

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council reports the deaths since the previous meeting of the Society of Henry Charles Lea of Philadelphia, on October 24, 1909, and George Park Fisher of New Haven, on December 20, 1909.

Mr. Lea was elected a member of the Society in October, 1888. He had attended no meetings of the Society and contributed nothing to our Proceedings.

Dr. Fisher was elected a member in October, 1879. He had attended no meetings of the Society and contributed in 1899 an obituary of Professor Othniel C. Marsh to our Proceedings.

We have learned, through the courtesy of one of the members elected at the last meeting, of the deaths, some years ago, of Sr. D. Marcos Ximenes De La Espada and Sr. D. Justo Zaragoza who were elected in October, 1882.

The President will speak of the two matters of principal importance which have concerned the Society within the past half year;—the satisfactory progress of the work on the new building, and the steps already taken towards the centennial endowment fund, upon which is dependent the effective continuance of the work of the Society after the occupation of the new building. It is most important that the members of the Society understand clearly that the Society will be in a position to carry out the work for which it was founded in vastly better fashion than ever before, as soon as the collections and the staff are installed in the new building. It must also be understood that it will be impossible to expect results commensurate with the value of the library and with the opportunities which the new building will offer, unless the Society has an income sufficient to enable the officers of the Society to administer

the building in such a way as to make its resources fully available for the purposes of Scholars.

Two payments have already been received by the Treasurer to increase existing funds, and two to establish new permanent funds:

The Charles Francis Washburn Fund, established by Mr. Charles G. Washburn, who has sent to the Treasurer stocks of a market value of somewhat over \$5,000.

The Hunnewell Fund, established by a check for \$5,000, received from Mr. James F. Hunnewell.

The Isaac and Edward L. Davis Fund has been increased by a payment of \$5000 from Mr. E. L. Davis and Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis has added \$1,000 to the John and Eliza Davis Fund.

No single event of the past year has given greater satisfaction to the members of the Council than the presentation at the meeting on March 18 of the following memorandum by Mr. Edward L. Davis and the passage of the two votes which follow:—

WORCESTER, March 18, 1910.

To the Council of the American Antiquarian Society,
Gentlemen:

I should like, if the Council approves, to change the terms of a gift of Five Thousand Dollars, to the Society, which I made April 28, 1891, as an addition to the Isaac Davis Fund, established by him, January 21, 1868.

As it reads now, the income is to be "applied to the purchase of books, maps, charts, and works of art, relating to that portion of North America lying south of the United States."

I respectfully propose the following change:—

The income of the Edward L. Davis addition, with its accumulations of interest, to be used, (a) To keep the principle good; (b) Whenever, in any year, the income is not needed, or wanted for the original object of the fund, it may be used, wholly or in part, for the general purposes or the Society. It is a fact that, not infrequently, the Society finds itself embarrassed by having its funds, as it were, tied up for specific purposes.

The change proposed will give more liberty of action and yet will not prevent using the income, when desired, in helping to carry out the original purpose of the fund.

EDWARD L. DAVIS.

Voted:—That the Council receives the communication made by Edward L. Davis, and gives its approval to the change therein proposed, touching the use of the income of that portion of the Isaac and Edward L. Davis Fund, contributed by Edward L. Davis, April 28, 1891, and the Finance Committee is hereby instructed to determine, what portion of the accumulations by interest of the said fund, previous to October 15, 1907, when the total amount of the fund was fixed at \$15,000, shall be considered as belonging to the portion contributed by Edward L. Davis.

A similar motion was then passed concerning the John and Eliza Davis Fund:—

Whereas the designated purpose to which the income of the John and Eliza Davis Fund is to be applied seems to have too limited a field, and whereas at the time when the fund was founded it was stated by the founders, through Andrew McFarland Davis who carried on the correspondence with the Society, that the income of the fund might be properly applied to any purpose, including the general expenses of the Society, it is now moved by Andrew McFarland Davis, in behalf of himself and the estate of John Chandler Bancroft Davis and Horace Davis, that the Committee have power hereafter to appropriate the income of this fund, in excess of that needed for specific purposes designated at the time of its foundation, to such purposes as they shall see fit.

The Library Committee of the Society, acting upon authority given them by vote of the Council, September 14, 1908, has deposited with the Peabody Museum of Harvard University the remainder of the ethnological and archaeological relics contained in the four glass cases which formerly stood in the main hall. In exchange for this collection the Peabody Museum is to present to the Antiquarian Society volumes to the extent of \$450.00. The Council feels grati-

fied to have these relics, few in number, unarranged and worthless for comprehensive study, deposited in an institution which can make the use of them that their importance warrants.

The Committee of Publication of the American Antiquarian Society submits the following report to the Council.

(a) *Work accomplished.*

As a partial result of work accomplished during the half year just completed your committee presents to you Volumes IX and X of the Society's Transactions, being the Diary of Isaiah Thomas, 1805-1828. An unfortunate delay in securing certain papers necessary for the completion of Volume XII of the Transactions has prevented the issuance of that Compilation of "Royal Proclamations concerning America, 1606-1783," but the volume will appear shortly. Some results of the work done upon the Manuscript collections of the Society were shown you at the meeting in October last when Volume XI of the Transactions—Manuscript Records of the French and Indian War—was presented for your approval. Work of this character has been shown since October by the publication in the last issue of the Proceedings and in separate form of the Journal of the Expedition of Sir William Pepperrell against Louisbourg, March-August, 1745, a contribution of over 50 pages edited by Charles H. Lincoln from the original manuscript in the collections of the Society.

Your committee feels that in the publication of material of this character the American Antiquarian Society is performing one of the most important functions that a Society of this kind can undertake. It is presenting to the public and more particularly to the historians and biographers among that public, original material to aid them in their work and some suggestion of the wealth of material in the possession of the Society which is open for their consultation. Other societies of a similar character are already making their resources known in these ways and are providing for themselves an ever increasing field of usefulness, and this

Society must not lag behind. Publications of this character are not a direct source of income, but they arouse and maintain an interest in the work of the Society and show the value of its possessions. For this reason if for no other we recommend a liberal appropriation for this work during the coming year. A brief outline of the material now ready for the press follows:

(b) *Work planned.*

A Calendar of the Correspondence of Christopher Columbus Baldwin, 1827-1835. In this correspondence some 1100 manuscripts are included, many of which could be printed in full to great advantage. Forming a companion volume to the Diary of Baldwin (Transactions, Vol. VIII) already issued, this publication would unite a history of the Society's library during a most important period of its growth to an intimate acquaintance with the Society's librarian and his literary friends.

A second collection of equal or greater importance is the group of Curwen Manuscripts. Aside from several volumes of notes and accounts this collection contains over 1,100 individual manuscripts grouped about the Corwin or Curwen family from 1640 to 1775. Among other than Curwen autographs in this group are many of Samuel Sewall, Robert Hale, Sir William Pepperrell, Governor William Shirley, and other leaders in the French War.

A third collection ready for publication is the six-volume group of Craigie manuscripts including over 600 letters. Here are papers descriptive of the settlement of the Ohio Valley and the rise and fortunes of the Scioto Company organized for that purpose. Important manuscripts give Washington's ideas for a canal or road to the Ohio, news from settlements in Kentucky, and negotiations with Robert Morris for the acquisition of the Genesee lands in western New York. A large portion of these papers discuss the question of European immigration into the western territory, the best location for the settlement of the people received, and the necessity that they understand American ideas and so prove a source of strength and not of weakness to their new country.

Other material suitable for publication includes comprehensive lists of the Almanacs, Maps, or Newspapers in the archives of the Society. In a word, your committee feels that abundant work has been done and is being done in the library of the American Antiquarian Society to warrant the continued issuance of printed volumes showing the value of this work. We appeal for not less than \$2,500, to provide for the publication work of the Society during the coming year, and feel that by such publications a rich return will come to this Society in the increased interest of the special public whom we desire to attract.

FRANKLIN P. RICE,
GEORGE H. HAYNES,
CHARLES L. NICHOLS,

For the Committee of Publication.

April 20, 1910.

The Council believes that the value of the Thomas Diary is largely due to the great amount of labor and numerous annotations made by Mr. Benjamin Thomas Hill. In recognition of Mr. Hill's generous contribution of time and effort, the Council, at its meeting yesterday, voted that ten sets of the Isaiah Thomas Diary, forming volumes IX and X of the Society's Transactions, be sent to Mr. Hill, with an expression of the deep appreciation felt by the Council of the Society for the generous and scholarly work given by him in the preparation of these volumes.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP,

For the Council.

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