

PROCEEDINGS.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 10, 1918, IN THE HOUSE OF
THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, April 10, 1918, in the House of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, No. 28 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order at half past ten o'clock, President Lincoln in the chair.

There were present:

Andrew McFarland Davis, Reuben Colton, Henry Herbert Edes, Augustus George Bullock, William Eaton Foster, George Henry Haynes, Arthur Lord, Charles Lemuel Nichols, Waldo Lincoln, Edward Sylvester Morse, George Parker Winship, Austin Samuel Garver, Albert Matthews, Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Daniel Berkeley Updike, Clarence Saunders Brigham, Lincoln Newton Kinnicutt, Franklin Pierce Rice, Frederick Jackson Turner, Henry Ernest Woods, Julius Herbert Tuttle, Charles Grenfill Washburn, Wilfred Harold Munro, Justin Harvey Smith, Herman Vandenberg Ames, Henry Winchester Cunningham, Albert Bushnell Hart, Barrett Wendell, Herbert Edwin Lombard, Howard Millar Chapin, Samuel Eliot Morison, Grenville Howland Norcross, Otis Grant Hammond, John Whittemore Farwell, Henry Bradford Washburn, Charles Edwards Park.

The call for the meeting being read, the records of the last meeting were read and approved. The Report of the Council, prepared by Worthington C. Ford, was then read and approved.

Mr. Morse in referring to the matter of newspaper preservation mentioned in the Council Report suggested that if special copies of the newspapers were printed on thin paper, like that used in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, their preservation would be more certain. Mr. Lincoln stated that the *Brooklyn Eagle* had tried the experiment of printing a special edition on high grade paper but that it had proved too expensive. He said that the Society had solved the problem, so far as its own collection was concerned, by filing the papers, when received, in a dark room, where they are laid flat on shelves and bound as soon as practicable. If the paper is kept from air and light, there is no reason why it should not be preserved indefinitely.

The election of new members being next in order, Messrs. Winship and Colton were appointed to collect and count the ballots. They reported the election of the following:

James Kendall Hosmer, Minneapolis, Minn.
Robert Hendre Kelby, New York, N. Y.
Theodore Roosevelt, Oyster Bay, N. Y.
John Woodbury, Boston, Mass.

The Council recommended the following change in the By-Laws:—That the first sentence of the fourth paragraph of Article 7, which reads, "Every new member residing in the United States shall pay an admission fee of five dollars, and all members residing in New England shall pay an annual fee of five dollars" be amended to read, "All members residing in New England shall pay an annual fee of five dollars." This amendment to the By-Laws was voted upon and passed.

There being no further business the Society listened to the paper by Dr. Herman Vandenberg Ames, of

Philadelphia, on "John C. Calhoun and the Secession Movement of 1850." In the discussion that followed, Mr. Charles G. Washburn said that no epoch in our history, nor the attitude of our public men upon constitutional questions, could be fully understood without knowing what were regarded at the time as the economic necessities of the country and of the different sections within it; continuing, he said that the real cause of the Revolution was to be found quite as much in the discontent of the colonies with legislative attempts of the Mother Country to smother any effort to establish manufactures here as in irritating measures of taxation—and that the adoption of the Federal Constitution was made possible by the influence of the manufacturers, mechanics, and trades people. The War of 1812 was unpopular in New England because our chief interest then was in commerce. The interests of New England at first made Mr. Webster a free trader and the interests of the South at first made Mr. Calhoun a protectionist. When the cotton gin was invented and the South no longer needed any duty on cotton, Calhoun became a free trader. When New England began to develop her manufacturing interests, Webster became a protectionist, and voted for the "Tariff of Abominations" in 1828, and a little later South Carolina put forth the famous Exposition and Protest containing Mr. Calhoun's Doctrine of Nullification. The South, because of what was regarded as an economic necessity, re-asserted the doctrine of nullification, foreshadowed in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions and finally supported it by arms in 1861. It would be no exaggeration to say that the invention of the cotton gin caused the Civil War.

Mr. Justin H. Smith related an anecdote in connection with the Civil War, showing that the southern soldiers, in case the South was victorious, were ready to put down discord by force of arms.

Rev. Charles E. Park read an interesting paper on "The Part that Friendship played in the Settlement of Massachusetts."

Mr. George Parker Winship spoke informally upon "John Eliot and the New England Company," saying that he had been called upon by the President only a few days before to fill a vacancy in the program. In part he spoke as follows:—

John Eliot was the cause, or one might almost say, the excuse, for the organization of what is now the oldest and the richest Protestant missionary society. His abortive efforts to convert the Massachusetts Indians to the ways of sixteenth century English Puritanism furnished the essential incentive, and the church-going merchants of the city of London, and the women of their families, contributed a large endowment. This was carefully invested, and the income is still being expended for the purposes specified in the original charter of 1649.

Eliot's personal devotion to his work, and his clear and definite appreciation of how this work ought to be conducted, amply justify the high place which has been accorded him among New England worthies. The spirit of unqualified self-sacrifice with which he gave himself up to the welfare of the American natives was not quite strong enough, however, to carry him over the period of fruitless drudgery which, as almost always, followed close on the inspiring period of organization and installation. The temptations of the theoretical, after he became assured of what was virtually a pension, overcame his more youthful absorption in the practical means of converting the aborigines to the routine of civilized life.

During the prosperous decade that followed the "Great Emigration" to Boston, there was talk, and some raising of money, for the neighboring heathen.

But when, after 1640, the yearly influx of new settlers very nearly ceased, and those who decided to remain in New England found that they would have to depend upon their own and the country's resources, local interest in the heathen, as possible Christians, began to die out. It was revived largely by the efforts of Eliot. Whether Eliot's letters to his friends in England led them to send him money, or he was stimulated by the gifts sent by charitable persons who were anxious to do good, is not clear. What is certain is that gifts were received, and that the amount was large enough to arouse jealousy. This was manifested in reports which were circulated in Puritan circles in London, to the effect that the money sent to New England for the conversion of the natives was not producing any results.

The rumors worried Edward Winslow, who was staying in London as the official representative of the Massachusetts colony. The need of ready money in New England was very great, and Winslow was anxious that there should not be any lessening of the amount sent over, for whatever purpose. Winslow was as able a representative as America has ever had near the Court of St. James, and one proof of this is the skill with which he transformed a threatened loss into a very considerable addition to the visible cash in the hands of Boston merchants. He persuaded Parliament, during the distracting months that preceded the execution of King Charles I, to grant a charter for a "Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Indians," and to supplement this by an order directing that subscriptions should be raised for the support of the Society in every parish in England. Within the next five years the Corporation, as the Society in London was familiarly called, had secured money enough to purchase several city lots and two large estates in the country, besides sending several hundred pounds to New England, before its investments began to yield any

return. These holdings, and the men who controlled them, were of sufficient importance to withstand the attempts to cancel the charter, at the Restoration. The Society likewise weathered the crisis of 1688 and 1776, as well as intermittent periods when its honorary officials lost interest in its purposes. The original charter contained the phrase "New England and parts adjacent," and since 1776 the inhabitants of the region which the original donors desired to benefit have not received any of the income, but the Society has nevertheless continued to carry out the ostensible purposes for which it was created.

It was voted that these papers be referred to the Committee of Publication.

It was announced that at the close of the meeting the members of the Society would be entertained at luncheon by Mr. Grenville H. Norcross at the St. Botolph Club.

There being no further business, the meeting was dissolved.

CHARLES LEMUEL NICHOLS,
Recording Secretary.

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