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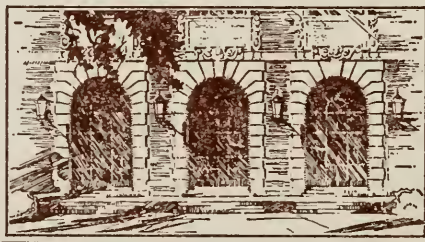
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WILLIAM DEERING

WILLIAM DEERING

BORN IN MAINE, 1826
DIED IN FLORIDA, 1913




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William Deering, in 1899, in the
seventy-third year of his age



Willson, George, in 1899, in the
year of his death.



FOREWORD

It will be obvious that this book is a compilation made from various sources. It was made immediately after Mr. Deering's death. From the nature of the material and the haste of the work it has been impossible to avoid many repetitions, which, though regrettable, were nevertheless unavoidable. Inaccuracies also doubtless will be found.



WILLIAM DEERING

HISTORICAL SKETCH

WILLIAM DEERING, son of James and Eliza (Moore) Deering, was born at South Paris, Maine, April 25, 1826. He was educated at the local schools and at the Readfield Seminary, Maine. He had begun the study of medicine under the celebrated Doctor Barrows of Fryeburg, when his father, in charge of the woolen mill at Paris, needing his assistance, he postponed the study of medicine, as he then supposed, for a year. This was the beginning of a long business career that proved a very successful one of exceptionally far-reaching results.

Among the various business pursuits that Mr. Deering followed were large dealings in the lands of what was then the far and sparsely settled West. With a far-sightedness that was characteristic of the man, he early foresaw a great future for these fertile lands, and for several years dealt heavily in them, particularly in those of Illinois and Iowa.

His wife's failing health caused him to abandon the business and return with her to Maine. Later, with Mr. Seth M. Milliken, he founded the woolen-goods commission house of Deering, Milliken & Co., of Portland, Boston, and New York, now under Mr. Milliken, the largest house of its kind in the country.

In the early seventies, his health being somewhat impaired, he had retired from active business when, almost by accident, he entered into what proved to be his main life work. The prairies of the West were

then better known than twenty years before, and settlers were taking up the lands and planting them to wheat and other grains. The yield was great, but the harvesters were few.

For years attempts had been made to reap grain by horse-drawn machinery, and Hussey, McCormick, and others had invented more or less successful reapers. In 1873 reaping machines for grain and mowing machines for grass were in use, and railways were following the reaping machine as fast as the western lands could be rendered productive. This machine cut the grain and laid it in gavels automatically, and men on foot followed, binding the sheaves.

Some years previous, two brothers, Charles W. and William W. Marsh, of Sycamore, Illinois, had devised a machine that cut and elevated the grain to two men who rode on the machine and bound the grain into bundles which they threw to the ground, where it was piled into shocks. This machine was bitterly opposed by the numerous manufacturers of the reaper. Those interested in the new device had little money, and their opponents were mostly rich, prosperous, and firmly established; it had been an uphill and discouraging fight for the Marsh brothers and their backers.

Mr. Deering had lent a considerable sum of money to a friend in Chicago who had an interest in the manufacture and sale of these machines, and, the friend's ill-health necessitating a rest, he asked Mr. Deering to superintend the business for three months in the summer of 1873. This was a turning point in the agricultural machine business. Mr. Deering, with his knowledge of the western country and its needs, foresaw what a saving of labor and what a growth of the country this machine foreshadowed if it could be perfected.

Neither inventor nor mechanic himself, he em-

ployed the best of both; the machine was improved and soon was being manufactured in great numbers, all of the manufacturers of reapers being compelled to imitate it and follow in its manufacture. But still the supply of labor was inadequate for the fast increasing farms, and it became Mr. Deering's object to replace the human binders with automatic ones. This, under his direction, was accomplished successfully by a wire binder; but there were objections to wire, and in his shops was perfected a binder using twine, invented by J. F. Appleby. There was no suitable twine manufactured until, through Mr. Deering's persuasions, Mr. Edwin H. Fitler of Philadelphia, a large manufacturer of rope, after much experimenting, succeeded in spinning a single strand twine from manila. This was the small beginning of what is now a very large industry, and the twine thus produced, after the other leading manufacturers had declined to undertake its production as chimerical and as wanted for a machine probably impractical, now binds the grains of the civilized world and renders possible the gathering of its enormous crops.

From the time of the success of the twine binder, all other agricultural-implement makers imitated it and followed in its manufacture. As soon as Mr. Deering became familiar with his new business, he became the leader of the other makers. Spurred on by him, his engineers improved the machines of the day and devised new ones. Wrought iron and steel replaced cast iron and wood, weight and draft were reduced and endurance and life prolonged; and it may be said that, of all manufacturers, the farming world is most indebted to him for the progress made after the day of the first reapers.

Mr. Deering early saw the possibilities of the ex-

plosion engine, and in 1900 exhibited at the Paris Exposition the first motor-mower ever made; there, for his services to agriculture, he was made an Officer of the Legion of Honor by the French government.

In 1901 Mr. Deering suffered his first serious illness, and soon thereafter gave the active charge of his business into the hands of his two sons and his son-in-law.

At the end of his business life Mr. Deering saw in his employ many thousand men, and many more thousands as agents for his machinery, and the business extended to all parts of the world where grain is grown. His company had provided for the future with its own iron mines, blast furnaces, and steel mills; with vast coking coal fields and still more extensive timber tracts forested on scientific principles; and for years the company had made its own large supply of binder twine.

In 1902 the Deering Harvester Company was merged in the International Harvester Company.

After his illness of 1901 Mr. Deering recovered a large measure of health and administered his own affairs, while giving much time and wise counsel to institutions of education and charity; for Mr. Deering's unusually active business life had not prevented interest in matters of public welfare, and he had been interested largely in educational and worthy charities. He was many years president of the board of trustees of the Northwestern University, and also of the allied Garrett Biblical Institute, and he is named as founder of the Wesley Hospital in Chicago.

He gave generously to works of education and charity throughout his life; his gifts of one kind and another to the Northwestern University and its theological school were large. To Wesley Hospital he gave generously, as he did to all charities and good works in which he was interested.

In 1912 his health began to fail, and in the summer of 1913 it became evident that his robust constitution was yielding to his length of years. His mind was clear and his friends were known and welcomed almost to his last day. He died at Cocoanut Grove in southern Florida on the ninth of December, 1913, in the eighty-eighth year of his life. Funeral services were held at Cocoanut Grove on the tenth, and at Evanston, Illinois, on the fourteenth, of December.

Mr. Deering married in 1849 Abby Reed Barbour. Of this marriage was born Charles Deering, who survives his father.

In 1856 he married Clara Cummings Hamilton, who survives him. Of this marriage were born James Deering, who still lives, and Abby Deering, who married Richard F. Howe in 1898 and died in 1906.

WILLIAM DEERING

ANOTHER HISTORICAL SKETCH

William Deering was born at South Paris, Maine, on April 25, 1826, of a Puritan family established in this country in 1634. He was educated at Readfield Seminary in Maine, and began the study of medicine at Fryeburg, Maine. His father, then president of the South Paris Manufacturing Company, engaged in making woolen cloths, needing his help, he gave up the study of medicine and entered commercial life.

In 1849 he married Abby Barbour, who died in 1856, leaving him one child, Charles Deering, who survives his father.

After some years spent in his native town as manufacturer and merchant, he became interested in western farming lands, of which he became a large owner. In 1853 and the years following he traveled extensively in the primitive western country of that day, especially in Illinois and Iowa. At this time he made a number of sojourns in Chicago.

After the death of his first wife he returned to South Paris and engaged in business for several years. At this time he married his second wife, Clara Hamilton, who survives him. The children of this marriage are James Deering, who survives his father, and Abby Deering, who married Richard F. Howe, and died in 1906.

In 1865, with Seth M. Milliken, he formed in Port-

land, Maine, the firm of Deering, Milliken & Co., to engage in the business of manufacturing and selling dry goods. Branches were soon established in Boston and New York. The New York business eventually swallowed that of the other cities and, under its original name of Deering, Milliken & Co., is one of the largest dry-goods commission houses in the country. Because of ill-health Mr. Deering retired from this firm in 1870.

Visiting Chicago again in this year, he met an acquaintance from Maine, E. H. Gammon, who was engaged in selling agricultural machinery. With him he formed the firm of Gammon and Deering, which later became Gammon, Deering & Steward. Lewis Steward was well known in Illinois as manufacturer, farm owner, and congressman. In 1879 Mr. Deering became the sole owner of the business.

In 1870 Mr. Gammon's chief business was the selling of the Marsh harvester. In 1879 Mr. Deering was the sole manufacturer of this harvesting machine. The Marsh harvester was one of the great steps in the evolution of harvesting grain by machinery. On it two men rode to bind the cut grain into gavels, which they threw to the ground. These two men did the work of the six who had followed the reaper on foot to bind the grain which it deposited on the ground.

To the Marsh harvester was later attached the automatic binder, which did by machinery the work of the two men who previously had been mounted on the machine. It was in 1879 and 1880 that Mr. Deering, at the risk of his fortune, against the advice of some of his associates, and amid the jeers of his competitors, manufactured and put on the market the grain binder invented by J. F. Appleby, which automatically bound the sheaves with twine. This machine lacked much in the first years of being a complete success, and

for a time fortune hung in the balance. Mr. Deering's energy, determination, and genius finally won their triumph. To-day almost all of the grain harvested by machinery throughout the entire world is gathered by the machine that he, almost alone, said should and must succeed.

This success has been very great, but it was jeopardized in its infancy by the apparent impossibility of finding a twine adapted to use on the twine binder. Mr. Deering induced the late Edwin H. Fittler of Philadelphia, no little against his will, to make an experimental lot of single fibre twine from the manila fibre, and thus solved the difficulty, while creating the opportunity for the founding of a new and great American industry. To-day more fibre is used in binder twine than in rope. To this binder and this twine, together with the railways, is due the rapid, almost miraculous development of the great West, where the acres were many and the laborers few.

Mr. Deering, who had lived in Evanston since 1874, removed his manufactory from Plano to its present site at Fullerton and Clybourn avenues, Chicago, in 1880. There the business grew until it employed 9000 people, had sixty branch offices in America, and occupied an army of employees in distributing its products in all the civilized world where grain and grass are grown.

Mr. Deering admitted his two sons and his son-in-law to partnership in the business. In 1901 he retired from active work, after which he spent the larger part of each year at his winter home at Coconut Grove, Florida. In 1902 the Deering Harvester Company was merged with the International Harvester Company.

Mr. Deering was endowed with the greatest gifts of mind, body, and heart. He was a most ardent progressive, tireless and even financially extravagant in

his efforts for progress in harvesting machinery. He was an endless worker, who never acknowledged fatigue or failure. His gifts to education and charity, especially to the Northwestern University, to the Garrett Biblical Institute, of whose boards of trustees for many years he was president, and to the Wesley Hospital, of Chicago, were very large. He was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was honored and beloved by all who knew him for his extraordinary ability, his simplicity, and his kindly nature.

S E R V I C E S
at the Funeral of
WILLIAM DEERING

held in
First Methodist Episcopal Church
in the City of Evanston, Illinois

on
Sunday, December 14, A. D. 1913
at two o'clock

SERVICES AT THE FUNERAL

HYMN No. 577

St. Anne

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thy arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

The busy troops of flesh and blood,
With all their cares and fears,
Are carried downward by the flood,
And lost in flowing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our Guide while life shall last,
 And our eternal home.

PRAYER: *The Reverend Dr. Charles M. Stuart*

Out of the depths we cry unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear our supplication. We thank thee as the Fountain of Love; and in thy love shall we see life.

We wait for thee and in thy Word do we hope. Our souls wait for thee more than they that watch for the morning.

O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead us and let thy divine mercy come unto us that we may live; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

The Reverend Dr. Charles M. Stuart

“Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

“Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

“Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

“We are all the work of thy hand.

“Thine is the kingdom, and thou rulest over all.

“Thou, O Lord, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

“Thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength

to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; they rest from labor and the reward of their works is with them.

“Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

“All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, and the beautiful rod!

“And Job said, O that I might be as I was in the brightness of my day, in the days when God watched over me, when the light of heaven shone round about my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness.

“I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my judgment was as a robe and a crown.

“When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me:

“Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

“I was a father to the needy, to the fatherless also, and to him that was helpless.

“I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

“The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy.

“Surely blessed is he who maketh Jehovah his trust, and setteth God at his right hand.

“Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

“He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart; who doeth no evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor; who despiseth wickedness, and honoreth all who fear Jehovah: for all such shall come together and sing in the height of Zion.

“They shall flow together in the goodness of the Lord. Their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

“I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

“Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

“Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Wherefore, brethren, comfort one another with these words.”

WORDS OF TRIBUTE: *Bishop William Fraser McDowell*

Many of you to-day will remember the addresses spoken by Dr. Little when Frances Willard and Orrington Lunt were being buried; and we shall regret afresh the too early death that took away from us the one man

best fitted by every gift and every insight and every experience to speak to-day of William Deering, who has now entered the life everlasting.

Indeed, the death of this man makes us conscious all over again of other losses we have sustained. His death not only makes its own wound and causes its own sharp pain: it reopens other wounds, the wounds that really never heal in this life. We see again the whole circle as it was before it began to break, and we feel again, as we did aforetime with him, every break that came. And to-day we stand in what was our ancient and noble forest of mighty men and weep over the many who have fallen even while we rejoice over the few still left standing almost alone. Heaven bless them!

If Mr. Deering could speak, he would command me to refrain from praise or eulogy of him. And we are wholly unprepared to make that analysis which in time may sum up our final opinion of him. We have been expecting during many months that he would slip away, but now that he is gone we discover that we were not ready for it after all. We are carrying to-day, therefore, rather a heavy cargo of emotion and sorrow; we seem pressed upon by an unusual cloud of witnesses; voices long silent and faces long absent are in our ears and before our eyes, so that restrained and careful speech is difficult and impossible. Yesterday a good man sat in my home and among other things said: "I would like to have witnessed the greeting Mr. Deering received from the others—from Dr. Davis, Mr. Lunt, Mr. Gammon, Hugh Wilson, Mr. Miller, Dr. Little, Dr. Bonbright and a great host besides." And that suggestion does not add to one's mental composure.

Still, while we may not praise Mr. Deering's acts—

he would forbid it—yet we may say a few words for our own comfort. With long life God satisfied him. He was permitted to see the world's advancement as it is not given to many to see it. He was enabled to work out his own life to an unusual degree. The things he began he was allowed largely to complete. He saw his personal plans come to immense success. And he made his own notable contributions to that larger life—larger life in industry, in commerce, in education, in philanthropy and in religion—which has come in the years since he was born yonder in Maine, fourscore and seven years ago.

In view of what he has actually achieved in the line of life he followed, it is rather interesting to know that more than once in these later years he referred tenderly, almost wistfully and longingly, to an early ambition to be a country doctor. He began the study of medicine in his youth and was obliged to give it up. And once at least he was heard to express the hope that in character and ministry to human life he might have been such a physician as his dear friend, the late Dr. Nathan Davis. He saw in that noble man and great physician what he liked to think he himself might have been.

In this long life he measured himself against mighty forces and able men and was not beaten by these forces nor overmatched by the men he met. The industrial and commercial movements of the world in the years of his active life cast up on the shores many a wreck—wreck of fortune, wreck of life, wreck of manhood and morals. He saw many of these pitiful disasters and knew the forces that had caused them. He saw men yielding to the fierce pressure to win success by surrender of principle, to gain wealth at the cost of integrity. No man has gone through fifty or even

twenty years of modern business without feeling that pressure.

In this silent presence to-day I want to thank God not for him alone but for the many who have come through and are coming through with hands clean and characters unbroken. The wonder is not that so many break, but that so many stand and finally ascend into the hill of the Lord.

Mr. Deering had those qualities that we associate with Puritan New England. Roundly speaking, the first half of his life was spent in New England, the last half of it in Chicago and vicinity. But his Puritan principles took root in this soil, even though he was transplanted when he was forty-four years of age. He was never anything else in heart, through all his long life, than a Puritan. He loved righteousness and hated iniquity like a Puritan. He loved simplicity and hated ostentation and waste like a Puritan. And he applied these principles to himself even more vigorously than to others. His life was long, and even to the end he never quite came to see either for himself or for institutions certain great and inevitable changes that had come.

These New England qualities are great qualities at their best. He knew their limitations. We know them. But it will be a bad day for the Republic when the industry, thrift, integrity, and intensity of Puritanism die among us. The Puritan regard for law, the Puritan love of liberty, the Puritan belief in humanity, and the Puritan faith in God have their permanent place in a well-ordered life. It is easy for us to recall only the narrowness and the hardness which we associate with the Puritan character. Shallowness and softness are a poor substitute for these stronger, even though sterner, virtues.

Mr. Deering did not have all the qualities of all men. More than once in intimate fellowship he said to his friend that he lacked certain qualities which he admired and which he wished he possessed.

But the qualities he did have he really had; had them as an oak has its qualities, or as a tall, straight pine, or as a mountain of New England granite. And he never pretended to be anything he was not. You can look through all his long, open life for any hypocrisy and not find it. We knew where we should find him and what we should find when we found him.

He did not always do the things many of us wanted him to do and thought he ought to do. It is rather easy for us to see duty for other men; easy to have a philosophy for other people's conduct, and a liberality with other people's possessions. Mr. Deering lived his own life, and I think we all agree that he never struck a false note, a note false to his own character. His life was all of one piece in public and in private.

During this long life he was vitally related not only to great principles but to great movements. The industrial world underwent radical change in his time. He was in and of that change, not as one idly floating with the current, but as one helping to guide and determine its course. He has put his name in that short list of those who have influenced industry mightily over wide areas.

He has seen the philanthropy of the world in its most marked development. And again he has had his hand in bringing about that development. Wesley Hospital would not have been built when it was and as it was if it had not been for William Deering. It is not hard to see again here the outcropping of that early interest in medicine which remained a lifelong interest. He meant to give his life to healing the sick, to the

alleviation of human suffering and the banishment of disease. He might have been a country doctor of the old school, leaving behind him at last the single practitioner's list of grateful and happy patients. He thought it a strange providence, rather a hard providence, that kept him from that career; but, in connection with others, he has already made, and through the years will continue to make, a contribution to health and the cure of disease that no single life could accomplish.

Through Wesley Hospital and in related ways he has done those vastly greater things by bringing the skill and service of the many to the need of the ailing multitude. He has been more a physician, after all, than even in his largest young dream he ever fancied he might be. And this is one of God's good ways of bringing compensations to men.

He held his own place among a great company. Looking backward over our local history it is easy to see the tall figures of the men who made that history. This is no place to name them, though their radiant names fairly leap to our lips. But there were giants in those days—giants of faith, giants of courage, giants in high endeavor. They had empires in their brains. They were the pioneers in days when pioneering was hard and exacting. Things that we take for granted, things that now look easy, those men achieved against fearful odds.

And among that company, not himself one of the earliest of them, but truly of them, William Deering, by his ability, his devotion, his courage, his faith, won high and honored and permanent place. His name must always stand in our foremost list.

He never lost his interest in the religious life of the great city whose growth he had seen and whose power he had felt. Its vast population, native and foreign,

deeply interested him from the religious viewpoint. He had small confidence in certain popular measures for social regeneration, but large and insistent faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many questions as to faith arose in his own mind in later years, but never any question as to the power of God's grace in a human heart or the need of that grace in personal and social life. He was theologically conservative, almost radically conservative at times, but this drove him to even deeper emphasis and firmer insistence upon evangelism and what is called old-fashioned religion.

He has made large contributions to the activities of the Church in the city, and has left such provision as will make his influence and help permanent through the years.

His name stands at the head of our lists of university and biblical institute trustees. There it must have stood while he lived, whether he was active in service or not.

He received his own education when the world was young, long before the modern standards came into being and power. The range and the cost of education, as of everything else, were almost revolutionized in his lifetime. He did not wholly appreciate nor wholly approve some of these changes. But he was a noble illustration of the finest thing seen in our American life, the men who so believe in Christian education that they build institutions far nobler than any they were permitted to enjoy.

My own father put the case in a small way when he proposed to send me, the first of all our family, to college. I can remember across the years since boyhood how he said it. He had not been to college. He did not know fully what a college was, or what it would do, or quite what it would cost. But this he said: "You

must have a better chance than I have had. The world will not let you off so easily as it has let me off." And the door of the college stood straight open to me after that. That is the way the world gets forward. Not every man so concisely states the principle. But to-day, with this "good gray head" laid low, with Garrett and Northwestern standing in sorrow and gratitude by his bier, we must reverently thank God for William Deering, and for all others like unto him who have opened wider gates for the feet of youth than their own ever entered; who have provided for youth the better chance than they themselves ever had; who have lighted the lamps of learning to shine through oncoming years.

Much that I could say it is neither lawful nor possible for me or anyone to utter. There were personal relations, intimate friendships rare and rich in their content, that cannot be described in any public address.

At Mr. Lunt's funeral Dr. Little quoted the words of St. Bernard, bemoaning the death of his friend: "My words are charged with grief, but not with murmuring. Thou gavest me my brother. Thou hast taken him away. And if we mourn that he has been taken, we forget not that he was given; and we render thanks to Thee that we deserved to have him and wish not to lament him more than is expedient."

To-day, again, for this man whom now we have loved and lost a while, we render thanks that we deserved to have him. He has been worth having. He was believed to be a man of large wealth, but the real and abiding, the greatest, wealth in his life was in its affections, its friendships, and its faith in Jesus Christ his Savior.

In his time he dealt with large affairs and marched bravely up the way of life with mighty achievement in his hand. He met as equals the kings and captains

of modern industry and was not abashed or ashamed before them. But to-day we must speak the truth, we—just because he was what he was—must say that the higher realities of his life lay in its simplicity and its integrity, in its fidelity and faith, in its unstained purity, domestic tenderness, and loyalty. The best thing he has left his sons, his friends, his church, his community, and the world is that good name which is always better than great riches.

In his later years, under stress of personal experience, he was deeply interested in the question of the future life. He read many books upon it. He conversed with friends about it. Its mystery perplexed him. What had become of those who had gone? What soon would become of him? This life stretched behind him. Its earthly end marched steadily and even swiftly toward him.

Many years ago his dear friend, Mr. Lunt, gave him a small volume of devotional Scripture and prayers for daily use, a volume like "Daily Strength for Daily Needs." And for all the years that small volume was on his desk for daily use. It is well worn and well used. There were certain questions he carried in his mind; but faith abided even in the face of unanswered questions. And by now his questions are answered, for "he cannot be where God is not."

Large and unfinished tasks fall from his hands into ours. Please God we shall perform those tasks in a fashion worthy of the great company of men "whom we have loved and lost a while."

There are those here to-day who are saying over together the names of Orrington Lunt and William Deering, and are repeating the words of John Bunyan as they do: "Now I saw in my dream that these two men went into the gate, and lo! as they entered they

were transfigured; they had raiment put on them that shone like gold, and crowns were given them in token of honor; and all the bells of the city rang again for joy and it was said unto them: Enter ye into the joy of our Lord. And as the gates were opened to let them in, I looked in after them, and behold! the city shone like the sun . . . and in the streets walked many men with crowns on their heads, palms in their hands and harps to sing praises withal. . . . And after that they shut up the gates; which when I had seen I wished myself among them!"

PRAYER: *The Reverend Dr. Timothy P. Frost*

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy promises unto us; we thank thee that in the midst of strife and stress and toil and tumult we may have peace.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee; and if our trust has been shaken and our mind is not just now stayed on thee, wilt thou give us such revelation of life, and help us to such devotion of ourselves to the will of God, as will bring peace unto our souls. We would not be looking upon the things which are temporal: we need not, we will not; we will not be looking at death and the grave. If our vision be dim, if the heart be dulled because of the excess of the worldly, because of toil and care and sorrow, wilt thou touch our eyes that they may see; wilt thou transform the heart that it may be a new creation in Jesus Christ; that we may have a vision of the things which are not seen and which are eternal.

O God, we thank thee for the life that thy Son gave that we might have life and have it abundantly.

We thank thee for the record that when he stood in

the presence of that which we call death, he looked away unto the eternal life and spoke of his Father's house of many mansions, and declared that the one who liveth and believeth in Him shall never die. And we thank thee that with faith in this Redeemer we can look away to the realms of light and life.

We thank thee for the long life whose course lies back of this hour. We thank thee for all that was good and pure and strong in his life; that the best thing in his life to him, the best thing in childhood, youth and early manhood, in the New England home, the best thing in the years of struggle and achievement, the best in the waning time, was his faith in God, his hope in Jesus Christ, and his comfort in the Gospel.

Now, as we stand here looking upward and onward, may our faith be secure, and our hope be bright and our comfort be deep and abiding.

O Lord, we thank thee for human friendships; we thank thee for human love and human ministers. But thou knowest that the years are merciless: they wear out our loved ones and they are gone. We need thy ministers and thy help.

We pray that thou wilt bless those to whom our departed brother was the nearest and the dearest. Bless them all, near and far, in thy way which is better than our way, according to thy thought which is higher than our thought, wilt thou bless them. "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, who hath loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope through Christ, comfort their hearts."

Very earnestly, most tenderly would we unite our prayers for her who sits in loneliness afar off by the southern sea, in the home that can never be again what it has been in the past, thinking of this place and of this hour, and of him whose voice she will hear speaking

the earthly language no more. Wilt thou give unto her the assurance that the Eternal God is her refuge, and that underneath are the everlasting arms. May she be calm in the faith that "earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." That sometime and somehow she shall prove that Life is lord of Death, and Love can never lose its own. May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep her heart.

Wilt thou bless the men who are here to-day in memory of the strong man in his strength.

O God, may every man of us do a man's work in the world, and may every man be accorded a man's rights and a man's reward.

Some of us in a few days will follow our friend into the unseen. The shadows are over us now. Death is at the door. There is much work to be done, before the night cometh.

O God, help us as men to be faithful, and may we do our work while the day lasts. During the few remaining stages of our journey may we live to serve. May we shun every broad road which leads to destruction. May we walk the narrow way which leads to life. So wilt thou bring us on over thy way unto the realm where all tears shall be wiped away and death shall be no more. Where there shall be no more mourning, or crying, or pain, because the former things have passed away and we shall dwell with our God in his kingdom forever.

All this we ask and offer in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN No. 615

Homeland

The Homeland! Oh, the Homeland!
The land of souls free born!
No gloomy night is known there,
But aye the fadeless morn:
I'm sighing for that country,
My heart is aching here;
There is no pain in the Homeland
To which I'm drawing near.

My Lord is in the Homeland,
With angels bright and fair;
No sinful thing nor evil,
Can ever enter there;
The music of the ransomed
Is ringing in my ears,
And when I think of the Homeland,
My eyes are wet with tears.

For loved ones in the Homeland
Are waiting me to come
Where neither death nor sorrow
Invades their holy home;
O dear, dear native country!
O rest and peace above!
Christ bring us to the Homeland
Of His eternal love.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

CHANT:

A Cappella Choir.

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Amen.

The grave is at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.

The following were the pall-bearers:

ACTIVE

B. A. Kennedy,	J. F. Steward,
C. H. Haney,	J. H. Pitkin,
H. N. Kennedy,	George Rice,
J. C. McMath,	John G. Young,
G. F. Steele,	M. H. McKinstry.

HONORARY

E. H. Gary,	Dr. N. S. Davis,
N. W. Harris,	Sam Brown, Jr.,
C. H. McCormick,	Dr. M. S. Terry,
M. E. Holton,	John F. Appleby,
A. W. Harris,	Charles W. Marsh,
Milton Wilson,	Dr. James Rowe,
F. P. Crandon,	Judge O. H. Horton,
Perley Lowe,	John C. Shaffer,
S. M. Millikin,	H. H. Hitchcock,
F. A. Chamberlain.	

WILLIAM DEERING—A SKETCH

William Deering's grandfather was a master ship-builder in Saco, Maine. His father removed from the coast some sixty miles into what then seemed the remote interior. There William Deering was brought up in the struggle with difficulties that went with a barren and unsubdued land, a rare and uncertain currency, and a feeble and struggling industry.

His father more than once told the boy that he had seen a letter exposed in the post-office for himself, but that not having the necessary twenty-five cents to pay for it and not being able in the village to find so much ready money, he had been obliged to look wistfully at it and pass on.

His father, with others, established a manufactory of various things, but especially of woolen cloths. This was ruined by one of the sudden and violent changes of the tariff laws of those days, though it was afterwards re-established.

In the time and place of his boyhood it was frugality or starvation. He never lost the simplicity and personal frugality of his youth. He freely spent millions to build and enlarge his great works, to establish his branch houses throughout America and foreign countries, to send his representatives wherever in the world grain and grass were grown, to buy iron mines or timber forests; he gave away millions, but for himself the most modest expenditure was ample.

When the automobile first appeared on the horizon, it struck his insatiable love of progress so forcibly that he had several of the first automobiles ever made in America, invented and designed in his own works.

Moved by the love of progress he rode about several times in various of these primitive automobiles. But he gave it all up "*because the vehicle scared the horses so,*" and he loved dumb animals.

Progress was a passion with him, and for it more than once he risked his fortune; and at the age of seventy and eight he still chafed that it did not go fast enough and that he could no longer personally push it on. The newest in everything in invention and in manufacturing was not new enough for him.

In his personal adornment, on the other hand, the oldest fashion that his tailor would recognize was too new for him. This simplicity lay at the very root of his character and life. It gave him a directness, sincerity, and frankness that sometimes surprised and even wounded those who did not know him or were unable to understand those virtues.

But it bound to him by ever stronger ties those who came to know him and to learn that truth, honesty, and purity were the warp and woof of his nature. His word was the truth, his promise was his bond, and none ever had to go beyond these.

During his life in Maine, and previous to 1870, he had been merchant in country and city, manufacturer, and banker, all with marked success. Without doubt he had felt in all of these something lacking to his inner spirit, his inmost craving.

He had known the West, and with his unerring foresight had recognized the vast dominion awaiting its conquerors. And so it was that when William Deering found himself fairly embarked in the business of making harvesting machinery all the faculties of his mind and character awakened, perhaps for the first time, in all their fullness. And everything that God had given him he gave to his work.

It was the great pride of his life that he could employ an army of men. He often counted them up and, computing a given family to each worker, rejoiced to think that he was affording support to a large city full of people. Then he gloried in the fact that he and all his workers were striving for those who go to the bottom of the world's necessities — for those who stand under all others and raise the food for all.

And so it was that his industry never flagged, that his interest never abated in the effort to give these farmers the best that could be made for them, to lighten and render ever more effective their toil and its results.

From a few hundred in 1870 his working people came to number nine thousand in 1900, the year before he retired from active business. He had sixty branch warehouses in the United States alone, and his business extended over the civilized world, with a large army engaged in selling its products. This had been the work chosen by God's providence for him. Into it he put all his heart.

As a merchant his life was not complete; as a banker there was something lacking. But as one to whom it was given to aid and stimulate the progress of the whole world, to make food cheaper and the world happier, he felt that every faculty that had been given him, of mind or body, was not too much to give—that he had found a high mission in life.

That the possession of wealth for the sake of its personal possession had small attraction for him is shown by the fact that for himself he spent almost none of it, that during his own lifetime he gave millions of dollars to good works, and that on his retirement from active work he gave his business to his sons and son-in-law.

His relations with those associated with him in his business were perhaps extraordinary. It is probable

that no one of them ever really questioned his good faith or sense of justice. The humbler the worker, the quicker the attention given to him and the speedier the justice, if justice were needed.

Yet he never sought by any art or grace to win popularity among his workers. All knew him as a friend who felt himself to be, as they felt him to be, the center of all their activities; and he worked harder than any of them. And so in a wonderful measure he was recognized by them all to be the sun of the entire system, around which in different orbits they all revolved, to whom they all looked with faith and devotion, and whose character shone out over the entire system to give it truth, industry, and devotion.

There never was a real strike of the workmen in his works, and only one feeble attempt at a strike. The higher grade, more highly paid men might look out for themselves more or less, but the poor laborer was looked out for by William Deering and he would never permit the wage of such to sink below a reasonable level. As has been already said, he never thought or strove to gain personal popularity among those who worked with him. He simply gave them his own kindness, his own brotherhood, his own simple dignity and example.

The wonderful and touching demonstration of grief that followed upon his death is proof of the return of the bread that he cast on the waters in these many years and among these many thousands. Telegrams came from all quarters of the globe. Thousands of the men in the Deering works begged to be allowed to attend the funeral services. The church was small and this right was granted only to those who had seen twenty years of service, and between five and six hundred of these, proud and sad, appeared.

He was honored and respected by his competitors in

business. One of them, himself a good judge, once remarked that William Deering was the ablest business man he had ever known.

In return he respected his competitors whose business integrity and ability had weathered the storms of many years. His own honor and integrity have never been questioned by competitors or others. He could never understand how any person or any government could believe that men who had proved their uprightness by many years of unquestioned business probity could, by the mere fact of combining their interests and their capital, become at once less honorable.

It was a joy to him to know and have the world know that in the suit of the government against the business that he had done so much to make great, not one single accusation had been proved or even attempted to be proved except that the business was very large. That it was large he knew; that it had been and still was one of the greatest and most beneficent of the world he knew; that it was honorable and conducted on the highest principles of justice and commercial good will toward others he knew. And he rejoiced to see all this proved in the courts, to which he thought it had been unfairly brought.

He did great things and did them in a large way. He covered the earth with his activities. He lavished the money that he earned on efforts to do better and larger things.

He was himself as simple as a child — earnest, unselfish, kindly, and courteous. He had a noble soul, a noble mind, and a noble body. He shed at all times and in all places an ennobling influence which will spread out through time into eternity.

The noble body has gone to rest; the noble soul is still with us.

WILLIAM DEERING AS I KNEW HIM

BY JOHN F. STEWARD

The West, to William Deering, was full of promise, and at an early date he made various trips of observation, partly on horseback, over the great prairies.

His experience during early manhood had led him into manufacture and, incident thereto, into mercantile lines. The manufacture of woolen goods generally and for army clothing during the Rebellion, and also army clothing from cloth of his own manufacture, led him into broader fields that, becoming wider still, resulted in the establishment of his first dry-goods house, in Portland, dealing in cotton goods in addition to the product of his woolen mills.

The woolen-goods business enlarged from a single factory to several, from the time he began in the little factory as an employee. Enlargements of the mercantile branch of the business spread to Boston, New York, and Chicago, until the year 1870, when he severed his connection with Deering, Milliken & Co.

One of the prominent characteristics of Mr. Deering is well illustrated by the manner in which he severed his connection with the business so well founded by him. What has sometimes seemed to me hasty action, action on the spur of the moment, was not such in fact. His withdrawal, in this instance, is a case in point.

Walking one morning into the establishment at New York, he asked his principal partner what he would give for his interest. Reply was made, and the offer accepted. So thoroughly in mind was the business, as

had been his affairs during his whole business career, that to promptly accept the offer was the result, not of a moment's thought, but of a clear comprehension of well-considered conditions. The deal was consummated, and he was thus released from business cares. Whatever may have been his intentions, he was not content with the leisure, which soon became a burden.

He had read the promise of the broad prairies, had witnessed the increase of the immense fields of grain of the West, and had watched with keen eyes the development of agricultural machinery. For years he had been associated with an acquaintance to whom he had advanced money in an infant enterprise that later, when solely in his hands, influenced every civilized nation of the globe.

The writer knows the story — he shared in its trials and its triumphs. The story of years may, however, be outlined in few words.

Two Canadian brothers, possessing Yankee ingenuity, had conceived the idea of providing the necessary devices to enable two men to ride upon a reaping machine and bind the grain cut by it into bundles before depositing it upon the ground. Before this time the self-raking reaper had succeeded the hand-rake reaper, on which a man rode and raked the grain to the ground, there to be bound by five or six men, laboriously following it. Charles Wesley and William Wallace Marsh were the brothers. They made their experiments in 1857, and later attempted, unaided, to perfect their machine at their farm shop in Dekalb County, Illinois.

In an adjoining county was a mechanic, John F. Hollister, and a farmer, Marcus Steward, brothers-in-law, who had built a harvester in 1843 that had cut large harvests every year for fourteen years. The Marsh brothers sought the advice of Mr. Steward, who saw

the experimental machine operate for a few rods, when it broke down. He told them he believed their principle was right, and that Mr. Hollister could build a machine for them that would not break. They accepted the advice. A machine was made, and after it had successfully operated during three harvests a copartnership arrangement was entered into between Steward Brothers and C. W. Marsh.

Later E. H. Gammon, the acquaintance of Mr. Deering above referred to, became interested, and it was mainly through him that early in the seventies Mr. Deering acquired an interest in the business.

Harvesting methods once ripe for revolution, a leader only had been necessary, and now one became available. A merchant, both by nature and by training, was a new thing in the business, and Mr. Deering's influence became instantly felt. The trade increased rapidly, and manufacturers of reapers soon learned that the Marsh harvester had come to stay. Some foresaw that disaster was inevitable unless they at once took up the manufacture of the then wonder of the great grain fields.

The patents covering the Marsh harvester had been badly taken out, and to make matters worse the important one had been reissued without sufficient warrant for doing so. The defeat of the patent monopoly, so dearly earned by years of labor and industrial trials, was the result of the decision of the Supreme Court in *Miller vs. Bridgeport Brass Company*, which was, for a time, a blow to practically all reissues of patents.

The suits were brought before Judge Drummond, and he withheld his decision for many months. When finally rendered, he admitted to complainants that if he had rendered his decision before the Supreme Court case referred to had been decided, it would have been in

favor of the patent sued on. This delay of Judge Drummond and the result of the delay opened wide the gate for competing manufacturers, and they were not slow in rushing into the new field.

After fifteen years on the part of the inventors of the Marsh harvester and their associates in reducing the inventions to practice and developing a trade, with their gains and losses incident to seasons of plenty and seasons of crop failures, their patent rights were lost. Competition became general, yet the business of the little company, now fully under control of a master mind, grew by leaps and bounds.

No sooner had Mr. Deering become associated with the founders of the business than he learned of the efforts on the part of inventors to manufacture an automatic binder. As early as 1850 efforts had been made, and from that time nearly all had attempted to apply a binding attachment to a mere reaping machine, only to fail.

The success of the Marsh harvester, which was adapted to elevate the cut grain and deliver it to a receptacle in which it might be bound, led inventors into a newer field, and immediately success seemed not far distant.

During the years 1871-2-3 various semi-automatic binders had been applied to the Marsh harvester. The degree of success was sufficient to encourage Mr. Deering. Other members of the company opposed the expenditure of any money directed to the development of binding attachments. Nevertheless, a binder was applied to one of the machines in 1874 which promised well, and Mr. Deering favored placing the like on the market.

One of Mr. Deering's characteristics was well expressed, in later years, by one of the partners who had

most opposed the proposed innovation. He said to the writer, his brother, that what the company had so long needed was a man possessed of mercantile instincts and training at its head; that in 1874, when he was opposing the manufacture of binding attachments very vigorously, Mr. Deering, then the largest stockholder, had said that the binders must be put out in the West, even though they ultimately found their way into the Mississippi River. "The course followed," said the narrator, "proved to be the right one"; but it was years afterward that he fully appreciated the foresight of his partner, William Deering.

Marsh harvesters with binding attachments were advertised and put out for the year 1875, but so un-receptive was the farmer of that day that while many thousand harvesters were ordered, only one hundred and thirteen binders were required to supply the demand. They worked fairly well, but the farmer was not educated in the use of complicated machinery. Certain defects were discovered, partly in principle and partly in the matter of details. The one hundred and thirteen binding attachments were gathered in and rebuilt, with the result that for the harvest of 1876 all that were rebuilt operated successfully, and several hundred more were made and sold. None found its way into the Mississippi River.

At that time but one competing binder had found its way into the field—that fostered by Walter A. Wood. Both binders employed wire as band material. The attachment, when thus applied, mainly through Mr. Deering's efforts, to the Marsh harvester, had operated so successfully that infringers of the Marsh patents were incited to strenuous efforts, and within two years began to manufacture binding attachments to be applied to their Deering-Marsh harvesters.

The business increased under the management of Mr. Deering, and in 1879 he became its sole owner.

The use of wire as a binding material was found to be objectionable, as fragments remaining in the grain were injurious to millstones in the grinding of wheat. Bits of wire were sometimes taken into the stomachs of cattle, and it became apparent that twine must ultimately be resorted to.

A manually operated twine binder, attached to a reaper, was patented in 1850, and many others followed; but none had approached absolute success until the year 1875, when John F. Appleby, who had invented the knotting device that now binds the grain of the world (in 1858), had placed upon the Marsh harvester, built by Parker & Stone, of Beloit, Wisconsin, an attachment that seemed full of promise.

Mr. Deering received a letter from Mr. Appleby's associate, Dr. Bishop, in 1876, and from that time he never lost faith that the twine binder must come. Parker & Stone had manufactured Marsh harvesters for the owners of the Marsh harvester patents, and had thus become familiar with the advantages of the machine.

Mr. Appleby had endeavored to apply a binder to an ordinary reaper, but Parker & Stone foresaw clearly what merely appeared promising to Mr. Appleby. They were not a strong company, and Mr. Deering, finding that arrangements were possible whereby he could acquire an interest in the Appleby patents and aid in perfecting the machines, was not slow in arranging with that company and Mr. Appleby, with the result that two Appleby binders were manufactured for him and sent to the early harvest fields in Texas.

Early in that year, before the binders had begun to show their mettle, Mr. Deering had acquired rights to

manufacture under the Appleby patents yet to be granted.

“In William Deering, of Chicago, Illinois, formerly of the firm of Gammon & Deering, I found a man far-sighted enough to see the importance of my invention. To him belongs the credit of forcing my binder onto the market with sufficient energy to convince the farmer of its practicability. His demonstration of the practicability of the invention soon led other manufacturers to adopt it.

“(Signed) JOHN F. APPLEBY.”

For the harvest of 1879 discouragements were met with, notwithstanding the fact that improvements had been made. Twine suitable for binding could not be procured, and farmers were slow in comprehending the principles of the machine and necessary care in operating the same. The machines fell into a few hands, however, competent to operate them, and dealers in agricultural machinery were at once aflame with anticipations of immense demands for the Deering machines.

The wire binders had not been strictly automatic in their action. They bound each bundle at the will of the operator, who, by placing his foot upon a pedal, put them into action. The Appleby binder was provided with means whereby the accumulated grain for each bundle tripped a clutch into action, thus making the binding of bundles uniform in size wholly automatic. This automatic feature had been invented as early as 1870, and Mr. Deering acquired rights under the patents covering same.

Suitable twine had not yet been found, and it was later discovered that the machines that had worked so indifferently in 1879 gave little trouble after suitable twine had been procured.

The demand for the Deering-Marsh harvesters with binding attachments became a clamor to such an ex-

tent that for the harvest of 1880 three thousand were made. The writer often said to Mr. Deering that, had he previously met defeats in his business career as had the older builders of agricultural machinery, he would not have dared the risks incident to the harvest of 1880.

In the writer's business career of more than forty-eight years, first with the Marsh harvester in its infancy and during the following years in the same lines and with the same associates, he has never known a bolder stroke than that of William Deering during the early part of 1880.

The majority of machines demanded for the year 1880 were simply straight Deering-Marsh harvesters, mainly with wire binding attachments; the remaining ones had the three thousand Appleby binding attachments applied, and this constituted an amazing venture. Every wheel of the factory (then still at Plano, Illinois) was turned with greater speed and longer hours, in an effort to accomplish the output for the year.

Another prominent characteristic was shown early in the season. The writer and another of the principal mechanics went with Mr. Deering to an early rye field at Alton, Illinois. The writer was busied in putting up and starting other types of machines, while his associate had erected a harvester with twine binding attachment and started it in the field of rye, with exceedingly indifferent success. He attempted to adjust the knotting devices, but merely threw them out of adjustment, with the result that when the writer reached that part of the field the knotting devices and the tripping mechanism, which should have rendered the binder automatic, were seriously inoperative because of misadjustment. The mechanics had not become expert in the operation of the machines, and perfect twine had not yet been produced.

The writer and his associates labored the last half of the day, with feelings of anxiety that cannot be described. Round after round was cut, resulting oftentimes in no complete bundles, at times in bundles of dimensions sufficient for a half-dozen of the size intended, and at other times choking down completely. During those hours the anxiety of Mr. Deering was little reflected in his countenance, and only a few words showing discouragement were uttered. At nightfall efforts were reluctantly given over for the day.

After the return to the hotel, and supper being over, Mr. Deering announced that he felt he must return to Chicago, as business affairs in his office were very pressing. While waiting for the train he expressed himself as follows: "Boys, if we do not succeed better than we have, it means the loss of a million dollars." (A loss of that amount to him at that time would have been akin to disaster.)

The writer finally succeeded in persuading him to remain another day, saying that another knotter that had not been misadjusted could be applied to the binder, and he felt sure the bundle-sizing devices could be corrected.

The hotel was crowded and the party of three was given a double room. The experiences of that night to the writer, whose interest was only that of an employee, but one who had exerted every effort toward the perfecting of harvesting machinery, cannot be described, nor can the feelings of his companion, the superintendent, be expressed. Not a wink of sleep was the lot of either. What had been the cause of the trouble and what remedies to apply were discussed, and all that time Mr. Deering slept soundly, having closed his eyes a few moments after reaching his bed.

After over thirty-three years, since that time, added

to the many previous years of association with Mr. Deering, the writer is still unable to comprehend the mental make-up of a man who, like few generals in other than industrial wars, could calmly drop cares so burdensome. His faith in human ingenuity and ultimate success, the result of incomprehensible foresight, did not fail him.

The hope of the writer that better success awaited them on the morrow proved to be well founded, as the machine, once again put in order, behaved beautifully.

Under the fostering influence of William Deering for two years, the Appleby binder had reached a degree of perfection that, so far as principles and operability are concerned, has not been excelled up to the present time. It had come to stay, and the success of the year 1880 was such that the manufacturers of reapers and other harvesting machines rushed into the field. Within four years a score of manufacturing concerns were building the Deering-Marsh harvester with the Appleby binder as an indispensable part thereof.

The years 1878 and 1879 had shown the necessity of a better twine than had been made of jute, flax, or hemp. All had their faults. The sharpest knife was necessary in the knotting devices for severing the completed band from the ball, and the inequalities of the twine made it difficult for the holding devices to operate as intended.

Mr. Deering had foreseen the necessity of something better, and early in the year 1880 had conceived the idea that it might be possible to make rope yarn of sufficient fineness to serve as binding material. He visited various rope factories, principally in the East, only to meet with discouragement, until, calling upon Mr. Fitler of Philadelphia, a very extensive manufac-

turer of ropes, the latter was induced, only after considerable effort, however, to undertake experiments.

He at first said he could not afford to go into the matter, but later stated that if a sufficient order could be given him he would undertake rearrangement of his machinery with a view to possible success. Mr. Deering at once replied that he was ready to give an order for one hundred tons. This opened Mr. Fidler's eyes, and the experiments were undertaken.

Early in the harvest of 1880 a single ball had been sent to the writer in Texas. It was applied to a machine that the day before had given much trouble, but the new twine ran perfectly. The satisfaction of the writer found expression in a telegram of two words — "Manila splendid."

Of little less value to the world than the Appleby binder was the production of modern binder twine, for which Mr. William Deering must be given credit.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ASSOCIATE

One of Mr. Deering's characteristics that always struck me most forcibly was what I may call his intuitive good judgment. Sometimes apparently without reflection I have seen him reach conclusions as to present and especially as to future events that have astonished me. I once asked him how he succeeded in looking so far into the future, and his reply was that often he could not himself tell and often he had been surprised to see events working out so exactly as he had foreseen them. He had in a marked degree that balance of faculties which we call common sense, perhaps because it is so uncommon.

His youth's desire was to be a doctor, and for a brief time he studied medicine. The very balance of faculties of which I have spoken would, in my opinion, have given him success in any career that he might have chosen. His unusual ability to throw all of his heart and mind into any cause or work that he took up would certainly have made him a great lawyer, as his notable ability to plan for the future would have made him a great general. He was a merchant in a variety of lines, a manufacturer in a variety of lines, a banker; and in all his success was equal.

Another very notable characteristic was his passionate love of progress. In his business of manufacturing harvesting machinery the very newest was not too new, and I think it is within bounds to say that during his active career the amount of money that he spent in striving for new inventions and improvements on his product nearly, if not quite, equaled the sum spent by

all his competitors together. It is certainly true that a very large share of the advances made in his line of business during his active lifetime was fostered by and due to him.

His capacity for work and the physical and mental concentration that he put into what he had to do were always a wonder to me. He never in business or domestic life allowed anyone to do for him what he could do himself. This was not because he had not capable assistants, but because he loved the activity, the doing.

He was one of the last of important business men to employ a stenographer, and he never employed that institution so universal nowadays, the private secretary. No one that I have ever met exemplified more completely the phrase, "This one thing I do."

His capacity for self-denial was great. No evening entertainment, however tempting, was allowed, when he could help it, to take the strength that he needed for the morning. His journeys of pleasure were always too few. He was often solicited and even tempted to make investments outside of his business, but, realizing that his growing affairs required all his capital, he was accustomed to turn a deaf ear to suggestions involving large and speedy profits.

A characteristic that always struck me forcibly was the fact that in any business transaction the best terms were always had from him by the person who put himself in his hands. When he felt that some one was striving to get the advantage of him, this result rarely occurred. His confidence, once won, was given very strongly.

His self-reliance was another notable characteristic. He always wished to direct his own affairs himself, and on only one occasion did he have a partner for any length of time until his sons were taken into his business.

Though not a trained mechanic and not an inventor, his judgment on mechanical and inventive matters was almost unerring. He spent much time in the harvest field, and his inventors and mechanics always declared that when his judgment on the working of some experiment or invention had been given it was the best that was to be expected.

He never allowed his judgment of business or other matters to be distorted by the trivial or the unessential. When to others a matter appeared one of infinite detail he would at once and unerringly pick out the few essential considerations and base his judgment on them.

Born of a long line of Puritan ancestry, and himself a Puritan in spirit and life, no one could be more tender in suffering or distress than he. In his business life he expected every man to do his best, and judged his employees by their success. Oftentimes a neglectful or incompetent man suffered judgment at his hands. If, however, it were a question of some humble employee—a janitor or an office boy, for example—his patience, forbearance, and good nature seemed never-ending.

His love and tenderness for animals and birds, his love for flowers and plants, exceeded that of any person I have ever known.

His patience in suffering sometimes struck me with wonder, and has even caused me to reproach him when I knew that he had purposely concealed from his family continued suffering that might, as others thought, have been mitigated.

I often remarked of him that he knew neither physical nor moral fear. With this went a modesty and a shrinking from any publicity that are rare indeed. He never desired public office and never held any except during his younger years in Maine, when he was for a time one of the seven councilors elected to advise the

governor of the state, and when at another time he was alderman in the city of Portland, declining to become a candidate for mayor.

An example of his courage, that knew no thought of danger, came under my eye. The only strike that ever occurred in his works during his career was at the time of the bomb-throwing in Chicago in 1886. It probably is true that no factory in Chicago escaped a strike at this time. The one that occurred at his works was, I think, the last to be declared and the first to end.

A committee consisting of two persons from each department of the works was appointed, and Mr. Deering addressed this committee of eighty or ninety men and several women, making suggestions for some changes in conditions. The committee accepted the suggestions, the strike was declared off, and work was actually started the next morning.

The mass of the strikers, however, were not satisfied with the terms. The result was that while part of the workmen re-entered their employment in the morning, the larger part did not. A mob of five or six thousand men, including many of the rough element of the city who were not employees, gathered in a vacant lot not far from the works.

All at once this mob came rushing down the street. There could be no other thought than that they intended to break down the gates of the factory and to drive away and injure the men actually at work. I had been called away from Mr. Deering's office, and at this moment returned, to find it empty. Looking out in the street I saw the advancing mob, and Mr. Deering standing alone in front of the barred gates of the works. His habitual stoop was gone and he stood erect, with flashing eyes. A few moments later a large platoon of police appeared on the scene and the mob was scattered.

I asked him what his purpose had been in placing himself in front of the gates. He replied that he had done so in the belief that respect for him would hold the mob in check long enough to permit the men working in the factory to obey the signal that had been hastily given for them to leave by the gate at the other end of the works. His thought evidently was that no matter what injury might be done to himself, the mob would be detained while inflicting this injury, if only for a brief time.

His modesty prevented on every occasion possible his making public speeches, yet I personally fully believe that by nature he was a man of extraordinary eloquence. Two illustrations of this I will give.

I accompanied him to the meeting with the committee of striking employees. Never have I heard more cogent and seductive reasoning, more truth, honesty, and sincerity than in his address. Every element described in Emerson's essay on eloquence was present, including that great essential, the high character of the speaker, and honesty of purpose. The men were swayed like children, and I myself sat spellbound. The result, as already stated, was that the strike was declared off, and that those people who had not heard the address could not understand how the terms had been accepted, so the committee was repudiated.

Another example was recounted to me by his friend, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hatfield. It occurred at some large and important church gathering where an election was to occur. Mr. Deering and all of his associates were convinced that a certain man was entitled to this election without discussion. They found, however, that, as I recollect, some cabal had made this election apparently impossible. Mr. Deering addressed the meeting, and his candidate was elected. Dr. Hatfield more than

once assured me that his eloquence exceeded anything that he, Dr. Hatfield, had ever heard, and he added that he had heard every great pulpit or other orator of the country during the years of his long life.

His tenderness for those who could not look out for themselves was shown in the hard years following the panic of 1893. In Chicago common laborers were hired for one dollar a day. In Milwaukee and other smaller cities they were paid as little as eighty-five and even seventy-five cents a day. Mr. Deering issued an order that no man in his employ should receive less than one dollar and thirty-five cents a day, for, said he, "No man can bring up a family of children to be decent American citizens on less." It is needless to say that this sum was then vastly larger in buying power than now.

I never knew, either of my own knowledge or by hearsay, of his honor in business or private life being attacked but once. Innocent as he was, he was bowed with grief and shame at the mere suggestion. The accusation was all the more bitter to him because it was made by a member of his own church and a neighbor who sought the ears of other neighbors. After some months of litigation the presiding judge declared that Mr. Deering had been, from first to last, not simply just, but even generous to his accuser. This, I know, was one of the greatest gratifications of Mr. Deering's life.

A Few Typical Telegrams, Letters and
Resolutions

TELEGRAMS

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 10, 1913.

Mr. Charles Deering, Cocoanut Grove, Fla.:—

It was many years ago, in trying times, that I learned to know and appreciate the great character and beautiful nature of your father. In his death I mourn the loss of a good friend. I sympathize with your mother and you all in your irreparable loss.

MRS. CYRUS McCORMICK.

Pasadena, Calif., Dec. 10, 1913.

Charles Deering, Cocoanut Grove, Fla.:—

Thanks for telegram repeated from Chicago. I consider it an honor for my name to be used as pall-bearer at your father's funeral, although I cannot be present personally. One of our greatest and best of men has well finished his life work, and may his sweet and loving spirit continue as a blessing to us all.

N. W. HARRIS.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1913.

W. J. Louderback, care Int. Harv. Co.:—

I regret I cannot be personally in attendance at Evanston on Sunday. My sympathies are with the family and all the friends of William Deering, who was one of the highest types of men I ever knew.

E. H. GARY.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 10, 1913.

Charles and James Deering:—

Mrs. McCormick and I send you our deepest sympathy. Your father's life and influence constitute one of the greatest of examples of successful achievement which our country affords. All your and his friends here will grieve with you in your great loss. Please convey to your mother our heartfelt sympathy.

C. H. McCORMICK.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 10, 1913.

James Deering, Cocoanut Grove:—

All our executive men unite with me in expressing to you and your mother our heartfelt sympathy in your great loss. Your father's life was marked at every stage by exceptional

energy and ability; his great enterprise and success in business was coupled with a strong and constant support of educational and religious institutions. He made a distinct and beneficent impression on his time, the memory of which will be his enduring monument. The central office and the Deering works will be closed on Saturday as a tribute of respect to your father. Many of the company employees will desire to attend the services here, therefore I suggest that you have a church service.

CYRUS H. McCORMICK,
Pres. International Harvester Co.

New York, Dec. 10, 1913.

Charles and James Deering, Cocoanut Grove, Fla.:—

It is given to few men to be of the great practical help to his fellow-men that your father was, and those of us who were fortunate enough to know something of the splendid service he rendered realize that a truly great American has been taken from us. Please remember me, with deepest sympathy, to your mother.

GEO. W. PERKINS.

LETTERS

The following letter is from one of the inventors of the Marsh harvester:

DEKALB, ILL., December 13, 1913.

Messrs. Charles and James Deering, Chicago, Ill.:

Dear Friends:— Your selection of me for one of the pallbearers at your father's funeral is highly appreciated, and I much regret that ill-health will prevent my attendance. I have nearly completed my eightieth year, and Illinois weather in the winter, even when so mild as now, bears rather heavily upon me. I am very sorry I cannot go, for I want to manifest my respect for you and your father; and now I would say a few words about him and our connection with him.

In 1860 my brother and I were trying unsuccessfully to introduce our recently invented harvester. At that time the trade was represented by several classes of machines, and the pioneers or leaders — each in his class — were so intent upon the development and improvement of their distinctive and established lines, that it was almost impossible to interest them in anything outside — especially an innovation so radical as was the Marsh harvester. Hence we and our associates were slow in getting a start in the trade; and when, in 1870, Mr. Deering became interested in the machine it had hardly become recognized as a considerable competitor upon the general market by the leaders in other lines. At that time the trade was substantially monopolized by the McCormicks, the Whiteleys, the Woods, the Millers and the Osbornes — men of great ability, experience and wealth, whose names were household words in the agricultural world. But the Marsh harvester then began to forge ahead, and it made such progress that by the middle of the "seventies" it had conquered on the fields of the Great West, and the old-time leaders were building it or adopting its plan. Mr. Deering, though without previous experience in this business, soon took the lead in such conquest, as also in the development and successful application of automatic binders to the

Marsh harvester, until the Appleby binder was fully established on the market in 1880, since when, under various modifications, this combination has become the harvesting machine of the world. It was a wonderful achievement on the part of Mr. Deering.

During this period common interests brought me into intimate relations with Mr. Deering. I was soon impressed by his strength and power, by his great executive ability, combining rigid system and close attention to details as well as to the business in general, and by his broad and progressive views of the trade; and I learned to look up to him as the leader in our line, with a feeling such as one would have for a wise older brother. His great success later demonstrated the correctness of these early impressions, and though our common interests ceased with the expiration of the Marsh patents in 1879, my estimation and my friendly regard for him and for you, his sons, have never changed. I have often said that he was the ablest man that was ever engaged in the industry, and I knew them all.

With kindest regards and much sympathy,

I am yours sincerely,

C. W. MARSH.

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 16, 1913.

My Dear Mr. Deering:—

The wonderful life record of your honored father, Mr. William Deering, so recently brought to a peaceful close, has made more than a passing impression on me. I can see so many things in his history that remind me forcibly of my father's life and passing, that I feel qualified to write you in the spirit that I now do.

You and all of his relatives and friends have much to be proud of in reviewing the accomplishments of his eventful career, and you have the consolation of knowing that the world mourns with you.

I realize that words count for but little in the face of such a bereavement, but I offer to yourself, your brother Charles, and the other members of your family, my heartfelt sympathy in the loss you have sustained.

A man in every sense of the word has gone from among us.

Most sincerely yours,

JOS. D. OLIVER.

Englewood, Blackhall, Midlothian, Scotland

Dec. 17, 1913.

Dear Mr. Deering:—

Please allow me to express my sympathy with you and the other members of your family in the sorrow that has overtaken you.

I had the privilege and pleasure of meeting your father on two occasions, and the impression he made on me was that he was just a quiet, thoughtful, sagacious Scotsman, although he was born in the state of Maine.

The farm workers of all nations will ever be his debtors — and he stands in the front rank of epoch-making men.

He was greater in his life than any Cæsar or Napoleon, and through his efforts mankind has been blessed with peace and plenty to an extent unknown before.

Yours sincerely,
WM. POOLE.

Racine, Wis., Dec. 15, 1913.

Dear Mr. Deering:—

I am pained to learn of the recent passing away of the head of your house.

His life meant much to me, as in my younger days I had the honor of meeting him and the great pleasure of listening to his wise counsel.

Those impressions and thoughts have been lasting, and have helped me in my business life. I wish to extend to you my sympathy.

Sincerely,
FRANK K. BULL.

New York, Dec. 15, 1913.

Dear Mr. Deering:—

Among the many letters of kind sympathy I received when death took my father was one from you. Now your turn has come.

Your father was universally loved and respected because he was an unusually strong and wise man and was never known under any circumstances to be otherwise than fair and decent and large-minded. He was an old friend of my father.

Please believe me when I say that in this real sorrow you have my sincere sympathy.

Yours sincerely,
T. M. TURNER.

Boston, Dec. 15, 1913.

Dear Mr. Deering:—

I have just learned of the death of Mr. William Deering and it comes to me very personally — very intimately.

Ever since I left the Deering Company I have had a growing admiration for him, although I thought I appreciated him fully while under him. Many, many times I have had a great desire to see him and talk with him, and express the gratitude I felt for the many evidences of his consideration while I was in your employ.

It may be out of place to say all this to you now, but I can't help it; it comes to me as something that I must say, but with the great regret that I cannot tell him and thank him.

For his judgment and his courage in trying times I have the most profound regard, but the thing I most prized was the atmosphere of "family-feeling" that extended even to many of the workmen — a sense of close relationship and of community of interest that was inspired by his personality.

That feeling continues with me still; it is the feeling of hundreds of others who, like me, came under his influence — a feeling that made us ready to fight for the Deering name in the best way we knew how.

I cannot tell you of the feeling of indebtedness I have for him. I appreciate it more and more as I realize what my Deering experience has meant to me.

I shall always honor and revere that wonderful man whose passing has stirred me as though he were my own, and if it were possible I would be at the services, with the Old Guard, to whom he was an inspiration.

Very sincerely,

I. W. LITCHFIELD.

Evanston, Illinois, Dec. 27, 1913.

My Dear Mr. Deering:—

I loved your father sincerely, though I was always a bit in awe of him, even my somewhat assertive light-heartedness being properly subdued while with him. I could not forget, however, as I never can forget, that it was your father who substantially made my career for me. My relations to this school, past and present, were made possible by his generous friendship. It was by his encouragement also that the policy

of expansion for the school was entered upon, which gave promise, with his help, to put the school in the front rank, not simply of the schools in our own denomination, but also among the schools of American Protestant Christianity. Just what we shall be able to do now that he is gone, I do not know and, at present, cannot think. In a very intimate sense, the school feels that in his death "the strong staff is broken and the beautiful rod."

I cannot say just how deeply indebted I feel to the members of your family for the privilege of being asked to share in the last honors to him whom I revered so deeply; but for that and for their friendship I am thanking you to-day, and shall have gratitude always.

Very sincerely yours,
CHARLES M. STUART,
President Garrett Biblical Institute.

Auburn, N. Y., December 10, 1913.

MY DEAR MR. DEERING:

I was not surprised to receive your telegram advising of your father's death. Your recent letter told of "his fading away." I am most sorry that owing to my late illness, it will be quite impossible to attend his funeral.

Your father was the most commanding figure ever engaged in the harvester business. No man ever accomplished so much. No man ever made so large a fortune in the manufacture of machinery for gathering the grain crops of the world. His life work was devoted to this one purpose and his profits all came from that one source.

It has been said of him that he was a great merchant—of this there is no question; he was more; he was a great manufacturer as well because he seemed instinctively to know what was needed of him and his machinery to meet the requirements of the entire agricultural world. He was a great organizer, and when his organization put before him a mower, a reaper or a harvester, he knew when and how to tell them, "That is what we will build for the next harvest." His mind had the largest grasp of a subject in which he was vitally interested. He had the greatest courage, the largest mental resources, with infinite tact, with which to reach his ends of any man I ever knew.

The devotion of his sons to him and his welfare, their

absolute confidence in his purposes, their great love for him and his devoted love for them and all his family were among the chiefest of his accomplishments, I beg to extend to you all my sincerest sympathy in your great loss.

Faithfully yours,

G. W. ALLEN.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, HELD DECEMBER 12, 1913.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:—

WHEREAS, After a long, useful, and upright career, crowded with the satisfaction of honorable achievement, William Deering, one of the first directors of this company, died at Miami, Florida, December 9, 1913, at the age of eighty-seven years, and

WHEREAS, The members of this Board, his former associates, deem it meet and proper that some record should here be made testifying to his worth and to the loss we feel, and bearing to those who were near and dear to him some evidence of our sympathy; therefore be it

Resolved, That, knowing William Deering and his life work with such knowledge as comes through years of business and personal association, we feel that by his death the nation has lost one of the strongest and most useful pioneers in an industry that has ever made for the benefit of mankind; that the state and community have lost an honorable, right-minded, and generous citizen; and that this company has lost a friend and adviser of rare ability and wisdom, and be it further

Resolved, That to Mrs. Deering and to our associates on this Board, Charles Deering, James Deering, and Richard F. Howe, we extend our deepest sympathy.

WILLIAM DEERING

Among other works of public benefit, due wholly or in part to the benevolences of William Deering, not the least important is Wesley Hospital. It may be said without disparagement to other noble and generous men and women who have aided in this great enterprise that but for the

liberality of Mr. Deering and his wise counsel in planning, the hospital, if existing at all, would be very far from having attained the magnificent proportions which distinguish it to-day. To him more than to any other person is due the success of this institution, which has already conferred inestimable blessing upon thousands of suffering and is destined to continue, with enlarging facilities for helpfulness, to heal and comfort the afflicted in all the years to come.

As long as Wesley Hospital stretches forth a beckoning hand to the sick and suffering of every creed and condition, it typifies the large-hearted sympathy of its founder, whose sole motive in the giving of his wealth was the saving of life and the alleviation of the "ills that human flesh is heir to."

It is, therefore, fitting that the trustees and friends of Wesley Hospital should place on record their grateful appreciation of the kindly interest and generous gifts of Mr. Deering and place a wreath of unfading flowers on the casket of him who in this work of benevolence has followed the example of the Master whom he served, causing the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the sick to be made whole. Therefore be it

Resolved, First, that in the death of Mr. Deering, Wesley Hospital has lost a generous benefactor, a wise counselor, and a faithful supporter and friend. Second, that a memorial tablet bearing a suitable inscription be placed in the reception parlor of the hospital in grateful recognition of his invaluable service to his fellow-men.

PERLEY LOWE,
EDWIN L. WAGNER,
ARTHUR DIXON,
WILLIAM A. DYCHE,

J. SHELLEY MEYER,
OLIVER H. HORTON,
F. J. THIELBAR,
H. G. ECKSTEIN,

E. S. GILMORE,

Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, It has pleased All-wise Providence to remove from this transitory habitation to a place of eternal rest and peace, Mr. William Deering, and

WHEREAS, we realize that his family has lost a true and kind husband and father, the city one of its best and most respected citizens, and the world a real benefactor of mankind, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Plano Works Foremen's Club extend to the bereaved family of Mr. William Deering its sincere and heartfelt sympathy and condolence in this hour of sorrow, trusting that they can find consolation in knowing that the world is better because Mr. Deering lived in it, that his life, his character, his noble and steady purpose of mind are a shining example for others to follow, and that his many good and charitable deeds will never be forgotten.

W. H. LYDAMORE

GEO. E. KENNEDY

MARTIN ANDERSON

Committee Plano Works Foremen's Club.

Dated at West Pullman, this 12th day of December, 1913.

IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst Mr. William Deering, who passed away at Miami, Florida, December 9, 1913, at the age of eighty-seven years;

AND WHEREAS, at a meeting of the old employees of the Deering Harvester Company held at the office of the Deering works, International Harvester Company of New Jersey, Chicago, Illinois, December 11, 1913, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted;

AND WHEREAS, we, the former employees of William Deering who have seen this business grow practically from its infancy and developed into a far-reaching and world-wide organization under his guidance, and that in recognition of the fact that in his removal from this earthly sphere the country has lost one of its strongest pillars in the manufacturing and educational world, his employees a true friend, and his family a model husband and father; therefore be it

Resolved, That it is but a just tribute to the memory of William Deering to say that in regretting his removal from this plane of life, we mourn for one most worthy of our greatest respect and regard, and that we, his old employees, extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved widow and family in their loss, and feel that it may be a source of comfort to them to know that the great number of employees who

worked for him during the early struggle for success feel a kindred sorrow in his death; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be published in the Chicago papers, and a suitably engrossed copy thereof be presented to the bereaved family.

GEORGE W. LINCOLN
J. E. MERRION
H. F. STEMMAN
J. K. GRILL
M. A. RINK

G. L. PHELPS
J. W. LATIMER
EDWARD KEENAN
P. WITTLINGER
W. R. HOWE

Committee

To
WILLIAM DEERING

on His Seventieth Birthday,
April 25th, 1896,

from

The Trustees and Faculty of
Garrett Biblical Institute

The Trustees and Faculty of Garrett Biblical Institute to their honored President and faithful friend, William Deering, Greeting:—

We welcome gladly the opportunity given us by the completion of your seventieth year to assure you of our high esteem and our grateful regard.

We rejoice in your strength and in your prosperity, in your remarkable activities and in your thoughtful benevolence.

For sixteen years you have served us as Trustee, our steadfast, sagacious, energetic friend, wise in counsel, prompt and generous to help.

We bring you our earnest wishes for your future happiness. May you abide among us many years and may the Father of mercies make your days abound in tokens of His kindness and in pledges of His unfailing care.



THE DEERING WORKS, CHICAGO, IN 1901 WHEN MR DEERING RETIRED FROM ACTIVE WORK

To
WILLIAM DEERING
on His Seventieth Birthday
from
The Board of Trustees and the Faculty
of
Northwestern University

ADDRESS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To Mr. William Deering, Our Associate, Comrade, Friend:—

Your associates on the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University on the occurrence of your seventieth birthday anniversary send you kindly greetings, messages of good cheer, and heartfelt congratulations—greetings expressive of a profound, sincere, and permanent regard which is the necessary sequence of years of personal acquaintance and association, greetings commemorative of those delightful associations due to our common interest in an enterprise of such merit and value as the establishment of a great university; messages which bear to you assurances of our sincere and earnest desire for your continued good health, comfort, and prosperity; congratulations that a life so replete with deeds of kindness and benevolence has reached that station which sentiment and tradition unite to render notable, possessed of such abundant physical and intellectual resources, and endowed with so enviable a family history as to afford a well-grounded assurance that its progress is to be indefinitely extended.

Grouping these delightful memories, pleasant associations, and bright anticipations, we find abundant reason to rejoice and be glad, and thus rejoicing do we gratefully bring to you these messages of love and hope and of good cheer.

The more than quarter of a century of service which you have given to the interests of Northwestern University covers the most eventful period of its history. During these years its resources, its work, and its influence have so expanded and developed that it now takes its position not only as the most important educational institution of Methodism, but rightfully claims to rank with the foremost universities of our land. This growth and expansion are the result of a vigorous and wise administration of university affairs. Aided in no small degree by your generous contributions, the crises in its history seem to have been safely passed and a future of ever increasing usefulness and power seems to be thoroughly assured. Your contributions have been varied and have

been often repeated. They embrace generous gifts of money which were frequently so aptly timed that their real value far exceeded the commercial terms in which they find expression on the books of the Corporation Treasurer. Added to these have been gifts of time and thought and care and business acumen and skill, without which the gifts of money might perhaps have failed in their purpose and mission—and all of these have been supplemented and emphasized by a personal influence and support, the value of which it is impossible to estimate.

Right worthily is your name grouped with those of Lunt and Evans in a trinity which will ever challenge the love and the reverence of the friends of Northwestern University.

Only a few of the names which constituted the Muster Roll of University Trustees when you first entered its service now appear upon the record. At each successive roll-call some of the older names drop out and new names appear upon this list. Some are so new to the work that they scarcely yet feel themselves to be adjusted to their positions or equipped for the duties to which they have been assigned. But in the heartiness of these congratulations, in the sincerity of their friendships, in their admiration of your personal worth and character, and in their appreciation of the splendid services you have rendered to Northwestern University, the veterans and the recruits are united in a harmony that discloses no discordant note.

That a life so rich in good works and kindly deeds may be long prolonged, and that the years may come to you laden with health, honor, peace, love, and joy, will be the constant and oft repeated prayer of those of your friends whose privilege it is to unite in this address.

ORRINGTON LUNT	N. S. DAVIS, JR.
O. H. HORTON	WM. A. DYCHE
FRANK P. CRANDON	J. W. DOANE
GEO. H. FOSTER	LYMAN J. GAGE
JOHN B. KIRK	H. H. C. MILLER
F. M. BRISTOL	HENRY S. TOWLE
JAMES H. RAYMOND	ALEXANDER H. REVELL
HENRY WADE ROGERS	JAMES B. HOBBS
J. J. PARKHURST	H. N. HIGGINBOTHAM
NATHAN S. DAVIS	ARTHUR EDWARDS
	CHARLES BUSBY

ADDRESS FROM THE FACULTIES OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

To Mr. William Deering on the seventieth anniversary of his birth, greetings and congratulations from the Faculties of Northwestern University:

The Faculties cannot allow this occasion to pass without an expression of their admiration of your character and their appreciation of your services to the University with which you have been for many years connected.

The ability, energy, and industry which have won for you fortune and honor, your strict integrity and your faithfulness in all the relations of life, command their high regard. The modesty that shrinks from all public acknowledgment of your gracious deeds, and the love for letters which has characterized you even in the midst of your active business career, have attracted their attention and won their esteem.

They congratulate themselves on your many benefactions to the University. They recall with gratitude your gifts to the cause of education. Because of what you have done it has been made possible for many to become wiser and more useful men and women. Wealth can be devoted to no better purpose than to expend it as you have done for the education of the youth, thus fitting them for honorable and useful service.

The Faculties thank you for your devotion to all the interests of the University, for the wisdom of your counsel and for your support of whatever has promised to make the University great. They are glad to acknowledge that its growth and prosperity have been made possible in large measure by the interest you have manifested in its affairs.

They congratulate you on having attained the age of seventy years. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and as you have been led in times past, so may you continue to be led in the time to come.

The Faculties wish you health, happiness and length of days.

“May Age steal on
With softly cadenced feet.”

May yours be

“A life of leisure and broad hours
To think and dream . . .

To wander like a bee among the flowers
Till old age find you weary, feet and wings
Grown heavy with the gold of many thoughts.”

The Faculties offer you this address and beg you to accept it as an expression of their grateful appreciation of the services you have rendered to the University and to the cause of learning as well as in evidence of their affectionate regard.

May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

HENRY WADE ROGERS

DANIEL BONBRIGHT

OLIVER MARCY

HERBERT F. FISK

ROBT. L. CUMNOCK

ROBERT BAIRD

C. W. PEARSON

ROBT. D. SHEPPARD

A. V. E. YOUNG

G. W. HOUGH

JAMES T. HATFIELD

CHAS. B. ATWELL

HENRY CREW

J. SCOTT CLARK

JOHN H. GRAY

GEORGE A. COE

EMILY F. WHEELER

A. R. CROOK

HENRY S. WHITE

THOMAS F. HOLGATE

H. C. STANCLIFT

WILLIAM CALDWELL

WM. A. TRACY

EMILY HUNTINGTON MILLER

HIRAM B. LOOMIS

HENRY COHN

ARTHUR H. WILDE

MARY L. FREEMAN

WINFIELD S. NICKERSON

E. A. BECHTEL

L. R. HIGGINS

NATHAN S. DAVIS

JNO. E. OWENS

E. C. DUDLEY

J. B. DE LEE

T. B. SWARTZ

N. S. DAVIS, JR.

FRANK BILLINGS

FRANK SEWARD JOHNSON

WEBER VAN HOOK

GEO. W. WEBSTER

H. GRADLE

ELBERT WING

WINFIELD S. HALL

STANLEY P. BLACK

DR. JOSEPH ZEISLER

S. J. JONES

ARTHUR R. EDWARDS

E. WYLLYS ANDREWS
RALPH N. ISHAM
A. E. HALSTEAD
OTTO L. SCHMIDT
GEO. S. ISHAM
W. E. CASSELBERRY
JOHN H. LONG
JOHN RIDLON
J. D. RAWLINGS
FRANK X. WALLS
S. C. PLUMMER
ISAAC A. ABT
CHAS. F. WEIR
EDWARD AVERY HARRIMAN
BLEWETT LEE
HARVEY B. HURD
JOHN H. WIGMORE
EDWIN BURRITT SMITH
JAMES DE WITT ANDREWS
JULIAN W. MACK
OSCAR OLDBERG
EDGAR D. SWAIN
EDMUND NOYES
G. V. BLACK
GEO. H. CUSHING
THOS. L. GILMER
A. E. MATTESON
GEO. W. HASKINS
D. M. CATTELL

L. B. HAYMAN
GEO. J. DENNIS
ELGIN MAWHINNEY
WM. G. STEARNS,
W. W. WENTWORTH
FREDERICK MENGÉ
H. P. WADSWORTH
C. E. SAYRE
P. C. BOOMER
P. F. BURNS
FRANKLIN R. HOUSTON
CHAS. W. RICHARDSON
FREDERICK B. NOYES
W. S. BAGLEY
L. A. EDWARDS
I. N. DANFORTH
D. R. BROWER
DAVID WILSON GRAHAM
E. FLETCHER INGALS
MARIE J. MERGLER
JEROME H. SALISBURY
ELIZA H. ROOT
JOHN EDWIN RHODES
RACHEL F. CARR
GEORGE FRANK BUTLER
LEONARD L. SKELTON
GEORGE H. WEAVER
JAMES C. GILL
FRANKLIN C. WELLS

To
WILLIAM DEERING
on His Seventieth Birthday
from the
Pastor and Official Members
of the
First Methodist Church
of
Evanston, Illinois

TO WILLIAM DEERING

April twenty-sixth, 1896

Mr. William Deering.

Beloved Brother: The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Evanston, Illinois, represented by its pastor and official members, desires on the approach of this your seventieth birthday to extend to you most affectionate salutations and hearty congratulations.

For twenty-five years of the happy and useful seventy with which God has favored you we have been blessed with your fellowship and counsel. You have gone in and out among us exemplifying those virtues which it is the mission of the Church to set forth as the richest adornment and highest reward of Christian character. Having early chosen the Wisdom which is from above, you have lived to prove that "length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor."

Your natural and manly aversion to personal laudation, even from those who love you as a brother and honor you as a benefactor, will not, we trust, prevent your accepting, in the spirit with which it is sent, this expression of our admiration of the high integrity and humaneness which have distinguished your prosperous business career and of our appreciation of the benevolence and philanthropy which, though as unostentatious as they have been generous, have reflected honor upon the Church of which you are a member and upon the community of which you are a citizen.

We rejoice that having reached a good age you are still in the enjoyment of the health and vigor which promise you many years of useful activity and happiness.

May the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, which has been the inspiration of your life, fill all your future days with light and peace! In the love of God and in the love of men may you ever enjoy the reward of faith and faithfulness. It is our prayer, honored and beloved brother, that in the strength of a mighty faith, in the joy of a glorious hope, in the sweet

satisfaction of an abounding charity and in the sanctifying fellowship of the Church and of the Son of God you may prove to life's end—to life's triumphant end—that “the path of the just is as the shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”

Labor and Sorrow, wrote the Psalmist's pen,
This is the sum of all life brings to men.
Swift as the weaver's shuttle, day by day,
Fly, with their bootless tasks, his years away.

But they whose years with blessing crown their length,
To youth immortal go from strength to strength;
And he whose toil to God and man is given,
In life's swift loom shall weave the robes of heaven.

Emily Huntington Miller.

A D D R E S S

from the

Board of Trustees

of the

Chicago Home Missionary and
Church Extension Society

TO WILLIAM DEERING

On His Seventieth Birthday

As Trustees of the Chicago Home Missionary and Church Extension Society, we desire to express our recognition of an event in the life of one to whom our hearts go out in earnest love. We appreciate the fact that it is an important occasion in any life to reach the allotted period of threescore and ten, but to have fifty of such years spent in the work of the Master, as well as in advancing the cause of education, and in a most earnest and successful endeavor to uplift and better the condition of mankind, adds a luster to the occasion, which is incapable of expression in words. All this and much more can be said concerning our brother and associate, William Deering, who has been the President of the Board of Trustees of this Society since its organization. Without his generous contributions, a very large portion of the work accomplished by the Society could not have been done. He will in a few days reach the age of seventy years, the period usually allotted to human activity, but, in his case, not the climax of usefulness, for the gathered sheaves which mark his path have each year increased in number, as well as in wealth of golden grain.

Therefore, as an expression of our very high appreciation of this marked event in the life of our esteemed President, and as an assurance from us of our great respect for him and for his noble life work, be it by us, as a Board of Trustees, unanimously

Resolved, That we hereby extend to our President, William Deering, our most earnest congratulations upon his having attained the age of threescore and ten years, and express our high appreciation of the great work which he has accomplished in behalf of the cause of Christ, of missions, of the alleviation of human suffering in the encouragement of medical science, of the growth of university education, of the establishment of libraries, building of churches and general betterment of the condition of mankind.

Resolved, further, That it is our most earnest and prayerful hope that a kind Providence may vouchsafe to him many years of health and happiness, so that our Society may have the benefit of his wise counsel, as well as the inspiration of having with us one whose life and whose life work afford such an example of the amount of good which can be done in behalf of the cause of Christ and humanity by one person within the years which have been allotted to man.

Resolved, further, That this action of our Board be spread upon the records of our Society; also that an engrossed copy be delivered to our beloved President, after being signed by the Trustees in attendance on the adoption hereof.

(Signed)

JAMES B. HOBBS,
Vice-President

LUKE HITCHCOCK

M. H. WILSON

H. N. HIGGINBOTHAM

HIRAM J. THOMPSON

H. G. JACKSON

G. F. SWIFT

JOHN FARSON

A. D. TRANELLER

WILLIAM HENRY BURNS

ROBERT W. VASEY

O. H. HORTON

D. J. McMULLEN

LEWIS CURTS

J. H. MANNY

HENRY S. TOWLE

HORACE A. GOODRICH

FRANK P. CRANDON

N. W. HARRIS

CHARLES BUSBY

R. E. BROWNELL

R. P. HOLLETT

D. W. POTTER

JAMES S. HARVEY

GEO. W. CHAMBERLIN

EDMUND W. BURKE

To
WILLIAM DEERING
on his retirement from the presidency
of the
Board of Trustees
of
Garrett Biblical Institute

MEMORIAL OF TRUSTEES OF GARRETT BIBLICAL INSTITUTE

Evanston, December 20, 1899.

Mr. William Deering,
Dear Sir and Friend:—

The secretaryship of the Board of Garrett Biblical Institute Trustees secures to me the privilege of transmitting to you the accompanying testimonial of the sincere regard and esteem of your associates.

A more grateful service, or one which could yield me a greater pleasure, could not have been assigned to me, and in requesting your acceptance of our token of good will, I avail myself of the opportunity to add to an official message my personal assurance of an appreciation which no form of testimonial can adequately express.

Ever and always yours,
(Signed) FRANK P. CRANDON, *Secretary.*

The associates of Mr. William Deering in the Board of Trustees of Garrett Biblical Institute, yielding only to his urgent and repeated requests, have with almost unspeakable reluctance acquiesced at last in his desire to retire from its presidency. So intimately has Mr. Deering's personality become interwoven with the history of the Institute that any action modifying, however slightly, his relation to its interests must be assented to with hesitation and accepted with poignant regret.

The term of his service on the Board of Institute Trustees, antedating that of any of his present colleagues, brought him at its beginning into official relations with the founders of the school. In 1887, as successor to the Hon. Grant Goodrich, he accepted the office that he this day resigns. The presidency of William Deering and that of Grant Goodrich cover the entire period that has elapsed since the Institute was founded. Modern Methodism furnishes no other group of laymen so notable, so representative of the

sagacity, loyalty, hopefulness, and well-grounded faith in which the noblest church enterprises have ever been undertaken as the little company of men to whom Garrett Biblical Institute is indebted for its organization, who fostered its beginnings and who formulated and maintained the policy by which its financial interests have been furthered and firmly established. They brought to the administration of its affairs a devotion, a sagacity and a Christian zeal that have seldom been equaled. Unostentatiously, with unflinching faith and patience, they set about the work of helping to establish the kingdom of God among men. They wrought under the inspiration of the Divine Spirit; the blessing of the Lord rested upon their labors, and in the fruition of their toil we to-day rejoice and are glad. The pages of the Institute records are marked repeatedly with the names of Lunt and Evans, Goodrich and Deering, and others to whom Methodism is indebted for much of that which constitutes the sum of its resources, its material wealth, and its spiritual power.

Mr. Deering alone remains to represent this remarkable group. No one of them was either worthier or more distinguished than he; no one of them has blended more happily the wise conservatism and the progressive enterprise that have characterized at every step the management of the Institute. To Garrett, Mr. Deering has given of his best. He has made direct gifts to its treasury; he has provided from time to time for increasing and diversifying its departments of instruction; he has notably increased its library by generous and invaluable contributions. But he has enriched it also with his personal supervision, bringing to the administration of its affairs and to the development of its possibilities a business acumen and skill which in the commercial world stand almost unrivaled, and throughout the years of his connection with the school he has made it practicable by his beneficence for earnest Christian men of slender means to avail themselves of the advantages offered by the Institute for ministerial training, so that many of the efficient pulpits of to-day are eloquent witnesses of his wise and discriminating liberality. So gracious and so kindly has been his administration of the office which he now relinquishes that in all our official relations we seemed to forget the president, in the presence of an ever genial, helpful,

sympathizing associate and friend; and although his title now necessarily passes to another, so long as he remains with us, he must in a most important sense continue to be our chieftain as well as our faithful counselor and almost unerring guide. We are grateful for the vigorous manhood which justifies our anticipation that to Garrett will be long continued the helpfulness of his counsels and the inspiration of his presence. We remind ourselves that throughout the church and in many lands his name is a synonym for Christian excellence, and we unite in assuring him that among the hosts of admirers who here and elsewhere delight to do him honor, there are none more appreciative, none more sincere, and none who hold him in greater reverence and esteem than do his associates on this board of trustees.

(Signed) ROBERT SHEPPARD,
OLIVER H. HORTON,
FRANK P. CRANDON,
AMOS W. PATTEN,
CHARLES J. LITTLE, *Trustees.*

Some Press Comments on the Death

of

William Deering

PRESS COMMENTS ON THE DEATH OF WILLIAM DEERING

Miami (Fla.) Metropolis, December 10, 1913

William Deering, whose name has become familiar throughout the world through his connection with the manufacture of harvesting implements, died at eleven o'clock last night in the modest little home at Cocconut Grove where he spent several winters and to which he came some six weeks ago in the hope that the mild climate would sustain his life for a while longer.

With his wife and his two sons, Charles and James, and the attending physician, Dr. P. T. Skaggs, at his bedside, the end came quietly and peacefully. It had been expected at any moment for the last two days. Arrangements are being made for a special car to take the body to Evanston, Illinois, where the funeral services will be held.

Mr. Deering was a man of simple tastes, unostentatious life, and kindly character. His long life he attributed to his simple mode of living.

Chicago Post, December 10, 1913

All Evanston is in mourning to-day over the death of William Deering, the veteran harvester manufacturer, who died last night at his winter home in Miami, Florida. Rev. Dr. A. W. Patten, chaplain at the Northwestern University, spoke of Mr. Deering's life in the chapel services this morning, and the work at the university will be stopped either to-morrow or Friday while services will be held.

As a tribute of respect to the memory of William Deering, the Deering works and the general offices of the International Harvester Company of New Jersey will be closed all day on Saturday.

His rise in the business world is considered miraculous by close friends. Late in life he entered the harvester business, of which he knew nothing at all, and, due to his business

instincts, was able to amass a fortune. He was a member of the old school of financiers.

Mr. Deering went into a new business when his associates who had grown up with him were retiring on modest incomes. He was then fifty years old. Other things he was able to do puzzled his physicians late in his life. It is said he survived three generations of family doctors, including those practicing in his childhood. The last generation of them confessed him "a physiological miracle." He grew stronger with the passing years and his business competitors declared his shrewd brain was keener after he had passed the threescore and ten mark than ever before.

The Deering company was finally merged with the International. Mr. Deering was seventy-five years old, and he fell ill. Any illness is thought grave at that age, and Mr. Deering was convinced by sheer logic of his years that he could not long survive. He disposed of his property, therefore, giving it all, undivided, to his two sons and son-in-law, Richard Howe. The merger was made after that — and William Deering got well.

In 1900, after he had exhibited his automobile harvesting machine in Paris, he was made an officer of the Legion of Honor. He also received an official certificate of honor, the grand prize, and six gold medals. His machine took more prizes than any other exhibit of its kind at the exposition.

Although Mr. Deering never sought public office, he had served in the councils of Governors Perham and Chamberlin of Maine. He was well known for his knowledge of public affairs.

Up to the time of his death he was honorary president of the board of trustees of the Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute.

Chicago Journal, December 10, 1913

MIAMI, FLA., Dec. 10.— On a special car, starting from this town to-day, the body of William Deering, founder of the Deering Harvester Company, will be transported from this place to his home in Evanston, Illinois.

The death of the pioneer promoter of the enormous reaper industry centering about Chicago occurred at his winter

home, Cocoanut Grove, about five miles south of here. The millionaire passed away in a modest cottage facing Biscayne Bay.

Faith in the efficiency of a twine binder to replace the old wire binder, "fiber fingers" and a New England trading instinct piled up the fortune that William Deering amassed in Chicago, and which his death will distribute among his heirs.

A business extending over the entire world and one of the largest industrial plants in the United States is the heritage left by a man who went to work in his father's mill when he was 16 years old, beginning with a salary of \$18 a month, and remaining there until he went into partnership in a little dry-goods store in Portland, Maine.

Both in his home in Evanston, where he had lived since 1874, and at his summer cottage at Paw Paw Lake, Michigan, Mr. Deering lived very simply, although it is estimated that he gave over a million dollars to Northwestern University. He was one of the leading members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, and the Garrett Biblical Seminary was one of his especial interests. Fisk Hall, which he built at a cost of \$80,000, was named after a president of the university only after Mr. Deering had positively refused to allow it to be named for himself.

Chicago American, December 10, 1913

William Deering's life and achievements found universal praise in Chicago to-day. His career, according to opinions voiced by Chicagoans prominent in business and professional life, was remarkable, even in an age notable for its successful business men and the enterprises they have created.

Mr. Deering's biggest success was made after he was fifty years old. This fact, pointed out to-day by David R. Forgan, president of the National City Bank, was looked upon by many as the most extraordinary lesson of his life.

"William Deering was of a former generation, and I knew him but slightly, but he was a man whose works brought him fame," said Mr. Forgan. "I always have considered the fact that he made his biggest success after the age when many men are ready for the shelf as one of the truly extraordinary features of his career. His was a splendid, honor-

able record. His life should teach American boys that persistency must and will win success."

Professor U. S. Grant, executive in charge of Northwestern University in the absence of President Harris and Dean Holgate, said:

"Mr. Deering had been known for years as one of the staunchest friends of Northwestern. He was president of the board of trustees and later president emeritus of the board. He gave liberally of his great wealth for the betterment of the university and his influence was strongly felt in the progress of the last twenty-five years."

"He was a most estimable gentleman who lived a clean, fine life," declared Ernest Hamill, president of the Corn Exchange National Bank. "He stood high in the Methodist Church. Sticktoitiveness was the mainspring of his character."

President Darius Miller of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad said:

"Although I knew Mr. Deering but slightly, I am familiar enough with his career to realize that he was a remarkable man.

"He was faithful to the ideals handed down to him by his Puritan ancestors. Obstacles and adversities could not make him yield. He is entitled to a place among the builders of the West."

For many years Mr. Deering occupied a position as one of Chicago's most picturesque millionaires.

Mr. Deering did not invent the harvesting machine with which his name and his millions are so intimately connected, but he did finance the first company that made the harvester practical.

It was his proudest boast that a harvester and binder to which he supplied the backing, and later the twine that facilitated its operation, beat the railroads into the Northwest by eighteen years.

In twenty-one years, or while babes were growing to their majorities, Mr. Deering had fathered the largest manufacturing plant in the world and was ready to retire from business. He was then seventy-five years old.

Spartansburg (S. C.) Herald, December 12, 1913

MIAMI, FLA., Dec. 11.—The body of William Deering, pioneer harvester manufacturer, who died here last night,

will be taken to Evanston, Illinois, to-day. Funeral services will be held there Saturday or Sunday.

Mr. Deering's name stands at the forefront in the development of harvesting machinery. He staked his fortune thirty years ago on the automatic binder device for wheat harvesters. Its success revolutionized the method of harvesting the crop.

Chicago Inter Ocean, December 11, 1913

The body of William Deering, millionaire manufacturer and founder of the Deering Harvester Company, who died Tuesday night at his winter home five miles from Miami, Florida, will be brought to Evanston for burial Saturday. The body will arrive on a special train over the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad accompanied by the members of the immediate family, who were at the bedside.

Classes were suspended at the Northwestern University yesterday. Mr. Deering had long been president of the board of trustees of the institution and one of its principal benefactors. Since the disposal of his large interests in the International Harvester Company in 1902 the major portion of his income was devoted to charitable institutions.

Mr. Deering's life and work found universal praise in Chicago yesterday. As a tribute to his memory the Deering works and the offices of the International Harvester Company will be closed all day Saturday. Cyrus H. McCormick, president of the International Harvester Company, gave out the following statement regarding Mr. Deering:—

“William Deering was in every sense a pioneer. He created and built up a vast business in harvesting machinery out of the most modest beginnings. He had great foresight, untiring energy, admirable business judgment. He proved himself a successful manufacturer, and also a successful merchant—a rare combination of talents for one man.

“He was one of the men who had a great vision of the future possibilities of our country's development; and by his business he helped to promote the rapid growth of American agriculture and the prosperity of American farmers.

“Mr. Deering's name and influence will continue to live in the annals of Chicago and of the nation. His philanthropies, extending over his entire business life, marked him

as a man of broad and humane sympathies. And above all, his natural modesty made him unwilling that his benefactions should be known."

Rochester (N. Y.) Times, December 10, 1913

MIAMI, FLA., Dec. 10.—The body of William Deering, Chicago millionaire, who died here last night will be sent this afternoon to his former home in Evanston, Illinois, in a private car for burial. Funeral services will be held there either Saturday or Sunday.

William Deering, inventor and manufacturer of harvesting machinery, and patron of Northwestern University, was born in Oxford County, Maine, in 1826, of English colonial stock, and was educated in the local district and a high school of Readfield, Maine.

Entering business, his great ability soon became apparent. He was manager of a woolen mill, then in several enterprises of his own, and in 1871, having gone to Illinois, became interested in the making of farm machinery. He founded the Deering Harvester Works, now part of the combine, in 1879. When Mr. Deering retired in 1901, there were 7,000 men employed there and to-day Deering, the village around the plant, is part of Chicago.

In recent years, Mr. Deering lived in Evanston, Illinois, near Northwestern University, of which he was the principal support. He was deeply religious and of an approachable, kindly nature. He leaves two sons. Modesty was also a distinguishing characteristic. He would not have Northwestern named Deering University, as was proposed. He never sought public office, although he was a member of two governors' councils in Maine. His benefactions to humanity were great. Machines devised by him are at work in the fields of Siberia and South Africa to-day.

New York Herald, December 11, 1913

MIAMI, FLA., Wednesday.—Mr. William Deering, one of the founders of the harvesting machine business in this country, whose death was announced in a late edition of the HERALD this morning, arrived here with his family several weeks ago, hoping to escape the first cold weather of a

northern winter. He failed to improve and died early this morning, with his family gathered about his bed, in his winter home here. Mr. Deering was eighty-seven years old.

Descended from a Puritan family that was established in New England in 1634, Mr. Deering early joined his father as a manufacturer of woolens in Maine. His profits from this business he invested in western land, and at one time, a few years ago, he held thousands of acres of valuable property in many western states.

With Mr. Seth Milliken he founded the firm of Deering, Milliken & Co., at Portland, Maine, and New York city, and it soon became one of the largest dry-goods commission houses in the country and continues as such.

While in Chicago in 1870 Mr. Deering met Mr. E. H. Gammon, an old Maine acquaintance who was selling agricultural machinery, then a new thing. Mr. Gammon told Mr. Deering that what was needed was a machine that would bind the sheaves of wheat as they were cut, and Mr. Deering set to work upon this, and with employed machinists, including J. F. Appleby, made the binder that still is in use. He founded the Deering Harvester Company at Plano, Illinois, moved it to Chicago in 1880, and in 1902 consolidated it with the International Harvester Company.

Mr. Deering made a large fortune in all his ventures. His home had been in Chicago for many years, but he had spent his winters in Florida.

He had taken no active interest in the manufacturing business since his company became a part of the "trust," turning the care of his interest over to his two sons and his son-in-law.

New York Post, December 10, 1913

William Deering, of Chicago, founder of the Deering Harvester Company, died last night at his winter home in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Deering was born at South Paris, Maine, April 25, 1826, the son of James and Eliza Moore Deering.

Visiting Chicago in 1870, Mr. Deering met E. H. Gammon, an old Maine acquaintance, who was engaged in selling agricultural machinery. With him he formed the firm of

Gammon & Deering. Nine years later, Mr. Deering became the sole owner of the business.

In 1879 and 1880 Mr. Deering, at the risk of his fortune, put on the market a grain-binder, invented by J. F. Appleby, which automatically bound the sheaves with twine. This machine lacked much in the first years of being a complete success, but to-day almost all of the grain harvested by machinery is gathered by it. His success was jeopardized for a time by the failure to find a twine adapted to the use of the binder, but a suitable twine finally was manufactured from manila fiber.

In 1874 the Deering factory was moved from Plano, Illinois, to Chicago, where 9000 operatives are now employed. Under his direction it has become one of the greatest single manufacturing plants in the world, the output of the company being about 1300 harvesters a day. In 1902 the Deering interests were merged with the International Harvester Company.

Mr. Deering admitted his two sons and his son-in-law to partnership, and in 1901 he retired from active work, spending a large part of each year at his winter home. Many educational institutions have been endowed by Mr. Deering, notably Northwestern University, of whose board of trustees he was the president for several years. Fisk Hall, completed in 1898 at a cost of \$80,000, was given to Northwestern by him, and it is estimated that his gifts to that university have exceeded \$1,000,000.

Galesburg (Ill.) Register, December 10, 1913

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—William Deering, founder of the Deering Harvester Company, who died at his summer home near Miami, Florida, could not tell the difference between pig iron and steel when he entered the harvester business, his former associates said to-day.

“Deering started work in his father’s woolen mills in Maine at \$18 a month,” said one of his friends. “He was in the dry-goods business until 1870 when he bought a three-quarters interest in a harvester business. For a long time he could not recognize his own machines when he saw them and when he went out to buy pig iron he had to confess he didn’t know what kind he wanted.”

Deering staked his success on an idea that twine could be made small enough and strong enough to replace wire as a binder, and in the face of ridicule he carried out the scheme that built his fortune.

Anderson (Ind.) Bulletin, December 10, 1913

CHICAGO, Dec. 10.—William Deering, inventor and manufacturer of harvesting machinery, died at his winter home in Miami, Florida, last night, according to information received here.

Mr. Deering was born in Oxford County, Maine, in 1826, of English colonial stock, and was educated in the local district school and a high school at Readfield, Maine.

Entering business his great ability soon became apparent. He was manager of a woolen mill, then in several enterprises of his own, and in 1871 when in Illinois, became interested in the making of farm machinery. He founded the Deering Harvester Works, now part of the combine, in 1879. When Mr. Deering retired in 1901 there were 7,000 men employed there. Deering, the village around the plant, is now part of Chicago.

In recent years Mr. Deering lived in Evanston, near Northwestern University, of which he was the principal support. He was deeply religious and of an approachable, kindly nature. He leaves two sons, having been married twice.

Modesty was one of his distinguishing characteristics. He would not have Northwestern named Deering University, as was proposed. He never sought public office, although he was a member of two governor's councils in Maine.

Evanston (Ill.) Index, December 20, 1913

A notable funeral was that of William Deering, Sunday afternoon. The First Methodist Church could not hold all the friends who desired to participate in the services, several hundred being unable to gain admission and every seat in the large auditorium being taken. Employees of the harvester company came from the vicinity of the great works to the south in a special train and, when seated in the church, almost filled the south side seats on the lower floor.

They brought with them as a floral offering a reproduction in carnations and violets of the original harvester manufactured by Mr. Deering. It attracted much attention where it was placed in the vestibule. Other floral tributes were so many that a number of automobiles were required to take them to Graceland, where the remains were privately interred after the ceremony.

Bishop McDowell officiated, assisted by President Charles M. Stuart of Garrett Biblical Institute and Dr. Timothy P. Frost, pastor of the church. Appropriate music was furnished by Professor Lutkin's A Cappella Choir under his direction.

Bishop McDowell was visibly affected and his address was marked by great feeling and earnestness. It was an eloquent tribute to the passing of a dear friend whose career gave opportunity for words of highest praise.

Chicago Inter Ocean, December 11, 1913

The life of William Deering, which ended in its eighty-eighth year on Tuesday, illustrated the versatility of the American business man of what may now be called the "old school," since we seem destined to have fewer examples of it under the modern and, perhaps, necessary pressure for specialization.

For so many years that most people have forgotten he was ever anything else, William Deering was a leading figure in the manufacture of harvesting machinery. From his works went out the "twine binder" which has become the standard reaping machine wherever wheat is grown.

Yet William Deering intended in youth to be a physician, became a manufacturer of textiles and a dry-goods merchant, had reached middle age, and had retired from business with a competent fortune on account of supposedly failing health before he even began to take interest in harvesting machinery.

To a Methodist minister who had lost his voice and in consequence had retired from the pulpit down in Maine is traced Mr. Deering's entrance into the harvester business. He had come west on his retirement from dry goods to make investments in lands, met this minister, an old friend, and found him enthusiastic over the prospects of the harvester

which the Marsh brothers of Plano were making and "demonstrating."

As a result Mr. Deering put his money into a harvester factory instead of lands and became ultimately one of the central figures in what has well been called "The Romance of the Reaper." The elder McCormick was then the great figure in that trade, had very strong convictions about his rights as inventor, and was a resolute fighter for them.

Well-meaning friends warned Mr. Deering that going into reapers meant "a fight with McCormick" and asked why at his age, with all he had to lose, without inventions that were really revolutionary, he was going to attempt this hazard of fortune. With characteristic modesty he answered: "Well, perhaps we can make a better machine."

Though not an inventor nor even a machinist himself, before his harvester career ended William Deering had paid out over \$2,000,000 to inventors, much of it just to keep them at work experimenting and working out their ideas. It was thus that J. F. Appleby produced the "knotter" which is the essential device of the twine binder and enabled it practically to displace all other types of grain harvester.

With all his business success and wealth William Deering never lost his interest in the finer things of life. He was always a good citizen who never sought to become conspicuous. His benevolences were many, and especially to education. Northwestern University owes him much as a benefactor and as a most capable manager of its property and business interests.

Chicago Record-Herald, December 10, 1913

The death of William Deering cannot but bring back to mind the early days of one of America's most important and vital industries. The harvester had its genesis on a northern Illinois farm and reached its highest development in the outskirts of Chicago. Truly a local product in all its aspects, the harvester, containing within itself the power of a real and compelling organism, spread out and conquered the world.

In this long and victorious process William Deering took his full share. He was active, aggressive. Later on he be-

stowed the rewards of success with due regard to his New England ancestry and his Puritan training. Wide and well-judged gifts to charity and education adorned his latter years. His death removes at once a good citizen and a notable factor in the country's industrial advance.

Northwestern Christian Advocate, December 17, 1913

Mr. William Deering of Evanston, Illinois, founder of the Deering Harvester Company, supporter of every good cause and generous benefactor of Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute, died at his winter home in Coconut Grove, Florida, on Tuesday night, December ninth, in his eighty-eighth year.

Mr. Deering came to Evanston in 1874. From the first he identified himself actively with the Church and the Church's educational and philanthropic interests. He became trustee of Northwestern University, of Garrett Biblical Institute, of Wesley Hospital, and of the Chicago Home Missionary and City Church Extension Society, to all of which enterprises he gave liberally, besides giving a service of counsel and direction which no money could buy.

He was constantly drawn upon for benevolent enterprises of every kind and to every appeal he gave personal consideration. As few men of his position do he followed the objects of his giving with an intelligent and sympathetic concern. His affection for the Church was warm and constant. Even in the anxious days when business matters were pressing heavily upon him he found surcease from care in prompt and regular attendance at class and prayer meetings and in the teaching of a large bible class.

Of religion he had a definite and relishable experience. To this experience he witnessed frankly and modestly. It gave glow and savor to his conversation; it directed his reading and recreation; it determined his manner of living. Mr. Deering was reputed to be rich, but he lived simply and without ostentation, and no employee of his ever worked harder or through longer hours. He dealt justly with every man. In all business relations he was sensitively scrupulous. He was not easily imposed upon, and for any form of equivocation he had swift and terrible wrath. He made

friends and kept them; they loved him unselfishly and with the best love they had, for only so could they meet and mate his own utterly frank and sincere nature.

Mr. Deering was not greatly impressed by the agitation against business "combinations." He believed the agitation to be in great part a method of the politician to acquire political capital. In "combination" he saw only a chance for cheaper production and distribution. Of the inherent right of business men to combine for protection and economy in administration he had not the slightest doubt.

And if men of Mr. Deering's character and caliber were in the majority in every trust directorate the world might see how helpful such combinations could be. For the inequity, not to say iniquity, of certain kinds of combinations Mr. Deering had only a frank intolerance; but such inequity in his mind was not in "combinations" as such, but in the dishonest administration of them. It is easy to differ from Mr. Deering's view of the business situation; but there can be no question that Mr. Deering held his view in perfect integrity of heart.

Mr. Deering was well informed in science and theology, for the literature of which he had special fondness. He thought less than well of the modern trend in biblical criticism. He was frank enough, however, to admit that the issue was one for specialists and he had undisturbed faith that the Bible could amply take care of itself.

Of Mr. Deering's business genius it is not necessary to write here. What the Church feels most is the loss of a sincerely devout disciple of stainless character and exalted gifts, who loved his Master in utter sincerity and truth and who sought earnestly to promote the kingdom of God in its twofold task of bringing men and women into that noblest of fellowships of adoring love and loyalty for the King and of helpful sympathy and devotion for the common good.

Funeral services were held at First Church, Evanston, on Sunday afternoon last. Hundreds of the employees of the harvester company were in attendance, as were also representatives of the trustees and faculties of Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute. The service was in charge of the pastor, Dr. Timothy P. Frost, assisted by President Stuart of Garrett Biblical Institute. Bishop McDowell made the address.

Central Christian Advocate, Kansas City, Missouri, December 17, 1913

This distinguished Methodist layman and philanthropist died at his winter home in Miami, Florida, December ninth. The date and place of his birth were South Paris, Maine, April 25, 1826. He came of a Puritan family, which was established in America in 1634.

He commenced life with no other advantages than those enjoyed by thousands of other boys in New England and elsewhere in this country. But he made for himself a name which is as widely known and universally and deservedly honored as is the name of any other Methodist layman. Everywhere for many years his name has been the synonym for rare business skill and enterprise, for an integrity which no breath of envy or suspicion has ever assailed, and for a devout and unswerving loyalty to the principles of the Christian faith.

His life aptly demonstrated that while there may be no royal road to fortune or to an honorable fame, both of these rewards await the one who promptly recognizes and wisely interprets the opportunities of the business life, and with unflinching integrity and courage prosecutes those plans, which, having previously received the approval both of the conscience and business judgment, are not modified to suit temporary conditions or exigencies.

Since early childhood Mr. Deering was an earnest and exemplary Christian. Modest and retiring in his disposition, it is said that he, without ostentation or display, imitated the Master, of whom it is recorded that "He went about doing good."

Although Mr. Deering was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his sympathies and benevolences were cosmopolitan. Scattered everywhere and in many lands are churches which he has helped to build, hospitals which his generosity has aided, schools or universities which he has helped to establish and endow. Upon Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, his largest and chief benefactions have been bestowed, while Garrett Biblical Institute and Wesley Hospital, Chicago, and other local institutions have been the recipients of large gifts from his generous purse.

The funeral took place in Evanston, Illinois.

The Continent, December 18, 1913

William Deering, one of the nation's noted manufacturers and a stalwart layman of the Methodist Church, died on the ninth instant at his winter home near Miami, Florida, aged eighty-seven years.

A dozen years ago he retired from active work after a life full of varied and useful activities. Northwestern University, Garrett Biblical Institute, and Wesley Hospital, all in or near Chicago, owe much to his generosity, for he gave to them not only of his wealth but also of his time and exceptional business ability. Up to three years ago his gifts to the university aggregated nearly a million dollars. He built a school for orphans and was a large yearly contributor to home missionary and church extension work. The total of his benevolences is not known.

Mr. Deering is described as "a good citizen who never sought to become conspicuous," a high grade American of the old school.

The Epworth Herald, December 20, 1913

A ripe old age, a quiet, unostentatious life, a generous heart toward many holy causes—these were the things by which William Deering of Evanston was known to the new generation.

But the old generation knew him as the business man with a courage that had in it more than a touch of genius, with the vision to perceive and the will to dare when lesser men were all for prudence. That and his relation to some notable inventions in reaping machinery made William Deering's fortune, and set him alongside Cyrus McCormick as one of the American farmer's greatest benefactors.

And Methodism will remember this captain of industry as a simple-hearted Christian, worshipping God without hypocrisy and serving his fellows without arrogance. We shall long be beneficiaries of his gifts to education at Northwestern University, to evangelism in the Chicago City Missionary Society, and to the ministry of pity in the Lake Bluff Orphanage and elsewhere.

It has been a quiet satisfaction to Methodism that such men as William Deering, coming to great wealth, have main-

tained their Christian faith and their loyalty to the Church which nurtured them and have held their possessions as sincere stewards of the gifts of God.

Zion's Herald, December 17, 1913

One of the most princely givers in American Methodism went to his heavenly reward on Tuesday, December ninth, when Mr. William Deering, of Chicago, noted as the millionaire manufacturer of harvesting machinery, died at his country home in Miami, Florida. Mr. Deering had been ill for some time, following upon a paralytic stroke which he suffered several months ago. He was eighty-seven years of age.

In his death there is removed from the ranks of Methodism one of her most loyal sons, a man who was interested in every good work, giving liberally to church, to education, and to charity. Mr. Deering came of old Puritan stock. He was born in South Paris, Maine, and held to his dying day a warm place in his heart for the community of his early youth.

Some years ago he made possible, through one of his generous gifts, the erection of a beautiful structure in that town, which is a gem of church architecture. His largest gifts were bestowed upon Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute, of whose boards of trustees he had been president for many years. He also remembered most generously Wesley Hospital in Chicago.

We are pleased to be able to publish at this time a tender tribute from the pen of Frederick A. Noble, of Evanston, who had known Mr. Deering from his early youth. As the two families lived in neighboring towns in Maine, just a few miles from each other, and were brought frequently into contact one with the other, both being loyal Methodists, the fathers learned to esteem and to love each other in the faith, and now out of the fullness and ripeness of their affection, one of the sons pens these lines to the memory of the other:

An oak, once stately, sinewy and strong,
Lies prone; the strain of years has taken toll.
A man with oaken fiber in his soul—
Clear brained and stout of will, averse to wrong,
With small desire for merriment and song,

But eminent in gifts for wide control—
Has heard the call to act in higher rôle,
And vacant now the place he filled so long.
He wrought that toil might yield the toiler more;
That school and church might cast their beams afar;
That life in all might pulse with nobler aim.
His character and deeds increased the store
Of human gains, and made his name a star
To shine with steady light of lasting fame.

The Christian Advocate, December 18, 1913

William Deering, whose name is indelibly connected with the industrial history of the age in America, died at his winter home, Miami, Florida, December ninth, at the age of eighty-seven years. He was of sturdy Maine lineage, born at South Paris, Maine, in 1826.

He was manager of a woolen mill at eighteen, founder of the great textile commission house of Deering, Milliken & Co., first of Portland, Maine, and now of this city, and from 1870 a manufacturer of agricultural implements at Plano and Chicago, Illinois. The Deering Harvester Works employed thousands of men and their product reaps the crops of every land on the globe. About ten years ago the business was merged in the International Harvester Company.

His success in business was paralleled by his humanity and justice in dealing with his workmen, who were most loyal, harmonious and contented because of the friendly relations which Mr. Deering maintained with them.

Mr. Deering's affiliations had been with the Methodist Episcopal Church from early life, and as his means increased he liberally supported its local and world-wide enterprises. At Evanston, Illinois, where he had long resided, he had been the leader of the group of friends who have done so much for Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute. He gave long service on their boards of trustees, holding the most responsible offices and contributing more largely than any other man to their financial strength.

His benefactions, general and special, in buildings, libraries, endowments, have never been publicly listed and probably never will be, but the known gifts amount to several millions of dollars. Mr. Deering was a member of the General Conferences of 1892 and 1900.

The Implement Age, Springfield, Ohio, December 20, 1913

William Deering, of Chicago, one of the founders of the farm machine industry, and for many years one of the largest manufacturers of farm machines the world has ever known, died at his winter home, five miles south of the city of Miami, Florida, on the evening of December ninth.

Mr. Deering's life was characteristic of so many of the early New Englanders who broke away from their home towns and amassed great fortunes during the tremendous growth of the middle West. At that time it was customary for most well-educated young men to enter one of the learned professions. This was Mr. Deering's early ambition, but his father, who was then president of the South Paris Manufacturing Company, engaged in making woolen cloths, needed his help at that time, and young William gave up medicine and entered commercial life.

Mr. Deering became a manufacturer and merchant in his native town, dividing his interest between his business and the development of western farm lands, of which he became a large owner.

At the age of forty-four, about the time that most men are contemplating leaving actual service, William Deering began the work of his life, for which he will probably be remembered throughout the coming century, and which has made his name one of the best known names throughout the entire world.

There is practically no country in which agricultural work is carried on that is not familiar with the word "Deering." In 1870, William Deering, the woolen merchant, came from Maine to Chicago with \$40,000 to invest in Chicago real estate. Instead of this he met an old friend, a retired Methodist preacher, E. H. Gammon, who with J. D. Easter, as partner, had procured a license to make what is now historically known as Marsh harvesters. The Gammon and Easter combination had established a plant at Plano, Illinois, and the year that Mr. Deering came west had sold 1000 machines, but owing to the lack of capital, they were unable to expand. Mr. Deering advanced this capital.

In 1872 he was made a partner in the business, and in 1873 he took charge. For five years he manufactured the Marsh harvester, competing with the McCormick Company,

which, up to 1879, was selling the most up-to-date machine of that period, with the Sidney B. Withington wire binder.

In 1878 Mr. Deering saw a twine binder that John F. Appleby, a farm mechanic, had invented. This binder used string instead of wire, and it so impressed Deering that he arranged to make it. He risked his entire fortune of approximately one million dollars in turning out 3000 of these machines for the harvest of 1880. Luckily, the binders were a success, and the next year the demand was so great for them that he bought out Gammon's interest, and moved the plant from Plano to Chicago.

This was the beginning of the present Deering plant. There were only three binder-twine makers in the United States upon whom he could call for twine. The multiple string was so expensive that, although the twine binder had saved the farmers great sums in the cost of cutting their wheat, they protested at buying the twine. Mr. Deering was convinced that a single-strand twine could be made which would not only be cheap, but at the same time do the work better than the twisted strands.

He approached E. H. Fidler, a famous cordage man, at one time mayor of Philadelphia, and gave him such an order that Mr. Fidler boasted to his dying day that he "made a million-dollar deal with Deering in two minutes." Some years after this Mr. Deering established his own twine mills, and in his eagerness to give the American farmer as cheap a twine as could be made, he spent \$15,000 in trying to perfect a grass twine; \$35,000 for a paper twine; \$43,000 on a straw twine, and \$165,000 on a flax twine.

From adoption of the twine binder the Deering plant expanded and grew until at the formation of the International Harvester Company it was turning out two complete machines every minute of the working day and thirty miles of twine per minute. During the past ten years it has kept pace with the other plants of the International Harvester Company. Its product is shipped to every corner of the habitable world; its physical properties are the most modern possible, and its efficiency standard is in the foremost rank of industry.

There are now employed an average of about 9000 employees at its works. It covers a land area of eighty acres, and has an annual capacity for turning out 300,000 machines,

consisting of binders, reapers, mowers, rakes, drills, and corn machines. Its twine mills have capacity to turn out 45,000 tons of twine each year.

In 1901 Mr. Deering retired from active work and devoted his time to other things. His gifts to education and charity, especially to the Northwestern University, the Garrett Biblical Institute, of whose boards of trustees for many years he was president, and the Wesley Hospital of Chicago, were large. He has constantly contributed to help in the erection of churches and met appeals that came from all sections of the country.

One of the best appreciations of Mr. Deering's work is found in a book recently written by Edwin L. Barker, entitled "Creeds of Great Business Men." Mr. Deering is included in this work, and here are Mr. Barker's appreciative words of him:

"William Deering did his greatest work after he thought he had retired from business. It is the way of life — to aim at one thing and hit something else. Columbus did it when he discovered America; Daguerre went forth to sketch the landscape, and came home lugging photography; Bell was working to make the deaf hear when he produced the telephone.

"Mr. Deering was a New England woolen manufacturer. He was born in Maine, and there he lived and worked 'in wool,' as we say in trade, for near on to fifty years. First, he made woolen goods, and then, to better sell them, he opened stores in various parts of the country. Later, to form a complete line and to better serve the public and himself, he added cotton fabrics.

"Then it was that he decided to retire. He figured that he had made money enough. He had yet to learn that men who can afford to retire seldom do. The ceaseless urge that puts us at the top generally holds us there. The clang of business keeps most men in harness to the end. They are like conductors, who take vacations and then spend the time in riding up and down the road with other conductors.

"After he thought he had retired, Mr. Deering went west to see the sights. There he remained to build sights for others to see. He took up the work started by McCormick, and added the finishing touch, as it were.

"It all happened in a very simple way. At Chicago, Mr.

Deering met an old friend, E. H. Gammon, who was building Marsh harvesters. C. W. Marsh, of Dekalb, Illinois, invented his harvester to relieve the stoop and strain of following the reaper and binding the sheaves. Again the aim was good, but the Marsh harvester did more than the inventor had planned for it. It suggested the self-binder.

"Gammon needed money, so Deering accommodated him. When the note fell due, Deering was persuaded to invest the amount in stock. Later he was asked to help out in the management of the business, and before he knew it he was doing a work which was to carry him to leadership in the harvesting machine industry.

"Mr. Deering looked ahead. Looking ahead was one of the things he did best. In the distance he saw the approach of the self-binder. At first wire was tried, but it failed. Then came John F. Appleby with a binding attachment which would tie twine. Mr. Deering decided to use twine in the three thousand binders which he had made for the harvest of 1880.

"But where was he to get the twine? He went from ropemaker to twinemaker, and from twinemaker to ropemaker. They could not see that one day the making of binder twine would be a great industry; that more than 150,000 tons would be used to tie the annual grain crops of the world.

"Let it here be set down that the knowledge we gain in one line often helps us to succeed in an entirely different line. Mr. Deering remembered his wool-spinning experience. So, after much work, and with an enduring faith in human ingenuity, he finally succeeded in producing the first hard-fiber binder twine ever used. Since that day harvesting has been done more easily and quickly, and so wheat crops have grown better and larger.

"Again Mr. Deering looked ahead. He saw that if the machines were to do their best work the manufacturer of binders must be the manufacturer of the twine used in the binders. To-day we know that this business man did not look ahead in vain.

"He and the experts he employed studied improvements. No man ever knew the law of competition better than William Deering. And what is the law of competition? It is this: Make your goods a little better to-day, or your competitor will overtake you to-morrow."

Farm Machinery, December 16, 1913

Mr. Deering was not an inventor himself, nor was he even a mechanic, but he was probably the greatest patron of inventors the world has ever known. It has been reckoned that he spent over two million dollars during his period of active business life in improving and designing farm machines. The tradition is that he kept one man on a salary for twenty years until he perfected what is now the Deering corn picker.

Mr. Deering's watchword in his business administration was "system and centralization;" in the manufacturing end his slogan was "perfection in every detail." So successful was he that his name became a byword, not only in the United States and Canada, but in every part of the world, for harvesting machines which could withstand the strain and stress of years of operation. Even now, a decade after his retirement from business, accounts are still being received of how Deering binders and mowers are working after thirty years of service.

Farm Implement News, Chicago, Illinois, December 11, 1913

At the ripe age of eighty-seven William Deering, founder of the great Deering harvester industry, now a part of the International Harvester Company, passed away December ninth.

In 1870 Mr. Deering became interested with E. H. Gammon in the manufacture and sale of Marsh harvesters.

The manufacture of harvesters continued under the combination with some changes until the fall of 1875, when Gammon & Deering purchased all the other interests in these shops and became the sole owners of the institution. The business had greatly increased; the Marsh harvester had won a front place among grain-cutting machines; other manufacturers, one by one, had fallen into line, and harvesters, as a class, had taken precedence over reapers in the great grain-growing sections of the country.

During this period also the first successful steps were taken toward the introduction of automatic binders. Inventors many years before had succeeded in making the twist and in tying the knot, but practical delivery to and from the

binder had not been obtained until the Marsh harvester showed the way. The Gordon brothers, Locke, Withington, Gorham, Appleby, Holmes, and others revived old devices and invented new, applying them to this harvester with varying but progressive success, until even at that time (1875) several wire binders had been sufficiently perfected to be put upon the market as "attachments" to harvesters; and two or three twine binders were making annual strides toward practical operation.

Although the trade in harvesters continued good, Mr. Deering, with prescient eye, watched all these movements. Gammon & Deering were among the first to test the market with binders, having already put out Gordon wire binders; and during the years immediately following 1875 they made and sold large numbers. At the close of 1877 occurred the failure of J. D. Easter & Co., whose creditors, in the settlement of their affairs, turned the territory they had supplied with Marsh harvesters over to Gammon & Deering. The latter firm then became the principal owner of the Marsh harvester interests and the leader in the trade.

Mr. Deering had been closely watching Appleby's efforts and progress with his twine binder, and believing that twine would supersede wire as material for binding — providing the knotting devices could be made practically operative — he interested himself in Appleby. Gammon & Deering in 1879 built and put out a considerable number of these twine binders, which operated successfully. In the fall of that year the firm dissolved partnership, Mr. Gammon retiring.

The year 1880 was a memorable one in the annals of the harvesting machine business. The old hand binding harvester had been pushed from its place in the market by the child of its adoption, the automatic binder, several styles of which, binding with wire, were being built and successfully put upon the market to supply a large and growing demand.

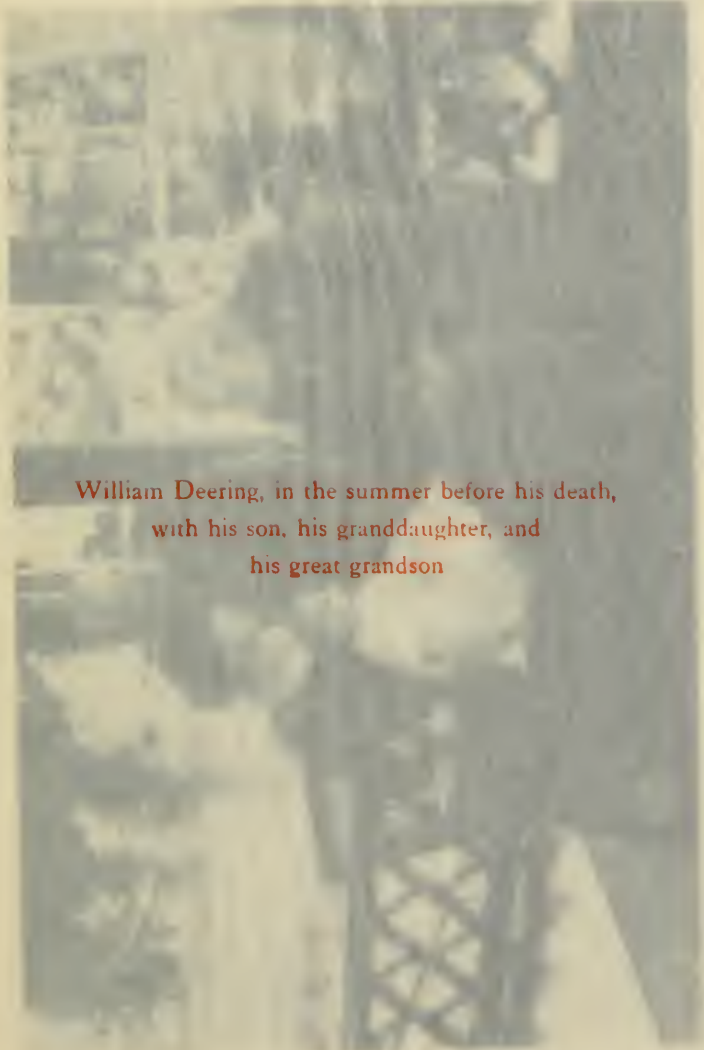
Mr. Deering was now the sole representative of the vast interests of the old concern, and he was making two bold movements: he was building new shops in Chicago and removing his works thereto from Plano, and he was preparing to make a charge directly upon the center of the opposing wire binder hosts. The position was dangerous and required a leader of judgment, nerve, great executive ability, and force of character. These attributes Mr. Deering possessed.

The year 1880 was indeed a memorable one; his Appleby binders, of which 3000 were made and sold that year, swept everything before them. The harvest of that year was a Waterloo defeat for the wire binders, and immediately thereafter practically all harvester manufacturers rushed for cover under the Appleby patents. Mr. Deering won a complete victory; he established twine binding machines as the grain harvesters of the time and of the future, and himself as the acknowledged leader in the movement.

Mr. Deering was not satisfied with the work of the only twine the market then afforded. He conceived the idea of a single strand twine made from manila fiber, and induced Edwin H. Fidler, a Philadelphia cordage manufacturer, to make a quantity of such twine at Mr. Deering's risk. How well this and twine made from other hard fibers have met the requirements is well known.

From 1880 and onward Mr. Deering's progress was steadily and sweepingly upward. The shops were enlarged year after year, and new departments added until the plant became one of the largest and most complete institutions of the kind in this or any other country. In 1883 Mr. Deering had the business incorporated under the title Wm. Deering & Co., and subsequently the name Deering Harvester Company was adopted. At the time Mr. Deering retired the company employed about 9000 operatives at its Chicago plant, to say nothing of the army of general agents, traveling salesmen and other employees connected with its branch houses scattered all over the world.

Mr. Deering came into the harvester business later than most of his competitors, and without any former training as a manufacturer of agricultural implements; consequently his success, by which in comparatively a few years he became a leader in a line of business requiring special aptitude, experience, and good management, was remarkable. But his father was a mechanic and his early interests and associations were such as to form his mind for this great work. He had manifested unusual capacity to make combinations and manage large enterprises successfully before he engaged in the manufacture of harvesters, and his successful career as a business man after all was simply the result of the prompt application of energy, good judgment, and strong will to good opportunities.



William Deering, in the summer before his death,
with his son, his granddaughter, and
his great grandson

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During his residence in Maine, Mr. Deering, without being a politician, took an active part and interest in charitable and public affairs, occupying several unsought positions under the government of the state and also of the city of Portland. After coming to Illinois his business cares and perhaps also his inclination prevented him from giving much personal attention to political matters, except such as his duties as a citizen enjoined. He was largely interested in church, educational, and charitable objects, to all of which he gave generously of his time and means.

Portland (Me.) Evening Express and Daily Advertiser,
December 10, 1913

MIAMI, FLA., Dec. 10.—William Deering, founder of the Deering Harvester Company, who for some time has been ill here, died at a late hour last night. Members of his immediate family were with him at the time of his death.

It was in 1865 that Mr. Deering, with Seth Milliken, formed in this city the firm of Deering, Milliken & Co., which became one of the largest dry-goods commission houses in the country. On the site at the corner of Middle and Market streets, a few years ago the scene of one of Portland's most disastrous fires, the new firm commenced business in August, 1865, as successors to Storer, Cutler & Co. The following year the firm suffered by the big fire of July 4, 1866, which swept their young establishment away.

Undaunted by the discouraging experience, the new firm found quarters for the succeeding nine months at the corner of Commercial and Franklin streets. These were less commodious warerooms, but this proved no barrier to the extension of the firm's trade, which kept steadily increasing so that when they returned to their original site, on which a commodious building had been erected, in this respect the young merchants were ready to meet the demands which the increased trade was making upon them.

Mr. Deering retired from the firm in 1869, and the following year he went to Chicago, engaging in the sale of farm machinery.

Among the benefactions of Mr. Deering was a generous contribution to the Methodist Episcopal Church in South Paris, where the last session of the Maine Conference was held last April. As the result of his gift a fine stone church edifice was built, this being named the Deering Memorial Church, in memory of Mr. Deering's father.

The Custer County Chief, Broken Bow, Nebraska, December 26, 1913

The death of William Deering, which occurred in Miami, Florida, a few days ago, removes one of the nation's great financiers and a man who has no doubt done more to develop and perfect the grain harvester than any other one man.

It will be of interest to the readers of the *Chief* to know that Mr. L. H. Jewett, of the Security State Bank, of this city, commenced his business career in the office of William Deering.

Mr. Jewett spoke of William Deering as a man of great foresight. "He seemed to have a clear conception of the future possibilities of the development of this country. At the time I occupied the position of cashier, Mr. Deering was worth probably ten millions of dollars, and at the time of his death his fortune had reached much larger figures.

"I recall an instance where he left the city on the day previous to pay day. He had forgotten to arrange his money matters so I could draw seventy-five thousand dollars and pay the help. Mr. Deering discovered the oversight while on the train in the middle of the night, and he got out of the sleeping berth and at the next station took another train back to Chicago that the men should not be disappointed on pay day.

"Mr. Deering always gave for charitable purposes when he was sure that the cause was a worthy one. It was my duty, during the greater portion of my association with him, to guard his door, my desk being in the room adjoining his, and those who reached him had to first pass me. Mr. Deering was a great Methodist, but notwithstanding this fact he left standing orders that Sisters of Charity should always enter his room unannounced. I recall asking him one day why it

was that he, being a Methodist, made a rule to always give to the Sisters, and he told me that in contributing to them he was sure that the money would be well expended. It will thus be seen that he injected business judgment into his charity work.

"I recall that at one time fire wiped out a portion of the new factory and the entire north side fire department was called out. It was a bitter cold night, and by the time the flames were extinguished the firemen were encased in mud and ice. Mr. Deering was a very temperate man, but on this occasion he seemed at once to realize what was the proper thing to do, and he instructed me to see that no firemen paid for anything that was purchased over the bars of the saloons in that part of the city during that night. He requested, however, that refreshments be served with coffee instead of intoxicating liquors, and his suggestion was gracefully accepted by both saloon-keepers and firemen.

"The fire occurred the very night that the firemen received their monthly pay, and during the progress of the fire one of the firemen lost his money, amounting to seventy dollars. Mr. Deering heard of this and replaced the amount, and also instructed me to draw a check to be turned into the firemen's relief fund.

"In 1881, during the terrible smallpox siege in Chicago, Mr. Deering provided a hospital for those in his employ who got the disease. He stood the funeral expenses of those who died and provided for the families of those of his men who succumbed to the disease.

"It was while I was with Mr. Deering that Mr. Appleby was perfecting the twine binder. He was given a corner in one of the factory rooms to work on his new invention.

"When Mr. Appleby completed his invention, Mr. Deering arranged with him to secure full control of the patent. Mr. Gammon, who was then a partner of Deering, objected to this deal; and, owing to the delay occasioned thereby, Appleby secured other offers. Later on, Mr. Deering was able to secure only a shop right. This transaction has since impressed me with the wonderful foresight of William Deering. It was, no doubt, Mr. Gammon's objection to the consummation of this deal that finally led to the dissolution of partnership, which followed shortly after.

"It is not to be wondered at that, after my years of intimate association with William Deering, I was deeply touched when I learned of his death."

Portland (Me.) Argus, December 12, 1913

Of the late William Deering, founder of the Deering Harvester Company and one of the founders of the International Harvester Company, the New York *World* says:

"To the name of Deering, as to that of McCormick, must be assigned a conspicuous place in the development of the United States as a wheat-growing country. Without the self-binder it is difficult to imagine how the western harvests could ever have been gathered.

"It was the machine that solved the problem of labor on the prairies, where the supply was certain to be always short at the critical season of the year. It was the machine that made it possible for the farmer to sow more acres and to reap larger crops than he could ever have harvested otherwise. In his hands it was the key to prosperity. How much it has contributed to the wealth of the nation is not to be calculated, nor in what measure it has helped in the feeding of the world."

Among the sons of Maine who have added to the wealth and welfare, material or intellectual, of the country, the name of William Deering will hold a conspicuous place.

Racine (Wis.) Call, December 13, 1913

The death and burial of William Deering this week recalls to all older men and women the early days in the history of American farming. Fifty years ago many farmers in Wisconsin were reaping large areas of wheat with the sickle, wielded by their own hands. What an advance when the sickle was made to move back and forth by machinery, and man was saved many a weary day's work with the rude hand tool!

But the old hand-raking machine! Who does not imagine what it means to bend over an upright post and almost at arm's length remove the bundle from the platform? Then came the self-raker, in one case a sort of endless chain which carried a set of forks so arranged that they gathered the straw into bundles and threw them to the ground. But

that was too primitive for American ingenuity, and now we are taken to the harvest field when we want to see some of the crowning achievements of the human brain.

But Mr. Deering was something more than a wide-awake manufacturer of farm machinery. He loved his fellow-men and saw to it that while alive others shared with him the profits of his hand and brain. It is a good record connected with the name of Deering.

The Economist, Chicago, Illinois, December 13, 1913

In the death of William Deering this city and vicinity loses one of the most prominent and most highly respected citizens. His life began April 25, 1826, and he came of Puritan stock. He was a native of Maine, and, coming west, acquired his great fortune and his standing as a citizen by intelligent and persistent labor in his chosen line, which was the manufacture of agricultural implements. In that department of industry he was one of the two or three famous men in the world. He was a man of large charities and all-around usefulness. In recent years he has been in retirement. The business of which he was the head passed into the International Harvester Company in 1902.

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, December 11, 1913

William Deering, the multimillionaire harvester manufacturer who died at Miami, Florida, Tuesday night, left property in Minnesota.

Mr. Deering owned the fee title to the Security National Bank building in Minneapolis at Second Avenue South and Fourth Street. He also held a mortgage on the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, and was possessed of considerable other property in that city and throughout the state.

"Mr. Deering was the type of a man who did not wish to evade taxes," said a prominent man yesterday. "The manager of his property in Minneapolis told me that when the Security Bank building was constructed he was advised to form a corporation and transfer the title to it in order to relieve the estate of the inheritance tax upon his death. He refused to do this, saying that he had made much of his money in Minnesota and did not object to leaving some of it here on his death."

London Times

A Reuter telegram from Chicago announces the death of Mr. William Deering, the founder of the harvester business.

Mr. Deering, who was born in 1826, was for a time engaged in the wholesale dry-goods business at Portland, Maine, but in 1870 he entered the business established for the manufacture of the Marsh harvester and greatly extended it by new patents and the use of improved manufacturing methods. The business was removed from Plano, Illinois, to Chicago in 1880, and was ultimately merged in the International Harvesting Company. Mr. Deering retired from active business in 1901.

Le Figaro, Dimanche, 14 December 1913

Nous apprenons la mort de Mr. William Deering, de Chicago, décédé dans sa propriété d'hiver dans la Florida.

Mr. Deering est une des plus grandes figures industrielles des États-Unis. Fondateur de la célèbre industrie des machines agricoles qui porte son nom, il fut avec son contemporain Cyrus McCormick, un des plus puissants facteurs du formidable développement agricole de son pays.

La fusion des grands fabricants américains avait donné naissance à la "International Harvester Company," c'est-à-dire la plus considérable agglomération d'usines de machines agricoles au monde et dont les établissements industriels, en dehors des États-Unis, comprennent ceux du Canada, de la France, de l'Allemagne, de la Russie, etc., etc. C'était la dernière grande œuvre à laquelle William Deering fut associé. La sévérité de sa vie, autant que sa bonté fut proverbiale. Mr. William Deering était officier de la Légion d'honneur.

Melbourne (Australia) Herald, December 12, 1913

The *Times* to-day reports the death of Mr. William Deering, founder of the harvester business, at the age of eighty-seven. Death occurred in Florida. Mr. Deering as a youth was engaged in a woolen mill, and later in the dry-goods business. He established his harvester works at Plano, Illinois, in 1873. He was president of the Deering Harvester Company and of William Deering & Co., and a director of the International Harvester Company.

Scientific American, December 20, 1913

In the death of William Deering, one of the founders of the International Harvester Company and himself long the head of the Deering Harvester Company, the American machinery industry loses one of its most conspicuous figures.

Originally a dry-goods manufacturer and merchant, Mr. Deering eventually migrated to Chicago, where in 1870 he met E. H. Gammon, who had bought the rights to manufacture a harvester. Three years later Mr. Deering became the active head of the enterprise. Gammon told Deering that a machine was needed which would bind sheaves of wheat as they were cut. Deering began work upon this, and with J. F. Appleby produced the binder that is still in use.

Deering is one of the men to whom America should be grateful for his achievements. It was his self-binder that made it really possible to harvest wheat without the aid of much manual labor and that places the name of Deering beside that of McCormick. How much the Deering binder has contributed to our agricultural prosperity no one can even guess.





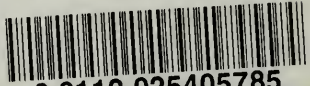


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WILLIAM DEERING, BORN IN MAINE, 1826, DI



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