing, The music of the gospel leads us home.

Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night.

Rest comes at length, though life be long and dreary:
The day must dawn, and darksome night be past;
All journeys end in welcome to the weary,
And heaven, the heart's true home, will come at last.
Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night.

Angels, sing on! your faithful watches keeping.
Sing us sweet fragments of the songs above,
Till morning's joy shall end the night of weeping,
And life's long shadows break in cloudless love.
Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night.

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