

## PROCEEDINGS.

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 12, 1911, IN ELLIS HALL AT  
THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 A. M. by  
the President, Mr. WALDO LINCOLN.

The following members were present:

Nathaniel Paine, Samuel A. Green, Edward L. Davis,  
Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt, Edmund M. Barton,  
Franklin B. Dexter, Samuel S. Green, Henry W. Haynes,  
Andrew McF. Davis, Frederic W. Putnam, Daniel  
Merriman, William B. Weeden, Joseph Anderson,  
Henry H. Edes, Edward Channing, George E. Francis,  
A. George Bullock, William E. Foster, Charles P. Green-  
ough, Calvin Stebbins, Henry A. Marsh, William DeL.  
Love, William T. Forbes, George H. Haynes, Charles  
L. Nichols, William R. Livermore, Waldo Lincoln,  
A. Lawrence Rotch, Samuel Utley, Henry F. Jenks,  
George L. Kittredge, Albert Matthews, William Mac-  
Donald, D. Berkeley Updike, Clarence S. Brigham,  
Franklin P. Rice, Worthington C. Ford, Henry E. Woods,  
William C. Lane, Julius H. Tuttle, Charles G. Washburn,  
Max Farrand, Marshall H. Saville, Alfred M. Tozzer,  
Wilfred H. Munro, William Nelson, Justin H. Smith,  
Henry W. Cunningham, Merritt L. Fernald, Albert  
H. Whitin, Albert C. Bates, Homer Gage, Henry A.  
Parker.

The President stated that because of the absence of  
the Recording Secretary, it would be necessary to elect

a Secretary *pro tempore*, and upon motion, Mr. C. S. Brigham was elected to that office.

The reading of the records of the last meeting was, on motion, dispensed with, the printed report of the proceedings having been already distributed among the members of the Society.

The Report of the Council was read by Mr. Samuel Swett Green.

The President, in supplementing the report of the Council, spoke as follows:

“I would like to say a word congratulating the Society on the completion of its new building. The library, while far from being in perfect order, a matter which will take many months, is sufficiently well arranged to permit its being readily consulted, and it is hoped that the members will visit it as early and as often as they can.

“I am sorry to report that since last October there has been no material addition to the centennial fund. I hope that all the members will feel responsible for this attempt to secure an increase of endowment without which the Society will be very much handicapped; for, although it can live in a rather quiet way, it cannot do the work it ought to do, the work that it was formed to do, and which I am sure the members are all interested in having done. If any member can aid the committee in obtaining this increased endowment I trust he will do so.

“In this connection a few selections from early addresses to the Society seem pertinent. The first is from *An Account of the American Antiquarian Society*, by its first President, Isaiah Thomas, which was printed in November, 1813, a year after the Society was formed:

Among the numerous societies formed in the United States for the promotion of literature, the useful and fine arts, and other valuable purposes, it appeared that one more might be added, which could also be truly beneficial, not only to the

present, but particularly to future generations—a society not confined to local purposes—not intended for the particular advantage of any one state or section of the union, or for the benefit of a few individuals—one whose members may be found in every part of our western continent and its adjacent islands, and who are citizens of all parts of this quarter of the world.

Each individual of the Society, we persuade ourselves, will imbibe a belief that its reputation, in a great degree, depends on his individual efforts; and will feel an interest in collecting and forwarding to the Librarian, the Secretaries, or to any officer of the Institution, such antiquities of our country, whether of nature or of art, as may be portable, and which he can obtain; and authentic accounts of such as cannot be transported; with such articles of modern date, as are curious and interesting, and will tend to aid the purposes of the establishment. Justice will be done to the donor—his name will live on the records.

Among the articles of deposit, books of every description, including pamphlets and magazines, especially those which were early printed either in South or in North America; files of newspapers of former times, or of the present day, are particularly desirable . . . . Manuscripts, ancient and modern, on interesting subjects, particularly those which give accounts of remarkable events, discoveries, or the description of any part of the continent, or the islands in the American seas; maps, charts, etc.

“The next is from a *Communication from the President of the Society to the Members, October 24, 1814:*

The Society cannot become extensively useful unless the objects for which it is instituted are pursued with some degree of energy. It will not be expected that we should individually devote a very considerable part of our time to the affairs of this institution; yet, without injury to himself, every member may do something for its benefit. There are various ways by which we may contribute to its prosperity;—some may bestow a little personal attention to the management of its local concerns;—others may devise projects by which its interest and its usefulness may be essentially promoted;—and others collect, as convenience and opportunity permit, articles for its Cabinet, and donations of books, files of newspapers or other periodical works, maps, charts, manuscripts, and various articles proper for the institution.

“In an address delivered October 23, 1815, at the third anniversary of the Society, Dr. William Paine said:

I wish it to be distinctly understood that the American Antiquarian Society is founded on the most liberal principles—is of no sect or party—has no local views—it embraces the continent. It solicits, and would gladly receive, communications from every part of the world, which have a tendency to elucidate the events of past ages, or excite a spirit of research for information which would be conducive to the happiness of the present or subsequent age. It is to be wished, that every member of the Society would endeavor, by the most active exertions, to add something to the common stock of antiquarian literature; and may we, my respectable associates, never lose sight of the truly valuable purposes of our Institution.

“These paragraphs seem peculiarly appropriate now when the Society has the building, which at that time it did not have, in which to store with the utmost safety the valuable books, newspapers, charts or manuscripts which members may be able to secure. I hope all may follow the advice of Mr. Thomas and Dr. Paine and help to obtain such collections.”

In proceeding to the election of new members, Mr. A. McF. Davis spoke of the qualifications of the candidates recommended by the Council. Messrs. Gage and Bates were appointed tellers to distribute and count the ballots. The following gentlemen were then elected members of the Society:

Thomas Willing Balch, Philadelphia, Pa.  
John Spencer Bassett, Northampton, Mass.  
Archibald Cary Coolidge, Boston, Mass.  
Carl Russell Fish, Madison, Wis.  
John Holladay Latané, Lexington, Va.

The President referred to the Centennial Anniversary of the Society, which is to be observed in October, 1912, and suggested that a committee of five be appointed to consider the arrangements for celebrating the centennial. Upon motion of Dr. Samuel A. Green that the President should appoint such a committee, and should himself be chairman, the chair appointed, besides himself, Hon. Charles G. Washburn and Hon. Arthur

P. Rugg of Worcester, Prof. Albert B. Hart of Cambridge and Prof. William MacDonald of Providence.

Mr. William Nelson of Paterson, N. J., read a paper on "Some New Jersey Printers and Printing in the Eighteenth Century."

Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis of Cambridge, Mass., read a paper on "The Shays Rebellion, a Political Aftermath."

Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer of Harvard University, read a paper on "The Value of Ancient Mexican Manuscripts in the Study of the General Development of Writing."

By vote of the Society, the various papers were referred to the Committee of Publication.

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

*Secretary, pro tempore.*

After the meeting, the members of the Society were entertained at luncheon at the Algonquin Club by the members residing in Boston and its vicinity.

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