

**FRANCIS AMASA WALKER.****Tributes from President Dwight and Professor Farnam.**

In the death of General Francis A. Walker, our University, in common with the Institute of Technology of which he was the honored President, has lost a friend whose service in the cause of learning and science will long be remembered. From 1873 to 1880 he held the chair of Political Economy and History in our Scientific School. During this period he was an efficient and unselfish worker for the interests of the School, and a genuine affection for it was awakened within him which continued with equal strength, and was often clearly manifested, in the years that followed his call to another sphere of duty and service.

As an instructor here he was ever a stimulating force for his pupils, inspiring them by his energy and enthusiasm and guiding their minds by his wisdom and knowledge. No student could fail to feel the impelling power of the man whom he saw before him, or to be quickened in thought and in effort as he witnessed the daily life which the man was living. As a thinker and scholar his ability was recognized here as it was wherever he was known, and more fully and appreciatively the longer he lived among us and the better he became known to us. To his wise counsels and his generous efforts, the School owed much in the matter of its growing prosperity. The whole University was honored by his presence within its walls and was helped by the influence of his intellectual power and his scholarly culture.

To his associates in the Faculty he was always a warm and kindly friend—full of sympathy, ever ready to do good, and constantly adding by his thoughts and his thoughtfulness to the happiness of life. His departure from us was a cause of deep regret, when he was called away from his daily association with us. But the kindly friendship remained, unchanged on his part, and on ours; and no man has, in all the years, been a more true and faithful lover of Yale than he has been. It is with most sincere sorrow that we have heard of his death, and our tenderest sympathy goes forth at this time to all who loved and esteemed him.

His memory will be cherished by all Yale men who knew him—the memory of a genuine man, a true scholar, a warm-hearted friend, a cultured gentleman, a highly honored and honorable member of the great University brotherhood. May the life which now opens before him be filled with rich and sweet thoughts and with generous and manly action—such is the desire and such the

prayer of our hearts as we give him our last farewell.

TIMOTHY DWIGHT.

**From Professor Farnam.**

To the Editor of the Yale Alumni Weekly:

Sir—In the short time allowed me, it is impossible to give any extended sketch of General Walker's life or a careful estimate of his position as an economist. But I am glad to pay a personal tribute to his character, and to mention a few facts regarding his relations to Yale.

He began his work here in January, 1873, the appointment of Professor Gilman to the presidency of the University of California having created a vacancy in the Governing Board of the Sheffield Scientific School. Gen. Walker did not, however, fill the chair which President Gilman left. The work was reorganized. Prof. Brewer assumed the instruction in Physical Geography, formerly given by Prof. Gilman, and the chair of Political Economy and History was especially created for General Walker.

During the following year, while I was a Senior in Yale College, I obtained permission to attend General Walker's lectures on United States History as a guest, and I well remember his energetic, earnest manner, and the vividness which he put into his subject. I also recall a characteristic incident. One day the appointed time for the lecture came, but General Walker, who was usually the very embodiment of punctuality, failed to appear. At the next exercise he explained that he had been working in his room so zealously that two hours seemed as one and that he went to his lecture-room just an hour late.

His official connection with the Scientific School lasted less than nine years, and two of those years he spent in Washington, conducting the 10th census. Yet he had a warm affection for Yale and a great fondness for New Haven. He was always glad to return to our city and was a loyal supporter of Yale methods and the Yale spirit in matters of scholarship, no less than in athletics. He regularly attended all of the great football games of the season and knew the names of each member of the eleven and each substitute, his athletic record, strong and weak points, and everything else worth knowing about him. He was a contributor to the Yale Review, and though all of our economists here differed with him on the subject of bi-metallism, I have every reason to believe that this difference of opinion never affected the friendliness of his personal feelings.

General Walker was one of those remarkable men who have such a capacity for work, and such executive ability, that they never seem in a hurry or short of time. A few years after he had assumed the presidency of the Institute of Technology I had occasion to call on him in his office in Boston. He seemed to be writing industriously at his table, and I therefore apologized for interrupting him and said that I feared he was too busy to see me. But he cordially assured me that he was not busy at all, and with the air of a man

who has been killing time in some trivial occupation, told me that he was merely writing a new edition of his Political Economy. He then devoted a good part of his day to showing me what I wanted to see in the Institute. More recently it has been my good fortune to be associated with him in the work of the Committee of Fifty for investigating the Liquor Problem, and I have been impressed with his willingness to spend his time in the service of others. Though an extremely busy man, he always seemed to have time for the meetings of the sub-committee of which he was Chairman; he was ever prompt in meeting appointments, always courteous, suggestive and helpful in the transaction of business.

He combined in a remarkable degree the trained mind of the scholar, the energy and system of the administrator, and the tact and urbanity of the man of the world. Hence his treatment of economic questions was concrete and practical, not abstract, and his whole influence was wonderfully stimulating to younger men. I regret that in these hasty notes I cannot express more adequately my appreciation of the sincerity of his character and the power of his mind, or properly convey to your readers my sense of personal loss in his sudden death.

HENRY W. FARNAM.

Tuesday evening, Jan. 5th, 1897.

**A Sketch of His Life.**

General Francis Amasa Walker, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died suddenly at his home in Boston, Mass., on Tuesday, January 5th, from a stroke of apoplexy.

He was born in Boston on July 2nd, 1840, and was the son of Amasa Walker, a well-known political economist. General Walker received his early education in the public schools of North Brookfield, and, in 1856, entered Amherst, graduating in the class of 1860 with high honors. He began the study of law, but when the war broke out he enlisted, and was made sergeant-major of the 15th Mass. regiment. Gen. Walker served with distinction throughout the war, taking part in many engagements and was steadily promoted. He was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville, and in the battle of Reams' Station was taken prisoner.

Upon his retirement from the army he taught in the Williston Seminary, at Easthampton, Mass., for two years, after which he accepted a position on the editorial staff of the Springfield Republican, where he remained until appointed, by Pres. Grant, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, in 1869.

In 1870-72 he held the office of superintendent of the 9th census, and during the year 1871-72 he was also commissioner of Indian affairs.

He was called to the professorship of political economy and history in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1873, and held that chair until 1881, when he was elected to the presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Since 1881 he has been president of the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology, where he introduced the studies of history and political economy. He was for two years lecturer in Johns Hopkins University and was for a short time a lecturer in political economy at Harvard University. He has been president of the American Statistical Association and president of the American Economic Association, was the chief of the Bureau of Awards at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, and commissioner from the United States to the International Monetary conference in Paris in 1878. In 1880 he was elected president of the American Economic Association.

President Walker has received the degree of LL.D., from Amherst (his alma mater) from Columbia, Yale, Harvard, St. Andrews and Edinburgh Universities.

The International Geographical Congress at Paris in 1875 gave him a medal of the first class for his statistical atlas of the United States. In 1876, he published one of his most important works, "The Wage Question."

**Service for University Men.**

Next Sunday a service of even greater interest than the Ian MacLaren meeting, announced in the Weekly a few weeks ago, will be held in New York City and the attention of Yale men is especially called to it. President Gilman of Johns Hopkins, Bishop Potter of New York, Dr. Van DeWater, the Chaplain of Columbia University, and President Low of Columbia, will take part in the special service for university men in the Calvary Episcopal church, Fourth Avenue and Twenty-first Street, Sunday evening, Jan. 10th at 8 o'clock. Former members of their college glee clubs are invited to secure reserved seat tickets and send their names in advance as willing to join in the processional with their academic costumes. The disappointment of many who failed to secure admission with tickets at Ian MacLaren's service has led to the issuance of a limited number of reserved seat tickets, good until 7:15. These may be had upon application.

There will be a Yale day at the Students' Club Sunday afternoon at 4:30. President Gilman of Johns Hopkins will meet the Yale men for a quiet social time at 4:30, and at 5 will give a brief address. There will be singing by Yale men. Yale graduates of recent years will act as a Reception Committee to present the men to President Gilman. All Yale alumni are cordially invited to be present on that occasion.

**Scientific Monthly Prize.**

The editors of the Yale Scientific Monthly have decided to offer a cash prize of twenty-five dollars to the author of the best original article written for the Monthly, in competition for a position on the Editorial Board. This limits the competition for this prize to members of the Junior and Freshman classes. Preference in awarding the prize will be given to the choice of a live subject of general interest, and above all to literary style. The award of the prize will be made in May, 1897, when the Board from the class of '98 is elected.