

### Report of the Treasurer.

THE Treasurer of the American Antiquarian Society herewith submits his report, showing the receipts and disbursements for the six months ending October 18th, 1880.

The regular income from the invested funds shows a slight increase over that of the last six months. Thirty-seven members had paid their annual assessments up to the date of this report, and one life assessment has been paid.

The accumulated income of the Isaac Davis fund has nearly all been used in the purchase of books for the Davis Alcove.

The detailed statement of the receipts and payments, and the present condition of the several Funds is as follows:—

#### STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE SEVERAL FUNDS, OCTOBER 18TH, 1880.

##### *The Librarian's and General Fund.*

|   |                                 |             |             |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1880, April 24.                                     | Balance of Fund,.....           | \$31,696.63 |             |
| " Oct. 18.  | Received interest to date,..... | 968.50      |             |
| " " "   | " For Life Assessment,.....     | 50.00       |             |
| " " "   | " Annual Assessments,.....      | 185.00      |             |
|   |                                 |             | \$32,900.13 |
| Paid for salaries, insurance, and incidentals,..... | \$1,189.10                      |             |             |
| " " Heating Hall,.....                              | 400.00                          |             | \$1,589.10  |
| Present amount of the Fund,.....                    |                                 |             | \$31,311.03 |

##### *Invested as follows :*

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Bank Stock,.....      | \$9,400.00  |
| Railroad Stock, ..... | 1,800.00    |
| Railroad Bonds,.....  | 12,700.00   |
| Mortgage Notes,.....  | 6,000.00    |
| Cash,.....            | 1,411.03    |
|                       | \$31,311.03 |

##### *The Collection and Research Fund.*

|  |                                     |             |             |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1880. April 24.                              | Balance of Fund,.....               | \$16,949.92 |             |
| " Oct. 18.                                   | Received for interest to date,..... | 364.50      |             |
|  |                                     |             | \$17,314.42 |
| Paid part of Librarian's salary, etc., ..... |                                     | 386.25      |             |
| Present amount of the Fund,.....             |                                     |             | \$16,928.17 |

*Invested as follows :*

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Bank Stock,.....           | \$6,500.00  |
| Railroad Stock,.....       | 5,300.00    |
| Railroad Bonds,.....       | 4,200.00    |
| Worcester Gas Stock, ..... | 500.00      |
| Cash, .....                | 428.17      |
|                            | <hr/>       |
|                            | \$16,928.17 |

*The Bookbinding Fund.*

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| 1880. April 24. Balance of Fund,.....          | \$6,329.86 |            |
| “ Oct. 18. Received interest to date,.....     | 182.50     |            |
|  | <hr/>      |            |
|  | \$6,512.36 |            |
| Paid part of Assistant-Librarian's salary..... | 300.00     |            |
| Present amount of the Fund,.....               |            | \$6,212.36 |

*Invested as follows :*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Bank Stock,.....     | \$2,600.00 |
| Railroad Stock,..... | 1,000.00   |
| Railroad Bonds,..... | 2,500.00   |
| Cash, .....          | 112.36     |
|                      | <hr/>      |
|                      | \$6,212.36 |

*The Publishing Fund.*

|  |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| 1880. April 24. Balance of Fund,.....      | \$9,165.40 |            |
| “ Oct. 18. Received interest to date,..... | 248.50     |            |
|  | <hr/>      |            |
|  | 9,413.90   |            |
| Paid for printing Semi-annual Report,..... | 298.37     |            |
| Present amount of the Fund,.....           |            | \$9,115.53 |

*Invested as follows :*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Bank Stock,.....     | \$1,500.00 |
| Railroad Bonds,..... | 5,000.00   |
| City Bond,.....      | 1,000.00   |
| Mortgage Note,.....  | 1,100.00   |
| Cash, .....          | 515.53     |
|                      | <hr/>      |
|                      | \$9,115.53 |

*The Salisbury Building Fund.*

|   |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|
| 1880. April 24. Balance of Fund,.....     | \$430.71 |          |
| “ Oct. 18. Received interest since, ..... | 4.00     |          |
|   | <hr/>    |          |
| Present amount of the Fund,.....          |          | \$434.71 |

*Invested as follows :*

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Railroad Stock, ..... | \$430.00 |
| Cash,.....            | 4.71     |
|                       | <hr/>    |
|                       | \$434.71 |

*The Isaac Davis Book Fund.*

|  |                              |            |
|--|------------------------------|------------|
| 1880. April 24. Balance of Fund,.....      | \$1,650.78                   |            |
| “ Oct. 18. Received interest to date,..... | 25.00                        |            |
|  | <hr/>                        | 1,675.78   |
| Paid for Books,.....                       | 155.90                       |            |
| Present amount of the Fund,.....           |                              | \$1,519.88 |
|  | <i>Invested as follows :</i> |            |
| Railroad Stock, .....                      | \$800.00                     |            |
| Bank Stock, .....                          | 500.00                       |            |
| Cash, .....                                | 219.88                       |            |
|  | <hr/>                        | \$1,519.88 |

*The Lincoln Legacy Fund.*

|  |                              |            |
|--|------------------------------|------------|
| 1880. April 24. Balance of Fund, .....     | \$1,594.51                   |            |
| “ Oct. 18. Received interest to date,..... | 36.00                        |            |
| Present amount of the Fund.....            |                              | \$1,630.51 |
|  | <i>Invested as follows :</i> |            |
| Bank Stock, .....                          | \$1,500.00                   |            |
| Cash,.....                                 | 130.51                       |            |
|  | <hr/>                        | \$1,630.51 |

*The Benj. F. Thomas Local History Fund.*

|  |                              |            |
|--|------------------------------|------------|
| 1880. April 24. Balance of the Fund,.....  | \$1,005.54                   |            |
| “ Oct. 18. Received interest to date,..... | 35.00                        |            |
|  | <hr/>                        | \$1,040.54 |
| Paid for local histories,.....             | 12.56                        |            |
| Present amount of the Fund, .....          |                              | \$1,027.98 |
|  | <i>Invested as follows :</i> |            |
| Railroad Bond,.....                        | \$1,000.00                   |            |
| Cash, .....                                | 27.98                        |            |
|  | <hr/>                        | \$1,027.98 |

|  |       |             |
|--|-------|-------------|
| Total of the eight Funds,.....                       | <hr/> | \$68,180.17 |
| Cash on hand, included in foregoing statement, ..... |       | \$2,850.17  |

Respectfully submitted.

NATHANIEL PAINE, *Treasurer.*

WORCESTER, October 18, 1880.

The undersigned, Auditors of the American Antiquarian Society, hereby certify that we have this day examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer, and find the same to be correct, and to correspond with this report. We have also examined the securities and find them as stated.

ISAAC DAVIS.

EBENEZER TORREY.

WORCESTER, October 21st, 1880.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF BARON VISCONTI, IN A  
LETTER FROM HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, LL.D.

BOSTON, 24 Jan'y, 1881.

The Honorable

STEPHEN SALISBURY, LL.D.,  
President of the American Antiquarian Society,  
Worcester, Mass.*Dear Sir:*

It gives me pleasure to tell you all I know about my old Italian friend, Visconti. My first acquaintance with him was in 1860, when I took with me, to Rome, a letter of introduction to him from the late Count Adolphe de Circourt. His title then, as I learned from the card he left upon me, was "Il Gran-Commendatore Visconti, Commissario delle Antichità, Presidente del Collegio Filologico del Università Romana." He was much engaged in the service and under the patronage of the Pope—Pius IX.—in the investigation of the antiquities of Rome. I remember his taking me to the Library of the Vatican, which was much less accessible at that period than it has been of later years. I obtained his leave for the late Rev. Dr. N. L. Frothingham to accompany me, and we enjoyed the visit not a little. All the private Cabinets were opened for us, and we saw more curious things than I can recount or remember. I recall a copy of Henry VIII<sup>th</sup>'s Defence of the Faith, with his own autograph, presented by himself to Leo X. The Love-letters of Henry and Anne Boleyn were also exhibited to us.

We afterwards went through the Sculpture Galleries of the Vatican, where Visconti pointed out every thing best worth seeing. The next day he sent me one of the most interesting Latin Inscriptions, copied, as I understood, by his own hand.

On another day, he drove with me along the Appian Way, and we alighted to examine many of the most celebrated tombs.

Nothing could have been kinder than his efforts to enlighten me in regard to the localities and monuments of Rome, with which he had a marvellous familiarity.

I was with him again, in Rome, in February, 1868, and on one of his visits he brought with him a splendid gold snuff-box, with an inscription in diamonds, just presented to him by the Pope, in recognition of his discovery of the ancient Roman Quai, where great masses of beautiful blocks of marble, from Asia and Africa, intended for new buildings, had been buried up, unopened, for so many centuries. I met him, by appointment, a few days afterwards, at this famous Marmoretum, where he showed me every thing with interesting explanations.

Once more I was with him in Rome in 1875. He was then the Baron Visconti, warmly attached to the Pope, and with no likings for those whom he charged with intruding on his territories, and despoiling him of Temporal Dominion. He paid me a farewell visit on the 16th of March of that year. He was then infirm and pathetic, but full of courtesy and kindness. I have not been surprised to hear of his death.

Vapereau's "Dictionnaire des Contemporains" (4 Ed., 1870), speaks of him as follows :

"VISCONTI (Pierre-Hercule), an Italian Archæologist, born at Rome about 1800, the nephew of the Architect, who died in 1853, and grand nephew of Ennius Quirinus Visconti. He is the author of a great number of Works and Notices inserted in 'les Mémoires de l'Académie Pontificale d'Archéologie,' and in the 'Giornale Arcadico.' He succeeded, in 1856, Luigi Canina in the functions of Commissary of Antiquities; afterwards became Professor of Archæology at the Academy of France; Correspondent of the Academy 'des Beaux Arts,' and a Commander of the Legion of Honor. M. Visconti has been decorated with more than twenty-five foreign Orders. Since 1853, he has directed the important excavations of Ostia and those of the Catacombs of St. Alexander, on the Via Nomentana."

Before closing this letter, I have recalled a letter of his (given below), written to me after I had left Rome in 1868. I send you a translation by an expert in Italian. You will see that it speaks of his election as a member of the American Antiquarian Society, and he seems to have duly appreciated the honor. The letter deals mainly with some grand collections of antiquities which he hoped we might have purchased for our Peabody Museum at Cambridge. I had sent him one of our Reports.

I hope to be able to send you, for the Antiquarian Society, the Inscription he so kindly copied for me. But I am unwilling to delay this long-promised account of Visconti until the original paper shall have been returned to me by the friend who has it for translation and annotations. You shall have it whenever it comes.

Meantime, accept with indulgence my little contribution to your Memoirs, and believe me,

Dear Mr. Salisbury,

With great regard,

Your friend and Servt.,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

P. S.—The inscription has reached me, but without the translation and notes for which I had hoped. And so I send it with an off-hand version of my own, as literal as I could well make it. You could have made a better one, I am sure.

There are difficulties in the Latin, as it stands, which I cannot wholly solve. The lines were evidently composed as alternate hexameters and pentameters. But I cannot help believing that there were mistakes in transcribing, or in filling up the gaps.

*Haeret* must certainly belong at the end of line 3d, instead of at the beginning of the 4th line. That will make the scanning of both lines possible. I was at first disposed to think that *Magni*, in the 6th line, should have been

*Magno*; but it has since occurred to me that it may well have been intended to designate Sextus,—as he undoubtedly was,—as of the family of Pompeius Magnus, the Great Triumvir; and I have so translated it. *Spenrans*, in the 8th line, is of course a stone-cutter's blunder for *Sperans*; and the stone-cutter may have made other blunders. An *s* might have belonged at the end of the 13th line, turning *dolore* into an accusative plural, instead of an ablative singular. And certainly, in the last line of all, *cum* must have originally been *cur*. The final letter of this little word has been supplied, and an *m* may easily have crept into the place of an *r*.

But I hasten to send you the inscription just as Visconti sent it to me. His attention must have been wholly turned to the last two lines with their foregleams of immortality. He did not speak of it as a sample of classical Latin, or as a model of elegant versification; but only as a striking and touching instance of that yearning for a future state, to which some of the ancient inscriptions bear witness. He assigned no precise date for it, but ascribed it to a period not far from the birth of Christ.

There were several Pompeys of the name of Sextus, and sons of Sextus, about that time;—three or four of them in lineal succession. They were of the elder branch of the family, which, according to classical usage, may be the meaning of *maxima domus* in the 6th line. It can hardly be supposed that these words were intended to signify “the biggest house.” I do not find, however, that the surname of *Justus* was worn by either Sextus, or that either of them was designated by the official title of *Praeco*.

But I forbear from any further attempts to explain matters in which I do not profess to be an adept. Perhaps the inscription may be found in print already somewhere. It is certainly an interesting one, and you can use it in any way you please.

R. C. W.

HIC . SOROR . ET . FRATER . VIVENTIS . DAMNA . PARENTIS  
 AETATE . IN . PRIMA . SAEVA . RAPINA . TULIT  
 POMPEIA . HIS . TVMVLIS . COMES . ANTEIT . FUNERIS  
 HAERET . ET . PVER . IMMITES . QVEM . RAPUERE . DEI  
 SEX . POMPEIVS . SEXTI . PRAECO . AGNOMINE . IVSTVS  
 QVEM . TENVIT . MAGNI . MAXIMA . HONORE . DOMVS  
 INFELIX . GENITOR . GEMINA . IAM . PROLE . RELICTVS  
(sic)  
 A . NATIS . SPENRANS . QVI . DEDERIT . TUMULOS  
 AMISSVM . AVXILIVM . FUNCTAE . POST . FUNERA . NATAE  
 FVNDITVS . VT . TRAHERENT . INVIDA . FATA . LAREM  
 QVANTA . IACET . PROBITAS . PIETAS . QVAM . VERA . SEPULTA . EST  
 MENTE . SENES . AEVO . SED . PERIERE . BREVI  
 QVIS . NON FLERE . MEOS . CASVS . POSSITQ . DOLORE  
 CUR . DVRARE . QVEAM . BIS . DATVS . ECCE . ROGIS  
 SI . SVNT . DI . MANES . IAM . NATI . NVMEN . HABETIS  
 PER . VOS . CVM . VOTI . NON . VENIT . HORA . MEI

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[Translation.]

Here (are) sister and brother—losses of a living parent :  
 In earliest youth a cruel rapine took them :  
 Pompeia came first to these mounds—companion of death  
 The boy remains—whom the merciless Gods have torn away :  
 Sextus Pompeius (son of) Sextus, a herald, by surname Justus  
 Whom the eldest family of the Great (Pompey) included in honor  
 (Is the) unhappy father—now by twin offspring left,  
 From children hoping one who should have given him burial  
 A lost assistance after the death of the departed daughter  
 That the envious fates might wholly sweep away his household :  
 How great probity lies here—what true piety is here buried  
 In mind old—but they perished at a brief age  
 Who could help mourning my misfortunes with grief?  
 Why am I able to survive,—lo ! twice given to these funeral piles  
 If there be deified souls—now, children, you have divine power  
 Through you, why comes not the hour of my longing ?



LETTER FROM BARON VISCONTI TO HON. ROBERT C.  
WINTHROP, LL.D.

[TRANSLATION.]

ROME, JULY 6, 1868.

SIR AND DEAR FRIEND:

I have waited, that the announced diploma of my admission to membership in the Antiquarian Society of America, might reach me, in order to thank you at the same time for your letter and for so valuable a distinction, which I am glad and proud to owe to your esteem and your affection. The little volume that I received with your letter above mentioned, has furnished me useful information, as to your constant care for your country's benefit in the line of the arts and antiquities. If an opportunity presents itself to me of procuring any of the monuments which you indicate, I will make the acquisition and will forward them in the manner suggested to me, esteeming myself happy in contributing with you to the endowment of America with monuments that will make illustrious her history with new demonstrations; or with ancient works of art which will reveal her culture and power; towards which object, it is always to be borne in mind, that money, even in vast sums, is always well spent by a people, when they can obtain with it things that will secure national glory and national advantage. The monuments, celebrated for a century in all the world, of the Villa Albani; those destined to a still greater celebrity, collected by prince Torlonia by purchase and by the excavations of Porto, as by many other happy circumstances, would be those that would serve for America.

The country which will have the one or the other collection (what would it be for the country that should unite both!) would be the first for Museums, finding a comparison alone in that of the Vatican. It is true that the collection Albani may amount to 15 millions of francs, and I believe that the other, of Torlonia, may be valued more than double (from 30 to 35 millions); but when one thinks of the sums which have been lavished and are still squandered in arms and war, may we not be permitted to hope that a better judgment will invest a part of those capital sums in adorning life, not in destroying it; in those studies and arts which render peace and security more beautiful, not in those which extinguish and expel them.

How many precious institutions one will then see founded and made perpetual!

Our classical researches are nourished upon these generous conceptions. I am sure that being able to make them prevail in America,—where the means abound to hope for everything, and where sumptuous legacies have sought to found the great supports of letters,—you will sustain principles so in harmony with your own conceptions, and you will do it with that energy which accompanies your intent.

Believe me penetrated with true esteem and true friendship,

Yours from the heart,

VISCONTI.

M. ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

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