

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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THE Council of the American Antiquarian Society are able to report another year of prosperity for all the interests of the Society, as shown in detail in the accompanying semi-annual communications from the Treasurer and the Librarian.

Since our meeting in April last three vacancies have been made in the roll of our membership by the deaths of Dr. George Chandler of Worcester, the Hon. Charles C. Jones, Jr., of Augusta, Ga., and the Hon. John J. Bell of Exeter, N. H. We have also received notice of the death of one foreign member, Señor Eligio Ancona of Mexico.

**George Chandler** was elected into the Society in October, 1857, and was therefore at the time of his death the ninth in seniority upon our roll. He was born in Pomfret, Connecticut, on April 28, 1806, the eighth child and fourth son of Major John Wilkes and Mary (Stedman) Chandler, and the fifth in descent from William and Annis Chandler, who emigrated from England to Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1637. His father was a prosperous farmer in Pomfret, but died during the infancy of this son, who lived at home until he was 17½ years old, when he was sent to the Academy in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts. After two terms of instruction there and a term at Leicester Academy in the same county, he taught for a winter in the neighboring town of Sutton, and then pursued further studies in the Academy in Woodstock, Conn. In the spring of 1826 he joined the Freshman class in Brown University, but at the close of the Sophomore year, in consequence of the disturbed state of that institution, he removed to Union College, N. Y., where he was graduated in 1829. He then read medicine with Dr. Hiram Holt of Pomfret,

who had married his sister, and after attending one course of lectures in Boston and another in New Haven he received the degree of M.D. from Yale in 1831.

In November of the same year he opened an office in Worcester, but after a brief experience in general practice he became in March, 1833, Assistant Physician in the State Lunatic Hospital, just established in Worcester, under the efficient charge of Dr. Samuel B. Woodward. He retained this post until May, 1842, when he resigned, and in the same month married Miss Josephine Rose of Salem, a daughter of Joseph W. Rose of Antigua, West Indies, and granddaughter of Dr. William Paine of Worcester, one of the founders and the first Vice-President of this Society. Four months later he took charge of a new asylum for the insane, just erected on plans furnished by him, in Concord, N. H. After a little over three years, during which time he had placed the institution on a satisfactory basis, he resigned for family reasons; and a few months later, in July, 1846, he accepted an invitation to succeed Dr. Woodward in the superintendency of the Worcester Asylum. He retired from this position in July, 1856, at the age of fifty, after ten years of exhaustive labor, in which his difficult duties had been discharged with conspicuous fidelity and success. His residence continued in Worcester, and he gave his services to the city as one of its representatives in the State Legislature in 1859, and as an alderman in 1862. His wife died on May 4, 1866, and during the next three years he made an extended tour abroad with the two daughters who now survive him. The most important literary labor of his life seemed to be accomplished when he had carried successfully through the press in 1872 an elaborate genealogy, of nearly 1250 pages, entitled *The Chandler Family*; but unfortunately only forty-one copies had been delivered from the binders when the great Boston fire of that year destroyed the rest of the edition.

On April 8, 1874, Dr. Chandler was married to Mary

E., daughter of Stephen Douglas of Greenwich, Mass., and widow of Charles A. Wheeler of Worcester, who survives him. In the following summer he made another visit to Europe. For a long time after his return he resisted all entreaties for a reprint of his genealogy; but at length, in February, 1882, with rare patience and hopefulness, he began the preparation of a new edition, which was published at Worcester (pp. viii., 1315) in the summer of 1883, in the author's seventy-eighth year, and which will always be a creditable monument to his industry, thoroughness, and ability. In the years of life which remained to him he held a peculiar place in the reverent esteem of his associates in this Society and of all his fellow-citizens, until his death, in Worcester, from the infirmities of age, on May 17, 1893, in his eighty-eighth year.

Dr. Chandler served for several years as one of the Auditors of this Society, and he showed his affection for it, and his appreciation of the aid received at our Library during his genealogical studies, by contributing in January, 1884,<sup>1</sup> the sum of \$500 to establish a "George Chandler Fund" for procuring works on genealogy and kindred subjects. He gave at the same time two hundred copies of his book, to be used for the same purpose, either by sale or in exchange, reserving none of the edition for himself, but forwarding thereafter all orders from purchasers to the Society. As the result of this thoughtful provision, about one hundred and fifty volumes on family history have already been added to our Library, and there still remain one hundred and twenty-five copies of *The Chandler Family* for future sale or exchange.

**Charles Colcock Jones, Jr.**, was born in Savannah, Georgia, on October 28, 1831, being the eldest son of the Rev. Dr. Charles Colcock Jones, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in that city. His father died in 1863, but in

<sup>1</sup>Proceedings, New Series, iii., 96.

order to preserve a useful distinction Colonel Jones retained until his death the "Jr." attached to his own name.

In 1848 he entered the South Carolina College at Columbia, where his father was then professor in the Theological Seminary. In 1850 the latter became secretary of the (Old School) Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions, in Philadelphia, and the son removed to Princeton College, where he was graduated in 1852. He then read law for a year in Philadelphia, and afterwards studied for another year in the Harvard Law School, where he received the degree of LL.B. in 1855. He was admitted to the bar of Savannah in May, 1855, and was in the enjoyment of a large practice by the time that he was elected mayor of that city in 1860, at the age of 29. During his mayoralty, with his entire approbation, Georgia followed South Carolina in the secession movement; and at the close of his year of office, having declined a re-nomination, he joined the Chatham Artillery in the Confederate service, on the Georgia coast, with the rank of First Lieutenant. In the fall of 1862 he was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel and assigned to duty as Chief of Artillery for the military district of Georgia (embracing subsequently part of South Carolina). He was Chief of Artillery during the siege of Savannah in December, 1864, and was afterwards attached to the staff of General Hardee in a like capacity, and was included in the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston's army, which occurred near Greensboro', North Carolina, in April, 1865.

Late in the following December Colonel Jones removed to New York City, and there resumed the practice of his profession with gratifying success. In New York he enjoyed opportunities for literary society and for study, which stimulated him to a broader culture and to a frequent use of his pen on historical and archæological themes. While residing there he was elected to membership in this Society, in April, 1869, and on the same day read a paper on *Ancient Tumuli in Georgia*, which

was published in our Proceedings (pp. 27 and 2 pl.).

In the spring of 1877 he returned to Georgia and fixed his home in the village of Summerville, near Augusta, where he resided until his death on July 19, 1893, in his sixty-second year. During this last period of his life he continued to be engaged in the practice of his profession, but meantime found leisure for much literary labor. Colonel Jones began his career as an author with an address before the Georgia Historical Society in 1859, on *Indian Remains in Southern Georgia*; and his first separate publication of importance was a collection of kindred monographs on the *Monumental Remains of Georgia*, in 1861. After his removal to New York, and before his election into our membership, he had published historical sketches of the *Chatham Artillery during the Confederate Struggle for Independence* (1867), and of *Tomo-Chi-Chi, Mico of the Yumacraws* (1868), besides a brief paper on the *Ancient Tumuli on the Savannah River* (1868). These titles indicate also the range of his future studies, and it may be sufficient to mention only a few of the more important of his remaining contributions to literature. Of these the chief was his *History of Georgia* (1883), in two large volumes, which covered in a masterly and exhaustive manner the aboriginal, colonial and revolutionary epochs. Ten years earlier appeared his *Antiquities of the Southern Indians, particularly of the Georgia Tribes*, his largest independent work in that special field of archæology of which he was an acknowledged master. Along with these more serious undertakings he was also occupied, especially after his return to the South, with the preparation of a large number of briefer addresses and essays, mainly on subjects of local historical interest, which extended largely his reputation. The most elaborate of these efforts was his *Life of Commodore Josiah Tattnall*, published in 1878. Among his latest work was a little volume of *Negro Myths from the Georgia Coast, told in the Vernacular* (1888), a

contribution of distinct value to the dialectic folk-lore of the Southern States.

Colonel Jones took pride in his membership with us, and frequently remembered our Library by gifts of material for Southern history. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of the City of New York in 1880.

He was married on November 9, 1858, to Miss Ruth Berrien Whitehead of Burke County, Georgia; and after her death was a second time married on October 28, 1863, to her cousin, Miss Eva Berrien Eve of Augusta.

**John James Bell**, who was elected a member of this Society in April, 1879, and who died very suddenly from apoplexy while waiting for a railroad train at Manchester, New Hampshire, on August 22, 1893, was born in Chester, New Hampshire, on October 30, 1827, being the eldest child of the Hon. Samuel Dana Bell (Harvard, 1816), afterwards Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that State, and grandson of Governor and Senator Samuel Bell (Dartmouth, 1793).

He began the study of law with his father and continued it by attendance during parts of the years 1845 to 1847 at the Harvard Law School, where he was admitted in the last named year to the degree of LL.B. After this he undertook the care of his father's large landed and lumber interests in Maine, and this delayed for a long time his entrance on professional life, which was finally begun in Nashua, New Hampshire. In 1864 he removed to Exeter, where his industry and ability soon brought him into prominence and where he resided until his death. He retired from active practice after about ten years, during which time and subsequently he filled many local offices, among them that of Judge of the Exeter Police Court from 1876 to 1883. In 1883, 1885, 1887 and 1891 he was a representative in the Legislature. During this latter period of his life, by

means of his extensive business relations he became widely known and influential through the State. He was deeply interested in the development of New Hampshire railroads and manufactures, and found time also to serve the State on several important commissions, such as that to establish a boundary line with Massachusetts. He was also at the time of his death the chairman of the State Library Commission. His knowledge of the history of New Hampshire was remarkably minute, and he was ever jealously anxious for everything pertaining to her welfare. He had filled for some years the office of President of the New Hampshire Historical Society, and showed his interest in our own meetings by occasional attendance.

Judge Bell married on April 13, 1881, Cora L., second daughter of Harvey Kent of Exeter, who survives him with two sons.

I am permitted to add to this report a sketch of a recently deceased foreign member which has been prepared by President Salisbury.

Señor **Eligio Ancona**, statesman, historian and author, was born in the city of Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, December 1, 1836. His father was a schoolmaster and the son became his assistant. Early in life, the death of the father having left the son as the sole support of his mother and a large family, Señor Ancona met the responsibilities thrown upon him with an energy and ability that caused difficulties to vanish. In addition to his duties as a teacher he was able to pursue the study of the law and received his diploma in 1862. He showed his literary talents about this time by the publication of historical novels entitled *La Mestiza*, *La Cruz y la Espada*, and *El Filibustero*, which were received with great favor and which furnished him the means for continuing still longer the life of a student. During the first years of the unfortunate Empire, Ancona warmly espoused the liberal cause and became editor of *La Pildora*,

the exponent of the party in Yucatan. For this offence he was exiled for several months. On the restoration of the Republic he returned and allied himself to the Governor of Yucatan, General Cepeda, as editor of *La Razon del Pueblo*, which became, and still continues to be, the official organ of the government.

At this time he acted as first secretary of the Governor and was chiefly instrumental in establishing the *Instituto Literario*, or Normal School of Yucatan. Soon after he was elected Deputado to the Nacional Congress at Mexico. In 1867 Ancona was appointed Governor *Interino* of Yucatan by President Juarez. After one year's service he resigned this post and returned to Mexico, where he devoted himself to literary pursuits and published *Los Martires del Anahuac*, which added new laurels to his reputation as a novelist.

During disturbances in Yucatan in 1874 Ancona was appointed by the Legislature Governor *Interino*, and soon after was elected Constitutional Governor, which office he filled with great acceptance for two years, and then retired to private life, dedicating his time to letters, and wrote his *Historia de Yucatan*, in four volumes, which has become the most imperishable monument of his fame. This history is recognized as a most trustworthy account of what is known of the condition of the peninsula of Yucatan at the time of the discovery, and is of especial interest to the archæologist.

Señor Ancona served as Councillor of the Government, Magistrate of the Circuit, President of the Council of Instruction, and finally was made Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice at Mexico, in the duties of which office he was engaged when removed by the hand of death, at the capital of the Republic, on April 3, 1893.

Señor Ancona was excessively modest and unostentatious in his bearing, honorable in all his dealings, incapable of falsehood, and unwavering in his devotion to republican principles. The Legislature of the State of Yucatan set



apart the third day of May of this year to be publicly observed as a day of mourning and eulogy for this distinguished patriot, which was the occasion of a universal manifestation of public and private grief and sorrow in the capital of Yucatan.

Señor Ancona became a member of this Society in April, 1880, an honor for which he showed his appreciation by the gift of an elegantly bound autograph copy of his valuable *Historia de Yucatan*.

For the Council.

FRANKLIN BOWDITCH DEXTER.

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