

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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The Society has lost by death, since its meeting in October, 1911, Henry Williamson Haynes, who died on February 16, Rev. Edward Henry Hall, on February 22, Edward Livingston Davis, on March 2, William Babcock Weeden, on March 28 and Abbott Lawrence Rotch, on April 7. These names stood, respectively, 15, 7, 4, 23 and 76 on our roll of members in the order of their election; Mr. Rotch was elected in 1899, Mr. Weeden in 1884, Professor Haynes in 1881, Dr. Hall in 1875, Mr. Davis in 1867. All had been regular attendants at our meetings and to each the Society is indebted for official services of great value. Mr. Weeden had been a member of the Council since 1893 and Mr. Davis since 1884.

The Proceedings for the meeting of October, 1911 have been distributed to the members, as well as the second volume of the Diary of Cotton Mather, which was printed by the Massachusetts Historical Society and kindly supplied for members of this Society who are not of that. The Society has now completed all of the work of publication which it has had in hand.

The Council, at its meeting in March, voted to appropriate \$50.00 annually for five years toward the expense of compiling the "Writings on American History." This is a Bibliography of the currently issued publications dealing with the history of this country. It has been published annually since 1906, and our associate, Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, assures us that it is dependent for its continuance upon the subscriptions of a number of national and state historical societies. The value of the publication to the library staff and to users of our library would be an ample return for the amount of our

contribution. The Council also considered that as a national historical association we should be among the first to encourage such a work, designed to simplify and to facilitate the researches of all who are studying in the field of American history.

The new building, the present "Antiquarian Hall," has now been in use for somewhat more than a year. The staff began regular work in their present quarters on February 2, 1911, and the doors were opened to the public on that day. Since that date it has been open, on every week-day from 9 to 5, excepting Saturday afternoons, Sundays, and certain holidays.

The work of putting everything in order, of verifying the shelf-lists and rearranging where the new facilities make this desirable, has gone on steadily. The Librarian reports that the collection of American periodicals, containing about 8,000 volumes, has been carefully sorted and placed in alphabetical order, that the Bibles, Psalm Books and Books of Common Prayer have been rearranged according to a chronological order, and that the maps received from the New England Historic Genealogical Society, together with the maps belonging to the Society, have been classified and indexed, under the immediate oversight of the President.

Through the kindness of our associate, Mr. Archer M. Huntington, a nearly complete set of the publications of the Hispanic Society of America has been presented to this Society. The Council voted the thanks of the Society to Mr. Huntington, for this evidence of his interest in our work, at its meeting in March.

The duplicates received through gifts or purchase during the past two years have been disposed of as one lot to the New York State Library. The amount received from this sale will be added to the Purchasing Fund.

An exhibition of engravings signed by or attributed to Paul Revere, with other contemporary prints illustrating his work, has occupied the cases in the upper hall of the building since October last. The Society is under

obligations to the Worcester Art Museum, the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Harvard College Library, the John Carter Brown Library, Mr. F. J. Libbie and Mr. Hollis French of Boston, and Mr. Nathaniel Paine and Dr. Charles L. Nichols of Worcester for the loan of prints not in its own collection. This exhibition is to be followed by one of notable books from American colonial presses.

A bindery has been equipped with the necessary machinery in the basement of the building and a competent man engaged to do the work. The results of his skill are already to be seen on the shelves. The binding for the Antiquarian Society consists chiefly of two classes—rare books and newspapers, both of which should be bound within the building, the first as an insurance against loss and the second because of their bulk. The satisfactory results so far attained render the continuance of this arrangement most advisable. We have provided the necessary equipment, but we have not sufficient funds to carry on the work regularly, which is the only economical way to have it done. The binding fund yields no more than enough to meet about one-quarter of the necessary annual charges; that is, it will pay for the wages and materials for about three months each year. There is work enough in sight to keep a man fully occupied for several years. The Council confidently hopes that some member will provide the money to assure the continuance of this very important work, so essential to the preservation of our resources.

There were two new faces at the first meeting of the Council for the current year, and two more new names must now be added to its roll. The Secretary, elected in 1909, has already ceased to be one of its younger members in length of service. Happily we hope for very many more years to have the direction and advice of those who have long been familiar with the traditions and the hidden influences which ought to dominate such a Society as this. The active management, however, has already passed to younger hands. The Society

will enter upon its second century with a new body in charge of its new facilities, anxious to direct its activities toward new achievements, along old lines. The Society may rest assured that we who are least familiar with the intimate traditions of the Society for whose welfare we have been made responsible, will be the most insistent upon keeping within the well-worn paths of past usefulness.

We must all recognize, however, that the conditions of life, intellectual no less than physical, have changed greatly since Isaiah Thomas determined that Worcester should be the home of a learned Society. Our problem is to carry out the ideals which Thomas and his collaborators established, as they would do were they in our places with our opportunities. The Council feels that this is a problem which calls for very serious thinking and very comprehensive consideration of all the factors which affect the present usefulness and the possibilities for future greatness of this Society. Recognizing our strength and our limitations, we hope to build a substantial and adequate scheme for future growth and activity, which shall be worthy of the Founder and of all who have been gathered into the American Antiquarian Society.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP,

*For the Council.*

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