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of
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Mrs. Minor M. Davis

North Chatham, Mass.

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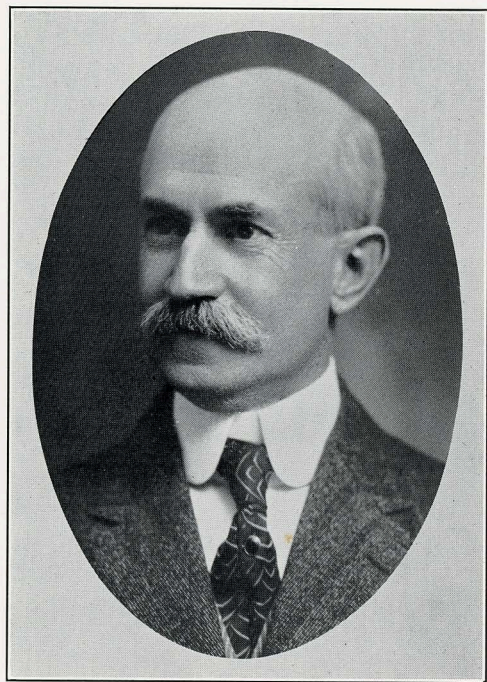
Folio No.

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To preparation of quarter page halftone
portrait of your husband, the late
Minor Meek Davis, for publication, with
His biography in the NATIONAL CYCLOPEDIA
OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY - - - - -

\$100. 00

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Minor Meek Davis

Born "Dechive," North Chatham, Massachusetts, March 28th, 1859.

Parents -- Capt. Samuel Davis of Chatham
Lucy Ann Hoyer of Baltimore (born Medford, Massachusetts).

Parents moved to South Danvers, now Peabody in 1862 and thence to Nantucket in 1868, where Minor Davis attended public school and, later the excellent Coffin School where he found delight if and when permitted to watch or try experiments in the small physics laboratory.

In 1872 Captain Davis took his family to Nebraska City, Nebraska, where Minor was a Western Union Telegraph Company messenger and learned something of telegraphy; thence to Washington, D.C. in 1873 where he was employed as operator by various telegraph companies. The succeeding five years were spent in Washington, Philadelphia and Baltimore; telegraphing.

In the summer of 1878 Minor went to New York to work three months as substitute operator in the Western Union main office. He continued there five years during which he spent much time in dusty runways and under tables trying to learn where the wires ran and why. There were few books describing the apparatus and the road to knowledge wasn't particularly easy to follow.

Minor worked all sorts of hours--sometimes day duty, sometimes from five p.m. to one a.m. and, now and then, all night. After awhile he became a "Traffic chief" on day duty: having duties concerned with the placing of operators and the movement of telegrams. In 1883 he was co-author with William Mever, Jr. of "The Quadruplex," a description of the set up and handling of Thomas A. Edison's four way telegraph.

Between 1883 and 1885 Minor was successively employed in the New York offices of the "American Rapid," "Bankers and Merchants" and "United Lines" telegraph companies. In the last named company he attracted the notice of Francis W. Jones, who had been placed at the head of the electrical department and he became assistant to Mr. Jones. There was work to be done and some strain and not all

days are sunny in any serious undertaking, but Minor said to himself "this isn't so bad--I'm doing what I like to do and I'm being paid to do it."

Mr. John MacKay having acquired control of several telegraph companies they were merged to make the Postal Telegraph Company. Mr. Jones became Electrical Engineer and Minor continued as his assistant. The company expanded rapidly and Minor's duties were varied and interesting and they took him to most of the larger cities of the Eastern and Southern states.