

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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IN accordance with Article V. of the By-laws, the Council present their semi-annual report for the six months ending April 1, 1892. Since the annual meeting in October last, nothing of special interest has occurred in the affairs of the Society, calling for mention at this time.

The reports of the Treasurer and the Librarian, presented herewith as part of the report of the Council, will give information as to the general affairs of the Society, and especially as to the condition of the finances, and the library.

Two American members and one foreign member have died during the past six months: Dom Pedro, late Emperor of Brazil; John G. Metcalf, M.D., of Mendon, Mass., and John E. Mason, M.D., of Washington, D. C.

As full biographical notices have already appeared in various publications in regard to the late Emperor, it is not deemed necessary to present an extended notice at this time.

**Dom Pedro II. de Alcantara** was born at Rio de Janeiro, December 2, 1825, and was the son of Dom Pedro I. of Braganza and Bourbon (King of Portugal and Brazil), and of Leopoldina, Archduchess of Austria. Brazil having declared itself independent in 1822, Dom Pedro I. was proclaimed constitutional Emperor, and four years later, abdicated the throne of Portugal in favor of his infant daughter, Donna Maria de Gloria. In 1831, having grown weary of the strong revolutionary tendencies of the Brazilians, he abdicated that throne also, in favor of his son, then only five years of age. A Council or Regency administered the government until May, 1840, when Dom Pedro was declared of

age though only in his fifteenth year. The young Emperor had received the best education, and care had been taken to make him worthy of the high position he was to occupy. In 1843, he was married to Princess Theresa Christiana Maria, sister of Francis I., late King of Naples. From this union there were four children, of whom only one survives him, Isabelle, wife of Comte D' Eu, son of the Duc de Nemours of the French house of the Bourbon and Orleans line. In 1852, Dom Pedro assisted in the overthrow of the dictator Rosas of the Argentine Republic, and thereby acquired not only an extension to the boundary of his Empire, but the free navigation of the Rio de La Plata, a great advantage to the business interests of the country. The most important event of his reign was the issuing of an imperial decree in 1871 for the gradual but total abolition of slavery in Brazil. Other enactments of a like nature were made afterwards, and in 1880, during the absence of the Emperor, the Crown Princess Isabelle, then acting as Regent, freed all the remaining slaves by royal proclamation.

In 1860, Dom Pedro travelled in all parts of his Empire, making himself familiar with the wants of his people, and in 1871, made an extended tour in Europe. He was accompanied by the Empress, and was with her the recipient of many honors and attentions, but as a rule declined such public demonstrations as are usually paid to royalty, preferring to travel as a private gentleman. In 1876, he visited the United States to attend the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and also visited the principal cities of the country both North and South. He was specially interested in studying the various institutions of the United States, industrial, benevolent and social. While in this country, the Emperor visited Boston, and an invitation was extended to him to visit the rooms of this Society at Worcester, but other engagements prevented his acceptance. He afterwards visited Europe again, making a most favorable impression for his energy, scientific zeal and public spirit.

Dom Pedro had the reputation of being one of the most enlightened sovereigns of his time, and he was endeared to his own people and commanded the respect of all civilized nations. While Emperor, great advances were made in the material civilization of Brazil. Railways were constructed, ocean commerce promoted, and the great river of the Empire was opened to steam communication. Schools were established, and much done for the intellectual growth and welfare of the people. Dom Pedro was a man of irreproachable character, great intelligence, cultivated tastes, of polished manner and a patron of the arts and sciences. He was a believer in progress, and a patriot whose first thoughts were for his country and not for self.

He was crowned Emperor July 18, 1841, his reign lasting nearly half a century, and terminating with the declaration of a Republic, November 15, 1889, when he was banished from the country with all the members of the royal family. Dom Pedro went to Lisbon with his family, and later to France where he spent the remaining years of his life in the neighborhood of Paris. The Empress, overcome by the cares and anxiety of these critical times, died shortly after their banishment from Brazil.

Dom Pedro died at Paris December 5, 1891, at one o'clock A. M., and his body, after lying in state at the church of the Madeleine, was taken to Lisbon for burial. He was elected a member of this Society, April 28, 1858.

**John George Metcalf** died at his residence in Mendon, Mass., January 12, 1892, at 5 P. M. He was born in Norfolk, now a part of Franklin, Mass., Sept. 10, 1801, and graduated from Brown University in 1820. He studied medicine in Franklin, and in 1826, moved to Mendon, where he practiced for over fifty years. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and at one time served as Vice-President, and was one of the founders of the Thurber Medical Society of Milford, Mass. At the

time of his death, he was the oldest living member of the Worcester County Medical Society.

Very soon after his settlement in Mendon, he became interested in town affairs, and for nearly fifty years acted in some official capacity. For a quarter of a century he was town treasurer, resigning that office in his 84th year, at which time complimentary resolutions were adopted by the town. He was a School Committee man for about forty years, and for many years was practically manager of the town schools. In November, 1857, he was elected a State Senator for the Southeast District of Worcester County, as a republican, in opposition to the late Hamilton B. Staples, who was the democratic candidate, being the first election for Senator under the amendment to the Constitution ratified by the people in May of the same year. He was re-elected in the following year. For many years he held several town offices at once, and was a member of most of the important committees of the town for a period of fifty years or more. His great interest in the town, and the respect and confidence in which he was held by his fellow-citizens caused him to be selected to preside at the Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1867, at which time he gave an address of welcome.

During the late Civil War, Dr. Metcalf was one of the most patriotic of Mendon's citizens, giving a great deal of time to raising money and recruits, and in securing relief for the families of the soldiers who had died in service. His interest in the war was so great that it caused him to make a large collection of newspaper cuttings, and to preserve letters and other manuscript matter relating to it. These collections, which were begun at the first intimation of the impending conflict, are contained in fifty-six thick octavo volumes, which after the war were presented to the American Antiquarian Society by Dr. Metcalf, and now form a valuable and important part of our historical matter relating to the war. The volumes are entitled:—"The

Irrepressible Conflict; a Scrap Book of the Great Rebellion of 1861, By John G. Metcalf, M.D., Member of the American Antiquarian Society, the New England Historic-Genealogical Society and the American Social Science Association."

Dr. Metcalf was a religious man, and was deeply interested in the Unitarian Society of Mendon, serving for many years as Superintendent of its Sunday-School. He was one of the early Abolitionists, and when the Free-Soil party was formed, was active in its work, and has been identified with the Republican party since its organization. The town records show abundant evidence of his anti-slavery and anti-rebellion sentiments, in the numerous resolutions of a patriotic nature proposed by him. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and at one time was Master of Montgomery lodge at Medway, since removed to Milford, Mass. Dr. Metcalf compiled the "Annals of the Town of Mendon, 1659-1880," which is a volume of over seven hundred pages published by the town, and which contains a vast amount of facts in relation to the town and its early residents. He also prepared the notice of Mendon in the "History of Worcester County," published in 1879, by C. F. Jewett & Co. He was elected a member of this Society, April 24, 1867, and was in the habit of attending its meetings till advancing years prevented. At the meeting of April, 1871, he acted as Recording Secretary *pro tempore*.

Dr. Metcalf retired from active practice of his profession in 1886, and for the last five or six years of his life, owing to the infirmities of old age had become somewhat of an invalid, and for about two years had not left his house. He was most highly respected by his fellow-citizens, a man of great strength of character, of honest convictions which he was not afraid to express, of studious habits and greatly interested in historical studies. It is said that although very decided in his views, he had the faculty of

seldom making enemies; that he was especially fond of young people, and that there was hardly one in his neighborhood who did not often ride with and visit him. As a Christian gentleman, and a valued member of our Society, we are glad to pay this brief tribute to his memory.

**John Edwin Mason**, of Washington, D. C., was elected to membership in this Society April 28, 1869. He was born in Petersham, Mass., September 28, 1831, and was the son of Luther (born at Greenwich, Mass.) and Persis (Haskins) Mason. Most of his education was obtained at New Salem Academy in which he always maintained a deep interest, being for many years president of the Alumni Association. After leaving the Academy, he went to New Haven, Conn., where he was engaged for a time in literary and newspaper work, and was successful in both.

Later in life he was a civil engineer, residing in Manchester, N. H., where he made a good record in that profession. He surveyed the State of New Hampshire and made many of the maps as they exist to-day, also publishing several county maps.

At the breaking out of the late civil war, he enlisted in the Ninth New Hampshire regiment, and served as a lieutenant of that regiment and in various other capacities in the army till 1864, when he was discharged on account of physical disabilities. He was at one time acting on the staff of General Samuel D. Sturges as assistant adjutant general, and left the service with the rank of captain. After the war he returned to Manchester, remaining there a short time, but finally settling in Washington, and studying medicine at Georgetown University, where he received the degree of M.D. in 1868; but he did not actively practice his profession although he was at one time examining surgeon for the pension office.

He was a prominent member of the Masonic and Odd

Fellows fraternities, also of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Order of the Loyal Legion, the New Hampshire Medical Society and the New Hampshire Historical Society. He was a member of All Souls (Unitarian) Church at Washington, and interested in its welfare. In politics he was a strong republican, and was often active in campaign work.

On his election to membership in the Antiquarian Society in a letter to Rev. Alonzo Hill, D.D., the Recording Secretary, he said :

“ It will be my aim to render myself in some way worthy of the trust confided in me, and become useful to the Society, in all ways that lie in my power. My leisure time has been occupied in the last fifteen years, in making collections and reading and studying antiquarian subjects, and my taste and inclinations lead me to still farther pursue such investigations in my own humble way.”

Dr. Mason died at Washington, D. C., March 5, 1892, at 8 o'clock A. M. His funeral was under the charge of the Masons, Odd Fellows and Grand Army organizations, who held appropriate services at his grave in Arlington National Cemetery. He leaves a reputation for great native strength of character, was of a very genial disposition, full of fun and good humor, and commanded the respect of all who knew him.

Dr. Mason was a worker, very enthusiastic, of great energy, and entered into the work of the organizations with which he was most intimately connected with a determination to do his full share in carrying out their objects.

At the time of his death he was a clerk in the pension office, and had previously been connected with the General Land Office at Washington. He bequeathed his library to the Odd Fellows Literary Association of Washington, and five hundred dollars to All Souls Church of the same city for the erection of a tablet to his memory as a former trustee of the Church.

Since the foregoing notices of deceased members were written, the Council have received the information for the first time, of the death of Mr. Charles B. Salisbury, who died nearly four years ago.

**Charles Babcock Salisbury** was born at "Evergreen Terrace," Scott, Cortland Co., N. Y., August 20, 1821, and was the son of Nathan and Lucretia (Babcock) Salisbury.

After leaving school, he prepared himself for entering Union College, N. Y., in the class of the second year, but some of his school-mates having gone to Oberlin College, Ohio, he decided to go to that institution. Not being pleased, however, he remained but a short time, and having a strong desire to see more of the country west of Ohio, he made an extended tour through the West, and became especially interested in the Archæological history of that part of the country. He was for a time somewhat broken in health and did not return to college studies as he had anticipated. In 1850, Mr. Salisbury was appointed assistant in Analytic Chemistry in the State laboratory of New York, under the State geological survey, and retained that position for about four years.

During the years from 1858 to 1861, he was engaged in connection with his brother, Dr. James H. Salisbury (now of New York City), in exploring the earthworks and mounds of the Ohio Valley. He opened many mounds, obtained numerous valuable relics and implements and also made surveys and drawings of the ancient earthworks. In 1862-3, Mr. Salisbury and his brother presented to the Antiquarian Society valuable manuscripts with several illustrative drawings. One is entitled, "Ancient Pictographic or Symbolic Rock and Earth writings, in Licking, Fairfield, Belmont, Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties, Ohio," another, "Ancient Monuments and Inscriptions on and near the Summit between the head waters of the Hocking and

Licking Rivers, Ohio." These contributions and others subsequently presented were accompanied by numerous plans and sketches. Special notice of these contributions was made by the librarian (Dr. Samuel F. Haven) in his report of April, 1863. Still farther contributions were made by the brothers Salisbury in 1870, and were considered of such value and importance as to be referred to a special committee consisting of Francis Parkman, J. Hammond Trumbull and Samuel A. Green, who unanimously recommended that portions of the manuscripts be published, with such plans and sketches as seemed necessary to illustrate them. It is to be regretted that the resources of the Publishing Fund, then hardly enough to print the Semi-Annual Proceedings, were insufficient to warrant their publication.

Mr. Salisbury was from early manhood to his later years deeply interested in geological, botanical and archæological investigations, and has left evidence of this in a large collection of minerals, fossils and antiquarian relics. He was a most careful, truthful, and pains-taking investigator, and has made by far one of the most exhaustive surveys of the ancient earthworks and mounds in Ohio.

He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society October 21, 1863.

In behalf of the Council,

NATHANIEL PAINE.

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