

Before many months passed his parents decided wisely not to insist upon a separation which really brought suffering. In July his brother John Whiting died suddenly at home, a few days before the time set for him to graduate from Harvard College. The young man had shown great promise, was of an elevated and serious disposition, and seems to have had an unusual influence in his brief career.

In a letter to their mother from Cambridge, seven years after, Frederic writes: —

“I met lately with a very affectionate and touching tribute to the character of our Whiting. Among what are called the Bowdoin Prize Dissertations, bound and preserved in the College Library, is one by Bellows, now of New York, written during the year after he graduated. On a blank leaf of the manuscript he had written the following words: —

“ ‘In secret memorial of a man of undefiled heart, sound mind and gentle manners, cut off in the dew of youth devoted to God and usefulness, — This humble effort of one whom he loved and labored to benefit is dedicated to the memory of John Whiting Huntington, classmate and chum of the author.’

“ It implies, what I suppose is very true, that Mr. Bellows ascribes his first religious impressions, that have led him to his present useful and distinguished position,¹ to the example and efforts of his roommate.”