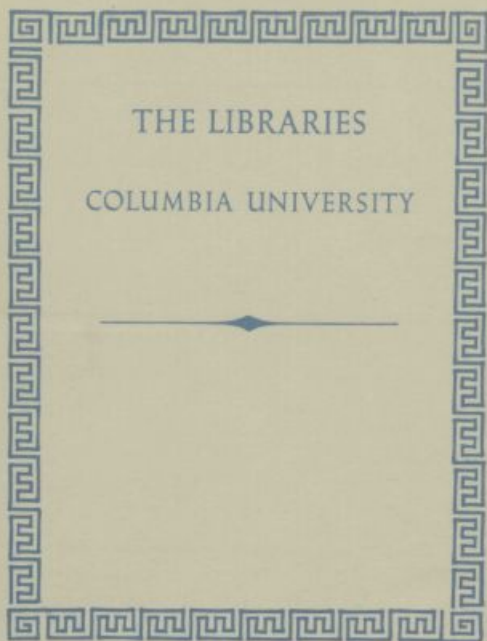


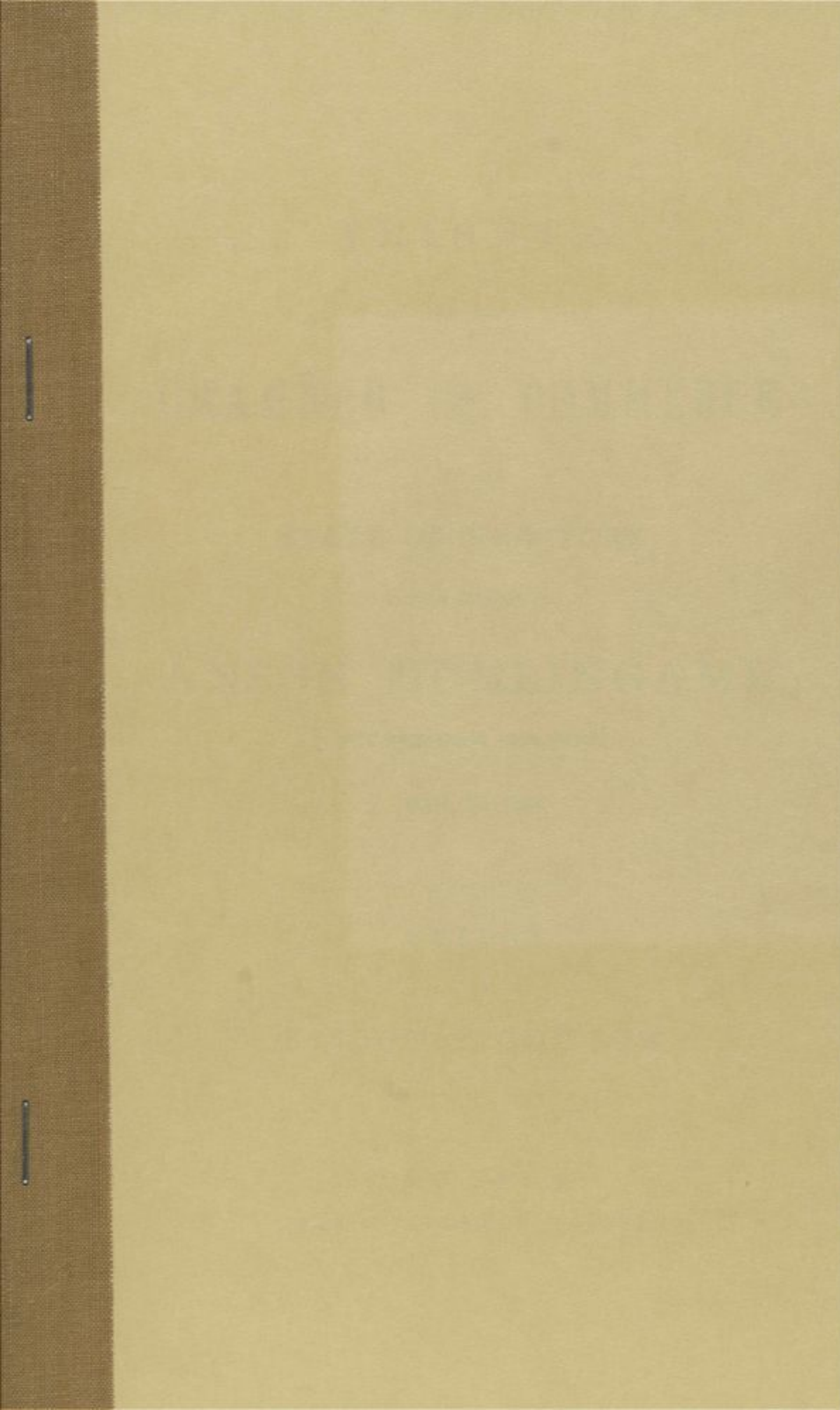
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TRIBUTE

OF THE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OF THE

STATE OF NEW-YORK,

TO THE MEMORY OF

ANSON BURLINGAME,

LATE AMBASSADOR FROM CHINA,

March 3d, 1870.

EULOGY

BY

ELLIOT C. COWDIN.

NEW-YORK:

JOHN W. AMERMAN, PRINTER.

1870.



EULOGY.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New-York, held March 3 1870, Hon. WILLIAM E. DODGE, in the chair, Mr. COWDIN being called upon by the President, spoke as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN : A painful duty has been assigned to me by the Executive Committee of the Chamber. A calamity has befallen the interests of commerce and civilization the world over, in the untimely death of our distinguished fellow-countryman, ANSON BURLINGAME, late Ambassador from China. Certainly it is but fitting that this Chamber should record its sorrow in becoming terms.

My relations to Mr. BURLINGAME date back to my boyhood, and were of the most intimate character. Pardon me, Sir, if I say to you that I loved him like a brother. Twenty-one years ago we occupied the same state-room on a voyage to Europe, and we have

since then twice crossed the Atlantic together, enjoying the most intimate fellowship.

On going to join my family in Paris, last autumn, the first friendly salutation I received was a telegram from Berlin of "welcome" from him; and just before leaving France, two weeks ago to-day, warm salutations were exchanged. You may well imagine that on arriving at this port two days ago, I could scarcely believe that my long, true, and much-loved friend was dead.

It is not needful that I speak of Mr. BURLINGAME's brilliant public record in this country, his great services in the cause of liberty and national unity, nor of the courage he exhibited on a memorable occasion in Congress, which elicited the encomiums of generous spirits, and inspired the heart of the North and West as with the blast of a trumpet sounding to battle.

Appointed by Mr. LINCOLN our Minister to the proud Court of Vienna, he was on his way thither, when, at Paris, he received tidings that because of Austria's exceptions to his eloquent advocacy of Sardinian independence, it had been deemed expedient to transfer him as our Minister to China.

His dream of spending a few years in contemplating the march of great events, and the condition of the people among the monarchies and at the capitals of Europe, was suddenly dissolved; and with regretful footsteps he left the fascinating metropolis of France,

and passed on to the discharge of unexpected duties among a strange and mysterious population on the other side of the globe.

This, to him, untoward event, and which, for the time, seemed to somewhat quench his lofty ambition, and close his prospects of future usefulness to his country, became the starting-point in a diplomatic career which, for novelty of design, breadth of comprehension, and practical services to the cause of commerce, peace and civilization, is without a parallel in our times.

When Mr. BURLINGAME had got fairly domiciliated in China, his quick eye, vigorous brain and liberal heart went immediately to work in solving the puzzling problem of the industry, the trade, the literature, the philosophy, the history, the manners, the Government—in a word, the institutions of whatever kind of the wonderful people to whom he was accredited, and about whom the rest of the world knew but little, and seemingly cared as little as it knew.

It is one of the highest proofs of the keen sagacity and capacious heart of our friend, that he was able to understand and willing to appreciate both the people and the government of China, thus doing for them and for the world what no other foreigner had ever succeeded in accomplishing; and he early resolved that in due time he would make the true character of this ancient Empire known to the nations of the West.

The manner in which he performed this task affords the true test of his genius. Most Ministers, after the expiration of their term of office, not unfrequently dole out what little they had learned among the Chinese, in mere chit-chat at the fireside. Others, of a higher grade or of more studious habits, may have written works about the country. Not thus did Mr. BURLINGAME. While discharging with marked ability his duties as an American envoy, and with a mind overflowing with information in regard to this strange people, he resolved that his true mission was to lay off his official robes, and in the interest of peace, commerce, international law, and modern civilization, to introduce China in her own proper person to the nations of the West, and thus secure her a firm footing among the great powers of the world.

The original conception was as grand and beneficent as its subsequent execution was wise and successful. The wonder to Europe and America was how our countryman was able to so win the confidence of that always mysterious and proverbially exclusive, suspicious and insulated Government, as to induce it to confide any such mission to any body, even to a score of its own most trusted and patriotic mandarins—and especially by what charms or magic he had succeeded in causing it to exalt him, a zealous American and genuine Yankee, to the degree of a mandarin of the first class, and bestow upon the representative of a Re-

public, which the masses of the Chinese knew not even by name, the power to negotiate treaties in the name of the Brother of the Sun and Moon with the "outside barbarians" of the uttermost parts of the earth.

The winning to himself of this high trust was the most wonderful of Mr. BURLINGAME'S achievements. To negotiate a treaty in behalf of China with this country and European States was comparatively a commonplace affair. But for an American to be clothed with the power to do this—therein lay the marvel. Our countryman wrought the diplomatic miracle, and, in due time, clothed with ample powers, introduced the empire of CONFUCIUS to the Republic of WASHINGTON.

How admirably he fulfilled his mission in the United States; how warmly he was greeted by all classes and parties; how his heart was touched by their reception of himself, his associates, and, more than all, his cause; how buoyant and elastic he trod the familiar soil of America; how large were his views and high his aims; how much new and valuable information concerning China he spread before our people; how grandly he vindicated the character of her institutions, while eloquently eulogizing those of his native land, we all remember.

Nor was he less successful after he crossed the Atlantic, and came in contact with the more formal, more exacting, more cautious and less liberal gov-

ernments of Europe. He negotiated with their foremost diplomatists and rulers—with CLARENDON, with NAPOLEON, with BISMARCK—and though their cool, calculating and impassive natures must have oftentimes severely tried his patience, he finally won them all over to the adoption of his views, and the favoring of the objects of his mission.

The skill which he exhibited in the well-trodden fields of Western diplomacy, the personal magnetism he shed around him, the enthusiasm for his cause which he inspired in those with whom he came often in contact, whether official or unofficial personages, and the tact with which he adapted himself to all classes and conditions of men, were not only extraordinary, but they disclosed the secret by which he had won the confidence of the Government which had sent him round the globe as its representative.

The simple truth is, that those of us who had only seen ANSON BURLINGAME as a Western rover, a gay law student at Cambridge, an eloquent declaimer on the platform, a rather careless and somewhat superficial debater in Congress, a buoyant man of the world, who studied human nature rather than books, a keen shot with a rifle—who would not shrink even from a duel if need be in defence of honor, liberty, and his friend—I say those of his countrymen who had only contemplated ANSON BURLINGAME in those lights, were not aware how large a man he intrinsically was, how

keenly he saw, and how closely he analyzed, how much hard work there was in him when he was put to his mettle, and how skillfully he could win to his confidence the patient, peace-loving, rather effeminate, and, tried by our standard, really ignorant millions of China, or mould to his purposes the haughty, impassive, thoroughly-trained diplomatists of Europe.

I need not speak in this presence of the character, the objects and vast importance of Mr. BURLINGAME'S mission. They are familiar to us all as household words. Europe and America know them by heart. He unlocked the gates of the Chinese wall, and brought teeming millions up out of the bondage of the ages. He showed them to the outside world, and he showed the outside world to them; and each has profited, and will long continue to profit, by the exhibition. And this he did in behalf of commerce, agriculture, the arts and sciences, education and religion, international law and orderly government.

He benefited every country he visited; but he is the special benefactor of that simple, pacific, honest, industrious nation which contains one-third of the population of the globe, and which will enshrine his name high among its departed sages and nobles.

We know that Mr. BURLINGAME counted largely upon the influence of a successful negotiation at St. Petersburg. He was assured, in advance of his visit to the Court of the Czar, that the Emperor was ready to re-

ceive him with the utmost cordiality, and to enter into a treaty with his Chinese neighbors upon the most favorable terms.

But, alas! our friend, fresh from his diplomatic triumphs in western and central Europe, had scarcely set foot in the Russian capital, when, by one sudden blow, and with scarcely a moment's warning, his vigorous frame succumbed to its inclement climate, and he sank untimely into a tomb crowned with lofty purposes, noble deeds, and rare achievements.

I have spoken of Mr. BURLINGAME only as a public character. It is not proper that I should here refer to him as a private individual. But I may be pardoned, in closing, if I allude in the briefest terms to his noble presence, his earnest eloquence, his unbounded generosity, his wise moderation, his evenness of temper, his comprehensive judgment, his unswerving integrity, his fervid patriotism, his joyous companionship, his contagious enthusiasm, his personal magnetism, and his warm affection for his friends.

Take him for all in all, he was a man of whom his native land may well be proud, whose name and fame the distant people, and the great Empire which he served so faithfully, will hold in undying remembrance.

In conclusion, Mr. COWDIN submitted to the Chamber the following

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That in the decease of our distinguished countryman, ANSON BURLINGAME, late Ambassador from China to the United States and to the leading Powers of Europe, the commerce of the world has lost an enthusiastic friend, international law and orderly government a wise expounder, liberal and just diplomacy an eminently successful exponent, and modern civilization an eloquent advocate. In the midst of bright and buoyant life, in the flowing tide of vigorous manhood, in the enjoyment of the golden opinions of the great and good of every clime, and while standing on the broadest field of action, and about to reap the full fruition of his high hopes and of his grand mission, he was suddenly stricken down by the hand of death in the very zenith of his fame.

Resolved, That in the name of our country, which he loved so well, and of mankind, whom he served so faithfully, we deplore the untimely fall of Mr. BURLINGAME; and we tender to his friends everywhere, and especially to his sorely stricken family, our sympathies for their irreparable loss.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

DATE DUE

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