

## CHARLES FRANCIS CHOATE.

[1860]

**Charles Francis<sup>7</sup> Choate** (*George<sup>6</sup>, George<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4</sup>, Francis<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*), son of George [503] and Margaret Manning (Hodges) Choate, was born May 16, 1828, in Salem, Mass. He married, Nov. 7, 1855, *Elizabeth Waterman Carlile*, daughter of Edward and Hannah (Thompson) Carlile. She was born Aug. 8, 1834, in Providence, R. I. They resided in Cambridge, Mass.

## THE CHILDREN WERE:

EDWARD CARLILE, [1557] b. March 9, 1857.  
 SARAH CARLILE, [1558] b. May 5, 1858; m. Sept. 18, 1877, *Joshua Montgomery Sears*.  
 INFANT SON, [1559] b. Jan. 16, 1860. He died in infancy, Jan. 19, 1860.  
 MARGARET MANNING, [1560] b. Nov. 18, 1861; m. June 12, 1890, *Nathaniel I. Bowditch*.  
 HELEN T., [1561] b. May 8, 1863. She died in early life, Jan. 18, 1884.  
 CHARLES FRANCIS, [1562] b. Oct. 23, 1864; m. June 15, 1892, *Louise Burnett*.

**Memoranda.**

CHARLES FRANCIS CHOATE, A. M., LL. B.

CHARLES FRANCIS CHOATE prepared for college in the schools of Salem, Mass., and graduated in the Class of 1849 from Harvard College, and in 1852 from the Harvard Law School. For three years, from 1850 to 1853, he was a tutor in the department of mathematics in the College. He was admitted to the Bar in September, 1854, and opened an office in Boston, and from that time to 1877 Mr. Choate was actively engaged in professional work. His law practice was very considerable as counsel for railroads. As early as 1864 he became the regular counsel for the Old Colony Railroad Corporation, and for more than thirty years was in the service of that company.

In 1872 he was chosen a director, and in 1877 he was elected President, and by annual re-election he continued to hold that office until the consolidation and lease of the road, May 1, 1893, to the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad Company. He was the President also of the Old Colony Steamboat Company for the same period.

During Mr. Choate's administration as president there was a marvellous development of both the railroad and the steamboat companies. An equipment of new steamers was achieved, boats of unequalled convenience and comfort giving to the Fall River Line from Boston to New York a world-wide reputation.

Mr. Choate has been director and vice-president of the New England Trust Company, and June 13, 1893, he was chosen Actuary of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, which office he now, in 1896, fills. He was a member of the General Court from Cambridge in 1863, and of the City Government of Cambridge in 1864 and 1865. *Vid. Men of Progress, pp. 549, 550.*

The following newspaper clipping illustrates the readiness with which Mr. Choate could meet an exigency and see a way through a difficulty. It reads as follows:—

"Mr. Choate, president of the Old Colony Railroad Company, believes there is, in homely phrase, 'more than one way to kill a cat.' A wrecked ship bearing the date of 1626, was recently dug up on Cape Cod and given to the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth. 'Can't you ship it to us over your road free?' they asked him. 'No-o,' he said, 'I'm afraid I can't. The interstate law won't let me. But,' he added, reflectively, 'what did you say the date was, 1626? Oh, then we can fix it. I can make a special tariff for ships and marine articles manufactured previous to 1627!' And under the 'special tariff' the venerable hulk went free." *Vid. The Boston Evening Journal, Feb. 4, 1889.*

Mr. Choate is not only a man of large business capacities and great executive ability, but a man of a large and generous heart. Many a young man owes much to the friendly interest and influence of Mr. Choate in the start of a successful business career. He is a man of impressive presence and dignity, somewhat reserved in manner, of few words, but right to the point. His sympathies are tender and profound; like the deep waters, the surface does not reveal them. He is wholly genuine, serene, and commanding in his manhood and life, a fine example of all that is noblest and best in character as well as of all that gives success.