

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

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A SPECIAL meeting of the Council of the American Antiquarian Society, called by the President, was held at the banking rooms of the Worcester County Institution for Savings, No. 13 Foster street, in Worcester, on November 20, 1902.

President SALISBURY said:—

*Gentlemen:*—You are called today to consider the loss of our associate and friend, JEREMIAH EVARTS GREENE. His connection with our Society began with his election as a member at the annual meeting in October, 1883, and in 1888 he presented his first formal paper. He was chosen a Councillor in 1888, and prepared reports in 1893 and 1896. In April, 1902, he was appointed Biographer for the Society, and furnished two Biographical Sketches which will be printed in our Proceedings. The literary attainments of our friend, his punctilious exactness, his nobility of character, his courtesy and his cheerful readiness to be of service at all times to the Society and to the public endeared him to us and to his fellow-citizens in a marked degree. But it is my duty to allow others to pronounce his eulogy, and I will ask Mr. CHARLES A. CHASE, our Secretary, to express the sentiments of the Council on this occasion.

**Jeremiah Evarts Greene**, a member of the Council, of distinguished ancestry, a long-time citizen of Worcester, died at Plainfield, New Jersey, after a comparatively short illness, on Saturday, the 8th inst.

The Council desire to put on record their tribute to one of their number, whose loss they will ever deplore. His taste for the study of ethnology, his intimate acquaintance with the subject, his general and wide-spread knowledge, his sound learning, and his wise judgment made him a most valuable member of our body. His genial and amiable nature, his promptness of decision in matters under consideration, and his unfailing courtesy endeared him to us all.

In the wider field of the world, especially in Worcester, the city of his adoption, Mr. Greene filled a very large place. As editor of the leading newspaper of the city,—a journal founded by the founder of this Society, Isaiah Thomas,—for twenty-three years he advocated the cause of good politics and sound morals, with a force of argument and beauty of style which convinced and charmed the reader. Called to the management of the post-office of a city which was ever increasing in population, he appreciated the needs of the community and by his unremitting efforts secured the facilities which enabled him to make it a model for the whole country, while his noble nature endeared him to the large staff whom he always kept under the strict discipline which secured a success for which they shared with him in the credit. He had also rendered valuable service to the community by his influence as a member of a local Commission in securing the series of public parks, which are a peculiar feature of Worcester, the pride of its people; and his voice and pen were ever ready to denounce evil and to advocate what was good. The general feeling of grief which pervaded the community at the news of his death, evinced their appreciation of his merits and their own great loss.

To the relatives of our late associate the Council extends its deepest sympathy.

SAMUEL S. GREEN, A.M., said:—

*Mr. President:*—I have given elsewhere<sup>1</sup> an estimate of Mr. Greene's character. Here, I am speaking to his intimate associates and may tell anecdotes of our friend.

<sup>1</sup> *Worcester Sunday Spy*, Nov. 9, 1902.

Thomas Arnold, the historian, writes, in substance, that an historical investigator and writer should not only aim to be accurate but should have enthusiasm for truth. Mr. Greene had that qualification for writing history in a high degree. When he has read papers at the meetings of our Society I have also been struck by the fact that the subjects which he selected to write about were often connected closely with his experience. Thus, when he spoke about the Santa Fé Trail we knew that he had trodden that path. When he discoursed about North American Indians we knew that he had been among them. For many years too he had been actively and prominently engaged in societies formed for promoting their interests. I remember saying once to the late General Armstrong of the Hampton School for Negroes and Indians that it seemed to me he would make an admirable United States Indian Commissioner.

Mr. Greene's modesty was very apparent. As he sat with us in the meetings of the Council he was commonly silent. I felt rebuked, perhaps because I am quick to speak, to see him wait long before giving an opinion. When he did speak his words were weighty.

Many instances occur to us of the manifestations of the highest moral qualities in Mr. Greene. I recall the indignation which he manifested and the disgrace which he felt, as a soldier, when any of his comrades showed greediness for pensions or office as a reward for services in the civil war and thus effaced the bloom of disinterestedness from the merit of their efforts to serve the country.

While he was editor of the *Worcester Spy* Mr. Blaine was nominated for the presidency. Mr. Greene could not conscientiously support him. It was interesting to me to see how well he succeeded in doing his duty to the proprietors of a Republican paper which supported the nomination, and yet avoided doing violence to his convictions.

Mr. Greene, as we all know, was very fond of dogs. His feelings were so tender regarding them, that, although I do not remember that he spoke publicly regarding the matter, he had a strong aversion to vivisection; a method of scientific investigation which most of us, with an overweening interest perhaps in our kind, advocate, in spite

of reluctance. Mr. Greene felt a similar responsibility in regard to his dog that he would have felt for a child. He was taking a walk one day on Lincoln street, when his companion began to chase hens, and would not heed his command to desist. Thereupon he proceeded to whip his pet. A lady passing by remonstrated with him for what she considered cruelty. Mr. Greene replied that he respected her feelings, but was doing what he considered to be his duty, and finished the whipping. One morning, meeting him as he came down town, he told me that a favorite dog had died. He was a believer in cremation, and he said to me tenderly that he had put the remains of his little friend in his furnace and reduced them to ashes.

The memory of Mr. Greene will be very dear to men who have enjoyed his companionship; it will be an inspiration to his acquaintances and of great service in the communities where he has lived.

Attest :

CHARLES A. CHASE,

*Recording Secretary.*

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