

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE doings of the Council at the several meetings held during the past six months, though not unimportant, require but brief record :

The Society, at its last meeting, authorized the appointment of a Biographer, who should be responsible for the presentation of appropriate biographies of deceased members, for timely publication in the Proceedings. The Council has selected Jeremiah Evarts Greene, B.A., for this position, and he has accepted the office, and entered upon its delicate and important duties.

The committee appointed to arrange for the celebration, on April 3, at Symphony Hall, Boston, of the eightieth birthday of our rejuvenescent Vice-President, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D., included nearly a score of the members of this Society ; and our First Vice-President left his desk at Washington to honor the occasion, paying tribute in an eloquent address to his, ours, everybody's friend, the poet, the preacher, the philanthropist, the orator, the historian, the story-teller, the prophet of good hope, the teacher of good cheer. To the formal invitation of the committee in charge of this spontaneous expression of affection and reverence, the Council responded by the appointment of the President, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, A.M., the Treasurer, Nathaniel Paine, A.M., and the Recording Secretary, Charles Augustus Chase, A.M., to represent officially the Society on that occasion ; which pleasant duty they duly performed.

In accordance with a vote of the Council, the President and Recording Secretary have united in a memorial to the

Massachusetts Legislature, urging favorable consideration of a bill pending, which provides for the preservation by printing of town records of births, marriages and deaths previous to 1850.

By the death of V. Rev. Michael Charles O'Brien of Bangor, Me., and Henry Hitchcock, LL.D., of St. Louis, Mo., two vacancies in our membership are to be filled, for which nominations will be made to-day.

The continued financial prosperity of the Society and the steadily increasing value and usefulness of the Library will appear in the reports of the Treasurer and Librarian, which form a part of this report.

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