

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council held a special meeting, by call of the President, at No. 13 Foster street, on Monday, April 6, 1903, at 4 P. M.

President SALISBURY said :—

John Davis Washburn, our lamented associate, was elected a member of the Society in April, 1871, and at the annual meeting of the same year became one of the Council by his appointment as Recording Secretary, which office he held until his resignation in October, 1894. Since that time he continued in the Council by election, until his death, which occurred on Saturday evening, April 4, 1903.

His services to the Society have been important and long continued, and our proceedings have been much enriched and illuminated by his facile and eloquent contributions. Six reports of the Council were made by Mr. Washburn while acting as Recording Secretary, all of them of a high literary merit and expressed with elegance and grace. The duties of Recording Secretary he performed with impartial fidelity and scrupulous exactness, and his friendly kindness towards all members of the Society won for him their cordial regard.

His character, natural gifts, and attainments endeared him to his associates, and his long and faithful devotion to the Society received the constant recognition of its members.

The following minute was offered by the Recording Secretary, CHARLES A. CHASE :—

The Council is called upon today, by the death of the Hon. John Davis Washburn to lament the loss of a brilliant and loyal member. He rendered to our Society many years of valued service as Recording Secretary, an office which he only laid down to enter upon the service of the nation as its minister to a friendly republic across the sea. He continued to be a Councillor until the very last.

Besides his faithful clerical service, Mr. Washburn did considerable literary work for the Society which was of value ; and on the occasions when the Council or the Society met in a social way, his genial spirits and his brilliant conversation added greatly to the enjoyment of all present.

The varied events of his active life, during which he became conspicuous at home and abroad, will be rehearsed by others at the proper times and places. While the ill health against which he has serenely struggled during the past few years has prevented him from assisting in our deliberations, he has been with us in sympathy ; and we most deeply regret the ending of so many years of delightful association.

Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN said :—

I am inclined to think, Mr. President, that there are many persons in Worcester who could not have told you, in recent years, whether Mr. Washburn were living or dead, so complete has been his seclusion.

Friends who have come closely in contact with him during the long season of his retirement, have, as we well know, been impressed by the gentleness of his spirit and the sweetness of his disposition.

As the violet gives forth unusual fragrance when crushed, so Mr. Washburn in his illness showed those genial qualities and that kindness which do so much to preserve and add to the serenity of life.

Naturally, as I have understood, our associate was disinclined to strenuous action, although under the stimulus

of ambition, or for the love of accumulation or praise his exertions were often intense and prolonged. His constitutional languor was intensified by his disease, and the prizes which were within his reach in his enfeebled condition did not fascinate him.

He preferred to enjoy the quiet of home life, and to give his time to congenial reading and friendly converse. With declining energy he found occupation and enjoyment in unexciting scenes, and in such gratifications of his literary taste as did not require much effort.

Further remarks in eulogy were made by NATHANIEL PAINE and EDWARD L. DAVIS, and the minute was adopted.

Attest:

CHARLES A. CHASE,

Recording Secretary.

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