

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Council was held at the hall of the Society at 11 A. M., on Oct. 3, 1904.

Present: President Salisbury and Messrs. Paine, S. A. Green, Davis, S. S. Green, Adams, Engler, Wright and Chase.

President SALISBURY said:—

It is with feelings of great sorrow that we are met to-day to consider the irreparable loss this Society has met in the death of our first Vice-President, the Honorable GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR, LL.D.

As a member third upon the list in date of election, in 1853, Vice-President in 1878, and President from 1884 to 1887, when he was forced by the pressure of his senatorial duties in Congress to resign and to resume his place as Vice-President, we mourn his death. As was the case with the founder of the Society, Isaiah Thomas, of the librarians, Christopher Columbus Baldwin and Samuel Foster Haven, and of other past officers and members of the Society, Senator Hoar loved this Society, and was in turn loved and respected by its members.

Often has he made this statement, that no literary organization with which he was connected gave him more keen satisfaction and pleasure than ours, nor was there any whose purposes were more congenial to his tastes and mental activities.

Certainly the Council of the Society has had opportunity to observe, that in season and out of season between the stated meetings, the constant loving thought of the Senator, while far away and occupied with great national problems, was busy with some course of action or some investigation that would advance the welfare of our association. His gifts of valuable books, paintings, historical relics and pecuniary assistance have been among the

largest we have received from any source. He has prepared five stated reports of the Council and more than twenty formal papers on historical and *belles-lettres* literature, besides innumerable shorter communications made at our regular meetings, which only he could have brought to our notice, on account of his special opportunities of acquaintance with the facts.

For many years, it has been the practice of the Senator to entertain the Council at his home when the preparatory meetings were held, and his hospitality, joined with his courtesy and unselfish devotion to what might be for our best interests, animated this Board to strive for the highest good of the Society.

The Council of the Society realize that in the death of Senator Hoar, they have lost an officer, friend and adviser, whose place cannot be filled. His great learning, eloquence and sound judgment were always devoted unstintingly to the furtherance of what is best in literature and art, and to what he thought was for the improvement of the community. He was fearless, honest and sincere in his convictions, and was persistent and untiring in his efforts to bring about results that commended themselves to his judgment and conscience. We feel that his example and influence upon us and upon our Society will long remain, to inspire us to greater activity in the lines so conspicuously shown by his constant and unremitting devotion to his country, his state and to the public welfare.

To the family and all those most near and dear to the deceased Senator, we offer our profound sympathy and condolence.

NATHANIEL PAINE, A.M., said:—

Mr. President, while there is but little to add to what has already been said by you in eulogy of our departed associate, I cannot let the occasion pass without a few words to express my own feelings at this time.

The death of Senator HOAR comes to me as a personal loss, as it has been my great good fortune to have been on somewhat intimate terms with him for several years. I am indebted to him for many kind words in my behalf, and for many manifestations of his kindness and considera-

tion, and I look back to his friendship as a most precious memory. All who have known him will bear testimony to his great modesty. A man of great ability and having had the highest honors of the state and nation bestowed upon him, yet to the humblest of his friends appearing on such terms of good fellowship that one could not but feel at ease in his company. With a delightful conversational power and a wonderful memory that could at once call to mind words of wisdom or of humor from the best in English literature, his society was a pleasure and an inspiration to those privileged and honored by his friendship.

As you are aware, Senator Hoar was often called upon to give his aid and sympathy in enterprises and interests intended to benefit our goodly city or county, and to these calls he responded cheerfully. It has been my pleasure to have been associated with him in some of them, and I can testify that he was a tower of strength to those acting with him. His strong and judicial presentation of any matter in which he was interested never failed to enlist their co-operation and sympathy.

Of the great loss sustained by the Antiquarian Society it is not necessary to speak at length. We all recognize it, and shall miss him greatly at our meetings,—abler voices will express in fitting terms at the proper time how greatly; and I can only add my appreciation and respect to those of yourself and other members of the Council. I will, however, mention the fact that at one of my last visits to Senator Hoar, a short time before his death, he spoke of the Antiquarian Society and of the hope that he might be able to present at least one more paper upon a subject he had in mind.

I join with you, Mr. President, in wishing to spread upon the records our realization of the great loss we have sustained by the death of our most honored and distinguished associate.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, LL.D., said:—

When a public man has reached the age allotted by the Psalmist, and passed beyond that period, and has died in the fulness of his mental powers and at the height of his successful work, his death should not be the subject

of sorrow, but rather of gratitude and thanksgiving that he had lived so long. While we all shall miss Mr. HOAR and mourn his loss, we can but feel that he died at an opportune time for his own reputation, when not a discordant note was heard in the testimony to the universal love and affection in which he was held by all classes of the community. With his keen wit, in his younger days he had the faculty of saying sharp things; and he was withal a good deal of a partisan in politics. Sometimes his caustic reply would leave a sting, but with the flight of time this trait in his character melted away. In recent years his heart grew so big that in his loving kindness he included all races and creeds, and he hated only oppression and hypocrisy. I do not think that there was a man in this Commonwealth, and perhaps not in the country, who had such a large following from the various classes of society, and made up, too, from all the different elements. They each and every one had so much faith in his utter incorruptibility, that in a general way they accepted his judgment on all public questions.

Mr. Hoar came of sturdy New England stock, his mother being a daughter of Roger Sherman, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and he was brought up in a country village, where he acquired those homely traits of character which cannot be taught by rule, but are absorbed by early associations and by contact with others.

He began his professional life on a solid foundation, and from the start his success was sure. Such was his integrity that men believed in him, and he became a strong force in the neighborhood. Throughout his public life this power was always exerted in favor of human rights and the moral law. To a remarkable degree he kept up his knowledge of the Greek and Latin classics, and few persons were so familiar with what is best in English literature. Whatever topic was under discussion, I never knew one so ready with an apt quotation to fit the subject. He was a ripe scholar and a wise statesman; and it will be a long time before we see another such instance of a man who could illustrate in his own life so many sides of a distinguished career.

Perhaps I ought here to mention the fact that Mr. Hoar was connected with the administration of the Peabody

Education Fund, as a Trustee, and that in this capacity he was a constant attendant at the meetings. He was chosen in October, 1897, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Lowell; and no member of the Board ever paid closer attention to the merits of each individual case that came up for consideration.

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, A.M., said:—

Mr. President, it is pleasant to speak of Mr. HOAR in the presence of the gentlemen sitting here. He loved every member of the Council, and every member of the Council loved and admired him. He always kept this Society in mind and its interests in his heart.

You have spoken of the many papers which Mr. Hoar prepared for us and read at our meetings. But he should be credited also with securing papers from other members of the Society. Various events and sequences in history which it seemed to him needed investigation, suggested themselves to his mind, and it was his custom to seek out members and others who had the qualifications, and urge them to write papers on these subjects. Is there a gentleman here who has not on more than one occasion been stimulated by Mr. Hoar to make a communication to the Society on a subject recommended by him?

A short time before he became confined to the house he took me out to ride, and drove to Sutton to show me the monument which had just been put up in honor of General Rufus Putnam, at the dedication of which he delivered his last elaborate address. In the course of conversation during the drive, he talked about the future of this Society, and expressed great regret that the young men who are now coming into active life, and those who have just begun to achieve success, show little interest in historical pursuits, becoming wholly absorbed in the pursuit of their daily occupations, in making money and in social enjoyments.

"Why," said he, "when I was young I used to look with profound reverence upon such a man as Charles Deane, delighted to be in his company, and was anxious to catch his spirit. It saddens me to see that young men today do not study outside of professional work, and care little for general or special scholarship."

My recollections of Mr. Hoar, associates, are largely connected with delightful excursions which he got up for our enjoyment. There was nothing that gave him so much pleasure as to gather his close friends around him and take them on an outing in which intellectual enjoyment should be joined with friendly social intercourse. It was a common thing for him to take his friends to the Rufus Putnam place at Rutland. He carried John Sherman there. He would have taken President McKinley to Rutland had it not been for the sudden illness of the President's wife, which prevented him from coming to Worcester. He delighted to show his friends from Ohio where one of the leading founders of the state lived, and the house from which he went forth to render his powerful aid in settling the Northwestern territory. He took the members of the Council and others to Copp's Hill Cemetery and the Granary and King's Chapel burying-grounds. Again he took us to Concord, where his lamented nephew, Samuel Hoar, entertained us at luncheon, and where he himself pointed out the objects of historical interest and dwelt upon the scenes which they commemorated with the enthusiasm and loving interest of a devoted historical student to the manner born. Another time he took us to Quincy, upon the invitation of our associate in the Society and Council, Mr. Adams, who entertained the party with hearty and profuse hospitality and, showing us the famous burial-ground, the historic houses of Quincy and other objects and scenes of especial interest, opened for us the vault in which lie the tombs of the two Presidents of the United States, his ancestors. It was from Mr. Adams's desire to please Mr. Hoar that we were indebted for our visit, and on this occasion, as on the others mentioned, Mr. Hoar's hospitality was continued by taking us to one of the best hostelries in Boston to dinner.

Mr. Hoar was very fond of nature, and always wished to enjoy beautiful scenery in the company of friends. He liked to take us to the top of Asnebumskit, along the charmingly bordered roads in the neighborhood of Worcester, and to go out with us for a drive by moonlight. His earnest efforts and protracted exertions to hear a nightingale sing, in England, are remembered by his intimates.

A mountain in the western part of the state had been given to the commonwealth, and placed in the hands of the Trustees of Reservations, of which Mr. Hoar was President. An early thought of his, quickly acted on, was to charter a train of cars and take many of his friends to see the new acquisition of the state and enjoy with him the charm of the views from the mountain's top. Again we must go with him to Springfield and Holyoke and climb Mount Tom. Men of parts spent a day together, wit sparkled and information was pleasantly exchanged. Cares were thrown aside and social enjoyment reigned. Mr. Hoar's friends delighted to entertain him and his friends, and he made profuse provision himself on these trips to gratify the cravings of the body as well as the desires of the mind and the heart.

These excursions under the guidance and as the guests of Mr. Hoar have been red-letter days in our lives, and, linked with the remembrance of them, our delightful recollections of the beaming geniality, the frolicsomeness, the bright sayings, the wise words, the beautiful simplicity and modesty and the charming presence of our host.

Among the many traits which endeared us to Mr. Hoar one stands out prominently. I mean his uncompromising affection. As we pass through life we are often criticised and meet with many rebuffs. But if we were assured of the friendship of Mr. Hoar we soon found that he saw no imperfections in us, but loved us with his whole heart.

A great and good man has passed away, but his memory will always be green, and the remembrance of companionship with him will recall some of the pleasantest days of our life.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., said:—

I hold Senator HOAR one among the fortunate men with whom I have in life come in contact. He was fortunate in two respects. It was given him to follow the career which he probably would most have preferred in life, to an ultimate result; and that ultimate result, while it filled the measure of his desires and ambition, did not assume the shape of what might be called a false climax. In other words, his career continued, and steadily developed, until the end came. His sun went down full orb'd.

I well remember the first time I ever saw Senator Hoar. It was before he entered public life, and while yet a practising lawyer in Worcester. He came into the Boston office, in which I had a desk, one day, in the winter of 1868, being then a man of a little over forty. I had before known his brother, Rockwood Hoar; and, afterwards, I knew "the Judge" better than I ever knew "the Senator." In fact, of the two, I may say "the Judge" appealed to me most. Nevertheless, my acquaintance with "the Senator" covered thirty years of our common lives; and, while letters I have in my possession show that it was not otherwise than agreeable to him, I can say for myself he placed me under many and deep obligations. I ever found him ready to render me any service in his power. Indeed, I think he had a somewhat traditional feeling towards me, coming down from the days of his father and my grandfather; and, with George Frisbie Hoar, traditions went far. He was apt to venerate those whom Samuel Hoar venerated.

Senator Hoar, however, holds in my thought a most interesting, and quite dramatic, position among the public men of Massachusetts. With him ends an era. Or rather, perhaps I ought to say, with him ends a succession of public men who were characteristic of an era,—its natural product. I refer to what may best be described as the period of Massachusetts anti-slavery agitation,—a period during which a class of men forged to the front who had grown up in, and drew their inspiration from, what may be termed the School of Human Rights; that is, looking to the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence, they went into political life with the application of those principles to the African in America always in view. Thus they approached all questions which confronted them from a somewhat *doctrinaire* standpoint,—that of the everlasting and inalienable Rights of Man, as man,—his equality before the law. It was a humanitarian, rather than a religious or an economic dispensation. Men of this class, therefore, regarded all political questions in a more thoroughly altruistic spirit than probably any other of its public men since the commonwealth was founded. In the early days, and among the first school of Massachusetts statesmen,—of whom John Winthrop was the great exponent,—the question was always of

the rights of the Colony in opposition to possible demands, or the encroachments of the mother country. The next race of statesmen, that of the early period of the Province as distinguished from the Colony, were largely theological in their views, and their thought was intent on a class of material questions growing out of a young industrial development, and upon the issues which arose out of the wars of Queen Anne and the first two Georges. Then followed yet another, and distinct, class, of whom Thomas Hutchinson was the best type;—men whose minds were devoted to commerce, law and finance. After that came the statesmen of the Revolution, followed by the Federalists; and, not until after the war of 1812, did a new school come forward, of whom, perhaps, Daniel Webster, Edward Everett and Robert C. Winthrop were most prominent. These men,—scholarly, somewhat given to orations of the formal school, high-toned politically,—applied themselves more especially to questions relating to banks, tariffs and, above all, nationality. It was in 1835 that the presence of yet a new school began to make itself felt. It was a school developed out of the agitation over African slavery, and its extension into the territories of the common country. Of this school Massachusetts furnished three marked exponents,—Charles Sumner, John A. Andrew and George F. Hoar. In the councils of the United States, the Massachusetts succession in this school was distinct and dramatic. It is a sequence of great names. I have said that it began to make itself felt in 1835. It was then that the struggle over the right of petition was inaugurated in Congress, John Quincy Adams its champion. The succession that followed was, as I have said, dramatic; and it was complete. J. Q. Adams died in 1848; Charles Sumner first came into notice, with his "True Grandeur of Nations" oration, in 1845, and he was elected to succeed Mr. Webster and Mr. Winthrop in the United States Senate, in 1851. Sumner sat continuously in the Senate until 1873; and, at the time of his death, Mr. Hoar was already serving his second term in the House of Representatives. Six years later he was promoted, succeeding Gov. Boutwell in Sumner's seat, continuing the Adams-Sumner succession. The sequence, therefore, covering sixty-nine years, or more than two generations of men, has been nearly complete and consecu-

tive: first, John Q. Adams, from 1835 to 1848; Charles Sumner, from 1851 to 1874; George F. Hoar, from 1869 to 1904. The first of the four,—even then long a veteran,—was, of course, closing his life when he came forward as the first exponent in Congress of Human Rights under the Declaration and the Constitution. He dated back to the Declaration itself. The principles therein set forth for the Anglo-Saxon, were by him extended to the African. The others I have named were, so to speak, his disciples. When Mr. Adams died, Mr. Hoar was already a man of twenty-three. Five years before his father had been expelled from South Carolina. This made at the time an impression on him which never passed away; for he was then in the second year of his college course. That early impression beyond a doubt influenced his views and action for the whole remainder of his life. Mr. Hoar never was an economist; he never was a financier; material questions never appealed strongly to him. Essentially a statesman of Human Rights, with him the school, so far as Massachusetts is concerned, passed out of existence. He has left no successor. On no one does his mantle fall.

There was a trite old Greek saying to the effect that no man was to be reputed happy until his death. Measured by that test Senator Hoar is a happy man. He loved the Senate; and he died, Senator: he loved a political career; and he died in full political career. While, in that career, he met, as men necessarily must meet, occasional set-backs and mischances, he never encountered disaster. The fate of so many public men as conscientious and obedient to the sense of duty as Senator Hoar unquestionably was, unto him was spared; for he was not fated to undergo defeat, bringing his public life to a standstill at a point from which the fall was sharp and recovery impossible. He died surrounded by friends, held in respect by both parties, at the head of one of the leading committees of the Senate, the object of universal respect and deference. He had honor, love, obedience, troops of friends,—much to enjoy. He was not a man caring greatly for wealth, or what wealth brings. He had a competence, not a superfluity; it sufficed. So, as life slowly ebbed away, and he looked back over his record, he could not but have felt that it had been a success. In

one of Tennyson's earlier and better poems,—that, I think, called *The Miller's Daughter*,—there is a stanza I have on more than one occasion already repeated, yet which, in connection with certain persons, ever recurs to me. The speaker is supposed to be an Englishman of wealth, sitting at his table, in his old age, talking to his wife. In reply to some remark of his with a possible tinge of complaint, she asks him whether on the whole his life has not been a happy one. Repeating her words, he replies as follows:—

“Have I not found a happy earth?
I least should breathe a thought of pain,
Would God renew me from my birth
I'd almost live my life again.”

My own belief is, there are not many men who can say this. We would all like to live our lives over if the second life could be, as it were, a revised and corrected edition of the first; but to live it all over marred by the same weaknesses, and committing the same faults, which mark and mar the average, is something which few, I think, would really care to do. I am inclined, however, to think Senator Hoar was one of the exceptional cases. His life was a successful sequence. Beginning with his boyhood in Lincoln and Concord, following through his Harvard course, his professional life at Worcester, his public career, first in the House of Representatives and then in the Senate, and gradually working up to the climax of his final term in that body, I am inclined to think Senator Hoar is one of the few happy, exceptional cases in which a man, looking back from a death-bed, would be willing to say that his life had been a happy one, and he would like to live it all over, just as it had passed.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT, LL.D., said:—

My acquaintance with Senator HOAR began in 1871, but my intimate relations with him began only four or five years ago. But during this latter period I learned much of the greatness of the man, not only as evidenced by his superb mental powers, but as coming from his great heart. He seemed to me a man capable of understanding in the most analytical way all sides of a question; that if he did not so understand, it was because of the

insufficiency of the facts, but when his mind grasped what was truth to him, he had the courage to take the position the truth indicated. This was as true of his attitude toward individuals as toward great problems of statesmanship. With confidence in a man, Senator Hoar could always consider every attack or opposition to him with perfect justice and fairness. He was thus enabled to win the friendship and the warmest personal regard of his associates, whether in the Senate or in the community in which he lived.

My admiration for him, acquired through observation of many years, was greatly increased when I found his attitude toward the new college, with which he had so much to do. Advocating as he did the highest academic work, yet believing that young men should acquire more than a smattering of the classics, he insisted that any young man taking a college course should receive an equipment for citizenship. The making of good citizens was to him pre-eminently the duty of college authorities, but in this making he felt that a knowledge of the best to be obtained from all sources was essential. This gave us a common ground.

Another thing which always impressed me, was Senator Hoar's consideration for young men. It was his delight always to help a young man in achieving success in life. The private secretaries that he has sent out into honorable positions constitute a living evidence of this friendliness and helpfulness in shaping the lives and careers of young men.

In politics, in science and in the professions, elderly men are too apt to look with jealousy upon the young men following them. They somehow feel that they do not wish young men to succeed where they have in a measure failed; nor can they accept the situation of giving their experience, whatever it may have been, to the younger elements. I think this attitude is particularly noticeable in men filling political positions and engaged in scientific work, but the feeling never existed with Senator Hoar. He always welcomed the young man, gave him a cordial hand and sound advice. Approaching his age I always felt when with him as if I were a young man starting in life and sitting at the feet of a teacher who could guide me through the intricate problems which life offers.

I know of no grander tribute to a man, or grander encomium that can be pronounced on him than the recognition of this attitude of Senator Hoar's: his readiness, his sympathy, his helpfulness for the young men who are to make the public of the future. And certainly no man, of whatever age, could be associated with Senator Hoar in any way, without feeling that his education was being supplemented by the wisdom and the precepts which fell from the lips of the great teacher.

The other gentlemen present spoke in support of the President's tribute, and it was voted that it be entered upon the record.

Attest:

CHARLES A. CHASE,
Recording Secretary.

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