

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council has, in general, to express its great satisfaction at the condition of the Society and the management of its affairs.

At the April meeting of the Society, President SALISBURY announced the bequest by our late associate, the Rev. Dr. George E. Ellis, of the sum of ten thousand dollars "to constitute a fund, the annual income only of which shall be used for any object of the Society and approved by it, on the recommendation of the Council of said Society."

At a special meeting of the Council, on May 4, 1895, it was

Voted, that the American Antiquarian Society gratefully accept the bequest of ten thousand dollars made to them by their late associate, George E. Ellis, and agree to perform the conditions of said bequest as set forth in his will. And in consideration of the payment of said sum by George S. Hale, Esq., executor of the will of said George E. Ellis, it is further agreed that said legacy shall be refunded to said executor, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy any demands that may hereafter be recovered against the estate of said deceased, and the Society will indemnify said executor against all loss or damage on account of such payment.

At a meeting of the Council, held on the 28th ult., it was

Voted, that the fund bequeathed by Rev. Dr. Ellis be called the "George E. Ellis Fund," if the Society concur.

And also, *Voted*, that the Librarian be directed, on the advice of the Committee on the Library, to prepare and present a list of books of the value of not exceeding one thousand dollars, to be purchased from time to time from the income of the George E. Ellis Fund.

At the stated meeting of the Council, held October 22, it was

Voted, that the Council recommend that the income of the George E. Ellis Fund for the coming year be carried to the Librarian's and General Fund.

Also, *Voted*, that any available income of the George E. Ellis Fund, not exceeding \$1000, may be employed by the Council from time to time for the purchase of books.

These several votes are submitted to the Society for approval and confirmation.

Brief memorials of deceased members of the Society, prepared by President SALISBURY, Rev. EDWARD G. PORTER and J. EVARTS GREENE, Esq., follow this communication.

Hamilton Andrews Hill, who was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1890, was born in London, near the present site of the General Post-Office, April 14, 1827. He was the eldest child of Hamilton and Anna (Andrews) Hill, and attended school in the city and at Islington.

The father was a London merchant and a benevolent philanthropist, in sympathy with the anti-slavery movement and personally acquainted with some of its leaders. Having met with losses during the panic of 1837, he was disposed to accept an invitation from the newly-founded college at Oberlin to become its secretary and treasurer. Accordingly he sailed for America with his family in 1840, and the following spring he crossed the Alleghanies in sleighs and established his home at the college, which was then in the wilderness. He held his appointment for the long term of twenty-five years.

The son Hamilton pursued his studies here for a few years, and, a part of the time, he was clerk in a bookstore. At the age of seventeen, through the influence of Amasa Walker, he came to Boston and entered the dry goods store of Whitney and Fenno. In 1848, he formed a partnership

with Eben Sears, Jr., as a commission and forwarding house, chiefly in the Canadian trade. The new bonding law had just gone into effect, and Hill and Sears obtained large consignments from an uncle of the former, Alfred Hill, a London ship-broker, who had controlled most of the transportation by the St. Lawrence. The new Boston firm established branch offices at New York and Ogdensburg, and for ten years carried on an extensive and profitable business. They invested in American sailing-ships and steamers on the Lakes and the St. Lawrence.

Mr. Hill was a close student of the commercial problems of the time. He made frequent voyages to Europe, and with facile pen he became the chief agent in securing the first reciprocity treaty with Canada. His arguments also influenced the Directors of the Boston and Worcester Railroad Company to buy the circuit line known as the Grand Junction Railroad.

The opening of the Grand Trunk Railway soon diverted the traffic which Boston had secured, and the firm of Hill and Sears dissolved. In 1861, Mr. Hill was appointed a clerk in the Custom House and remained there four years. From 1867 to 1873 he was the efficient secretary of the Boston Board of Trade. In that capacity he did much to promote the success of the famous excursion of members of the Board and their families to California in 1870. This was the first time that Pullman cars were seen in Boston, and they attracted the attention of thousands. This being the first train to make the complete journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and bearing as it did many persons of distinction, the trip was one continuous ovation, such as has never since been equalled. A daily paper was printed on the train, and music, speeches, receptions and illuminations awaited its arrival at all the principal cities. One of the honored party was Hon. Stephen Salisbury, then the president of this Society.

About this time Mr. Hill was appointed by Mayor Pierce

the chairman of a commission to consider the annexation of adjoining cities and towns to Boston. In 1873, he went to London for two years to represent the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company in the sale and settlement of its lands. On his return he resumed the secretaryship of the National Board of Trade, of which he had been one of the organizers in 1868, and this position he held through life. Nothing gave him more pleasure than his connection with this Board. He was a constant attendant at its meetings and closely identified with its work. His services were highly esteemed by its long-time president, the venerable Frederick Fraley of Philadelphia, who speaks in the warmest terms of Mr. Hill's ability and devotion, and says he was full of information about matters relating to commerce, finance, insurance, charities, penology, education, history and antiquities. He claimed for Americans a larger share of the steam trade of the Atlantic, and greatly lamented the decline of our ship-owning interests.

Mr. Hill served four years in the Massachusetts Legislature and was chairman of the Finance Committee. He was also a member of the Board of State Charities, vice-president of the American Statistical Association, treasurer of the American Social Science Association, vice-president and biographer of the Congregational Club, a member of the American Philosophical Society, and a director of the Bostonian Society and of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

During his later years Mr. Hill turned his attention largely to biographical and historical subjects. He wrote the life of Abbott Lawrence and several smaller memoirs, and contributed valuable articles to the daily papers, the *Historical and Genealogical Register*, the *Andover Review*, and the *New England Magazine*. His chapter in the Memorial History of Boston on our commerce for the last hundred years is often consulted.

As clerk of the Old South Church he became interested

in the lives of its early members, and in coöperation with Dr. George F. Bigelow, he published in 1883 a complete catalogue of the Church. Out of this grew the History of the Old South, in two volumes, an exhaustive and admirable work, which will always be considered the crowning effort of Mr. Hill's life. No Church was ever better served by its clerk.

He was soon after honored with an election to this Society and to the Massachusetts Historical Society, both of whose proceedings he has enriched by his original contributions. He also received the degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Pennsylvania, having previously received the honorary Master's degree from Oberlin and Williams.

Mr. Hill died in Boston on the 27th of April, 1895. He was short of stature, strongly built, of a genial temperament, methodical habits and positive convictions. His face and voice indicated the earnest, thoughtful and sincere qualities of the man. He was married at Roxbury, May 4, 1859, to Miriam Phillips, daughter of Samuel H. Walley. She died August 21, 1862. His second marriage occurred May 27, 1869, with Anna Frances, daughter of Charles and Mary Anna (Bachi) Carruth, of Boston. She survives him with a son and a daughter. E. G. P.

John Fletcher Williams was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 25, 1834. He is said to have been of the seventh generation in descent from Welsh ancestors, who came to America about 1644. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania. In his boyhood he attended Woodward College in Cincinnati, and afterward completed what was then styled a scientific course at the Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, in 1852. He for a time applied himself to acquiring the art of engraving, but upon his removal to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1855, he became a newspaper reporter, and for fourteen years was pretty constantly employed on one or another of the newspapers of

that city. Finding special satisfaction in those duties which required research into the early history of the region and the lives of its pioneers, he became a recognized authority in these matters, and in 1867 was chosen secretary and librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, which had at that time few members, a library and collections of little value, narrow means and meagre rooms neither easy of access nor inviting. Mr. Williams's enthusiasm and energy soon changed all this, and gave the Society new life. Within a few months, the number of interested and active members was greatly increased; the collection of books was trebled in number and more than trebled in value; a sufficient income was secured, and commodious and convenient quarters provided.

This advance in the activity and importance of the Society so much increased the work of the secretary and librarian, that in 1869 Mr. Williams gave up his newspaper work and devoted all his time to the interests of the Society. He continued to work with uncommon industry and zeal for twenty-four years, having charge of the Society's library, records and correspondence, editing its publications, adding to its collections, making special researches in local history and biography, and writing papers for its meetings. He wrote and published a "History of St. Paul and Ramsey County," and gathered much material for a history of Minnesota and its people. In recognition of Mr. Williams's attainments and his services to the cause of historical research, he was honored with membership of the historical societies of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Rhode Island, Maine, Buffalo and Montana, and was a corresponding member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He was elected a member of this Society at its semi-annual meeting in 1882. I am not aware that he attended any of its meetings or contributed to its Proceedings; but he was friendly and helpful in other ways.

A prostrating illness in 1892, attributed to excessive

study, compelled Mr. Williams to suspend his usual labors. A residence of a few months in California had no beneficial effect. His mental powers were impaired by progressive softening of the brain, and he died in an asylum at Rochester, Minnesota, on the 29th of April, 1895. J. E. G.

James Jackson, was born at Assailly, in the Department of Doubs in France, on September 9, 1843, of English parents. He was "Membre de la Commission Centrale de la Société de Géographie de Paris," and for twelve years, he filled gratuitously the office of Archiviste-Bibliothécaire. He was a born bibliographer, and during his tenure of office made many improvements in the library of the Society. Through his indefatigable efforts, and at his own expense, he collected a valuable series of photographic views from many parts of the world, numbering about 17,000, which he gave to the Society, besides 2,000 portraits of travellers and geographers. Mr. Jackson filled a brilliant and independent place in society, and was surrounded by many friends and advisers, among whom were some of the most eminent students of his time; and he labored earnestly at his work as a true lover of science and art. The bulletins show a great number of books presented by him. Among them were seventeen volumes of the "Dictionnaire de Larousse." He published in "La Nature" various essays, among them, "Tableau de Diverses Vitesses," in 1883, and he contributed to that journal very many photographs (for he was an admirable amateur photographer) of ships of war then in southern ports of France, and of very interesting natural curiosities.

He may be said to have transformed and augmented the collections of the Société de Géographie in a most useful and comprehensive manner.

Mr. Jackson was the author of a "Liste Provisoire de Bibliographies Géographiques Spéciales," and of "Socotora, Notes Bibliographiques." He was of a warm and

generous heart, ever ready to serve his friends and to exert himself in the cause of science. In his last will, he bequeathed the sum of 100,000 francs to be divided among nine geographical and scientific societies. Mr. Jackson was remarkable for a union of many noble qualities. He was kind, and delighted to render a service, and the affection that he held for his friends was warm and sincere. He was industrious, painstaking and methodical. He received in 1894 the gold medal of the Paris Geographical Society for twelve years' honorary labor; and from the Portuguese government, for assistance afforded in geographical lines, he was awarded a decoration as "Commandeur de l'Ordre du Christ de Portugal"; and he was "Officier d'Instruction Publique de France."

He died in Paris, July 17, 1895, regretted by a very large circle of friends. The Royal Geographical Society of London, of which he was an honorary corresponding member, published an obituary notice of Mr. Jackson, in October, in which they acknowledge their obligations for valuable contributions.

Mr. Jackson was elected a member of our Society in October, 1882.

S. S.

For the Council,

EGBERT C. SMYTH.

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