

# HENRY MILLS ALDEN OF HARPER'S, DIES

Editor of Magazine for 50 Years  
Passes at His City Home  
in His 83d Year.

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WAS "BOBBIN BOY" IN MILL

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Descendant of John Alden of Mayflower Told for His Education and Then Became Writer.

Henry Mills Alden, for the last half century editor of Harper's Magazine, died early yesterday morning at his home, 521 West 112th Street. Mr. Alden was in the 83rd year of his age, but was active almost up to the last. He was a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, of Mayflower fame, being eighth in descent from John Alden.

Born in Mount Tabor, Vermont, Nov. 11, 1836, Mr. Alden was at the age of 14 working as "bobbin boy" in a cotton mill at Hoosick Falls, N. Y., whence his parents had moved. He found time to go to school and two years after leaving the factory he prepared himself for college. He entered Williams College in 1853 and supported himself by teaching and other occupations. Mark Hopkins was President of the College at the time and Mr. Alden's fellow students included James A. Garfield, Horace E. Scudder, George Washington Gladden and John J. Ingalls. Although they had not met for a number of years, Garfield was greeted by Mr. Alden, when he came to New York after his nomination for the Presidency, by his old college name, "How's Metaphysics?"

Mr. Alden spent three years at Andover Theological Seminary, but never entered the ministry. He began his literary career while at the seminary with the acceptance by the Atlantic Monthly of two of his articles, one of which on the Eleusinian Mysteries was sent to the editor of that periodical unknown to him by his friend, Harriet Beecher Stowe. After returning to Hoosick Falls he continued to write and also supplied vacant pulpits in the neighborhood.

In 1861, Mr. Alden came to New York and lectured in a young ladies' school, later supplementing his small income by writing occasional articles for THE TIMES and The New York Evening Post.

A year later his connection with Harper & Brothers was begun. The publishing house printed a descriptive guidebook of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, which Mr. Alden had been commissioned to write. Mr. Alden became assistant editor of Harper's Weekly, and in 1869 was made editor of Harper's Magazine, which place he continued to fill until his death.

About the time he made his first connection with Harper & Brothers, Mr. Alden was invited to deliver a course of lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston, the remuneration from, which enabled him to meet the indebtedness incurred at Williams College and Andover Seminary. The honorary degrees of Doctor of Literature and Doctor of Laws were conferred upon him in 1890 and 1907, respectively, by his alma mater.

Mr. Alden resigned the active management of Harper's Magazine some years ago on account of his advanced age and declining health, but he still kept in touch with old contributors and was interested in new writers. In addition to the monthly essays which appeared in Harper's Magazine under the title of "The Editor's Study," Mr. Alden was the author of three books, "Magazine Writing and the New Literature," "God in His World," "A Study of Death."

He was twice married, the first time in 1861, to Miss Susan F. Foster, of North Andover, Mass., and the second time to Mrs. Alda Foster Murray of Norfolk, Va., in 1900.

For forty years or more Mr. Alden made his home at Metuchen, N. J., traveling the twenty-six miles daily to and from his office in Franklin Square. In recent years he had been spending his winter months in the city. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The funeral of Mr. Alden will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery, Plainfield, N. J.

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