

ACTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At the conclusion of the Rev. Dr. PEABODY'S Address, CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., of Cambridge said:—

MR. PRESIDENT:

At the last meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, held on the 9th instant, the President, the Hon. Mr. WINTHROP, who as Mr. LOWELL once said of him, is a master in the perilous oratory of commemoration, paid an appreciative tribute to your late President, Mr. SALISBURY. At the conclusion of his remarks the Historical Society passed this resolution:—

“*Resolved*, That our Vice-President, Dr. DEANE, be charged with communicating to the American Antiquarian Society, at their approaching Annual Meeting, an assurance of our sincere sympathy in their loss of a President who had served them so acceptably and efficiently for more than a third of a century, and whose devotion and munificence have so prominently identified him with their prosperity and welfare.”

In laying this expressive resolution before your Society, Mr. President, I feel that I am substantially performing the obligation which it imposes. But if anything further were required to communicate to you the Society's sense of the great loss which our whole community has sustained in the death of Mr. SALISBURY, I could not do better than by laying before you a copy of the remarks of Mr. WINTHROP himself to which I have alluded. I will at least deposit a transcript of them in your archives, for the use of the Pub-

lishing Committee should they wish to include them in the proceedings of this meeting.

The Historical Society and the Antiquarian Society contain so many members in common; there is such a community of feeling and interest between them, that hardly a prominent member could be taken from the one without the loss being shared by the other.

As an expression of this common sentiment I might refer here to commemorative remarks at the recent meeting of the Council of this Society in which members of both Societies joined in paying warm tributes to our venerated friend. And now we have just listened to a commemorative address appointed for this meeting, and delivered by a distinguished member of both these kindred societies.

May I conclude with a single word for myself. To many of us, Sir, the death of Mr. SALISBURY is a personal loss. He was a man to be loved, and I had for him a warm personal attachment. I have been connected with the Antiquarian Society, as a member, for over thirty years, and it has been one of the pleasantest associations of my life. I have rarely failed to attend its meetings, and the annual autumnal gatherings at Worcester, in this delightful season of the year, were occasions to look forward to with special interest. One of the greatest attractions here was Mr. SALISBURY himself. I first met him in this hall. His warm and kindly greetings as we came up here from year to year to this Mecca of our affections, made us all feel welcome. His manners, like his character, were simplicity itself. His erect form, as he sat in the President's chair and so admirably conducted the deliberations of the meetings, will never fade from my memory. He was an excellent presiding officer. Others may have more eloquent speech, or more graceful action, but no one could perform the duties of the office more thoroughly and conscientiously than he. He aimed to do justice to all. The modest and diffident he encouraged to offer their communications, and to those who could claim

neither brilliancy nor brevity he listened with commendable patience and with unflinching courtesy.

In some commemorative remarks which I had the honor to make here soon after the death of our revered Librarian, Mr. HAVEN, I referred to the disappearance from time to time of the familiar forms and faces which we had been accustomed to meet as we came up to these annual gatherings. One by one they disappear and their places are filled by others, the young and the hopeful, some of whom are looking forward to careers of usefulness and distinction in the pursuit of those studies which this Society encourages. May success attend them. To the Society's roll of departed members the name of our venerable and beloved President must now be added.

REMARKS OF THE HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, LL.D.

The remarks of the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP before the Massachusetts Historical Society, referred to by Dr. DEANE, are as follows:—

The Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY died at his home in Worcester on the 24th of August last, at the advanced age of 86 years. He was elected a resident member of this Society in March, 1858, and had thus been one of our little number for more than a quarter of a century. He was a frequent attendant at our Monthly Meetings, in years past, notwithstanding the forty miles of travel—I should rather say the eighty miles of travel, coming and going—which such an attendance involved, and he was always ready to coöperate with us in whatever might promote our welfare.

But I need not say that he will be longest remembered in connection with Associations and Institutions in his native place. Born in Worcester, he never yielded to the attractions or distractions of larger places of residence. Throughout his protracted life he remained faithful to Worcester—

doing all in his power, by the ample wealth which he had inherited, and by his personal influence and enterprise, to build up that which was a little town of 2400 inhabitants at his birth in 1798, to the importance which it now enjoys as a city of 60,000 people, taking rank as the second city of Massachusetts in population, business and wealth. As President of the old Worcester Bank for nearly forty years, as President of the Worcester County Institution for Savings for more than five and twenty years, and still more as one of the largest benefactors and most active friends of the admirable Free Institute of Industrial Science, his name will long be gratefully remembered in the heart of the Commonwealth.

But it was as President of the American Antiquarian Society, founded by ISAIAH THOMAS in 1812, that he became known and respected far beyond any mere local range. He had held the chair of that distinguished institution for thirty-four years, and had spared nothing in the way of personal effort or pecuniary gift to promote its prosperity and honor. The annual meetings of the Society at Worcester were occasions not easily to be forgotten by those who were privileged to partake of his generous hospitality and friendly entertainment. It is among my personal regrets, now that he is gone — as I annually wrote to him while he lived — that I was so rarely able to enjoy those attractive gatherings. Another such meeting is just at hand, when he will be sorely missed, and which will doubtless furnish the occasion for tributes to his memory, additional to those so justly paid at his funeral.

Mr. SALISBURY was a man of liberal education and varied acquirements, and his contributions to the Transactions of the Society over which he presided were numerous and interesting. Prepared for college at the old Leicester Academy he was graduated at Harvard University in the notable class of 1817, which included among its members George Bancroft, Caleb Cushing, George B. Emerson,

Samuel A. Eliot, Judge Charles H. Warren, President Alva Woods and Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, and of which I may be pardoned for remembering that Francis William Winthrop took the very first honors, only to die two years afterwards of consumption, at 19 years of age.

Mr. SALISBURY was a warm and liberal friend of his Alma Mater, which conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1875, and of which he was an overseer for twelve years. He was also, for several years, a representative for the town, and a senator for the county, of Worcester successively in our State Legislature.

I must not omit to mention that Mr. SALISBURY was long associated with me as one of the few original Trustees of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology at Cambridge, and rendered faithful and valuable service as its treasurer for fourteen or fifteen years. As lately as the 20th of June last—only two months before his death—he came over from Worcester, on a hot day, in his 86th year, to attend a visitation of that museum. The physical weakness which he exhibited on that occasion fully prepared me for the fatal result which followed so soon afterwards. But he was unwilling to deny himself that last view of an institution in which he had been so deeply interested from its first organization, and which he once told me was, in his judgment, the most satisfactorily and successfully administered institution with which he had ever been associated.

I am authorized by the Council to submit the following resolutions :

Resolved, That in the death of the Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY, LL.D., our Society has lost one of its most respected and venerable members, and that a memoir of his long life and exemplary character be prepared for our Proceedings by the Hon. JOHN D. WASHBURN.

Resolved, That our Vice-President, Dr. DEANE, be charged with communicating to the American Antiquarian

Society, at their approaching annual meeting, an assurance of our sincere sympathy in their loss of a President who had served them so acceptably and efficiently for more than a third of a century, and whose devotion and munificence have so prominently identified him with their prosperity and welfare.

ACTION OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC,
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

SOCIETY'S HOUSE,
18 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass.
November, 19, 1884.

*To the President of the
American Antiquarian Society:*

DEAR SIR:—

In accordance with a vote passed by the Directors of this Society, I have the honor of sending you herewith a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Society on the death of the late Hon. Stephen Salisbury.

I remain, dear sir,

Very respectfully yours,

D. G. HASKINS, JR.,

Recording Secretary.

At a meeting of the New England Historic, Genealogical Society, held at their House in Boston, on the first Wednesday of September, 1884, the President, the Honorable Marshall P. Wilder, Ph.D., announced that since the last meeting he had received intelligence of the decease of the Honorable Stephen Salisbury, LL.D., of Worcester, a distinguished Life-member of this Society. He referred to

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