

PROCEEDINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 1896, AT THE HALL OF THE
SOCIETY IN WORCESTER.

THE Society was called to order by President STEPHEN SALISBURY at 10.30 o'clock A. M.

The following members were present:¹

Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine, Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, Edward L. Davis, William A. Smith, James F. Hunnewell, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Franklin B. Dexter, Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Frederic W. Putnam, Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene, Henry S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Daniel Merriman, Reuben Colton, Robert N. Toppan, Henry H. Edes, George E. Francis, Frank P. Goulding, James P. Baxter, A. George Bullock, John McK. Merriam, William E. Foster, J. Franklin Jameson, Charles Francis Adams, Calvin Stebbins, Francis H. Dewey, Benjamin A. Gould, Edward L. Pierce, Henry A. Marsh, Simeon E. Baldwin, William DeLoss Love, Jr., Rockwood Hoar, Thomas C. Mendenhall, William T. Forbes, Edwin A. Grosvenor, Leonard P. Kinnicutt.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Report of the Council was prepared by THOMAS C. MENDENHALL, LL.D., of Worcester.

A memorial of Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., prepared by Col. Albert H. Hoyt, was read by Col. A. GEORGE BULLOCK.

¹ The names are given in the order of election.

Dr. MENDENHALL read a memorial of Prof. Ernst Curtius, LL.D., of the University of Berlin.

Dr. MENDENHALL also read, in connection with the Report of the Council, a paper on the subject of "Twenty Unsettled Miles in the Northeast Boundary."

Mr. NATHANIEL PAINE, presented the Report of the Treasurer, in print.

The Report of the Librarian was read by Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON.

Dr. JUSTIN WINSOR said:—

Dr. Mendenhall's paper is an interesting one, showing how boundaries run through water are always liable to dispute, if particular fishing-privileges are found to exist near an unmarked line. I have made the statement in print, and others have made the assertion, that it took ninety years to determine precisely what was our boundary-line upon British America. The beginning of this continuous controversy began, of course, with the earliest interpretation of the treaty of 1782, and was prolonged by the acquisition of Louisiana, and was not, as was supposed, concluded when the German Emperor in 1872 arbitrated the San Juan dispute in the channel between Vancouver Island and the mainland. It seems now that we must amend that statement by saying that one hundred and fourteen years have already passed since 1782, and the question is not yet settled. Besides this trouble at Eastport, there is also if recent reports can be believed, the beginnings of another case for a joint commission, in following the line along the "Grand Portage" between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods.

It is an interesting fact that towards the end of the eighteenth century, the determination of the actual boundary of the United States on the northeast was decided by the act of de Monts and Champlain in the early years of the seventeenth century, in making a settlement on a little

island in one of the affluents of Passamaquoddy Bay. The name of St. Croix as applied to one of these affluents, had been at different times given to three rivers flowing into that bay, and in Mitchell's map of 1755, which the Commissioners in 1782 had before them, the geographical delineation too vaguely corresponds to the truth to be a determinate guide in the matter.

Champlain called the island on which he settled St. Croix, and once he called the river by that name, though he usually gives another name to it. The joint commission in 1798 finally determined to accept that river as the true St. Croix, in which an island could be found answering in shape to that shown in Champlain's map, and on which, by digging, the foundations of Champlain's buildings could be found in position corresponding to his plans. These conditions were met on the examination of what was called Douchet Island, and it was thenceforward definitely determined that what is now known as the St. Croix River should be the eastern boundary of the United States. I visited this island some fifteen years ago; but all traces of these foundations had then disappeared, the stones having been used for building the lighthouse and the keeper's cottage. Professor Haynes tells me that he searched the island the past summer, but could find no trace of Champlain's foundations.

Professor HENRY W. HAYNES said:—

I merely wish to state that although there is no longer any evidence remaining on the island of the existence of the fortress or the settlement, yet I was told this last summer by the lighthouse keeper, that some two rods to the northeast of the present building, in a spot that Dr. Mendenhall will doubtless remember, there were dug up, not long ago, some iron and other ancient objects, evidently connected with the settlement, which have been sent to Washington. So practically his statement is correct, that

the lighthouse occupies the site of the ancient fortress.

Mr. CHARLES A. CHASE said:—

The Librarian's Report speaks of the bequest of Miss Henshaw of Leicester, which includes some valuable orderly books and other property of her grandfather, Col. William Henshaw. Among the articles is a very fine gun, which has been reported to have been the property of George Washington. The exact facts about it are of some interest, and are thus given in Gov. Washburn's "History of Leicester."

Mr. [Thomas] Earle resided in Cherry Valley, Leicester. . . . He was distinguished for his mechanical skill and ingenuity. He manufactured a gun of excellent workmanship for Col. William Henshaw in 1773; and when Colonel Henshaw marched to Cambridge in 1775, he took it into the service. Here it fell under the observation of General Washington who admired it so much that he ordered one of the same pattern. Mr. Earle having completed it, loaded and primed it, and placed it under water, all but the muzzle, during a night; and taking it out in the morning discharged it as if it had just been loaded. He carried it to New York, where the army then lay, and delivered it personally to General Washington, having travelled the distance on foot and carried it upon his shoulder. It received great commendation for its perfection of workmanship.

In "Ralph Earle and His Descendants,"—an admirable piece of genealogical work, compiled by the late Dr. Pliny Earle, of Northampton, who was through life a constant benefactor of this Society, —I find this paragraph following the above citation from Washburn's History:—

The gun was marked with the maker's name, "Thomas Earl." Upon reading this, General Washington said, "Mr Earle, your name is not correctly spelled. E-a-r-l is a title of nobility; you should add an e to it."

The several reports together constituting the Report of the Council, were accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication.

Judge WILLIAM T. FORBES and Prof. EDWIN A. GROSVENOR, appointed to collect ballots for President, reported 42 votes cast, all for STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., and he was duly elected.

A Committee, of which SAMUEL A. GREEN, LL.D., was chairman, reported the following list of other officers of the Society, and they were elected by ballot :—

Vice-Presidents.

GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR, LL.D., of Worcester.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D., of Boston.

Secretary for Foreign Correspondence.

JAMES HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL.D., of Hartford, Connecticut.

Secretary for Domestic Correspondence.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., of Lincoln.

Recording Secretary.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS CHASE, A.M., of Worcester.

Treasurer.

NATHANIEL PAINE, of Worcester.

All the above being *ex-officio* members of the Council; and the following :—

Council.

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, LL.D., of Boston.

EGBERT COFFIN SMYTH, D.D., of Andover.

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, A.M., of Worcester.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON DAVIS, A.M., of Worcester.

FRANKLIN BOWDITCH DEXTER, M.A., of New Haven, Connecticut.

JEREMIAH EVARTS GREENE, B.A., of Worcester.

GRANVILLE STANLEY HALL, LL.D., of Worcester.

WILLIAM BABCOCK WEEDEN, A.M., of Providence, Rhode Island.

JOHN DAVIS WASHBURN, A.B., of Worcester.

THOMAS CORWIN MENDENHALL, LL.D., of Worcester.

Committee of Publication.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D., of Boston.

NATHANIEL PAINE, of Worcester.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS CHASE, A. M., of Worcester.

CHARLES CARD SMITH, A.M., of Boston.

Auditors.

WILLIAM ADDISON SMITH, A.B., of Worcester.

AUGUSTUS GEORGE BULLOCK, A.M., of Worcester.

The Recording Secretary, in behalf of the Council, presented the following list of nominations for membership :—

ARTHUR LORD, A.B., of Plymouth.

GEORGE HENRY HAYNES, PH.D., of Worcester.

And as foreign members :—

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STEVENS, of London, England.

HENRY VIGNAUD, of Paris, France.

The several gentlemen who were proposed, were elected, on separate ballots.

The RECORDING SECRETARY gave some account of his attendance, as a delegate from this Society, at the laying of the Memorial [or Corner] Stone of the Robinson Memorial Church at Gainsborough, England, on June 29th of the present year. As a preparation for the occasion, he paid a preliminary visit to the neat and classic city of Leyden in Holland, "a fair city" "of a sweet situation," whose

chief attractions are the memorials of John Robinson, the famous university of which he was a member, and the ancient church of St. Peter's beneath which he lies buried. The old church was built before the Reformation, and its ancient religious paintings in fresco were painted over by the Protestants, as happened in many other cases,—an act much regretted at this day by those who worship within its sacred walls. A niche or recess on the outside of that part of the church which is opposite the site of Robinson's dwelling, is occupied by a bronze tablet in memory of the man at whose "prompting went forth the Pilgrim Fathers to settle New England in 1620," and recording the fact that he was "buried under this house of worship 4 Mar. 1625 *Aet.* XLIX years." The tablet, which was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies, July 24, 1891, was erected by the National Council of the Congregational Churches of this country. A dwelling-house, directly opposite, was purchased by Robinson in 1611. In this house he dwelt and had his church. The dwelling now occupying the site bears a lesser tablet, erected in 1865, by Professor George E. Day, D.D., and our former associate, the late Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D.D., with the inscription: "On this spot lived, taught and died John Robinson, 1611-1625."

The exercises at Gainsborough called forth a large assemblage of people, from London and other parts of the Kingdom. "The American Pilgrims," an excursion party, largely from New England, organized by the Rev. Dr. Albert E. Dunning of Boston, were also present, and the National Council of American Congregational Churches was represented by a deputation which included one or more lineal descendants of John Robinson himself. The propriety of selecting Gainsborough as a place in which to erect the Memorial Church, consists in the belief that Robinson was a native of that town, and the fact that the Leyden church was originally constituted there. The first event of the day was the presentation by the Urban

District Council of an address of welcome to the Hon. Thomas F. Bayard, United States Ambassador, who was later to lay the cornerstone. Mr. Bayard made a graceful response, and then came a public dinner in the old Manor Hall, in which Henry VIII. is said to have once held court. Over this dinner presided Alderman Joseph Thompson, J. P., of Manchester. Besides Mr. Bayard, the chief guests of honor were the Rt. Hon. Earl Brownlow, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, and Sir Hickman Bacon, the lord of the manor and premier baronet of England. To the first toast, "The Queen," a verse of the national anthem was sung; and the second toast "The President of the United States," proposed in graceful terms by Earl Brownlow, as representative of the Queen, was followed by "a verse of the national anthem of America: *tune, God Save the Queen,*"—Trojan and Tyrian joining in each with equal familiarity and unction. Mr. Bayard made one of his characteristic, happy speeches in response, and, at a later hour, he laid the cornerstone of the new church and delivered a scholarly and eloquent address upon the lesson of the day,—the life and labors of Robinson, the development, growth and results of the religious movement of which he was one of the pioneers and chief exponents.

The prime mover in the enterprise of founding this memorial church was the Rev. Hugh S. Griffiths, pastor of the Congregational Society at Gainsborough. The thoroughness of the details of the celebration, arranged by a committee of which he was chairman, and the zeal with which he has labored since the inception of the enterprise, are entitled to hearty recognition and augur well for the complete success of his plan for a new church, to be paid for by those who honor the Pilgrim Fathers, and have enjoyed the fruit of their labors.

An American "jingoist" who had found himself in England during the past summer, would have had an

uncomfortable time. The "American Pilgrims," to whom allusion has been made, from the moment of their landing at Plymouth in Devonshire, throughout their tour of visits to the places of special interest to them, were everywhere received with a cordiality which churchmen and non-conformists vied with one another in exhibiting. The leading English newspapers heralded their movements, and made frequent expression of the hope that the tour would increase the good will between the two peoples. The two great conventions which were held in midsummer to nominate candidates for President of the United States, were fully reported in the London press, and the editorial comments might almost have been written by American patriots. The same spirit of hearty good will was manifested at Gainsborough. The American flag floated over hotels and warehouses in London and elsewhere, as if Venezuela were an unknown country. It was also pleasant to observe the evident respect and friendship everywhere shown to the American Ambassador, and the good will which the Ambassador evidently felt towards our Vice-President, his former colleague. Mr. Bayard was especially sorry that Mr. Hoar, who had hoped to be present, could not take the seat at the Gainsborough table which had been reserved for him. It fell to the lot of the Recording Secretary to occupy, but not to fill, the place.

Vice-President HOAR said:—

I will not detain the Society with reminiscences of a very agreeable and instructive European journey. It was made much more agreeable by the kindness of two of our associates, Mr. Winsor and Mr. Pierce, who presented me to some of their friends in England. I visited the scenes in England which Mr. Chase has described, and also Delft Haven, Leyden and Amsterdam. I endeavored to get in Leyden such representations as I could of the buildings and scenes upon which the eyes of the Pilgrims rested. I

have brought home some old prints which are familiar to some of you. They show how much of the ancient city still abides, and enable us to form a very accurate idea of Leyden as it was in the Pilgrims' day. There are several public buildings still standing which were completed between 1617 and 1620. They, of course, were objects of great interest to our fathers. I visited the old church in Delft Haven which stood close to the wharf where the Pilgrims embarked and still stands unchanged. They have a book there in which it is claimed that the Pilgrims had religious services in that church. This is not unlikely. It is a place of worship of their own faith, and they would hardly have taken another place to hear Robinson's sermon or to have any prolonged religious worship. I asked the woman who showed me about, if she had any broken bit of the church which I could get as a memorial. She brought a little piece of rock, four or five inches square. I asked her where she got it. She said it was a piece of the old threshold, broken and removed a short time before, which she kept to supply little bits of it to visitors. I asked to see it so there might be no question of the genuineness of the thing. She showed me a stone which had evidently been part of the threshold, and which had been split. It had formed the old threshold at the front porch which, as clearly appeared, has been lately replaced. On it was the letter M, followed by 5 C's, denoting 1500, the date of the building. Under that was a figure like the figure 4 reversed, that is, with the angular mark on the right instead of on the left of the perpendicular mark, and a little cross at the end of the horizontal mark, which crosses the middle of the figure 4. What that designates I dare say some gentleman here will know. I saw half-a-dozen old churches in Holland with similar inscriptions of the date on the old stone thresholds. So that was undoubtedly the custom of that time. I saw also, on the floor of this very church, on the tombstones, several examples of

this hieroglyphic. I saw them also, in the old church at Amsterdam. I was afterward at Sudley Castle in England, the guest of Miss Emma Dent, the owner of the castle, where are three or four ancient windows, of which I have drawings, with this same figure painted on the glass. She had, also, two or three curious old carved wooden boxes. Among them was one she got from the family of Desborough, which was captured from Charles I., and contained among other papers, correspondence with the Queen which highly incriminated the King, and, it is said, led the Puritan leaders to determine on his execution. On some of these boxes I saw the same curious figure. Some people think it is a masonic sign. Other people think it is a builder's mark. But that notion is refuted because it is found so often on graves. Other people think it is the mystical sign of the Trinity, the three principal marks representing the three persons of the Trinity, and the horizontal mark representing the cross. I procured the whole of the fragment of the threshold and sent it to Plymouth, where it is to be built into the wall of the First Church of Plymouth, which is to take the place of the church which was destroyed by fire a few years ago. It certainly is probable that the Pilgrims visited that church at the time of their embarkation. If that be true, we have in our Plymouth the first object which their feet touched when they landed here and the last object now existing which their feet touched when they departed from Holland. The character of the old wharf has been a good deal changed since that time.

I will speak very briefly of one other matter. While I was abroad I had a letter from the Hon. Edward L. Pierce, asking me to find out whether the petitions of our tories for pensions, or other aid, were in existence. He said he had reason to think that they might prove a very rich and unexplored mine of historical information. I went with Mr. Stevens, whom we have just elected a member, to the Record Office. There I met Mr. Hall, who succeeded Mr.

Sainsbury. He is the custodian of these documents. I found him a very agreeable, pleasant and modest person, who is greatly interested in our work, and seemed to take great satisfaction in his membership of our Society. He showed me a book which contained the index to the greater part of these Tory papers. There were some which, for some reason which I forget, were not kept in his office, but elsewhere. He says these documents are exceedingly valuable. Among them are a great many original deeds and other family documents, giving much information as to the condition, wants and history of the petitioners. I glanced at the index and saw many well-known names. Among them was that of James Putnam. There were several petitions from a Boston family, signed by Harrison Gray Otis as attorney. There was the name of Anthony Lechmere. These applications include a period considerably later than the close of the Revolution. I didn't think to look for Timothy Ruggles, or Daniel Bliss. I asked Mr. Hall if I could have the book copied. He thought he hadn't authority to permit that. He said he had little doubt that an application made by the American Antiquarian Society to the proper officer of the government, setting forth that we desired to have these documents examined and copied for purposes purely historical and not in aid of any lawsuit, and desiring further that the fees should be remitted, presented by the American Minister, would now be readily granted. If the fees are not remitted, a proper examination will be pretty burdensome. For instance, if James Putnam gave a receipt once a quarter for his pension and you wanted to look at his receipt, you would have to pay four shillings for each year; and you would not be permitted to take a copy. I don't want to strut in borrowed plumes. The credit of the whole discovery belongs to Mr. Pierce.

HON. EDWARD L. PIERCE said:—

My interest in the American Loyalists was revived by a

visit I made in 1895 to the British Provinces, during which I noted the gravestones of many of them at Halifax, St. John and Fredericton. Since then, Mr. F. E. Winslow, of Chatham, New Brunswick, has given me access to some papers of his ancestors, two loyalists of Plymouth,—Edward Winslow and his son of the same name,—being letters from New York during the British occupation, other letters from Nova Scotia, a contemporaneous copy of the father's memorial to the British Government, asking for compensation, and a copy of the son's letter to an English correspondent, stating his own claim. These statements were both autobiographical, and justified the inference that the memorials of the loyalists deposited in London would throw a great deal of light on their personal fortunes, as well as the history of the period, besides correcting a good many misstatements which are prevalent. For instance, Edward Winslow, the son, appears in his account to have been one of Lord Percy's forces in the expedition to Lexington, a fact not mentioned by Sabine. The father in his memorial states that he remained in Plymouth till 1781, but Sabine says he left there at the close of the siege of Boston. I will add that the Massachusetts archives contain his two applications, made in that year, for leave to visit his son at New York, or meet him at the Elizabeth islands. The same error as to the date of the father's departure from Plymouth is repeated in a recent number of the *New England Magazine*, which gives a summary of some of his own and his son's correspondence. One of the descendants of General Timothy Ruggles is having a sketch of his ancestor prepared, and he is unable to trace continuously the General's life after he left Hardwick, but his memorial would probably assist in completing the account. Realizing the value of these memorials, I made some inquiry as to whether they had ever been printed wholly or in part, or even consulted by historical students, but could not learn that they had been at all explored, or even seen.

It was therefore that I wrote to Mr. Hoar, who was then in London, asking him to make the inquiry to which he has referred.

Prof. EDWIN A. GROSVENOR said : —

In regard to the monogram spoken of by Senator Hoar, it is interesting to see how from the extreme East and from antiquity, the sign travels across Europe, and at last comes with our most unritualistic and most unformalistic Pilgrims. Associated with them I have noticed the monogram a great many times, almost the same as Senator Hoar gives it.

HON. JAMES P. BAXTER said : —

I will simply remark in reference to the monogram, that it was introduced into Europe at the time of the Crusades, was adopted by some of the guilds and became very common. The mark was called the merchants' mark. At Richmond Island, some years ago, a little pot of money was dug up, and in it a ring upon which was engraved a similar device. Anyone interested in the subject will find it treated in the appendix to the Trelawney Papers, page 471, under the title "John Winter's Seal."

On motion of Mr. HOAR, it was —

Voted, "That the President appoint two members of the Society as a committee to make application to the proper authorities of the British government for permission to examine and copy the Memorials or Petitions of American Loyalists, for compensation or pension, now on file in London, at the Record Office, or the Royal Institution, or other place of public deposit (the privilege so requested being sought only for historical purposes); and the Society express the hope that the customary fees for such an examination will be remitted."

Mr. HOAR also moved : —

"That if the application be granted, the income of the Levi Lincoln fund for one year be appropriated, and that the committee have leave to expend it to defray the costs of examination and the copies."

The motion prevailed, and the President appointed the Hon. EDWARD L. PIERCE, and the Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, as the committee.

Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS said : —

As I came into the building to-day, my attention was attracted to four curious portraits, evidently of husbands and wives. I should like to get some information in regard to them. I understand they came from a house here in Worcester, formerly occupied by George Bancroft. Portraits are continually turning up from old houses in New England, and generally a mystery hangs over their origin. I can only say that these four remotely suggest to me Copley in his very earliest style. They are in execution as hard as sign-boards; and yet there is something about their general make-up, and the hands in particular, which would seem to indicate that there was some artist here in bygone days who was either the master from whom Copley's first method came, or else a later imitator of that method. I should like to get some clue to the origin of those portraits, as suggestive of a possible link in the chain of portraiture in Massachusetts. At what time were they painted?

Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON said : —

The history of the four portraits, so far as known, may be found in my report of last April, and in the report of which an abstract only has this day been read. They represent John Bush at two periods of his life, Abigail Adams his third wife, and Charity (or Temperance) Platt his first wife. The later John and his third wife Abigail were painted by McKay in August, 1791, as appears upon each canvas, while the portraits of the earlier John and his first wife Charity (or Temperance) have been ascribed to the artist Peacock.

Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN said : —

Really, Mr. President, the matter about which I am to

speaking a minute or two is of slight importance. I thought that the members of the Society might like, possibly, to glance at a postage-stamp, a duplicate of which has just sold for \$1,050, in addition to the commission of the dealer through whom it was sold. It is on a letter which is in a bound volume of letters received by the Society from the estate of our late associate, the Hon. Isaac Davis. I wonder if his family is not sorry that it parted with the letter-book? I shall pass it around and trust that it is not unreasonable to hope that it will be returned. The stamp is on a letter addressed to Mr. Davis, and written in Millbury, according to the date, August 20, 1846.

It appears that fifty years ago, Col. Asa H. Waters (father-in-law of Professor Grosvenor, our associate, who appears for the first time at a meeting of the Society to-day,) was postmaster in Millbury. He was appointed by President Jackson in 1836, and retained that office until 1848.¹ The wooden block from which the Millbury stamps were printed was cut in Boston in 1846. At that time, a jeweller in Millbury acted as Colonel Waters's assistant in the conduct of the postoffice, and it is understood that it was at the assistant's suggestion that the stamp was issued. A local stamp issued in New York City had been seen, and it was an impulse received from that sight which led to the use of a postage-stamp in Millbury. When Mr. John K. Tiffany wrote, in 1886, his "History of the Postage-Stamps of the United States of America," only three copies of this stamp were known to be in existence.² The copy just sold is at least a fourth.

According to Mr. Tiffany, local stamps were issued "at New York, St. Louis, Brattleborough, New Haven, Providence, Alexandria, Baltimore, Millbury, and probably other places,"³ These stamps, says the same writer, "had

¹ History of the Postage-Stamps of the United States of America, by John K. Tiffany, p. 65.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 65, 66.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

no official sanction whatever, because no official had any authority to sanction them. It was a mere arrangement between the individual postmaster and the public, for their mutual accommodation."¹

The fact that local stamps were being issued was, in some cases, says Mr. Tiffany, "brought to the attention of the Postmaster-General, and he saw no objection to the arrangement; in others the whole affair seems to have passed without any attention being paid to it by the Department."² The fact of the existence of the Millbury stamp does not seem to have been known to collectors until Mr. Tiffany (now of St. Louis, but during his boyhood a resident of Worcester,) made it known after an examination of Mr. Davis's letter-book in the American Antiquarian Society's Hall, in July, 1885.³ No regrettable result of the discovery and announcement has come to my notice, unless it be some verses which appear in the *Philatelic Journal of America*, for March, 1887.

While on my feet, Mr. President, I wish to express my satisfaction (and I have no doubt that this satisfaction is shared by all the members of this Society) that the admirable history of King's Chapel, Boston, begun by our late associate, Rev. Henry W. Foote, has been brought to a successful conclusion. You know that Mr. Foote left a large amount of material for the second volume, which has just been issued. The writers who have completed the work, our late beloved associate, Rev. Dr. Andrew P. Peabody, and our present associate, Mr. Henry H. Edes, with great loyalty and modesty, have ascribed all the honor due for the work to Mr. Foote. While much is certainly due to him, it is evident, also, that the editors have earned great credit.

¹ History of the Postage-Stamps of the United States of America, by John K. Tiffany, p. 23.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 26, 27.

³ *The Philatelic Journal of America*, Vol. III., p. 32.

Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS said :—

There is no regret on the part of the family of Isaac Davis, that the letter with the Millbury postmark is in the safe-keeping of the American Antiquarian Society.

Prof. FRANKLIN B. DEXTER said :—

I should like to put in the Proceedings, if possible, a communication¹ from Prof. Egbert C. Smyth, of Andover, who read, a year ago, a very keen and fascinating paper on the early writings of Jonathan Edwards. Professor Smyth raised in that paper certain questions about the date of Edwards's earliest philosophical speculations, whether he was influenced by what Bishop Berkeley had written. He has just been able pretty clearly to destroy the hypothesis that Edwards knew anything of Berkeley, and to show that a passage which is quoted in the lives of Samuel Johnson, who was tutor at Yale in Edwards's time, didn't refer to Berkeley, and that Johnson himself didn't know anything of Berkeley's philosophical works until 1728. This establishes Edwards's independent investigation and theory.

The PRESIDENT extended an invitation to the members to take luncheon at his house, which was accepted.

Dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,
Recording Secretary.

¹ See page 251.

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