

SCIENCE

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HARMON NORTHRUP MORSE

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AFTER a long life spent in service in Johns Hopkins University Professor Morse died September 8, in the seventy-second year of his age. He was born October 15, 1848, at Cambridge, Vermont, the son of a farmer, and died at Chebeague, Maine, where he had spent his summers for many years. He was graduated from Amherst College in 1873, then went to Göttingen, and received the degree of Ph.D. from that university in 1875. The year 1875-76 was spent at Amherst as assistant in chemistry. In 1875 it was announced that the Johns Hopkins University would begin its work in the year 1876. Shortly after it became known that the writer of this notice was to be the professor of chemistry in the new university he received a call from Morse who brought a letter of introduction from Emerson. This letter led me to take more than ordinary interest in the bearer. Whatever we were to do in Baltimore, it seemed clear that I should need an assistant, and I told him I would in due time arrange for his appointment. Hearing a little later of the fellowships that were to be awarded I secured one of these for Morse and so his connection with the Johns Hopkins University began. Before the doors were opened, however, he was designated associate, and we began our work together for better or for worse. We had no laboratory. We had less than a handful of students. What was to come of it? I need not go into the story, thus suggested except to say that we were absolutely untrammelled and left to work out our own salvation. Morse and I were of one mind as to the object to be attained and there were no discussions in regard to the methods to be adopted. They were not original, but they had never been tried in this country. There had never been an opportunity. The opportunity that many of us had hoped for, had dreamed of, was furnished by the bounty