

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 27TH, 1881, AT THE HALL OF
THE ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

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

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., read the report of the Council.

EDMUND M. BARTON, Esq., Assistant-Librarian, made a
report upon the Library, and Mr. PAINE submitted the
report of the Treasurer.

In the report of the Council, the Society was informed
that SAMUEL FOSTER HAVEN, LL.D., had felt compelled
through age and infirmity to ask to be relieved from the
cares and responsibilities of the office of Librarian. Dr.
HAVEN's letter, and the action thereon will appear in the
report of the Council.

After the reading of the report of the Council had been
concluded Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., offered the
following resolution :

Resolved, That the members of the American Antiquarian
Society will heartily recognize the considerateness and the
grateful sense of high obligation which the council have
manifested in accepting the resignation of Dr. Haven, so
far only as it relieves him of the tasks and responsibilities
of the office which he has so long filled and adorned with
such fidelity, dignity and conspicuous ability,—giving to it
such rare qualities and accomplishments.

Dr. ELLIS, in moving the adoption of the resolution,
said :

For thirty-four of the forty-three years of his admirably

faithful and intelligent service of the society I have been a member of it, and with few exceptions have attended its meetings twice in each year. One of the chief attractions of each meeting in advance, was that which found its full realization in hearing Dr. HAVEN occasionally offer the report of the council, and always that of the librarian. Those who after two or three attendances on the occasion had come to understand what they had to expect from it, were abundantly gratified and instructed by those singularly rich, original and eminently characteristic papers. Always strictly appropriate to his province, they were wonderfully ingenious and discursive, with surprises of knowledge, and often with rich and kindling humor wrought in with their sagacity.

I have hurriedly run through the seventy odd pamphlets which I have filed, containing the Proceedings of the Society at its semi-annual meetings, and have reviewed the pleasant remembrances of the wonderfully varied papers which I have heard Dr. Haven read here and at Worcester. They contain fresh and instructive matter on such themes as the following: American Archæology and Exploration; Mexican Antiquities; Mound-Builders; Dighton Rock; the Ante-historic Period in the Old World; Lake Dwellings; the Stone Age and Flint Implements; the Improved Method of Cataloguing; Tribute to Humboldt; Account of the Founder of the Society, his services during the Revolution, as printer, as historian of printing and collector; the Characters and Writings of the Mathers; the Brinley Library; Dr. Bentley's Papers; Broad-sides; the Literature of the Civil War; Examination of the Popham Colony; Our Early Magazine Literature; and Lost Historical Papers. A very remarkable volume of Monographs might be gathered from these learned materials.

His familiarity with the contents of our rich and unique library, its books, manuscripts, relics, maps, coins, portraits and other pictures has been so extended and intelligent, that

we might well conceive of him as permanently seated at his patient desk, with an out-look on its walls and shelves and making a catalogue of its treasures. Its collections have so largely grown under his administration, that he has had opportunity to form a deliberate acquaintance with them. He has twice, indeed, superintended the disposal of the whole on shelves, in the alcoves and in the cabinet—once on the removal from the old hall, and again, on the enlargement of the present one. Now that so admirable a portrait of him hangs on the wall, he will never be otherwise than present and active there, at least, to all who are now members of the society.

The same day which thus compels us to recognize an arrest in our enjoyment of the familiar presence and the welcome instruction of our much valued Librarian—though we still cling to him in his retirement—informs us of the decease from the infirmities of old age, of the most eminent and accomplished of the historians of New England, the Reverend and Honored John Gorham Palfrey. It is not now for the first time, nor will it be for the last time, that the names of our living and our departed friends come to us associated together. They have been fellow-laborers and mutual helpers. Alike they have been inspired and guided by the same spirit of fidelity and thoroughness in historical research, the same friendly regard for all who desired their aid and advice in study, the same thoroughness and impartiality in their treatment of controverted subjects, and the same judicial fairness in their decisions. Dr. Palfrey waited for and welcomed the end of his protracted, well-filled and benedictive life. To the few friends who were admitted to him in these last declining years, he exhibited the same sweet serenity of spirit, and the same dignified force of character, that marked his period of full vigor.

The resolution was then unanimously adopted.

On motion of CHARLES C. SMITH, Esq., the reports were

accepted, and referred to the committee of publication, and on motion of Hon. P. EMORY ALDRICH, the thanks of the society were voted to Dr. Ellis for his remarks.

The Recording Secretary then presented the names of the following gentlemen, who were nominated for membership of the society by the council :

Prof. HERBERT B. ADAMS, of Baltimore, Md.

AD. F. BANDELIER, Esq., of Highland, Illinois.

Señor ALFREDO CHAVERO, of Mexico, Mex.

Prof. HENRY W. HAYNES, of Boston, Mass.

Señor JOAQUIN GARCIA ICAZBALCETA, of Mexico, Mex.

Señor GUMESINDO MENDOZA, of Mexico, Mex.

Dr. HENRY SCHLIEMANN, of Athens, Greece.

Prof. JOHN T. SHORT, of Columbus, Ohio.

By a separate ballot on each name, all the above named were elected members of the society.

The Hon. ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK, LL.D., read a paper on the History of the Constitution of Massachusetts, which was referred to the Committee of Publication, on motion of Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., with an expression of the thanks of the society to the author.

The thanks of the society were also voted to Dr. PH. J. J. VALENTINI, for his paper on certain curiously wrought stones, models of which he exhibited, and the paper referred to the Committee of Publication.

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., spoke of Coronado's discovery of the Seven Cities, reading extracts from a letter from Lt. John G. Bourke, U. S. A., illustrating the same, and on motion of the Recording Secretary his remarks were also referred to the Committee of Publication.¹

¹ The papers of Gov. BULLOCK, Dr. VALENTINI, and Dr. HALE's remarks in full, with extracts from Lieut. BOURKE's letter, are printed on succeeding pages.

Prof. CHARLES O. THOMPSON said :

It will be remembered that at the annual meeting, Senator HOAR presented to the society a piece of one of the first set of mill-stones used in Worcester County. Those stones were brought to Lancaster, as the legend runs, by John Prescott, the founder of the town, from some distant place, and it is a matter of some interest to find the parent mass. At Mr. HOAR's request I have made diligent inquiry and fail to find any quarry in Massachusetts from which this stone could have been taken. It is a gneiss to be sure, but so hard and so porphyritic in structure as to be unlike our native gneisses. The only alternative seemed to be that Prescott brought the stone from England. To assure myself on this point, I wrote to Dr. Archibald Geikie, Professor of Geology in the University of Edinburgh, and Chief of the Geological Survey of Scotland, for his opinion, and sent him a large piece of the stone.

Dr. Geikie's reply was prompt and full. He is of opinion that the stone is not English and that the parent mass will be found in Massachusetts. 'Unless, indeed, it was an erratic block from some more Northern source.' The last suggestion seems to contain a solution of the problem.

There is a piece of Burr-stone in the cabinet of the Free Institute at Worcester, which is said to have been found in Sutton. This sort of stone has been extensively quarried elsewhere for mill-stones, and it is an interesting inquiry whether any have ever been obtained from Sutton.

THE PRESIDENT. Is it probable that there were any persons in Lancaster, in 1654, able to cut this stone?

Dr. THOMPSON. The stone is not too hard to be cut by an ordinary stone-mason, and such a man could have been found in the colony.

STEPHEN SALISBURY, Jr., Esq., presented a communication from Dr. AUGUSTUS LE PLONGEON, dated Mérida,

Yucatan, Jan. 16. Mr. SALISBURY said at this late hour he could not read the paper in full, and as it is carefully worded, containing numerous references to ancient and modern authorities, any abstract he might attempt would fail to do it justice. The communication was therefore, with the thanks of the society, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The meeting was then dissolved.

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