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Samuel G Howe

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Resumé of the Life of Dr. Samuel S. Howe

The name of Dr. Samuel S. Howe is well known in nearly every corner of the world. He was born in Weymouth, Mass. Nov. 14, 1811, and the stories of his boyhood show that he was of a bold and adventurous disposition. These traits of character lasted over his whole life, and those who knew Dr. Howe found him always ready for a good joke.

He first attended the Boston Latin School, and then at the age of seventeen, entered Brown University at Providence. At college, although he was a good scholar, he did not advance very rapidly in his studies, except in Latin, on account of his love for practical jokes. Perhaps many have heard the story, but boys found the tower of the President of the college, to the upper story of one of the buildings, where it remained two or three days. Dr. Howe was the leader of this joke.

Dr. Howe graduated in 1831, and then began the study of medicine. He succeeded in this line very well, and was soon able to practise. About this time, the Revolution in Greece broke out. The stories of the struggle

and sufferings of the Blind, aroused the generous
feeling in Dr. Howe, and he decided to go to Europe
himself, and find in what way he could. He can
get a faint idea, of the hardships that he endured
while there, but quotes an extract from one
of his letters.

To say, I could do of little or no use
as a surgeon, was not expected to divide my attention
between killing Turks, helping Quakers, and taking care
of myself. I could carry my gun and heavy felt
with pistols all day long, clambering among the
mountain passes, could eat snow and snails, or
go without anything, and at night lie down
on the ground with only my shaggy capote, and
sleep like a log.

He remained in Greece six years, fighting,
and then returned to America, to obtain money
for the sufferers. A large sum of money and a
large amount of clothing was contributed. Dr.
Howe returned with three, and devoted the re-
mainder of his life, ^{to} promoting the welfare
of the Blind.

Soon after his return to America, he be-
came interested in the education of the
blind. In order to secure himself upon the
principles of teaching, he made the next year,
a visit to Germany, where he visited a
number of Schools for the Blind. He came
home and began the experiment of teaching

the blind. It was at first upon six children whom he found in the street. One of the first inventions which he tried, was raised letters. These he joined by gummed tumps upon card-board.

In order to raise funds to carry on this work, he appealed to the ladies of Boston who held the first fair ever known in this city. For \$1.25 the old hotel in South Boston was bought and his little school removed to it. After he had nearly established the school in South Boston, his attention was attracted to Laura Bridgeman. She was then about six years old, and had the misfortune of being deaf, dumb and blind, and having her sense of smell impaired. Dr. Howe first attempting to teach her, formed every day in the palm of his hand some letters of the alphabet and then combining them into short words. After forming a word on his hand, he would place the object in her hand. This work was revolutionary and difficult, but Dr. Howe never wavered in his work, wishing to do all he could for the benefit of his fellow-men.

Another European trip was made by the Dr. in company with Horace Mann. This time their mind was busy forming plans for the deaf-mutes. This experiment was attempted upon poor little street ways, and, as it proved successful, a small school was established in

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Boston, under the charge of Gen. Brown.

The other classes of misfortunates were aided by the work of this good man. - The ignorant and idiotic. A school for the latter class, which Dr. Howe started, is still flourishing in South Boston.

At this time our late war commenced. On account of feeble health, the Dr. could not enter the field of battle, but still he was not idle. He spent the time in writing articles for the paper, in ^{his} speeches, and ^{he} served in the medical department. By the ^{out} ^{break} of our war, quarrels began again in Greece, and thinking it was his duty to aid ^{them}, made another expedition with supplies.

When he returned from Greece, his attention was called to affairs in Santa Domingo. Although he was very feeble, still he persisted in our expedition there, where he spent a number of years in active service.

In 1874, he had a sudden attack of palsy, of which he never fully recovered, and two years after, 1876, was taken with consumption, and died January 9, 1876.

Thus one of the most useful and unselfish lives ended. Boston may well be

proud of this name upon her citizen list.

Although he served this country and other countries, he disliked to be made public and never sought to have his name renowned, but merely toiled, on account of his love for human beings.

Would that many would follow his example and not live for the good of themselves alone but for the good of others.

(10)

7/20-22

Delay allowed.

Clara B. Child.
May 26 - 1862.