



Orren Jack Turner

NEW HEAD OF GROTON

The Rev. John Crocker

CROCKER ELECTED TO HEAD GROTON

Former Harvard Football Star
Will Succeed Dr. Peabody,
Retiring Next Year

HE IS GRADUATE OF SCHOOL

Like the Founder Whom He Will
Follow, He Entered Priest-
hood of Episcopal Church

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GROTON, Mass., June 14.—The Rev. John Crocker of Fitchburg, Mass., famous in Harvard football annals, was elected successor today to the Rev. Dr. Endicott Peabody, founder and headmaster of Groton School. Dr. Peabody, known to hundreds of Groton "old boys" as "Peabo," will lay down his duties in June, 1940, after fifty-five years of service. Mr. Crocker was ordained as an Episcopal priest in his native Fitchburg in 1929. He has ministered to Episcopal undergraduates at Princeton for ten years.

Like Dr. Peabody, Mr. Crocker attended the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, and obtained part of his education in England. He is 39 years old.

Mr. Crocker was graduated in 1918 from Groton School and from Harvard four years later. Then he went to Oxford for two years and returned to Massachusetts in 1924 to teach at Phillips Academy, at Andover, for two years. Two years were passed at the Yale Theological School and another year at the Episcopal Theological School.

When Mr. Crocker was ordained a priest in Christ Church, Fitchburg, in the Summer of 1929, his godfather, Bishop James De Wolf Perry of Rhode Island, presided. An uncle, who died recently, the Rev. William T. Crocker of the Church of the Epiphany in New York City, officiated. Dr. Peabody also participated in the service.

In 1922, Mr. Crocker married Miss Mary Hallowell, sister of John and Penrose Hallowell, former Harvard athletes. They have six children, John Jr., Margaret Hallowell, Charlotte Bartow, William Tufts, Sara Haydock and Mary Hallowell.

The idea of such a school as Groton rose in the mind of Mr. Peabody while he was rector of a church in Tombstone, Ariz., and fresh from Cheltenham College, England. His school early put emphasis on the traditional English pattern, which would help develop character with the aid of religion, stress the classics and give important place to exercise and sports.