

## PROCEEDINGS.

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ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 24, 1906, AT THE HALL OF THE  
SOCIETY IN WORCESTER.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 A. M., Rev. EDWARD  
EVERETT HALE, Senior Vice-President, in the chair.

Members present in order of their seniority of membership:

Edward E. Hale, Nathaniel Paine, Samuel A. Green,  
Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Edward H. Hall,  
Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Franklin B. Dexter,  
Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Andrew McF. Davis,  
Solomon Lincoln, Frederic W. Putnam, Daniel Merriman,  
William B. Weeden, Reuben Colton, Henry H. Edes, George  
E. Francis, G. Stanley Hall, William E. Foster, Charles  
P. Bowditch, Francis H. Dewey, Carroll D. Wright, Henry  
A. Marsh, John Green, Wm. DeLoss Love, William T.  
Forbes, Leonard P. Kinnicutt, George H. Haynes, Waldo  
Lincoln, Edward S. Morse, George P. Winship, A. Lawrence  
Rotch, Samuel Utley, James W. Brooks, E. Harlow Russell,  
Benjamin T. Hill, Edmund A. Engler, Alexander F. Cham-  
berlain, William MacDonald, Alexander H. Vinton, Deloraine  
P. Corey, Clarence S. Brigham.

Opening remarks of Dr. HALE:

The unexpected death of our President, honored and  
beloved, makes our meeting to-day a sad one. A year ago  
when the American Antiquarian Society met, every one of  
us hoped—may I not say all of us expected—that for many

years the Society would enjoy the great benefit of his counsel and achievement in our behalf.

His death makes it necessary that I should preside to-day, until the Society makes the choice of his successor, as directed by its constitution. But you must not expect any such review of the year which has passed since our last anniversary as he would have been so glad to make. It would be simply mock modesty if I did not name among the important contributions to American history which the year has brought to light, the instructive and invaluable papers printed in our Proceedings.

The year has seen the completion of Mr. Rhodes's *History of the Rebellion*,<sup>1</sup> which will be the standard history of that great crisis. In his magnificent edition of Jacques Cartier's voyages, our distinguished associate, Mr. Baxter, the President of the Maine Historical Society, has presented to the world the original documents as to the discovery of the St. Lawrence, Labrador and Canada, in a form which commands admiration.

Mr. Worthington C. Ford has prepared for the Library of Congress the interesting and valuable *Journal of the Continental Congress*, from its meeting, Sept. 5, 1774, until its dissolution. A remark of Charles Thomson, its secretary, had led superficial readers—men like myself, for instance—to suppose that this valuable record of years of crisis, and of the first importance, had been destroyed by him. But it proves that in that matter such readers were mistaken, as they are apt to be; and the publication of these six volumes by the Government gives to us now a very valuable addition to our knowledge of those times.

The Proceedings of the Governors of New Amsterdam are, perhaps, chiefly of a local interest, and to students in the City of New York they have been accessible before now. But the reprint, in an elegant form by the Burrows Brothers Company of Cleveland, this year, enables students of history everywhere to consult these records.

The second centennial of Franklin's birth was fitly celebrated by the American Philosophical Society, by a distinguished assembly of scholars from all parts of America. The American Antiquarian Society was represented by Andrew McFarland Davis of the Council.

<sup>1</sup>"History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 to the Restoration of Home Rule in the South, 1877."

The most remarkable event of the year in discovery was the passage through Behring Strait southward, Aug. 6th, of the Norwegian sloop *Gjøa*, under the command of Capt. Roald Amundsen. He is the first navigator who has brought his vessel through the Arctic ocean in our hemisphere.

Capt. Amundsen's great success was won when he brought his little ship through the water, while his predecessors had been blocked by ice. In token of the courage and perseverance which have achieved this great voyage, the Council proposes the name of Capt. Amundsen as a candidate for foreign membership of the Antiquarian Society. It was in this way that our Society recognized the achievement of Capt. Robert McClure, whom the Queen afterward knighted in token of his success.

The suggestion was made at the Annual Meeting more than half a century ago, that every year the Antiquarian Society should provide for the issue of a gold medal, which should commemorate in its design and inscription the greatest event in American history in that year.

If in 1493 such a medal had been struck by Ferdinand and Isabella, or by the University of Salamanca, would it or would it not have signalized the arrival of a fishing boat, called the *Nina*, at the Port of Palos, announcing the discovery of two or three islands in the West Indies?

The Society has never found it desirable to issue such a medal, conscious perhaps, always, of a certain difficulty in our seeing the world as the future will see it.

Thus the year 1795 struck no medal to announce Eli Whitney's cotton gin, and 1807 struck no medal to announce Fulton's first voyage up the Hudson River in the *Clermont*. In the last summer, since I have known that I must preside at this Anniversary, I have begged one and another of our friends, distinguished in their knowledge of history and of events, to tell me which is the greatest event which has transpired since October 24, 1905.

One of them said in reply, "It is hard to write a name in water; while the tide of history is on the flow, I cannot write it as I shall be able to write it on the wet sands of the beach afterward."

I offer the subject as one for conversation, if time permits, to-day. I will merely remark that each of my advisers gave a different answer. The first said that the active

interference of the federal government in the direction of interstate commerce marks an era of the very first importance in American history. The second said that the Pan-American Congress at Rio and Mr. Root's really triumphant tour in South America marked the beginning of American diplomacy, in which the whole continent, North and South unites in supporting the Monroe Doctrine, which before was nursed somewhat wearily by the United States alone. A third adviser regards Capt. Amundsen's great adventure as one of those physical facts which can be measured by the clock and put on paper, and so is the most fit subject for conversation. A fourth counsellor regards it as an event of the first importance, even in America, that the Chinese empire has this year thrown off all pretences of the exclusion, of inferiority of foreigners, and has committed itself seriously to the civilization and diplomacy of the rest of the world. A fifth, speaking for the United States particularly, says the year, 1906, will always be especially known in history as the year when the divine conscience of the people of America laid down new standards and higher ideals for what is called the business world in the management of its daily affairs.

Fortunately it is not for the acting president of this Society to weigh against each other such variable opinions of such distinguished men, but it is a pleasure to throw them into the urn of our conversation to-day. It may be possible as Virgil says,<sup>1</sup> when he speaks of the various elements in compounding a salad, to make "E pluribus unum."

The report of the Council, by SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, A. M., and Dr. EDMUND A. ENGLER was read by Mr. GREEN.

The Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS explained the amendment to the By-laws offered by the Council, and on his motion it was adopted as follows:—

ARTICLE XVI.—The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held every year at the Library Building of the Society in Worcester, on the third Wednesday of October; the Semi-annual Meeting shall be held in Boston every year, on the third Wednesday of April at such place as the Council shall designate. The hour of each meeting shall be 10.30 o'clock A. M., unless otherwise ordered by the Council.

Mr. WEEDEN: I would make a motion based on an item in the report. As you well know, our associate, Mr. Paine, has spent some time on the work of examining and taking care of the manuscripts, and I move that the plan of the Council in examining, classifying and cataloguing the manuscripts, should be approved.

The vote was passed.

Mr. A. McF. DAVIS, who was appointed by the Council to arrange with Mr. John G. Palfrey, the executor of the will of the late John C. Palfrey, the details concerning the printed sheets of the "Compendious History," reported that the property bequeathed to the Society had been transferred.

Mr. SAMUEL S. GREEN then presented the antiquarian portion of the report of the Council; a paper on "Some of the Roman Remains in England," reading the part relating to the Roman city of Calleva Atrebatum, at Silchester, Hampshire.

Mr. CHASE: "I would like to ask Mr. Green if any of the remains described are visible?"

Mr. GREEN: "The whole site belongs to the present representatives of the family of the Duke of Wellington. The third Duke is now in possession. The city is let as part of a farm; and while the owner is very glad to have excavations made, arrangements have to be made with the farmer. When a foundation is uncovered, very careful measurements and plans are made, and then it is covered up and the ground cultivated again. Mr. Joyce, after he had made excavations in the forum left them uncovered. This led to disintegration. The best thing to do after securing measurements and plans is to cover the foundations up again. I understood that the famous villa at Woodchester is covered up, but occasionally uncovered for exhibition. At Caerwent many foundations are left exposed, as control is had of three-quarters of the land. But it is

intended, I was told, to cover the ruins later. Very minute accounts of excavations at Silchester and Caerwent may be found in *Archaeologia*; annual reports given there record new discoveries. Only foundations are found, but superstructures can be mentally reconstructed by examination of these and *débris*."

MR. HUNNEWELL: "I want to thank Mr. Green for telling us so much about these excavations. I have had the pleasure of seeing some of them. It causes a thrilling sensation to see these Roman ruins in the simple, quiet English country. I am very glad to have Mr. Green's assurance that they are protecting the excavations. One of the most interesting exhibitions of antiquity in Britain is the piece of old wall at Uriconium."

DR. HALE: "You may be glad to know that in the last year the City of Dorchester has presented to our Dorchester a good bit of mosaic, which has properly been put in the public schools. Anybody who cares to take a twenty-minutes' ride out from Boston to see it will derive great satisfaction from it."

REV. EDWARD H. HALL, D. D.: "I have listened with the more interest to this valuable paper from having visited some spots which Mr. Green has not described in the portion of his paper read today, namely, fragments of the wall of Hadrian, so-called, where I stumbled upon a Roman station. You see great stretches of the wall there. I found the place quite as interesting as any Roman city; containing baths, etc., and among other objects, ovens, as was claimed, although Mr. Green states, I notice, that no ovens have been found in Roman ruins in England. The methods for heating were very interesting. The whole region of the Roman wall, stretching east to west, portions of which are still visible, gives one a deeper consciousness than anything else of the power and extent of the Roman domain. Here in the north, just as along the Nile, is the Roman Empire in its aggressive sway. Here it has left behind its best things."

The report of the Treasurer, NATHANIEL PAINE, A. M., was read and distributed in print.

Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON presented his report as Librarian.

The reports above mentioned were formally adopted as the report of the Council.

The Recording Secretary presented to the Society the names which the Council suggested for the filling of vacancies in domestic membership:

Franklin Pierce Rice of Worcester.  
Lincoln Newton Kinnicutt of Worcester.  
William Keeney Bixby of St. Louis, Mo.;

and for foreign membership:

Capt. Roald Amundsen of Christiania, Norway.  
George Edward Fox, F. S. A., of London.  
Prof. Bernardino Machado of Coimbra, Portugal.

All these gentlemen were duly elected on a printed ballot.

A committee appointed to collect ballots for President reported thirty-two votes, all of which were for EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

Dr. HALE: "I am greatly indebted and I thank you for the great honor which is conferred on me. I think I was the youngest member ever chosen into the Society, and my connection with the Society has been all pleasure. I have always found here the utmost courtesy and sympathy in the little historical work which I have undertaken. At this moment the magnificent bequest of Mr. Salisbury gives us new confidence in the physical arrangements of the Society, and ought to quicken us all in every effort. It is very satisfactory to see the honor with which the Society is regarded in all quarters. With the understanding that I have done my best not to be president, I accept the office with very great gratitude for the honor which is done me."

HON. SAMUEL A. GREEN, from a committee on nomination of the other officers, reported:—

*Vice-Presidents:*

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, LL.D., of Boston, Mass.  
WALDO LINCOLN, A.M., of Worcester, Mass.

*Council:*

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, A.M., of Worcester, Mass.  
CHARLES AUGUSTUS CHASE, A.M., of Worcester, Mass.  
EDWARD LIVINGSTON DAVIS, A. M., of Worcester, Mass.  
GRANVILLE STANLEY HALL, LL.D., of Worcester, Mass.  
WILLIAM BABCOCK WEEDEN, A.M., of Providence, R. I.  
JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER, Litt.D., of Portland, Me.  
CARROLL DAVIDSON WRIGHT, LL. D., of Worcester, Mass.  
EDMUND ARTHUR ENGLER, LL.D., of Worcester, Mass.  
ELIAS HARLOW RUSSELL of Worcester, Mass.  
SAMUEL UTLEY, LL.B., of Worcester, Mass.

*Secretary for Foreign Correspondence:*

FRANKLIN BOWDITCH DEXTER, Litt.D., of New Haven, Connecticut.

*Secretary for Domestic Correspondence:*

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL.D., of Lincoln, Mass.

*Recording Secretary:*

ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS, A.M., of Cambridge, Mass.

*Treasurer:*

NATHANIEL PAINE, A.M., of Worcester, Mass.

*Committee of Publication:*

EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D.D., of Roxbury, Mass.  
NATHANIEL PAINE, A.M., of Worcester, Mass.  
GEORGE H. HAYNES, Ph.D., of Worcester, Mass.  
FRANKLIN PIERCE RICE of Worcester, Mass.

*Auditors:*

AUGUSTUS GEORGE BULLOCK, A.M., of Worcester, Mass.  
BENJAMIN THOMAS HILL, A.B., of Worcester, Mass.



The foregoing list was duly elected by ballot duly taken.

Mr. A. MCF. DAVIS moved that a committee composed of Waldo Lincoln, Prof. MacDonald and Prof. Jameson be appointed to examine certain suggestions made by Prof. Jameson as to subjects for future publications of the Society, and to report at an early day to the Council what they recommend for publication, and whether in their opinion the finances of the Society will permit such publication.

The motion was seconded and passed.

A paper by WILLIAM HENRY HOLMES of Washington, was read by Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS on "The Origin of the Symbol of the Cross."

Mr. ABBOTT LAWRENCE ROTCH read a paper on the subject:— "Did Franklin Fly his Electric Kite Before He Invented the Lightning Rod?"

Dr. HALE said, "Mr. Rotch's curious paper tempts me to relate an experience of Franklin's which may have escaped the attention of some gentlemen present. I printed it in my collection of "Franklin's Letters in France." When Franklin went to France in 1776, he was almost at once asked by the artist, Nicholas Cochin, to sit for his portrait. Franklin seems to have always been willing to sit, and he complied. The portrait is one of the best and has often been reprinted. It was then engraved by Saint Aubin, and beneath it were the words,

C'est l' honneur et l'appui du nouvel hémisphère,  
Les flots de l'Océan s' abaissent à sa voix;  
Il réprime ou dirige à son gré le tonnerre.  
Qui désarme les dieux, peut-il craindre les rois?

When the picture was finished it was sent to the censors with those words engraved on the plate. The censors, however, refused permission to publish the verses. They said they were blasphemous; and the portrait has always been published without them. But when a friend in

Philadelphia presented to me an admirable reprint of it, lately, made in that city, I had the pleasure of placing beneath the portrait the suppressed lines. I am fond of saying that I have the only Cochin portrait in the world which has the original title."

WILLIAM B. WEEDEN, Esq., of Providence read a paper on "Ideal Newport in the Eighteenth Century."

HON. SAMUEL A. GREEN: "I will take this occasion to mention a matter of some interest to Massachusetts men, and especially to persons who have made a study of early American bibliography. Within a short time there has been found in England a copy of the first edition of Massachusetts Laws. It has been known for 250 years that such a book was printed, and for 100 years certainly there has been a special effort made to find a copy either in this country or elsewhere; and within a very few months one has turned up in England. It has some interesting features connected with it. Very generally, it has been supposed, that this book was printed in 1649, as the early allusions to it are found in that year, but it turns out that the book itself bears the date of 1648. The year of its appearance is of no great importance, but it is of some interest to antiquaries. Last spring a gentleman in England, not a dealer, who lives in Cambridgeshire, found this pamphlet,—for that is what it really is,—bound in a volume of tracts. His curiosity was excited, and he took it to a library in Cambridge, and was told there that he had better write about it to some one in this country, which he did. After a few weeks of correspondence the first persons here who heard of it doubted its authenticity, as bibliographers had been so long on the watch for it. A photograph of the title-page was then sent, which proved conclusively that it was a specimen of the original edition. I was in New York a few weeks ago, during the present month, and I had it on my mind to go and see the book, as it is owned now by a gentleman in Brooklyn, New York. From the person in charge of his library I found that it had been sent across the ocean again in order to have it bound

very handsomely. I think myself it would be a pity to have it thus bound; still the owner didn't think so. It is a pamphlet of 68 pages, 34 leaves; and there is some reason to think that an additional leaf is gone—that there may have been a leaf at the end, perhaps containing a table of contents. The price reported as paid for the pamphlet is very large. I asked several persons in New York in regard to the sum, but no one seemed to know exactly how much.

"I expressed some fear as to the safety of sending this copy again across the water, as no insurance could cover its intrinsic value, but I was told that a careful type-written copy of it was made before it was sent over. Of course, the chances are it will not be lost, but will come back again.

"I mention the fact with some diffidence, as I think it is the intention of the owner, in his own way and at his own time, to give the facts to the public, but an account of it was given in "The Nation," July 5; and so I think no confidence is now violated. The discovery is of much interest not only to the scholars of Massachusetts but to the legal profession generally, as well as to persons who have made a study of early American bibliography."

Mr. COREY: "It is very interesting to me, as I had occasion a few years ago to look it up, after certain statements had been made. It is pleasant to think that in my *History of Malden*, published in 1889, I had the honor to state that the date was 1648, because the records of the General Court showed that the book was in print during that session, although it was not distributed until 1649."

Mr. A. McF. DAVIS: "I am very glad indeed that mention has been made of the discovery of the 1648 edition of the Laws of Massachusetts. It would indeed have been unfortunate, if at a meeting—so soon after this interesting event—of the Society founded by Isaiah Thomas, who took so much interest in the bibliography of the Colony, and with which the name of Samuel Foster Haven, who also made a special study of this topic, was for so long a

period associated, this important discovery should have been passed over in silence. It is eighteen years since I myself contributed to this Society a paper in which the date of the publication of this volume was one of the topics under discussion. A box of papers, many of which related to suits at law in which Dunster, the first President of Harvard College, was interested, had then recently come into the hands of our late associate, Justin Winsor, at that time Librarian of Harvard College. Among them was one on which memoranda had been made as to the cost of the paper, the expense of the composition, etc., of several of the publications of the Cambridge press, of which this volume was one. Mr. Whitmore was then running through the press his facsimile reprints of the 1660 and 1672 editions of the Laws. Mr. Charles Deane, then a member of our Publication Committee, wrote me asking if I objected to his furnishing Mr. Whitmore with a copy of the proof of my paper. Of course I was glad of an opportunity to associate my name with the intelligent and discriminating investigation with which Mr. Whitmore has prefaced these publications. The evidence of the printing in 1648 he accepted, but his conclusion was that the publication must have been early in 1649. The number of reams of paper mentioned in the memorandum as used in printing the laws, furnishes an index to the probable number of pages in the volume. It would seem as if this copy must be one leaf short, and as it has no alphabetical table at the end like those in the 1660 and 1672 editions, reviewers have conjectured that this leaf must have contained the alphabetical table."

The following (type-written) letter, received by Vice-President Hale, was presented:—

TO THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY,  
Worcester, Mass.,

*Gentlemen:*—

I have been asked to give an account of what my expedition on board of the "Gjøa" (pronounced You-ah, the first syllable to sound like the you in young) has accomplished.

I hope that when we obtain the results of the calculations made from a great number of very exact observations taken on the spot in and

around the vicinity of the magnetic North Pole, and continued for an unbroken period of nearly two years, it will aid in determining the exact location of the Pole itself. These calculations may require three years or more, and it is at present impossible for me to elaborate upon the final results of the scientific work of the expedition.

We met with many Esquimaux, in fact found them along the entire route followed. Some of these had never seen a white man before, and I bring back with me a large collection of their articles such as have never before reached civilization. We stayed amongst some of them for a long period, and therefore had an excellent opportunity of studying their habits and character, as well as their language, and it all proved exceedingly interesting.

I also gathered a large collection of the flora and fauna of these regions, which when mounted and classified undoubtedly will prove of great interest to science.

On the 1st of June, 1831, the English Admiral, Sir James Clark Ross reached with a sledge-expedition a place on the west coast of Boothia Felix (located about  $70^{\circ}$  n. lat.,  $96^{\circ}$  w. long.), where the magnetic dip-circle indicated a dip of  $90^{\circ}$ . He returned and announced to the world the location of the magnetic North Pole. Many years passed, and the results reached by the intrepid English Admiral seemed to satisfy the scientific world.

Occasionally a voice was raised for the relocation of the magnetic pole, but nothing was done until during the last ten years of the past century the development of magnetic observation instruments had reached such perfection that the question of the relocation of the pole became acute. It did not seem satisfactory to continue much longer to reckon on the basis of the discovery made by Ross in 1831, necessarily made with inferior instruments. At this stage my attention was directed towards the question and I conferred with Professor Georg Von Neumayer, Germany's greatest authority as regards magnetic knowledge. I was assured by him that it was a matter of the highest importance to the magnetic science to have more precise observations made as to the actual location of the magnetic North Pole, and I made up my mind to undertake the "Gjøa" Expedition.

The Expedition left Kristiania on June 16th., 1903, carrying amongst many other articles the most complete outfit of magnetic instruments that could be found. My primary object was that of relocating the magnetic North Pole, but I had also decided to attempt to sail in its entirety the Northwest-Passage, an undertaking which for centuries had baffled the attempts made by different Nations, and still remained unaccomplished. I presented my plan to the Norwegian Geographical Society at Kristiania on November 25th, 1902, and displayed a map of the polar regions upon which my intended route was traced. I find that when at some future date I shall make public the actual route followed by the "Gjøa", the same map will suffice; in other words the vessel followed the exact route which I laid out for her in advance.

On the 30th., of August, 1906, the "Gjøa" passed southward through Behring Strait carrying the Norwegian flag at the masthead.

ROALD AMUNDSEN.

[Signature type-written.]

THE RECORDING SECRETARY: "Reference has been made to the Vital Statistics of Massachusetts. Obtaining, a while ago, the statistics of the town of Leicester, I looked to find, what I always knew but wanted to see in print, the time of marriage of my father and mother, but could find no reference to it. Then I looked for similar information concerning my mother's sisters and cousins and aunts, who were very numerous. Not one appeared, although the work aimed to give a list of the marriages in Leicester. The reason of the omission is that they all belonged to the Society of Friends. The Friends have their own custom of marriage, which is recognized by the law of the State. It is under the control of the church; and it is always a matter of church record. The same state of things must exist among Professor Morse's neighbors in Lynn and Salem,—in fact, all the people of Friends' origin, especially in the counties of Worcester, Essex, Bristol and Norfolk, where they were numerous. But, twenty-five or fifty years from now, there may be no Society of Friends, and it is a question where the church records will be. It is very essential that the work of examining and gleaning from those records which should have been done at the outset, should be done at once by the State. It is a little late now, but it certainly is something that the Massachusetts Commission should look into. Some of the gentlemen present may have influence in the matter."

Mr. S. S. GREEN: "Mr. Corey and I are both members of that Commission, and will bring the matter up. By the laws of the State, when a religious society goes out of existence, the records of that Society are deposited with the town officers, or the city officers. That is the law; of course it might fail."

Mr. UTLEY: "We have a communication here in regard to our late President, STEPHEN SALISBURY. It is too late for it to be read now, but I offer the following vote:

"VOTED: That the thanks of the American Antiquarian Society be extended to our esteemed associate, Mr. David Casares for his touching tribute to our late President, Stephen Salisbury, which has been received at this meeting and which will be preserved as an indication of his warm interest in this Society; and that the Secretary be directed to send a copy of this vote to Mr. Casares."

Carried unanimously.

On motion of Rev. Dr. HALL the several papers presented today were referred to the Committee of Publication.

Dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,

*Recording Secretary.*

[The members of the Society were entertained at luncheon by the Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS at his residence on Elm street.]

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