

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

In compliance with the By-laws of the Society, the Council reports that the affairs of the Society are all in good order under the charge of the officers recently elected and the committees appointed as before reported, who have all taken hold with zeal and discretion.

The plan referred to in the last report of the Council, which was approved by the Society, of having the manuscripts owned by the Society indexed, has been perfected by the library committee, and Mr. Charles H. Lincoln of the manuscript division of the Congressional Library has been employed tentatively to begin the work at \$125.00 per month, the estimated time being about one year, and the Council have appropriated fifteen hundred dollars for the purpose. No obligation has been assumed to pursue the work any longer than the Council deems advisable. Of course there will be some small incidental expenses. The great need and desirability of the work are too obvious to require a detailed statement.

The library committee has also found that some of the pictures are in danger of destruction and measures have been taken to put them all in good order.

The Society have a number of articles of furniture which are of value for their historic associations as well as for their great beauty. It is planned to repair them all gradually and mark them so that their history will not be lost. Probably few members fully appreciate what great attractions are concealed beneath the dingy exterior of many of these articles.

The library committee has revised and reduced the number of newspapers to be bound and preserved by the Society. Newspapers are so numerous that nothing complete can be done by us, and little confidence is felt in the durability of such paper as is now used, so that it seems best to limit very much the number bound. They are costly, bulky, and require large and expensive cases to properly preserve them.

About 4000 books have been received from the estate of our late President Salisbury, and the library committee is having them carefully examined to see how far they are duplicates or outside the class which it is desirable for us to keep. In view of our limited accommodations, it is probable that in the future the line will be more sharply drawn as to additions to the library and perhaps it may even be well to dispose of some books already in the library, as not germane to the purposes of the Society.

Mr. Paine has been treasurer of the Society for 44 years and feels that he would like some assistance in the performance of his duties. Colonel Bullock has kindly consented to render this aid, and at the suggestion of Mr. Paine, the Council has appointed him assistant treasurer, acting under the by-law which authorizes it to appoint subordinate officers. The proposed new rules give this authority in express terms.

The committee appointed at the annual meeting of the Society to examine the suggestion made by Professor Jameson, as to the desirability of the publication, by the Society, of the British Royal Proclamations relating to America, have asked for and received from the Council an appropriation of \$100.00, to cover the expenses of collecting the necessary information, and as directed in your vote, have reported to the Council, which has approved of the plan, and recommends that the committee be authorized to proceed and publish the proclamations, the expense to be charged to the publishing fund. The Council, having authority to expend income only, asks you to authorize this expenditure.

The Council has received unofficial information that the late Mrs. Eliza D. Dodge, wife of Thomas H. Dodge of Worcester, has by her will recently offered for probate, given the Society the sum of \$3000.00. Mr. and Mrs. Dodge, have given largely to Worcester and its charitable and other institutions, and in her will Mrs. Dodge has devised many thousands of dollars in legacies to them all.

Since the last meeting, Rockwood Hoar, Albert Samuel Gatschet and Señor Alfredo Chavero, members of the Society, have deceased. Notice has also been received of the death of Babu Protap Chunder Mozoomdar, at Calcutta, India, on May 27th, 1905. Obituaries have been prepared by the Biographer to be published with the proceedings of this meeting.

FRANKLIN B. DEXTER,

SAMUEL UTLEY,

For the Council.

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