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CHARLES HENRY DALTON

Charles Henry Dalton, who was the first Treasurer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died at his residence in Boston, Feb. 23, 1908. Mr. Dalton was born at Chelmsford in this State on Sept. 25, 1826, the son of Dr. John Call Dalton, an eminent physician of that period. When the city of Lowell was founded, Dr. Dalton removed with his family to the new city, where Mr. Dalton's youth was spent. His father later removed to Boston, where he lived until the close of his life.

Charles Dalton entered upon his business career as a clerk with the commission house of Sayles, Merriam & Brewer, then the selling agents for some of the largest factories of New England. It will show that he soon made apparent the remarkable capacity for organization and administration which became so marked in his later business career to state that in one of his earlier years he was sent by the firm to Southbridge where a complicated condition of affairs had arisen, resulting in a strike of the operatives of the Hamilton Woolen Company there located, and which promised serious results. In a short time everything was arranged, and so satisfactorily that young Dalton was put in charge, and he resided at Southbridge for five years.

Soon after his return to Boston he entered the firm of

J. C. Howe & Co., engaged in a similar business, and was sent to Manchester, N.H., to be in charge of some department of the Manchester Print Works, one of the largest manufacturing establishments in Manchester. A residence there of about five years brought him to Boston not long before the commencement of the Civil War, about which time he was married to Miss Mary McGregor, and established his home in Boston where he resided for the remainder of his life, with a summer residence at Beverly Farms.

Perhaps the most notable of all the public services which it was the good fortune of Mr. Dalton to render was as a member of the official staff of Governor Andrew during the first years of the Civil War. His special duty was to act as the personal representative of the Governor at Washington, in confidential relations with President Lincoln and the War Department in regard to the recruiting, equipping, arming, and hurrying forward of the Massachusetts regiments. So much occupied was he that he was forced to live in Washington for a considerable period.

Next in importance Mr. Dalton would probably consider his service to the Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean Hospital. Here for more than a quarter-century he acted first as a trustee and later as president, always giving intelligent and loyal service. He was a member of the committee for negotiating the sale of the old site at Somerville and of the building committee for the new buildings at Waverley. As president, he delivered an interesting address at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first application of ether at the Hospital in September, 1846.

He was elected a director of the New England Trust Company in 1875, was made a vice-president in 1880 and remained so until the time of his death. He was for many

years a director of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, and a trustee of the Provident Institution for Savings; also, at various periods, treasurer of the Merrimack Manufacturing Company, of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company, and of the Consolidation Coal Company of Maryland.

He was for nine years a member and for eight years chairman of the Boston Park Commission, and the admirable park system of Boston was laid out and largely built under his supervision. For twelve years he was a member and during a portion of that time chairman of the Boston Transit Commission, having charge of the location and building of our subway system.

Omitting mention of various other similar positions of more or less public consequence, it remains to speak of his connection with the Institute of Technology. Of this he was one of the charter members, active in promoting the organization, and was elected Treasurer May 6, 1862. He resigned the treasurership after four years of service, but remained a member of the Corporation until Feb. 12, 1879. He was again elected a member March 13, 1895, but declined to serve. He was a contributor to various subscriptions, and April 8, 1896, he established the "Dalton Graduate Scholarship," "for the payment of fees of American male students, graduates of the Institute, who may wish to pursue advanced chemical study and research, especially applicable to textile industries," showing that he maintained a lively interest in Technology long after his official connection with it had terminated.

In all these varied activities it goes without saying that he performed his part well, or he would not have been chosen to them. He was remarkably clear-headed, of excellent judgment, and a well-balanced mind, so that, when called

to the decision of large questions, his verdict was sure to be justified by subsequent results.

He was never a seeker for office, but, when called upon for service, he was ready to respond to the best of his ability and is entitled to be named among the ideal citizens of the Commonwealth.

Happy in his life, he was happy in the circumstances of his death. On the evening of February 22 he retired in his usual degree of health. On the morning of February 23 he was no longer with us, for God had taken him.

WILLIAM ENDICOTT.

THE NEW "TECH UNION"

There is now every prospect that a new and more commodious dining-room and social hall for the use of students will soon be established on the grounds of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The movement for the inauguration of this new Union is entirely of student origin, and is one of the best indications that the Technology student is now fully alive to his needs and opportunities in the direction of a more general social life.

The original Tech Union was inaugurated by President Pritchett in 1903, and the entire work of its installation was undertaken and carried through by two or three persons not connected with the student body. It has been kept in existence and managed principally by officers of the Institute, with some assistance from the students. The cramped nature of the accommodations furnished and the awkwardness of the location have hindered its proper development; but, in spite of these drawbacks, it has accomplished much. It has enabled the different classes and societies of Technology to gather for social meetings in a very inexpensive way. It has also made possible a comfortable lounging and luncheon room for some hundred students at the noon recess. But, principally, its use has convinced the undergraduate that such a hall is a necessity, and he now asks for a wider extension of this idea.

The Grundmann Studio Building, centrally located in the midst of the Engineering Buildings, appeals to the students as an ideal location for a social hall and dining-room, and several months ago an energetic editor of *The*

Tech discovered that the lease of this building from the Institute authorities expired in September, 1908. After investigation he brought the subject to the attention of the Institute Committee, a representative body of students elected from all classes, whose duty it is to act for the students in all matters of general interest. The joint action of *The Tech* and the Institute Committee resulted in the publication of a carefully written article in *The Tech* of Dec. 30, 1907. In this article it was pointed out that here in our very midst existed an ideal opportunity for developing at once a Tech Union that should more satisfactorily meet the present needs of Institute students. Copies of *The Tech*, containing a cut of the Grundmann Studio and a plan of the rooms, were distributed free to all members of the Corporation. Mass meetings of the students were held. The plan was indorsed by each class separately and by all the large student organizations. These different bodies adopted resolutions, which, with the original plan of the Institute Committee, were formally presented to the President and Executive Committee on Jan. 28, 1908. At the request of the latter committee the Treasurer of the Institute entered cordially into the spirit of the plan, and at once took up with the Copley Society, the present lessee of the Grundmann Studio Building, the question of the relinquishment of a large portion of that building.

Other plans for a location of the Union in the immediate neighborhood of the Institute are also under consideration, and which of these will be finally adopted has not yet been fully determined. It is, however, certain that the new Union will be provided for, and that this will be done in the best way practicable.

The Union is to be not merely a lunch-room, but a true students' club. Besides a large hall, which will be used for

the serving of meals and for the general evening meetings, there will be a lounging and smoking room, a reading-room, a coat-room and mail delivery, and two smaller dining-rooms for the use of clubs. There will also be rooms which can be used by some of the student organizations.

The idea of the establishment of a new Union has met with encouragement from the officers of the Institute and the Faculty whenever they have been consulted, but the students alone are responsible for the initiative in connection with the new movement.

To show how greatly this movement for the new Union has interested the students, it is only necessary to state that fifteen or more of them have undertaken a thorough investigation of the dining system in nineteen different colleges, and have submitted to the President and Executive Committee detailed reports of the systems in operation at these various colleges. These investigations have been made mainly with the idea of finding out what is the best and most economical plan for running a dining-room.

After a canvass of the students it seems likely that under the conditions now existing at the Institute there will be some six or seven hundred men who will want to take their luncheons at the new Union. It is also probable that about one hundred and fifty men would take their breakfasts at the same place, while from two hundred and fifty to three hundred would get their dinners there. This rate of attendance, of course, depends upon the meals being of better quality and lower price than can now be obtained at restaurants in the vicinity of the Institute buildings.

The following suggestions from the report submitted by the students may be of interest. The plan adopted at Dartmouth seems to have appealed especially to them, and they have based their suggestions principally on that.

At Dartmouth the dining-room is under the direction of a Dining Association composed of two Faculty members and one Senior. There is a financial manager, a graduate, who receives as yearly salary a percentage of the profits. A professional steward is employed by the directors, and receives a yearly salary. The waiters, who are hired by the manager, and are paid at the rate of seventeen and one-half cents an hour, are students; the head waiter is also a student, and receives a weekly salary. The meals served at Dartmouth are a combination of *table d'hôte* and *à la carte*, and are at the following prices: breakfasts, fifteen cents; lunches, fifteen and twenty cents; and dinners, twenty and twenty-five cents. There is also a special order list, for which the prices charged are about ten per cent. less than those charged at restaurants. Coupons are used for payments of meals, and are purchased in books of five hundred, each coupon representing one cent.

In accordance with suggestions made by the students it is expected that there will be a student board which will have general control of the Union subject to the approval in financial matters of a small House Committee of officers of the Institute. A professional steward will be employed who will take charge of the buying, the planning of the menu, and the kitchen and serving-room, and who will be directly responsible to the Institute authorities. It is intended to employ student waiters, who will be paid a per hour wage. This employment of student waiters has been tried at the present Tech Union with success, and the plan works well also at many large colleges, noticeably, in our own vicinity, at Dartmouth. The idea is a good one in that it tends to build up and increase a truly democratic spirit among the young men thus associated.

Aside from the importance of this development of the

student life of the Institute, the necessary enlargement of the Mechanical Engineering Laboratories for the installation of the new turbine and other apparatus makes it imperative to abandon the present lunch-room in the Pierce Building, which has been so ably and successfully managed for many years by Mrs. King. It is the determination of those interested in the new Union to see that the same type of luncheon and the same quality of food shall be served as have been served in the past, although there will probably be in addition regular meals at fixed prices.

It is hoped that the expense involved in the equipment of the new Union will be met largely by gifts, several of which have already been promised by friends of the Institute.

In conclusion, it seems to one who is interested in Technology student life that this movement for a new social and dining hall is indicative of the growth in the undergraduates of those qualities of initiative, sociability and responsibility, for the development of which the alumni have considered that inadequate preparation has hitherto been made. A new Union that shall temporarily fill the place which the Walker Memorial Building is ultimately to occupy will tend to foster this Technology spirit and to open a road to broader social relations among the students.

ALFRED E. BURTON.

THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE INSTITUTE

In Volume V. of the REVIEW (April, 1903) is an illuminating article by Myron E. Pierce, Esq., on "The Institute and the Commonwealth," in which he proves that "the debt which the Commonwealth owes the Institute is not a small one." In the five intervening years that debt has greatly increased, and it will doubtless never cease to grow. On the other hand, the Institute is under distinct obligations to Massachusetts, not only for its charter and for substantial money aid, but also for very real though intangible strength and support through the historic, educational, and industrial prestige of this famous commonwealth. Furthermore, as a public service corporation in the highest meaning of that term, the Institute has definite duties towards education, industrial development, and citizenship in general, which increase as society progresses and which grow more pressing as the institution advances in reputation and ability to serve.

In its act of incorporation the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is made a body corporate "for the purpose of instituting and maintaining a society of arts, a museum of arts, and a school of industrial science, and of *aiding generally, by suitable means, the advancement, development, and practical application of science in connection with arts, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce.*" Moreover, under acts of the Massachusetts legislatures of 1863 and 1890, the Institute receives one-third of the United States Land Grant of 1862 to the end that it may "teach such branches of learning as are related to the agricultural and mechanical arts, . . . *in order to promote the*