

# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916

SIMON NEWCOMB

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MS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-Hudson, N. Y.

THE numerous published biographical sketches of Simon Newcomb all fail to set forth accurately the full extent of the world-wide recognition of his contributions to scientific knowledge, and the breadth of his interests and activities. No other American scientist has ever achieved such general recognition of eminence. It seems desirable, therefore, to assemble the facts to fill this lacuna.<sup>1</sup> The plan which Monsieur Lebon has employed in the admirable *Savants du Jour* series suggested the form of the following synoptic notes.

These notes were prepared several years ago in consultation with members of Professor Newcomb's family, and after inspection of his remarkable collection of diplomas, medals, decorations, and certificates of membership and of other honors. This collection became the property of the nation in 1909, and it is now prominently displayed in the historical section of the National Museum in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

Born at Wallace, Nova Scotia, March 12, 1835  
 1853: Came to the United States.  
 1854: Teacher in a country school at Massey's Cross Roads, Kent Co., Md.  
 1855: Teacher in the village school at Sudlersville, Md.  
 1855, May 26: First publication, a letter in *The National Intelligencer*, Washington, D. C.  
 1857, Jan.-Sept. 1861: Computer in the Nautical Almanac office, then located at Cambridge, Mass. (it has been in Washington, D. C. since 1866). See also 1860, 1861.  
 1858, July 2: B.Sc., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. See also 1875, 1879-80, 1884, 1898-99, 1906.

<sup>1</sup> A complete bibliography of Newcomb's life and works, by the writer, will soon be published elsewhere.