To Prof. Petreux [illegible]

of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1870

(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best:)

Sir,—

It is the wish of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow.—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c. of all which will be deposited and preserved in the Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for “Graduates’ Works.”

He also desires that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time; especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

Union College,
Schenectady, N. Y.

Specimens of Biographical Sketches for the Proposed Catalogue.

John Giddon Brown was born in Quinipiack, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Giddon) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Hadleyburgh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Sepemiah H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoosen, Esq. In 1829 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1836-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Supreme Court 1842-6. He died June 20, 1840, of cholera, aged 40 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1816.

Joseph Hamshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Hamshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penna.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbles- town, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Hasbrouck, Conn., 1825-50; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831-40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the “Communicant’s Companion.” He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1796; taught a few months in Saratoga, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Petear, of Cammeraire; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rible, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813–15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830–5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the “Functions of the Brain,” and on “Gunshot Wounds.”

N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible, but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).
2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge, if he have but one fact, let that be sent.
3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.
4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the same size, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.
5. In case where no answer to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notice, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.
Information required for the foregoing sketches

I. Name: Rufus Putnam

II. Names of both Parents; thus:—
Edward and Esther (Johnson) Putnam

III. Birth Place:
Lancaster, NY

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:

[Here list residences with dates]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:

[List all academies with dates]

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:

[Describe occupation and location]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:

[Describe profession and details]

IX. Where he has practiced his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:

[Describe locations and denominations]

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:

[Describe additional occupations]

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:

[XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:

[Describe titles and sources]

XV. Is there an engraving portrait of him? (One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.)

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

[Describe date and circumstances]

[Signature: Your Affectionate Son, Rufus Putnam]
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

Ancestors came from England and settled principally in Connecticut.

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of death, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:—

[John Orton Smith, Boston, Massachusetts, died 1918. His brother, Joseph R. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]
RUFUS PUTNAM

Born in Lansingburgh, N. Y., October 5, 1793
Son of Elisha and Hester (Johnson) Putnam.
Her father, Stephen Johnson, was a shipmaster and
used to say that he was in Boston Harbor and took part
in the Tea-party, disguised as an Indian.
Married September 27, 1812, Harriet Stow, who died
May 20, 1815; he married, second, in New York, Charlotte
Crane.
Rufus Putnam was in the canal transportation business
in New York.
He died in New York May 18, 1845.

Children:

John Smith, born Mar. 10, 1813; died Mar. 4, 1814.
William Stow born May 12, 1815; died Sept. 20, 1825.

History of the Putnam Family
Eben Putnam
Salem, Mass.
1891
TROY & ERIE LINE.

MERCHANDISE AND PASSENGERS FORWARDED TO
Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Proprietors.
COIT, KIMBERLY & CO. Buffalo.
JOHN S. IDE..............Troy.
R. PUTNAM, ..............N.York

Agents.
R. PUTNAM,
J. H. WILGUS, N.York
27 Coenties Slip,

Mark Packages, "TROY & ERIE LINE."
Ship by OLD LINE TROY TOW BOATS, which
LEAVE COENTIES SLIP AT 5 P.M. DAILY.