

## PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 29, 1891, AT THE HALL OF THE  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

THE President, STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., in the chair.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Mr. WASHBURN, Mr. CHARLES A. CHASE was elected Recording Secretary *pro tempore*.

The record of the last meeting was read and accepted.

The following members were present (the names being arranged in order of seniority of membership): Robert C. Winthrop, George E. Ellis, Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Andrew P. Peabody, Nathaniel Paine, Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth, Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt, Edward G. Porter, Charles C. Smith, Francis A. Walker, Edmund M. Barton, Thomas L. Nelson, Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Henry W. Haynes, Solomon Lincoln, Andrew McF. Davis, Cyrus Hamlin, J. Evarts Greene, Henry S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Daniel Merriman, Reuben Colton, Henry H. Edes, James P. Baxter, Thomas Chase, A. George Bullock, John N. Brown, G. Stanley Hall, William E. Foster, Hamilton A. Hill, John F. Jameson.

THE PRESIDENT:—"It is a matter of interest to the Society, I think, to call their attention to a communication received from the oldest of our associates, Dr. LUCIUS R. PAIGE. He is now in his ninetieth year, and it is very gratifying to the Society to note the interest that he takes

in our proceedings. This letter was directed to our associate, Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, and runs as follows:—

CAMBRIDGEPORT, *April 28, 1891.*

DEAR SIR:—I regret my enforced absence from the meeting of the American Antiquarian Society to-morrow. I am still under the *daily* care of my physician, but am glad to say that I am gradually, and I think surely, recovering from a three weeks' illness of *la grippe*.

Truly yours,

LUCIUS R. PAIGE.

Hon. S. A. GREEN.

On motion of Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, the Secretary was directed "to convey to Dr. PAIGE the salutations of the Society and to assure him of our affection and our desire that his life and health may be prolonged."

Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN:—"Dr. GEORGE CHANDLER of Worcester, who has generally been with us, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday yesterday, and it would seem a very pleasant thing to send our congratulations to him. He wished to be particularly remembered to the older members of the Society to-day, and to have me say that he wished to express to the Society the great interest which he felt in it."

THE PRESIDENT:—"I think it will be very grateful to the Society also to extend their felicitations to our associate, Dr. CHANDLER of Worcester, who is so far advanced in his life career and is among the oldest of our members. Those in favor of the Secretary's extending our felicitations to Dr. CHANDLER will manifest it by the uplifted hand." The motion was unanimously carried.

The report of the Council was read by the Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR.

The report of the Treasurer was read by NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq.; and the report of the Librarian was read by Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON.

These reports, together constituting the full report of the

Council, were accepted, and referred to the Committee of Publication.

The following-named gentlemen, having been recommended by the Council, were duly elected to membership in the Society, on separate ballots:—

CHARLES P. BOWDITCH, Esq., of Tamworth, N. H.

CHARLES P. GREENOUGH, A.M., of Brookline, Mass.

GEORGE D. ROBINSON, LL.D., of Chicopee, Mass.

EDWIN D. MEAD, Esq., of Boston, Mass.

GEORGE OLCOTT, Esq., of Charlestown, N. H.

And to foreign membership:—

WILLIAM E. H. LECKEY, of London, England.

The following communication, received from Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS of Worcester, was read by the temporary secretary, who stated that the Council had accepted the gift with thanks:—

WORCESTER, *April 28, 1891.*

*To the Council of the American Antiquarian Society:*

GENTLEMEN.—In January, 1868, my father, Isaac Davis, established the "Isaac Davis Book Fund," by a gift of \$500, which, with subsequent additions made by him, now amounts to the sum of \$1,500. By the terms of the gift, the income of the fund "is to be applied to the purchase of books, maps, charts and works of art relating to that portion of North America lying south of the United States."

I should be very glad to have my name associated with that of my father, in this work. To this end, and in appreciation of the cordial co-operation of the Society in carrying out his wishes, I offer the American Antiquarian Society the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the principal of the above named fund, the income to be used for the purposes already expressed.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD L. DAVIS.

Mr. J. EVARTS GREENE:—"We all know that the Society has often been largely indebted to Mr. DAVIS,

as well as to his father. I wish to offer the following motion:—

“The Society has heard with grateful satisfaction the generous proposal of our associate, the Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS, to make a large addition to the ‘Isaac Davis Book Fund.’

“The Society hereby expresses to Mr. Davis its earnest thanks for this timely and liberal benefaction, accepts it with gratitude, and directs that the fund to which this is an addition shall be hereafter known as the Isaac and Edward L. Davis Book Fund.”

The motion was unanimously carried.

SAMUEL S. GREEN, A.M., read a sketch of GEORGE BANCROFT, LL.D., late First Vice-President of the Society.

HON. ELIJAH B. STODDARD:—“Perhaps it may be interesting to the members of the Society to know that Mr. BANCROFT left in the hands of his step-son, Col. Alexander Bliss, an ample sum with which to erect a monument in the Rural Cemetery, on his lot. He so informed me on the day of the funeral of Mr. BANCROFT. The plans are now being made for that purpose.”

CYRUS HAMLIN, D.D.:—“I should like to mention a little anecdote which will illustrate, perhaps, some of the characteristics of Mr. BANCROFT. He visited Constantinople while I was in that long contest with the Turkish Government to obtain leave to erect Robert College. I wanted to interest him in the question and get his influence. I invited him to the proposed site of the College and he came. He was exceedingly enraptured with the scenery from the site. He sat down and discussed it, and discussed the various points of historic interest on the Asiatic shore, and spent so much time that the driver of the carriage came and said, ‘Mr. Bancroft, it will be very dark before we get to your hotel and the streets are very narrow, and it is time for us to go.’ ‘Never mind the narrow streets,’ he said, and shook him off; ‘I shall never enjoy this scenery again, and I am going to enjoy it now.’ After a time the driver came

again and said, 'Mr. Bancroft, do you see those clouds rising? It is going to be very dark, I assure you.' 'Let it be dark as Egypt,' he replied, and the driver did not dare to come again; and Mr. Bancroft sat there and enjoyed the scenery until it began to fade. It was undoubtedly 'dark as Egypt' when he got safely to his hotel."

Rev. ANDREW P. PEABODY, D.D. :—"I, perhaps, am the only person present who has any remembrance, and that traditional, of Mr. BANCROFT'S preaching. My predecessor in the ministry in Portsmouth was a pupil of Dr. BANCROFT. Mr. BANCROFT preached perhaps his second sermon in the pulpit that I afterwards occupied in Portsmouth. The sermon left a long memory. It was not edifying, but particularly unedifying to the more devout members of the congregation. But there was one figure which he used, and not an inappropriate figure, on the whole, though it sounded very unfamiliar, and adhered to the memory of his hearers as long as they lived. He spoke of 'our dear pelican Jesus,'—a figure peculiarly homely, certainly not inappropriate, and yet intensely unedifying."

Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., gave some remembrances of Mr. BANCROFT, of a confidential nature.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, who was greeted with applause, arose and said :—"I thank my friends of the Society for this kind reception. I am not here, however, to attempt to make a speech. I come somewhat with the feeling with which I used to hear Mr. Webster make a speech which he was fond of making in regard to good old General Stark of New Hampshire, who, upon one occasion, very unusual for himself, came to a meeting, either a meeting of war or it may be of peace, a little too late. 'Oh,' says Stark, 'I have come too late, but you will never find me going away too early.' It was approaching the time just now, as I looked at my watch, when I must take my leave, and I cannot be present at the dinner which has been proposed, so fitly, on the part of our Boston associates to

those who come from Worcester. Indeed, I have come here under great reluctance, for, as I wrote to a friend not many days ago, it seemed to me that within the last month a whole avalanche of age and infirmities had fallen upon me, and that my use, my general condition for doing anything in public or in private even had been materially impaired. I hope there may be some change for the better, but I dare not bestow all my tediousness upon this Society, more especially as I have to confess a great want of attention to its meetings for so many years past.

“You have mentioned, most justly, the memory of Mr. BANCROFT. I do not forget that he and I have shared so long the distinction of being the oldest members of the Society, and that is now left to me alone. But I have no more to say about him. I paid my little tribute to him at our Massachusetts Historical Society, and I have nothing to add to it and nothing to detract from it.

“I can remember many occasions on which I have met with this Society, though these doubtless have forgotten it—some of them even before I had the honor of being a member. I recall the days when my own father occupied the chair which you now have, at the May meetings of the Antiquarian Society; good men like honest John Davis, Levi Lincoln and William Lincoln, his younger brother, and Rejoice Newton, whose name I always remember, and George Folsom; when there came to Boston to meet us such men as William Jenks, and, let me not forget, old Dr. Bancroft himself.<sup>1</sup> More than once I remember him, in his small-clothes, coming down to attend some of these meetings in days, gentlemen, when there were no railroads, when there were no stage-coaches or any conveniences to bring them down. They always dined with my father. Some twenty or thirty members of the Society were always to be seen upon those days at his table; and although I was then somewhat of a youngster, not long after I graduated from

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D.D., father of the historian.

College—for I was admitted here as early as 1838, and in 1828 I graduated—but although I was then quite a young man I was always admitted to the privileges of that table, and I became as familiar with the Antiquarian Society, and more especially with those from Worcester, as if I had been a member for twenty years before.

“But more recently the memory which I cherish most fondly is of my attendance at the fiftieth anniversary of this Society, when I was at Worcester with the rest of you; when we had the dinner at the hotel; when I did what I will not say is not my custom on such occasions, made a speech after the dinner was over, and where we had one of the most agreeable and festive occasions which we are likely to have either at Parker’s to-day or at any other day that may intervene between this and the second fiftieth, which will be the centennial anniversary of the Society.

“Sir, let me conclude by wishing that the Society may continue in all its prosperity and honor, and more particularly under the auspices of yourself, sir, as President, who have added to the name of Salisbury the principal endowments and patronage of this Society for so many years, and that under your auspices and with the aid of the benefactions which your excellent father has bequeathed to us, the Society may attain an eminence which it has never yet reached, but which at this day it so plainly promises.”

The members of the Society arose and remained standing while Mr. WINTHROP took his departure.

Rev. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D. :—“With Mr. GREEN’s permission and yours I will take the liberty of sending to him a private note which I have from the late Rev. Dr. Hedge, in which he expresses his earlier and later gratitude to Mr. BANCROFT. It is one of those interesting tributes which one great man gives to another, and I think Mr. GREEN will like to include some part of it in his memoir. I have often heard Dr. Hedge speak of Mr. BANCROFT in just the same way, of the obligation he felt as a young boy

for the care and kindness which Mr. BANCROFT had bestowed upon him. I am not myself a young man, but I should be sorry if on this occasion I did not speak of the very great kindness which I have always received, as I think all those interested in historical matters have received from him, and the great generosity with which he has thrown open his papers to other students."

The note to which Dr. HALE referred is in the following words:—

BROOKLINE, *May 8, 1858.*

DEAR HALE:—I was very sorry not to see you the other evening. Emerson was brilliant and beautiful.

I had intended to write a notice of Bancroft's volume for July. [Dr. Hedge means for the *Christian Examiner* for July.] I stand to him in peculiar personal relations, dating from my boyhood, when I received great kindness at his hands, and such favors as I can never repay. . . . I like the book exceedingly, and I want the *Examiner* should say a strong word by way of acknowledgment of the great service the country owes to him as its historian. If you can conscientiously say that word, and can write the notice in this spirit, I should like very much to have you do it.

THOMAS CHASE, LL.D., of Providence, R. I., read a biography and review of the life of our deceased associate, Dr. HENRY SCHLIEMANN.

Senator HOAR:—"It will be remembered that at the meeting of the Society a year ago I called attention to a statement in Mr. Spencer Walpole's *Life of Earl Russell*, then just published, that Mr. Everett, the American Minister, had taken the unusual course of appealing from the Government to the Opposition by a letter addressed to Lord John Russell, then the leader of the Opposition, in regard to the Oregon controversy between England and the United States. I pointed out that this letter was written by Mr. Everett after he had ceased to be Minister. He was the last person to have been guilty of such an indiscretion. The attention of Mr. Walpole has been called to his error, which



he has acknowledged in a very courteous personal letter to me. He has also in the second edition of the *Life of Earl Russell* withdrawn the statement, for which he has substituted the following words:—‘And Mr. Everett, who had recently retired from the post of American Minister in London, wrote to Lord John on the subject.’ I have received through the great courtesy of Mr. Robert T. Lincoln, our Minister at London, a copy of the original letter of Mr. Everett in the papers of the late Earl Russell, which I wish to lay before the Society. The letter is of great interest and ability, though quite brief, and I think should be published in our *Proceedings*. I move it be referred to the Committee of Publication.”

[Copy of original letter in the papers of the late Earl Russell. Addressed at bottom of first page: Lord John Russell.]

BOSTON, U. S. A.  
28 Decr 1845.

My Dear Lord John,

In pursuance of an intimation which I made to you before I left London & which seemed acceptable to you, I will now undertake to give you very briefly my view of the existing controversy between the two countries. It is proper in the outset to state that I am not in the confidence of our own government, & know nothing of their views, beyond what may be gathered from the ordinary sources of public & private information. The present state of the controversy seems to be the following: our government has offered to yours the 49th degree of latitude to the Pacific Ocean, with a free port, or ports as you wish, on the south end of Vancouver's island. You have offered to us the 49th degree till it strikes the Columbia River, thence down that river to the Pacific, with a detached territory North of the Columbia, including a port within the Straits of Fuca, & such other free ports as we wish. These offers with the exception of the Free ports on the two sides are the same which were made & rejected in the former negotiations.

Our offer of the 49th, as originally made in 1818, & renewed in 1824 & 1826, was, I have always understood, rejected by the British Administration of those days, under

the suggestion of the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies, that the navigation of the Columbia river was absolutely necessary to an advantageous possession of any part of the back country, partially drained by it. I believe that this representation, as a matter of geographical fact, is entirely unfounded. The bar at the mouth of the Columbia & the terrific surf that breaks upon it make it nearly inaccessible, and all navigation is stopped by the falls at the distance of eighty or one hundred miles from the sea. The natural drainage of the greater part of the country North of the 49th degree is by Frazer's River, by which also there is a more direct approach to the pass through the mountains which your fur traders use, than there is from the Columbia. There is therefore no particular reason for insisting on the Columbia, on the ground of necessity or convenience. Such being the case, & you admitting—or rather contending,—that the territory is an unappropriated one & open to joint occupation; what line of boundary can be conceived (now that partition is rendered expedient), more equitable than that which we have always proposed, viz; to continue West of the mountains the line which divides us for 1000 to 1200 miles East of the mountains? Considering the debatable country as extending from Mexico to the Arctic Sea, this line would give you  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the space. It is true it would give us the portion most favored in climate, but on that coast the climate is milder than on the eastern coast of our continent, & there is reason to think that with the same elevation above the sea, while our portion of the territory thus divided would possess a climate like that of France, yours would have the climate of the British isles and the North of Europe. In assuming the 49th parallel as the boundary, we should act on the natural & obvious principle of extension to the West of the mountains of territories which lie conterminously for such a vast distance east of the mountains. Each government would acquire the region which lies contiguously to its former possessions and neither have a preference; although if a preference belonged to either on the American continent, it would seem rightfully to belong,—not so much to you, who claim only the extension of a distant colony, as to us who are seated on this continent, & who—besides our own right of juxta-position—have united with our own that of France and of Spain. I do not speak now of any right of *possession* de-

rived from those powers, but of the natural right of *extension*, which they would have possessed, had they remained masters the one of Louisiana & the other of Mexico. Whatever distributive share of Oregon would have belonged to them, in a partition among the Great Powers holding territory on the North American Continent, has been acquired by us. We do not, however, use it for any other purpose than to show our moderation in contenting ourselves with that which equitably falls to our single share.

Now this equitable offer of the 49th degree was rejected by your Government in 1818, 1824 & 1826 and has recently been rejected again; originally I believe under the erroneous suggestion of the Fur companies, that the navigation of the Columbia was of great importance even to the region North of 49°, a suggestion which as I have observed, I regard as unfounded in fact. I admit the difficulty, on the part of your government,—substantially in the same hands now as in 1818–1826,—of agreeing to what they then rejected. The point of honor and consistency must be saved; but in proportion as the rejected proposal was really equitable, such modification as may be insisted upon to save the point of ministerial consistency, ought to be moderate. Such a modification has been offered by our government in the form of free ports on the southern extremity of Vancouver's island. I think that the cession of that extremity would be by us agreed to;—in other words that our Government would agree to the 49th parallel till it strikes the sea, leaving to you the whole of Vancouver's Island. This to you is a very important and substantial modification of the proposal formerly rejected. Whether your ministers will accept it is a question for themselves; but their course will no doubt in a great degree depend upon yours. If you choose to rally the public opinion of England against this basis of compromise, it will not be easy for Sir R. Peel & Lord Aberdeen to agree to it. If you are clearly of opinion, as a point of public interest or honor, that this compromise ought not to be agreed to, you will of course encourage the ministers in rejecting it. But if the only point to be saved is one,—*not of national but merely of ministerial consistency*, it will I think deserve your most serious consideration—yours & that of your friends—whether you will encourage & stimulate the government to plunge into a war, *for the*

*sake of adhering to the worst traditions of Lord Liverpool and Lord Castlereagh.*

You will not infer from the general strain of my remarks and my silence as to the course which has been pursued on this side of the water, that I approve that course. I think it wrong in Congress to attempt the negotiation; and the tone of the President's message is not to my taste; but you must consider that the persevering rejection by your Government of a basis of compromise which all moderate men here think reasonable (and which was approved in the very able article of the *Edinburgh Review* last July), tends greatly to encourage the extreme pretensions of the dominant party in Congress, and to put the friends of moderate counsels in the wrong.

I pray you to pardon the freedom of this letter. It is dictated by the feeling, that Peace between the two countries is the great interest of the World, & that its preservation is wrapped up in the folds of your mantle. May God guide you to a wise decision.

I remain, my dear Lord John, with true respect,

Sincerely yours

EDWARD EVERETT.

Pray remember me with great kindness to lady John & to the Duke & Duchess of Bedford.

I do not expect you to answer this letter, but should you have occasion to write to me, your answer could be sent to Mr. John Miller, 26 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

Rev. Dr. HALE:—"In connection with the coming celebration at Chicago it has been my pleasure to be occupied this winter in some studies on the life of Columbus, and perhaps at some time I may have the great pleasure of making some contribution to the Society's Proceedings on that matter. I should like to say now that some of us are attempting what seems to be an appropriate celebration—if the navy department will detail a proper vessel under one of its officers,—having the vessel reproduce, day by day, Columbus's first voyage. It is proposed that the vessel shall touch on the morning of the 12th of October at the spot where Columbus touched. They will stay there as

long as Columbus stayed there, and then they will follow, with his journal in hand, from day to day the different spots at which he touched. When he caught a lizard they will catch a lizard. When he caught a turtle they will catch a turtle. Lady Black has made the voyage in a yacht owned by herself or her husband, and has published a private account of it. But what we propose is a diurnal celebration. When they get to the point where cigars were first observed the gentlemen will open a box of the best Cuban cigars, and will celebrate the event on the spot where the cigar was first discovered. We know the day and almost the hour of the great discovery. In this suggestion to the government we shall be glad of the assistance of any member of the Society, and possibly the Council may think it worth while to further this suggestion.

“I think some gentlemen will remember that Mons. Jomard sent us forty years ago a picture he had discovered with the name of Christopher Columbus upon it, but which has generally been discredited, and I believe correctly so. I will lay on the table for the amusement of the gentlemen a portrait of Philip the Third which so resembles the Columbus that I am disposed to think that Jomard was cheated, together, I believe, with some members of the Society, by the purchase of an old picture with the words ‘Christoporus Columbus’ painted across an indifferent Philip the Third, and that one of these pictures accounts for the other.”

A sketch of the life and works of the late Brasseur de Bourbourg prepared by Prof. HERBERT B. ADAMS, was presented by the PRESIDENT.

On motion of Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN the several papers which had been presented and the remarks which had been made, were referred to the Committee of Publication.

The meeting was then dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,  
*Recording Secretary pro tempore.*

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