

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council is very glad to be able to report a quiet, uneventful and yet busy period since the last meeting.

As authorized at the April meeting of the Society, the Salisbury Mansion property valued at thirty-five thousand dollars has been exchanged with the Worcester Art Museum for sixty thousand feet of land at the corner of Regent Street and Park Avenue in Worcester, valued at fifteen thousand dollars, and the difference, twenty thousand dollars, has been paid to the Society.

The County Commissioners have arranged to pay \$40,000 for the property now occupied by the Library as soon as convenient for us.

A building committee has been appointed consisting of the President, Dr. Engler and Dr. Woodward, and they have secured Mr. R. Clipston Sturgis and Messrs. Winslow & Bigelow, all of Boston, as architects, who are preparing plans for a building, and hoped to be able to exhibit them at this meeting. An advisory committee has been appointed consisting of Dr. Billings of the New York Public Library, Mr. S. S. Green of the Free Public Library of Worcester, Mr. C. B. Tillinghast of the Massachusetts State Library and Mr. C. S. Brigham, Librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, who are to consult with the building committee about plans.

The electric lighting wires have been thoroughly overhauled and made safe according to present ideas and a shut-off placed just inside the building in order that, when the lights are not in use, the current may be cut and all danger therefrom avoided.

The Council has also authorized the Library Committee to dispose of the remainder of our cabinet now in the Hall of the Society. This is in accordance with

a plan formed many years ago but not then fully carried out.

Some time ago the Society authorized the Council to collect and publish the British Royal Proclamations relating to America. Mr. C. S. Brigham has been to England in connection with this work, has selected and is preparing such as it seems best to publish, and it is hoped that the manuscript will be ready for the printer during the coming winter.

Mrs. Frances W. Haven, widow of our late Librarian, Samuel Foster Haven, has died, and in her will has left the Society a legacy of two thousand dollars without any conditions, although she has left a memorandum suggesting its use for the Librarian's room.

Mr. Edmund M. Barton has been connected with the Society as Assistant Librarian seventeen years, as Librarian twenty-five years, in all forty-two years, and he now desires to be relieved from further service. In view of his long and faithful services, the Council has elected Mr. Barton Librarian Emeritus without duties, at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, subject to the approval of the Society. Mr. Barton will have a desk in the Library and advise the staff so that his great knowledge of the Library will be still available to the Society.

Mr. Haven and Mr. Barton have occupied the office of Librarian for seventy years. Having this in mind, the Council has felt peculiar difficulty in finding one qualified to maintain the high standard that has prevailed in the past. This difficulty has been well overcome in the appointment of our associate, Mr. Clarence S. Brigham, Librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society who will assume the duties of the office as soon as is convenient. By his work in his present position and in connection with this Society, Mr. Brigham has shown signal ability in our special lines. With new members and new officers in the present, with the assurance of a new building in the near future, the Society may well feel that it is about to enter upon an enlarged, prosperous and useful career.

Our Recording Secretary, Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis, gave two thousand dollars to the Society with which to

procure a picture of our late President, Stephen Salisbury. The picture has been painted by the distinguished artist, Mr. Frederic P. Vinton, and hung in the Librarian's room, constituting a notable addition to the portraits already owned by the Society. About a hundred and sixty dollars was left after paying for the portrait and expenses and the Library Committee has purchased a volume entitled, "Soul Saving Gospel Truths Delivered in Several Sermons," etc., by Increase Mather, Philadelphia, printed by B. Franklin, 1743. This was purchased of Goodspeed for one hundred dollars, and in his catalogue he states that this third edition is extremely rare, that no copy of the first edition is known, and that there is no auction record of the sale of any edition except the Pennypacker copy of this which was defective and brought thirty dollars. Some uncertainty exists concerning the precise dates of the different editions. Mrs. Reynolds of the Library staff is endeavoring to secure data sufficient to make this certain, and, if procured, the Council may be able to report further concerning it. The volume is regarded as a noteworthy addition to the library.

Mr. George Sturgis Paine, a member of the Society since 1867, died in London, England, August 2, 1908. Mr. Daniel Coit Gilman, a member of the Society since 1884, died in Norwich, Connecticut, October 13, 1908. Notices of them have been prepared by the biographer.

At the last annual meeting on account of the long service of Mr. Nathaniel Paine, as Treasurer, the rule was suspended and he was elected a member of the Council for the year then ensuing in addition to the number provided in the rule. The Council recommend that the same course be pursued this year.

Herewith are presented votes to carry out the suggestions relating to Mr. Paine and Mr. Barton which the Council recommend the Society to pass.

The Society learns with regret that Mr. Edmund M. Barton has resigned the office of Librarian which he has held for twenty-five years with conspicuous fidelity and success, which were preceded by seventeen years service as assistant librarian, in all forty-two years, and the action

of the Council in appointing Mr. Barton Librarian Emeritus is hereby approved, such appointee to hold during the pleasure of the Council, with or without duties, and at such salary as the Council may from time to time provide.

In recognition of the long and honorable service of Mr. Nathaniel Paine as Treasurer of the Society for forty-four years, Article I. of the By-laws is hereby suspended so far as it fixes the number of the Councillors and Mr. Paine is hereby elected a Councillor for the ensuing year in addition to the number provided for in said By-laws.

SAMUEL UTLEY,

For the Council.

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