

## PROCEEDINGS.

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 20, 1910, IN ELLIS HALL, AT  
THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

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The President called the meeting to order at 10.30 A. M.

The following members were present:

Nathaniel Paine, Samuel A. Green, Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt, Charles C. Smith, Samuel S. Green, Andrew McF. Davis, William B. Weeden, Reuben Colton, William E. Foster, Charles P. Greenough, Francis H. Dewey, George H. Haynes, Waldo Lincoln, George P. Winship, Austin S. Garver, Benjamin T. Hill, Henry F. Jenks, George L. Kittredge, Deloraine P. Corey, Clarence S. Brigham, Lincoln N. Kinnicutt, Worthington C. Ford, Henry E. Woods, Julius H. Tuttle, Samuel B. Woodward, Wilfred H. Munro, Henry W. Cunningham, Frank F. Dresser, Albert B. Hart, Shepherd Knapp.

The Secretary read the call for the meeting. The President having stated that the records of the previous meeting had been sent to each member in the printed Proceedings, and no corrections being made, the records were declared approved without reading.

The report of the Council, having been read by the Secretary, was ordered placed on file and referred to the Committee of Publication.

The President reported regarding the forwardness of the new library building and of the subscriptions to new funds:—

"On behalf of the Building Committee I have to report that the new building is making satisfactory progress, although the work has been very much delayed during the winter on account of bad weather. The contractor promises that the library will be ready for occupancy certainly by the first of August and perhaps a little sooner, so that there need be no hesitation in announcing that the annual meeting of the Society will be held in the new building. The October meeting, therefore, will be made the occasion of its dedication.

"As the members all know from the circular sent out in March, the Finance Committee, by virtue of a vote passed at the annual meeting, appointed a committee to solicit funds for the Society. This committee consists of the President, Mr. Edward L. Davis, Mr. Francis H. Dewey and Mr. William V. Kellen. The total amount subscribed to date is a little over \$30,000.00, most of which has been contributed by the Worcester members, and a large proportion of which has already been paid to the Treasurer. The committee feels much encouraged in its attempt to raise the amount called for by the circular, but urges upon all members the importance of this fund being sufficient to enable the Society to continue the work which it is now doing. The Society should not fall behind in book purchases, nor in the acquisition of newspapers. The request of the Committee of Publication for at least \$2,500.00 for publications next year should be granted, if the Society is to fulfil its duty of printing for the use of scholars even a small part of the valuable manuscripts in its possession."

The list of names proposed for membership by the Council was read by the Secretary, with a statement of the individual qualifications. Messrs. Cunningham and Dresser were appointed to collect and count the ballots, and, all the members present having had the opportunity to vote, they reported the election of the following gentlemen:—

Resident members:

Merritt Lyndon Fernald, Cambridge, Mass.  
Gaillard Hunt, Washington, D. C.

Archer Milton Huntington, New York, N. Y.  
Barrett Wendell, Boston, Mass.  
Albert Whitin, Whitinsville, Mass.

Foreign members:

Juan B. Ambrosetti, Argentine.  
Manuel Vincente Ballivian, Bolivia.  
Arthur George Doughty, Canada.  
William Lawson Grant, England.  
Samuel A. Lafone Quevedo, Argentine.  
Antonio Peñafiel, Mexico.  
J. C. Rodriguez, Brazil.  
Edward Seler, Germany.  
Federico Gonzalez Suarez, Ecuador.  
William Wood, Canada.

Mr. Wood moved:

That the Council consider the advisability of changing the date of the semi-annual Spring meeting, and of making such changes in the by-laws as would thereby become necessary.

The President explained that this motion was made so that the Council might consider the question and present its recommendations at the next October meeting. According to the present by-laws the meeting must be held on the third Wednesday in April, and this date happens to fall ordinarily in the period of the regular April recess at Harvard University. As the members of the Society who are connected with the University are likely to be away from Cambridge at this time, they are hereby deprived of the opportunity of attending the Boston meeting. Professor Kittredge confirmed the arguments set forth in favor of the passage of the motion, which was then carried.

The papers announced in the call for the meeting were read:

“Life at Harvard a Century Ago as Illustrated by the Papers of Stephen Salisbury, Class of 1817,” by Mr. Benjamin T. Hill of Worcester.

"The Jumano Indians," written by Mr. Frederick W. Hodge of Washington, and read in his absence by the Secretary.

"The Libraries of the Mathers," by Mr. Julius H. Tuttle of Boston.

Professor KITTREDGE, in discussing Mr. Tuttle's paper said:—

"There is in the Harvard Library a very important volume formerly belonging to Increase Mather, which is of particular interest on account of its character, namely John Webster's 'Exposition of Witchcraft.' This is sometimes referred to as one of the rational books on the subject; but as a matter of fact, which I undertook to show in a paper read before this Society at the meeting in April, 1907, Webster makes but a poor figure as a rationalist. This book was published in 1677 and was apparently bought by Increase Mather when he was in London on business connected with the Charter. It was brought back, and evidently stood by him when he was in the storm center of the witchcraft excitement in this part of the world. This particular volume was given to the University by James Russell Lowell. Another volume which I recently chanced across in the Library belonged to Increase Mather and his grandson Samuel. This, of course, is one of those Mr. Tuttle has indicated in his descent. It undoubtedly passed into the hands of Cotton Mather, although it does not contain his autograph, but does contain the autographs of Increase and Samuel."

The papers were referred to the Committee of Publication, and the meeting then adjourned.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP,

*Secretary.*

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