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IN MEMORIAM—JOHN HALL SAGE.

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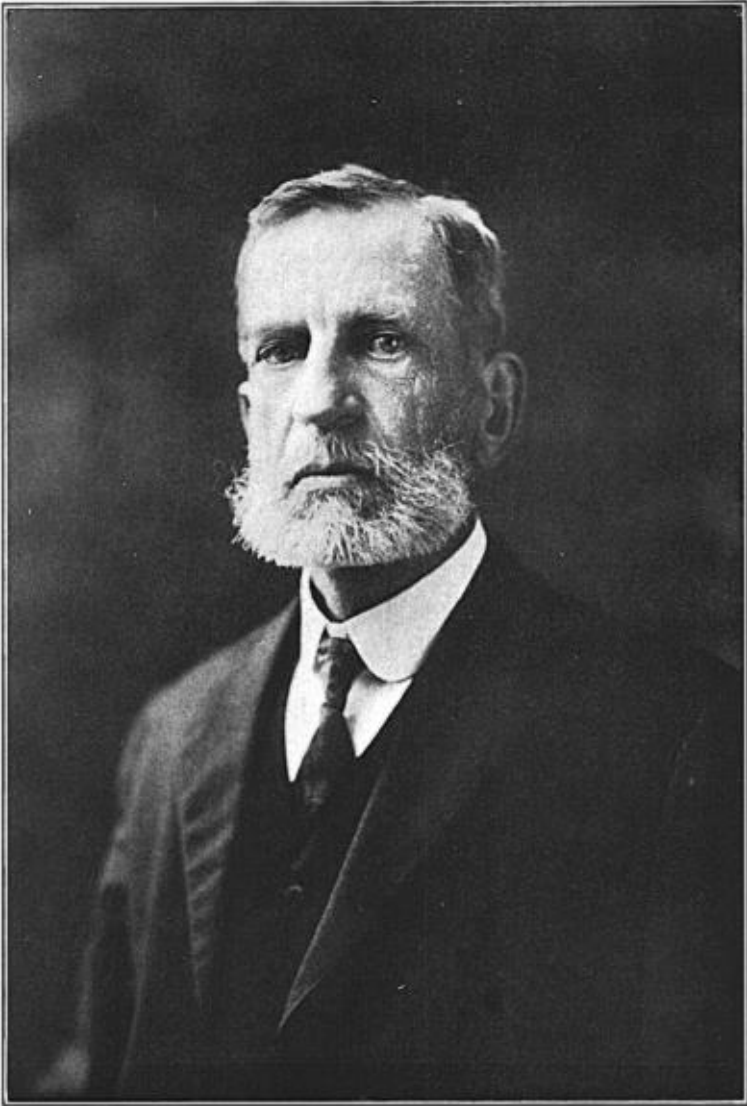
Plate I.

A scientific society which has attained any measure of success will usually be found to have reached its position of eminence largely through the unselfish devotion of one or more members who have been willing, at the possible sacrifice of a higher position in the line of research, to give their time and thought to the management of its business and clerical affairs, a service which, while drudgery to most of us, is of vital importance to the welfare of the organization.

Such service, through a period of twenty-eight years as secretary, has been John Hall Sage's gift to the American Ornithologists' Union.

Although he served the society ably as president, it was as secretary that his great work was done, that his colleagues will remember him, and that posterity will come to know him.

While at my first meeting of the Union, Dr. C. Hart Merriam was secretary, at the next year's gathering at Washington in 1890 I found a new officer at the secretary's desk, a full bearded, slender man with a serious almost severe countenance, and a dignified mien which impressed one with a sense of the responsibility of the office and the importance of the work that was being carried on. This was my first introduction to Sage; but as the years went by his reading of the minutes at the opening of each meeting seemed to me to constitute a sort of rite without which no start could be



Innocent

made. The call of the chair has made no lasting impression on my mind but it seems as if I shall never forget Sage, as year after year he arose, and in a rather nervous, though none the less impressive manner, read from the little red morocco-covered minute book, "The nineteenth meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in New York City"—or in Washington or in Cambridge, as the case might be. Then it seemed that the proper A. O. U. atmosphere had been attained and that another session had actually begun.

And now a long series of those rather sumptuous red backed volumes, symbolic of the dignity of the Union as Sage conceived it, stand as a lasting record of the activities of our society and a monument to the conscientious service of its secretary.

The record itself is written throughout in his own clear hand—too sacred to be entrusted to any transcriber—and those of us who were associated with him during the meetings know full well how he worked far into the night—or even morning, to keep his rough minutes up to date and prepare the finished record for the next day's session.

John H. Sage was the recorder *par excellence*. He rarely missed a moment of a session, keeping a scrupulously accurate personal record of all that transpired, though he figured actively before the meeting only when reading the minutes or when making an announcement at the request of the chair. He rarely if ever missed a meeting during his long term of office and made preparations far in advance in order to be present, even though part of his vacation might have to be devoted to the trip.

Such was John H. Sage the secretary, but he was far more than that to the American Ornithologists' Union, for in spite of his engrossing duties he was always keen for the field trips, dinners, receptions and other functions connected with the meetings, which he felt it his duty to attend. He was alert to welcome new members and to introduce them to those whom they desired to meet, and eager to meet personally those whom he had previously known only as correspondents, and it is no small wonder that his letters, written after his return from a meeting, so often speak of the strenuous week just passed.

He entered enthusiastically into the preparations for every

meeting, and daily letters and post cards poured in to the local committee advising them of members who had signified their intention of being present, or of the titles of papers that had been offered for the program, and he was generously appreciative of any suggestions for making the meetings more successful.

During his term as president and after his retirement from office, when relieved of the drudgery of the meetings, he still maintained the same active interest and his successor has testified to his helpful assistance and advice. He continued to attend the meetings and to participate in all their activities to the end, making all the more evident to us today the great loss that we have suffered in his passing and the gap in our ranks that can never be filled.

John Hall Sage was born in Portland Connecticut, on April 20, 1847, the son of Charles Henry Sage, Judge of Probate for the District of Chatham, and Eliza Hall. On his father's side he was descended from David Sage who was born in Wales in 1639 and came to America in 1652, settling in Middletown, Connecticut, and becoming identified with the earliest history of that town. The Sage family is of Scandinavian origin, branches having been started in England, Scotland and Wales by immigrants from the Scandinavian peninsula and the name is very old being a Norman softening of the Scandinavian *Saga*, meaning the historian or literary man of the community. It first appears in English records in 1066.

On his mother's side Sage was descended from John Hall who came from England to Boston in 1633, and removed to Hartford, Connecticut in 1650, so that his family had long been identified with the immediate neighborhood in which he passed his entire life. No wonder that, as one friend has said, he possessed all the sturdy qualities of New England character or that another regarded him as a fine product of old Connecticut.

He was educated at the common schools of Portland and at the Bridgeport High School and began his business career as a clerk in the office of the Aetna Life Insurance Company, in Hartford, Conn. Here he remained until 1873 when he became teller in the First National Bank of Portland and was in 1879 advanced to the post of cashier in the same institution. He likewise in this year became treasurer of the Freestone Savings Bank of Portland and

later its president, while upon the merging of these two to form the Portland Trust Company, in May 1925, he became chairman of the Board of Directors.

His long unbroken connection with these two institutions, extending over fifty years, constituted his entire business life which was a notably simple and tranquil one. Measured by the usual standard of dollars and magnitude of operation, this career was not what could be called a conspicuous one, but the vital thing in his business life was the character and personality that he brought into it, to the end that these two institutions virtually became the character and personality of John H. Sage. He administered his trusts in a painstaking and extremely conservative manner, with a character of utter integrity pervading all his actions. That he became head of both institutions is evidence of his ability.

He was also a director of the Brainerd, Shaler and Hall Quarry Company of which his father had been treasurer, and of the Portland Water Company and served his local community on various boards and in minor offices, being chairman of the selective draft board of his district during the war. He was also for a time president of the Middletown Hospital, and later a member of its Board of Directors.

Mr. Sage was a devout Episcopalian and was deeply interested in the affairs of the Episcopal Church to which he gave much time and genuine interest. He was treasurer of the Diocese of Connecticut and for forty years a vestryman and warden of Trinity Parish, Portland, as well as a trustee of the Berkeley Divinity School at Middletown, Conn.

History also claimed his interest and he was well versed in all matters relative to his native town, county and state. One of his important publications—the only one outside the field of natural history combined both of these interests—a volume on 'Memorials and Other Gifts to Trinity Church, Portland, Conn.'

Mr. Sage was married on September 16, 1880 to Agnes Farwell Kellogg daughter of Elijah C. and Harriet Isham Kellogg of Hartford, Conn. and had one daughter, Harriet Eliza Sage, now the wife of S. St. John Morgan of Chestnut Hill, Mass., to whom I am indebted for much data relative to his early life and business career.

Mr. Sage passed most of his life at his home, spending his vaca-

tion whenever possible in the Maine woods, while for the weekends in summer time he joined his family at their cottage on the Rhode Island coast. He twice made tours of Europe; once in the spring of 1878, when he visited England, France, Germany and Holland, and again in 1897, when he went to Italy and thence to Switzerland, France and England. In 1898 he joined Dr. C. Hart Merriam on his biological survey of Mt. Shasta, California, and in May 1915 was one of the members of the A. O. U. who attended the meeting in San Francisco. This seems to have been the extent of his travels except to attend the meetings of the several organizations with which he was connected. Besides the A. O. U. and Nuttall Club he was a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Wilson Ornithological Club, Connecticut Botanical and Historical Societies, Linnaean Society of New York, Biological Society of Washington, New York Academy of Sciences and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

While the varied activities that have been briefly outlined would seem enough to make up a full and active life, we all know that Sage's major interest was additional to all of these—his love of nature and his study of ornithology.

He was not a great ornithologist in the technical sense, nor would he for a moment have claimed such a designation. He, like many another lover of nature, chose a business career as one of the necessities of life and steadfastly regarded ornithology as his pastime and hobby; unlike many others, however, he was determined to make the most of it and not become a mere dilettante. He therefore made choice again and elected to specialize on the birds of Connecticut, realizing that with a limited time and opportunity one can accomplish more in a special field than by trying to spread over the whole range of the subject. At the same time he took a healthy interest in the broader aspects of the science, and, when opportunity offered, derived intense pleasure in studying the birds of other parts of the country and comparing them with his home fauna, while he kept well abreast of the literature of the subject.

In his chosen field he stood preeminent. No one had a more thorough knowledge of the birds of Connecticut and no one had devoted so many years to their study. His earliest notes were all placed at the disposal of Dr. Merriam when he was preparing his

'Review of the Birds of Connecticut,' published in 1877, and form an important part of that work. By 1891, however, he was planning a work of his own on the birds of his state, which finally took form in a state publication issued in 1913 in conjunction with Dr. Louis B. Bishop, assisted by W. P. Bliss, and forms one of the most carefully compiled state lists that we have. His short notes on Connecticut birds, contributed to the various ornithological journals and to the local papers, number about 100, beginning with an article entitled 'Birds of the Garden and Orchard' published in the 'Middletown Constitution' in 1878. His ornithological publications are almost entirely limited to the birds of his native state, although while acting as the ornithological editor of 'The Observer,' a post which he held from 1890 to 1896, almost throughout the life of the journal, he published many reviews and accounts of matters of current interest relating to birds and bird students, while his last contribution was an appreciative biographical notice of his life-long friend, Robert O. Morris, which appeared about a month before his death. His scientific researches brought to him well merited recognition in the degree of Master of Science conferred upon him by Trinity College.

Mr. Sage's collection of birds bequeathed to the Wadsworth Athenaeum, of Hartford, consisted mainly of Connecticut specimens, of which he had accumulated remarkably complete series of beautifully prepared skins. He was particularly interested in the supposed hybrids, Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, which find in his immediate neighborhood their center of abundance and of the study of which he never tired, referring to them again and again in his letters. He was a most enthusiastic collector, exhibiting an almost boyish delight in the acquisition of some rare specimen and this enthusiasm he never lost, even though during his latter years he had to entrust his local collecting largely to the caretaker of his property, Samuel Robinson, whom he had known for most of his life and who had been in his employ for over forty years, accompanying him on most of his collecting trips about home. Robinson shared all of his employer's outdoor interest fully and intelligently and came to have a pretty thorough knowledge of the local bird fauna.

Sage was always a collector and had no patience with those who

did not believe in shooting birds for scientific purposes. At the same time he was heartily interested in the protection of birds in general and gave staunch support to the work of the Connecticut Audubon Society. Those who knew him only as the silent, retiring secretary of the Union will be surprised to learn that he gave frequent bird talks before women's clubs and various local nature societies and personally conducted parties of bird students on early morning walks about the country, or met them at the Hartford Scientific Society's rooms and explained the collections, of which he was the curator. Many a young ornithologist, too, was indebted to him for generous assistance when beginning his studies or aid in procuring a permit for the collecting of specimens.

One of his close friends and appreciative ornithological pupils writes me: "His house, built on a quiet street surrounded by several acres of lawn and garden and shaded by noble elms, was the mecca of all bird lovers and there the members of the Hartford Bird Club and those of other cities often gathered to view his wonderful collection of bird skins, all carefully labelled and laid in the drawers of his cabinet." And one of his publications is a little booklet containing a list of ninety-one species of birds that he had found "within the fenced enclosure" about this same house and ten others that had been seen flying over.

Fieldwork, either observing birds or collecting them, was his delight and he never wearied of helping others to appreciate its pleasures. His letters, when they refer to birds, always speak of some tramp through the woods and fields, some rare bird present in his home yard or some specimen just secured for his collection.

Sage was rather delicate in early youth and probably for this reason was urged to observe the wild flowers and birds and learn to know and recognize them. His mother, who in a purely amateurish way was fond of nature, encouraged him at a very early age to seek out and collect natural history specimens and this was doubtless the primary influence that developed his interest.

Indeed, in conversation with his intimate friends, he not infrequently referred to his mother's influence upon his life and attributed to her wisdom and devotion his love of nature and outdoor life which he considered was responsible for much of the health and pleasure that he had enjoyed.

Then his association from boyhood with William Wellington Coe, a lad of kindred interests some five years his senior, helped to crystallize his interest in birds. Mr. Coe was later cashier of the Portland Bank and his daughter, Mrs. Charles H. Coles, writes me that it was he who induced Sage to leave his position in Hartford and enter the bank so that they might be more constantly together and devote all their spare time to their mutual interests. Like many other ornithologists of the last generation they at first mounted their specimens and they are said, by those who saw them, to have been exceptionally well mounted. Coe died in 1885 at the age of 43 and his death was a great shock to Sage who never forgot him and often spoke of the loss that he and the science of ornithology had sustained.

Sage's first ornithological acquaintance outside of his home neighborhood was apparently C. Hart Merriam who, while a student in the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale, in 1874, heard of two bankers in Portland, Coe and Sage, who were actively engaged in the study of ornithology. He went to visit them and was most cordially received. They showed him their collections and, as already stated, turned over to him their note books, large folio business ledgers, Coe's often with humorous notes and sketches on the margins, Dr. Merriam tells me, to be used in the preparations of his forthcoming work on the birds of the state. This was the beginning of a life-long friendship between Sage and Merriam. Trips were immediately planned to points on the New England coast and later Sage visited Merriam's home in the Adirondack region.

Ruthven Deane tells me that he first got into correspondence with Sage as early as 1872 but he did not meet him personally until 1878 when he went up to Cambridge at Deane's invitation, meeting William Brewster and other Cambridge ornithologists and attending a meeting of the Nuttall Club of which many years after, on its fiftieth anniversary, he was elected an honorary member. Dr. A. K. Fisher, whom he met about 1883, became one of his closest friends, and he visited him frequently in Washington in later years. He first met Elliot Coues in 1875, while he called on Prof. Baird in the Smithsonian Institution as early as 1865 when but eighteen years of age. He writes of this visit: "What a kind

and sympathetic man he was. I shall never forget the attention he paid me. What a long and delightful chat we had on birds."

This early acquaintance with several of the men who were instrumental in organizing the American Ornithologists' Union naturally resulted in Sage being among those who were elected active members at the first meeting. Why he was not in attendance at this meeting and thus failed to become a founder is not clear. He, however, immediately rendered the newly formed society an important service. The 'Ornithologist and Oölogist' was at that time one of the leading bird journals of the country, devoted to the collecting of birds and eggs and with a representative and country-wide clientele, composed largely of the younger bird students. The editor, J. M. Wade, was a rather eccentric character and, not having been included among those invited to the organization meeting, wrote for his paper an amusing but highly sarcastic article about the A. O. U. which would undoubtedly have prejudiced many against it. At Mr. Sage's personal request, however, he cancelled it and had other pages printed, delaying the issue of the magazine until the necessary substitution could be made. The incident is interesting not only from its possible bearing upon the A. O. U. but as illustrating the hold that Sage had upon all men of his acquaintance and the high regard that they had for his opinion.

Sage's connection with the Union has already been described; elected secretary in 1889, he was annually reelected until 1918 when to his great surprise—for deserved honors always surprised him—he was unanimously chosen president, an office which he held for the usual three terms, becoming then a member of the Council, *ex officio*, for life. He was also chairman of the investment trustees and in 1888 had become a life Fellow.

A man's character and interests are well reflected in his letters and this is notably so in the case of Sage. In nearly every letter that he wrote to his naturalist friends, after disposing of the matter in hand as quickly and concisely as possible, there is some pleasing little postscript dealing with bird study, or some humorous allusion to one of his ornithological associates or some recent incident that struck him as comical. With his stern and serious countenance, a casual acquaintance would never suspect that back of it lay a

fund of good natured humor and a thorough appreciation of every witty remark, every harmless joke or amusing situation. And yet this sense of humor, bubbling over with fun and loving kindness, was one of the most striking characteristics of the man to those who knew him well.

In his long correspondence with Ruthven Deane, lasting over fifty years, extracts from which have kindly been placed at my disposal, there are numerous examples of this kind. Under date of May 14, 1874, he adds as a postscript, "just took a beautiful adult Cape May Warbler. Shot it from my chamber window. I have never seen this warbler before. I am much pleased with the Bulletin, will send the promised article on *Bubo virginianus*."—The latter reference being, of course, to the 'Nuttall Bulletin' the predecessor of 'The Auk.' In September of the same year he describes a trip to lake Umbagog in Maine and his delight in the trout fishing, and in June, 1878, commenting on his recent trip to Europe, he writes, "what a treat to look at the birds, all new to me with the exception of the English Sparrows. Abundant everywhere, notably so at Brussels. Hamburg has good Botanical, and Zoological Gardens but the museum is not very extensive, the 'Nord American' specimens being few and poorly mounted. At the Zoological Gardens in London I saw many living examples of American birds. Saw them feed the snakes, an interesting but horrible sight." And then a little incident apparently of as much importance as all he saw abroad, an account of a White-throated Sparrow coming aboard the ship on the homeward passage when 250 miles off Sandy Hook.

On his return from a later European trip, in reply to an inquiry whether he found any of the foreign birds superior to those at home, he wrote "Not much. American birds are good enough for me."

On February 13, 1881, he writes to Deane as one staunch New Englander to another, "You must find congenial spirits in Chicago, but what a change from the atmosphere of Cambridge. It seems strange to receive the Bulletin and not find your familiar writing on the wrapper." This was another reference to the 'Nuttall Bulletin' the distribution of which, before his removal to Chicago, had been in Deane's hands.

In later letters received from Sage during our thirty-five years of correspondence, I find the same little postscript items, as, for instance, "Yesterday I made up the skin of a Jumping Mouse and the cat has just brought in another," and "A flock of Evening Grosbeaks came to my yard this morning and were feeding on the ground under a large maple tree on the back lawn. From force of habit I looked along the barrel of my collecting pistol and so added a new bird to my home list." Again, alluding to the new cover design of 'The Auk,' where a flock of the birds, instead of a single one, was depicted, he writes, "The January 'Auk' was a good and lively number. I wish I might kill some of the extra birds on the cover." Again he refers to a flock of Pine Finches in his yard, "a happy lot," and to the "big rusty Fox Sparrows scratching so vigorously among the leaves." At other times he is putting up a fine skin of a fox or admiring a specimen of the marbled salamander which someone had brought in to him.

In other letters he says, "the Connecticut Botanical Society will have a field meeting in Middletown. I am to act as guide. They want to collect *Arenaria groenlandica*. This is the only station in Connecticut" and again, "I start at 6.30 in the morning on a trip to the northern part of the state. Several sphagnum bogs up there need attention."

From these excerpts it can be seen that his interest was not entirely limited to the birds for he was well acquainted with all of the terrestrial vertebrates of Connecticut as well as the plants.

While he had about decided that it would be impossible to take a vacation in 1898 he received Dr. Merriam's invitation to join his Mt. Shasta expedition and was fortunately able to make satisfactory business arrangements so that he could accept. His letters telling of the proposed trip are almost boyish in their enthusiasm. "As I've never been to the Pacific Coast," he writes, "everything will be new to me. Won't we have a grand time?" and then from the camp on Mt. Shasta came this interesting letter:

"We reached Sisson July 14, having had a delightful trip across the continent much of the way over the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Mr. F. V. Coville the Government botanist joined us at Chicago and traveled with us as far as Portland, Oregon.

"July 15 we came up the mountain to an elevation of 5750 feet and camped at Wagon Camp, so called as it is as far up the mountain as a person can go with a wagon. Miss Merriam and I went out to study the birds each day and what fine tramps we had. She has had experience on the Pacific coast but nearly all of the species were new to me. The Olive-sided Flycatcher is common there, the same as I find it in Maine. The Chickadee is different from the one in the East and I wish you could have seen the Hummingbirds. The White-headed Woodpecker was a conspicuous bird, also the Pileated.

"We moved to this altitude, 7700 feet, August 1. Many birds found below are not seen here, and it is interesting to note where the change occurs. Clarke's Crows are common here, coming about the camp for food and remind one of the Canada Jays at my Maine camps. Juncos, different from ours, are here, any quantity of Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Steller's Jays, etc. I have taken several Warblers but as they are young birds it is difficult to identify them until I get home. One species of Hummer is here in numbers; they are partial to the Castilleja or Painted Cup, which flower is now in full bloom in the small meadows on the mountain.

"Yesterday I made up the skin of a Rock Wren that was shot at an elevation of 9800 ft. One of these birds lives near our camp and I see the Water Ouzel occasionally on Squaw Creek. Everything is moved with pack horses, and we have taken some interesting horse-back rides up the mountain to 9300 ft. It is wonderful how these horses can climb so readily over the broken lava. I am always glad to get back alive.

"We do not have a tent, but sleep on the ground in sleeping bags, convenient and perfectly comfortable. Presume I shall want to spend the night on the lawn when I reach Connecticut."

While he had been unable to join the A. O. U. excursion to California in 1903, on account of poor health, he was one of the party to cross the continent in 1915 to attend the first regular meeting to be held on the Coast, and had the satisfaction of seeing the Grand Canyon, a pleasure which he had been looking forward to for many years. It was the writer's privilege to be with him on this occasion, and a morning tramp with him along the rim of the

Canyon, encountering birds new to both of us at almost every step, and Sage's contagious enthusiasm, will always remain as cherished memories.

The Maine woods were his chief delight, ever since his first visit to Moosehead Lake in 1866, and every year that it was possible, he made the trip. Writing from camp on July 9, 1896, he says: "We reached here after a twenty-mile canoe trip from the head of Moosehead Lake and shall be in camp for about three weeks. My usual practise is to stay about two days in a place and then move on, something like a circus. By this method we cover much country and see many interesting things. I have a cousin with me whose tastes are similar to my own, and three guides. We expect to have a hard trip but I am always enthusiastic about this country. In fact I'm a perfect crank on the state of Maine." And when he returned he wrote again, "I am glad you enjoyed Thoreau's 'Maine Woods,' it's a book that never grows stale. The region has changed somewhat since his day but is still the most fascinating country that I ever found. We had a delightful trip and did not return until August 1. I made many observations on birds. The summer song of the Pine Grosbeak was new to me, they also give the whistle so familiar to us in the winter. The White-winged Crossbills were singing continually, confiding little birds coming to feed within a few feet of us and uttering their sweet note, a sort of trill growing louder until the end. The Red Cross bill was common and the Water-Thrushes abundant everywhere along the streams. I saw a White-throated Sparrow carrying food for its young and tried to find the nest, but ran into the dwelling place of some yellow hornets and was obliged to retreat. A Loon on her nest was an interesting sight. We saw 312 deer and 15 moose. The latter are big awkward animals but there is a fascination about studying them and my note book is filled with items about them. The trout fishing was excellent. How you would have enjoyed the canoe trip through Chase's Rapids, several miles of rapid water. It is a little dangerous I will admit, but very exciting." Then in a postscript, he says, "As I have not said much about Maine in this letter, I wonder if you have read 'A Moosehead Journal,' by James Russell Lowell?"

Apropos of his sense of humor which is in evidence in most of his

letters, there was at the close of the Chicago meeting a proposal from an enthusiastic historical party to visit the birthplace of Robert Kennicott, the pioneer Illinois ornithologist, and Mr. Sage was persuaded to join them. He asked a friend to cash a check for him in case additional funds might be needed and upon his return home wrote "I did not have to use it, but was afraid it might be needed if, after seeing Kennicott's birthplace in Illinois, they might suggest going to Alaska to see where he died!" Again, after being elected to a position of honor and responsibility in another field of activity, he writes: "I never seem to get an office with a salary."

Mr. Sage was of an extremely generous nature and seemed never happier than when able to do some favor for a friend while in an unassuming way he performed many acts of charity. On the occasion of one of his first visits to Philadelphia he looked over the writer's ornithological library, then of very limited extent, and made mental note of the fact that he lacked the first and second volumes of 'The Auk,' then virtually out of print and obtainable only with full sets. Next Christmas the two volumes in the original parts came to me with a card reading "I have fed these birds for many years and think they are in proper condition for your Christmas dinner. Please accept them with my compliments." This was a delightful surprise and it would have been hard to find a more acceptable Christmas gift for a young ornithologist.

Sage was extremely kind hearted not only to children and to his fellow men but to animals as well, and shows much feeling in a letter written to a friend while he was traveling in Europe: "I wish to tell you," he writes, "of the loss I have sustained. Have just heard from home that my old horse, Bill, is dead. He was the pet of the family. I purchased him in May, 1874, and we have lived together ever since. He was over thirty years old but had not been harnessed for five years. I had a place for him to run in a lot near my house. In his younger days he was fond of going after birds and would allow me to walk along beside him and almost rest my gun on his back as I shot. He would take cookies from my lips and seemed like one of the family in many ways." And then as if a little embarrassed by this show of feeling he adds: "but enough of this."

It has been often said that the best part of a scientific meeting is the time before, after, and between the sessions, when members can get together for informal and social discussion and I am sure that these periods during the A. O. U. meetings were always enjoyed to the full by Mr. Sage. Papers and technical discussions are usually printed, and we can study them at our leisure but the personal contact with men of kindred tastes, the delightful exchange of ideas and experiences, the witty remarks and retorts can only be had at these informal meetings. With a full realization of this fact Dr. A. K. Fisher has arranged many gatherings of scientific men in Washington which were entirely devoted to this sort of social intercourse. Two of the most notable of these, held at the Field Naturalists' Clubhouse at Plummer Island in the Potomac, were in celebration of the seventieth and seventy-fifth birthdays of Mr. Sage. The first was somewhat in the nature of a surprise party as the guest was invited to spend his birthday with Dr. Fisher and to visit the island, where to his astonishment there soon assembled seventeen of his fellow ornithologists, some of whom had journeyed from other cities in order to be present. While it was a pleasure for the latter to pay a tribute to the man, it was a further pleasure to have him write, upon returning home, with his characteristic thoughtfulness and sincerity, "I appreciate more than I can express in words your great kindness in going to Washington on the 20th to be present at the festivities. It was awfully nice of you to leave your office for such an occasion."

Another opportunity to pay a deserved tribute to Mr. Sage occurred after the San Francisco meeting in 1915, when in closing the minutes of the Council for the previous meeting he modestly stated that with that session the secretary had completed 25 years of continuous service. While nothing was said at the time, those present agreed that something should be done to commemorate this service, and it was finally decided to have each Fellow and Retired Fellow of the Union write him a short note of congratulation on uniform sheets provided for the purpose and to have the whole set of letters bound up with an appropriate title page designed by Mr. Fuytes. This was done, the last of the fifty-two letters coming in from McGregor in the Philippines in time to have the book ready for shipment by Christmas.

The recipient had evidently never given his statement of service another thought, nor had he been aware that anyone else had done so. Such service seemed to him simply a matter of course and his note of December 26, 1915, leaves no doubt but that the action of the Union was completely and characteristically unexpected. "Words fail me to express my feeling of gratitude for your cordial letter transmitting the beautifully gotten-up album containing messages from all the Fellows of the A. O. U. I never was more surprised in my life and am sure that I do not deserve such a tribute."

Never overly robust, Mr. Sage, by careful dieting and regular exercise, was nevertheless always able to enjoy rather strenuous outdoor tramping and camp life, although there were times when he had to forego his trip to the Maine woods, and letters in which he complained of the difficulty of shaking off colds and other ailments. Once, too, he writes: "The doctor says I *must* take life easier and I am planning to give up several outside interests and devote myself entirely to banking and the robbing of birds' nests!"

The past summer, however, found him keen for his trip to the north woods and by August he was in camp at Big Lyford Pond. Here he experienced a painful abdominal trouble, which necessitated his removal to the Boston General Hospital. A preliminary operation gave him relief, and a further one was planned as soon as he had regained his strength. While here, Mr. Sage was delighted by visits from two of his old friends, Ruthven Deane and Rev. Arthur T. Gesner, who happened to be in Boston, and the latter has informed me that he found him in his usual cheerful frame of mind. He was considered out of danger and his condition improved daily until August 16, when embolism suddenly occurred in his chest which caused his death.

Such is an outline of the life and activities of an exceptional character—a man who, while he attained the highest position of trust and honor in his chosen field of business activity, yet found time for helpful labors in religious and charitable organizations, and throughout his long life constantly cultivated a deep interest in natural history, not only developing a systematic knowledge of the vertebrate animals and plants of his state but an appreciation and reverence for the beauty and poetry of wild nature. And in all these fields his earnestness of purpose brought to him rewards

and positions of trust commensurate with those attained in the business world.

His friend Rt. Rev. Edward C. Acheson, Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut, writes of Mr. Sage: "the things about him that impressed me most were his kindness in thought, word, and deed, never an ill word about anyone, nor an unkind suggestion; his reliability, never late at appointments nor absent, unless something unforeseen and not to be put off arose; his religious life, constant, and faithful; his quiet companionableness, not much of a talker but a good listener and sustainer. We trusted Mr. Sage always, and we took him for granted. He was a good man."

What more can I say of his character—devoted husband and father, generous and kind friend, lovable companion, tireless co-worker, modest and retiring, concealing behind a somewhat austere presence as kind a heart as ever beat.

What a gratification it must be to such a man to round out full four score years of life with no cessation from his activities, no sacrifice of his interests, keeping in touch to the last with those things that he loved the best.

And then to receive the summons, that proved to be the final call, in the solitude of those north woods that had always been sanctuary to him—a haven of rest where he could commune with nature, yet untouched by the hand of man. In his long career he got the best out of life and in generous measure made return, so that the world and all with whom he came in contact were the better that this man had lived.

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