

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

THE Society has lost two active members by death since the last meeting. Arthur Lord of Plymouth, who was elected to membership in October, 1896, died in Boston, April 10, the day after his election as President of our sister institution, the Massachusetts Historical Society, of which he had long been a treasurer and vice-president, a most devoted member. George Burton Adams of New Haven, Conn., a member of the Society since April, 1899, died at New Haven on May 26. Brief memoirs of these members will be printed in the Proceedings.

The Council is sorry to announce the retirement from its membership of Judge Samuel Utley who was first chosen a councillor in 1904 and is the last surviving member of the Council of that year. His opinion and advice, often sought and frankly given, have been highly valued by his associates who deeply regret his decision to decline a re-election.

Rearrangement of the library, made possible by the new stack, has been in process during the summer. The most noticeable change is in the alcoves opening from the Reading Room which are now wholly given up to local history, the genealogical collection occupying all the shelves around the Rotunda. These two departments make an impressive showing of the remarkable growth of the collections of the Society since removing into the present building in 1911. Other specialities have increased in like proportion, but their growth is not so prominent since they are housed in the stack, to which has been consigned the collections relating to the Civil War, Spanish America and Ameri-

can Bibliography, which until recently occupied the three eastern alcoves. The last named collection, has been mostly gathered since 1910 when our late associate, Franklin B. Dexter, noticing the weakness of the library in this department, gave several important catalogues and one hundred dollars, which he subsequently increased to three hundred, for the purchase of bibliographical material. From the fact that the library possesses many thousand auction and sales catalogues, not usually included in such collections, it has now one of the largest collections of American bibliography in the country. Our Spanish Americana, which has received a very large and quite important accession of material through the kindness of the University of Chicago, has found ample room for expansion in the new stack and, in connection with our South American, Central American, and West Indian newspapers, forms an invaluable source of material for students of the history of that part of the world. The Council deplores the lack of means to enable the recataloguing and reclassifying of the whole library at the same time that the books are rearranged, which, however desirable, must be deferred until funds permit.

During and partly on account of the Great War the publication of the Proceedings fell badly in arrears, each issue being published from twelve to eighteen months after the meetings the doing of which it recorded. An attempt is now being made to recover this lost time and to have the Proceedings of each meeting distributed to the members before the following meeting, as was formerly done. The issue for April 1924, was sent to the members in August last and that for October 1924, was mailed two weeks ago, consequently the Proceedings are now but six months in arrears and as the number for April, 1925, is mostly in type and will be issued, it is hoped, before January, it is expected that the Proceedings for this meeting will be in the members' hands before the April meeting and the lost time will be wholly regained. It is unfortu-

nate that the lack of income prevents the publication of an occasional volume of Transactions.

Through the suggestion of vice-president Bowen, ever vigilant for the Society's welfare, the portrait gallery has received a welcome addition. Mrs. Arthur John Hillman of Jamaica, N. Y., has presented two portraits by Winthrop Chandler, one of himself and the other of his wife, excellent examples of the work of this local artist and especially valuable because portraying the artist himself. Mrs. Hillman, whose maiden name was Mollie Eliza Stark, is the great-great-granddaughter of Winthrop Chandler through her mother, Mary Gleason, daughter of Charles (Samuel, Winthrop) Chandler and wife of Jacob Hicks Stark. She presents these portraits to the Society in memory of her mother, merely asking that this be expressed in the records. The portraits have been thoroughly restored and reframed at the expense of Mr. Bowen. Winthrop Chandler, the artist, son of William (John, John, William) and Jemima (Bradbury) Chandler, was born April 6, 1747 at Woodstock, formerly a part of Worcester county but now in Connecticut, and died July 29, 1790 at the house of his brother, Theophilus, in Thompson, Conn. He is said to have studied portrait painting in Boston but, unable to support his family by that form of art, was obliged to resort to house painting. Several of his portraits are still preserved in Woodstock and neighboring towns as well as in Worcester county. Mr. Chandler was also a skillful wood carver and carved the English coat of arms which decorated the mansion of his cousin, Sheriff Gardner Chandler of Worcester, which was standing within the memory of our older members, on Main Street, opposite the common. He removed with his wife, to Worcester in 1787, but was reduced to extreme poverty and was obliged to seek a home with his brother, his wife going to her parents in Dudley, where she died in 1789.

Mr. Munson's gift of almanacs was acknowledged at

the April meeting. It has placed this library far in the lead of all collectors of these interesting publications. An exhibition has been arranged in the cases in the upper hall of eighty-seven almanacs comprising the most interesting examples in the collection, though the number might well be doubled did space permit. A descriptive catalogue of the exhibition has been prepared and is now being printed and the exhibition will be continued through the winter. It is worthy of a more careful study than the time available today will permit.

At the annual meeting a year ago the Society voted to authorize the Council to investigate the subject of an increase of the endowment fund and to take such action as it may see fit to promote it. In accordance with this vote the Council empowered the President to appoint a committee of five to investigate the subject and report its recommendations to the Council. The President appointed as members of the committee, the President and Messrs. Brigham, Nichols, C. G. Washburn and Wilbur. This committee has reported progress and requested further time, which has been granted. The substance of its report is, that after due deliberation it decided that the sum needed is five hundred thousand dollars and that it was advisable to consult experts as to methods to be pursued. These experts advised a preliminary survey of the situation and a campaign of four or more months of publicity, this preliminary work to cost about fifty-five hundred dollars. Aware that the Society had not this sum of money to expend, eleven members were invited to underwrite this expense and generously responded by advancing five hundred dollars each.

A thorough survey of the Society's condition and needs has been made, of which a voluminous report has been submitted to the committee and, for the last four or five months, a campaign of publicity has been carried on through the newspapers of the country which, in the opinion of the Council, has widely advertised the Society and its collections.

During this campaign the following articles have been prepared from materials in the library and printed in the newspapers:

1. Origin of Memorial Day, telling of its inspiration by an "unknown" soldier, as revealed in the Society's records.
2. Letter of Gen. William T. Sherman, written during advance upon Atlanta.
3. Cross-word Puzzle of 1860, consisting of photograph of billboard, cross-word broadside in the Society's files, with descriptive article.
4. Satire on General Howe's Proclamation of November 6, 1775, from a rare broadside.
5. A Loyalist's Impressions of the Battle of Bunker Hill, based on an original letter written by Samuel Paine in June 1775.
6. General Washington's Orders to his Army on assuming command at Cambridge July 3, 1775, taken from Henshaw's Orderly Book.
7. How Isaiah Thomas proclaimed the Declaration of Independence.
8. Origin of America and the Star Spangled Banner.
9. Washington at Cambridge. Original evidence from an old newspaper file showing Washington's official acts, including review of forces on taking over army, for publication on occasion of President Coolidge's visit to Cambridge, July 3.
10. Tea gathered after Boston Tea Party, photographed in phial at the Society's museum.
11. Benedict Arnold's letter from Crown Point resigning commission as commander.
12. Revere's Forty-two shilling note engraving, a Revolutionary War relic, rescued from scrap pile in Scotland.
13. "New England Rarities Discovered," a rare volume by John Josselyn.
14. The Celeron plate, buried by the French in 1749, at the mouth of the Venango River to mark their claim to the Western Territory.
15. Indian playing cards, based on an original pack of cards in the Society's museum.

16. Origin of Labor Day, with comment on its significance written by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.
17. The "Alabama Stone," connected with DeSoto's expeditions in Florida.
18. Staffordshire blue platter, showing landing of Lafayette at New York in 1824.
19. Letter from Charles Dickens during his visit to America.
20. Four engravings of Indian chiefs of the Six Nations, engraved in 1710.
21. Bookplates of Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.

These twenty-one newspaper articles have appeared in hundreds of newspapers throughout the country, chiefly east of the Mississippi River, but in a few cases extending to California, Oregon and other Western States. The Society has already obtained clippings from nearly two hundred newspapers, although this represents probably not more than one-fifth of the number of articles published. The most popular articles were "A Loyalist's Impressions of Bunker Hill," the "Origin of America," the "Letter of Benedict Arnold," and "Josselyn's New England Rarities." In at least two cases the articles were sent out in syndicate form, which resulted in far larger publication than if sent to individual newspapers. In several cases newspaper editorials were written on the articles published and considerable correspondence has come to the Society as a result of the publicity given to its name. Evidently thousands of people, who never even heard of the American Antiquarian Society, have at least read its name in print and know something of the scope of its collections.

A report, based on the survey, is now being prepared for distribution among the members and friends of the Society and members can materially assist the committee, if they will see that these pamphlets are distributed among those who are likely to be interested in adding to the resources of the Society.

The Council recommends that the exaction of an annual fee of five dollars from members residing in New England be abolished, thereby placing all members on the same basis and making all membership hereafter strictly honorary. In spite of the insufficient income of the Society the Council is of the opinion, that the sum raised by these annual dues is not worth the trouble it makes for our treasurer, nor the annoyance it causes to our New England members. A vote has therefore been prepared striking out the fourth and fifth paragraphs of Article VII of the By-Laws, which relate to this annual fee and the provisions in case of its non-payment, and its adoption is advised.

By the earliest By-Laws all members were assessed two dollars annually and the payment of twenty dollars relieved a member of all further dues. In 1814, only members residing in Massachusetts were taxed and in 1820, an initiation fee of six dollars was asked of all new members and the same sum, paid by a Massachusetts member present or future exempted him from annual dues. In 1831, the Society, having received Mr. Thomas' legacy, adopted a new set of By-Laws and abolished all dues. In 1878, an admission fee of five dollars was required of all new members and New England members were assessed five dollars annually, which could be commuted by the payment of fifty dollars. This arrangement continued until April, 1918, when the admission fee was abolished.¹

The following report of Waldo G. Leland, delegate of the Society to The American Council of Learned Societies is made a part of the Council Report.

WALDO LINCOLN,
For the Council

¹An error has been found in the published Proceedings, 1812-1849, p. 75. Article IX as there printed was not adopted until January, 1820. It should read: Each member residing within the State of Massachusetts shall annually pay to the Treasurer two dollars towards a fund for the contingent expenses of the Society; and any such member who shall neglect to pay said annual tax, and shall suffer himself to be in arrears for three annual taxes, after having been called upon by the treasurer in person, or by his written order; shall be considered as having abdicated his interest in the Society, and no longer a member.

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