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GEORGE EDWARD DAVENPORT.

F. S. COLLINS.

(With portrait.)

GEORGE EDWARD DAVENPORT was born in Boston, August 3d, 1833, the son of William E. and Deborah (Skidmore) Davenport, both of old Boston families. He completed the regular public school course, graduating from the High School. At twenty years of age he married Miss Mary Francis and removed to South Boston, remaining there until 1875, after which date his home was at Medford. He died November 27, 1907, leaving a wife, eight children, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Even in his school days he was much interested in nature studies, soon concentrating the interest on botany, later making ferns a specialty, which they remained all of his life. The study, however, had to be pursued in what time was left from an active business, which he kept up till two years before his death. In all the study of the ferns for the past forty years he had a noteworthy part; though no work of great volume remains from his pen, his influence is to be seen in much of what has been published by others, and his shorter articles are to be found in many botanical publications, notably the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, the Fern Bulletin and Rhodora. The bibliography of these articles at the end of this note, compiled by Miss Mary A. Day of the Gray Herbarium, is probably fairly complete, but does not attempt to include the many articles he wrote referring more especially to forestry or horticulture. He had long been at work on a manual of the North American ferns, but when his release from business cares gave him the time he so much needed for the task, sight and strength were no longer equal to it, much to his sorrow. The last



two years his time was largely spent in his garden; here in small compass was a remarkable variety of conditions, rich ground, swamp, rocky hillside; here he had growing nearly every fern found in New England, and here too he watched with much interest a little group of flowering plants, selected as best showing the phenomena of heredity and mutation that now attract so much interest. The enthusiasm with which he showed me these treasures one Sunday morning early in last October, will always be a most pleasant recollection.

It would seem that an active business life and the thorough study of a specialty would be all that one could achieve; but he had other interests as well. He was an active worker in the anti-slavery movement, one of the first to be interested in labor reform questions, a leading spirit in the work of securing for the public the Middlesex Fells, and for eighteen years he was a member of the school board of Medford. He was an original member of the New England Botanical Club, a life member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

I first became acquainted with him at the time of the formation of the Middlesex Scientific Field Club, of which he was one of the chief promoters; in the many excursions we made in the Fells region and elsewhere in the county he was a leader, and his knowledge of the region was of much value for the Flora of the county, published by the Middlesex Institute; he was always ready to give his time and advice to those of us who were then beginners, and whose ignorance must have seemed to him monumental. He was a man of strong and enduring attachments; sensitive as a woman, but with a man's courage in defense of his convictions. Whatever he believed in he championed with an almost passionate devotion; whether it were the giving of freedom to the slave, the rescuing of the Fells from destruction, or the true theory of the terminal bud of *Botrychium*, he would fight for it as long as his strength endured. That others could not take the same stand, indeed might hold other views, seemed often to surprise and distress him, but never impaired his kindness of heart to the delinquents. Though a careful student of details of structure and development, he never lost sight of the beauty of the living plant, and he was a lover of nature all his life. No more fitting end to his life can be imagined than that which came to him, in open air, among the familiar objects of his loved Middlesex Fells, now, so much by his own exertions, safe for all time.



THE BOTANICAL WRITINGS OF THE LATE GEORGE  
EDWARD DAVENPORT.

[The following list of Mr. Davenport's writings has been kindly prepared at our request by Miss Mary A. Day to accompany the above sketch. It is due to Miss Day to state that the compilation has been made with unavoidable haste and during pressure of other work. Although a wide range of periodical literature has been examined and all Mr. Davenport's botanical papers and notes have been included so far as they have been found, it is quite possible that some titles have been overlooked, especially as Mr. Davenport's botanical activity extended through a long period of years and his publications have been widely scattered. — Ed.]

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3. ASPIDIUM THELYPTERIS, SWZ. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 113. Oct. 1876.
4. FORKING FERNS. Bot. Gaz. ii. 80-81. Feb. 1877.
5. ASPIDIUM SPINULOSUM SWZ. Bot. Gaz. ii. 81. Feb. 1877.
6. VARIATIONS IN LOMARIA AND POLYPODIUM. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 136. Feb. 1877.
7. ASPLENIUM FILIX-FOEMINA, VAR. LACINIATUM MOORE. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 168. Aug. 1877.
8. VITALITY IN FERNS. Bot. Gaz. ii. 134. Sept. 1877.
9. BOTRYCHIUM LUNARIA IN NEW YORK STATE. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 176. Sept. 1877.
10. VARIATIONS OF COLOR IN FLOWERS. Bot. Gaz. ii. 141-142. Oct. 1877.
11. NOTES ON BOTRYCHIUM SIMPLEX, HITCHCOCK. Nov. 1877.
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13. VERNATION IN BOTRYCHIA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS IMPORTANCE AS A MEANS FOR DISTINGUISHING THE DIFFERENT SPECIES. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 193-199, plate. Jan. 1878.



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15. *CAMPTOSORUS* IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 206. Feb. 1878.
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18. FERNS OF KENTUCKY. Bot. Gaz. iii. 54-55. June, 1878.
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20. CATALOGUE OF THE "DAVENPORT HERBARIUM" OF NORTH AMERICAN FERNS NORTH OF MEXICO. Salem, 1879.
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22. FERN ETCHINGS. BY JOHN WILLIAMSON, AUTHOR OF THE FERNS OF KENTUCKY, LOUISVILLE, KY. JOHN P. MORTON & Co., PUBLISHERS. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 351. Oct. 1879.
23. *TRAPA NATANS*. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 352. Oct. 1879.
24. *PTERIS AQUILINA*. Bot. Gaz. v. 30-31. Mar. 1880.
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26. FERN NOTES. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vii. 85-86. Aug. 1880.
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92. THE "AMERICAN FERN BOOK" OR "OUR FERNS IN THEIR HAUNTS" BY WILLARD N. CLUTE, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY WILLIAM WALWORTH STILSON. *Rhodora*, iii. 238. Sept. 1901.
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104. A NEW TYPE OF ANEIMIA. *Fern Bull.* xiii. 18-21. Apr. 1905.
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*Articles relating to Mr. Davenport's herbarium and work.*

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NOTES ON FUNGI,—I.

W. G. FARLOW.

TREMELLA RETICULATA. While botanizing at Lake Dunmore, Vermont, in September, 1896, I found a quantity of a tremellinaceous fungus growing over the ground and fallen branches in a coniferous wood. The season was very wet and the fungus, owing to the rain, was in places reduced to shapeless masses, but there remained a number of specimens which retained their normal habit. From a solid gelatinous base there rose to the height of 7.5 cm. (3 inches) or more masses of a white jelly, which resembled in outline certain large and coarse species of *Cladonia*, as *C. Boryi* Tuckerm. Subcylindrical branches arose from a common base, more or less anastomosing below, reticulated and becoming free and irregularly forking upwards, the branches gradually tapering to the tips, which were fimbriate. The color when fresh was white except at the tips, which were somewhat yellowish or brownish. In drying, the whole fungus shrivelled very much and became a yellow brown. Microscopic examination showed





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