

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 27, 1898, AT THE HALL OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

THE Society was called to order at 10.30 A. M. President
SALISBURY in the chair.

The following members were present :

Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine,
Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard,
Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth,
Thomas W. Higginson, Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt,
Edward G. Porter, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton,
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, Robert N. Toppan,
Henry H. Edes, Edward Channing, Frederick J. Kings-
bury, Lucien Carr, Frank P. Goulding, James P. Baxter,
A. George Bullock, G. Stanley Hall, John McK. Merriam,
William E. Foster, J. Franklin Jameson, Charles P.
Greenough, Edwin D. Mead, Henry A. Marsh, James L.
Whitney, Thomas C. Mendenhall, William T. Forbes,
Edwin A. Grosvenor, Léonard P. Kinnicutt, George H.
Haynes, William R. Livermore.

The RECORDING SECRETARY read the records of the last
meeting, which were approved.

The Report of the Council was read by Vice-President
HOAR.

Memoirs of deceased members were read as follows :

Of Gardiner Greene Hubbard by Vice-President HOAR ; of Rev. Ebenezer Cutler, D.D., by Rev. DANIEL MERRIMAN, D.D. ; of Justin Winsor, LL.D., by JAMES L. WHITNEY, A.M. ; of Hon. Thomas L. Nelson, prepared by ROCKWOOD HOAR, A.M., and read by JOHN MCK. MERRIAM, A.M.

Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON read his Report as Librarian.

Vice-President HOAR said :

Perhaps I have detained this Society much more than my share this morning. But I should like to have put on record an anecdote of Mr. Savage which may be familiar to some of the gentlemen here. The story, which I heard at the time and which I have no doubt is true—suggested by Mr. Barton's interesting reference to him—is this : There was a case on trial in the Court House in Boston relating to the title to some flats between low and high water mark. Of course there could be no title by possession or by prescription. The case lasted two or three weeks, and while it was going on the lawyer on one side put in an old deed, which under our law proved itself, and which, if it were genuine, entirely settled the claim. There was nothing to be said about it. There was this apparently ancient document. It was introduced on Saturday. The case was adjourned until Monday. The counsel on the other side thought he would take the deed down and show it to old James Savage and see if he had anything to say about it. Whereupon Mr. Savage looked at it and instantly said : “‘Land situated in Boston in the Colony of Massachusetts?’ but it wasn't a colony, it was a province ! ‘The 14th day of October, 1719?’ Sunday !” He read on a little further. “‘In the fifth year of the reign of his Gracious Majesty King George the First?’ Whoever heard of calling him George I. until there was a George II.?’” That settled it.

Rev. Dr. EDWARD E. HALE said that he would like, in connection with what had been said of Dr. Winsor, to bear his own tribute to Dr. Winsor's uniform generosity in the assistance of other workmen. Placed, as he was, at the magnificent storehouse of historical information with regard to America which is contained in the library of Harvard College, he made that storehouse available to every inquirer. He had none of that petty feeling which makes a man think that he is the proprietor of a fact which he has discovered, but was ready to give his utmost assistance to every student.

The various reports, as constituting the report of the Council, were referred to the Committee of Publication.

The RECORDING SECRETARY, in behalf of the Council, recommended for election the following named gentlemen :

JOHN WESLEY POWELL, LL.D., of Washington, D. C.
Prof. EDWARD SYLVESTER MORSE, Ph.D., of Salem,
Mass.

LEWIS WINTER GUNCKEL, Ph.B., of Dayton, Ohio.

WALDO LINCOLN, A.B., of Worcester, Mass.

Ballots being taken, the several candidates were duly elected.

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN said :

Mr. President, I have been authorized by the members of the American Antiquarian Society living in Boston and Cambridge and the neighborhood, to invite the other brothers to a collation at the Parker House at half-past two this afternoon.

The invitation was accepted.

President SALISBURY said :

In the month of November of last year the Council became aware through Dr. Hale's kind offices that Mrs. J. Hammond Trumbull, widow of our associate and Secretary

for Foreign Correspondence, had found among his papers written directions in regard to various literary matters, and among them a notice that he desired that his Indian Dictionary should become the property of the American Antiquarian Society. After some correspondence in regard to the matter, the Dictionary came to Antiquarian Hall, and is now there, in four large quarto volumes; one of them being a preliminary dictionary and the other three a final issue of both the English and the Indian text. During the winter Dr. Hale was in Washington and had communication with the United States Bureau of Ethnology and with Dr. John W. Powell. I will ask Dr. Hale to state such facts in regard to that communication as he chooses.

Dr. HALE reported briefly, that Major Powell, on the part of the Bureau, had undertaken to put in print Dr. Trumbull's dictionary. The Bureau will place it in the hands of Dr. Albert S. Gatschet. The definite proposal made by Major Powell has been referred to the Council, and they have approved of it.

Vice-President HOAR said :

Mr. President, I do not think there is much to be said except what Dr. Hale has said. I suppose everybody knows that J. Hammond Trumbull was the foremost, and in his later life the only, authority on the Algonquin languages, unless you except from the latter statement, "only authority," the gentleman in the United States Geological Survey in Washington, Mr. Drennan, who has a marvellous knowledge of the same sort. Mr. Trumbull was not only that, but he was a man of wonderful accomplishment in every way. He knew the gossip of all the generations of New England as if he had been a contemporary. I sometimes think he must have been a member of a Ladies' Charitable Society in every generation. He was a very devoted member of this Society

until his health failed in his later life, when he kept aloof from all activity and pretty much from all human society.

I move that the Secretary be directed to convey to Mrs. Trumbull the thanks of the Society for this most valuable gift, and the sense of the Society of the great loss the community has sustained in his death, and the abiding and most affectionate remembrance which we all feel for him as one of our most valued and useful associates.

The motion of Vice-President HOAR was unanimously adopted.

Rev. CYRUS HAMLIN, D.D., read a paper entitled "The Genesis and Evolution of the Turkish Massacre of Armenian Subjects."

Hon. FREDERICK JOHN KINGSBURY read a paper upon Gov. John Winthrop, Jr., of Connecticut.

Rev. Dr. HALE presented to the Society what he believed was the lost ballad of Franklin on Blackbeard the Pirate. He had no doubt that "The Downfall of Piracy," in Mr. John Ashton's interesting collection called "Real Sea-Songs," is the ballad to which Franklin refers in this well-known passage in his autobiography :

"I now took a fancy to poetry, and made some little pieces. My brother, thinking it might turn to account, encouraged me, and put me on composing occasional ballads. One was called 'The Lighthouse Tragedy,' and contained an account of the drowning of Captain Worthilake, with his two daughters; the other was a sailor's song, on the taking of Teach (or Blackbeard) the pirate. They were wretched stuff, in the Grub-street-ballad style; and when they were printed he sent me about the town to sell them. The first sold wonderfully, the event being recent, having made a great noise. This flattered my vanity; but my father discouraged me by ridiculing my performances, and telling me verse-makers were generally beggars. So I escaped being a poet, most probably a very bad one."

The various essays and papers were referred to the Committee of Publication.

The meeting was dissolved at 2 P. M., and the members repaired to the Parker House to enjoy the hospitality which had been tendered them.

CHARLES A. CHASE,
Recording Secretary.

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