

## PROCEEDINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 1891, AT THE HALL OF THE SOCIETY, IN WORCESTER.

THE Society was called to order at 10.30 A. M. by the President, STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M.

The following members were present (the names being arranged in order of seniority of membership):—

George E. Ellis, Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Andrew P. Peabody, George Chandler, Nathaniel Paine, Stephen Salisbury, P. Emory Aldrich, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, George S. Paine, Edward L. Davis, William A. Smith, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth, Edward G. Porter, Reuben A. Guild, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Franklin B. Dexter, Charles A. Chase, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Frederic W. Putnam, Andrew McF. Davis, Cyrus Hamlin, Henry S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Reuben Colton, William W. Rice, Robert N. Toppan, Henry H. Edes, Frank P. Goulding, James P. Baxter, Thomas Chase, G. Stanley Hall, John McK. Merriam, William E. Foster, Hamilton A. Hill, Charles P. Bowditch, Charles P. Greenough.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

As a part of the report of the Council, the SECRETARY *pro tempore* read biographical sketches of ALPHONSO TAFT, LL.D.; BENSON JOHN LOSSING, LL.D.; and LYMAN COPELAND DRAPER, LL.D. In continuation of the report, a memorial sketch of HAMILTON BARCLAY STAPLES, LL.D., was read by P. EMORY ALDRICH, LL.D., and in further continuation a paper on "The French Canadians in New England" was read by Rev. EGBERT C. SMYTH, D.D.

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., read his report as Treasurer, and the Librarian's report was read by Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON.

All of these reports, as together constituting the report of the Council, were accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication.

On motion of HENRY W. HAYNES, A.M., a vote of thanks was given to the TREASURER for the sagacity and skill with which he had conducted the money affairs of the Society so as to secure an income of six per cent. on the invested funds.

The Society then proceeded to choose a president. A ballot being taken, STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., was unanimously re-elected.

A committee, of which Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D., was chairman, was appointed to nominate a list of the remaining officers to be filled by election.

The report of the committee was as follows:—

*Vice-Presidents:*

Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, LL.D., of Worcester.

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., of Boston.

*Secretary for Foreign Correspondence:*

Hon. J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL.D., of Hartford, Ct.

*Secretary for Domestic Correspondence:*

Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., of Boston.

*Recording Secretary:*

Hon. JOHN D. WASHBURN, LL.B., of Worcester.

*Treasurer:*

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., of Worcester.

All the above being *ex-officio* members of the Council, and the following

*Councillors:*

HON. SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D., of Boston.  
 HON. P. EMORY ALDRICH, LL.D., of Worcester.  
 REV. EGBERT C. SMYTH, D.D., of Andover.  
 SAMUEL S. GREEN, A.M., of Worcester.  
 REV. ANDREW P. PEABODY, D.D., of Cambridge.  
 CHARLES A. CHASE, A.M., of Worcester.  
 HON. EDWARD L. DAVIS, of Worcester.  
 FRANKLIN B. DEXTER, A.M., of New Haven, Ct.  
 J. EVARTS GREENE, A.B., of Worcester.  
 G. STANLEY HALL, LL.D., of Worcester.

*Committee of Publication:*

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., of Boston.  
 NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., of Worcester.  
 CHARLES A. CHASE, A.M., of Worcester.  
 CHARLES C. SMITH, A.M., of Boston.

*Auditors:*

WILLIAM A. SMITH, A.B., of Worcester.  
 A. GEORGE BULLOCK, A.M., of Worcester.

The report was accepted, and by vote of the Society the Secretary *pro tem.* threw a yea ballot for the officers named.

A letter from Rev. LUCIUS R. PAIGE, D.D., regretting his necessary absence, was read by NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq.

THE PRESIDENT:—“This communication is of interest. We all know how gladly Dr. PAIGE would be with us and we hope that he will be able to be so on future occasions.”

The SECRETARY *pro tem.* reported that the Council had voted to recommend for membership in the Society the names of—

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, A.B., of Quincy.  
 Rev. ENDICOTT PEABODY, LL.M., of Groton.  
 Rev. CALVIN STEBBINS, of Worcester.  
 FRANCIS H. DEWEY, A.M., of Worcester.  
 CHARLES J. HOADLY, LL.D., of Hartford, Ct.

And as a foreign member,

ERNST CURTIUS, LL.D., of Berlin, Germany.

All of whom were duly elected on separate ballots.

An essay was then read by JAMES F. HUNNEWELL, A.M., entitled: "Illustrated Americana of the Revolution."

THE PRESIDENT said that Prof. FREDERIC W. PUTNAM was prepared to make certain announcements.

Prof. PUTNAM:— "I wish to call your attention to two important events in connection with the study of American archæology and ethnology. The first of these is, that by a decree issued in July last, the Government of Honduras placed all the ancient ruins within the borders of the Republic in the care of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology of Harvard University, for a period of ten years; giving to the Museum not only the charge of the antiquities in the country, but also the exclusive right of exploration, and permission to take away one-half of all the objects found during the excavations. It is probable that as the work of exploration goes on at the ancient ruins of Copan it will lead to the establishment of a school of American archæology in Honduras. We shall now be able, year after year, to carry on investigations and to train students and assistants in this important work.

"The other event is the establishment of a Department of Ethnology and Archæology in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. It has fallen to me to be appointed chief of that department, and I believe that we shall bring together in Chicago in 1893 an ethnographical and archæological exhibit of especial importance and interest to all students of anthropology. Among other plans is that of bringing to Chicago representatives of all the native peoples of the American continent, who will be living in their own habitations, surrounded by their own utensils and implements and carrying on their native occupations.

An effort will be made to represent the native people who were living on the continent four centuries ago, and furnish the means of making a comparative study of the natives from Greenland to Patagonia. In this connection we are making an extensive series of measurements and observations illustrative of the physical characteristics of the native peoples of America. We shall also exhibit a large amount of archaeological material obtained by special exploration, with models of mounds and earth-works. Our associate, Mr. THOMPSON, is making the moulds of portions of the façades of some of the immense buildings in Yucatan, and we hope to set up casts forty feet or more in length showing the different types of architecture and sculpture of those ancient structures. Besides all this we shall illustrate, so far as possible, the early man of America and the evidence of his antiquity. Not only shall we have these exhibits from America, but a great many from other parts of the world.

“I wish to call attention to the fact that the department under my charge is to have cartographical and historical sections in which will be illustrated our own American history, and that I shall be very much pleased if this Society will appoint a committee who will give me advice in relation to an historical exhibit which shall illustrate American history from the time of Columbus. I respectfully ask the President of this Society to name such a committee to advise what should be done for the historical part of the Exposition.”

Mr. HOAR:—“I move that the President be authorized to appoint a committee of five, of which he shall be one, to act in the capacity suggested by Professor PUTNAM, and that he take time to appoint it.” This was seconded by Dr. E. E. HALE, and was carried.

G. STANLEY HALL, LL.D., in presenting a paper by Dr. George Baur, on the recent expedition of the latter gentle-

man to the Galápagos Islands, spoke of the great value of the collections brought home by that gentleman, which embrace a large part of the *flora* as well as of the *fauna* of the islands. "It is too soon," he said, "to speak of the results of this expedition. Almost no collections have been made there since Darwin and later the *Challenger* were there. It has been said that as a result of his visit the theory of natural selection as applied to the origin of species and man became clear and definite in Darwin's own mind. I do not know how true that is, but this collection is certainly of great value. It will take years of study and examination on the part of experts in various parts of the world, to know the results. Those results will perhaps bear upon the work of this Society."

After presenting Dr. Baur's paper, Dr. HALL spoke as follows:—

"Passing to my own paper, I will only attempt to give a brief and extemporaneous description of the work involved in it.

"It is nearly six years since I began to experiment on the subject of ecstasy and trance. I will not attempt to give as full descriptions as we get of such American sects as the 'Jumpers' and the 'Barkers,' etc., which make ecstasy their chief cultus. I have tried to understand the subject historically, and I have been able to get into correspondence with two Buddhist colleges, and have found that the cultus of ecstasy is so central at present that they have places on the roof so arranged that they can sway until they get contact with the Infinite, or till they attain Nirvana. It is thought that is the best way to overcome worldly desires. As Mozoomdar himself told me and has since written me, they consider that a very central part of the cultus of the young men there. He even wished that it might be introduced into institutions here.

"Of course the historical matter is too well known for me to speak of it. We all know that this cult is a very ancient

one. The Buddhist sects differ from each other in the way in which perfect ecstasy is attained. There is a good and bad side to it. In the good, the elevation is so supernal that they get an insight into all the mysteries of the world. The ascetic, who is the result of years of systematic devotion, can actually attain contact with the divine. There is, as we all know, a spurious ecstasy. We attempted then to make a contact between the old primeval, prehistoric forms of which there are traces to be found in archaeology, and the present interesting forms of it as a religious cult. Not to dwell upon intermediate stages, everyone knows how important ecstasy has been in the history of all religions, and how central it is. We know the Delphic oracle and the part it played there. With Plotinus it played a central part. He distinguished four stages of trance, and he was only able to attain the highest five times where perfect contact with the Infinite, as he thought, was reached, and revelation was made to him. But it became, after the death of Plotinus, when his pupils took it up, a cultus which spread and which survived in the mysteries of the middle ages to an extent hardly known. In some sects there were seven stages, and in some nine; but there was a distinct correspondence between the theological views of many sectaries and the different stages of trance. Each higher stage gave to the devotee an insight into a higher transcendental form of existence, until at last, as in Dante, you have touched the highest, the rose of dawn.

“Of course all savage tribes have these ecstasies. I am told by several anthropologists that there is not an Indian tribe known which has not an ecstasy cultus in some form, and in most of our Indian tribes which we have been able to study, the ecstasy reaches its acme just before marriage, where the young brave goes off into the woods and starves himself, and goes through various rites until he sees the vision of some ancestor, which, if it should correspond with the same vision that his own ancestor actually had, is a

happy circumstance for his own life. He then goes back with his own name, and with his character, and perhaps his purpose in life, fixed. Chastity and abstinence from food are essential to the rite. The fact that all the best braves must have had this vision shows what importance is attached to it.

“We all know that a great many religious reformers, Mahomet, Swedenborg, and even Joseph Smith, and others, had visions, and that these visions are physically conformable to the ancient forms of trance. The symptoms are well known. The first part of my work is to collect the typical cases so far as we can collect them from American sources and from history. The second part, which is briefer, is the experimental part. As many of you know, the experimental study of trance, under the name of hypnotism, has become almost an established part of a medical *curriculum* in France, where there is no medical school, I believe, which does not have it. The study of the last eight years has marked three very specific and definite results which are new to science. I will state these. The first is, that there is something which is best described as a tonic cramp of the attention, where the attention is brought to an abnormal focus. The person can then be easily tested. There are some who can read large letters through two thicknesses of cotton cloth, who, when the sun shines on it can read the same through seven or nine thicknesses. So in respect to vision there sometimes seems to be a heightening of vision from seven to nine fold. So in all matters. The matter of rapidity with which certain mental activities can be performed is tested, and can be greatly heightened. The matter of clearness can be greatly affected. There is a positive mental exaltation where a subject can do, under laboratory tests which no one would think of doubting for a moment, that which he could not do in the ordinary state. Therefore we call this the tonic cramp of the attention, for want of a better name. In this tonic cramp there



is a positive pole, or side, of the focus and a negative field. We often see the negative field where the attention is so sharply focussed on one thing that the energy all passes away from the rest of the body. The extremities, perhaps, become cold, and the person is insensible even to amputations. Even a leg has been in several cases cut off without sensibility. As a narcotic this form of hypnotism is thought to be safe. About one person in three is not at all sensible to it. Both the positive and negative fields vary greatly, as can be seen by our laboratory methods.

“The second point which seems to me established, is the fact of erethism, or the erectile function of any part of the circulatory system. Charcot has even showed photographs illustrating this. By fixing the attention on any part of the body you can bring about a dilatation of the veins of the skin to such an extent that the *serum* collects, and in a few rare cases a blister follows. This, of course, has been only in neurotic subjects. But that is an indication of what occurs in all individuals. If anyone places his finger in a water-tight apparatus, the action of the mind will so affect the fine capillary system as to cause the swelling or the decreasing of the volume of the finger or arm in proportion to the violence of the agitation so that it can be seen. Blood is withdrawn from any part of the body as the attention is concentrated on any other part. When it is concentrated on that part the limbs swell, the walls of the arteries expand. So much is this the case that in certain hospitals this has come to be a method of testing the patient's power of attention in certain forms of mental disease. An apparatus is fixed on which the patient is exactly balanced; and as he is able to concentrate his attention, the head end dips down, and the progress of the disease is measured by the inability of the patient to concentrate his attention, and so to tip the instrument down as much as he could before. Thus it is seen that the power of concentrating the attention creates an erectile state of the arteries which is entirely dif-

ferent from the venous enlargement involving inflammation. There is an expansion of the arteries, and a relaxation of the vessels which keep them tense. While expanding they increase the blood pressure, sometimes to the amount of several inches, as has been very well demonstrated.

“The third and last new factor which has been developed bearing on the study of ecstasy is, that whenever any portion of the nervous system or of the brain is in a state of ecstasy, all the processes known as fatigue are accelerated. Under the microscope it has been seen that there is a deterioration of the nucleus of the nerve cell, due to rapid expenditure of nerve force. This needs a great deal more elaboration.

“The contribution then to this historical subject, which modern science and the discussion born of it within the last eight years have yielded, are these three points, on which there is general agreement. First: The focussing of the positive and negative field of attention, which is exceedingly significant and of scientific utility. Second: The positive field of attention, which has the greatest power over the walls of the blood vessels, and can control circulation to a certain extent. And third: Whenever this goes on, the cells of the nerve centres involved are undergoing changes of deterioration. This process is so evident that if placed under a microscope it would be recognized by all.

“The conclusion has a certain moral result. It is in favor of that kind of cult or discipline or regimen, or whatever it may be called, the litany of which is steadiness and regularity, and against all the diatheses of spurtiness.”

JOHN MCKINSTRY MERRIAM, A.B., of Framingham, read a paper on the “Historic Burial Places of Boston and Vicinity.”

THE SECRETARY *pro tem.* read a biographical sketch of the life of WILLIAM LINCOLN, the historian of Worcester, a former librarian of this Society.

THE PRESIDENT. “The various papers which have been

presented are now before the Society for its action."

Mr. HAMILTON A. HILL. "I should like to add a word. About three years ago I invited Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN to accompany me to the Granary burying-ground, to visit that tomb in which a large number of the ministers of the Old South were buried. I was anxious to ascertain whether any proof could be found of the burial of Thomas Prince who was supposed to be buried there. We had permission to open the tomb. Dr. GREEN, Mr. McDonald and I went down. I found nothing that could give us any information in regard to Thomas Prince. We knew that Mr. Willard and family had been buried there. We found the coffin of Joshua Huntington (?), who died about sixty years ago, but we learned nothing to add to the knowledge of the contents of that historic tomb."

Mr. HENRY W. HAYNES. "I wanted to make one suggestion as I listened to Mr. HUNNEWELL's remarks about the scarcity of the memorials of the French Revolution in the Louvre. The late Francis Gardner illustrated Carlyle's 'French Revolution' in a remarkable manner. On one occasion when I was ill he sent those books to me to look at. The three volumes of the text had notes explaining and illustrating all the literary allusions of the book. Besides that there were quartos of pictorial illustrations, which Mr. Gardner had gathered in several visits to Paris. As I recall them, there must have been at least a thousand plates in a half-dozen folio volumes. It made one of the most interesting pictorial things I ever saw. I wish it might be possible through the influence of this Society to obtain those volumes to place here among our treasures. They ought to be in a public institution."

Mr. CHARLES C. SMITH. "It is my impression that they were raffled for at a charity fair some years ago."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The volumes referred to were twelve in number, and were given by Mr. Gardner to the Fair held in Boston in April, 1871, for the relief of sufferers in the Franco-German war.—*Note by the Publishing Committee.*

HON. GEORGE F. HOAR. "Three or four years ago, I asked the members of this Society if any of them could find any traces of the publication known as the *Boston Daily Whig*, edited by Charles Francis Adams, father of the gentleman whom we have just elected a member, and Vice-President Henry Wilson. It was a paper of uncommon ability, and it contained the records of the rise of the political anti-slavery party which developed into the Republican party. It is one of the most important historical publications of modern times. Hon. CHARLES SUMNER made a special journey to Worcester to find it here. In the visit to Quincy which has been described, Mr. Adams, in a collection of literary properties discovered a complete set of this publication. It is now accessible to the public."

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D. "I am well aware that my name has been selected as Vice-President because I am the senior member of the Council. I was, I think, the youngest member of the Society, when chosen. I owed that kindness to my friends in Worcester. For a good many years, I felt as though I was the *enfant terrible*, whom the older gentlemen were kind enough to let come in. It is forty-two years since I read my first paper. I should hardly take the time to say this but for a reminiscence. At that time many of the gentlemen whose portraits are hanging here were then present; and I like to say that to the extreme kindness of Mr. HAVEN, then librarian, and other gentlemen I owe the taste for history which has been the happiest relaxation of my life. They used to let me come in and work in this matchless collection, much superior to anything I had known. I feel grateful for the honor conferred upon me."

On motion, the various papers and remarks which had been offered, were referred to the Committee of Publication.

The meeting was then dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,

*Recording Secretary pro tempore.*

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