

for through all time by myriads of people in the great reference libraries of the world. The printer who dared to publish them would immortalize his name with the author's. Of such are ten small quarto volumes entitled Munsell's Historical Series, of which but small editions were printed. The four volumes of the Collections before mentioned were also published at a great pecuniary loss, about one hundred subscribers only having been secured. He hoped for substantial assistance from the citizens of Albany, but he was disappointed. In this he fared no better than in his publication of the History of Brooklyn, N. Y., by Henry R. Stiles, in three octavo volumes. For some reason the work, though of the highest value to those interested in the history of that city, never met with sales sufficient to pay expenses. The truth is, probably, that the Albany and Brooklyn of to-day look more to New England than to Holland for the history of their ancestry.

The aid which Mr. Munsell rendered to the New England Historic, Genealogical Society, in publishing the REGISTER at a critical period of its existence, should not be omitted in this place. In the autumn of 1861, the contract with Mr. Drake for the publication of the work expired, and as the subscription list had fallen to about five hundred copies, he was unwilling to continue the publication. It being early in the war, and a time of unusual business depression, no other publisher in Boston was found to assume the responsibility. Mr. Munsell, on learning this from a member of the publishing committee, wrote to him, offering to publish the periodical on the same terms that Mr. Drake had done, if the society would edit the work without expense to him, at the same time stating that he should not do this with the expectation of making money, but as a contribution to a cause in which he felt a deep interest. The offer was gladly accepted, though the treasurer of the society, the late Mr. William B. Towne, submitted and advocated a plan, which a few years later was successfully carried out, of publishing the work in Boston by the society, with a club of members to guarantee it against loss. His plan was not adopted, as it was thought a regular publisher would have advantages over those not in the trade. Mr. Drake had printed one thousand copies at an annual cost of about one thousand dollars. Mr. Munsell reduced the number printed to five hundred and fifty, thereby considerably lessening the expense. Through his exertions, aided by members of the society, the subscription list was materially increased, and during the second and third years six hundred and fifty copies were printed. Mr. Munsell published the work three years; but there being inconveniences attending the publication at Albany, it was decided to publish the work at Boston on the plan suggested by Mr. Towne. At the conclusion of the contract, the society, through the Board of Directors, testified to its great indebtedness to Mr. Munsell.

He was one of the original founders of the Albany Institute, and