

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The report of the Librarian, besides showing the accessions to the Library during the last six months with the reflections which they suggest, records the introduction of electric light into our building, an improvement which will be appreciated by those who have occasion to consult our treasures on dark days or on the short days of the winter season.

The Council recommends that the Society make some suitable expression of thanks to the American Academy of Science, as whose guests our Boston meetings have been held for more than half a century.

We have to chronicle the deaths of Lewis H. Boutell of Evanston, Ill., Edward G. Mason of Chicago, and Philipp J. J. Valentini of New York city. Brief memoirs of these gentlemen follow, furnished by J. Evarts Greene, Esq., President Salisbury, and Prof. Franklin B. Dexter:—

Lewis Henry Boutell was elected a member of this Society at its annual meeting in 1895. He attended but one of our meetings—that of April, 1896. If he had lived longer he would probably have contributed something of interest and value to our proceedings, for he was a zealous student of the early history of the republic and had searched with an acute and illuminating vision the public lives of our statesmen of the Revolutionary period and that immediately following.

Mr. Boutell was born in Boston, July 21, 1826. His early education was obtained in private schools in that city and in Providence. He was graduated at Brown University in 1844, and received the degree of LL.B. at Harvard Law School in 1847. He practised law in Boston,

Westborough and Worcester, until 1862, when he enlisted in the 45th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, commonly known at that time as "The Cadet Regiment." After the expiration of his term of enlistment,—nine months,—he returned for a time to his law practice in Worcester, but a little later moved to Warrensburg, Missouri. He had not been there long when the advance of the Confederate General Price into the State made it necessary to provide additional means of defence. Mr. Boutell was active in raising a regiment of infantry and was commissioned its Major. He served with the regiment for a time in Missouri, and then it was despatched with other troops to reinforce General Thomas near Nashville, where it arrived in season to take part in the great battle in which General Hood was signally defeated and his army dispersed.

At the close of the war, Mr. Boutell removed to Evanston, near Chicago, and resumed the practise of law in the latter city. He was soon after appointed Assistant District Attorney of the United States for the district of Illinois, having the principal charge of the business of that important district. So thorough and efficient was his organization of the office that it served as a model for the offices in many surrounding districts. Though at first inexperienced in admiralty and revenue practice, as were most Chicago lawyers at that time, his mastery of it was soon recognized, and after his retirement from the office of Assistant District Attorney in 1871, he was repeatedly retained for the United States, as special counsel in important cases. He continued to practise law with increasing reputation and success for some twenty years longer and retired at length to spend his remaining years in study and travel. His favorite pursuit in these later years was the study of the work of the convention which framed the constitution of the United States, and analysis of the influence, personal and other, by which its essential provisions were shaped and

their adoption secured. Some of the results of these studies appeared in papers on Hamilton, Jefferson and Sherman, read before historical societies of which he was a member, and especially in his life of Roger Sherman, the only adequate memoir of that statesman. This work he undertook at the request of our senior Vice-President, who at one time hoped to perform it himself, but finding that imperative duties left no opportunity for this task, placed at Mr. Boutell's disposal the mass of material he had collected for it.

Mr. Boutell had suffered for some years from a rheumatic affection which impaired his bodily activity and to some extent his general health. He died suddenly of heart failure January 16, of this year, at Washington, where he was spending the winter.

Mr. Boutell married in 1852 Anna, daughter of the late Rev. David Greene, then of Windsor, Vermont, but formerly for many years Corresponding Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. She survives him with two sons, one of whom is now the representative in Congress of a Chicago district, and a daughter. Their oldest son, a young man of great promise, died in early youth.

Mr. Boutell was of strong and pure character, inflexibly upright. His intellect was vigorous and thoroughly disciplined, his professional knowledge wide and accurate. His power as an advocate lay rather in the clearness and cogency of his argument than in persuasive eloquence. He delighted in the study of history and in the best literature. He was faithful to all the duties of citizenship, and his public spirit was always active, unselfish and abundantly fruitful of good to the community in which he lived. J. E. G.

Edward Gay Mason, son of Roswell B. and Harriet L. (Hopkins) Mason, was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on August 23, 1839. His father had recently come

from New Jersey as the engineer of the Housatonic Railroad, but on his appointment in 1851 as chief engineer in charge of the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad, he removed to Chicago and became identified with the growth and prosperity of that city, coming especially into prominence by the occurrence of the great fire of 1871, during his term of office as Mayor.

Our associate was graduated at Yale College in 1860, and entered on the practice of law in Chicago in 1863. Endowed with superior mental gifts and a peculiar personal charm, he won easily an eminent rank in his profession, but by preference devoted himself mainly to office practice, and in later years gave most of his attention to real estate business. He was also a controlling spirit in the higher intellectual life of the city. His enthusiasm and activity were prominent factors in the foundation and development of such associations as the Chicago Literary Club and the University Club, and he became known as an admirable public speaker, both on formal and informal occasions.

Perhaps his most valuable service to the community was in connection with the Chicago Historical Society, of which he was President from November, 1887, until his death. Under his inspiring leadership the public interest in that Society was greatly stimulated, and the erection of its present impressive building, at a cost of \$170,000, secured; while by his personal exertions most valuable additions were made to its treasures. He contributed several important papers on local history to the Society's publications, and edited with annotations in 1890 a volume of its Collections on "Early Chicago and Illinois." He had also consented some years since to write the History of Illinois for the series on American Commonwealths published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., and had completed five chapters, or one of the two volumes which he proposed to fill; it is understood that arrangements

will be made, as soon as practicable, for the publication of this portion of the work by itself.

Mr. Mason was elected as one of the six Alumni Fellows of the Corporation of Yale University in 1891, and was re-elected without opposition in 1897. Knox College in Illinois conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1895. He was made a member of this Society in October, 1887, and it had been a matter of keen regret to him that his distant residence and busy life had prevented his attendance at our meetings.

He died in Chicago, suddenly, from Bright's disease, on December 18, 1898, in his 60th year.

He married on December 25, 1867, Julia M., daughter of Charles Starkweather, of Chicago, who survives him with their family, ten sons and three daughters. F. B. D.

Philipp Johann Joseph Valentini, Ph.D., whose death occurred March 16, 1899, at St. Luke's Hospital, in New York city, was born in Berlin in 1824. His father was an Italian and his mother a German. The father was a teacher of foreign languages, the author of a German-Italian Dictionary valued at this time for its accuracy, and was a tutor at his Majesty's Court. The son Philipp was educated at the Lyceum of Rosleben and in the Gymnasium of Torgau. Later he studied jurisprudence at the University of Berlin, and was appointed auscultator of the Supreme Court. In 1854 he went to Central America and settled on the site of Puerto Limon, on the Atlantic shore of Costa Rica, where he founded the above town under government auspices. Learning that the Costa Ricans could give no account of their ancestry, he returned to Germany in 1858 to search for manuscripts and historical information regarding the colonization of this part of Central America by the Spanish. The results of these studies were embodied in a disputation for which he received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Jena. His early studies were influenced by his acquaint-

ance with Humboldt, who was a friend of his father. In 1861 he returned to Costa Rica, where he lived for eleven years and developed a coffee plantation. He made several trips along the coast from the Isthmus of Panama as far north as the Boca del Toro, and through Nicaragua and San Salvador into Guatemala, and came into communication with the learned Hermann Berendt. In Guatemala City he discovered a portrait of the famous conquistador Bernal Diaz del Castillo during his researches among the manuscripts of the Institute, which appeared afterwards in the "Historical Magazine," New York. About this time he completed a manuscript of the discovery and conquest of the ancient province of Castilla del Oro, the publication of which was then prevented by a revolution in Costa Rica, and still remains among his unpublished works. His researches went as far as the Quiche ruins of Santa Cruz del Quiche.

In 1871 Dr. Valentini came to New York, and in 1879 was employed as instructor of languages in the preparatory classes of the School for Mining of Columbia University. He began about this time to publish monographs on the archæology of Mexico and Central America as the result of his studies, and these works, though limited in extent, have been welcome to men of science. To a good knowledge of the Maya language he added some acquaintance with the Nahuatl. Linguistics, however, only aided him for attaining scientific ends in other directions. In mental training he was logical, thorough and fundamental, which reflected the critical spirit he had acquired in the higher institutions of learning in Germany. He stated his views frankly and fearlessly, as he thoroughly hated all ambiguity in life, in style and in science, and his literary productions were clear, painstaking, and to the point.

The first of Dr. Valentini's writings that appeared in our Proceedings was his study of the famous Mexican Calendar Stone, first delivered in German in the form of a lecture

in New York city in 1878, and the same year translated in abstract by the President of this Society and published in the Proceedings of the April meeting. Dr. Valentini became a member of our Society in April, 1879, and was frequently present at our meetings, which he seemed to enjoy, and always contributed some learned archæological essay, which he read with an earnest and emphatic utterance; that indicated an entire confidence in the accuracy of his abstruse and scholarly deductions.

Following is a list of the papers he prepared for our Society: Mexican Copper Tools, Illustrated, 1879. The Katunes of Maya History, Illustrated, 1879. The Landa Alphabet; A Spanish Fabrication, Illustrated, 1880. Mexican Paper, Illustrated, 1880. Two Mexican Chalchihuites, the Humboldt Celt and the Leyden Plate, Illustrated, 1881. The Olmecas and the Tultecas, Plates and Map, 1882. Semi Luna and Crescent Shaped Tools, with special reference to those of Mexico, Illustrated, 1885. The Landfall of Columbus at San Salvador, Plate, 1892. Analysis of the Pictorial Text inscribed on two Palenque Tablets. Parts I. and II. Plates, 1894, 1895.

Dr. Valentini left a great number of manuscripts, several of which are practically ready for publication. His most important historical work was entitled "Castilla del Oro," which treats of the early history of Costa Rica, and it is hoped that it will be published by the government of Costa Rica. He was a man of fine presence, genial manners and high character. His industry and learning made his voluminous writings in the highest degree important to archæologists, and our Society was fortunate in commanding so much of his intelligent service.¹ s. s.

For the Council.

WILLIAM B. WEEDEN.
CHARLES A. CHASE.

¹This abstract is in part taken from a more extended notice of Dr. Valentini by Albert S. Gatschet, published in *The American Anthropologist*. New Series. Vol. I. No. 2. With Portrait.

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