

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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At a meeting of the Council held in September, Samuel S. Green and Edmund A. Engler were chosen a committee to examine the library and prepare the report of the Council. At the same meeting a committee of three members of the Council, which had been appointed to arrange for the last and the present meetings of the Society and to present the names of suitable persons to fill the vacancies existing in the board of officers of the Society, reported and laid before the Council a ticket which met with its approval, to be presented to the Society for its consideration at the present meeting.

Besides the vacancy in the office of President caused by the death of Mr. Salisbury, it has become necessary to fill the office of Secretary on account of the resignation of Mr. Charles A. Chase and to provide for vacancies in the Committee of Publication, made by the resignations of Mr. Chase and Mr. C. C. Smith. It was with great regret that these resignations were received. Mr. Chase has served as Secretary for 12 years, having been chosen Recording Secretary, October 24, 1894. He has served on the Committee of Publication for more than 24 years, and his services there have been of exceptional value. Mr. Smith was elected a member of the Committee, just 16 years ago, at the meeting of the Society held October 21, 1890. His services also have been of great benefit to the Society.

Mr. Chase also withdrew from the Finance Committee. That Committee is appointed by the Council, and to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Mr. Salisbury and the resignation of Mr. Chase, it is intended to appoint Mr. Waldo Lincoln and Mr. Francis H. Dewey members of the Committee.

Mr. Lincoln had previously been placed by the Council on the Library Committee to take the place of our late President.

The Council congratulates the Society that notwithstanding the great losses which it met in the deaths of Mr. Hoar and Mr. Salisbury, other members have cheerfully taken up their burden and the future prosperity of the Society seems to be fully assured.

It is with pleasure that the announcement is made that no member of the Society has died since our last meeting. The annual reports of the Treasurer and Librarian are presented as a part of the report of the Council, and attention is called to them.

One of the most important acts of the Council since the last meeting of the Society has been the adoption of a resolution to recommend to the Society to amend its By-laws by changing the dates for holding the annual and semi-annual meetings. It proposes to the Society to amend Article XVI. of the By-laws adopted October, 21 1881, by striking out the words "on the 21st day of October, and when the same falls on Sunday or Monday, the meeting shall be on a day to be fixed by the Council" and the word "last" and inserting after the words "on the" the words "third Wednesday of October." In place of the word "last" insert "third" and add to the article a provision regarding the hour of meeting so as to make Article XVI. read: "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."

It is the intention of the Council to revise its rules and those of the Library Committee and soon print them with a list of the present members of the Society.

It will be remembered that it was stated, in the last report of the Council, to be desirable that the collection of manu-

scripts owned by the Society should be carefully examined, classified and catalogued. Some rough plan of classification was used at an earlier date in the history of the Society, but a new one as well as a catalogue is much needed. The Council proposes to proceed with this work, spending such an amount of money in doing it as may be needed, if the Society expresses its approval.

At a meeting of the Council held Sept. 25, 1906, a communication was received from the executors of the will of the late John C. Palfrey, accompanied by an assignment to the Society of the copyright of "A Compendious History of New England," by our late associate, John Gorham Palfrey and a bill-of-sale of the plates of that work.

Judge Utley offered the following votes which were passed unanimously:

*"Voted*, that the Council of the American Antiquarian Society extends its thanks to the family of the late John C. Palfrey for the bequest to the Society in the will of Mr. Palfrey, of the copyright and plates of "A Compendious History of New England" by the late John Gorham Palfrey, and that the Secretary be directed to send a copy of this Vote to the family.

*"Voted*, that Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis be authorized to adjust with Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., the matter of the bookplates of "A Compendious History of New England" by the late John Gorham Palfrey, and also to make with the executors of the late John C. Palfrey such arrangements as he deems advisable about the volumes of said history owned by the estate of John C. Palfrey, including the power to give the consent of the American Antiquarian Society to the sale at any time of said volumes."

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN,  
EDMUND A. ENGLER.

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