

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 26, 1893, AT THE HALL OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

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

The following members were present:—

George E. Ellis, Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine, Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, George S. Paine, Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth, John D. Washburn, Thomas W. Higginson, Albert H. Hoyt, Edward G. Porter, Reuben A. Guild, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Thomas L. Nelson, Franklin B. Dexter, John J. Bell, Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Andrew McF. Davis, Cyrus Hamlin, J. Evarts Greene, Henry S. Nourse, Daniel Merriman, Reuben Colton, Robert N. Toppan, Henry H. Edes, Grindall Reynolds, William E. Foster, Hamilton A. Hill, Charles P. Bowditch, Edwin D. Mead, Charles Francis Adams, Calvin Stebbins, Francis H. Dewey, Benjamin A. Gould, Edward L. Pierce.

The records of the Annual Meeting were read and approved.

Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., said:—

“Our senior member, Mr. WINTHROP, gave me the pleasure of a call yesterday afternoon, having for a few days been confined to his house by weakness. He said that he had walked the short space to my home to try if he might venture to come here to-day as he very much wished to do; but he could not venture. He desired to be kindly remembered with his respects to the President and members, expressing his continued interest in the Society.

Our senior, in membership, will complete his eighty-fourth year on the 12th of May."

Mr. HOAR:—"Before the Society proceeds with its business, I move that the Secretary send the affectionate and reverent salutation of the Society to our associate, Mr. WINTHROP, and the expression of its desire that his health and happiness may be prolonged in this life."

The motion was put by the PRESIDENT, and unanimously adopted.

J. EVARTS GREENE, A.B., read a report which had been prepared by him and adopted by the Council as a part of their report.

The Treasurer, NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., reported in print.

The Librarian, Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON, read his report, and all these reports, as together constituting the Report of the Council, were accepted, and on motion of Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, referred to the Committee of Publication, with authority to publish the same, more or less in full, at their discretion.

The RECORDING SECRETARY communicated to the Society the Council's recommendation of the following gentlemen for election to resident membership:—

Hon. EDWARD J. PHELPS, LL.D., of Burlington, Vt.

Hon. WILLIAM W. HENRY, of Richmond, Va.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT, A.M., of Reading, Mass.

Rev. ELISHA B. ANDREWS, LL.D., of Providence, R. I.

EDWARD EGGLESTON, D.D., of Joshua's Rock, Lake George, N. Y.

Mr. WILBERFORCE EAMES, of New York City.

Who were all, by separate ballots, unanimously elected.

Also the following for foreign membership:—

The DUKE OF VERAGUA, of Spain.

Mr. HENRY HARRISSE, of Paris, France.

JOHN G. BOURINOT, D.C.L., of Ottawa, Canada.

Professor J. CONRAD, of Wittenberg, Germany.

Professor P. VINOGRADOFF, of Moscow, Russia.

By vote of the Society, the SECRETARY was instructed to cast a yea ballot for all the names, and these gentlemen were accordingly elected.

In the discussion of the Report of the Council, Dr. JUSTIN WINSOR said:—

“ We have in the graduating class at Cambridge, a young gentleman who has mastered the Spanish language, and has been very much interested in the Southwestern Spanish-American history. He attracted the attention of Professor Channing, who came to me about it, and Mr. Channing and I plotted a scheme by which he might do some original work. One of the most important of the documents which exists, relating to Coronado’s expedition, is that of Castaneda. It has never been published in Spanish; scholars have it only in a French translation, in the Ternaux-Compans collection. I knew that Mr. Lenox had a copy of the manuscript, and I supposed that it was in the Lenox Library. I wrote to the trustees, to request permission to have a copy made, in order that this young man might publish it in Spanish. Much to my gratification, the Lenox trustees consented. As a sequel to that, I happened to write about this proceeding to Mr. Fewkes, who is the general agent of Mrs. Hemenway in her Southwestern matters; and the result has been that this young gentleman, immediately upon graduating, goes upon the staff of the Hemenway Southwestern Expedition, and is sent to Seville, to make explorations in the archives there. I think by another year, if anybody likes to give us here a paper about Castaneda, he may be able to give information that scholars have never had before.”

Senator HOAR:—“ I move that the report of the Council be accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication, with authority to publish it, more or less in full, at their discretion.

“And in making that motion, Mr. President, I would like to call attention to one want of the Society, which is a very simple one, which will be understood by everybody. It appears, by the report of the Treasurer, that less than two hundred dollars was expended for the purchase of books during the last half-year; and from the report of the Librarian, that the accession of bound volumes from all sources, was between six and seven hundred. Now I do not wish to be classed among that somewhat uncomfortable body of men who distinguish themselves by suggesting how other people shall dispose of their money. But I think it is very well that the members of the Society, and the public at large who are interested in it, should observe that, while the funds of the Society have been admirably managed, and were never in a better condition as to productiveness and as to security; and while the library itself was never so useful to the public and to historical investigators as it is now; yet that that usefulness is very much impaired from the fact that we have not a small fund, the income of which might be devoted by the Librarian to purchasing, at his discretion, after taking counsel with the Committee on the Library, some books. Historical investigators, who go to our Library, and find something which can be found nowhere else in the country, or useful in the prosecution of their special inquiry, are obliged to interrupt the study in the middle, and go to the city library, or to some library elsewhere, because they find some very common and ordinary encyclopædia, or recent historic publication, is not to be found there. So that it costs two or three days' visit to the Society, for what could be done, if these things were there, in a few hours. And so they find sets of important magazines, or proceedings of other historical societies, or other important works, imperfect, and the Librarian is not able to avail himself of opportunities which frequently occur to perfect our rare sets, even at a very small cost. Now the use and value of our Library to the public for

historical studies would be multiplied many fold if we could have a fund which would afford even a few hundred dollars a year. It would enable the Librarian to avail himself of such opportunities, and to keep the Library supplied with such publications in our own department of science as are not given by the authors or other donors, and still are indispensable to the convenient prosecution of investigation in the Library. I hope that the members of the Society, and others, will see to it that when the proper occasion comes this want may be to some extent supplied."

President SALISBURY :—"The suggestion made by Mr. HOAR is very opportune, and I hope it will be remembered."

Mr. CHARLES A. CHASE :—"One item in the Librarian's report seems to deserve further mention. I allude to the fact that in Worcester this year have been celebrated the centennial anniversaries of two organizations which gentlemen who were afterwards members of this Society were prominent in establishing. One was a masonic lodge, founded by Isaiah Thomas, and the other was a fire society. The fire society was of the kind with which you are familiar, such as existed in Charlestown, Concord, Boston and other places, founded before the days of any fire department or other public means of extinguishing fire, generally by the solid citizens of the town, for the mutual protection of their property. I think we have at Worcester the only survivor of those organizations. The introduction of municipal fire departments with improved apparatus made them unnecessary ; but the one at Worcester is still in existence, and its members are all required, under severe penalties, to keep and maintain in perfect order the same utensils, to wit, two fire-buckets, two large canvas bags, a bed-key and a screw-driver,—which constituted the outfit of one hundred years ago. Its functions to-day, however, are social and literary rather than 'anti-pyretic.' And I am led to speak of this thing not only from the fact that some of the original members became members of this Society,

but also because we are to-day represented by at least twelve of the thirty members of that organization. Our President,—son of STEPHEN SALISBURY, who was for sixty years a member of the Fire Society, and grandson of STEPHEN SALISBURY, who was an original member,—acted as ‘Moderator’ at the recent anniversary. I may also mention that as the Orator for the occasion, the Fire Society was fortunate in securing the senior Senator of Massachusetts in the United States Senate, and as Poet, the gentleman who at the time he was appointed, was Minister of the United States to Switzerland,—in other words, our senior Vice-President and our Recording Secretary. That is rather a remarkable fact, and one on which the Fire Society of course congratulates itself. It might be further stated that there has hardly been a time during the last hundred years when, if that society had wanted an orator and poet, they would not have been able to put into those positions gentlemen who were either Governors of the Commonwealth, Judges of the Supreme or the Superior Court, Senators or Representatives in Congress, or Mayors of the city of Worcester. This is quite a unique history.”

The PRESIDENT then put the motion of Mr. HOAR, that the Report of the Council be referred to the Committee on Publication, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. ANDREW McF. DAVIS:—“I should like to ask the Council a single question with reference to the Treasurer’s report. I see that the Society has at the present moment \$126,000 in personal property. Now it is custom in the State of Massachusetts to limit the right of ownership of societies of this description to a specific sum. I see no reason for such a limit, but I wish to ask the Council whether there is any necessity for further legislation on that point, or whether they are at the present moment within the limit stated by the law.”

Mr. HOAR:—“I think we dealt with that subject a few years ago, but I belong to so many societies where such

questions come up that I am not quite sure that my memory is correct. Of course Mr. DAVIS understands that nothing would happen if we got beyond our limit,—that is, no person could take advantage of it. If we acquired a million dollars, we should hold it as against all the world, unless the State of Massachusetts should, through their attorney-general, interfere by a process of *quo warranto*; and in that case we should be obliged to get legislative authority or to dispose of our surplus funds. I think it is a very timely inquiry, and no doubt the Council will see that, if we need any further authority, it is obtained.”

Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN :—“ I wish to mention a fact, in order to have it placed on record. Two years and a half ago, it fell to my lot to write the Council’s report, and in preparing the necrologies at that time I could not obtain the date of death of a member who belonged in South America. I wrote to Buenos Ayres, where he lived, and it was only within a few weeks that I received a reply. The member referred to was Dr. GUILLERMO RAWSON, a man of Massachusetts origin, who died in Paris, according to the letter just received, on February 2, 1890.”

President SALISBURY :—“ During Mr. HOAR’S visit to London in the summer of last year, he requested our associate, Mr. SAINSBURY, to prepare a paper for the Society, on the public Record Offices. Mr. SAINSBURY has most obligingly complied with the request, sending us a paper which I will ask the Recording Secretary to read.”

After the reading of Mr. SAINSBURY’S paper, Mr. WINSOR said :—

“ Mr. President, it seems fitting that we should make some recognition of this valuable paper, and I would move that the thanks of the American Antiquarian Society be transmitted to Mr. SAINSBURY for his paper, which he has so kindly sent to us. And I might say, in making that motion, that there is no man in the Public Record Office in London to whom American scholars have been so largely

indebted as to Mr. SAINSBURY. He has had the peculiar charge of those papers in that office which relate to the history of America, and I know a score of instances where he has been of the utmost service to those who have been investigating there."

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE:—"I second that motion. It is thirty-four years since I made Mr. SAINSBURY's acquaintance, going to him with a commission from Mr. Bancroft, and another from Dr. Palfrey. And the promptness and delicate accuracy of his information struck me at the moment. Ever since, he has honored me with his friendship, and permitted me to correspond with him, and I know how very largely gentlemen who have been engaged in the study of our history must have been indebted to him."

The motion was put by the PRESIDENT, and carried by a unanimous vote.

President SALISBURY:—"The Society is particularly fortunate to-day in having communications from two English brethren and associates. Through the kindness of Mr. HAMILTON A. HILL, a communication is offered us from Mr. CHARLES H. FIRTH, of Oxford. I will ask Mr. HILL to read a portion of it."

Mr. HAMILTON A. HILL:—"Two or three years ago, while on a visit to England, I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Mr. FIRTH, with whom I had previously had some correspondence. Mr. FIRTH was at that time, and I think is still, president of the Oxford Historical Society, which has done a great deal of good work. He is also recognized in England as one of the first authorities as to seventeenth-century history. In the course of conversation with him, I found that he had recently been gathering a great deal of information in reference to Thomas Harrison, the regicide, and he had become satisfied that Thomas Harrison the regicide had no direct descendants in this country. Having heard what had been stated to the contrary here, I told him I would write to the United

States and endeavor to obtain some information which might strengthen or change his conviction. When I reached London, I wrote to our honored associate, Mr. HOAR, told him what I had heard at Oxford, and asked him for such authorities as would be useful in following the matter out; and in due course of mail I received an answer which I communicated to Mr. FIRTH. Mr. FIRTH has now prepared a paper on Thomas Harrison, which gives all the latest information, in reference to his marriage especially, and to the family with which he was connected. The paper is a long and exhaustive one, and I shall only read a few brief extracts from it. Mr. FIRTH, I may say, is the author of the article on Thomas Harrison in the Dictionary of National Biography."

Mr. WINSOR:—"I was walking on the Thames embankment two or three years ago, and a gentleman stopped me and said, 'I want to tell you that I have just discovered the documentary evidence which connects your President Harrison with Thomas Harrison the regicide.' That gentleman was Mr. William G. Thorpe, a barrister of the Middle Temple, whose book on 'Reminiscences of the Middle Temple' has recently been published. I think he is a Fellow of the Royal Antiquarian Society. I do not know what his documentary evidence was, but he thought that he had it."

Mr. HOAR:—"I was once sitting next to President Harrison, and spoke to him about this tradition, that he was descended from the Regicide. He said very carefully that a kinsman of his, whom he named, had made some inquiries into it, and had satisfied himself that it was true; but President Harrison conveyed to my mind the idea that he did not himself believe it, or, at any rate, was not prepared to say much about it. I also remember that, I think in Bishop Meade's book,—at any rate, somewhere in the Virginia Historical Collections,—is the epitaph of the ancestor of our signer of the Declaration of Independence,

Benjamin Harrison, in the county where the Harrisons settled. I should think it was probably his grandfather, though I am not sure of the relation. The epitaph is that of a person who died about 1700, and who would therefore have been either the son or the grandson of the Regicide, if that had been his descent. And that epitaph dwells upon the loyalty of the person as a special characteristic, as if he were a person famous for loyalty to his sovereign; which would not be very likely to be the case in a son of Thomas Harrison. So I suppose that Mr. FIRTH'S conclusion must be accepted by all of us."

On motion of Col. THOMAS W. HIGGINSON, it was voted that the papers which had been read be referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dr. HALE moved the thanks of the Society to Mr. FIRTH for his very interesting and suggestive paper. Voted unanimously.

Mr. NATHANIEL PAINE said:—

"At a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, held in December last, our associate, Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN, made remarks regarding the practice of reproducing early newspapers in facsimile, and spoke of the liability of those not familiar with the originals to be deceived thereby. As is well known, the *Massachusetts Spy* was first published in Boston, the first number having been printed July 17, 1770. It was a single sheet, printed in two columns, about eight by ten inches in size, and begins with the prospectus of the publisher, Isaiah Thomas, the founder of the American Antiquarian Society; then follow a column and a half of European intelligence under date of May 5th, half a column of American intelligence; a few paragraphs of general and local news, and the death notices. Among the latter, appears the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Royall, of Medford, 'the virtuous and amiable Consort of the Honorable Isaac Royall, Esq.' A reproduction was published by the proprietors of the *Spy*

in their paper of July 22, 1870, with a notice of the reprint. Another edition, however, was issued in separate form, and although not an exact facsimile in typography, was, in general appearance, a reproduction of the original issue, and there was no inscription or explanation to indicate that it was not printed at the date which appeared upon it.

“There was also printed at the same time a facsimile of the *Massachusetts Spy* of May 3, 1775, the first thing printed in Worcester. This reproduction was made from a copy of the original owned by the American Antiquarian Society, upon which was the inscription in the handwriting of Mr. Thomas, ‘This newspaper is the first thing ever printed in Worcester.’ I have known of this facsimile being shown as an original, and claimed to be so because of the so-called autograph of Isaiah Thomas. This paper contains a notice of the fight at Lexington, which was one of the first printed accounts of that event. The same month, the Provincial Congress voted that a narrative of the battle be printed, and this was done by Mr. Thomas, at Worcester, under the authority of Congress, and was the first book or pamphlet printed there. In the *Spy* of July 17, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was printed for the first time in any newspaper in New England.

“The paper of the previous week, had announced that ‘It is reported that the Honorable Continental Congress have declared the American Colonies *independent* of the monster of imperious domination and cruelty, Great Britain,—We hope it is true.’

“Congress voted that copies of the Declaration be sent to the several Assemblies, Convention Committees, or Committees of Safety, and as soon as they could be printed, they were sent to the different States, by special messengers. The Massachusetts messenger, on his way to Boston, reached Worcester the 13th or 14th of July, and it is supposed was intercepted by Mr. Thomas and a copy

of the important document procured. Although Mr. Thomas was not at that time the publisher of the *Spy*, having leased his interest in it to other parties the previous month, he was on a visit at Worcester, and with true journalistic enterprise secured a copy for the paper, and also read it for the first time publicly in New England, from the porch of the Old South Meeting-house. As has been said, the Declaration was published in the *Spy* of July 17th and, strange to say, without editorial comment. The day after its publication in Worcester, it was read from the balcony of the State House in Boston. This number of the *Spy* was reproduced in 1876, by the Campbell Printing Press Co., of New York, for distribution at the International Exhibition at Philadelphia, in form and general appearance like the original, and, although not strictly a facsimile, at some future time, when age shall have discolored the paper, it may be looked upon as an original; hence it seems worth while to call attention to it.

“The first Worcester Directory, published in 1829 by Clarendon Harris, was reproduced in 1872, by Tyler and Seagrave of Worcester. It was a small 12mo pamphlet of twelve pages, with a list of the principal streets and the names of the occupants and owners of the buildings. It was printed to accompany a map of the village of Worcester, published the same year. This publication has printed upon the back of the title-page the statement that it is a reprint, but otherwise is as accurate a facsimile as the type in the possession of the publishers could make it. This reproduction might deceive the inexperienced, especially if the two or three lines on the back of the title-page were erased by one wishing to deceive.

“Mention of these reproductions is made as supplementary to Dr. GREEN’S remarks, in the hope that it may be of use to the future collector.”

Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS:—“I understand Mr. PAINE to say that it was supposed that Isaiah Thomas secured a

copy of the Declaration of Independence from the messenger who passed on his way from Philadelphia to Boston, and that it was thus published by Isaiah Thomas for the first time in any newspaper. The tradition that has come down, and that we boys in Worcester have grown up to believe, is this: that Isaiah Thomas himself did secure that Declaration of Independence, or a copy thereof; that he did read it personally from the steps of the first meeting-house in Worcester, to wit, the Old South."

Mr. PAINE:—"I never heard it disputed."

Mr. WILLIAM E. FOSTER:—"In a paper presented by me at the semi-annual meeting one year ago, I in one place used the language 'a Royal Academician,'¹ referring to John Smibert. It is true that, as the foot-note indicates, this language was based on Walpole's words, 'admittance into the académy' (Walpole's 'Anecdotes of painting in England,' vol. 2, p. 673); but inasmuch as the Royal Academy of Arts dates from a later period, it is plain that Walpole's language must be taken as referring to some one of the various 'academies' which he elsewhere mentions (Walpole, vol. 2, pp. 647, 665, etc.)."

Dr. HALE:—"I believe I am the person who had the good fortune to find in the library of the Historical Society the broadside, which appears to be the original broadside, of the Declaration of Independence. They had it in a collection of Fast-Day Proclamations which I was looking through. I think Mr. WINSOR has studied the document, and I hope he will perhaps tell us something about it, and where it may have come from. I have always thought it rather curious and interesting that they should have had one of those broadsides, which are rather rare. I rose, however, to speak about buffaloes, in connection with what was read in the interesting report on the Santa Fé Trail. The popular statement made in the press is that there are

¹ Proceedings at Semi-Annual Meeting, April 27, 1892, p. 111.

now eighty-three buffaloes in the United States. But I had the good fortune, a fortnight ago, by the kindness of Dr. Goode, who has charge of the national zoölogical park at Washington, to see the buffaloes there; and I cannot help thinking that gentlemen who visit Washington will be glad to know that there is so remarkable an exhibition there. I was in New York only a fortnight before, and, standing by the great glass case where they have their buffaloes, magnificently mounted, I said to my friend, 'this is seeing more of buffaloes than I could have seen if I had gone on the trail to Santa Fé.' And I really supposed that I never should see a buffalo to such advantage. But being at Washington, I found that there they have not the ordinary zoölogical tramping-ground; but these fine creatures are in a lot of several acres; they do not dislike men, and they come down to the wire fence which encloses them, and you can see them without being trampled under their feet. This led me to ask Dr. Goode how many there are in America, and he said that the present estimate is that there are rather over a thousand. There are two or three herds of wild buffaloes, which are still known; there are a great many preserved as these are preserved in Washington; and he seemed to think that the tide had turned, and that henceforward the number would increase. I asked him about their native land. He says there were a good many of them in Virginia when Smith landed there, and that undoubtedly, on the banks of Rock Creek there used to be plenty of them. They are therefore in their original state there."

Mr. HAYNES:— "Did Dr. Goode tell you how far he believed they had ever been toward the northeast?"

Dr. HALE:— "I asked him distinctly about it. He was pretty clear that they were never in New England."

Mr. HAYNES:— "I ask because, as gentlemen will remember, the matter was called up in connection with an interesting scientific discussion which arose upon the dis-

covery of some teeth on the banks of the Kennebec River."

Mr. WINSOR:— "Is there evidence that they were east of the Alleghanies in Virginia?"

Dr. HALE:— "He said there was. He spoke as if Smith and all of them had seen buffaloes."

Mr. HAYNES:— "There is a monograph on the subject published by a gentleman who went from Hartford to the New York Museum,—Mr. Joel A. Allen."

Dr. HALE:— "I had a fancy, in reading Pike's narrative, that Pike did not break his heart when he was arrested; and I have always suspected that he might have had orders from Jefferson, or from some one at headquarters, to get as near the Spaniards as he conveniently could, and if he happened to be arrested not to make too much fuss about it, but to take the opportunity to go down the Rio Grande. Did that ever occur to you?"

Mr. GREENE:— "I have not read his narrative with special reference to that question. As I said, there was something mysterious and inexplicable in reference to some of his conduct there. Among other things, it seems impossible to me that he should have supposed, as he said he did, that he was on the headwaters of the Red River. It seems as if one who had had his experience in travelling could not have missed knowing when he passed the 'divide' between the valley of the Mississippi and the valley of the Rio Grande."

Dr. HALE:— "I read his book with a great deal of interest, a good many years ago. In telling of the arrest, he says that the Spaniards told him that they must take away his arms. Well, then he struck an attitude and said 'No American soldier permitted his arms to be taken away, and that his men would die first.' So they said, 'Very well; we will leave you your guns and you can carry them all the way. But we will take away your powder.' This seems to be drawing rather a delicate line, but it answered. Pike availed himself of this permission, and

every night, as soon as he was alone, he wrote the journal of the day and rammed it down the gun. They would not have let him keep any journal, but he carried this gun all the way to Mexico, and the result is that we have a careful daily journal of the journey down the river. There is a smack of satisfaction in Pike's account of the whole thing, as though Jefferson, or Wilkinson, might have told him that if he could find it convenient to come home by the way of the City of Mexico, they would like to have him. They wanted to know about the Rio Grande quite as much as about the Arkansas, and whether the whole thing was not a bit of throwing dust into the eyes of the Spanish government is, I think, a very curious question."

The meeting then dissolved.

JOHN D. WASHBURN,

Recording Secretary.

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