

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

SINCE the last meeting in October, the Society has lost eight members through death.

Charles E. Banks of Boston, elected in 1927, died October 21, 1931. A recognized authority on New England history, he spent most of his later years in the study of the beginnings of New England and the English derivations of the earliest settlers. He made a valuable contribution on the Popham Expedition to the Proceedings of the Society.

William K. Bixby of St. Louis, elected in 1906, died October 29, 1931. One of the country's leading book collectors and bibliophiles, he always favored the Society with his publications and left it a fund to carry on his name.

Livingston Davis of Boston, elected in 1912, died January 11, 1932. Succeeding his father, the late Edward L. Davis, in membership, he was always interested in the Society and occasionally entertained the members at the Boston meetings.

William T. Forbes of Worcester, elected in 1896, died November 8, 1931. Educator, historian, and judge of probate, which last position he held for nearly forty years, he was interested in many and varied phases of life. He was a frequent donor to the Society's library and a regular attendant at its meetings.

John H. Latané, elected in 1911, died January 1, 1932. Professor of history at Washington and Lee University from 1902 to 1913 and at Johns Hopkins University from then until his death, he was chiefly interested in those phases of history which concerned diplomacy and international law.

Edward Percival Merritt of Boston, elected in 1928, died April 16, 1932. A painstaking historian and a scholarly collector of books, he gave much of his time to aiding learned societies with which he was connected.

William Davis Patterson of Wiscasset, Maine, elected in 1924, died July 16, 1931. He was eminent as a historian, antiquary and genealogist in his native State.

Frederick J. Turner, elected in 1907, died March 14, 1932. For twenty-two years a teacher of history at Wisconsin and for fourteen years at Harvard, he was long regarded as the chief exponent of the study of the *history of the middle west*.

Obituary notices of these members will be prepared for the printed records of this meeting.

The legacy of \$100,000 from the late Henry W. Cunningham, to constitute in equal amounts the Henry Winchester Cunningham and the Mary Hayward Cunningham Funds, has been paid over to the Society. This was taken in fifteen specific securities to the amount of \$95,393, appraised as of date of March 30 last, and \$4,607 in cash; and, in addition, \$1,706 in interest due since October 27 last. Mr. Cunningham also made the Society residuary legatee, but because of the severe decline in the value of securities, nothing will be received from this source, as there are not enough funds possessed by the estate to pay the remainder of the specific legacies. It is probable, however, that with the return of normal values, the securities accepted by us will show some appreciation.

In common with all other institutions and trusteeships, this Society has suffered a loss in income due to the passing of dividends. Fortunately, because of the high character of the investments, this loss has been small, but it has been noticeably felt by the Library. All possible economies have been effected, and book purchase has now been cut down to a minimum, even although never in recent memory have so many desirable acquisitions been offered for sale.

At the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies in Washington in January, the Society was represented by James Alexander Robertson and the Librarian, Mr. Vail. At this session the Society's application for a grant of \$3,000, for assistance to Mr. Charles Evans in finishing his "American Bibliography" was granted. For many years, this Library, more perhaps than any other, has been indebted to Mr. Evans's monumental and invaluable work for aid in interpreting and exploiting its own collections. It is with a feeling of satisfaction that we can, to some slight degree, be instrumental in furthering that work, to which he has given his life and which is now so near completion.

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,
For the Council

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