

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the American Antiquarian Society begs to submit its semi-annual report.

A death-roll of unusual length engages our attention. Messrs. Gage, Hale, Huntington, Noble, Tillinghast and Upham have passed from our membership and will be duly commemorated in the current Proceedings, by those especially delegated for the duty.

The death of Edward Everett Hale demands notice from every member and all functions of the Antiquarian Society. Perhaps no citizen of the United States ever was more generally recognized as the friend of everyone and the promoter of the public good, than Doctor Hale. Our association was more directly interested. For nearly sixty-two years he had been a most active member, constantly in office, and was once our President. For this remarkable period—a term comprehending two generations of men—he took part in our work in every possible way. If this Society did not direct his course, it certainly gave opportunity for developing his natural historic bent. Associating with us so early in his career, his relations with the work and the members were peculiarly affectionate, his presence being always fascinating. Messrs. Hale and Hoar were *par nobile fratrum* in the Antiquarian fellowship.

The main business of the Council has been in advising President Lincoln in his conduct of the new building we are about to instal. A contract was made June 22, 1909. with the J. W. Bishop Co. to build according to plan and specification for \$148,209. The building was to be two storied, the exterior of brick and marble, the substructure of granite. A central hall and alcoves with stack will afford facilities for our varied departments. A Handbook

of Information giving the history and present condition of the Society is being distributed to the members. This includes a detailed specification of the building. A present capacity of 250,000 volumes is contemplated.

The Council were driven somewhat beyond their intention and desire, in the outlay required for a proper building. The final outcome of plans, resulting from much investigation and careful thought, exceeded by about \$25,000 the casual estimates in the beginning. The building as evolved would exceed so little the cost of the narrowest accommodation that might have been practicable that the proposed expenditure seemed to be only forecasting economy. Those of us who consider that our main purpose should be the use and development of historic material, rather than accumulation of printed books—however valuable—were obliged to admit that the projected store room was necessary.

A needed provision for books exceeded the customary annual outlay. It was met by an increasing income from the special funds.

The following report has been made to the Council by the Publication Committee:—

“The Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin has been included in the Translations and Collections of the Society as Volume VIII.

“The Diary of Isaiah Thomas will form Volumes IX and X, and the second volume is now well advanced in printing.

“Volume XI, the Manuscript Records of the French and Indian War, in the possession of the Society, has been issued.

“The Royal Proclamations will form Volume XII, and this is nearly ready for the press and will be printed immediately.

“The delay in issuing the Proceedings was unavoidable on account of the necessity of revision of the material, and the difficulty in the production of the illustrations. It is intended that these obstacles will be avoided in the future.”

Notwithstanding our increased endowment, emphasizing as it does the hereditary Salisbury generosity, the time demands yet more means, to accomplish work literally

falling into our hands. Our new executive energies are opening out constant issues, and they all need capital. The President will make an especial appeal for funds, needed by reason of the present condition of affairs.

WILLIAM B. WEEDEN,

For the Council.

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