

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council of the American Antiquarian Society has the honor to congratulate the Society on the return of its eightieth birthday. It seems at its advanced age to live in perpetual youth. Its reputation is at its best; its usefulness is gratefully acknowledged; the contributions to its Library in the last half-year have been made by a larger number of friends than we have ever before had to thank in that period. Our Treasurer reports a larger store than ever,—and is still ready for larger gifts. So that we engage on the new year with confidence.

We must, however, report the loss from our roll of members of three names of gentlemen whose lives, if continued, would have rendered good service to men. Since we met in April, Sir Daniel Wilson, Mr. George P. Brinley and Dr. Thomas Chase have died. Our associate, Mr. Charles A. Chase, has prepared a biographical notice of Sir Daniel and of Mr. Brinley, which I will ask him to read.

Mr. Chase then read the following biographical sketches :

Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D., K.C.B., President of University College, Toronto, died at his residence in that city on August 6th last, at the age of 66 years, 7 months and 1 day. He was born in the city of Edinburgh, and was one of a large family. Prof. George Wilson, who attained a great reputation as a chemist and writer, was an elder brother. A brief apprenticeship to an engraver formed the only interruption to his studies, and in early manhood he repaired to London to prosecute his researches. From necessity he employed his pen for his support from the beginning. At the instance of the historian Hallam and of Lord Elgin, he was appointed in 1853, to the chair of history and English literature in University College.

In 1881, he was made president. In 1882, he was named by the Marquis of Lorne, vice-president of the literature section of the Royal Society of Canada, and became its president three years later. He was honored with knighthood in 1888, in recognition of his great services in the cause of education. During the summer of last year, he revisited Edinburgh, and was given "the freedom of the city," an honor which afforded him great gratification. He received the degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen College many years ago, and had been honored in a similar way by other colleges and universities.

At the time of Professor Wilson's accession to the university, there was a strong feeling in Canada in favor of dividing its revenues with the other institutions of the country which were of a denominational character. Although a staunch member of the Church of England he vigorously resisted the long-continued efforts in that direction which, if carried out, would have reduced the institution to the character of an academy; and under his successful and popular management the college has maintained a constant and lively growth.

Among his earlier writings were: "Memorials of Edinburgh in the olden time"; "Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate"; "The Archæology and Prehistoric Annals of Scotland"; "Prehistoric Man"; "Researches into the Origin of Civilization in the Old and the New World"; "Chatterton, a Biographical Study"; "Caliban, the Missing Link"; and "Spring Wild Flowers," a volume of poems. In 1885, appeared his work on anthropology, and in 1890, "William Nelson, a Memoir." "The Right Hand: Left-handedness," a monograph from his pen, has recently appeared in England. It is claimed that he was the first to use the word "prehistoric" in its now generally accepted sense. He travelled extensively to carry out his ethnological pursuits, and was skilful in handling both the pencil and the brush. Many of the numerous

illustrations of some of his publications were the work of his own hand.

Although a hard worker, Sir Daniel was fortunate in being able to throw aside his work at times and indulge in a genial and sometimes playful humor. While appreciating fully the honor which his native city bestowed upon him on his last visit, he spoke of it to his students as being of value because it gave him the right to pasture his geese on the public common, and he talked of chartering a steamer to carry them over. He was fond of applying to himself the words which had fallen from the mouth of a friend: "Yes, I have had a great deal of trouble, — but most of it never happened!"

Dr. Wilson had been secretary of the Society of Antiquaries before coming to this country. In accepting his membership in our Society, to which he was elected in 1861, he wrote: —

" Having long been an active member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, as well as of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain, there is no American society the membership of which I should esteem more highly than that of the learned body whose valuable *archæologia* I have long consulted with interest."

His contributions to our Proceedings included a paper on "Indications of Ancient Customs suggested by Certain Cranial Forms," for the April, 1863, meeting, and an obituary notice of John Strachan, Bishop of Canada West.

George P. Brinley died at his home in Newington, Conn., on August 24, 1892.

Mr. Brinley's father, George Brinley of Hartford, was a member and benefactor of this Society, and the son inherited his father's literary tastes. He was of active mind, a great reader, and of a kindly disposition which endeared him to his family and a large circle of friends. His health was never rugged, and his parents as well as the family physician doubted if the child would attain manhood. He was afflicted with "congenital cyanosis," and his death

resulted from apoplexy superinduced by organic heart trouble. He was born in Hartford, April 10, 1842, and lived there until 1881 when he removed to a farm in the more quiet town of Newington. His widow and six children survive him.

Mr. Brinley's grandfather, George Brinley, was a prominent merchant of Boston in the early part of the century. His name is kept alive in Worcester by the title "Brinley Row" which attaches to a portion of the real estate in which he invested in the central portion of the city, and is still owned by his descendants. George Brinley, son of the merchant, lived at Hartford, and was a member of this Society from October, 1846, until his death, May 16, 1875. He collected a remarkable library, particularly rich in the departments of American history and early American imprints. It was his intention that this library should be sold by auction, but that certain institutions and societies should have the opportunity of bidding in, free of cost, books to the aggregate value of \$25,000. This intention was not expressed in his will, and, his widow dying intestate soon after his own decease, there was no legal obligation to carry out his intentions. But a letter from his administrators, George P. Brinley and J. Hammond Trumbull, under date of February 24, 1879, addressed to the late President Salisbury, made known the gratifying fact that the children had honorably determined to carry out their parents' intention, and that this Society was authorized to bid off books to the total value of \$5,000, or one-fifth of the whole amount to be given away. A list of valuable books obtained at the first sale, which was held in New York, March 10, 1879, was arranged and printed, with the correspondence upon the subject and other matters, in a pamphlet prepared by our associate, Nathaniel Paine. At a second sale, in March, 1880, one hundred and ninety-two books and one hundred and fourteen pamphlets were secured.

Mr. George P. Brinley's membership in this Society dated from April 28, 1880.

George Henry Moore, LL.D., died at New York City, May 5, 1892.

He was born at Concord, N. H., son of Dr. Jacob B. Moore of that city, who afterward became librarian of the New York Historical Society. The family apparently removed to New York in 1840, and George, the eldest son, entered the University of the City of New York, from which he was graduated in 1842, and later, received from the institution his doctor's degree. While an undergraduate he served as assistant-librarian of the New York Historical Society, at first under our former associate, the learned Dr. George Folsom. Of his connection with that society, the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, in an article in the *Historical Magazine* for January, 1870, said—

“The Historical Society at that time was a quiet potentiality, a respectable egg, over which the influences of Washington Irving, George Bancroft and other such were brooding with faint hopes of a hatch. It was stowed away in the corner of the university buildings; and led a very dingy life. From the start, Mr. Moore, as assistant-librarian, became the chief workman in the concern,—George Folsom, and afterwards, George Gibbs, and then Mr. Moore's venerable father, who were librarians, merely acting as figureheads to the office, and allowing the genius and industry of the assistant to be untrammelled. A new life entered the old bones. Growth, order, thrift were the magical results of young Moore's energy. In 1849, the Historical Society did not know itself. It had become a power in the community. The best men of the city thronged its seances (where portly Janitor Smith dealt out the chocolate); papers of highest interest were read in its rooms, its patronage was sought by the historical explorers of the land; and rich men were honored by contributing to its resources. While all this was done, the cunning workman who had wrought the change remained in obscurity as the assistant-librarian. When Mr. Moore's father resigned his post as librarian, Doctor Edward Robinson, who always had an eye to the fitness of things, proposed the son as the

rightful successor. From that day to this, a period of twenty years, Mr. Moore, if we may be classical and not jocose, has been the Atlas of the Historical Society. To change the figure and conform the better to modern science, Mr. Moore has been the central sun of the Historical Society's system, around which president, vice-president and all other officers and members have most becomingly pursued their orbits. Whenever anyone thinks of the Historical Society, George H. Moore appears at once to his imagination. He is the Historical Society in its walking, talking avatar."

But a little more than two years after the above was written by Dr. Crosby, Dr. Moore transferred his allegiance to the great library which was founded by his personal friend, James Lenox, of which he continued to be the superintendent until his death. That the character and scope of the library were determined in accordance with his advice there can be little doubt.

The first years of Dr. Moore's connection with the Historical Society were full of hard work and hard study. The time came at last when he was to give the world some benefit from his study and his thoughts. His work on "The Treason of Charles Lee" appeared in 1860, and excited great interest. It was followed, two years later, by his "Historical Notes on the Employment of Negroes in the American Army of the Revolution." In 1866, he fired into the quiet commonwealth, a bombshell which he entitled, "Notes on the History of Slavery in Massachusetts." Sixteen years later, he repeated the performance, labelling the second missile, "Notes on the History of Witchcraft in Massachusetts," and discharging it at the annual meeting of this Society. A battle ensued, in the domain of the Massachusetts Historical Society, where Mr. Abner C. Goodell, jr., of Salem, stood forth in opposition, and the final shot was fired by Dr. Moore. Dr. Moore contributed to this Society's Proceedings, in April, 1884, some "Notes on Tithing-Men and the Ballot in Massachusetts," and in April, 1888, "Bibliographical Notes on

Witchcraft in Massachusetts." Among his other works were "History of the Jurisprudence of New York," "Washington as an Angler," etc.

Few scholars have made so thorough a study of the early history of New England, and have made themselves so familiar with its details as did Dr. Moore.

Dr. Hale continued:—

In the death of **Dr. Thomas Chase**, whom we had elected to membership in October, 1887, we have lost an associate from whom the country had received large service, and from whom we had much to hope. Mr. Chase was born in Worcester June 16, 1827. He was the son of Anthony Chase, well known through the county of Worcester as a citizen of pure public spirit and integrity. His mother was Lydia Earle Chase, daughter of the inventor Pliny Earle, and sister of the distinguished alienist of that name who lately died at Northampton. It is remarked of Dr. Chase's boyhood that he set the type for his own boy paper, the "Evergreen," when he was at the High School of this city. He knew practically, as so many of us do, how good a school of English grammar is as good a printing-office as the *Massachusetts Spy*. Thomas Chase entered Harvard College as a sophomore in 1845 and graduated in 1848, a member of a class which has done honor to the university and the country. Among his teachers, all of whom he counted afterwards as his friends, are names as distinguished as those of Edward Everett, Henry W. Longfellow, Cornelius Conway Felton, Edward Tyrrel Channing, Asa Gray, and James Walker. He graduated with high rank, among students of marked ability. He had always shown the aptness and fondness for philological studies which have marked his life, and it is remembered as an incident interesting in view of his later services, that he had read through the Greek Testament before he entered college.

For two years, he acted as tutor in the Cambridge High School. In 1850, when Professor Charles Beck gave up his active services in the chair of Latin at Cambridge, this accurate scholar asked Mr. Chase to take his classes until the return from Europe of Professor Lane, who had been appointed his successor. This was as high an honor as could possibly be conferred on a young graduate only twenty-three years old. Mr. Chase accepted the trust, and discharged its duties admirably. The college would have been glad to retain him in its service, but he preferred to go to Europe to continue his studies there. He was a year at Berlin, attending the courses of Boeckh, Freundenburg and Curtius, and spent another year in attending lectures in Paris, and afterward in Athens, where he gave a good deal of attention to modern Greek literature. He had an opportunity at this time also to visit Oxford and Cambridge.

On his return to America he accepted at once the chair of Philology and Classic Literature in Haverford College in Pennsylvania. At once he gave dignity and interest to the classical studies as conducted in that admirable institution. In the year 1875 he was chosen its president, and he remained in this office for ten years. In 1878, he was made a Doctor of Laws by Harvard University, and in 1880 he was made Doctor of Literature by Haverford College.

When the distinguished board of scholars was appointed which formed the American committee for the revision of the translation of the Bible, President Chase, almost of course, was made a member. In connection with his duties in it, he published one or two papers of permanent value on the English Testament.

To the regret of the students and governors of Haverford College, he resigned his charge in 1885. His health had somewhat failed, and with his family he took a long tour in Europe. Returning in 1887, he made his residence in Providence, R. I., where he has lived until his death, which took place on the fifth of this month.

He married in 1860 Alice Underhill Cromwell of New York, who died Jan. 20, 1882. They had five children, four sons and one daughter, who survive them.

“He brought to Haverford College much beside high scholarship and other attainments. He brought the ‘college feeling,’ and set up a lofty ideal. He planted a laudable ambition for scholarly attainment. He implanted a love of literature, and gave to the students an *esprit de corps* which was before unknown. Very much of Haverford’s excellence in succeeding years may be traced to the coming of Thomas Chase.” These words—taken from the history of the college—will be readily believed by his early and his later friends.

For the Council.

EDWARD E. HALE.
CHARLES A. CHASE.

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