# The Palimpsest

SEPTEMBER 1943

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT IOWA CITY BY
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT IOWA CITY IOWA
UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

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## THE MEANING OF PALIMPSEST

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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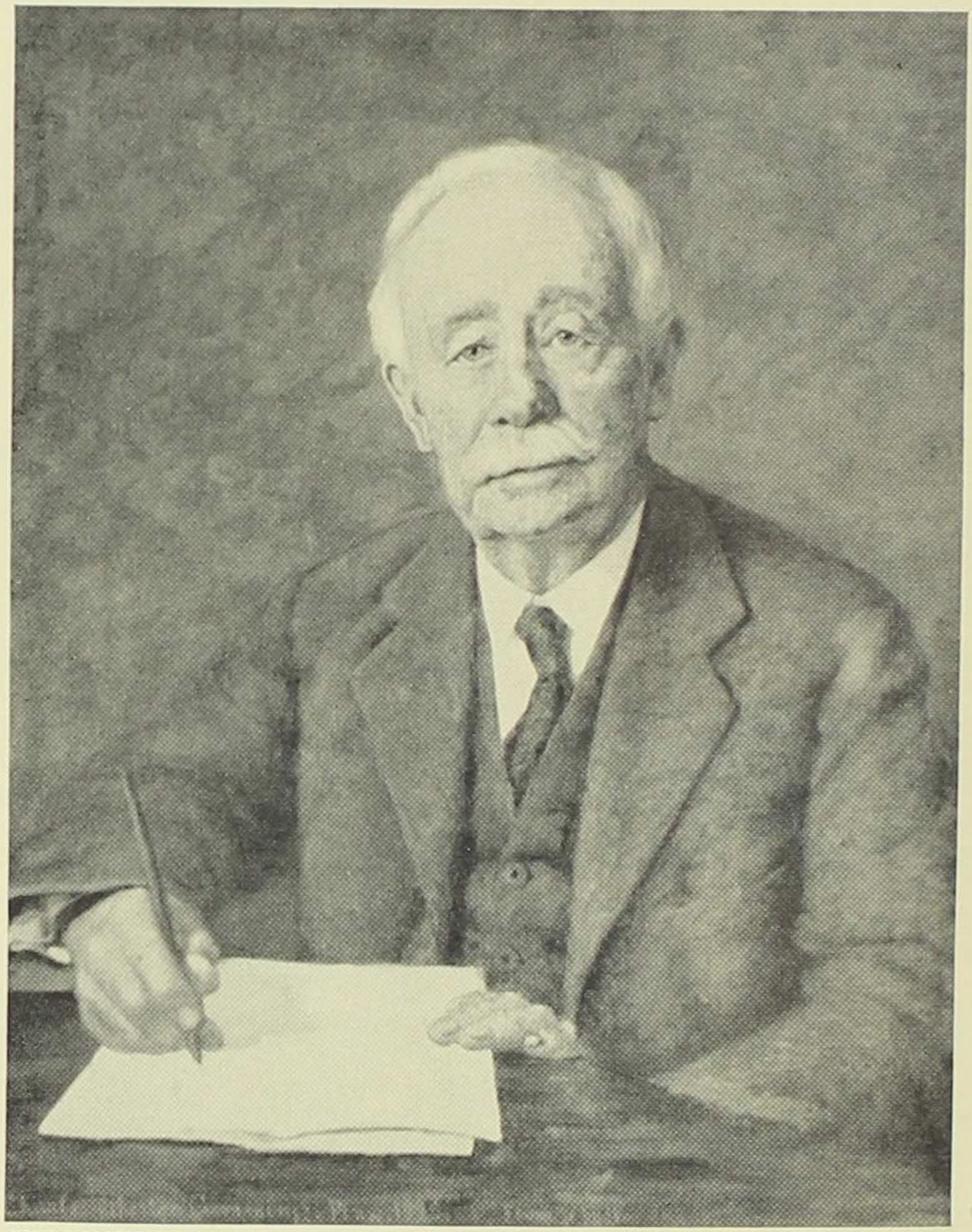
PRICE — 10 cents per copy: $1 per year: free to Members
ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa



FROM A PORTRAIT PAINTED BY CHARLES ATHERTON CUMMING

CHARLES CLEVELAND NUTTING

# THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY JOHN ELY BRIGGS

VOL. XXIV ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER 1943 NO. 9



## Prologue to a Career

Charles Cleveland Nutting was a preacher's son three times over on his father's side. His father, grandfather, and great grandfather were all ministers. It seems that Charles must have disappointed his father, Rev. Rufus Nutting, Jr., by taking more interest in taxidermy than formal theology and in Darwinism than Calvinism. His four sisters, however, should have softened the reverend's regrets. Two of them married ministers, a third was a home missionary in Utah, and a fourth had two sons who became, respectively, a Chicago preacher and a missionary to China, and, in turn, begot more missionaries.

Margaretta Leib Hunt, Charles's mother, came from a family of lawyers and military men. Her grandfather, Judge John L. Leib, was marshal of Michigan Territory in 1830. Brigadier General Henry Jackson Hunt, a commander of artillery for the North during the Civil War, was her cousin, and she had other cousins at West Point.

On May 25, 1858, Charles was born in Jacksonville, Illinois. He was the fourth of seven children who were, in chronological order, Millicent, Caroline, William, Charles, Edwin, Helen, and Anna. Edwin lived only a few days, so the group finally included two boys between two older and two younger girls — so arranged, according to Mother Nutting, to keep the boys "straight".

At the time Charles was born his father was professor of Greek at Illinois College, where he was made Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Rufus Nutting was said to be an excellent classical scholar, but he was remembered primarily as a minister. He took his religion seriously. Though ordained as a Congregationalist, he adopted the more rigorous creed of Calvinism and reared his family in strict Presbyterianism. In Blackburn College at Carlinville, Illinois, where he taught after leaving Illinois College, he became involved in a theological controversy and resigned in 1866. He was a kindly, generous father, but expected implicit filial obedience.

Charlie had merry blue eyes, golden hair, a fair complexion with rosy cheeks, and the knack of experimenting himself into trouble. While still at the "tender" but scarcely fragile age of four, he took a horsewhip and decided to make some

colts jump a fence. He had driven them into the corner of a fenced-in lane and was trying to get action when a kick in the face flattened his nose. Contrary to his mother's convictions, his physiognomy suffered little permanent damage.

Stories of the Civil War so inspired the boy that one day he pretended a pumpkin was a "Rebel". Seizing a large carving knife, he led a vigorous attack on it and succeeded in cutting off the end of his finger. At the time his mother was entertaining some ladies, and apparently his father had warned him to avoid getting hurt so as not to bother his mother. At any rate he intruded upon the party with more solicitude than alarm. "Don't be frightened, Mother," he remarked. "I didn't mean to, but I cut my finger off." Unable to associate his manner with valid tragedy, she told him to run along and play. Recalling the incident in after years, Professor Nutting used to claim that he was one of the youngest veterans of the Civil War.

Before he was very old, Charlie's active mind turned to eggs, butterflies, spiders, and birds. His mother wanted him to be a physician, but his interests were in collecting. He forced his younger sisters, whom he bossed and teased into adoring him, to swallow their qualms, and set them to catching hideous spiders for his collection. Once,

finding a bird's egg in a tree and having difficulty with its transportation, he popped it in his mouth, then started down. Unfortunately, he hit his chin on a limb and made an unsuspected discovery. The egg was rotten.

Sometime between 1866 and 1872 the Nuttings moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where Charles attended high school. There he came under the influence of David Starr Jordan, future president of Leland Stanford University and famous naturalist, who was then teaching science in the Indianapolis high school. No doubt Charlie's innate enthusiasm for nature study was greatly stimulated by that contact. With two other boys he planned an exploring trip to Central America. They were going to paddle down the Mississippi and across the Gulf of Mexico.

Reverend Nutting returned to Carlinville as professor of Greek and Charles entered Blackburn College. He was a member of the Philomathean Literary Society, took part in plays, sang in the church choir, and wrote humorous essays and plays for the local paper. Perhaps the most decisive event in his college life was the enrollment of Lizzie Hersman in Blackburn College. She was an amiable girl with blue eyes, fair complexion, and light brown hair that curled about a madonna-like face. Charles fell in love with her.

As a student he seems to have maintained his scientific interests, under the direction of Professor Charles Robertson. He read scientific works, became a disciple of Charles Darwin, and collected over a hundred varieties of birds in the woods about Carlinville.

Upon graduation in June, 1880, he spent a year in Colorado where his brother Will was employed as an assayer. Charles worked as a smelter paymaster at Leadville and Red Cliff. He also helped survey the route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. It was a rough life, not without considerable danger, but his father thought a year of "roughing it" would be good for Charles. The young naturalist did not intend to neglect his avocation. Before starting West he respectfully solicited the Smithsonian Institution for an order to collect bird skins. He guaranteed "good work, *reliable labels,* and reasonable rates."

It is not likely that he received an order, but no doubt he did some collecting. His first regular commission from the Smithsonian Institution seems to have been in 1882, though the first specimen in the collection of birds that he eventually made for the United States National Museum is listed as being from Summit County, Colorado.

Having obtained a Master of Arts degree from

Blackburn in 1882, he realized his boyhood ambition to explore Central America. Hired for the Smithsonian by Dr. Spencer F. Baird and under the direction of Robert Ridgeway, ornithologist, Charles Nutting went to Costa Rica early in 1882, landing at Punta Arenas on February 13th. He went alone and returned after many hardships with rare bird skins of which the National Museum now owns over three hundred.

The solo hunt in Costa Rica was only the first of many Nutting scientific expeditions. With him it was a habit-forming experience. The very next year, in 1883, he went to Nicaragua, again to collect birds. He planned to go into certain localities where no white man had yet penetrated and lived to return. His mother, hearing this and knowing what he had risked in Costa Rica, was disturbed at his departure on the new adventure, was convinced, it seems, that he would never return alive. And for some time she referred to him as "my poor dear Charlie".

He survived very well, finding the natives much less fierce than reported. He took his piccolo along and, according to the story, stopped in native villages, played tunes for the children, and was given board and room for the night. The food was scarcely what he was accustomed to eat at home, but Nutting always claimed an ability

to eat whatever was set before him without question. To this he credited his popularity with natives wherever he went all over the world. He so thoroughly believed in the value of the accomplishment that in later years he forced his own children to learn it too.

This expedition, like the first, seems to have been very successful. Despite the superstitions of the natives, he secured a large stone idol from an island in Lake Nicaragua, and at serious risk explored the crater of a volcano. With a rope tied around his waist he inspected the crusted lava until he could stand the heat no longer and shouted to be pulled up. The natives, thinking the mountain had spoken, ran away. Fortunately, the upper end of the rope caught on a bush and after a while one of the men crept back and hauled out the inquisitive naturalist.

He returned with hundreds of specimens to Washington, where he worked with Robert Ridgeway classifying the different species of birds. In 1885 he collected more skins in Florida. The total number of his birds in the National Museum amounts to 938. He kept for his private collection hundreds of duplicates.

It seems that Nutting intended to pursue his scientific studies at the University of Illinois. About this time, however, his father, still a teacher

at Blackburn College, judged a debate at Iowa City. While visiting on the campus of the University he met Professors Samuel Calvin and Thomas H. Macbride. Reverend Nutting was so impressed by their character and ability that he persuaded his son to attend the University of Iowa.

Charles C. Nutting seems to have arrived in Iowa City late in 1885. His name appears in the catalogue as one of three post-graduate students in 1886. What courses he took are not definitely known. Apparently he studied histology under Professor Calvin and may have assisted him in the laboratory. The *Vidette Reporter* announced on March 20, 1886, that "Mr. C. C. Nutting, a graduate of Blackburn University, is taking a short post-graduate course here in the laboratories of the natural sciences. Mr. Nutting was for several years connected with the Smithsonian Institution. His presence here is quite a compliment both to Profs. Calvin and Macbride, and to our institution."

As a graduate student, Nutting was remembered as rather good looking, with a pink complexion, light brown hair already rather thin, a long mustache, sideburns, intense and expressive blue eyes, and a rather boyish face. He was heavy-set and strong. Self-confident and perhaps

a little self-conscious, he took himself seriously, tried to seem older than he really was. He liked to be the leader of the group he was in; he loved to talk. He always had schemes in mind and was a hard, impulsive worker. At the house where he boarded he entertained everyone with stories of his travel experiences. One girl was afraid of him. He could not understand why until it developed that her mother had warned her to beware of "traveling men".

His energy and aggressiveness impressed Professor Calvin and circumstances made an opening for him on the University faculty. Increasing enrollment in science courses and the growing museum led to the recommendation in June, 1886, that Nutting be employed at a salary of $900 to be curator of the museum and laboratory assistant.

Before begining his new duties in September he married his college sweetheart, Lizzie B. Hersman on August 10, 1886. They rented a house on East Market Street between Clinton and Dubuque streets. Thus C. C. Nutting began his long career at the State University of Iowa at the dawn of the period of growth and rising reputation to which he was destined to contribute.

WILSON L. TAYLOR

# The Naturalist

The chief interest of the "old school" naturalist was collecting, preserving, and classifying the insects, birds, plants, and other specimens that he brought back from numerous field trips. And if he found something new he had the privilege of naming it. The modern scientist is likely to be a specialist confined to his laboratory, ignoring adjacent subjects. But the naturalist was free. The whole realm of creation was his to explore. Charles C. Nutting was a naturalist.

How to stuff animals, why seals are polygamous, the marriage customs of South Sea islanders, how to dig up and get old idols, how to make a dredge for collecting animals from the bottom of the sea, why birds are brilliantly colored, how to plan an expedition, the condition of the hotels in Havana, the effects of the Gulf Stream — these are a few of the subjects which Professor Nutting studied. Almost everything interested him. Apparently he went nowhere without asking hundreds of questions, seeing interesting things, and afterward telling and writing vividly about his experiences.

The colorfulness of his description, the force

of his enthusiasm, and his ability to interpret phenomena untechnically made him at once an effective teacher and a popular writer and lecturer on science. His style was clear and straightforward, but sometimes slightly marred by triteness and unnecessary words. The reports of his three major expeditions, written in semi-popular style, illustrate his literary capacity.

For example, in 1916 when he witnessed the most brilliant display of northern lights he had ever seen, he described the phenomenon in *Science,* and received more recognition for the amount of work involved than for anything else he ever did. "The whole heavens shuddered and staggered," he wrote, "shivered into a swirling chaos and reformed again and again in new and still more weird aggregates of shimmering light. Light streamed and wavered, rippled, flickered and pulsated. Now it was in broad waves reaching to the zenith, and now in vibrating bands. Here a broad cone shot up from the northern horizon until its apex pierced the very mid-heavens, and in the twinkling of an eye it was gone. There, from the shifting zones around the zenith, ripples of light passed upward to the blue."

Professor Nutting believed in popular science. By interesting the average man in his projects, he felt that he was fostering the growth of science.

Through his enthusiasm and sincerity he persuaded people to dig down into their pockets and raise the money necessary for the support of his scientific expeditions. And he left them convinced that they had contributed to something worthwhile. Two purposes were behind his expeditions — the stimulation of student interest in natural science by the handling of innumerable specimens and the observation of them in their natural condition, and the development of the museum.

It is only fair to say that Nutting's activity in popular science was severely criticized as "unscientific" and a "waste of time" by many of his contemporaries. But not all scientists had this reaction. Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt, curator of marine invertebrates of the Smithsonian Institution, says, "His narratives of the several expeditions that he carried through for the University of Iowa will always be classics in their line. I have read each of them over several times and expect to do so again." It seems certain that Professor Nutting's many popular writings and speeches gained for him the support he needed and gave the University of Iowa considerable publicity. His work as an expeditionist is summed up by Dr. Paul Bartsch of the National Museum in the statement that Nutting "made the State University one of the greatest leaders in exploration in the country."

For more than twenty years after Nutting joined the faculty of the University he spent his summer vacations on expeditions or in zoological laboratories. His travels took him to the West Indies, the Bay of Fundy, the Saskatchewan River, Wood's Hole, England, Italy, and Hawaii. Later he spent several years organizing the Laysan Island Expedition in 1911 and planning the famous cyclorama of that fabulous bird island in the Pacific. He did not accompany the party to Laysan Island, but in 1918 he led an expedition of thirteen scientists to Barbados and Antigua, and in 1922 he conducted the Fiji-New Zealand Expedition with R. B. Wylie, A. O. Thomas, Dayton Stoner, Mrs. Stoner, and Waldo Glock. Not only did he return with valuable experience for teaching purposes, but the University museum and laboratories were enriched with innumerable specimens.

Plans for these expeditions were always thorough and made well in advance. For example, on the Bahama Expedition in 1893 he calculated that crinoids could be found at a certain spot on an undersea plateau at a depth of two hundred fathoms. The captain of the expedition ship took his bearings carefully, let down the dredge, pulled it forward, and hoisted. The first scoop contained thirty-two specimens of crinoids! The second

scoop away from the calculated spot netted only a few, and the third scoop none at all. They sailed back to the first location and dredged in the opposite direction. And again the third scoop brought up no crinoids. They had hit the spot exactly by calculations made more than a year before in Washington.

Professor Nutting's scientific reputation rests primarily upon his study of hydroids. In the whole array of animal life, the hydroid is in a phylum lower than the lowest worms. Coelenterates are only two steps up from one-celled animals, yet they are complex creatures that shoot their prey with a poison spear from a stinging cell. Hydrozoa are one kind of coelenterates. They are sea-going animals.

From his first contact with salt water, the ocean seems to have appealed strongly to this inland scientist, so it was natural that his principal research should have been devoted to marine forms. His particular interest in hydroids seems to have begun on the University's Bahama Expedition in 1893 when he described some of the hydroids collected in his *Narrative and Preliminary Report*.

"Every summer during the past five years", declared the *University News Bulletin* in December, 1899, "Professor Nutting has been going to the coast to study Hydroids." During part of

the summer of 1895 "he worked in the Marine Biological Laboratory at Plymouth, England; he was the first American who ever worked in this laboratory and in recognition of this fact he was accorded all the privileges of the laboratory without fee. In 1896 he worked in Professor Agassiz's private laboratory at Newport, R. I., and for the past three summers at the United States Fish Commission Laboratory at Wood's Hole, Mass."

Before 1899, he had published his first three articles on hydroids, and by that time he was "working them up" for the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Fish Commission. He was still engaged in work for the Smithsonian Institution at the time of his death in 1927. Of his published writings, fifteen titles deal specifically with hydroids. These total about 985 pages, 142 full-page plates, and 408 text illustrations. In these works he named and described 134 new species, four new genera, and one new family of hydroids. Besides these he renamed four species and redescribed dozens of others.

Most important of his published works are the three monographs on American hydroids done for the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum. They are beautifully printed on large quarto pages. There are 736 such pages, 102 plates the same size, and 303 text drawings. In-

deed, these three volumes of *American Hydroids* are the rock on which Professor Nutting's reputation is founded.

At the time of his death, a fourth volume dealing with two more families, the Lafoeidae and the Hebellidae, was almost ready for publication. The plates were drawn, the manuscript practically complete but needing to be brought up to date. And this unpublished work, of the greatest importance in its field, seems to have been lost forever! Somehow, in the rearrangement and moving of the zoology department to the old medical laboratory building, the manuscript was mislaid, perhaps burned, and many of the borrowed type specimens were destroyed.

The loss did not disturb the "experimentalists" who had eclipsed the "systematists" at the University. Taxonomy was pushed aside. Yet in his particular field, Professor Nutting was the leading American authority and is likely to remain so.

WILSON L. TAYLOR

## At the University

Although Charles C. Nutting became assistant professor of zoology in 1888, and full professor of systematic zoology the following year, he retained his position as curator of the museum until 1926, the year before he died. Under his management the collection of biological specimens expanded rapidly and took systematic form. In 1886 W. T. Hornaday donated a collection which included about 125 rare birds, Nutting added his own collection of about eight hundred bird skins, and Dr. Asa Horr of Dubuque gave the museum two hundred more bird specimens. The young curator asked for twenty dollars "for the purchase of Taxidermists tools and material for preserving and mounting the specimens which are now coming in almost daily."

"Thanks to Prof. Nutting's endeavors," commented the *Vidette Reporter* on September 26, 1886, "the Museum has lately received an Educational Series of Invertebrates, consisting of 125 species, from the U. S. Fish Commission. Prof. Nutting is sending out circulars to our Alumni, asking their cooperation in securing specimens for our Museum. We hope that he will meet with a

hearty response. He is now engaged in labeling the specimens we now have."

In October, 1892, he wrote in desperation to the Board of Regents that about a hundred boxes of specimens, piled in the basement and attic of the natural science building, could not be examined and displayed until more room was provided. He proposed that the attic be completely floored and two ventilating skylights be placed in the roof at once. Without proper housing the valuable material could "be of no use whatever," he declared.

Professor Nutting had a great ideal. A museum, a *complete* museum, was the center of it. And around the museum he wanted to build a great zoology department. His expeditions, to a large extent, were for the purpose of collecting specimens that students might examine and learn about nature from actual observation. In his "study" museum would be a collection of animals so complete and so arranged that it would illustrate the evolutionary progress of life, in order that students could see that progress graphically, vividly illustrated. And he wanted to house it in a strong, fireproof, beautiful building.

Toward the turn of the century a new building program was inaugurated to keep pace with the growth of the student body. After the liberal arts

building (Schaeffer Hall) was finished, the science faculty urged that adequate quarters be provided for their departments in preference to a proposed assembly and gymnasium hall. Their recommendations prevailed and in 1904 work began on the natural science building (Macbride Hall) on the site of the old science building which was moved to its present location across the street. Classes and other activities in the large three-story brick building were uninterrupted during the process. When the new science building was completed in 1908 the library and the zoolozy department with its museum were installed. Geology and botany stayed in the old science hall.

Professor Nutting seems to have fought against the intrusion of the library and the assembly hall, but, as a man with the interests of the University at heart, he gave in. He was frequently a member of the library committee, and he knew the situation from both sides. The temporary character of the arrangements seemed to justify them, even though many of his museum showcases had to go into the corridors. He worked hard over the plans, for he wanted this to be a beautiful building with a museum in the center. He planned it so that his ideal might eventually be realized — when the library and the auditorium were gone at last. The exterior decorations of the building —

animal heads, turtles, fish, leaves — all refer to natural science objects.

The library has been a guest ever since. It grew from the central room to the basement and up into the ends of the building, getting a stronger and stronger hold on the building with its book-stack tentacles. Nor was a new auditorium built. With the growth of the department of zoology, much crowding resulted.

And before Professor Nutting died, he saw his beautiful ideal reduced quite to ashes. The museum had ceased to be an instrument for study, and was divorced from the jurisdiction of the zoology department. He was still alive when the department made plans to move completely out of the natural science building into the laboratory building vacated by the medical college in 1926.

In matters relating to the development of his department of zoology, Professor Nutting brooked no frustration. He believed in the importance of his subject and the necessity of larger appropriations for zoology and for his museum. In the administration of his department, he was a skillful politician, getting his own way, usually, without fireworks. He was cautious, preferring to build slowly and solidly. He wanted to be shown a reason for changing, and he insisted on judging the reason.

For himself he accumulated very little property, though he was thrifty in many small things, investing all he had in travel for himself and his family. On his expeditions for the University, he usually paid all his own expenses as did the other members of the party. Faculty members, however, received their regular salaries during the time they were on expedition, because they were working for the University by collecting specimens to enlarge the museum and publicizing the school in the scientific world by their explorations. The University usually appropriated the necessary sums for containers, preservatives, and shipping charges on specimens, but very little more. And the value of the collections netted by the museum was judged far in excess of the cost.

A man of strong convictions, Professor Nutting was prepared to fight for what he *knew* to be right. When the faculty decided the University's policies by majority vote (to an extent unknown now), he was utterly fearless and outspoken — even opposing the president, when that seemed necessary, with all his energy. Nor was he afraid of antagonizing the whole world if in that manner he thought he could accomplish a desirable purpose. His sincerity was never questioned. He was respected for it, and no one seems to have been appointed on more committees than he.

For many years he led a faction of standpatters who resisted the introduction of commercial subjects into the curriculum and the reduction of the classical requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree. The University, he felt, was not intended to teach people how to make a living, but how to live. It should raise its standards and weed out the unfit according to the Darwinian doctrine of survival of the fittest.

Organic evolution was one of his major interests. He was ready to support Charles Darwin and his theories against all comers. "By tongue and pen he would rush to the defense of this master", testified his son Willis. "It was a delicate matter, in which no opposition could be brooked, and although I very early developed a strong antipathy for Mr. Darwin and spent a lot of time picking flaws in his theory, I don't believe that I dared to argue with my father on that point more than once or twice, and then I felt myself more or less tongue-tied, not overcome by arguments, but silenced by thunderbolts."

When Professor Nutting fought he gave no quarter and asked none. Before he struck, he organized his attack carefully, then waited for the most effective moment. And when it came, he rose to his feet and said his mind with the force of a thunderbolt. There was no hedging on the is-

sue, no ambiguity, no finesse except that involved in lighting the fuse to his bomb at the right moment.

As a speaker he was interesting and convincing rather than a polished orator. His enthusiasm, his fund of personal anecdotes that fitted every situation, and the dramatic sense that told him when to put in a bit of humor made him popular. After returning from each of his expeditions, he gave one or more public lectures, frequently illustrated with lantern slides, and the room was always packed. In the fall after the Fiji-New Zealand Expedition he filled the natural science auditorium one night a week for five successive weeks. His enunciation was that of the average midwesterner, his gestures were those of a classroom instructor exhibiting the objects on his desk, and his voice a little high in register with a tedency toward huskiness. But he was always interesting.

Many members of the faculty gave extension lectures. But it seems correct to assert that Professor Nutting's were among the most popular. He loved to impart information while people listened. Never boring, he could make neat, compact speeches that just fitted the forty-five minutes usually allowed. And the public liked his stories and the feeling of getting a little new knowledge.

Professor Nutting was in his forty-first year at the University of Iowa when he died. He was growing rather old and tired. Besides, he felt that the outlook of science was changing, growing away from him. In 1924, he told President Jessup that at the end of two more years he would be ready to resign as head of the department of zoology and curator of the museum. In accordance with this plan he partially retired to a professorship with a few classes and his research.

On Sunday, January 23, 1927, he died at his home in Iowa City, over sixty-eight years old. He is remembered as one of the "great triumvirate". According to Robert B. Wylie, head of the botany department and Nutting's cabinmate on the Fiji-New Zealand Expedition in 1922, Professors Calvin, Macbride, and Nutting, "long associated in the science work of our university, gave it such strength, character, and dignity that their names were almost synonymous with that of their university through a long period of years. While at present no fewer than twenty well-trained men teach in these three departments [geology, botany, zoology], they together make relatively less impression upon the State of Iowa as a whole than did these three men in their day."

WILSON L. TAYLOR

# The Man

To say that Charles C. Nutting was a scientist is to tell only half the truth. There were two quite definitely marked sides to his personality — a sociable, lovable, tolerant, expansive side and a serious, fighting, business-like, smashing one. He had a great capacity for appreciation and affection, and when he spoke of any member of his family, his face was usually lit by a big smile. He disliked being separated from them, and on most of his expeditions one or more of them went along.

His first wife died in 1891, a few days after the birth of Elizabeth, his only daughter. To take care of the baby and keep him from being too lonely, his sister Caroline came to live with him. Upon his little girl he showered affection and sympathetic understanding, respecting her wishes and cultivating her judgment. One day, while they were on a long walk, he asked his six-year-old daughter if she didn't think Eloise Willis was a very lovely lady. Elizabeth confirmed her father's opinion. He then suggested that she ask Miss Willis if she would be willing to be her new mother. Thus tactfully he won the consent of both ladies to his second marriage. Eloise Willis

Nutting became the mother of his sons, Willis and Charles.

Though he expected unquestioning obedience from his children he was generous with them. When Elizabeth was quarantined for scarlet fever he came every day to her window and brought a new toy. But he was never indulgent in "important" matters. He could punish severely. Willis remembers that he did not scold, but "his judgments were as inflexible as fate itself." If he found that he had punished unjustly he frankly admitted his mistake and apologized.

Next to his love for his family, Charles Nutting loved nature. He seems to have become a naturalist chiefly because of this. His love of nature was very nearly a religion, yet he did not say, as did Professor Macbride, that he could see God in everything. He seems to have loved nature for itself.

Of the ocean he was extravagantly fond. If he had been born on the seacoast, he might have been a sailor. His son, Charles, says, "I have seen him spend hours just looking at the sea." Seasickness never bothered him, and his delight in teasing less fortunate people was one of his chief social shortcomings. As he grew older he became quite considerate, but he found it hard to sympathize with such weakness.

Most people remember him in the last years of his life as having a pink, round, commanding head and piercing blue eyes that twinkled quizzically under heavy lids. His head was rather like that of H. G. Wells; with whiter, thinner hair in his later years, but with the same thick, short-cropped mustache, the same domed forehead, the same forceful and intelligent expression. His complexion was florid — had been all his life — with a pink-and-white transparency that many girls are said to have envied. His heavy cheeks were cross-hatched with innumerable lines.

Professor Nutting was a rather Napoleonic little man — physically, that is, and at a distance. At close range one forgot his size, noted the strength of his personality instead. Nor did one much notice his rather shabby clothing: he never cared much about his appearance. Habitually he wore dark suits that were seldom pressed, and ties that no one can recall the color of, and round-toed shoes that were comfortable.

His short legs accounted, to some extent, for his size. He sat down tall enough, but he stood up short. His hands and feet were small, and he walked the mile between his office in what is now Macbride Hall and his home at 922 East Washington Street with short jerky steps.

When studying, he would perch his pince-nez

glasses insecurely on his nose and settle down to work. In conversation he was continually playing with them, putting them on, taking them off, gesturing with them unconsciously while he expanded humorously on one of his travel yarns. He had a hearty and pleasant voice that everyone recalls. It was rather high, slightly husky, and youthfully enthusiastic.

Professor Nutting had a passion for orderliness that carried through all his work and even to his daily life. No doubt the volume, scope, and thoroughness of his scientific contributions, his expeditions, his semi-popular writings can be explained only in relation to his love for order, his attention to detail. His desks, both at the University and at home, were always piled high with his projects, but he insisted that he knew exactly where everything was and discouraged everyone from disturbing the mass of books, papers, and notes.

He lived strictly according to rule. All his classes he arranged to have come in the morning, and each afternoon he secluded himself for two or three hours in his office, locked the door, and dug into his special work. He allowed no one to disturb him, even refused to have a telephone installed. Then, at exactly 4:30 o'clock, he went to play billiards.

Club life was probably his most enjoyed relax-

ation. He loved aggressive, friendly argument, and was never slow to give vigorous expression to his own opinions and defend them valiantly. He liked crowds, and he liked to dominate them, be the center of them. He liked to lead group singing, to entertain incessantly with stories almost too good to be true, to tell of the famous people he had met, and especially to narrate his varied travel experiences. He told them all with twinkling eyes and infectious, robust humor. Nor was he afraid to sing little songs that he made up on the spur of the moment. At banquets he was the sort of after-dinner speaker that justified all others. This ability to entertain he carried over into his popular science lectures (always well attended by the public), into his classrooms, and even into his Sunday school teaching at the Presbyterian Church.

Among the social organizations to which he belonged were the Triangle Club, where he went every Saturday night and six afternoons a week, the Know Nothing Club, made up of faculty members and their wives who meet twice a month on Sunday evening, the Left Over Club, and one named merely "The Clan". He was the wit and the life of them all. But, though he loved society, he cared nothing for social prestige. He cordially disliked pompous stiff-necked people. He himself

was honest, blunt, democratic, and always more hearty than effusive.

Besides smoking cigars and telling stories, billiards was Professor Nutting's favorite pastime. Regularly at 4:30 o'clock six afternoons a week until the death of Judge Samuel Hayes, the two men met for a game of billiards in the rooms of the Triangle Club. There the same table and cues were always reserved for them, and they played silently, only an occasional "Pshaw!" expressive of the deepest disgust coming now and then from the judge. And each time the ejaculation came, it struck Professor Nutting with such amusement that he could scarcely conceal it. So regularly did they meet to play together, and so deep was their friendship, that when Professor Nutting had to go out of town he would mail a card of apology in advance.

Though he was courteous and considerate of others, he was at heart a "rugged individualist" who believed in the ruthless theory of natural selection, the survival of the fittest. It was his creed. Socialistic utopias, according to his reasoning, could not succeed because there would be no economic competition, hence no incentive to work. He himself worked hard, and he expected hard work of his associates. Though he trained many Doctors of Philosophy, he was too busy to acquire

that degree himself. Of the easy-going, communistic Fijians, who had been relegated to a position of inferiority by the aggressive Hindus who had invaded their islands, he wrote, "The lesson, then, is that communism, although an alluring ideal, is but an irridescent dream doomed by an inexorable natural law to failure when brought into competition with a people inured to the struggle for existence by which progress is alone possible from the biological point of view."

In spite of this rigorous philosophy, he was an optimist. He did not believe in complaining. Though afflicted with three major ailments he always remained cheerful. While he was still a young man he found himself unable to pass an insurance examination. "Rapid heart," the doctor told him, "but no immediate danger."

About 1907 he first noticed a swelling on the right side of his neck, and in a few years he had a goitre of conspicuous proportions. He took to wearing high collars, claimed it did not bother him, and refused to let it curtail his social or scientific activities. In 1919, about seven and one-half years before his death, he decided to have it removed. The operation, under the circumstances, was considered a dangerous one. It was successful, however, and he came back from the Mayo clinic very happy with the result.

Glaucoma, an ailment for which there is no known cure, assailed his eyes; and for at least fifteen years he had to go to a doctor regularly for treatment, yet few people knew of this trouble. Glaucoma is a disease in which the fluid content of the eyeball increases and the pressure within tends to deaden the optic nerve. It made his work more difficult during the last years.

In the end it was his heart that failed.

The walls of his study at home were lined with books. Near his desk was a revolving bookcase. In one side of it were the complete works of Charles Darwin, and in the other the complete works of Mark Twain.

WILSON L. TAYLOR

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