

Paul's in football and hockey, the two sports in which he was most interested. Taking an extra year and going through the "Upper Remove," his influence throughout the school was profound, and afterwards exemplified by the many subscriptions towards the "Hobart Baker Memorial Skating Rink Fund" at Princeton University, sent in unsolicited by boys at school with him at that time.

Baker continued to excel at sports in college, as he had at school. He entered Princeton in 1910 and signaled his entrance by winning the Freshman football game from Yale by a brilliant run for a touchdown. He was also a member of his class baseball team that year. During the next three years he played half-back on the Varsity Eleven and his drop kicking and catching of punts were important factors in Princeton's victories. He helped defeat both Yale and Harvard in 1911, and no team on which he played was defeated by Yale. He captained the football team his senior year. Though brilliant in football, his career at hockey was even more so, both at St. Paul's and Princeton. In this, his favorite sport, he was in a class by himself, and is acknowledged to have been the greatest amateur hockey player this country has ever produced. He captained the hockey team in his Junior year, and with characteristic unselfishness declined a re-election the following year. As one would expect, Baker was a perfect leader of men, and as captain of the football and hockey teams received the profound admiration and respect of all who played under him.

Although his devotion to sports usurped a great deal of his time he did not devote himself entirely to this side of college life. Throughout his four years at Princeton he always maintained a high scholastic record. Universally popular, he received many undergraduate honors. He served on the Senior Council, his class prom committee, and



HOBART AMORY HARE BAKER

1903-1910

It is exceedingly difficult to pay fitting tribute to a man who stood for so much as Hobart Baker. His record at St. Paul's School, at Princeton University, in the business world, as an aviator in the World War, and finally his tragic death in an airplane accident in France, while performing what he considered to be his duty, are memories that will linger long in the minds of all throughout this country.

The son of the late Alfred T. Baker, Hobart arrived at St. Paul's in 1903 and soon acquired a foremost position among his fellow students. Baker was not at school long before he was noted for his integrity, scholastic ability and sportsmanship. He excelled, as is known, even at St.

spent much of his time doing social work for the Philadelphia society and the Y. M. C. A. This latter work took him to adjacent cities where he made speeches encouraging youths of the country to lead clean and healthful lives. He was a member of the Ivy Club.

After graduating from college Baker moved to New York and entered the firm of Johnson and Higgins, Marine Insurance. Here he spent five months. Leaving this firm, in the spring of 1915, he entered the employ of J. P. Morgan & Co. and remained with them until a few months before his entrance into the army. During this interim he was connected with his father's firm of A. T. Baker & Co. at Manayunk, Pa.

In 1916 he enlisted in the Aviation Reserve Corps, training at Governors Island. Here he undertook and completed a training course that equipped him by degree and examination for real flying work abroad. Baker excelled in flying, as he had in all the sports in which he participated. In 1917, as a member of the first squadron to leave this country, he went to France, with the rank of 1st Lieutenant and went through various training schools there and in England. Later he commanded the 141st Aero Squadron. He was officially credited with bringing down three enemy planes, and received the decoration of the Croix de Guerre "for exceptional valor under fire."

With his discharge and sailing papers in his pocket he went to the aviation field he was in charge of at Toul, and wishing to take one final flight before leaving asked for a plane. Hearing that there was one plane in doubtful condition, that needed testing, he insisted that he, as commanding officer of the field, test this plane himself, against the advice and wishes of all his subordinates present. This flight, on December 26th, 1918, proved to be his last.

Major Charles J. Biddle, who was associated with Cap-

tain Baker in the Air Service in France, said of him shortly after his death:

"As a squadron commander Captain Baker was very successful, for the officers and men under his command loved and admired him, as did all who knew him. His pilots knew that he would never ask them to undertake anything which he would not do himself, and that in him they had a friend who was constantly watching over their safety and who would never forsake them regardless of the consequences to himself. His enlisted men knew that he was always thinking of their welfare and comfort, and that any order which came from Captain Baker would be just and fair."

"As a pilot he was one of the very best; he enjoyed flying and handled his machine with the greatest skill. I have never known a man who was more eager to fly, or who tried harder to give his Country the very best that was in him. He fought whenever the opportunity offered and always with the most fearless courage. The only reason that Captain Baker's score in German machines brought down was not higher was because the chances which came to him were few, owing to the fact that his orders for active service at the front were delayed so long after his arrival in France. Had he had them, or had the war continued, there is no doubt that his tally would have been a long one. His record as an officer was splendid and he was a son of whom St. Paul's may well be proud."

To those who profoundly believe in the worth of the American scholastic and collegiate system, with its emphasis on character and on the human and manly qualities; and in the American collegiate athletics, with their gruelling discipline; their training and constancy, loyalty and subordination of self; their development of the spirit of comradeship, team play and sportsmanship, the memory of Hobart

Baker will tend to crystallize the true tradition for the youth of the future. He typifies in men's minds the spirit of American youth. He lived as he died, doing his duty unostentatiously, entirely unselfish, always thinking of others rather than of himself.

An athlete, a scholar, trained in spirit and body to meet grim trials and to show the worth of American character,—brave, simple, human, true,—a perfect Christian gentleman—such a man was Hobart Amory Hare Baker.