

E. A. Whitney.....

Ladies and Gentlemen;-

We have come together this after-noon to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of a friend and fellow-citizen. We have not come to praise or to condemn, but to narrate the simple out-standing facts as they relate to a man who lived and worked among us for thirty five years.

Mr. Whitney was connected with one of the old, cultured and industrious families of New England. It is but natural therefore, that he should inherit stern and sterling ideals which later were to be put to full use in a long and active life. His education was of the cosmopolitan type. Securing the best that America and Europe afforded, he was able to face life with a broad view of human achievement and intelligence. He was an omniverous reader in all lines of investigation, being especially interested in art, science and history. He was a constant investigator in those fields which promised new knowledge and un-discovered facts.

He loved the unusual things. The difficult proposition always appealed to him. It is said that had in his possession, a volume of unusual mathematical problems to which he turned for recreation, at the close of an exhausting day. His passion to know and understand, lead him into many fields of human knowledge.

Early in life, the benefits of a considerable estate were placed at his disposal. This responsibility he accepted and brought to bear upon it's handling those same careful and frugal

habits which characterized his entire life. His conduct in accepting this youthful responsibility stands out in striking contrast to that of modern young men who have been unable to accept the temptations of such a responsibility.

Throughout his entire life, Mr. Whitney exhibited a keen business judgement and a rare discernment in the handling of his extensive possessions. His first desire was to be just in all his dealings; and certain facts ^{IN} my possession would illustrate this, were it proper for me to recite them here.

Mr. Whitney was retiring in his nature, and more or less diffident in his disposition. He had only a few intimate friends; only a few knew him well. But in spite of his seeming indifference to humanity, he was kindly disposed toward, and deeply interested in all. And again, abundant facts in my possession would illustrate this statement were it fully proper to present them. It now becomes known, for the first time to the most of us, that he spent the greater part of his life in planning for the future welfare and happiness of the people of this community- a fact I shall refer to in a few moments.

I am not informed as to Mr. Whitney's personal religious beliefs, but it may be assumed that his was the gospel of the larger human relationships which in their perfect operation, make for the happiness and well-being of the entire human race. He was tolerant and generous toward each man's personal convictions. What he granted to others, he only asked for himself. He held, I believe, that if each one lived up to his best convictions, it were enough.

Mr. Whitney was interested in all religions. He strove to be familiar with all forms of philosophy, and the ideals by which men live. He lived ~~with~~ and studied with the Mohem^medans, Budd^hists, etc., that he might know them and the history of their ideals. He was deeply interested in, and a careful student of, the Christian religion. Few clergyman are better instructed in it's history than was he.

Access to Mr. Whitney's last will and testament reveals much of the man's nature and accounts for many of his seemingly peculiar habits- things that you and I have not fully understood. In the disposition of his somewhat extensive possessions, he reveals his truly magnanimous spirit and his real love for the people. It was said that he was a too careful spender, and that he guarded his means with undue solicitude. When asked concerning this he replied, "This estate does not belong to me; I am only it's steward; it belongs to the people, and I dare not be careless with it." He avoided all un-necessary expenditures, refused often to support local objects of philanthropy and public interest, simply that he might keep his funds intact, and hand them over at last to the public, full and complete. You and I have hobbies. Mr. Whitney's hobby was the passion to conserve his resources, that they might all be bestowed upon the people of his home city, and there remain for all time to come.

The particulary method by which this is to be accomplished is now known for the first time. It is in brief, that worthy youth, of moderate circumstances, may have liberal assistance in securing an

education. Also it has been provided, after a few years, that there shall be erected, in the city of Sheridan, an Educational Institution, a college or University, whatever you will, to which the youth of this entire great North-west may come for knowledge and instruction.

We can as yet hardly realize the full meaning of this twp-fold bequest. I am particularly pleased to know that Mr. Whitney did not choose to bestow his possessions upon some eastern institution, but saw fit to settle them upon one of his own planning, in his own native city. It will mean much to us to have in this city, a worthy Educational Institution which may well be the peer of any, east or west.

Mr. Whitney provided for the cremation of his body. One half of his ashes are to be deposited in the Sheridan cemetary, over them to be erected a suitable monument, upon which shall be engraven these words; "What a man really believes, seems to him to be really true; but that does not make it so, except in his own mind." This sentiment seems, at first thought, to be irrelevant. However, ^{the words are} ~~they are~~ the result of much ~~of much~~ thought and meditation on the part of their author, and no doubt express at once his life philosophy, and that abiding toleration of other mens. ideals.

The other half of the ashes are to be ~~taken~~ taken to Switzerland, and there deposited on The Terrace in Vevey, where the view shall be unobstructed as one looks out over the placid waters of Lake Geneva. To mark this spot, there shall be a simple stone, with the name "Whitney" only, engraven upon it.

And thus we complete the last chapter in the history of an interesting life, and close the book. We commit his body to the earth,

earth; his spirit we commend to the mercy of a just and loving God.