

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 30, 1902, 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, of Worcester.
The report of the annual meeting was read by the
RECORDING SECRETARY.

The following members were present :

Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Nathaniel Paine,
Horace Davis, Stephen Salisbury, Samuel A. Green,
Elijah B. Stoddard, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C.
Smyth, Edward H. Hall, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M.
Barton, Franklin B. Dexter, Charles A. Chase, Samuel
S. Green, Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene, Henry
S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Henry H. Edes, James
Phinney Baxter, A. George Bullock, William E. Foster,
Charles P. Greenough, Edwin D. Mead, Calvin Stebbins,
Carroll D. Wright, Henry A. Marsh, Rockwood Hoar,
James L. Whitney, William T. Forbes, George H.
Haynes, Charles L. Nichols, Waldo Lincoln, George B.
Adams, Austin S. Garver, A. Lawrence Rotch, Francis
Blake, Edward H. Gilbert, E. Harlow Russell, Benjamin
T. Hill, Henry F. Jenks, Edmund A. Engler.

The report of the Council was presented by Hon.
HENRY S. NOURSE of Lancaster. In the same connection
a paper entitled "Mary Griffin and her Creed," was read
by Rev. Dr. EGBERT C. SMYTH of Andover.

Vice-President GEORGE F. HOAR said :

"I would like to call attention to one fact suggested by Dr. Smyth's very interesting paper. It is a fact with which he is very familiar, I am sure, and so are most of the scholars of this Society. But it is not commonly known and not stated by historians. It is that in the Puritan generation there were many persons who confined their statement of the essence of Christian doctrine to two or three simple affirmations. This interesting example of Mary Griffin in Bradford Church is by no means solitary among our Puritan ancestors even in the day when Cotton Mather was dominant. There are very important examples of it in the Established Church, although Bishops like Laud and Bancroft, from whose fury John Milton said our fathers fled, were in power. There we find instances of great liberality, not only among scholars and among men whose lives were secluded but also in places of power. We find them in high authority in the English Church, notably in Jeremy Taylor, although he lays emphasis on ceremonials and vestments and doctrinal statements which may seem inconsistent with the liberty of prophecy which he so powerfully advocated. This was also true of Herbert and Donne and the company of men of letters to which they belonged, some of whose lives Izaak Walton wrote. I happened, the other day upon George Herbert's poem 'Divinitie,' which I would like to read."

DIVINITIE.

As men, for fear the starres should sleep and nod,
 And trip at night, have spheres suppli'd
 As if a starre were duller than a clod,
 Which knows his way without a guide:

Just so the other heav'n they also serve,
 Divinities transcendent skie:
 Which with the edge of wit they cut and carve
 Reason triumphs, and faith lies by.

Could not that wisdom, which first broacht the wine,
 Have thicken'd it with definitions?
 And jagg'd his seamlesse coat, had that been fine,
 With curious questions and divisions?

But all the doctrine, which he taught and gave,
 Was cleare as heav'n, from whence it came.
 At least those beams of truth, which onely save,
 Surpasse in brightnesse any flame.

*Love God, and love your neighbor. Watch and pray.
 Do as you would be done unto.*
 O dark instructions, ev'n as dark as day!
 Who can these Gordian knots undo?

But he doth bid us take his bloud for wine.
 Bid what he please; yet I am sure,
 To take and taste what he doth there designe,
 Is all that saves and not obscure.

Then burn thy Epicycles. foolish man;
 Break all thy spheres, and save thy head;
 Faith needs no staffe of flesh, but stoutly can
 To heav'n alone both go, and leade.

The Librarian, Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON, read his report, after which, by vote of the Society, the report of the Council was referred to the Committee of Publication.

The names of the two following gentlemen were proposed by the Council for election to membership:

William Dennison Lyman, A. M.

Professor of civics, history and economics in Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington.

Henry Smith Pritchett, Ph.D., LL.D.,

President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston.

A ballot was taken by the Society and the gentlemen were declared elected.

Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN remarked:

"The sound of Dr. Hale's voice and remarks that were made by Mr. Nourse and the librarian remind me that in

1853 there was held in New York a meeting of more than eighty librarians and other persons interested in libraries, from all parts of the United States. After that date I am not aware that there was any general meeting of librarians until the time of the Exposition in Philadelphia, in 1876. Of those eighty or more persons who attended that first 'Librarians' Convention,' I understand that at least eight are living, and of that number two are distinguished members of this society, Daniel Coit Gilman and Edward Everett Hale. The convention was presided over by Dr. Charles C. Jewett, who was afterwards first superintendent of the Public Library in Boston. He had a plan for co-operative cataloguing, by stereotyping the titles of books, and keeping them in a common centre where they could be used as wanted. The matter to which I wish to call attention is this, that Dr. Jewett, in giving an explanation of his plan, stated that practical printers had told him it would be impossible for him to carry out the plan, because he could not have single titles stereotyped. He said that he had been enabled to overcome obstacles, and show that single titles could be stereotyped, by the aid of Mr. Hale of Worcester. Dr. Hale is the son of Nathan Hale, LL.D., a gentleman who conducted *The Boston Daily Advertiser* for a great many years, and I understand that he made himself an adept in the art of printing. Perhaps the practical knowledge thus obtained and an inherited interest may have enabled him to make the suggestions which Dr. Jewett found so timely. I bring this matter forward only as another instance of the versatility and usefulness of the man for whom we have all been seeking lately to express our appreciation, and whom we all admire and love."

Rev. AUSTIN S. GARVER of Worcester read a paper on "Archaeology in Greece," dealing with the subject from the standpoint of a tourist.

Some unpublished correspondence between Henry D. Thoreau and Isaac Hecker was presented by Prof. E. HARLOW RUSSELL of the Massachusetts State Normal School at Worcester.

The President announced that a year ago at this time the approaching Millennial of King Alfred's death occasioned the appointment of a committee to represent this Society at the exercises; that John Fiske, who was one of the committee appointed, was removed from life before the event occurred, and that EDWIN D. MEAD would say something to the Society today in regard to the celebration. Mr. MEAD read a paper which is printed with the proceedings of this meeting.

Vice-President EDWARD E. HALE, referring to the approaching celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the landing of Gosnold at Cuttyhunk, to be held at that place on May 24th, read a paper suggesting that from the island of Cuttyhunk was drawn the local coloring for the island in Shakespeare's "Tempest."

A communication from Dr. JAMES D. BUTLER of Madison, Wisconsin, in reference to the "Brewster Autograph of Wisconsin," was read by Prof. Franklin B. Dexter. It was stated that there are two signatures in Yale College, but that the autograph found by Dr. Butler is a much more interesting one than that in Yale College, as it is a firmer signature. It was suggested by Dr. HALE that it might be well to know that in the indexes the name is often spelled Bruster as well as Brewster.

The President announced that the Society was in receipt of a valuable gift from Mr. Daniel Murray, of the Library of Congress, being a diary of Paul Jennings, from which the Recording Secretary read some extracts. The title of the work is "Jennings, Paul, A colored man's reminiscences of James Madison." Paul Jennings was a slave,

and he wrote his own biography, which included a good deal about Madison, whose slave he was. Jennings was born a slave on the Madison estate about 1799. Jennings married Fanny Gordon, who had been raised in Zachary Taylor's family. He was a body servant to Mr. Madison, and when he died served Daniel Webster in the same capacity. Webster bought him of Mrs. Madison with the agreement that he should work out the purchase price at a fixed rate, after which he should be free. Mr. Murray's paper, while devoted in a great measure to Jennings and his story, has extracts from other writers, and treats of subjects of interest in the time of Jennings. His account of the taking of Washington is graphic and entertaining.

Dr. HALE inquired, on behalf of a distinguished officer in the Navy, whether any of the gentlemen present knew the name of the officer who surrendered the Chesapeake.

All the papers presented were referred to the Committee of Publication, and the meeting was dissolved. The members afterwards partook of lunch at the Hotel Somerset.

CHARLES A. CHASE,

Recording Secretary.

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