

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 24, 1901, AT THE HALL OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN BOSTON.

THE meeting was called to order at 10:30 A. M. by the
President, Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY.

The following members were present :—

Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine,
Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard,
Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth,
Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Franklin B. Dexter,
Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Frederic W. Putnam,
Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene, Henry S. Nourse,
Henry H. Edes, James Phinney Baxter, G. Stanley Hall,
William E. Foster, Edwin D. Mead, Calvin Stebbins,
Francis H. Dewey, Henry A. Marsh, Thomas C. Menden-
hall, William T. Forbes, George H. Haynes, Edward S.
Morse, Waldo Lincoln, John Noble, George P. Winship,
A. Lawrence Rotch, Samuel Utley, James F. Rhodes,
Edward H. Gilbert.

The report of the Council was read by the RECORDING
SECRETARY, in connection with which Mr. CHASE presented
a paper upon the titles to the estates occupied by the
American Antiquarian Society.

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

A sketch of the Life of Rt. Rev. Mandell Creighton, by
the Lord Bishop of Stepney, was read by Vice-President

GEORGE F. HOAR, who prefaced it with these remarks:—

“I desire to say that this memoir of the late Bishop of London, who is so endeared to Americans by the friendship formed on his visit here as a delegate of his college to the 250th anniversary of Harvard, and later by his great kindness in securing the return to us of the Bradford manuscript, has been prepared at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, by his successor, the newly-elected Bishop of London, who has not yet been consecrated or inaugurated. Although it is a very brief statement, it is a charming and delightful portraiture, as I think you will all agree.”

Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN said: “The right reverend writer of this sketch has spoken of the fact that the Bishop was a very witty man. I happen to have heard of one instance of his wit, his definition of a club. He said, ‘A club is a place where women cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.’ He could very properly indulge in this witticism, as it is well known that his family relations were delightful. As stated in the paper, he had a large family of children, but it is not stated that he had a very accomplished and charming wife, who survives him, and that she really was of great assistance to him at times in conducting his historical investigations.”

Prof. FRANKLIN B. DEXTER read a memorial of Edward Elbridge Salisbury.

All the foregoing papers were accepted as the Report of the Council.

Before submitting the notice of Bishop Creighton, Senator HOAR said: “Mr. President, before reading the very interesting, though very brief, paper which I hold in my hand, I should like to state from recollection one or two facts suggested by the report of the Council which has been read. I should like to have it appear in the report of

the Council, where Mr. Chase speaks of the mansion still standing, erected by your honored grandfather, that it was erected by him on land purchased of John Hancock. That might add to the historic associations of 'Lincoln square.' It is perhaps known to some of the members, but ought to be preserved in a more permanent way than in memory, that John Hancock acquired the land which has been alluded to by Mr. Chase as the property of Daniel Henchman, one of the first founders of Worcester, by the will of his aunt, Mrs. Thomas Hancock, who was a. Henchman. It was a farm of three hundred acres, which was taken by Daniel Henchman, the old Puritan soldier, one of the founders of Worcester. This land descended from him to the wife of John Hancock's uncle Thomas. She left it by her will to John Hancock, her husband's nephew. John Hancock dwelt there during the summer from 1781 to 1787, in a house which was moved off from the spot, but which now stands in Worcester, on Grove street.¹ It is on the right hand side as you go from Lincoln square to the wire factory, and can be easily distinguished by some architectural ornaments not common in houses of that general character.

"John Hancock dealt in real estate in Worcester quite extensively. A great many of his purchases and sales are recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds, among them the sale of the land to Mr. Salisbury on what is now known as Lincoln square. The fact that he actually dwelt in the farmhouse on this farm, which then stood on Lincoln street, at the corner of Garden street (where the 'Moen house' now stands), is established by an enquiry which I made many years ago of Mrs. Frederick W. Paine, a lady who lived to be nearly one hundred, a relative of our Treasurer. She had dwelt with her husband for many years in the old Paine residence, still standing on Lincoln street. She said that the summer residence of John Hancock, on the spot south of the land of the Paines, was

¹ Southeast corner of Grove and Lexington streets.

frequently spoken of in the family when she first came to Worcester. That house was afterward the residence of Levi Lincoln, the elder, the great political leader, one of our greatest political organizers—I will not use the word 'boss' in the presence of his great-grandson. But he was a skilful manager of men, and, more than any other man, contributed to the great revolution in politics which took place in New England and elsewhere after the election of Mr. Jefferson. He was not only nominated, but actually appointed, by the advice and consent of the Senate, Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, by President Madison, on the urgent recommendation of Mr. Jefferson himself, who was his closest personal friend. (His papers are in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society in this building.) When the late Governor Levi Lincoln, after his graduation in 1802, delivered an address on the fourth of March, 1803, Mr. Jefferson wrote a very earnest letter to his father, commending the address, and predicting the future eminence of Mr. Lincoln. This house was sold in 1847 with the old Lincoln farm to a gentleman who cut up the land and sold it. Now the John Hancock house in Boston has gone, to the great regret of everybody. George Bancroft's house in Worcester has been suffered by great negligence to be destroyed within a few years. It is to be hoped that the Hancock house in Worcester, with its memories of two famous statesmen, though now moved from its original place, may in some way be preserved.

"Mr. President, the report of the Council also gave an account of the release, by the heirs of Isaiah Thomas, of the conditions on which our first building on Summer street was given to the Society. I remember a very entertaining fact about that, which shows the habits and motives that affected ladies in the time when Dr. Hale and myself were young. I was a student in Judge Thomas's office at that time, or had just been, and had an office next door to his.

He took great interest in the new hall, and in having this old estate which his grandfather had given, quitclaimed to the Society. It required the assent of all the heirs; otherwise we should forfeit the property. They got the assent of all the heirs but one lady, a cousin of the Judge, living in a neighboring town. She would not give hers. No offer of money and no persuasion could get her signature. At last the Judge was asked to take the matter in hand. He went to see her. If anybody then living could 'laugh on a lass with his bonny, blue eye,' it was Ben Thomas. He came back exultant, and reported his success in the office. He said he had tried to persuade her, and spent the whole afternoon talking to her; she said no, that her grandfather Thomas meant to have the property left in that way; and she would not sign. He told her that all the other heirs had assented; well, she didn't care about that; he told her she could have almost any sum of money she would name. All was without avail. At last, just as he was going off, he said, 'My dear cousin, if you will sign that deed you shall have the handsomest silk gown there is in Millbury;' and she signed it."

Vice-President HALE stated, on behalf of the Committee of Publication, that the Dictionary of the Natick Language, prepared by our associate, Dr. Trumbull, is nearly ready for the press. He showed to the members present the last revise,—which had been recently given him at Washington for our last correction.

The work of editing the Dictionary has been confided by the Bureau of Ethnology to the competent hands of Dr. Albert S. Gatschet, the most accomplished student of the Algonquin languages in America. Dr. Trumbull would have been most glad, could he have known that his invaluable work in the preparation of the Dictionary could be confided to a student so competent.

Doctor Hale expressed the hope that the publication of

the Dictionary might be the signal for new study of the languages which were once the only means of human intercourse on more than half of the North American continent. When in our second volume Mr. Gallatin published his valuable map describing the relations of the different Indian families with each other, most American students were surprised to see how extensive was the range of territory which was covered by those of the aborigines who spoke the Algonquin tongues. We take some pride in saying that our own publications have led the way in the careful study, whether of tribes or of languages.

Of these various dialects,—it may be fairly said that the master of one is able, or "almost able," to understand the conversation of the master of another. The relationship between the Latin languages—Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Provençal and French—is a parallel, quite accurate, with that of the Penobscot of the East and the Ojibway of the West. Dr. Hale had laid down a list of thirty Massachusetts words before an Ojibway boy of sixteen years, who had immediately recognized fifteen of them. And Mr. Gilfillan when he read the Lord's Prayer from Eliot's Bible to a group of Ojibway gentlemen, found that with every repetition, they "caught on" more and more certainly until they recognized all the archaisms of the New England version.

Of these languages,—the accurate studies of Mr. James C. Pilling show that the Massachusetts dialect has the largest printed literature. His list of books now in existence in this dialect, in whole or in part, makes a collection larger in bulk than do all his other bibliographies of the Indian languages. Speaking roughly, it may be said that Mr. Pilling has brought together twenty-two hundred different titles of Algonquin works which have taken more or less place in literature. Of these books the section which may be referred directly to John Eliot numbers nearly forty different volumes, most of which were printed at Cam-

bridge. The first two primers are supposed to be lost. Of the remaining titles of this very rare series, our own Society is so fortunate as to have seven.

Dr. Hale expressed the wish that the favorable crisis in the study of the Algonquin languages might be improved, perhaps by the formation of a club of students ready to make some definite study of these languages, or better yet, by the establishment in one of the New England colleges of a scholarship or fellowship which should make special provision for some student with a gift for language to keep in mind for another century the system on which is founded that wonderful organization which distinguishes the languages of the aborigines of this country from all the other idioms of the known world. This is the language of Dr. Du Ponceau. Mr. Pickering says of it, the pride of civilization is reluctant to admit facts like these to which Dr. Du Ponceau alludes. But he goes on to show that gradually the linguists of the world have yielded to the opinions of Dr. Du Ponceau. His decision is:

"1. That the American languages in general are rich in words and in grammatical forms, and that, in their complicated construction, the greatest order, method and regularity prevail; 2. That these complicated forms, which I call polysynthetic, appear to exist in all those languages from Greenland to Cape Horn; 3. That these forms appear to differ essentially from those of the ancient and modern languages of the old hemisphere."

It is now known that Eliot's studies of this language are so careful and philosophical as to entitle him to a place among the first of philologists. His grammars and dictionaries are not to be set aside as the haphazard work of an amateur student of language, but they are among the choice resources of those who take the subject of language seriously and wish to study it in its widest relations. To be able to preserve and help forward such study is our good fortune in publishing Dr. Trumbull's invaluable vocabulary.

Doctor Hale ventured to suggest that one of the first enterprises of the new club, or possibly of our own Society, might be to reprint in a convenient form Mr. John Pickering's careful study of the Indian Languages of America in the sixth volume of the "Encyclopedia Americana."

The Council presented, through the RECORDING SECRETARY, the names of the following gentlemen as candidates for election :—

Rev. Charles Stuart Vedder, D.D., LL.D., of Charleston, S. C.

Rev. Henry Fitch Jenks, A.M., of Canton.

Rev. Williston Walker, LL.D., of Yale University.

Prof. Allen Clapp Thomas, A.M., of Haverford College, Pa.

Benjamin Thomas Hill, A.B., of Worcester.

All these gentlemen were duly elected on separate ballots.

Mr. ANDREW McFARLAND DAVIS remarked :—

I have the task before me of undertaking to do two things at once. I have a paper of my own to present, and I have also to offer what is practically a communication to the Society by Mr. Benjamin F. Stevens of London.

Last fall, in preparing the paper which was submitted to the Society, in connection with the letter of Lucretia Chandler Bancroft, I made an examination of the Probate files in Worcester for the purpose of seeing if I could in any way reconcile the conflicting statements about the value of the estate of John Chandler. I knew then that there were papers in London which bore upon this point, and as I happened later to be in that city, I visited the Record Office and consulted the papers connected with the Chandler case which are deposited there. Previous to my leaving Boston I had learned from Mr. Worthington C. Ford that

there was another batch of loyalist papers in London, and Mr. Ford agreed to give me the address of the place where they were deposited. Mr. Ford's letter containing this address did not reach me in time for me to make use of it while in London, so I wrote Mr. Stevens from Paris, asking him for information concerning this new collection of papers. He wrote in reply answering my questions, and afterwards addressed a long communication to me in this country, concerning the Chandler papers. On my return I wrote to the Probate Office at Worcester, and secured from that office certified copies of all the papers touching upon the Chandler case. When these were submitted to me, typewritten, numbered in sequence and arranged in orderly form, I saw that they were well worth preserving, and I proceeded at once to procure in addition from the Superior Court a copy of the record in the Chandler confiscation suits in Worcester County. The copy of the record is also duly certified.

The papers from the Probate files begin with proceedings under a resolution passed in 1775, and then follow various proceedings under the Act to prevent waste and the several amendments to it. At a later date some of the proceedings are under the Confiscation Act, and still later under the Act that was passed to provide for the payment of the debts of an absentee out of the estates which had been confiscated. These various proceedings together with the record bring us down to the actual issue of the writs which put Levi Lincoln in possession of the property of John Chandler. These being issued after judgment form no part of the record, but when in London I saw copies of those writs, and realizing that these were needed to complete the story, I wrote to Mr. Stevens asking him what the expense would be of transcripts of all the papers covering the Chandler case. He replied that he presumed I was working for the American Antiquarian Society, and, if I would permit him, he would have transcripts made at his own expense

and would send them over as a contribution to the Society. He did this, and this book which I now submit to your inspection is the form in which he sent the transcripts. The copies are made upon beautiful paper originally prepared for Mr. Stevens's Facsimiles, and are bound in half morocco. The whole thing forms an object lesson to those who want to make gifts of this sort to the Society. I may say that when Mr. Stevens told me that he would make this gift to the Society, I wrote and asked him if I might make use of his letter which he had already written to me concerning the Chandler papers as an introduction to the gift, or if he would himself take the letter, and work it into an introductory paper. It will be seen that I have his permission to make use of it before the Society today.

After reading Mr. Stevens's letters, Mr. Davis continued :¹

That is the substance of what Mr. Stevens had to say in connection with these papers. I have practically used up the time which was at my command, and I will therefore confine myself in the consideration of the paper which I submit in my own behalf to a single point. The communication takes up the thirty papers which I got from the Probate office, analyzing each of them, pointing out the particular Act or amendment to an Act under which the paper was drawn, and under what authority for its existence it originated ; shows what defects there were in it, if any ; and in a general way treats the thing as one would if he were analyzing a proceeding going on in court today.

Collaterally with this, it takes up points which are explanatory. When we reach the inventories, we find this condition of affairs ; that John Chandler in London, as appears in this book, filed an inventory of his property in which he said that he owned property worth 11,067 pounds sterling ; that was in 1774. When that property

¹ Mr. Stevens's correspondence is given separately at the conclusion of Mr. Davis's remarks.

was inventoried in 1778, the appraisers found property amounting to 35,000 pounds and upwards. A year later it was inventoried again, and had become 75,000 pounds. I might say Chandler's estimate in sterling was equivalent to about 14,000 pounds. The lawful money pound was \$3.66 as against \$4.88 for the sterling pound, and the returns of the appraisers purport to be in lawful money. As if to complicate things, Dr. Chandler when he published his genealogy, in copying that inventory put in that 75,000 pounds as an item, and thus doubled the estate. Later writers took Dr. Chandler's total, multiplied it by five to convert the pounds into dollars, and in a recent magazine article the estate was spoken of as if it were worth about three quarters of a million. I do not undertake to deal in my paper with any valuations except those of Chandler and the appraisers. The later ones I do not consider worth discussing; but in order that I might see if there was any possibility of arriving at any explanation of what currency was used, for it is evident it was currency valuation, I arranged these values in a tabular form, and have devoted a few words to a discussion of the currency situation in Massachusetts. I may not have gained much out of it, but there are some facts that are interesting in this connection. The commissioners were appointed to estimate the value of the real estate in lawful money, and this lawful money must have had a fluctuating value, to produce the results which we find in the different appraisals.

From Letter of B. F. Stevens to A. McF. Davis.

LONDON, 20 Nov. 1900.

A history of the vicissitudes, losses, custody and preservation of the Loyalists' books and papers in the Record Office would be as romantic as interesting. It has usually been assumed that the Commissioners' Entry and Minute Books have been a fairly complete recapitulation of the papers presented by the respective Claimants and these volumes of Entry and Minute Books have been consecu-

tively numbered as if fairly complete. I have found a statement by one of the Commissioners to the effect that soon after the Board of Commissioners delivered their books and papers to the Government several volumes were stolen or lost. That is a hundred years ago. The remaining books and papers were repacked and stored in official custody until they came into the Public Record Office some forty or fifty years ago. When they were unpacked they seem to have taken their present consecutive numbering. Since making the above mentioned Index¹ I have undertaken to ascertain which volumes were stolen or lost, and I have also endeavored to ascertain if the Claimants' original papers, dealt with in those volumes, were also stolen or if they are still preserved; and so far as I have been able to carry the examination up to the present time I have in every individual case found the original papers that were submitted by these Claimants and I have been able to definitely specify the lost volumes and to specify the Claimants' cases contained in them. I will not weary you with a further history of the vicissitudes of these Loyalist Books and Papers.

Your subject is *John Chandler* who was a Claimant for "temporary support" and was afterwards a Claimant for "Losses Sustained." In my former letter I told you of one Return found at the Royal Institution showing that J. Chandler was in receipt of a dollar a day for "temporary support."²

John Chandler addressed a Memorial to Lord George Germain, 2 Sept. 1776, for temporary support; also A petition to the Treasury 17 Feb. 1779, when he transmitted Certificates by Thomas Gage and Thomas Hutchinson, dated 28 Jan. 1779, by Thomas Oliver 30 Jan. 1779, and Robert Auchmuty, 17 Feb. 1779. A further Certificate by Auchmuty 29 Oct. 1782 and one by Thomas Flucker 4 Nov. 1782, were presented.

John Chandler's was one of 315 cases that were under the consideration of the Crown before the passing of the Act of Parliament creating the Board of Commissioners for enquiring into the subject of compensation for losses

¹ A type-written Index to certain volumes in the Record Office, of which Mr. Hubert Hall has a carbon copy.

² It will be seen from what Mr. Stevens says in his letter of March 29, that the J. Chandler here referred to was Joshua Chandler of Connecticut.

sustained *etc.* These 315 cases, as unfinished business, were turned over to the new Board of Commissioners and the Commissioners' Report upon John Chandler's case is dealt with in the Vol. 105 mentioned by Mr. Hall as called for in the Index referred to. A transcript of the Commissioners' four Volumes, "Old Claims" including this Vol. 105 is in the New York Public Library.

This award for Temporary Support is not brought forward into the great Index Volume 109 of Liquidations, which Volume 109 is a recapitulation of the Commissioners' Reports upon "New Claims" and "Fresh Claims" for Compensation for Losses Sustained.

The Commissioners before beginning their work under the Acts of Parliament, invited information from prominent persons with a view to avoiding fraudulent or improper claims. The Commissioners sent Mr. Anstey to America to collect the Laws of the several States against Loyalists, Lists of proscribed persons, Confiscations, Sales, Court Proceedings, Advertisements, and in short, to get such official and other information as he could obtain that would be useful to the Commissioners in checking or weighing the individual Claimants' Evidences, *etc.* Anstey sent home 18 or 20 volumes and among these Anstey volumes are the 81, 82, 83, and Vol. 84 mentioned in the Index referred to by Mr. Hall. The information in these Anstey Volumes with reference to John Chandler was therefore not supplied by Chandler.

The Commissioners' Minute Book of Examinations in London of Massachusetts Claims, including that of John Chandler, is lost; but from the original papers I find Chandler's Memorial 9 Feb. 1784, Schedule of Losses, real and personal, £11,067-13-6. There is a note stating that he supposes that the debts due to him are secured by the Treaty, and there is a memorandum of Tracts of land he has yet no evidence of yet being confiscated. There are Affidavits of James Putnam, Daniel Murray, Ebenezer Cutler, Abijah Willard, and Joshua Upham sworn before the Commissioners in July and August 1784. There are many accompanying papers, Affidavits, Exhibits, Certificates, Writs, Judgments, Letters, Appraisements, *etc., etc.*, with supplementary Schedules lifting the Claim from the £11,067-13-6 to £16,566-13-6. These papers are of

various dates down to 30 August 1788. Some of these papers are apparently copies of Worcester County Records, and it is very likely that some of them are duplicated in the Anstey Collection. The papers are not in chronological or systematic order, and hence my memoranda may not be in proper sequence.

In the ordinary course the Commissioners would examine all the papers and then would lay aside the Memorial, one Schedule of Losses, when more than one, Evidences, including affidavits, and perhaps one or two certificates to be copied into the Minute Book. The Commissioners by their own hands took down the oral evidence of the Claimant and usually of two or three witnesses. These Hearing Notes would also be given in the Minute Book and lastly, the Commissioners "Determination" usually about one page recapitulating the principal points of their reasons for arriving at their decision and stating the amount awarded. The oral evidence and the Determination are never preserved with the Claimants' papers but are only in the Minute Books; and as this Volume of Minutes is lost we do not find the oral Evidence and Determination but we do get the amount of the award in the Liquidation Book, Vol. 109,—Transcript of which is in the New York Public Library.

From Letter of B. F. Stevens to A. McF. Davis.

February 20, 1901.

As to the cost of the transcripts, I beg you will allow me to send them without charge, as I presume you are intending to use them for the American Antiquarian Society, and to this end I shall be glad if you will receive them as my contribution to that Society.

From Letter of B. F. Stevens to A. McF. Davis.

March 29, 1901.

To my letter of 20 November, which you are good enough to say you would like to make use of before the Society, I may add that on the general subject of compensation to Loyalists it will be convenient to consult amongst other publications three contemporaneous pamphlets, one or more of which are attributed to Joseph Galloway:—"Observations on the Fifth Article of the Treaty with

America and on the necessity of appointing a judicial inquiry into the merits and losses of the American Loyalists." Printed by order of their Agents. (1783.) 8vo pp. vi and 19. "The Case and Claim of the American Loyalists impartially stated and considered." Printed by order of their Agents. (not dated.) 8vo, pp. 38. "The Claim of the American Loyalists reviewed and maintained upon incontrovertible principles of law and justice." London. 8vo. MDCCLXXXVIII. pp. viii and 138.

Some idea of the expenditures "for the relief and benefit of sundry American officers and others who have suffered on account of their attachment to His Majesty's Government" will be seen in Number 2024 of my Facsimiles.

I especially refer to the printed book entitled "Historical View of the Commission for Enquiry into the Losses, Services and Claims of the American Loyalists," by John Eardley-Wilmot. London. 1815. 8vo. pp. viii and 203,—for further information (pages 15, 16, 19–22) with regard to the 315 claims mentioned in my letter of 20 November.

The bundles of original papers in the Audit Office series in which alone many of the claims for compensation can now be found, owing to the loss of some of the Commissioners' books, are of varying sizes and descriptions. Bundle 73, from which most of the John Chandler transcripts are taken, is approximately a cubic foot and contains the papers of many claimants. The papers of each individual claimant are folded together, but otherwise there is no systematic arrangement. I have endeavored to give to my transcripts a chronological sequence. I have not copied duplicates but have merely indicated them by a note and reference, and, in order not to interfere with the actual transcript, these explanatory notes are in blue ink.

I find on examination of Vol. 84 of the Audit Office series that although the index to this one of Mr. Anstey's volumes calls for John Chandler the references are actually to Joshua Chandler, a Connecticut claimant.

Mr. Davis, having concluded the reading of these interesting and valuable communications, submitted to the inspection of the members of the Society, the transcripts

forwarded by Mr. Stevens. The paper used bears Mr. Stevens's private water mark. The copies are the work of a professional scrivener. The 353 pages are contained in a beautiful volume bound in half morocco and labelled—John Chandler, American Loyalist—1901.¹

Senator HOAR remarked: "The communication I have to make is not an original one, but I thought it was so emphatic and so unconscious a tribute to the United States in one of the greatest transactions in modern history, that it was worth reading to the Society and of a place in our Proceedings. It is a circular which I received by mail within a few days from Japan, of the movement there among the Japanese to commemorate the occasion of less than a century ago of the visit to Japan by Commodore Perry, to which the Japanese attribute their entry on their great career among civilized nations, and the testimony of gratitude of the Japanese people to the United States. This is a circular in behalf of the Perry monument, which I will read."

THE PERRY MONUMENT.

Forty-eight years ago, on the 8th of July in the 6th year of Kayei, an American envoy arrived in Japan, on a mission which was destined to become an epoch-making event in the history of Japan. This envoy was none other than Commodore Perry, U.S.N., who, by order of the President of the North American Republic, came to this country for the purpose of concluding a treaty of commerce and friendly intercourse between the two nations. On the 14th of the month above mentioned, the envoy landed at Kurihama, Miura-gori, in the province of Sagami, and there held conferences repeatedly with the officials of the Tokugawa Regency. The object of his mission

¹ It was evidently desirable that the several papers forming the subject of Mr. Davis's paper should be published in connection with this paper, but they were manifestly too voluminous for our Proceedings. It has been concluded therefore, after consultation, that it would be better that the communications, the papers on our Court files, and the manuscripts sent by Mr. Stevens should be separately published, in book form, and this we understand Mr. Davis purposes to do.—Com.

successfully accomplished, the Commodore sailed home shortly after.

This visit of Commodore Perry was in a word the turning of the key which opened the doors of the Japanese Empire to friendly intercourse with the United States, and subsequently to the rest of the nations of Europe on similar terms, and may in truth be regarded as the most memorable event in our annals, an event which paved the way for and accelerated the introduction of a new order of things, an event that enabled the country to enter upon the unprecedented era of national ascendancy in which we are now living. There is a reason then—a strong reason—that this visit of Commodore Perry, no less than the spot where those memorable conferences took place, should be perpetuated in the memory of the Japanese people.

True Japan has not forgotten—nor will she ever forget—that next to her reigning and most beloved Sovereign, whose high virtues and great wisdom are above all praise, she owes, in no small degree, her present prosperity to the United States of America, in that the latter rendered her the great and lasting service already referred to. After the lapse of these 48 years her people have, however, come to entertain but an uncertain memory of Kurihama, and yet it was there that Commodore Perry first trod on the soil of Japan and for the first time awoke the country from a slumberous seclusion of three centuries—there it was where first gleamed the light that has ever since illumined Japan's way in her new career of progress. Even writers seldom mention the place now, and the spot where the American envoy landed and which should forever be remembered in our history threatens to be forgotten altogether.

Last fall we had the pleasure of meeting Rear-Admiral Beardslee, U.S.N., who, as a naval cadet and a member of the crew under Commodore Perry, landed at Kurihama on the historical occasion, and who after these 48 years once more came back to pay a visit to this country. Beckoned by the memories of the past the Admiral went to Kurihama immediately after his arrival in Japan, but he was only able to ascertain the spot where the envoy and his party had landed half a century ago by the help of an old survivor of those by-gone days. We were greatly moved

by his account of his second visit to Kurihama, and we immediately set on foot a movement to erect a fitting monument which may perpetuate the place in question in the memory of our posterity. We have since made such progress with this movement that a site for the monument has already been selected. It is our determination to accomplish the end in view with all possible promptitude and to hold the ceremony of unveiling the monument on the coming anniversary of the landing of the American envoy at Kurihama, the 14th of July this year. We hope that those who are interested in the matter will favour us by endorsing our undertaking in a substantial manner.

BARON KENTARO KANEKO,
President, Bei-yu Kyo-kai,
(American Association of Japan).

Tokyo, January, 1901.

P.S.—Subscriptions should be sent to the office of Bei-yu Kyo-kai, 12 Yamashiro-cho, Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo. Subscription list will be closed on the 30th May, 1901.

After reading the circular, Senator HOAR continued:—

“This is a movement for a memorial to not only one of the greatest events in the history of Japan, but one of the greatest events in the history of the United States, where in her power and prosperity she took by the hand this infant nation and led her into civilization without a thought of her own advantage, of extending her own empire, or of setting her own flag over the territory of an unwilling people.”

In connection with the same subject, THOMAS C. MENDENHALL, LL.D., said:—

“I can certainly add nothing to the impressiveness with which Senator Hoar has presented this interesting document, representing an important epoch in the history not only of Japan but of the United States. I might add a word which would be of interest. I had the pleasure of knowing very well the signer of that paper, and being his travelling companion for more than a month, and know his

great interest in and the great indebtedness which he always acknowledged to the United States. While in Japan I had a very interesting personal experience in relation to Commodore Perry's visit, that came to me quite unexpectedly, and might be worthy of mention at this time. During the progress of the treaty with Japan many presents of value and beauty were made by Commodore Perry in the name of the President of the United States. When the Shogun was for a time exiled, perhaps before that, a great many of these were turned over to the University, such as globes, charts, *etc.* On one occasion I wanted to find something which I had heard was a part of that gift of the President of the United States,—a certain globe which I wanted to use in one of my lectures,—and I learned on inquiry that all those things of an educational nature or character were stored away in a certain place. I spent several hours in exploring, but instead of finding what I wanted, I found something more interesting and valuable. I found a large oaken box about three or four feet long, covered with dust, and on removing the cover found a brass plate indicating that this was a present from the President of the United States to the Emperor of Japan. When we got it out and opened it,—a thing which had not occurred before for perhaps twenty-five years, I was greatly delighted to find a very beautifully finished and completely equipped set of telegraph instruments that the President had sent to the Emperor. The natives were impressed with the wonderful working of this telegraph, by which messages were transmitted from one point to another, and perhaps this present had as much to do with accomplishing the treaty as anything connected with it. It happened at that time that I was engaged in giving a course of public lectures to government officers, in which was engaged also my friend and our associate, Professor Edward S. Morse. My own course happened to be on the subject of electricity and its application. So

I had very great pleasure in taking that set of instruments as presented twenty-five years before by the President, and setting them up again in this course of lectures and using them as an illustration and example of the method by which messages were transmitted by telegraph. The instruments were also useful, of course, as illustrating the type of instrument in use twenty-five years before, shortly after the application of electricity to telegraph purposes."

Professor EDWARD S. MORSE, being called upon, said: "It occurs to me as being rather curious, that Commodore Perry's visit to Japan resulted in a change in my life. As a young man I was interested in shells, and my first visit to Washington in 1865 was for the purpose of examining a collection of shells, and I was very much interested in the difference in shells between the east and west. During that visit I saw a beautiful screen that had been presented to Commodore Perry by some high official of Japan. I had never seen Japanese art before, and was so impressed with it that out of six days that I spent there, I spent three in copying that screen. I then read of Commodore Perry's trip, and resolved to go to Japan, and in ten or fifteen years I was enabled to do so. That brought about an entire change in my work, and the catalogue recently published by the Museum of Fine Arts is a result of Commodore Perry's visit to Japan."

The Hon. WILLIAM T. FORBES read a paper upon "Man-teo and Jack Straw."

Before reading the paper Judge Forbes said—

"The archives of this Commonwealth contain more important letters, reports and other documents relating to our colonial and provincial history than exist in the record department of any other State. They are not fully or properly arranged or indexed; and there is not room enough in the quarters assigned to them for convenient examination and study. So far as I have learned, this

Society has never called the attention of the Legislature to the value of this collection and its present condition.

The custodian of this division of the State Archives informs me that an appropriation of \$150,000, expended through a term of fifteen years would be sufficient to cover the cost of placing this department in proper order.

I suggest that this Society secure the coöperation of other societies interested in our early history; and that they should ask the next Legislature to provide by a small appropriation for starting this important work."

A paper on the "Province Snow, 'Prince of Orange,'" was read by Mr. WALDO LINCOLN. Mr. Lincoln said, "About the time of the late Spanish war my attention was called in connection with some genealogical studies, to what I believe to have been the first naval battle in which an American or colonial vessel was engaged, and it seemed to me worthy of preservation. I do not find that any connected story of this ship has ever been printed. The story of the fight is buried in the newspapers of the day, and the name of the vessel, I think, is entirely forgotten."

Senator HOAR related a few anecdotes, suggested to him by what Professor Morse had said, and also by the paper read by Judge Forbes. "When the present Japanese minister came to Washington, two or three years ago, our associate Dr. Alexander Graham Bell gave him a dinner to which I was invited. Mr. Bell made a little speech at the dinner, in which he said that his first acquaintance with His Excellency was formed when His Excellency was a student at Harvard. He had then set up, I think, the first absolutely successful telephonic apparatus in some building in Boston, possibly the Tremont House; he had a circuit of wire that went round and round and came back to a room below, where the speaker was to be stationed. A quite eminent Japanese happened to be in Boston, and came to see the apparatus. He was very much impressed by it, but you could not persuade him that the machine could talk Jap-

anese. At last, Professor Bell heard of a Japanese student at Harvard, and sent for him. He came in and was put at the lower end of the apparatus, and the Japanese gentleman talked through the other, and in that way they were able to believe it could talk Japanese as well as English.

"Judge Forbes stated an interesting fact as to the name of his friend, a well-known clergyman in our part of the State, Reverend Hercules Warren Fay, as derived from the great strength manifested by him as an infant; and that reminded me of what perhaps the Society might like to know of the origin of the name of a very celebrated person in public life of this country, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, later Vice-President of the United States. I will state that I asked Mr. Hamlin himself whether it was true, shortly before his death, and while he did not admit it he did not deny it. The fact was this: Somebody was writing a biographical sketch of him, and tried to find out where the name Hannibal came from. He applied after some want of success to an old neighbor of Hannibal Hamlin's father, whether he could tell him where the name of Hannibal Hamlin came from. 'Well,' said the old farmer, 'it was because he used to be able to swear a very large oath when he was a very small boy.'"

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE said that he understood it was an unwritten rule of the Society that no vote of thanks should be passed for gifts. He could understand that where so many gifts were constantly being received it would trespass too much upon the time of our meetings to undertake to give formal expression of our gratitude in each instance, yet he felt that today there was occasion for the violation of this rule. The members of the Society had seen the beautiful volume containing the transcripts of the Chandler papers in London, which had been forwarded to the Society by their associate Benjamin F. Stevens. The interest thus shown by a foreign member

was so unusual, the volume itself was so tasteful, the whole thing was so well done that it made the gift unique and entitled to especial recognition on our part; he would therefore move that a vote of thanks be passed. It was thereupon

Voted: That the thanks of the Society be tendered to Benjamin F. Stevens, L.H.D., for the volume of transcripts of the Chandler papers, which he has forwarded to the Society under the title of "John Chandler, American Loyalist," and that the Recording Secretary be instructed to convey to Mr. Stevens the high appreciation which this Society entertains of the great care bestowed upon the preparation of these valuable papers, and the taste and judgment displayed in presenting them in the form of a beautiful volume which can find a permanent resting-place upon the shelves of our library.

For the information of the Society Mr. EDWIN D. MEAD stated that the present year is the millennium of the death of King Alfred. "According to common tradition Alfred died in 901; this fact rather confirms the theory of Dr. Green that traditions are commonly false, because it is elsewhere stated that he died two or three years before that. The English people have selected this year for the celebration. In 1849, the millennium of his birth was celebrated in an impressive way in Berkshire, which was his birth-place, and a much more important commemoration is to be held this year at Winchester, which was for many years his capital, and which is believed to be the place of his birth; and a magnificent monument is at that time to be dedicated. A large English committee has been working for this commemoration for three years, and has at its head the Mayor of London, and includes many Americans, among them our Ambassador. That committee has asked the learned societies throughout the world to coöperate in this matter. The American Historical Association appointed a committee of three, of which Dr. John M. Vincent is the

chairman. Mr. John Fiske and other American scholars are to be present, and it seems desirable that in America there should be commemorations of this event coincident with the commemorations in England. At the time of the millennium in 1849 there was a publication of an edition of King Alfred's works, and the present commemoration will lead to much Alfred literature. Many of you have seen the volume which has been published by the English committee under the editorship of the Mayor of Winchester, with an introduction by Sir Walter Besant, and monographs by many English scholars on different phases of Alfred's activity. There seems every reason why America should commemorate this event and coöperate in this matter. He is our inheritance as well as England's. He was the greatest of England's kings, and is regarded by most students as the most perfect character in history. He was a great king, a great man, and he was a great scholar, which is for us to remember. He did a momentous work for the elevation of the Anglo-Saxon race, and it seems proper that we should remember it. I do not know what action the Society cares to take, but it does seem that we should refer to this matter in some way."

On motion of HON. ELIJAH B. STODDARD, it was referred by a unanimous vote, to the Council of the Society to appoint a delegate or delegates to this commemoration.

Upon the suggestion of Senator HOAR, the Society voted that the Council be directed, whenever it shall find that the resources of the Society warrant the expenditure, to procure for the Hall a portrait of Hon. Edward Everett, its former president.

Prof. FREDERIC W. PUTNAM informed the Society that the International Congress of American scholars will meet in New York a year from this summer. The exact date is

not yet known, but will probably be in August or September, 1902. He said, "There has been a large committee formed in New York; there has also been appointed a large committee by the American Association for the Advancement of Science,—a general committee throughout the whole of America. This takes in the United States, Mexico and Canada in the general committee, and it is proposed that all scientific institutions bearing upon the early history of America, all antiquarian and historical societies, the leading educational institutions, large universities, *etc.*, and the various government organizations bearing on archæology and ethnology and geography, shall all be represented upon this general committee, and make it purely an American committee. And I wish to request, as chairman of this committee, that the American Antiquarian Society appoint a delegate to that general committee. The committee is to act probably this fall, and that is why I ask it before the October meeting. It ought to be appointed within a month or two."

Upon motion of Dr. MENDENHALL, it was voted that the Council have power to appoint a delegate to act upon this ethnological and archæological committee.

Dr. HALE expressed a desire that some one would inform him why Worcester is so named, as in his opinion it must be the most hateful name in England to the Stuart family.

Senator HOAR suggested that a good many English names were adopted, but the city of Worcester would have been of itself rather obnoxious to our ancestors of that day, because it was the city most famous for its fidelity to the house of Stuart. But the battle was of course the crown-ing event, and the name was given by three Puritan soldiers, Henchman, Prentice and Gookin. Two of them had served under Cromwell himself; all of them had

served in the Civil War on the rebel side, and it is supposed they would not have thought of selecting Worcester except for the fact of the battle.

The President requested that members would volunteer to read papers or communications, and notify him in advance, and thus aid him in preparing for the meetings.

The Society voted that the various papers and communications be referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,

Recording Secretary.

After the adjournment of the meeting many of the Members present dined together at "The Somerset" hotel.—COM.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.