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## JOSEPH HENRY[1]

JOSEPH HENRY was an international figure. The city of Albany, as his birthplace and the scene of his early discoveries, may rightfully assert a claim on Henry; Princeton, the site of his later triumphs in the study of electricity, justly claims a share of his renown; and Washington, where he devoted the last thirty years of his life to the organization and development of the scientific interests of the nation, has a deep sense of proprietorship in him. Yet, like all really great men, Henry belongs to the nation, and the nation has in many ways manifested her pride in his achievements. An impressive memorial service was held in his honor in 1878 in the United States House of Representatives. Five years later his monument in bronze was erected in the Smithsonian grounds by authority of Congress. Still later his statue was placed in the rotunda of the Library of Congress beside that of Newton, the two symbolizing scientific achievement of the highest order. And in 1924 a bust of Henry was placed in the Hall of Fame in New York City, thus according him a place among America's immortals. International recognition of his pioneer work was accorded him through the action of the International Congress of Electricians at Chicago in 1893, in adopting the name "henry" as the standard unit of inductive resistance.

In considering the life of this great American, we must remember that his half century of productive activity was divided into two distinct periods. The first included the two decades in which his brilliant researches in electro-magnetics brought him world-wide and permanent renown. The succeeding thirty years were devoted to a task for which he is not so well known to technicians, but which in the long run of years has proved to be of at least equal value to his epoch-making discoveries—the task of the organizer and administrator.

Henry's famous discoveries in the field of electro-magnetics, in the course of which he transformed the feeble and inefficient apparatus of Sturgeon into a powerful electromagnet capable of lifting a weight of 3,500 pounds, are perhaps too well known to need recounting. This remarkable advancement was due to his discovery of the necessary law of proportion between the electro-motive force in the battery and the resistance in the magnet, and his two distinct types of magnets, which he named the "intensity

[1] Address delivered on October 16 at the sixty-first convocation of the University of the State of New York.