

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Israel Platt Pardee was born May 12, 1852, in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, the son of Ario Pardee and Anna Robinson Pardee. Ario Pardee, who amassed a fortune in the coal industry, was Lafayette College's first great benefactor, endowing the scientific school in 1866 and later providing funds for the construction of a major campus building to house it. Israel Pardee later became the first Pardee to attend Lafayette College when he enrolled as a member of the Class of 1874.

In 1869, at the request of his father, Israel Pardee accompanied Lafayette president William C. Cattell on a trip to Europe. Cattell had been granted a one-year leave of absence to observe the methods of scientific instruction employed in the European polytechnical schools. It was during this trip that Pardee developed a deep admiration for Cattell and a desire to attend Lafayette College.

Upon returning from abroad, Pardee enrolled at Lafayette College and earned a degree in chemistry. Following his 1874 graduation, Pardee remained at Lafayette College an additional year to complete post-graduate research in chemistry. He then went to work for iron companies at Stanhope and Secaucus, New Jersey. Pardee eventually became president of Hazleton Iron Works and served as president and chairman of the board of directors of Hazleton National Bank. He also served on the boards of directors for many railroads, as well as insurance, mining, and manufacturing companies.

Israel Pardee was actively involved with his alma mater throughout his life, beginning with service on an alumni committee on athletics in 1890. Immediately following the death of his father in 1892, Pardee was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of the college. It was during his time as a trustee, and in part due to his generosity, that the college began to flourish. Pardee established a scholarship fund for students from Hazleton in memory of his father. He donated funds for the Anna Robinson Pardee Memorial Infirmary in memory of his mother, and later in his life established the James Lee Pardee Placement Bureau in memory of his son.

Pardee also became very active in the Alumni Association and maintained a long-term interest in its growth. In addition, Pardee, together with his fraternity brothers John Markle '80 and Clay W. Holmes '69, funded the construction of the Theta Delta Chi Fraternity house in 1908. Pardee also served as national president of Theta Delta Chi.

Following the resignation of John Welles Hollenback as president of the Board of Trustees in 1915, Israel Pardee was elected President of the Board, becoming the first Lafayette graduate to hold the position that had once been held by his father, Ario Pardee. Israel Pardee's tenure as president of the Board of Trustees coincided with the administration of Dr. John Henry MacCracken, president of the college. It was during the Pardee-MacCracken period that Lafayette began to gain acclaim for being a progressive school, despite its small size.

For nearly eleven years, Israel Pardee presided over the Board. In 1925 at the age of 74, Pardee decided to retire and tendered his resignation, an event which coincided with the resignation of college president MacCracken. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, his resignation was reluctantly accepted and he was named honorary president until the Board could designate a successor.

In 1930 Israel Pardee was greatly elated to see his son, James Lee Pardee '13, elected to serve on the Board of Trustees. James became the third successive generation of Pardees to serve on the Board. However,

Pardee's joy at his son's election was short-lived, as James died only a few months after his appointment. It was at this time that Pardee donated money to the college in order to establish the James Lee Pardee Placement Bureau in memory of his son. Israel Pardee died nearly four years later on October 14, 1934.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of a two-volume typescript of the diaries (1 box—1.5 linear inches) kept by Israel Platt Pardee during a tour of Europe in 1869-80. The diaries have been bound and entitled "A Boy's Trip to Europe." The location of the original is unknown.

In 1869, Dr. William C. Cattell, Lafayette College president, was granted a one-year leave of absence to lead a small party to Europe for the purpose of examining the methods of instruction employed in the polytechnical schools, with the hope of bringing these methods back to Lafayette College. President Cattell was accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth McKeen Cattell; his children, Harry and Jimmy; along with H.B. Ware; and Israel and Annie Pardee, the children of Lafayette benefactor, Ario Pardee.

The first volume of the diaries, beginning with entries on May 6, 1869, recounts the voyage of the Lafayette group across the Atlantic on the Cunard *S.S. Palmyra*, and their landing at Liverpool, England. Shortly after their arrival in England, the group set out for Scotland, where one of the highlights of the trip included attending the celebratory ceremonies for the birthday of Queen Victoria.

From Scotland it was on to Ireland; however, the visit was brief because Israel Pardee's young sister, Ellie, had become ill with typhoid fever and his father, Ario, sent a letter requesting that the group start for Paris at once. The group arrived in Paris shortly thereafter, but their stay in Paris was a sad one as Ellie Pardee died. Israel and Annie remained for a brief time with their father before rejoining the group in London.

Scandinavia was next on the itinerary, and the Lafayette group visited Sweden, Norway, and Finland. Israel was most struck by the kindness and friendliness of the people. From Scandinavia the group went to Russia, where Israel found everything quite expensive when compared to America. Despite the high prices, Israel liked St. Petersburg very much, however, he could not muster the same affection for Moscow.

The second volume of Israel's diaries chronicles the Lafayette group's tour of Eastern Europe. Their first stop was Warsaw, Poland. Disenchanted with Poland, the group moved onto Prussia and westward into Denmark. From Denmark, Israel and Annie returned to Prussia, which astounded Israel with its magnificent cultural events. Israel and Annie traveled throughout Prussia and then proceeded to Saxony, and from thence back to France, where their second visit proved more enjoyable than the first.

Israel was tutored in Paris, and it was during this time that his patriotism and mild distaste for Europe surfaces in his diary entries. The Lafayette group remained in Paris for several months, making a brief sojourn in Geneva, Switzerland, and eventually embarked on the steamship *Hammonia* for America. Israel's final entry was written June 22, 1870, as Long Island, New York, came into view. A postscript added ten years later, June 21, 1880, describes the current status of the voyagers.

INVENTORY

Volume I: May 6, 1869 – October 15, 1869

Volume II: October 15, 1869 – June 22, 1870, June 21, 1880