

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 27, 1892, AT THE HALL OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

PRESIDENT STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., in the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 A. M.

The following members were present:—

George E. Ellis, Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine, Stephen Salisbury, P. Emory Aldrich, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth, Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt, Edward G. Porter, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Thomas L. Nelson, Lucius R. Paige, Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Solomon Lincoln, Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene, Henry S. Nourse, William W. Rice, Robert N. Toppan, Henry H. Edes, Grindall Reynolds, Edward Channing, Frank P. Goulding, James P. Baxter, Thomas Chase, A. George Bullock, G. Stanley Hall, John M. Merriam, William E. Foster, Hamilton A. Hill, John F. Jameson, Charles P. Bowditch, Edwin D. Mead, Calvin Stebbins, Francis H. Dewey, Charles J. Hoadly.

The PRESIDENT.—“I take pleasure in reading a letter which I have received from the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, our senior member. It is a most agreeable evidence of his continued interest in the prosperity of the Society”:—

NEW YORK, 25 April, 1892.

STEPHEN SALISBURY, ESQ.,

My dear Mr. President:—

Your kind letter of the 19th inst. reached me just as I was leaving home last week. I am really sorry to be absent from the Semi-Annual meeting of the American

Antiquarian Society, and I thank you sincerely for assuring me that my attendance would be peculiarly welcome. But I am proposing to extend my journey as far as Washington, and must abandon all idea of being with you. It would give me pleasure to be recognized once more by the Society as its senior member, and to express personally the interest and pride which I take in their proceedings.

Pray present my best wishes and kindest regards to the members, and accept them for yourself.

Yours, very truly,

ROBT. C. WINTHROP.

As a part of the Report of the Council, NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., read biographical sketches of the following-named deceased members:—DOM PEDRO, former Emperor of Brazil; JOHN E. MASON, M.D., of Washington, D. C.; and JOHN GEORGE METCALF, M.D., of Mendon, Mass. He also announced the death of Mr. CHARLES B. SALISBURY, of Little York, N. Y.

In continuation of the report, Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., read an essay upon "The History of the Earth in Libraries and Museums."

The report of the Treasurer, NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., was submitted in print.

The report of the Librarian was read by Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON.

Dr. G. STANLEY HALL said:—

"I move that the report of the Council be accepted and referred to the committee of publication. I think it a very rare opportunity for men somewhat younger than Dr. ELLIS to listen to a report conveying in relatively brief compass the verdict of a life unusually rich and of a nature unusually gifted, about these fundamental problems of life. It stimulates the ambition of younger men with reference to the object of all learning and culture. To see how all these conflicting literary, scientific and religious controversies of the present day have affected such a mind, what deposit they have left and what aggregate result they have

brought in its maturest years and in full possession of its power, is a very great privilege, and I think the Society ought to be congratulated on a paper which deals with these profound questions. But as a very modest worker in the field of science, I wish to add one single word to the drift of that paper. It seems to me that those who work in specially limited fields, as I do, and as many others do, have a horizon and a perspective for which Dr. ELLIS does not give us credit. Most zealous scientific men, most who have made an original contribution to the sum of the world's knowledge, have a conviction that the universe is lawful to the core, and that it is animated at the bottom by a principle of love and good will toward man, the highest product of nature. It seems to me that clearly and distinctly over and above all those distractions which Dr. ELLIS deals with and with which he has more or less difficulty,—over and above all these, this is the thought that is dawning in the very heart of science and which is certain to make it, in a very few decades, the teacher of men with regard to religious truth, just as it is now with regard to natural truth. The mediating standpoint is at hand. The beginnings of this new departure are already visible. You see it for instance in the movement in France known as the 'New Christianity,' and the 'New Idealism.' We see there in the very heart of that country to-day, the literary and scientific, the roots of a deeper faith than perhaps the world has ever known, animating men, not professionally religious, to a zealotry in the belief in the ideal and of the moral and ethical good which the human race has cherished at its highest points, a uniformity of zeal which to my mind is an entirely new note in the modern movement of the scientific and literary world. Not only that, but in the field of science, especially in those intimate departments of it which treat the border-line between mind and matter, the higher biology and anthropology, we find a conviction, a faith, which not only finds spirit and life in one great source

at the bottom of the world, but which goes far beyond that and which sees in immanence on the one hand—that which Dr. ELLIS calls the egg—and transcendence, his dove, on the other, these two extremes which have been called the poles of human thought, not diversity but unity only. Thus the best scientific men, those who work in this field, are—I believe I am not misrepresenting them—kindled with the faith that a new unity is to come out of things and is already apparent, which shall be neither immanence nor transcendence exclusively, but which shall be one in both, as the Old Testament lies hid in the New and the New reveals the Old. It shall bring men's thoughts together, with a perspective which brings out these local truths and into a concurrence which the world has not seen, in a monism just as important to faith and as stimulating to science as it is to literature and religion, and which will mark as important an epoch in the history of human thought as did monotheism in the old sacred days of its first inception. The old tortured and tortuous and distracted dualism of Huxley, Tyndall and their contemporaries, is not the standpoint of the newer lines of science. It is purely because Dr. ELLIS ignores this that his conclusions seem to me to lack not only relief and perspective but fundamental faith in unity, law and love."

Dr. ELLIS:—"I was able to read but a third of my manuscript. I accept and recognize the point which Dr. HALL has stated, and which if he shall ever read the whole of my manuscript in print he will find I have not passed without recognition."

The report of the Council was then accepted.

G. STANLEY HALL, LL.D., read the following sketch of a plan for improving the usefulness of the Library:—

The writer of the report of the Council for 1883, soon after the lamented death of Dr. Haven, discusses the question—

" * * * * * How far the Society is coming short of the high ideal which it ought in some way to attain, and in

danger of losing its position of leadership among the great institutions of the kind in our country * * * * *.

“ * * * * * The strict line of duty of the painstaking librarian in so large an institution as ours, and the faithful discharge of it, may well fill the measure of an honorable ambition for a useful life. We want, in addition, not instead, the devoted service of a man of high education, of intellectual power and leadership, somewhat known already, and with promise of growth and development. The title by which his office shall be known is immaterial—Director, Superintendent, Regent, Censor, Rector. By whatever name known, his office must be to maintain, by his scholarship, his intellectual presence and dignity, his love of and devotion to the studies of this Society, his high personal character, and his relations to scholars, the standards of influence and authority which Mr. Haven set up. Competent to represent the Society at the gatherings and conventions of scholars abroad, he must have the qualities of personal magnetism which make personal association and co-operation agreeable, and receive scholars at the library with a scholar's welcome * * * .”

“ * * * * * There would seem few fitter objects to-day, within the realm of learning and scholarship, to bring to the attention of rich and liberal men, than the endowment of this Society with what might be termed a ‘Rector's Fund’ of fifty, sixty, or seventy-five thousand dollars, the income of which, with some small measure of private resources, would enable a genuine and enthusiastic man of high qualifications, to devote himself to maintaining, even extending, the reputation of the Society for high attainments in broad and liberal studies, as well as for the safe keeping and orderly arrangement of articles deposited in its vaults and alcoves * * * * *.”

Three years later, in 1886, HON. GEORGE F. HOAR, in accepting the office of president, said as follows:—

“ * * * * * If the Librarian and his assistants are engrossed by the care and increase of such collections * * * we need some person who shall direct and pursue the original investigations for which, in part, the Society was established,—such a person as Mr. Haven was, such a person as George P. Marsh would have been, if he had lived to come home and pursue his studies in his old age.

To a fund for the salary of a Secretary of Publication and Research should be added an increase of our present means for publication. Without something of this sort, the Society cannot maintain its old place at the head of American institutions devoted to its special objects. It cannot even long maintain a respectable rank among the numerous local societies that are springing up; and there is danger that it may in future times itself become an object of antiquarian research * * * *."

Since these opinions were expressed, the need they referred to has steadily grown with the growth of the Society, and will continue to become more urgent. An informal meeting of the Worcester members of the Council was, therefore, called by President SALISBURY at his house on November 7, 1891, which was attended by the following members: Stephen Salisbury, George F. Hoar, P. Emory Aldrich, Nathaniel Paine, Samuel S. Green, Charles A. Chase, Edward L. Davis, J. Evarts Greene and G. Stanley Hall. After an expression of opinion by all the members present, a committee consisting of G. Stanley Hall, George F. Hoar, Samuel S. Green, Nathaniel Paine and Stephen Salisbury, was chosen to act as a sub-committee to report to the Worcester members of the Council. Their report, as revised and approved, is as follows:—

The American Antiquarian Society has never been in a better condition in all its departments than it is at present. The Library and collections in the hall are steadily increasing in extent and in value. The Librarian, Mr. Barton, whose industry and courtesy are worthy of high praise, makes the collections of the Society not only accessible to the public but useful to the members of the Society, as never before. An excellent card-catalogue, by Miss Robinson, is well on the way toward completion. The meetings of the Society, held twice a year, have never been more largely attended, or more interesting, profitable and delightful to the members. The character of the papers issued under the direction of the Committee of Publication is very high,

and will bear comparison with those of any other similar institution, or with those which the Society has published in former times.

The present condition and outlook make it the duty of the Society to make some new provisions for the security of its possessions, for increased facilities in their use, and for saving the President, Library Committee and Librarian from a great and steadily increasing burden of labor and responsibility far in excess of anything that has been imposed upon either hitherto, or that was contemplated by the early plan of the Society.

It is also clearly desirable that at the same time the Society should make its material more useful in the promotion of the objects for which it was founded. We have much unpublished and unedited matter, a great deal of it known, and probably a great deal of it unknown to anyone, which, as it now exists, is of no use to any save those who are able to visit the Library in person. The Committee are, therefore, unanimous in the conviction that the Society should itself cause to be made public some of the rich material in its possession, under the direction of a well-trained historical scholar, who should devote his time to this work and who should be able not only to edit, but to draw from his material such deductions in the way of historical truth as it may warrant.

We are convinced that a faithful and industrious scholar, working under the direction of the Society itself, and having access to the Library under its rules, might make, from time to time, very important contributions to American history and antiquities which would result in great credit to the Society and tend much to the advancement of the ends for which it was founded. This would in no wise diminish the value or interest of the work done by members of the Society, or diminish the interest in its regular meetings, or change anything whatever in its present organization or customs. All these ends we desire in this way to

confirm, enhance and enlarge. We believe that while increasing the value of our published contributions we might also, in this way, find it desirable to add book notices and other matter which would make the Proceedings, or some additional publication, more eagerly and extensively sought, and would bring additions to the funds of the Library, enlarge our exchange and subscription list, and bring from publishers additions to the Library without cost to the Society, and which would help to fill the many gaps often mentioned in its collections.

Such an officer should also be at the command of the President and Council, or any special committee, for occasional and extraordinary services requiring investigation or other services of a like character, to aid and relieve them in the discharge of their important duties. Such an officer should be appointed by the Council, with a suitable and appropriate title, to be by it determined, and removable by it. He should receive such salary and perform such duties as the Council, or a committee appointed for that purpose, may from time to time prescribe. His duties, till otherwise determined, should be as follows:—

1. To investigate such subjects as shall be prescribed from time to time by the Council, or a duly authorized committee thereof, and to report his results to the Council which shall be disposed of as directed by the Society and which shall be its property.

2. He could with the approbation of the Council, or a special committee thereof, have under him assistants whose work he should direct, but who, like him, should be in all respects subject to the rules and regulations prescribed for the use of the Library: but he should not be required to give instruction, nor does this Report contemplate the development of any school of history, nor the direction of the studies of pupils.

3. He should perform such other duties as may be required of him by the President, or the Council, or its committee, and should devote himself to advancing in all practicable ways the interests of the Society and to enlarging its usefulness.

No action upon this report is requested or expected at this time. It is presented more as a suggestion and to place on record the sentiment of the Committee, as to a desirable direction of enlarging the usefulness of the Society at some future time, should its means permit.

G. STANLEY HALL.

GEO. F. HOAR.

SAMUEL S. GREEN.

NATHL. PAINE.

STEPHEN SALISBURY.

The RECORDING SECRETARY *pro tem.*, in behalf of the Council, presented as candidates for election to membership the names of—

BENJAMIN APTHORP GOULD, LL.D., of Cambridge.

MR. REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, of Madison, Wis.

Ballots being taken, these gentlemen were duly elected.

MR. WILLIAM E. FOSTER, of Providence, R. I., read a paper on "Some Rhode Island Contributions to the Intellectual Life of the Last Century."

MR. HAMILTON A. HILL, of Boston, read a paper upon "The Sojourn of Thomas Coram in Boston and Taunton." He also presented a copy from the archives of the Society, of a letter from John Davenport and others to the First Church in Roxbury, with the following comments:—

"At the meeting of our Society in Worcester last autumn, my attention was called by Prof. Dexter to a letter preserved in our collections (Curwen Papers, vol. v., p. 103), written by John Davenport, James Allen and James Penn, elders of the First Church, Boston, soon after the removal of Mr. Davenport thither from New Haven. It is one of the Roxbury Papers, and bears the following endorsement, in the handwriting of our founder, Isaiah Thomas: '(Original) Letter from the Rev. John Davenport of New Haven, To the Rev. Pastors [Eliott] and Bretheren of the Chh. in Roxbury. probably about 1664.'

“The New Haven Church objected most strenuously, to Mr. Davenport’s withdrawal from its pastorate in order to the acceptance of a call from Boston; and after his departure, and when he sent for the customary letter of dismissal and recommendation, the letter which he received was much more of a protest than a dismissal, and if its contents had been fairly communicated to the Boston Church, all further proceedings under the call would have been stopped forthwith. An influential minority was already opposed to his coming, and if the views of the New Haven Church had been made known, this minority would have been changed to a majority. This being the case, Mr. Davenport, and Mr. Allen who was to be associated with him in his ministry in Boston, resorted to the very extreme measure of suppressing the New Haven letter, and substituting for it another, in which every expression of hostility to the proposed change was omitted, and a few sentences which gave a qualified and conditional dismissal, were presented to the Church as the original document, the name of Mr. Street, who had been Mr. Davenport’s colleague at New Haven, having been subscribed to it. On this fraudulent letter, Mr. Davenport was publicly received into the membership of the First Church, Sunday afternoon, November 1, 1668, by the ruling elder, Mr. Penn; and on the 9th of the next following month, Mr. Davenport and Mr. Allen were ordained and installed, the one as pastor, the other as teacher.

“A few months later, Mr. Street visited Boston, and the truth about Mr. Davenport’s letter of dismissal became known. ‘It became discourse in the Towne that the letter read in the Church of Boston was not the whole sent from the Church of New Haven but part thereof, nor indeed the thing itself conteyned in the said letter.’ Elder Penn appointed a meeting of the Church immediately after the lecture, Thursday, June 17, ‘to remove scandalous reports raised against the Church.’ At this meeting, Mr. Penn

and Mr. Allen 'cleared all the brethren of the Church from having any hand in it [the letter], and also Mr. Davenport from any guilt therein.' On the next lecture day, there was a conference at the house of Mr. Hezekiah Usher, to probe the matter still further, and with the following result: 'The elders labouring to convince Mr. James Allen of his iniquity in dealing deceitfully about the letter from New Haven in saying Mr. Davenport was innocent about that matter, he acknowledged that Mr. Davenport knew the matter as much as himself and his unckle, and that he had sinned in soe saying, this confession was made before Mr. John Allen, Mr. Danforth of Roxbury, Mr. Increase Mather and Mr. Stoughton.' On Sunday, June 29, a statement prepared by Mr. Davenport was read in church; he disclaimed all personal responsibility for the substitute letter, saying that Mr. Penn and Mr. Allen had planned it, and his son, John Davenport, Jr., had written it, and he closed with these words: 'My hope is that as God hath made hereby discoverie of the spirits of soe many that he will issue the whole in giving repentance, unto some for their harsh and wrong censures and reproaches, and in vindication of his own honour, and the name of his servants who did what is done to good ends and in true simplicity and faithfulness according to their present light in the sight of God.'

'On the 15th of July, Mr. Allin of Dedham, and sixteen other ministers, united in a very plain-spoken and faithful letter, a 'testimony' they called it, 'against the scandall given by the present elders of the first Church of Christ in Boston, by their fraudulent dealing about the letters sent from the Church in New Haven.' A partial copy of this letter is in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and it is printed in full in the History of the Old South Church, Vol. I., pp. 84-87. At a church meeting, August 20, the First Church appointed a committee to 'draw up a letter in answer to the letter sent from Dedham

Church, enquiring after the proceeding of the Church about the New Haven letter.'

"The pastors of the Roxbury Church, Mr. Eliot and Mr. Danforth, sympathized with the minority in the First Church, and Mr. Davenport and his associate were evidently anxious to conciliate them and to retain their Christian confidence. Hence the letter addressed to them which is in our collections, and a copy of which, by the courtesy of Mr. Barton, I am able to present herewith. It was written, in all probability, before Mr. Street's arrival in Boston, June, 1669, and after the meeting of the second council, April 2, 1669, called to consider the question of forming the Third or South Church. This body, Mr. Davenport and Mr. Penn refused to recognize, saying in reply to a communication from it: 'I doe not see that you are an orderly councill.'

"Reverend and Beloved in the Lord Grace Mercy & Peace
bee multiplied from God the Father and our Lord Jesus
Christ.

"As we desire and earnestly endeavour according to the measure of Grace wee have received to have Consciencs void of Offence to God and all Men soe it is our Solicitous care that our Practises may be without Just Blame to Jew or Gentill especially that they may be without suspition of Evill to any of the Churches of Christ Wee are therefore constrained thus farr att present to speake for our selves unto you our Deare Bretheren that you would bee sober & distrustfull about any reports that may be bruited concerning our selves to the Prejudice of any concerne of Christ labouring with us or of our selves in the heartes & affections of such who are Deare to Christ and Justly Valued by us Wee hope it will appeare in due time that it is not for our owne but a labouring interest of the Kingdome of Jesus Christ wee are striving & contending, his Authority in a particular Church, a concerne of as great moment as ever was in hazard in these Churches w^{ch} other Churches will quickly find themselves engaged about (if there be any of the first love remaining to it) & as much afflicted for as our selves. If we may intreat that there be an open Eare to what we are

ready & willing (upon your desire to know the Reasons of our proceedings thus far) to communicate we shall acknowledge it as your Christian Tendernes to us Nor is it more yⁿ equall, for it is a Ruled Case in Cannon law that y^e action of both parties should fully be understood and as the wise man hath laid it downe. Hee that is first in his owne case is just, then cometh his Neighbour and searcheth him out And againe hee that answereth a Matter before hee heareth it, it shall be folly & shame to him. Wee doubt not If it shall bee desired & we may be Candidly heard, that we shall Evince ou^r Carriage to the first Councill & y^r advice as alsoe that onto the last Messengers from seaverall Churches To be noe other then what our love & loyalty to Christ as Sole King and Law-giver to his Church did oblige us to doe That noething might bee admitted by us that hee hath not appoynted or will approve. Wee doe owne Councils rightly called and regularly proceeding to be an ordinance of God And that the Churches may desire to understand the reasons of our Publicke actions & wee are bound by virtue of our communion with you to give a Brotherly account which wee for our parts are most willing & ready to doe. Nor have the contrary by our wordes or actions been manifest as may more evidently by our answer when desired appeare. In the meane time lett not your heartes be alienated from your Brethren some of which are not among the least who have jeoparded their lives with you & for you when the common interest among us was in hazzard.

[torn out]

enemies hope for & our friends for us we may be led into all truth
Brotherly love may continue
and be increased among us.

“Wee are your loveing Bretheren in
the Fellowship of the Gospell.

“John Davenport senior

“James Allen

“James Penn”

A letter from Hon. JOHN D. WASHBURN, accompanying his gift of five hundred copies of the Swiss Pact of 1291, was read by Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN.

The SECRETARY *pro tem.* presented a paper and map from PHILLIP J. J. VALENTINI, Ph.D., on "Columbus's Landfall at San Salvador."

On motion of Dr. GREEN, all the papers which had been presented were referred to the committee of publication.

On motion of Mr. CHARLES C. SMITH, it was voted "that Vice-President HOAR should be empowered to represent the Society at any meetings of learned bodies which he may attend during his contemplated visit to Europe."

Dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,

Recording Secretary pro tempore.

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