

## PROCEEDINGS.

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 29, 1896, AT THE HALL OF THE  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

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THE Society was called to order at 10.30 A. M. by President SALISBURY. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, NATHANIEL PAINE was elected Secretary *pro tempore*.

The following members were present; the names are given in the order of election:—

Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine, Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green, Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth, Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt, Reuben A. Guild, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Franklin B. Dexter, Samuel S. Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Andrew McF. Davis, Cyrus Hamlin, J. Evarts Greene, Charles M. Lamson, Henry S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Daniel Merriman, Reuben Colton, Robert N. Toppan, Henry H. Edes, James P. Baxter, A. George Bullock, J. Nicholas Brown, G. Stanley Hall, William E. Foster, Charles P. Bowditch, Edwin D. Mead, Calvin Stebbins, Francis H. Dewey, Benjamin A. Gould, Edward L. Pierce, Henry A. Marsh, William DeLoss Love, Jr., Rockwood Hoar, James. L. Whitney, Lewis H. Boutell.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Report of the Council with biographical sketches of Joseph Jones, M.D., and Hon. William W. Rice, prepared by Mr. CHARLES A. CHASE, was then presented by Mr. J. EVARTS GREENE. In continuance of the report of

the Council, Mr. GREENE read a paper on "Our Dealings with the Indians."

The Report of the Librarian, Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON, was read.

After the Report of the Council, in which reference to the late Hon. William W. Rice was made, Rev. EGBERT C. SMYTH, D.D., of Andover, Mass., spoke as follows:—

I certainly do not arise with any thought of adding completeness to the tribute which is paid by Mr. Chase, but it has occurred to me while I have been sitting here that I have some remembrances of Mr. Rice which no one else may be in possession of, and think that I may be pardoned for referring to them in a very few words.

It so happened that I entered Bowdoin College when Mr. Rice was beginning his junior year. We became associated in one of the secret societies, which were then somewhat novel, and I recall with greatest pleasure the interest which he communicated to the meetings of that association, both in a literary and social way. But I would especially recall the very prominent part which he took in college as a leader in what one may call its public life. The college was then divided into two general societies, as was still the custom of Harvard and Yale and other institutions of learning. For one, I have been sorry that in these institutions of learning those general societies have quite disappeared; no doubt there is some good reason for it, but they certainly filled a part in college life and in training men for future careers, and I do not see how this could have been better accomplished.

There were many men who were not members of any club or any secret society, but seldom did a student fail, as early as was practicable, to unite himself to one or the other of these general societies. They were literary in their objects. Those who were connected with them will remember with what interest what was called "the paper"

was listened to, and how wide-spread was the desire in college so to write our English language, that those who had the editorship of the papers would be pleased to admit the contribution. There was a great stimulus in it. And beyond that, they were societies for discussion, and if any man in college had the capacity latent within him, it was brought out. Among the men who were most prominent was our late associate, Mr. William W. Rice. I suppose, indeed I am sure, there was no honor which the trustees and overseers or the faculty of the college could bestow upon the student which was prized so highly as to be elected the president or orator of one of those general societies. Mr. Rice, without any rival, was chosen orator, and I remember how well he fulfilled his part. There was always a dense audience when the oration and poem were delivered, and an interest was called forth in the educated community something like what is now excited by a game of football, or baseball, or a race in boats.

Mr. Rice was a leader naturally and spontaneously. He had a capacity for public affairs, which I cannot but think if illness had not fallen on him, and if he had been, I may venture to say in a high and honorable sense, a little more ambitious than he really was, would have made his public life even more illustrious than is shown in the record which he has left behind.

Senator HOAR after moving that the Report of the Council be accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication for disposition, said:—

I would like, while commending very highly and without any reservation the conclusion of the exceedingly successful report which our associate has written, to say that it seems to me that what he has said may be fairly treated as coming within the general plan of this Society, and to deal with subjects which have become matters of past

history rather than present interest. Of course the steps of a great nation are slow, and a minute of time for a nation is years and sometimes a generation of an ordinary human life. But after all, the chapter of our history which records our dealings with the Indians as separate, independent and barbarous and sometimes hostile communities is being closed, and the only question left for us is whether its close shall be marked with wisdom and justice, or whether it shall be marked with the same qualities which have been so fitly described as it went on. But the Indian is rapidly becoming absorbed into the general national life, and cannot much longer exist as a separate element in it. Of course the dress and habits of ancestors will appear in individuals of the Indian race, but the white man will mingle with what is left of the Indian, and with the occupation of the Western lands, habits and civilization will spread over all that territory. You cannot have a separate Indian tribe where the telegraph wire, the telephone wire, the railroad and other modern improvements are passing through. Something happened in Congress a few years ago which interested the Indians. I was surprised one day to find in my mail a very well-written letter from Red Cloud, whom we regarded as a barbarous chief who had been kept down more by the superior power of Spotted Tail than by any power of the government, making an exceedingly successful suggestion, written I have no doubt by his own hand, and complaining of something that had been said about him. About the same time, perhaps two or three years after, when General Miles had captured Chief Joseph, after a pretty hard fight, there was an article in the *North American Review* discussing the cause of the outbreak, and the war conduct of Chief Joseph and his band, which was followed in the next number by an article replying to the first, by Chief Joseph himself; so the Indians had appeared in what was considered the great organ of respectability and civilization.

There is another fact which is perfectly well authenticated, I believe. Just before the outbreak of the last Sioux War, which was in 1868 I believe, a very distinguished graduate of Yale college was in charge of a surveying party in the region threatened by the Sioux. He knew the danger, and that the outbreak was coming, but he was very anxious to get through his work, and stayed a little longer than was prudent with his party; one day he was seated alone in a hut which they had built for their use, and he had sent out all his engineers and surveyors for their day's work. He was ciphering up the work of the day before, and about the middle of the forenoon, while engaged at his table, he happened to look up and saw standing at the end of the table, a young Sioux warrior in his war paint, completely armed and with a tomahawk in his belt, standing absolutely motionless in Indian fashion. He was a good deal struck with terror, as the next thing might be the use of the tomahawk, so he looked at the man and kept silent, and they stood gazing at each other; at last the Indian broke silence by saying "Can you tell me, sir, whether old Professor King of Yale College is living yet?"

It seemed that a young Englishman had been taken sick on a hunting expedition, and had been kindly cared for in a Sioux village, and had taken one of the boys to Rhode Island, and sent him to school, and had gone with him to England, and afterward sent him to Yale College. After the young Indian got through, he went back and resumed his habits of warfare, and having heard this graduate was in the neighborhood, he could not help but inquire after his old friend and instructor.

The Report of the Council was then accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication.

President SALISBURY stated that there were four vacan-

cies in the membership and that the Council recommended for election :—

WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE FORBES, of Westborough, Mass.

EDWIN AUGUSTUS GROSVENOR, of Amherst, Mass.

LEONARD PARKER KINNICUTT, of Worcester, Mass.

Separate ballots on these names were taken and all were duly elected.

HON. SAMUEL A. GREEN said :—

At the Annual Meeting of this Society in Worcester, on October 24, 1894, the subject of affixing a capital letter to the clothing of a criminal, to be worn for a certain length of time by order of the Court, was brought to the attention of the members by our associate, Mr. Andrew McF. Davis. It will be remembered that a sentence of this kind was the thread on which was strung the plot of Hawthorne's famous novel, laid in early Colonial days. Mr. Davis gave some interesting facts in connection with the practice; and the question was raised as to how late in point of time this form of punishment was enforced. (See Proceedings, new series, IX., 335.)

At that meeting, relying on my memory alone, I stated that I had seen, somewhere in a file of old newspapers, the record of a convicted person, who was obliged as a punishment to wear a letter on his clothing, and that the sentence was pronounced either during or since the Revolution, probably between the years 1775 and 1785. Taking no note of the item, I could not give an exact date of the occurrence. Within a short time, however, by a streak of luck, I have stumbled upon the paragraph in question, and now present a copy in confirmation of the statements then made. The item is found on the second page of *The Massachusetts Centinel* (Boston), October 22, 1785, and appears under the heading of "Springfield, October 4," where the Supreme Judicial Court had then just ended a

session. It is there mentioned in connection with six other criminal cases, of which one is the instance of the notorious Stephen Burroughs, of Pelham, who was convicted and sentenced at that term for passing counterfeit money. The copy is as follows:—

*Priscilla Wharfield* of Westfield, for adultery with a negro man, while her husband was in the army, to set one hour on the gallows with a rope about her neck, be severely whipped 20 stripes in the way from the gallows to the goal [jail], and forever after wear a capital A two inches long and proportionable bigness, cut out in cloth of a contrary colour to her cloaths sowed upon her outer garment on her back in open view, and pay costs.

It would be interesting to know how long after the Revolution this peculiar form of punishment was enforced by the courts, but probably not a great while after the instance here given. Presumably the culprit in this particular case was still young or in middle life, as her husband, at the time of her delinquency, was serving in the army as a soldier; and if the sentence was carried out, and she wore the letter "forever after,"—or during her lifetime,—she may have continued to bear the badge of disgrace even into the present century. Probably, however, soon after the Revolutionary period the punishment became rare and gradually faded out without exciting special comment.

The town of Westfield, which was the home of the unfortunate woman, is distant only a few miles from the borders of the State of Connecticut; and, if at any time after her sentence she had seen fit to leave the limits of this Commonwealth, she could easily have escaped the lifelong penalty of her crime. It is not at all improbable that finally she took up her abode elsewhere, beyond the jurisdiction of Massachusetts; and perhaps in this way disappeared the last trace of her punishment. The neighbors would have called it a case of good riddance, and would

hardly have taken steps to bring her back for the completion of her sentence, or have gone out of their way for that purpose in order to give the needed information to the officers, whose duty it was to look after such delinquents.

Dr. GREEN then read a letter he had received from Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., and said :—

Dr. Paige is now in the ninety-fifth year of his age, and as the oldest member in years, I think it would be very gratifying to his feelings if this Society should recognize in some way the receipt of this letter, and send to him their salutations.

Col. A. GEORGE BULLOCK then moved :—

That the Society acknowledge the receipt of the letter and extend their greetings to Dr. Paige, and that the Secretary be requested to transmit the same.

President SALISBURY then remarked,—

If that action by the Society, which only expresses the sentiments entertained one year ago when Dr. Paige himself was present at the semi-annual meeting, meets with approval, the Society will manifest it by rising.

It was a unanimous vote, and the Secretary was requested to transmit a notice of the vote and greeting to Dr. Paige.

An interesting paper was read by JAMES F. HUNNEWELL, the subject being “Notes on Early American Literature.”

Rev. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, in presenting a medal to the Society, said :—

I have the honor to present to the Society a cast of a medal, which seems to me of more value than the gentleman thought it who sent it to me. It is a medal representing The Last Supper, and Mr. William S. Appleton,



to whom I sent it, thought the date was 1545, but I do not know whether or not he is quite correct. It is a cast made by a dentist in Ash Grove in the southwest part of Missouri, of a silver medal found there more than a year ago. The date seems just to fit in with the date of the expedition when the Spaniards rode across from the Platte or Missouri River, when they did not see a human being in the three months of their coming and three months going. At the same time, Dr. Hale showed to the Society a photograph of the Ribero map, showing the first settlement on the coast of the United States north of what we now call Florida, being dated about the year 1529. Dr. Hale, although he could not present it to the Society at present, said he would see that it went to the Society before many years.

Mr. ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS read a paper on the "Legislation and Litigation connected with the Land Bank of 1740."

President SALISBURY called the attention of the Society to the drawings displayed upon the walls, saying:—

The colored drawings are of the original size, and represent the mural drawings or paintings that are found in a building on the top of a pyramid at Chichen-Itza, Yucatan. The group, of which this pyramid forms a part, is now in the possession of our associate, Edward H. Thompson, Esq., lately consul at Yucatan, who is in possession of a plantation six miles square, which contains within its borders the largest and most interesting collection of Maya Indian ruins that is known to the President of the Society. This plantation is in a dangerous locality, as it is exposed to Indian forays from the unsubdued Indians; but Mr. Thompson has taken up the cultivation of coffee, and of some other products which are profitable. These drawings are a gift to the Society.

The first drawings from the same building were procured at my instance some years ago. They were frescoes which I had seen upon the walls, and I desired they should be preserved upon paper. Mr. Thompson, on his late visit here, desired to add these to those which I already had,—or rather to present them to the Society. These drawings are suggestive of household operations, and are certainly of value, and are cumulative contributions to the explanation of Indian life of the past.

The last paper called to the attention of the Society was one by Rev. STEPHEN D. PEET, Ph.D., of Good Hope, Illinois, which was prepared at the request of the President, the request being that Dr. Peet, the editor of the *American Antiquarian*, should prepare a paper upon the condition of archæological investigations in this country. Dr. Peet changed the title a little, and prepared a paper upon "The History of Archæological Explorations in the Mississippi Valley." The paper was read by Mr. FRANKLIN B. DEXTER.

Mr. GREENE being asked what it was that he had in mind about the Indian character, history and destination, which prompted him to say that he did not want to see any Indian community, but that he wanted them all disintegrated, scattered and mixed up with ourselves, replied:—

I do not know that I can answer that question. I do not expect that we or our successors will ever see a civilized and prosperous Indian community, and therefore I think there should be no Indian communities. I do not think the Indian incapable of civilization, but I believe the existence of communities of people distinct in origin, language, color, or otherwise, from those about them is not good for the country or for the people of those distinct communities. Such communities of Indians could only be kept distinct and separate by influences, from within or without, which

would prevent the development of civilization, and seclude them from the common atmosphere of progress which we all breathe. This would be true, in a measure, of separate, isolated communities of Germans, Irishmen, or Frenchmen. If it is best for them and for us, and no one doubts it, that these immigrants should be absorbed into the common mass of our people, it is best for us and for the Indians too that they also should be absorbed, and cease to be a distinct people.

Speaking on the same subject, Hon. EDWARD L. PIERCE of Milton, Mass., said:—

This is a subject upon which I have thought a good deal, but without saying much. I have attended the conferences at Lake Mohonk for several years. But as to the Indian question I have always been silent. There are two views about the American Indian. One is that of the Western member of Congress, that “the best Indian is a dead Indian.” The other view is that of Bishop Whipple, whom I always listen to with greatest interest, as he presents the high character which the Indian shows, and pictures the wrongs which he suffers. I once brought on myself a storm of criticism because I suggested that we ought to see or hear more about the productive and industrial habits of the Indian and a little less about his progress in arithmetic, writing, *etc.*; but in later years his friends have taken up that subject more.

Mr. Greene indicates what appears to be the underlying view of his paper,—that an Indian community cannot be developed by itself, that as such it cannot reach civilization. Now if that be so it is different from any other community that we know of,—at any rate in the history of Europe.

We spend a very large amount upon Indian tribes; we spend, I suppose, as much on an Indian child as is spent on the average young man going through college. And with

what results? I have heard accounts given, for instance, of those who have been educated at Carlisle, Pennsylvania; that they sometimes go back to the Indian country, and lie on the ground sighing for the good old times at Carlisle. I said to myself "In history has there ever been that sort of thing going on?" Our British ancestors were barbarous. The civilized portion of the globe did not undertake to transport them to Italy and France in order to civilize them. They sent to them missionaries, and they did not feel that the British could not be civilized at home. What is there peculiar and exceptional about the American Indian? That is what I wanted to get hold of by my question. What is there in his character, in his history, in his probable destiny, that distinguishes him from other populations that have covered the globe? Was this people sent by Providence to be a temporary occupant of an uninhabited country, and then be judged incapable of civilization? There is an Indian in Canada who went to Oxford, England, and completed his education there, showing a capacity that any white man might have. Who could be a more royal character than Tecumseh? And yet after all, what about the race as a whole? It is not what single persons may do; it is what the race may do.

I have heard most depressing accounts given of the Indians in New York. There is an Indian tribe near Syracuse. There they are within a few miles of one of the most educated and polished communities in this country, and yet they are degraded to the last extent. If they know the English language they will not speak it, and they answer to one speaking our language "Me don't know English." What is the trouble about all this? My idea is that we ought to do our very best by all races, no matter whether they are qualified for anything high or not. How different the Indian from the negro! I had the earliest connection with freedmen in our war, having about ten thousand of them under my charge. After I

made my first exploration I met the Massachusetts delegation at Washington. I remember the most antislavery member said to me, "Do you think we can do anything with these people?" But it is seen today, that while the negro may not be able to reach the heights that the Caucasian and Anglo-Saxon can reach, still he is wonderfully adapted to the civilized state. He works well with white men, and flourishes well with them, and even builds communities of his own.

My brother was the other day on his steam yacht down at San Domingo, and invited the President of the Republic to dine with him on his yacht; he said he was an accomplished gentleman; he knew the difference between what was possible there and what was possible with us. But while I say these people may not reach these heights, still they are capable of the civilized state, and are doing a thousand times better than the most hopeful philanthropist thought they would. What is the trouble with the American Indian? Some one said the only way to manage them is to disintegrate them and send them apart, — you taking half a dozen in Worcester and we taking one in Milton and so on. I sometimes think that philanthropists are not quite frank in facing the Indian problem; and I rise to raise a question, which it is much easier to do than to answer it.

Senator HOAR called the attention of the Society to a facsimile he had received from Mr. Wilberforce Eames, of the first of the great documents which were signed by all the representatives of the colonies. The document contains the signatures of all the members of that Congress, excepting a few whose absence is accounted for, including General Washington, John and Samuel Adams. After an explanation of the document, Senator HOAR referred it to the Committee of Publication to have printed.

Senator HOAR also introduced a letter from Rufus

Putnam, written at Rutland, Mass., dated 1790, which he also referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. EDWARD EVERETT HALE informed the members that the citizens of Cleveland are interested in the Centennial of their city, and propose to celebrate it this summer.

Mr. HENRY W. HAYNES inquired of Mr. Pierce:—

Whether that degraded settlement that Bishop Huntington speaks of, is a very mixed settlement or whether there is much pure blood,—Indian blood,—in it; whether those New York Indians are in any way like the ones at Old Town, or whether there is very little pure blood.

Mr. PIERCE replied:—

My impression is that it is pretty impure; that they are unlike. We think that is a pretty solid Indian community. One reason for saying that, is that they keep up the Indian language; they do not use our language and do not want to use it although they know it.

Speaking of the Indians, President G. STANLEY HALL said:—

I have never attended the Mohonk conferences, and know very little about the present status of the Indian. It is a well established law in biology that where you do mix bloods that are too diverse, you get reversions. That has been established by experiments with animals. If the relationship is too remote, there is degeneration and a tendency to revert to primitive conditions. It seems to me that all those who have dealt with the Indians do not understand what an exceedingly complicated system they have. In many respects, their customs are admirably adapted to a low stage of civilization. I have heard Mr. Cushing give an opinion to this effect,—that it would be entirely possible, if people were to live with the Indians

in a sympathetic way, knowing their customs and traditions, that it would develop them very much on their own lines. Our tendency has been to reconstruct their ideas and customs and civilization, and that is always a dangerous thing, and is done with great loss. I remember asking a missionary whether his policy was to make clear ground and build up *de novo*, and he said most emphatically, that it was. That is very bad pedagogy, and our missionary system as well as our civilization has suffered, I think, in that respect. I wish we could have somewhere an Indian community kept together in the right way. I remember seeing an interesting account of how some people who wanted to raise frogs for the market, undertook to cut off the tails of the tadpoles in order that the hind legs should grow faster. Of course, everyone knows there could not have been a greater mistake; and that I think is a parable or fable that has a very broad significance in transplanting culture, whether political, social, educational or religious,—in transplanting the *ethos* that is the root of all successful civilization from one ethnic stock to another.

Being asked whether he would approve of bringing a number of Indians here and educating them, President HALL replied that he certainly should approve of it if they were capable of it.

President SALISBURY resumed:—

I should like to add to what I said in regard to these colored drawings, that when I saw the mural paintings that were previously copied and sent here,—those that are at present here had not seen the light for many decades, because they were covered up, and were below the base line of the room where they existed, and were afterwards uncovered by excavations. The copy is very like and of the same size.

It was voted that the various papers presented be referred to the Committee of Publication. Dr. GREEN, at the request of members of the Society resident in Boston and neighborhood, and in their name, invited the members of the Society to a collation at the Parker House at half-past two o'clock.

In behalf of the Society, President SALISBURY accepted the invitation.

The meeting was then dissolved.

NATHANIEL PAINE,  
*Secretary pro tempore.*



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