



Chauncey Wright

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human knowledge, and the value of inventions is read only on the patent-rolls, the seeds which are scattered broadcast by the roadside and not selfishly garnered in some private granary, though the sower may have no sense of his own merits, will make the harvest of future science. The deep impression which a quiet, unobtrusive, self-poised career, like that of Mr. Winlock, makes upon the community, can never be known until it is finished. And then we see the beautiful spectacle of all — friends and strangers, those who knew him best, and those who seemed to know him but little — spontaneously offering the tributes of gratitude and affection which they would have refused to the noisy claimant. This is the best hope and the highest reward of science.

CHAUNCEY WRIGHT.

CHAUNCEY WRIGHT, who died suddenly at Cambridge on the 12th of September, 1875, was born at Northampton, September 20, 1830, and was graduated at Harvard College in 1852. He was an accomplished and able mathematician, and was a member of the Academy in the mathematical section; but it was in the direction of philosophy that his original, profound, and accurate thought had its most congenial exercise, and found frequent public expression through various journals and reviews. After the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, his attention was chiefly devoted to the discussion which then received so powerful an impulse; and he is, probably, most widely known as a participant in that discussion. One of his articles, which appeared in the "North American Review," was considered so important a contribution to the literature of this school, that it was republished in pamphlet form in England, — a compliment the more noteworthy, because it was paid to one who was not a professed naturalist. Mr. Wright took much interest in this Academy, and was for several years its Secretary. He exerted an important and peculiar influence in scientific and literary circles, and one which, there is every reason to believe, would have become wide and commanding, if his life had been spared. We cannot hesitate to say that his loss is one of the most serious that the Academy and the whole educated community have this year to deplore; and we are glad to learn that his friends are preparing a republication of his writings, now scattered through the volumes of periodicals, and will join to it an account of his life and mental characteristics.