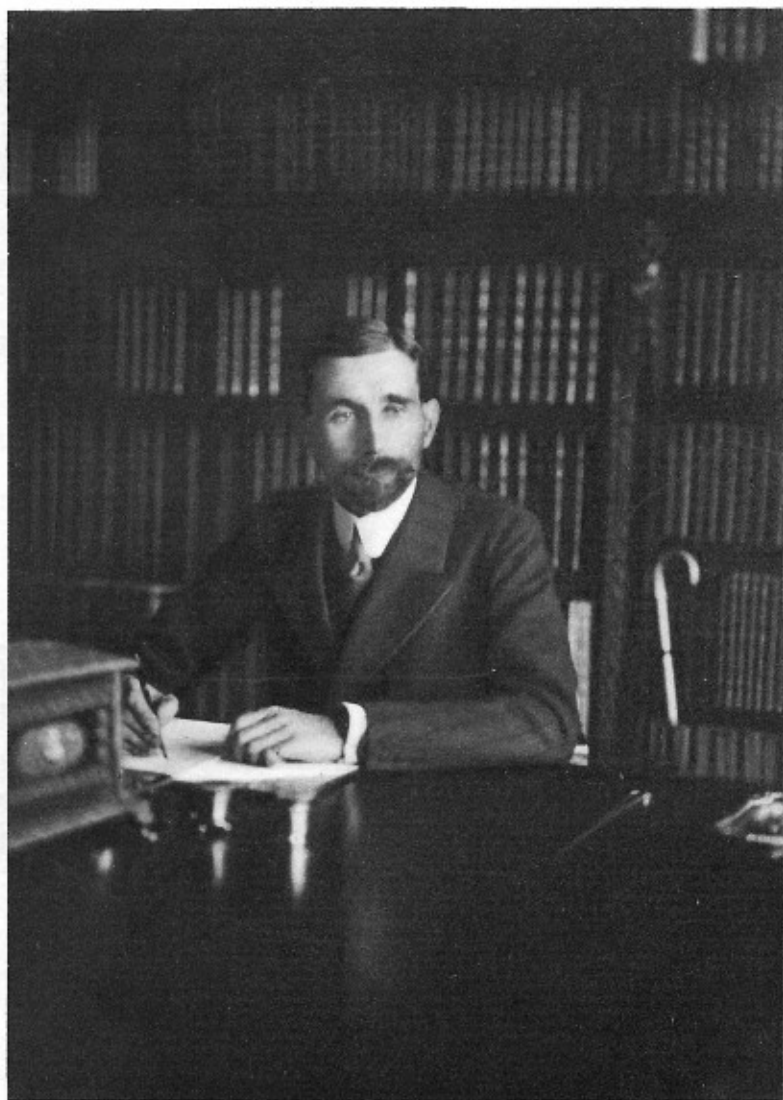


W. BAYARD CUTTING, JR.

For dear Anne  
in memoriam

W. BAYARD CUTTING, JR.

1878-1910



W. BAYARD CUTTING, JR.

*May 1909*

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1878 - 1910

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## FOREWORD

*The following pages do not contain a biography or a history of a life. They do not even constitute a memoir; they are rather the record of impressions made by a life and character upon a few friends who have asked to be permitted to record them. Because of the conditions, they are a record rather of promise than achievement,—of character than of results,—but some of those who knew the subject of these pages well, and loved him, have thought the record worth making.*

*Scarcely anything would have surprised him more—or perhaps less met with his approval—than anything like a biography or an attempt to make a story out of his short and, to him, ineffective life—but no such attempt is made here. Those who have written have done so because they keenly desired to register their affection for him; and he, because he loved them so well, would not if he could have said them nay.*

W. BAYARD CUTTING

FROM  
THE HARVARD BULLETIN

MARCH 23, 1910

WILLIAM BAYARD CUTTING, '00, died at Assouan, Egypt, on March 10 of pneumonia. He was the son of William Bayard and Olivia Murray Cutting. He was born in New York June 13, 1878, and prepared for college at Groton School, entering Harvard in the autumn of 1896. The reputation for scholarly attainments, won at Groton, he more than sustained at Harvard where he earned a place in the first group of scholars three years in succession, was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, and received the degree of A.B., *summa cum laude*, after three years of work. In college he took courses principally in history, philosophy and economics, with scattering courses in the classics, music, and English literature. As time went on he devoted himself more and more to the study of modern European history, especially to the Italian Risorgimento, the Napoleonic era, and to French and Italian literature.

His college interests, however, were not confined to scholarship. Always genial and sociable by nature, he took an active part in the various clubs, social and literary, to which he was elected, and gave some of his time also to athletics. He



was one of the best under-graduate golf players of his time, was captain of the University golf team, and was runner-up in an intercollegiate golf tournament. For three years, also, he played on his class nine. He was, in addition, a good horseman, a first-class shot, and an excellent musician.

In the summer of his junior year Cutting was offered the position of private secretary to the Hon. Joseph H. Choate '52, then Ambassador to England. After much deliberation, he decided to give up his senior year at College and go to England. He remained in London as Mr. Choate's secretary until the spring of 1901 when he was married to Lady Sybil Marjorie Cuffe, the younger daughter of the fifth Earl of Desart. She, with a daughter, survives him. He and his wife returned to America the following summer and, after a short visit to California, he entered the Law School of Columbia University where he remained throughout the year. He went to England in June 1902, and in London was stricken down with a hemorrhage. From that time until his death he was more or less of an invalid and was obliged to seek climates which were favorable to the nature of his trouble.

In the autumn of 1903, Cutting moved to southern California, where he lived until the spring of 1905. While there he spent part of his time editing the Nordhoff "Ojai," a local paper which he ran with characteristic care, enthusiasm, and scholarship. In the autumn of 1905, after a summer in the East, he went abroad and there he remained with the exception of a short visit home last spring, until his death. During these years he lived in various places; some time at St. Moritz, later at Varenna, and still later at Milan. All this time he read and studied incessantly, delighting his friends at home with letters giving a lively picture of his life and pursuits. Having improved very much in health, he travelled with his family in Egypt in the winter of 1908, returning to Italy in the spring to become Vice Consul at Milan. To his consular duties he brought the same qualities of mind and character which he had shown as a scholar at Cambridge and as editor of the paper in California, and whether he was engaged on a search for lost luggage, or writing a report on pellagra or on the tobacco industry of Lombardy, he was equally painstaking and zealous.

Cutting was still Vice Consul at Milan at the time of the Messina disaster. He was ordered by

Mr. Griscom, then Ambassador to Italy, to go to Messina to establish a consulate. He was one of the first foreigners to arrive, and for weeks laboured with energy and skill to relieve the suffering Sicilians and to distribute the money subscribed in America. An interesting account of his experiences was afterwards published in the American Red Cross Bulletin for April, 1909. Last autumn he was awarded one of the three gold medals by the American Red Cross, the other two recipients being Mr. Griscom and Commander Belknap, U.S.N.

While at Milan, Cutting had taken examinations to enter the diplomatic service. It is said that his paper on international law is still preserved at the State Department as a model of its kind. Having been appointed Secretary of Legation at Tangier, he returned to America to visit the State Department and to see his parents and friends. While at Washington he had another hemorrhage but, recovering in a few weeks, he went back to his family in Italy and there spent the summer. For various reasons he decided that he was unable to undertake the work at Tangier, therefore he resigned from the diplomatic service.

Cutting now turned his thoughts seriously to

Harvard where he had had a standing offer of an instructorship in more than one department. For University work he was more than usually well prepared. Well grounded in English literature he had also a delightful English style. To a training in the classics he had added a wide and accurate knowledge of the languages and literatures of France, Germany, and Italy, and had also some acquaintance with Spanish. His knowledge of modern European history, especially on the diplomatic side, was extensive and minute. Always eager to enter into the active service of the University, he resolved to make a study of the various colonies and dependencies of England, and in this way to prepare himself to lecture on Colonial Government at Harvard. With this object in view, he and his family went to Egypt in November, and he at once began with great vigor to study the administration of that country. His strength was not sufficient, however, to meet the demands he made on it, and reluctantly he had to relinquish active work although he read steadily official reports and blue books until almost the very end.

Although Cutting returned to Cambridge for only two short visits after he left in 1899, yet his

interest in the University never for a moment abated. He read regularly the University publications and followed the fortunes of Harvard with increasing enthusiasm. To the Library he was always a friend, and the collections on Florence, Switzerland, and Napoleonic literature owe much to his generosity. His appointment two years ago as Curator of Napoleonic Literature and this winter as John Harvard Fellow, gave him much pleasure, for he liked to think of himself as a University officer.

To those who did not know Cutting it would be impossible to describe the many attributes which combined to make him one of the most lovable and delightful of men. To those who did know him such an effort would seem to be almost presumptuous. Futile, however, as the attempt must be to set forth his character, yet some of its traits can be defined even if their nice intermingling is difficult to describe. He was, first, last, and always a gentleman — gallant, sensitive, simple, refined. A learned man and a brilliant talker, he was too humble-minded to regard his accomplishments as out of the common run. It was, indeed, this very humility about which his friends had to argue with him, for he tended to

be too distrustful of his own capacity. Only very recently, for instance, could he be convinced that he had sufficient learning to be an assistant or an instructor in history. Yet with a memory that never failed him, he could always call on his vast information, accumulated by reading and reflection. In scholarship, however, he belonged more to the type of those who acquire than of those who can make use of their learning in a productive form. Impetuous and ardent, he did not always maintain a proper proportion. One of the most clubable of men, with a keen sense of humour, nothing delighted him more than a small company of friends at a good dinner where the talk could take a wide range over the past, present, and future. But only by long analysis could all his characteristics be portrayed. Wise, courageous, human, urbane, accomplished, generous, unselfish, tender, loyal, he enlarged for his friends their views of friendship, and widened their understanding of character and attainments.

EDGAR H. WELLS