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JOHN TAYLOR GILMAN,

*“The Beloved Physician.”*





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*John Taylor Gilman.*

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JOHN TAYLOR GILMAN, M. D.,

PORTLAND, MAINE.

MEMORIAL

FOR THE FAMILY.

*Medical Book*  
*1885*

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## MEMOIR.

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Dr. John Taylor Gilman was a descendant, in the sixth generation, from Edward Gilman, of Welsh extraction, who emigrated from Hingham in England to this country in 1638, and fixed his residence in Exeter, New Hampshire, about nine years later. His descendants were numerous. The branch from which Dr. Gilman sprang was notable for the position and influence of many of its members. John Gilman, the son of the immigrant ancestor, was a mandamus Councillor of New Hampshire on its erection into a royal province, in 1680; Nicholas, his son, was a Judge of the Superior Court of the province; Daniel, the Councillor's grandson, was a large farmer, a colonel in the militia and a leading citizen; Nicholas, the fourth in descent from Edward, was the right hand of the Chief Executive, and the financial agent of New Hampshire in the Revolution; Nathaniel, the great great grandson of the Councillor, and the father of the subject of this sketch, succeeded his parent as continental loan officer, was eight years Treasurer

of the State, three years a member of the higher branch of the Legislature, and held other positions of trust and dignity. He was commonly known as Colonel Gilman, from having in early life held the command of a regiment of militia.

The mother of Dr. Gilman and the second wife of his father, was Dorothea, a daughter of Captain Nathaniel Folsom of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and grand-daughter of General Nathaniel Folsom, who as a captain at the age of twenty-nine, distinguished himself by a gallant exploit in the old French war, at lake George; was, during the Revolution, the commanding officer of the militia of New Hampshire, and was four times chosen a delegate to the continental Congress.

John Taylor Gilman was born in Exeter, May 9, 1806, and was the eighth of the eleven children of his father. His childhood and youth up to the age of sixteen years, were passed in his native town. His father's dwelling was a typical New England home of the best class. The house was a spacious old mansion with a gambrel roof, overshadowed by a wide-spreading elm, and fronting on a quiet village street. It was flanked on one side by a yard, lined with barns and other farm buildings, and on the other by a well cared for garden which extended far back, filled with old-fashioned flowering plants, and fruits and vegetables. Beyond that the farm ran off into cultivated fields, pastures, and, finally extensive woodlands, stretching for upwards of a



mile along the bank of "fresh river," a winding, picturesque stream, chiefly prized by the boys for bathing and fishing in summer, and for skating in winter.

The house was the abode of plenty and hospitality and charity. Col. Gilman was a gentleman of the old school, who to the last wore ruffles at his shirt front, and his hair in a queue. His frame was stalwart, his figure erect, his voice stentorian. He was a large farmer, and was deeply interested in all agricultural improvements, as well as in every matter of public concern. Whenever a farmers' meeting occurred, or the court opened its session, or any other extraordinary occasion brought an influx of strangers into town, the Colonel caused the "long room" to be filled with tables, and scores of invited guests partook of his bountiful hospitality. It was the rule of the house that no one should depart thence unfilled.

The mistress of the establishment was a help meet for such a master. She had the whole art of housekeeping at her fingers' ends. Handsome as she was reputed to be in her young ladyhood, she seemed to grow even handsomer with added years. Her trim figure became a little more full, while her dark eyes and her fresh rich color preserved every jot of their brightness. She, too, was the impersonation of hospitality, and dispensed a liberal charity among her neighbors less favored by fortune. She was never so happy as in giving; her pensioners were a numerous band. For years

she was known as "Madam" Gilman,—the American title of respect for ladies of superior position and excellence.

There were other powers, besides the master and mistress, who presided over their departments of the establishment. "Old Molly," famous for her skill in cookery, was for long years mistress of the kitchen. Like many of the life-long servants of former times she felt that she belonged to the family, and was no insignificant part of it. She loved the children as if they were her own, and indulged them (when out of their parents' sight) a great deal more than if they had been her own. Charles Tash, a colored retainer of the household, deserves honorable mention in this connection. He possessed the dignified manners and accomplishments of the Maryland house servants of the old regime. Though the stable was his special domain, he was the general factotum of the establishment. The young people looked to him for help in every emergency; he taught the girls the art of riding on horseback, and the boys many other branches of useful knowledge not to be acquired in the schools, not the least of which was the occult mystery of capturing the wary trout. Besides these chief servants, there was no lack of other help, male and female, in and about the house; and in the stables and barns and yard, were horses and oxen and cows, pigs and poultry galore.

In this abode lived the boy John T. Gilman.

He was a handsome, bright and lovable lad, of a neat, erect figure, fresh complexion and pleasant blue eyes. His disposition was amiable, his tastes were healthy, his manners were courteous, his voice was sweet. It is no wonder that he was a universal favorite. There was no trace of effeminacy about him. He joined heartily in the diversions of the play ground and of the woods and fields, and was not the boy to cry over a tumble or a bruise. Of all sports none pleased him so well as fishing. He was a genuine disciple of old Isaac Walton. Many were the long summer afternoons that he wandered by the brooksides; and many a toothsome dish upon his father's well spread board was due to his piscatorial skill. His fondness for this sport accompanied him through life. Almost the only diversion he allowed himself in after years as a relief from the weary rounds of his profession, was an occasional run of a day or two, in the company of a few intimate friends, to some pleasant lake or stream, for a little indulgence in this favorite recreation. He relished these excursions with youthful zest, and returned from them refreshed and invigorated for his daily work.

He enjoyed the great advantage of forming the basis of his character among brothers and sisters both older and younger than himself. He thus early learned the important lesson, never afterwards forgotten, to yield his own wishes to the superior claims of others; and escaped the danger of egotism and self-conceit, which come from youthful isola-

tion and over-indulgence. At an early age he was sent to a private school, for the rudiments of learning, and is still remembered as proudly wearing home a well-earned badge, inscribed "Reward of Merit." He entered Phillips Exeter Academy when he was but ten, and remained there during six years, thus receiving the thorough instruction of that excellent seminary in many of his English studies, as well as in the Latin and Greek. Dr. Benjamin Abbot was the principal, and the assistant teachers during young Gilman's connection with the school were Gideon L. Soule, who succeeded Dr. Abbot; the distinguished brothers, W. B. O. and O. W. B. Peabody; Samuel T. Gilman and Charles L. Folsom, both accomplished scholars, and both cut off in their early prime.

Under such tuition his preparatory studies were thoroughly mastered, and he entered Bowdoin College in 1822. Among his classmates, there, were several who subsequently attained much distinction: Gorham D. Abbott, Isaac McLellan and Benjamin B. Thatcher in education and literature; Samuel S. Boyd, James S. Rowe, and George Y. Sawyer in jurisprudence, and Sargent S. Prentiss in forensic and political oratory. The capacity, proficiency, and good conduct of young Gilman are proved by the fact that in a class of thirty-one, containing these able members, he was the ninth in rank. His good standing is likewise attested by certain of President Allen's quarterly reports to his father, which are still extant.

His collegiate course was a period of much social enjoyment, also. He was popular, not only with his fellow-students, but with the Faculty as well, and visited, on intimate terms, the cultivated and refined families resident in Brunswick. His amiable disposition, his pleasing manners, and his extraordinary musical accomplishments made him a favorite in every society.

After receiving his degree of A. B., in 1826, he decided to pursue the medical profession, and accordingly began his studies under the direction of his brother-in-law, Dr. William Perry, who still survives, venerable in years, and proud to sound the praises of his favorite pupil. "He was good in all ways," is the Doctor's emphatic testimony, "and every one liked him." Anxious to derive all possible benefit from his position, his student was in the habit of accompanying the Doctor in his visits to patients, especially in cases of peculiar interest, and where surgical operations were to be performed, a department of the healing art in which Dr. Perry had a deservedly high reputation, and his pupil was ambitious to excel. In due time, he attended, also, the requisite courses of lectures in the medical department of Bowdoin College, and there took his degree of M. D., in 1829. In order, however, to qualify himself still more completely for the practice of his chosen calling, Dr. Gilman spent a considerable portion of the succeeding two years in availing himself of the advantages which Philadelphia then afforded in a degree superior to that of

any other American city, in its schools and hospitals, for the acquisition of anatomical and clinical knowledge.

Thus admirably equipped, he entered upon his professional career in the city of Portland, Maine, at the opening of the year 1832. He was thoroughly in earnest in his determination to succeed. Feeling that he owed no divided allegiance to his profession, he resolutely put aside every temptation to do aught that might interfere with it.\* He first established himself at the Elm House, then the leading hotel of the city, and had his office in a wooden building near. Opposite this office lived Dr. Sumner Cummings, a distinguished physician, whose practice had become too large for him properly to attend to, and who was so favorably impressed with the qualifications of his new medical associate that he recommended many of his patients to the care of Dr. Gilman. The Doctor's pleasing address and prompt attention to every summons, together with this timely help, secured him in a very short time what may fairly be termed an extensive practice. His experience in the hospitals at Philadelphia gave him a reputation, also, as an operating surgeon, which enabled him to take the lead of all other practitioners in Portland in that department of his profession.

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\*For some particulars of Dr. Gilman's early experience in Portland, free use is here made of some newspaper sketches by Hon. William Goold, who formed an acquaintance with him at that period, and watched his subsequent career with friendly interest.

Nor should the kind and cordial assistance rendered by his family connections residing in Portland, Chief Justice Mellen, Rev. Dr. Nichols, Hon. Charles S. Daveis and Judge Emery be forgotten here, as it was never forgotten by its recipient, but often gratefully referred to by him in after years. Those influential gentlemen from the first expressed their confidence in Dr. Gilman, by consulting him professionally for themselves and their families, and thus gave him their most effectual indorsement, for popular favor.

The mayor of Portland was a fellow boarder with him, and became much interested in his success. Through his position, he obtained for Dr. Gilman the appointment of City Physician, a place of much labor and small emolument, but valuable in affording a great variety of cases, and as an introduction to the public acquaintance. In the second year of his service, while the Asiatic cholera was raging in the Southern and Western sections of the country, a brig came into quarantine at Portland, having on board three men sick with the dreaded disease, two of whom were already in a state of collapse. The official position of City Physician required him to take charge of such cases. The board of health procured a building on an island in the harbor for a temporary hospital, and notified Dr. Gilman to proceed thither and attend the cholera patients. It was a disagreeable, not to say hazardous task, but he did not hesitate. He repaired to his post of duty, and

there remained, acting as nurse as well as physician, night and day, until the infected men had died, and it was clear that no new cases would occur, so that all fear of the extension of the disease was over. For five years he faithfully administered the office of City Physician, and then was constrained by his increased private practice to decline a re-election.

For a full half century after establishing himself at Portland, Dr. Gilman devoted himself assiduously to the calls of his profession. He was ready at all hours and in all seasons, so long as his health and strength permitted, to respond to the summons of every one who required his services. No man was more prompt or more attentive than he, and few led lives of equal labor and responsibility. He was endowed by nature with gifts which peculiarly fitted him for his vocation. His heart was kind and sympathetic. He entered tenderly into the feelings of his patients, and kindly responded to every inquiry and complaint, however idle and querulous. His patience was inexhaustible. His voice and manner were cheery and heartening. However wearied or anxious he might be, he suffered no trace of it to be visible. He never lost his self-command. Whatever untoward event occurred, there were comfort and strength in the even and confident bearing of the physician. His appearance in the sick chamber was thus always reassuring and encouraging. How thoroughly he was versed in the learning of



his profession ; what position he earned among his collaborators by the faithful services of a lifetime ; how highly his memory will be treasured in the annals of the healing art, can best be learned from the testimony of his medical brethren and those who lived beside him, which will presently be set forth. It is enough to say here that, during the greater portion of his life in Portland, he enjoyed a practice among the largest and best in the city, and that he commanded the confidence and esteem of his patrons and of the community at large, in a degree second to that of no other physician.

Dr. Gilman had little time, of course, to bestow upon matters outside his engrossing profession.\* But he was interested in every scheme for the advantage of the city, the State, or the public, and contributed to them freely. He was a member and earnest promoter and supporter of the Maine Medical Association, of which he was chosen Vice-President on its formation in 1853, and afterwards President.

His name was also upon the roll of the State Historical Society, but though he warmly approved of the preservation of the memory of the past, his occupations in the present allowed him little

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\*In the whole course of his professional life he made but two journeys of any considerable extent, one in 1873 and the other in 1875, both to the Southern States. He sometimes spoke of his desire to visit Niagara and other places of interest in the country, but duty to his patients was always paramount in his mind to all considerations of personal gratification, and long absences from home would have seemed to imply a disregard for *their* wishes and welfare.

opportunity to give his personal attention to it. Appointed in 1863 a Trustee of the Maine Hospital for the Insane, a position in the line of his profession, he accepted it, and for some years discharged his duties with exemplary fidelity. In 1866 he was chosen an Overseer of Bowdoin College, his *alma mater*, and continued to act as such till 1873, when he was promoted to the Board of Trustees of the institution. He served as Trustee, and as a member of the Faculty of the Medical School, up to the time of his decease.

But the crowning public work of his life was the founding and rearing of the Maine General Hospital at Portland. The public voice justly hails him as the father of that beneficent institution. He was the prime mover of the project. His name was the earliest upon the petition to the Legislature of the State, for its incorporation, and first upon the list of incorporators when the charter was granted, in 1868. The first meeting of the grantees was held at his residence. He was then chosen President of the Board of Directors and consulting physician, and retained those offices by annual re-elections throughout his life. He was the foremost in securing the means for carrying out the design. He contributed liberally himself, and by his representations and influence induced many others to make large donations, in aid of the enterprise. For years he appeared annually in person before the committees of the State Legislature, to represent the needs of the Hospital, and never

failed to secure a favorable report, and the appropriation he asked for. The fine buildings of the Hospital were erected under his superintendence; and he was unwearied in his personal efforts to render the institution as complete and perfect and useful as skill and the latest teachings of science could make it. Every report of the Board of Direction during his lifetime was the work of his pen. He felt deep gratification and a just pride in the complete success of his efforts, and in the noble work for the relief of suffering humanity which the Hospital has accomplished. And he gave the final testimony of his devotion to this most deserving object by a bequest of five thousand dollars to its fund, from a fortune which his private and public generosity had not allowed to grow to large dimensions.

At the original suggestion of a young lady relative, and by the desire and gift of his associates in the management of the Hospital, his portrait has been placed in the Reception Room of the main building. There would have been peculiar propriety in inscribing beneath it the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral; "*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice!*"

Dr. Gilman was nowhere seen to greater advantage than in his own home. It was well said of him that "he could never be anything but a gentleman;" but here his inbred courtesy and thoughtful kindness were especially noticeable. The house had always open doors, and its hospitality was

limited only by its capacity. Not that it was the scene of many grand entertainments, though those were not wanting ; but its guest chambers were rarely without occupants. It was true every-day hospitality, unpretending, but abundant and elegant. And the pleased host had an equally hearty welcome for all, whether invited guests or chance comers, and with unobtrusive kindness, in the expressive New England phrase, "made them feel at home."

His domestic relations were peculiarly happy. He was married August 24, 1837, to Miss Helen A. Williams, a daughter of Hon. Reuel Williams, of Augusta, Maine, a gentleman of marked force and sagacity, who proved himself in a long and successful career as a lawyer, a man of affairs, and a legislator in both Houses of his State and in the Senate of the United States, to be one of the leading characters of his time. Of their marriage it is permissible now only to say that it was thoroughly congenial, and an exceptionally happy one. They had one daughter ; it might be more proper to say two daughters, one by adoption. For the motherless child of Mrs. Gilman's deceased sister was received into their family with exactly the same advantages, care, attention, and tender affection, as if she had been a second daughter. In this pleasant affiliation she grew up happily among them, and their house was her home until her marriage and departure to a home of her own.

Their daughter, Helen W. Gilman, is the wife

of Dr. John T. G. Nichols, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was one of the chief pleasures of Dr. Gilman, in his later years, when he felt at liberty to leave for awhile his home and his patients, to visit his daughter, and mark the growth and improvement of his four grandchildren. To them he seemed to transfer all the love which he had borne to those other near and dear relatives who had one after another in his lengthened life taken their departure to the realm of the unseen.

In person Dr. Gilman was handsome and of distinguished appearance. Rather tall in stature, his figure was slender and symmetrical. He was very erect, even to the close of life, and his head was peculiarly well set upon his shoulders, giving him a military air. His features were regular, his forehead capacious, his eyes brilliant, and his whole expression has been well described as "beaming." He was particular in his toilet, and always appeared scrupulously well dressed. He held the opinion that if a thing was worth doing at all it was worth doing well, and there was nothing careless or slovenly about him. His letters were models of elegance, not only in the matter but in the chirography as well. He inherited from nature a delicate ear and love for sweet sounds, and became without instruction a proficient in vocal and instrumental music. He afterwards perfected himself under competent masters, and became a violinist of rare taste and skill. Fond as he was of the art, however, he gave up the

practice of it, almost wholly, lest it should encroach upon the business of his life. But he heartily enjoyed the fine concerts that were occasionally given in the city of his residence, and the choice music, vocal and instrumental, at the church which he attended. And in the evenings at his own home, nothing gave him more gratification than to listen to the strains of the piano.

Among his nearest relatives and connections were two ladies both accomplished musicians ; and as one played a skilful instrumental accompaniment to the pure soprano singing of the other, he used oftentimes to complete the harmony by blending with them his own tenor voice, which continued almost to the last as true and sweet and rich as it was when he stood on the threshold of manhood. And on such occasions he sometimes brought forth the violin that he had sacrificed to his profession, and proved by his true and harmonious accompaniment upon it, that his ear had not lost its accuracy, nor his hand its cunning, by the years of disuse.

When Sir Walter Scott lay on his death bed he said to his son-in-law, Lockhart,—“Be a good man ; be virtuous ; be religious ; nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to lie here.” Happily Dr. Gilman was able, when the scenes of earth were fading from his view, to enjoy the great “comfort” that goodness and religious faith confer. His religion was no new acquisition, but ran like a golden thread through the warp and woof of his

whole life. It was practical, not dogmatic. He was of a reverent spirit, and followed, as well as he was able, the Master's teachings. And when, after a long and happy and useful life, he realized that the powers which had served him so well were failing, and that the end of his earthly experience was nigh, he looked forward to a change of worlds without apprehension, but with the courage and faith and confidence of a Christian. He died January 16, 1884, in his own home in Portland, surrounded by those whom he held most dear. His death was regarded as a public calamity, and called forth extraordinary demonstrations of grief and of respect for his memory. Of the numerous obituary notices published in the journals of the day, extracts are here given from two, which were communicated by gentlemen peculiarly well qualified to bear testimony, though belonging to widely separated parts of the country. The first is from Dr. S. B. Chase, of Osage, Iowa :

The sad news of the death of Dr. Gilman, the medical Nestor of your beautiful city, has just reached me. Ripened as he was by years of noble manhood, enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him by high professional endeavor and unsullied Christian honor, no wonder that he was beloved by your appreciative people. The writer remembers as though but yesterday, the first time he saw him; and he brought with him to his western home, almost a third of a century ago, and has cherished as a rich perfume, a lively remembrance of the brotherly kindness received from him during the seven happy years spent among you. Scholarly and courteous, cheerful and calm in the midst of danger, Dr. Gilman ever exhibited those qualities which constitute true greatness

in every calling in life. Noble, grand man. The writer's heart is made glad by the reflection that he had the opportunity, but little more than two years since, of grasping the genial doctor by the hand, looking into his beaming eyes, and thanking him in person for the unnumbered favors received from him during his early medical life.

Soon after Dr. Gilman's death a meeting of the physicians of Portland was held in the hall of the Medical School. A deep and impressive silence pervaded the assembly, and the sad countenances of all present betrayed the sense of the great loss and bereavement that had been sustained. Upon motion of Dr. Thayer, Dr. Wood was called to the chair, and, on taking it, made the following address :

*Gentlemen.*—The sad event that brings us together at this unwonted hour is the death of our highly esteemed associate and professional brother, Dr. John Taylor Gilman, who departed this life at noon yesterday, Wednesday, January 16.

It is an event that not only saddens the hearts of all his professional brethren, but it will bring sorrow and mourning into many a household in this community. The gentleness and suavity of his manners endeared him to all with whom he associated, and especially to all who sought relief at his hands in the hour of sickness and suffering. Many eyes will moisten, many a deep pang of regret will be felt in the wide circle to which he has ministered, as the tidings reach them that their friend and beloved physician is no more. He has died ripe in years, with an intellect unclouded almost to the last moment, fully conscious of his situation, and as fully resigned to all that God, in his infinite mercy, might see fit to appoint for him.

Quite a number of the gentlemen here present have been,



of late years, more immediately associated with him in sustaining and promoting the objects of the great philanthropic institution with which his name is so intimately connected, yet there is not one here present but myself, I think, who can speak from personal observation in regard to his whole career as a physician and surgeon in this city. I remember him well as he was first entering upon his practice, which was almost simultaneous with my return from Europe, and establishment as a fellow-laborer with him. In visiting him a few days since, he alluded to these facts, calling me his good friend and speaking pleasantly of the honorable rivalry that had existed in those days. There never was any, as both of us knew full well, of a kind to disturb for a moment the harmony of the relations at all times existing between us. In a certain sense all members of the same profession looking to its honors and emoluments may be said to be rivals, inasmuch as they are alike competitors for these honors.

Be that as it may, my associations with him have ever been of the most agreeable and helpful character, and these became more frequent, and, if possible, more free and confidential, as, one by one, the older physicians, with whom he naturally first associated the most, left this scene of their labors. In many ways we have been thrown into communication with each other, in private and confidential meetings, in the formation and carrying on of medical associations that have long since ceased to exist, and in consultation at the bedside. And on these and on all other occasions that have called us to take counsel together, I have ever found him the honorable, upright, true and kind friend that we all at this moment are ready and eager to pronounce him. Ever affable and urbane in his intercourse with all of whatever degree, refined and gentle in his manner, hospitable and agreeable in all his ways, honored and honorable as a physician, he leaves us in the full maturity of his years, with our hearts filled with deep regrets and unavailing mourning for his loss. We shall miss his pleasant face upon the streets

and his winning voice in all our communions, and the feeling of a personal loss will long accompany us in the pursuit of the daily avocations to which duty calls us. A lingering and a consoling thought assures us that he has safely passed the bourne which sooner or later we shall all reach. We not only honor him for all that is beautiful and refined in his character, for all that is gentle and sympathetic in his intercourse with all classes and degrees of mankind, for all his faithfulness in the performance of his duties as an alleviator of sickness and suffering, but we have especially to be grateful for all that he has done in building and in promoting the success of that great charity, to which I have already alluded, the Maine General Hospital.

Whether he initiated the project or not, I am not aware, though in all probability he did, but it is known of us all that the early success of that noble institution is in the greatest degree to be attributed to his untiring efforts in arousing an interest in it in the mind and heart of the great public, then in obtaining for it the necessary funds for bringing it to its present state of usefulness. Upon this subject I will not dwell, for it will more appropriately occupy the pen of his biographer. I only allude to it as the crowning effort of his useful life, and the one with which his name will ever be inseparably associated.

At the close of Dr. Wood's remarks, upon motion of Dr. Dana, a committee of three, Drs. Dana, Weeks and Thayer, were appointed to prepare suitable resolutions.

It was voted that the physicians of the city as a body attend the funeral of the deceased, and Drs. Wood, Dana, Weeks and Thayer were designated to act as pall bearers.

Several gentlemen of the profession then addressed the meeting.

Dr. T. A. Foster said :

I feel that I should not do my duty if I allowed this occasion to pass without saying something. It is not often that we are called upon to take action under circumstances like the present. It is seldom that a life is lived so useful, so noble, so rounded and complete as was that of Dr. Gilman. So, while we all grieve at his loss, we have very much to be thankful for, in consideration, not only of the most excellent example he has set for us, but also of the fact that his departure was peaceful, quiet and happy. Those of us who have been twenty years in practice here can look back and see the intimate co-workers of our departed friend as they then appeared to us, men of talent, men of influence, men to whom we looked for counsel and direction. One by one, they have dropped asleep until our worthy chairman alone is left to us. They were all very near and dear to us, and we felt their loss. But from longer and more intimate relations, I had come to look upon Dr. Gilman as the model professional man, kind-hearted, gentle in spirit, ever ready to do a good deed or speak a cheering word, a noble gentleman, under all circumstances, a neighbor of the best kind, an adviser who could be safely followed, one whom no one could know thoroughly without loving dearly. His life is before us, a grand monument to our profession. He has fallen asleep and is at rest. Let us so far as possible follow his example.

Dr. I. T. Dana said :

Dr. Gilman was the Nestor of the Portland profession. After a very long, useful and honorable life, he has "rested from his labors," and we may truly say "his works do follow him;" works of remarkable importance and beneficence. I can never forget his appearance and words the last time I saw him, not many days before he died. Though very feeble in body, his mind was perfectly clear. He said to me, "I have had a long and busy life. It has been full of

flowers, and sunshine, and happiness. Now I am here, but my mind is tranquil. I have not a fear or a care. I am entirely resigned to the will of God. I don't think my life has been a very bad one, but that is not what I rely upon. My only trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ, and, trusting in him, I am peaceful and happy."

Not only did Dr. Gilman enjoy the entire respect and confidence of his fellow citizens generally, but he was also respected and loved by his professional brethren to a degree well nigh unprecedented. It is therefore eminently fitting that the physicians of Portland should make some public expression of their sentiments toward him.

Dr. S. H. Weeks said :

I shall long remember the words that Dr. Gilman said to me, a few weeks before his death ; as they beautifully indicate a heart at rest and calmly trusting in the merits of the Redeemer. It was on my first visit to him during his last illness, when the lungs first showed signs of becoming involved, while in full possession of all his mental faculties. After alluding to his long life of active practice in his profession, he said, " My work is nearly done, and I am prepared to meet whatever awaits me, with Christian faith and resignation." These words spoken so fervently, I shall long remember, and we all shall delight to cherish his memory.

Dr. Meserve spoke in feeling terms of the deceased, and narrated an incident showing the Doctor's resignation to death.

Dr. Thayer, who was Dr. Gilman's physician,\*

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\*This record would be imperfect if no mention were made here of Dr. John T. G. Nichols, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Gilman's son-in-law. He visited Dr. Gilman throughout his illness with frequency and regularity, notwithstanding the distance to be travelled and the urgent demands upon his time of his practice at home; and with skill and devotion co-operated with the regular medical attendant in devising every possible relief and alleviation and comfort.

spoke feelingly of his uniform cheerfulness all through his sickness. A short time previous to his death Dr. Gilman said, "Doctor, while I like this world, and while my life has been one of joy, I feel that my work is about done. I am resting in the hands of Almighty God and I have no fear, no care, no trouble." Dr. Thayer referred briefly to the tender solicitude of Dr. Gilman's wife, who, throughout his sickness had never tired in caring for him. She ministered to his every desire like an angel.

The committee appointed to prepare resolutions, reported the following, which were agreed to :

WHEREAS, In the providence of God, Dr. John Taylor Gilman has been removed from this community by death, and whereas the physicians of Portland have assembled to do reverence to his memory as one peculiarly honored and beloved : therefore

*Resolved*, That we desire to record our appreciation of and affection for our deceased brother in the following statement :

Dr. Gilman was a gentleman by nature. Descended from a long line of cultured ancestors he was "to the manner born." The blended gentleness and dignity of his manner were charming. He was also a man of broad individual culture, and the rhetorical beauty of some of his annual hospital reports is impressed upon the memories of many of us.

Dr. Gilman was also born for the medical profession. He was possessed of innate refinement of nature, of a peculiar gentleness of manner, and, at the same time, of great decision of character. He had, to an unusual degree, the power of intuitive diagnosis, and was remarkable for arriving quickly at correct conclusions in the sick room. He early

secured a very large and lucrative practice, and became one of the most distinguished of the physicians and surgeons of the State. He had the full confidence and affection of his patients. His ability and skill were admitted by all, and his conscientious devotion to the interests of his patients was generally recognized and appreciated. He had unbounded faith in national and scientific medicine, and hated pretension and empiricism in every form. He was one of the founders of the Maine Medical Association, and a constant attendant upon its annual meetings to the end of his life. As one of the founders of the Maine General Hospital, as president of its board of directors from the beginning till now, as a liberal contributor to its funds and as one whose whole heart was enlisted in its development and success, the value of his services to the institution cannot easily be over estimated.

As a friend he was tender and true ; as a citizen, earnest, patriotic and abounding in every good work. In his domestic relations he was one of the happiest of men, and his home was noted for its generous and graceful hospitality.

Dr. Gilman was distinctively a Christian man in the broad sense of the term. To this proposition no proof need be adduced, yet we delight to recall the occasional opening of his heart to his friends when the natural reticence of his nature had yielded to the genial warmth of friendly fellowship, his strong faith in his Redeemer, and the hope and joy which overflowed his heart and pervaded the atmosphere of his sick room.

*Resolved*, That we most respectfully tender to the bereaved family of our brother our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss, while at the same time, we would rejoice with them in the record of such a life, such a death, and such an entrance into immortality.

*Resolved*, That the committee communicate these resolutions to the family and to the daily papers.

ISRAEL T. DANA, M. D.,  
STEPHEN H. WEEKS, M. D.,  
AUGUSTUS S. THAYER, M. D., } Committee.

The managers of the Portland Benevolent Society held a meeting, at which the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

This board having learned, with deep regret, that Dr. John T. Gilman has this day been called away from the circle of those who have so long held him dear :

*Resolved*, That we desire to place upon record an expression of our own sense of loss in his departure, and of our profound sympathy with his family in the great sorrow which overshadows them. Although his years had already exceeded the traditional limit, we had hoped still longer to enjoy the benefit of his wise counsels and hearty interest in the affairs of this society, and in other beneficent institutions among us.

*Resolved*, That while we tender the assurance of our sympathy to his family, we would also tender to them reverently our congratulations upon his noble life, sustained ever by loyal faith in his Redeemer ; upon the high place which he had won in the respect and love of the whole community ; and upon the immortal hopes and serene religious confidence which hallowed and made glorious his declining years.

*Resolved*, That the secretary communicate these resolutions to the family, and to the public journals.

At a meeting of the directors of the Portland Institute and Public Library, this resolution was presented by Hon. Nathan Webb, and unanimously adopted :

The directors of the Portland Institute and Public Library, at this, the annual meeting, in 1884, desiring to place upon its record some memorial of Dr. Gilman, one of its founders and first directors, whose death has occurred since the last meeting of the board, hereby

*Resolve*, That the long and valuable service of Dr. John Taylor Gilman as one of the directors of the library, and his uniform interest and aid in all that tended to enlarge its

facilities and render it more useful to the public, give just occasion for an expression of our sense of the loss which the library, in common with other public institutions of the State, has sustained in his death ; and of our sincere appreciation and grateful recollection of his elevated character, his many engaging personal qualities, his long and distinguished professional services, and his high sense of duty and devotion to the public interests of the community in which he so long resided.

The directors of the Maine General Hospital held a special meeting on the occasion, and adopted this resolution :

*Resolved*, That the directors of the Maine General Hospital at this meeting so closely following the death of their lamented colleague, Dr. John Taylor Gilman, president of the board, do record their deep feeling of sorrow for the loss which has fallen upon them, both as individuals and as a board. We desire to pay our sincere respect to his memory, to express our appreciation of his exalted character, of his earnest and kindly nature and of the quiet dignity and grace with which he guided our deliberations. Identified with the hospital from its very inception, and president of its board of directors for thirteen years, he may almost be called its founder ; and the community immediately around us and the State at large are alike indebted to him for his unflagging zeal in its behalf. Always striving for its growth and prosperity ; its firm, calm, patient friend in time of trial ; freely giving his time and his means to its support, the institution stands to-day a memorial of his large-hearted humanity. We sorrow in our loss, but we rejoice in the record he has left behind him.

The public exercises of the funeral of Dr. Gilman were held on the Saturday following his death, at the First Parish Church in Portland,



which he had always attended, and where for many years he had been a communicant.

There was a large attendance, including many of the oldest and most prominent citizens of Portland. The physicians of the city met at Dr. Foster's house on Brown street, wearing the usual badge of mourning, and marched to the church in a body. The apothecaries of the city were also present, meeting at City Building before proceeding to the church.

The casket was covered with beautiful floral emblems, from the friends of the deceased. The pall-bearers were Hon. W. W. Thomas and Horatio N. Jose, Esq., representing the directors of the hospital, and Dr. William Wood, Dr. I. T. Dana, Dr. S. H. Weeks and Dr. A. S. Thayer, representing the medical profession.

The services were opened with a dirge from the organ, played by Mr. Kotzschmar, after which the choir sang "The Angels of Grief." Rev. Dr. Hill followed with the reading of appropriate selections from the Scriptures. The choir sang the hymn "What Must it be to Dwell Above." Dr. Hill offered prayer, and the choir chanted "Sleep Thy Last Sleep." The services closed with the benediction by Dr. Hill.

The remains were placed in a vault in Evergreen Cemetery.

At the annual meeting of the Maine General Hospital, at a subsequent day, the report of the directors was presented, which contained this trib-

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ute to the character of Dr. Gilman and his eminent services in behalf of that institution :

The name of Dr. John Taylor Gilman has been identified with this institution from its earliest beginnings. A physician of extensive practice and large experience, he fully appreciated the benefits which its establishment would confer upon the people of the State, not only directly by the immediate relief of the sick and suffering within its walls, but indirectly by its educational influence upon the profession of which he was an honored member. Entering upon the preliminary work with all the enthusiasm of his nature, he did much to awaken interest in others. Many of the earlier subscriptions to the project were obtained through his influence and most of the earlier meetings of the corporators were held at his house. Not himself a man of wealth, he yet gave liberally at that time, and continued to give to the end of life, whenever the needs of the hospital were most pressing.

Naturally and as by common consent he was selected as the president of the first board of directors ; and he continued to hold the position of president, by repeated elections, until his death in January last at the age of seventy-eight. The annual reports during that period were all written by him. In his will he left the hospital a bequest of \$5000, which now constitutes the " Gilman Fund."

Of his labors during all these years it is difficult to speak adequately. Those of us who have been longest associated with him best know the value of his counsels and the soundness of his judgment, the deep interest he felt in his duties and the faithfulness with which he always performed them. There was a quiet steadiness of purpose in him which insensibly won upon others and led them to adopt and carry out his plans.

Personally Dr. Gilman was dignified and courteous in his bearing, of genial manners and kindly sympathies. His character always received the respect and admiration of

those who knew him, but his intimate associates were bound to him by the warmer ties of friendship and affection. Faithful to all trusts, the wise counsellor and good physician rests from his labors ; his work lives after him.

At the annual meeting of the Maine Medical Association, held in June following, Dr. Gordon, the necrologist, in reporting the death of Dr. Gilman, made these observations :

Dr. Gilman was characterized in the medical profession for his quickness of perception and power of ready diagnosis, for his skill and successful treatment of disease, for his activity and prompt attention when duty required, and for his ever gentlemanly bearing towards all. His integrity in his professional duties, and his acknowledged ability as a physician and surgeon, won the confidence of all who knew him. It is a fact worthy of note in the professional career of Dr. Gilman that he was the first physician in the State of Maine who performed the unusual operation of Cæsarian section, which he did skillfully and successfully.

On motion of Dr. L. W. Pendleton, a committee of three members was appointed to draw " a series of resolutions on the death of Dr. John T. Gilman, expressing our appreciation of his long and faithful service in the profession, and of our loss as an Association ; that the report of this committee be spread upon our records and published in the Portland papers. "

The committee made their report in the following words :

The necrologist has in fitting terms announced to the Maine Medical Association, assembled in annual meeting, June, 1884, the decease of their honored associate and pro-

professional brother, Dr. John Taylor Gilman. Thereupon it was voted that a committee of three be appointed to draw up resolutions expressive of their profound sorrow at his loss, and their high appreciation of the value of his services in advancing the best interests of the Association, and in aiding it in the furtherance of its main object, the relief of suffering humanity.

The majority of this Committee was composed of the gentlemen appointed by the physicians of Portland, assembled at the time of his decease, to take action in regard to that sad event. Your committee turn, therefore, naturally to the proceedings of their brethren on that occasion, and find them expressive of the deep grief felt by them in this great bereavement, and which is so profoundly shared in by all the members of this Association. They were in fact the proceedings of quite a large number of the members of this Association, and it is thought that they may very properly be here related and become adopted as a part of its transactions at the present time, in taking notice of the death of their lamented associate.

It was evident to his attending physicians, from the first, that nothing could be done to avert or even much retard the progress of the disease to a fatal termination; and probably no one was more fully conscious of it than was he himself. Yet all who had the high privilege of visiting him during the last weeks of his sickness will recall, with great satisfaction, the unusual scenes of that death-bed. There was no gloom there, not the least misgiving, not a trace of apprehension, not a murmur, no complaints; but everything was expressive of happiness and entire resignation. His greeting was as hearty and cordial as it ever used to be when inviting one to the hospitalities of his house, and all his conversation betokened a cheerful nature. He said to us that he had lived a long and happy life, and that he was resigned to whatever event was in store for him. Happy in life, happy in death!

The secret of this cheerful resignation to his fate he had

already confided to some of our associates, as well as to others about him, and we shall learn from them what it was. Every word of his, every action showed that he had indeed found a friend upon whom he had cast all his burdens, all his fears and all his cares; one upon whom he could fully rely, even though he should walk through the valley of the shadow of death; and we are enabled to see how it was that he could be cheerful, resigned and even happy in these trying hours.

The physicians of Portland, with a few other non-resident members of this Association who could be present, had the melancholy satisfaction of following the remains of our friend and brother to his grave in Evergreen Cemetery. It was a dismal, cold and stormy day, and it was in truth a great trial of our feelings and sympathies to assist under these circumstances in placing the casket in its final resting place. But the voice of his beloved pastor as it ascended in prayer led us to remember that the beating of the pitiless storm, and the wailings of the angry tempest about us, had ceased to affect him. They were indeed in harmony with our own feelings; but our friend was already beyond their influence; had already reached that happy mansion where evermore all is peace and harmony, and where the weary are at rest; the promised abode prepared for all, of whom it can be as truly said as of him, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The report then recites the action of the physicians of Portland, which is given on an earlier page of this sketch, and continues in these words:

All the older members of this Association are aware from their own observation, of the deep interest Dr. Gilman ever took in the early stages of its organization and securing its establishment upon a durable basis. All the younger members know of it by the perusal of its annals, which though not recording in minute detail all of its proceedings, still contain enough to show the earnestness of his endeavors

in its cause. He was elected Vice President at its first annual meeting in 1853, and subsequently in 1863, its President. But it was especially in the furtherance of the scheme first proposed in its councils and then unanimously adopted as the future policy of the Association—the building of a great State General Hospital—that his zeal and efforts in the accomplishment of it became pre-eminently conspicuous. From the first inception of the project he has ever been strenuous and persistent in his efforts to secure it, regarding it as the most urgent and all important want of this Association, of the profession in general, and especially of all the people of this commonwealth, for the relief of whose sickness and suffering it was designed. Of the prospects of success, the difficulties in the way of it, and the crowning efforts by which it was finally accomplished, he has kept the Association fully informed in the admirable reports read before it from year to year as the work went on, from the first discussion in regard to ways and means till the final accomplishment of so much of the original plan as it had been decided to attempt. In making these reports he was acting as chairman of the committee appointed by the Association in 1867 and subsequently, to the completion of the building, as President of the Board of Directors, which office he held from its formation to the date of his death. *Finis coronat opus.* It is not necessary to speak of the minor difficulties and trials encountered in the prosecution of this great work in the cause of humanity. The earnest and often eloquent words in which they and all the more important matters connected with it were portrayed, must still be familiar to the minds of every member of this Association. The result of their united efforts is the completion of a noble structure, which may truly be regarded as a model in everything that, in conformity with the best modern ideas upon the subject, tends to the promotion, security and maintenance of the best health of its inmates. It has now been in active and successful operation for a series of years, and whatever may have been feared in the early stages of its

progress, not a doubt now exists as to its entire present and future success, and all the members of this Association may, and without doubt do, feel a just pride in regarding it as their 'child,' as Dr. Gilman in his reports, frequently styled it. It is not the foundling, however, of a section, but a noble and well endowed institution of charity and philanthropy in the maintenance of which all can cordially unite and thus make it what it already is, and what the near future will more emphatically declare it to be, a great benefit and source of pride to the Maine Medical Association that brought it into existence, an honor to the State that has adopted it, a boon of inexpressible value to suffering humanity and an appropriate monument to the zeal and perseverance of our lamented associate, John Taylor Gilman. Therefore it is

*Resolved,* That the Maine Medical Association has received with deep grief the announcement of the death of their fellow associate and co-laborer, Dr. John Taylor Gilman; that they recognize in that event the loss of one, who at its first annual meeting in 1853 was elevated to the office of Vice President, and at a later period, 1863, to that of President, filling both offices to the great satisfaction of all; of one who from the origin of this Association to the last year of his life has been present at all of its annual meetings, ever seeking its welfare and promoting its best interests.

*Resolved,* That Dr. Gilman, ever zealous and active in every good cause, and especially in resolutely adopting and bringing to a happy issue the humane and laudable project of this Association, for the foundation of a general hospital for the benefit of the people of this State, aiding in all of its preliminary work and finally in securing its success by his own munificent gifts to its treasury, and especially by his personal efforts in obtaining the necessary aid from others, has won an enduring name in the memory of the people of this whole commonwealth, and in the annals of the Maine General Hospital, which he did so much to establish.

*Resolved,* That for these reasons as well as for the innate

urbanity of his manners, his refined and courteous bearing to all classes, the promptness of his responses to the wants of his patients, and to those of his professional brethren in consultation, for his generous hospitality, his broad christian philanthropy and benevolence, his loss will long be deeply lamented, and his memory ever be embalmed in the hearts of all the members of this Association.

*Resolved,* That the preceding remarks and these resolutions be entered upon the records of this the Maine Medical Association, and that a copy of both be sent to the family of the deceased, with the expression of its deep sympathy in their bereavement.

WILLIAM WOOD, }  
I. T. DANA,        }  
S. H. WEEKS.       } Committee.









