

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

Since the last meeting three active members have died and the death of one foreign member has been reported. The death of another member, Rev. Charles S. Vedder, March 2, 1917, has only recently been reported to the Society. Edmund Mills Barton, long librarian and for the last ten years librarian emeritus, died only four days after the April meeting, not unexpectedly, for his health had been failing for several months. He was elected a member in October, 1878, and at the time of his death stood second on the list in length of membership. At a special meeting of the Council held April 15, the following minute was passed:—

The death of Edmund Mills Barton, for seventeen years assistant, for twenty-five years librarian and, since 1908, librarian emeritus, deserves more than a passing notice from the Council under whom he served so long.

During his protracted tenure of office he had an eye single to the interests of the Society. It was the object of his solicitous affection, and it was by his faithful, watchful devotion that, when limited income permitted no extensive addition to the library by purchase, much material was secured and preserved to form the nuclei of what are now some of the Society's most useful collections.

Few of the present members of the Council had official association with Mr. Barton, but all who had will bear testimony to the absolute fidelity and loyalty with which he served the Society, to his unflinching civility toward all the users of the library, and to the enthusiasm with which he welcomed every progressive movement towards increasing the Society's usefulness.

Retiring from active work nine years ago by reason of advancing age, he left behind him pleasant recollections of a gentle serenity of temper and a lovable courtesy, which marked him as a gentleman of the old school, and endeared him to all his associates.

A biographical sketch of Mr. Barton prepared by Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis will appear later in this report. Reverend Austin Samuel Garver, the loved pastor-emeritus of the First Unitarian Church of Worcester, and a member of this Society since October, 1899, died in Worcester June 21, 1918. Professor Herbert Levi Osgood, Ph.D., of New York died in that city September 11, 1918. He was elected a member in April, 1908. Biographical notices of these two gentlemen will be printed in the next number of the Proceedings.

Federico González Suárez, Archbishop of Quito since 1895, died December 1, 1917, at the age of seventy-three, having been born in Quito April 15, 1844. He was elected a foreign member of this Society in April, 1910. At the age of twenty-one he became a member of the order of Jesuits and, until he retired from that order in 1872, taught literature and philosophy in several Jesuit colleges and became a prolific writer on church affairs. After his retirement from the order he devoted all the time he could spare from arduous ecclesiastical duties to historical research but was always strongly attracted to archæology. He published a number of historical works, the most important being the history of Ecuador in nine volumes, in which he brought the story down to 1809. In the preparation of this great work he passed three years in Spain and Portugal. He is called the "father of Ecuadorian archæology" and ranked as one of the brilliant men of letters of South America.

The greater portion of the newspaper duplicates have recently been disposed of by exchange and sale, which has relieved the basement of a vast and embarrassing accumulation and will re-establish the Purchasing Fund at nearly double its original sum. By exchange the large debt to the Library of Congress has been cancelled, and by sale the generosity of our associate, William L. Clements, has not only aided this Society, but has enabled the University of Michi-

gan to acquire a large and comprehensive newspaper collection which must prove invaluable to the students of Michigan and the neighboring States. This Society is extremely satisfied thus to furnish the means for establishing another important collection of newspapers in the West, and congratulates the University at Ann Arbor upon being the fortunate recipient of this gift, by which this Society also reaps a certain benefit. It is not always that two literary institutions are benefited by the same generous deed.

The war, to the successful prosecution of which all else must be subservient, is casting its baleful influence upon the activities of this Society. Whether its library is a necessary enterprise and therefore entitled to ask for the exemption of its librarian and to receive its full quota of fuel, is a question which is seriously disturbing your officers. The loss of the librarian would be so grave a disaster that your president refuses to consider its possibility. Up to the present but half the amount of coal has been granted by the fuel committee of the city, which will be required to maintain the temperature within the building sufficiently high to permit the staff or the public to work there. Unfortunately bituminous coal cannot be used in the heating plant, and plans are being made to burn wood in one of the boilers if more anthracite cannot be secured. It is essential for the safety of the collections to maintain the temperature high enough to preserve the books and papers from dampness and frost, and this can be done with the coal on hand, even if the building must be closed to readers. The war is also responsible for the retirement of Miss Louise Colegrove from the staff, of which she has been an esteemed member since 1908. She is now in Switzerland in the service of the Red Cross. It is hoped that at the conclusion of the war she will return to her former position in the library. Due also indirectly to the war with its high cost of living, which has obliged him to seek more remunerative employment than this

Society can offer, is the retirement from the staff of Mr. Curtis H. Morrow, who has given up library work for teaching. His services during the past six years have been of great value in the arrangement of the newspapers and government publications. The Society is fortunate in having, during the coming winter, the assistance of our associate, Archer B. Hulbert, who will contribute a portion of his time, while lecturing at Clark University, to the duties formerly performed by Mr. Morrow.

In the Council report for April, 1917, reference was made to the extensive collection of newspaper clippings presented to the library by Mr. Franklin P. Rice, consisting largely of biographical sketches and obituary notices printed since 1860. Mr. Rice continues his interest in this collection and has added very largely to it during the last eighteen months. It occupies a part of the card catalogue case, and as a supplement to the manuscript biographical notes of the late Samuel Jennison, must prove of inestimable value as a source of biographical data, in the preparation of that long hoped for Dictionary of American Biography, which we have faith to believe will sometime be published. The Society may not appreciate how much the library owes to the fostering care of individual members. Without the interest taken in it during the past ten years by Dr. Charles L. Nichols, our almanac collection would not have attained half of its importance and value; and that our collection of bookplates has become one of the finest in the country, is due to the efforts of Rev. Mr. Lombard, who not only presented the Society with his own collection, but has continued to labor ever since for its increase and improvement. The Society has recently been offered an opportunity to acquire at a very reasonable cost a large number of engraved American portraits, which with its own not inconsiderable collection, might be made, as opportunity comes to increase it, of very great importance. It will need, however, the discrimi-

nating care of an enthusiast, who must devote considerable time to its arrangement and growth, as our staff is too small and too busy with other matters to give it the attention such a subject deserves. While this may not be a favorable time, when so many are engaged in war work, to seek for such an enthusiast, it seems advisable to let the members know that the opportunity exists in the hope that before it is lost the right man will appear.

An exhibition has been arranged in the upper hall of a number of recruiting posters used in 1861 and 1862 during the Civil War, together with specimens of the paper currency and political caricatures of that period, which the members may be interested to examine. The Society owns over a hundred of these posters but room has been found to hang only about thirty of them. They present a marked contrast to the more elaborate and high colored posters of the present war, and in reading them one wonders if it was really necessary to lay so much emphasis upon the bounties offered to recruits. If it was, patriotism was evidently at a lower ebb than has been popularly supposed. The writer's own boyish recollection is, that after the first burst of patriotic fervor, which lasted for perhaps a year, enthusiasm died out, patriotism diminished, and it became necessary to entice recruits with bounties, which varied from one to several hundred dollars, according to the liberality of the several towns and cities and the pressing need for recruits. The draft which followed soon after the publication of these posters in 1862, was very unpopular and led to serious riots in New York City and to much uneasiness elsewhere. The contrast with the present draft is marked. In the Civil War "bounty jumpers," as they were called, were one of the evils of the recruiting system and drafted men frequently purchased substitutes for large sums. Under the method adopted in the present war, by which no bounties are offered and no substitutes can be purchased, not only are the evils of the

former system avoided but patriotism seems to be increasing as the war continues.

Our honored and beloved junior vice-president is unfortunately unable to attend this meeting. As one who knew the late Edmund Mills Barton better, perhaps, than any member now living, he was invited to prepare a brief memoir of him, and as the memoir of the late Mr. Haven was, at his decease, incorporated in the report of the Council, it was proposed that a similar course be pursued now. The suggestion was therefore made to Mr. Davis, that if he would also write out his reminiscences of the early days of the Society, to be included with the memoir in the Council report, the members would be much interested in what he could tell them. This Mr. Davis kindly consented to do and his tribute to Mr. Barton and reminiscences of the Society are therefore herewith presented as the interesting portion of this report.

The death of Edmund Mills Barton in his eightieth year has removed from our midst the most familiar form amongst us and we have lost from the administrative list of our service, the name which has longest been associated with our active work. Born in Worcester, September 27, 1838, his career was completed in the same place on April 14, 1918. Indeed nearly all of his life was spent within the precincts of his native town and about two-thirds of it in the service of this Society. His education, begun in the public schools, was finished with a course at a private school in Northborough, following which came three years of mercantile life. During the war formerly spoken of as the War of the Rebellion and of late as the Civil War, he was for a time in the service of the Sanitary Commission. It was far more consonant with his gentle and affectionate disposition that his patriotic activities should be in the nature of relief to the suffering and aid to the wounded than that he himself should be responsible in any way for the conditions which it was his vocation to relieve. At the close of

the War he was on duty in connection with the 5th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Relieved from this service he granted himself the one great indulgence of his life, a few months of travel and then on the first of April, 1866, as assistant librarian, entered upon the loyal and faithful service in the employment of this Society which was to prove continuous for fifty-two years.

He was deeply interested in the little church of which he was a member for a period covering nearly the same time as that which he gave to us, and on that side of his life was connected with many philanthropic and benevolent societies, while on the side of his professional labors he became associated with the great organizations known as the American Library Association and the American Historical Association. He was fond of music and this found expression in the record of his life, through the active support of the Worcester Choral Union and the Worcester Musical Association.

The story of his professional career can be told in a few words. Chosen as an assistant to Doctor Haven April 1, 1866, he was elected Librarian April 24, 1883. His last report as Librarian was submitted at the October meeting of the Society in 1908, at which meeting the Council reported that in view of Mr. Barton's long and faithful services, he had been elected Librarian Emeritus and to this announcement was added the statement: "Mr. Barton will have a desk in the Library and advise the staff so that his great knowledge of the Library will be still available to the Society." From that date till he was stricken with the illness which carried him off, he performed no specific duty at the Hall, but there was seldom a day passed when he did not pay a visit to his old co-workers. These daily meetings revived memories in their minds of their years of association with him, characterized on his part throughout the entire period by his cheerful smile and his unruffled temper, and these memories secured for him at all times an affectionate reception.

Any person who analyzes the record of Mr. Barton's life and examines the educational opportunities which had been at his disposal at the time that he was appointed assistant librarian, will recognize at once that it was not probable that he could ever have acquired the qualifications demanded of a professional librarian today. It must not be forgotten, however, that at that time there was no such profession. Should we apply the same test to Mr. Haven we should find that he could lay no claim to the title. He was a lawyer by profession, and a historical student who had already acquired reputation when he was summoned to Worcester. His great learning and the wonderful astuteness which he displayed in the prosecution of his investigations in American archæology, were of far more value to the reputation of this Society than would have been his services as librarian had he possessed the technical training and professional requirements demanded of a librarian today. Notwithstanding the fact that William Lincoln, when he wrote his History of Worcester, said that the collections of this Society had been kept open to the public freely, and had been much frequented by strangers and scholars, the liberal manner in which the books upon the shelves of a public library today are made available to students, whether they have special rights of access or not, was not fully conceived of at that time, and the necessity of opening up this access to the books through a suitable catalogue was not adequately recognized. The card catalogue, the key that opens the door to the shelves today, had not been brought to its present state of perfection, and as a rule, knowledge of what was in a library was only to be obtained from an inadequate catalogue supplemented by the aid of those who arranged the books upon the shelves. In the development of the use of our library and in the improvement of the means of bringing our resources to the knowledge of students, Mr. Barton participated, and it was under his personal supervision that the ex-

tensive acquisitions gained during the period of his active service were arranged upon the shelves, and nuclei established for future growth in special directions. The miscellaneous character of many of the gifts to the Society demanded intelligent supervision, and the study of the needs of the library made him keen to recognize in the waifs which passed through his hands, actual or potential values, hidden from those who were not educated by experience in handling such material. The increase of the number of public libraries and the steady development of their use has created the professional librarian, and if the limitations of Mr. Barton's education cut him off from some of the activities demanded in that field, he had at any rate the compensation of knowing that with every year of experience his knowledge of the demands of his service had increased and that he had thus become of greater value to us in the administration of his daily work.

During the first hundred years of this Society, there were practically but three persons elected to the office of librarian: Christopher C. Baldwin, Samuel F. Haven, and Edmund M. Barton. It is inevitable that one who can call himself a contemporary of all three should pause while recalling the career of the last and indulge in reminiscences of the other two. It is quite within the probabilities that I may have seen Mr. Baldwin. At any rate I have a distinct idea of his social characteristics, which if it does not permit me to recall his personal appearance, at least presents a vivid picture of his social attractions. During the days of my boyhood, I have heard my mother often speak of him. It was evident that he was a frequent and welcome guest in our household, and whenever his name was mentioned it was generally accompanied by anecdotes, the interest of which hinged upon some witty sally, or humorous conversational turn of which he was the author. He was clearly the one upon whom, when he was present, the little clique of inti-

mates depended for the life and animation of their social circle, and precisely as he has left behind him a distinct impression among our librarians as a collector whose characteristic it was to discover hidden treasure of valuable material which could be procured for our use, so his brilliant conversation created a reputation which was passed on to me with such force that I shall always think of his social personality with almost as much clearness as if I had actually met him.

With Mr. Haven, my relations were on a widely different basis. I knew him while I was still a mere boy and I can almost claim that his friendship which I had occasion to realize at different times in my life, began at that early period. He permitted me several times in my boyhood to inspect what was termed by William Lincoln the "valuable cabinet illustration of antiquities and natural history," access to which was gained through his office, then established in the southern wing of the Society building on Summer Street, and it was in this building and in this office that I once attended a meeting of the Council of this Society. The meeting was held in the evening. I do not know in what year, but think it must have been in the middle forties. My father asked me if I would like to go with him to the meeting, and of course I was only too glad to keep him company. I remember nothing of what took place there, or of those present, but when I try to recall the scene, I think of an astral lamp on Mr. Haven's desk, illuminating a small area on its surface, and of the rest of the office in a sort of twilight. It is safe to say that I am the only person living who ever attended a Council meeting in the old building on Summer Street. Absence from Worcester reduced the opportunities for familiarizing myself with the library in its new home, when it was first moved to Court Hill. The various articles of interest which constituted the cabinet or museum were transferred to this building, and at a later date this side of the work of the Society was accentuated by the pre-

sentation by Mr. Salisbury of two plaster casts of heroic size, one of Michael Angelo's Moses and one of his Christ. The former startled the visitor on entering the lower hall of the building. Here he kept perpetual watch, and raised doubts in the minds of those familiar with the alleged objects of the Society whether he was illustrative of "antiquity" or of "natural history." When it became evident to the Council that the field covered by the collections of the Society would, under the altered conditions of modern life, be better covered by narrowing its limits, the question arose what should be done with these various objects of interest in the cabinet. How they were distributed, and what finally became of the statues, has been disclosed in the reports of the Council and of the librarian. Suffice it to say that the Society entered upon its work in the new building on Salisbury Street without a cabinet of antiquities and without the giant statues one of which, as has already been stated, confronted the visitor on entering the lower hall of the Court Hill building, while the other was on the story above.

What the members who were in the habit of attending the meetings in that building will always miss was the opportunity for seeing their friends afforded by the informal assemblage in the librarian's office prior to the opening of the meeting. Here one could confer with the Worcester members and later as the trains arrived from the various points of compass, the newly arrived members from more distant localities. This opportunity for the interchange of friendly intercourse was of inestimable value, and was followed by a formal meeting, held in a pleasant room with good acoustic properties, on the walls of which numerous portraits were hung. Moreover, the room was equipped with interesting furniture which at every turn reminded one that the Society was Antiquarian. The informal and the formal meeting together left a highly satisfactory impression on those who were present. The

whole thing was in its way unique. With a good chance of seeing Doctor Peabody and Charles Deane, George E. Ellis and Justin Winsor and possibly also Doctor Green seated on the sofas which were placed on either side of the Secretary's table, at right angles to the chairs in which the audience was seated, and perhaps with Charles Francis Adams and William B. Weeden, "Nat" Paine and Henry Haynes in the front row of the old-fashioned chairs which furnished the seating capacity for the meeting, the scene was one not easily to be forgotten. As a rule some of these gentlemen interposed with remarks or questions during the progress of the meeting. These were generally appropriate, suggestive and interesting, but I well remember one occasion when Doctor Ellis, without any hint, or suggestion to call for his interposition, rose and pointing to the portraits of Doctor Bancroft and my father, told how on a certain occasion when he was sent to Worcester as a delegate to some convention, he was assigned to the hospitable care of my mother. There was but little point to his gossip and not altogether appropriate anecdote, but it was characteristic of the man and the occasion, and illustrates the personal element introduced in these meetings by the presence of so many distinguished men.

In my review of the career of Mr. Barton, I have mentioned but three of the librarians that this Society has had. May it be long before any person is called upon to perform a similar service for Mr. Brigham, the successor and for ten years the co-adjutor of Mr. Barton. If our first librarian could be properly characterized as a wonderful collector; our second as a distinguished archæologist; our third as one who knew how skilfully to sort out, arrange and make accessible our acquisitions, it would seem that our fourth is destined to become *the* authority upon the gigantic subject of the place in history of the newspapers of the American continents and of the islands of the Caribbean Sea.

WALDO LINCOLN,
For the Council.

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