

PROCEEDINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21ST, 1880, AT THE HALL OF THE
SOCIETY, IN WORCESTER.

THE President, Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY, LL.D., in the
chair.

The record of the semi-annual meeting held in Boston
in April last, was read and approved.

The President of the Society read the report of the
Council, after which the reports of the Librarian and
Treasurer were read, and these, together with that of the
President, were, on motion of Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR,
LL.D., accepted and referred to the Committee of Publi-
cation.

The Recording Secretary presented to the Society the
recommendations of the Council of candidates for member-
ship, after which, HAMILTON B. STAPLES, Esq., and
CHARLES C. SMITH, Esq., were appointed to collect ballots,
each candidate being voted for by a separate ballot. Upon
the first nomination, all the ballots were for JUSTIN WINSOR,
Esq., and on the second, all the ballots were for DELANO
A. GODDARD, Esq., and they were thus unanimously elected
to membership.

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., asked the attention of the
Society to the careful Memorial History of Boston, now in
preparation under the oversight of our associate Mr.
WINSOR, as the best monument to mark the close of a quar-
ter millenium of history. Mr. HALE asked if members would
favor him with any notes respecting the relations between
the buccaneers and Boston. Hutchinson intimates in a very

careful note, that in 1652, "the wealth which the buccaneers took from the Spaniards," being brought to New England in bullion in the course of trade, the New England mint was established to prevent fraud in money. As, at the outside, the mint in its most prosperous days, probably did not coin six thousand pounds sterling in a year, this note is a very slight foundation for the suggestion sometimes made that Boston was a hive of pirates. Macaulay goes so far as to say, that Capt. Kidd had "seen many old buccaneers living in comfort and credit in New York and in Boston." Mr. HALE asked if there was any evidence that any buccaneer ever lived in "comfort and credit" in Boston, in Kidd's time. Fifty years before, Thomas Cromwell established himself for a few weeks in Boston after bringing in three Spanish prizes. But he took these under a regular commission from Warwick. There is a full account of the man in Winthrop and Bradford. He gave the Governor a sedan, "which was a very fair one, worth not less than fifty pounds," sent by the viceroy of Mexico to his sister. But, oddly enough, Winthrop is explicit in saying that Cromwell, while he might have had the best in Boston, did live in a mean thatched-roofed cabin for the short time he was here. And this was probably before Kidd was born,—certainly he never saw Thomas Cromwell, who died in 1649.¹

In the conversation which followed, Dr. ELLIS suggested that some memory of Phipps's career might have lingered in Macaulay's mind. Phipps was a rough sailor, and he certainly lived in "comfort and credit" in Boston. But he made his fortune in recovering from the sea a Spanish treasure which had been lost in shipwreck. He also, at one time, held a privateer's commission from the English government. But there is no evidence, and never was any tradition, that Phipps was a pirate or a buccaneer. The

¹ By a fall from his horse.

truth is, Mr. HALE said, that neither in Boston tradition or in the local annals is there any trace of such inhabitants. There is no candlestick, or pistol, or tea-pot, said to be an inheritance from so romantic a source. There is no old house said to have been built by such ill-gotten gains. Nor is there, in the full register of mercantile business and of taxation, any single memorandum which has been pointed at as an evidence of such residence. The life of Boston would have been detestable to any such man, unless he had been thoroughly converted from the error of his ways. A town where he could hardly play cards, where he would be expected to sing psalms at an evening party, and where he would be compelled to stay in the house on Sundays, if he did not go to meeting twice, would be hateful to him. It would have been the last place for him to seek as a harbor after the storms of life.

Macaulay's narrative of Kidd is full of errors, and is, indeed, founded on a radical misconception. But it should be remembered that it appears in one of the posthumous chapters, which would probably have been wholly recast, had he lived to publish them. For Lord Campbell's ignorance, in his life of Lord Somers, no such excuse can be made. Lord Campbell says, for instance, that "after a sharp engagement with an English frigate, in which several fell on both sides, Kidd was captured and brought home in irons." The truth is, that Kidd came into Boston harbor with his wife, in his own vessel, under a passport from Lord Bellomont the Governor. There was no frigate, no fight, and no such capture as is described.

Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., spoke of the proposal to erect a memorial window to Sir Walter Raleigh in the Church of St. Margaret, London, and to the need of contributions to that object. Dr. ELLIS also, referring to what had been said by Dr. HALE in regard to Capt. Kidd, explained his view of the signification of the word "buccaneer" in our early histories.

Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR presented a piece of the millstone of John Prescott, the founder of Lancaster and first permanent settler of Worcester County. Mr. HOAR stated that "Prescott was a man of great energy and courage, of whom the Indians stood in great awe." The inhabitants of Lancaster desired to call their town Prescott, but their petition to that effect was disallowed by the General Court as "savoring too much of man-worship." Prescott built his mill on the site of what is now Clinton, in season to begin grinding May 23d, 1654. The tradition is that the stone was brought from England. This is confirmed by one of our most experienced workers in stone who says this is an English stone, and that nothing like it is found in Worcester County. Prof. THOMPSON pronounces it an English porphyry. The necessity for bringing the stone from England would seem to show that there were not then tools in the colony fit for working the stone. Prescott was the ancestor of Col. Prescott, and of Mr. Prescott the historian, and many other distinguished persons.

MESSRS. STAPLES and SMITH were appointed to collect the ballots for President, and by their report it appeared that Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY, LL.D., was unanimously elected.

Rev. HENRY M. DEXTER, D.D., Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN and Rev. LUCIUS R. PAIGE, D.D., were appointed a committee to report a list of nominations for the remaining offices. Their report was as follows :

For Vice-Presidents :

Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, LL.D., of Worcester.

Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT, LL.D., of Washington.

For Council :

Hon. ISAAC DAVIS, LL.D., of Worcester.

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, LL.D., of Worcester.

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., of Boston.

JOSEPH SARGENT, M.D., of Worcester.
SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D., of Boston.
STEPHEN SALISBURY, Jr., Esq., of Worcester.
HON. P. EMORY ALDRICH, of Worcester.
REV. EDWARD H. HALL, of Worcester.
HON. DWIGHT FOSTER, LL.D., of Boston.
REV. EGBERT C. SMYTH, D.D., of Andover.

Secretary of Foreign Correspondence:

HON. J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL.D., of Hartford.

Secretary of Domestic Correspondence:

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., of Cambridge.

Recording Secretary:

Col. JOHN D. WASHBURN, of Worcester.

Treasurer:

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., of Worcester.

Committee of Publication:

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, LL.D., of Worcester.
REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., of Boston.
CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., of Cambridge.
NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., of Worcester.
REV. EDWARD H. HALL, of Worcester.

Auditors:

HON. EDWARD L. DAVIS, of Worcester.
CHARLES A. CHASE, Esq., of Worcester.

Their report having been accepted, the gentlemen named therein were unanimously elected by ballot.

Pending this election Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR said:

It is not usual to discuss the report of the committee to propose a list of officers. But one of the names reported gives special interest to the occasion. On the third of this month of October, our honored associate Mr. BANCROFT,

completed his eightieth year. At the same time he completed his History of the United States to the formation of the federal constitution.

This Society, while it is national and continental in the scope of its investigations, strikes down its roots into the soil of this locality, where its founder dwelt, and where its collections are kept.

For both these reasons we cherish our relation to Mr. BANCROFT. He was born within a few rods of this spot. He is descended by the mother's side from an old Worcester County family who were conspicuous in the administration of its public affairs long before the Revolution. His father was one of the six persons who petitioned for the act of incorporation of this Society, and one of its first members. His brother by marriage, Gov. DAVIS, was your predecessor in the president's chair.

These reasons would be enough to induce us to value our relation. But he has filled a highly honorable and conspicuous place in public life. He is, I believe, the senior living person who has been a member of the cabinet. He is the senior among living persons who have filled important diplomatic stations. He has represented the United States at Berlin and at St. James.

His history is, and doubtless will be, the great standard authority upon the important period which it covers. He is the only person living whose judgment would change the place in public estimation held by any of the great statesmen of the revolutionary times. He has had the rare good fortune among men of letters, to have proposed to himself a great task, requiring a lifetime for its accomplishment, the successful achievement of which is enough to make any life illustrious, and to have lived to complete it with powers of body and mind undiminished. It is his fate to know, while alive, the estimate in which he will be held by posterity. In his case, that knowledge can be only a source of pleasure and satisfaction.

In this Mr. BANCROFT resembles Gibbon. We all remember Gibbon's delightful account of the completion of his great work.

In another thing, alone among great historians, Mr. BANCROFT resembles Gibbon. As an artist he has accomplished that most difficult task of composing a history made up of many separate threads, which must keep on side by side, yet all be subordinate to one main and predominant stream. But his narrative never loses its constant and fascinating interest. No other historian, I believe, except Gibbon, has attempted this without becoming insufferably dull.

Mr. BANCROFT tells the story of thirteen states, separate, yet blending into one national life. It is one of the most wonderful things in our history, that the separate states having so much in common, have preserved so completely, even to the present time, their original and individual characteristics. Rhode Island, held in the hollow of the hand of Massachusetts, Connecticut, so placed that one would think it would become a province of New York, Delaware, whose chief city is but twenty-five miles from Philadelphia, yet preserve their distinctive characteristics as if they were states of the continent of Europe, whose people spoke a different language. This shows how perfectly state rights and state freedom are preserved in spite of our national union. How little the power at the centre interferes with the important things that affect the character of a people. Why is it that little Delaware remains Delaware in spite of Pennsylvania, and little Rhode Island remains Rhode Island notwithstanding her neighbor Massachusetts?

What makes the meadow flower its bloom unfold ?

Because the lovely little flower is free

Down to its roots; and in that freedom bold.

And so the grandeur of the forest tree

Comes not from casting in a formal mould,

But from its own divine vitality.

But Mr. BANCROFT is more fortunate than Gibbon. Gibbon wrote of decline, of decay, of dissolution, and death; of the days, to use his own words, "when giants were becoming pigmies." BANCROFT tells the story of birth, and growth, and youth, and life. His name is to be inseparably associated with a great and interesting period in the world's history; with what in the proud imagination of his countrymen must ever be the greatest and most interesting of all periods, when pigmy villages were becoming giant states. I am sure that it is a delight to this assembly of distinguished scholars, assembled near his birthplace, to send him at the completion of his great work, and of his eightieth year, their cordial salutation.

REV. HENRY M. DEXTER, D.D., asked leave to call the attention of the Society for a moment, to the case of Henry Ainsworth, the teacher of the Barrowist Church of English exiles at Amsterdam, of which Francis Johnson was pastor. It will be remembered that Neal, more than a century after Ainsworth's death, picked up somewhere a silly story, which he incorporated in his *History of the Puritans* (1732) to the effect that that death occurred by poison administered by a Jew, on provocation somehow arising from the finding of a great diamond by the wise man, which he would only relinquish on condition that its owner brought him to conference with his Rabbi as to the prophecies concerning the Messiah; a condition which could not be fulfilled. Those who have read the *Congregationalism of the last Three Hundred Years as seen in its Literature* will recall the fact that in that book [p. 344], this gossip was disproved; the fact shewn that Ainsworth's death was the consequence of a lingering disease; and the probability asserted that he died—as did so many of the English in the damp climate of Holland—of consumption of the lungs.

Dr. DEXTER said that, by the kindness of his friend Frederick Muller of Amsterdam, he had, since the publication of the book referred to, come into possession of

conclusive evidence which would show, first of all, that Neal had been grossly misled; and secondly, that he himself had reached an inaccurate conclusion. This evidence was in the shape of a small volume entitled, *The Medical Observations of Nicholas Tulp* (Nicolaè Tulpii Observationes Medicae, etc.), first published at Amsterdam in 1641, less than twenty years after Ainsworth's decease. Tulp was born in 1593, and was consequently not far from thirty years of age at the date of that decease, and was, very likely, one of Ainsworth's medical attendants. He was a man of great renown and trust, being at one time burgo-master of the city, and did not die until 1674. In the sixth edition of these "Medical Observations" (1739), the 43d chapter of the second book [pp. 163-165], is devoted to a description of the case of "Henrico Ainswordo, Theologo Britanno"—which, it is stated, was so rare and uncommon as to excite great interest not merely among the Dutch, but also among the English physicians. The difficulty consisted of a *suppressio urinae*, the remarkable peculiarity of which, was that (Ischuria lunatica) it came on with the full of the moon, and only found relief when the moon waned, unless the patient were first bled heavily from the arm, which brought speedier easement. It appears that a post mortem examination of Ainsworth's body (anatome, postobitum instituta) revealed some mal-formation, or mal-adjustment, which caused a pressure upon the venal viscera to which the strangury was due; while relief followed from bleeding in consequence of the relaxation of the system thus enfeebled. Two calculi (uti quoque folliculis fellis, sed parvos, nigros, teretes et, instar pumicis, raros) were also discovered.

It was established thus beyond the possibility of doubt, by this remarkable testimony, or rather by this testimony coming in a way so remarkable, that the sufferings and death of the great exegete were neither due to poison nor to the consumptive tendencies and malarial influences of the

“Venice of the North,” but solely to a disease to which sedentary men are peculiarly liable, and which, as in the case of the famous Robert Hall, has often made life itself protracted martyrdom.

Col. WASHBURN presented some documents in the Spanish tongue, relating to the controversy, not yet settled, as to the removal of the remains of Columbus from San Domingo to Havana, with some observations on their bearings, as evidence upon the question at issue.

STEPHEN SALISBURY, Jr., Esq., presented to the Society some specimens of Sculpture from the ruins of Uxmal, and accompanied the presentation with some remarks which are elsewhere printed.

Rev. SAMUEL C. DAMON, D.D., of Honolulu, spoke of his publication forty years ago, of the History of the Town of Holden, and of the material in the form of books and manuscripts which he had collected for a recent edition, which collection he now presented to the Society.

The annual meeting was then dissolved.

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