

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

IN a Report made in 1858, Mr. Haven, then Librarian of the Society, said: "The principal objects of care entrusted to the oversight of the Council, in regard to whose conditions they are expected to report periodically to the Society, are the finances of the Institution, its building and grounds, the growth and administration of the library, and those external operations of research and publication which are comprehended in the purpose of its organization."

The finances of the institution are dealt with so thoroughly by the Treasurer at the annual meeting, and the annual reports of the Librarian are so complete that the Council can at this time contribute nothing of value on these subjects. The external operations of research and publication which are comprehended in the purpose of the organization of the Society; namely, "to discover the antiquities of our continent," would perhaps impose upon the Council a task, the adequate performance of which would demand more time than the report of the Council can appropriate. Another function of the Council, which Mr. Haven does not mention, is to bring to the attention of the Society opportunities for enlarging either its work or facilities for continuing work already undertaken. The President has, on more than one occasion, dealt with the latter of these subjects.

There is left, however, a wide field for survey in the Proceedings and what is there suggested. These volumes, too little consulted, contain much of interest, affording abundant material for the Council reports for years to come. Following, however, the traditions in one respect at least, it is our duty to bring to your

attention the death of five of our members: Lincoln Newton Kinnicutt, elected in 1906, who died at his house in Worcester on December 13, 1921; Rev. Calvin Stebbins, formerly of Worcester, elected in 1891, who died at Framingham, Mass., on December 30, 1921; and Williston Walker of New Haven, elected in 1901, who died March 9, 1922.

Information has been received of the death of Lewis Winters Gunckel, at Dayton, Ohio, on July 16, 1916. He was elected to membership in 1898. This belated announcement is due to the fact that for ten years preceding his death, Mr. Gunckel had lived in great seclusion.

In accordance with our custom, memorial notices of these members will, in due time, appear in the Proceedings.

It remains to record the death of a very distinguished foreign member of the Society, Lord Bryce, which occurred in England on January 22, 1922. As it is not our custom to prepare memorials of foreign members elsewhere, some reference to his connection with the Society may not be inappropriate here. The details of his very fruitful life are well known to all of us, although it is hard to fully realize the extraordinary powers and great versatility of the man. For over sixty years he has been known as a great historian, later an influential member of the House of Commons, a member of the Cabinet, Ambassador to the United States, a lover of nature and of art, a great interpreter of the principles of government in different nations.

He visited the library of the Society on three occasions. First at the old building on Lincoln Square about twenty-five years ago when he examined many of the books and documents in the collection. At the meeting in October 1911, the first meeting in the new building, he was present and spoke informally. Of the new building, he said: "Let me congratulate you sincerely upon your coming into occupation of this

admirable building which is in so many respects a model of what the home of an historical society and its library should be. Its plan and proportions somewhat remind me of two of the famous buildings which make the ancient glory of the City of Ravenna. In some respects it recalls the Tomb of Galla Placidia in that city, and in some the noble Church of San Vitale, although, of course, its internal decorations are entirely different. Let me wish for this building and this Society as long a history as that Tomb and that Church have enjoyed and let us hope that the City of Worcester will never decline, like Ravenna, into a state in which it has little to live upon except its memories." He also spoke of the subject matter of one of the papers of the day on "The Ruins of Tiahuanaco, Bolivia," which he had visited a year before, and of another paper on "The Place of New England in the History of Witchcraft." He said: "The phenomena of witchcraft . . . find not a few parallels among the Indian tribes of South America where the medicine man or wizard still flourishes and carries on his gainful profession no longer in the terror of being either hanged, drowned or burned."

Mr. Bryce was also present at the Centennial anniversary of the Society on October 16, 1912. He was at the exercises during the day and spoke at the dinner, at the Worcester Club, in the evening, when he said at the opening of his speech: "It is a high privilege, which I feel, to be able, on behalf of the historians of my country—if I may venture to assume that function—and on behalf of universities, the University of Oxford and the British Academy, to present to you the greetings and the congratulations of the historians of Great Britain and Ireland upon the one hundred years of useful and worthy work which you have accomplished and to offer their wishes and hopes that the great work of this Society shall even excel in the future the work of the years already passed."

In 1919 a fellowship in American History was established at Clark University through the generosity of four members of this Society, called The American Antiquarian Society Fellowship. This fellowship was awarded to Mr. F. Lee Benns, a graduate in 1914 of Syracuse University and a teacher of history in various schools for the following five years. His subject was "The American Struggle for the British West Indies Carrying-Trade, 1815-1830." He used chiefly for his material the resources of our Library, including the newspaper collections. It will interest the members to know that his paper was awarded the Justin Winsor prize for the best monograph in American History for 1920, offered by the American Historical Association.

In accordance with the terms of the will of the late James Phinney Baxter, the Society has received his portrait. This was copied by Joseph B. Kahill of Portland from an original by Vinton made in 1883, and shows Mr. Baxter in middle life, quite different in appearance from the figure so familiar to us at the meetings of the Society. The great age to which he lived is additional proof that, as was once said of the British Scientific Association, membership in this Society brings with it an assurance of long life.

There is an intimate personal flavor pervading the earlier history of the meetings of the Society which should always be cherished and encouraged and which is, perhaps, somewhat diminished in these latter days when it is difficult to be leisurely even in our intellectual processes. In the days of Dr. Ellis, Senator Hoar and Edward Everett Hale this fondness for discussion was perhaps most in evidence.

When the theory of evolution was discussed at a meeting in 1868, Dr. Ellis said: "I have removed from my shelves—the sight of them being an annoyance to me—five solid volumes of Sir Charles Lyell's *Geology*, because since I purchased and read them, he has himself made them worthless by entirely reconstructing his work, abandoning his most positively

affirmed 'Principles' and yet asserting his new system with equal assurance."

Dr. Hale, then a resident of Worcester and elected in 1847, was a constant contributor to the Proceedings.

The recent Washington Conference, suggests to us the propriety of saying that the variety of subjects considered at the meetings may be interestingly illustrated by turning to the discussion at the annual meeting in 1871, when Charles Sumner, in commenting upon the report of the Council, suggesting the idea that the Pacific would be our Mediterranean Sea, said that the unity of European capital renders it doubtful if the United States ever regains its power on the Atlantic Ocean, and it must improve its opportunity in the other direction. The Pacific is essentially ours, and it is of vast importance that all our rights there be jealously guarded and defended. In this connection, he said that he anticipated a time when the Sandwich Islands would become a part of the jurisdiction of this country, as our half-way house to China and Japan. In this view, the Pacific, he continued, is to be to us the great middle sea of the world. He spoke also of the high degree of intelligence of the Japanese, and the ease and industry with which they apply themselves to the acquisition of knowledge, and of the great importance of developing fully our international relations with that people.

The diary of Mr. Baldwin, who became librarian in 1832, is full of interesting and quaint statements; for example, in October 1831:

I remain in Worcester until Saturday morning, visiting and idling away my time. I am a candidate for Librarian of the Antiquarian Society and am anxious lest I be outwitted and another get the place. And my friends desire me to stay on that account that I may reconcile some of my opposers.

On February 10, 1832, he writes:

Thaws rapidly all day and rains in the night. In the evening settle with William Lincoln, Esq. Adjust the concerns of our partnership which was formed in 1825 in the

editor and proprietorship of the *Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal*. We lose our labor and much money besides. I believe in the doctrine of total depravity, I am a lover of mankind generally, but I have little respect for them individually.

On April 1, 1832:

This day my salary begins as Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. Although it be Sunday, I build a fire in my apartment in the hall of the Society (in the south wing) and answer several letters which have been received in my absence. I dined, in company with Lincoln, with the lady of the Hon. John Davis. I took tea in the family of Rejoice Newton, Esq., and spent the evening with the Hon. Judge Paine.

Speaking of his desire to secure files of newspapers he says:

Since I have been here, I have been unwearied in my pains to get good files of papers from all parts of the country. I have made arrangements with some forty or fifty individuals from different sections of the U. S. to procure for me ancient as well as modern sets and to preserve all those that they now subscribe for. In this way the collection must become exceedingly valuable. I suffer no traveller to visit me without enlisting him in my cause, and giving him directions how to find and how to send them to me. Though I may fail of getting as many as I wish, I am sure that I shall entitle myself to the gratitude of future antiquaries. I find very great difficulty in finding ancient papers. They exist only in the garrets of rich men who may have been systematic in their plans to preserve everything which came in their way.

Mr. Baldwin did not confine his labors to the library, but took great interest in the grounds as well. In April 1834, he writes:

Anniversary of the battle of Lexington. I drank a glass of wine by myself in commemoration of the event, and spent the afternoon in planting trees about the Antiquarian Hall. I have now planted all I designed to in the beginning. I have set out, perhaps, five hundred of different kinds. I have dug them up in the woods and brought them on my back without the assistance of even a boy, except about two days' work of one man, and he was engaged a part of the time in other business.

As we are now in a reminiscent mood, let us make another quotation, from Mr. Baldwin's diary, of October 5, 1831:

Attend court, and in the evening, at a meeting of the Historical Society, am chosen to make a report of all the proceedings of the 4th, which report, with a bottle of wine and other appropriate articles, are to be enclosed in a tight and safe box, made for the purpose, and committed to the care of the Antiquarian Society, and there remain unopened until the end of one hundred years, when they are to be brought forth and examined.

The bottle of wine, and the account of the proceedings drawn up by Mr. Baldwin, together with the addresses, are all in the possession of this Society, although not contained in a box, the reason for which departure from the original purpose does not appear. Little is known of the Worcester County Historical Society to which reference is made. The occasion of October 4, 1831, was the one hundredth anniversary of the holding of the first term of the Superior Court of Judicature in Worcester on September 22, 1731 (old style).¹

The following is a copy of the invitation to Chief Justice Shaw and his associates of the Supreme Judicial Court.

¹Worcester County was incorporated April 2, 1731. In the act of incorporation it was provided that a Court of General Sessions of the Peace and an Inferior Court should be held at Worcester on the second Tuesdays of May and August and the first Tuesdays of November and February in each year, and a session of the Superior Court of Judicature on the Wednesday immediately preceding the session at Springfield, then in the County of Hampshire. It further provided that the Court of General Sessions of the Peace should appoint a Register of Deeds, who should hold office until the election on the first Thursday of the next September. The first Court of Probate was held July 13, 1731, the first session of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and of the Inferior Court on the 10th of August, and of the Superior Court on the 22d of September. The Judges of the Superior Court present at its first session were Chief Justice Benjamin Lynde and Associate Justices Paul Dudley and Edmund Quincy. On the occasion of the first session of the Inferior Court, Rev. John Prentice of Lancaster preached a sermon from the text, 2 Chronicles, chapter 19, verses 6 and 7: "And said to the Judges take heed what you do; for ye judge not for man but for the Lord, who is with you in judgment; wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts." ("History of the Judiciary of Massachusetts," W. T. Davis, p. 156.)

Worcester, Aug. 12, 1831.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHAW:

On the 22d day of September (old style) 1731 the first term of the Superior Court of Judicature was held in the County of Worcester incorporated by the Provincial Act of April of that year. One Hundred Years will have passed on the fourth day of October next, the time appointed by law for the sitting of the Superior Judicial Court. The Worcester Historical Society desirous of commemorating an event so interesting, have invited the Hon. John Davis to deliver a public address on that day, and have prepared other appropriate exercises. They respectfully ask the honor and pleasure of your participation with the other justices of the Supreme Judicial Court in the service of the occasion.

Should it be found entirely agreeable to the Court, they respectfully ask that the session of that tribunal may be adjourned over the fourth.

By order of the Society.

WILLIAM LINCOLN,
Secretary.

The anniversary exercises were in the South Meeting House. They opened with music followed by a prayer by the Reverend Aaron Bancroft, then selections from the Scriptures were read. The Pilgrim Hymn by Mrs. Hemans was sung and this was followed by an address delivered by the Honorable John Davis who was President of the Society and member of Congress for the Worcester County South Congressional District.

If anyone here is disposed to regard this report as too long, we would remind him that Mr. Davis began his address at one quarter past one and concluded at thirty-three minutes past three. Owing to the ill health of the speaker, it was not all delivered. The services closed with a prayer by Reverend George Allen of Shrewsbury.

The procession then returned to the Sun Tavern of Mr. James Estabrook, on the easterly side of Main Street, for dinner. Among the guests from Boston was Samuel S. Houghton, Esq., who has been immortalized by the author of the Sketch Book under the name of Ichabod Crane—the School Master,

Washington Irving, having seen Mr. Houghton while a young man in the employment of school-keeping on the North River in New York.

Governor Levi Lincoln was President of the Day. The dinner seemed adequate even for this hungry company, mentally and physically exhausted as it must have been. Soup, Roast Beef, Roast Pork, Boiled Mutton, Roast Turkeys and Ducks and Geese, Boiled Turkeys, Fowls accompanied with oysters, Pies of many sorts, and, as Mr. Baldwin wrote, "last tho' not least," an abundance of tolerable wine, a bottle of which was to be deposited with his report." "This wine," Mr. Baldwin said, "was 'Old Madeira,' the same with that drank on Tuesday." This is the bottle of wine now on deposit in a closely guarded vault of this Society. It would have been produced here to-day had not the Council been solicitous that no riotous conduct should mar the decorum of this meeting. Nine years remain before this sacred vessel can be uncorked. If there is no change in existing legislation, the occasion will excite the gravest apprehensions.

The intellectual part of the feast was also rich and varied. There were thirteen regular toasts, then one proposed by Governor Lincoln, followed by twenty toasts, more or less, volunteered by others. One in verse was to modern female fashions:

Should foreign foes attempt invasion
We'll need but show our fair ones dear,
And were there present half creation,
Creation's half would run with fear.

William Lincoln, Esq., Secretary of the Worcester County Historical Society and of the American Antiquarian Society, wrote a song for the occasion in praise of "Cold Water," which was delivered with great effect by Capt. Emory Perry. Even at that remote day, the exclusive use of water as a beverage was being regarded with some favor by intelligent people. Indeed the organized temperance movement began

about this time, although the earliest formed Temperance Club is said to have been at Skibbereen in Ireland in 1818. Mr. Baldwin says that Mr. Lincoln declined to give him a copy of the poem, but I find pasted into the record of the meeting a printed copy of a poem which may be by Mr. Lincoln, entitled: "A very Temperate song about Cold Water."

There are seven verses of which the following is the sixth:

The old Bachelor, cross grained and crabbed may twine
The wreath of the muses around the gay wine,
But no father among you would give him a daughter
Unless he confined his potations to water.

The exercises of the day ended with a "splendid party made in the evening by the lady of His Excellency Governor Lincoln."

Our chronicler goes on to say:

The time was spent by such as had a taste that way, in dancing cotillions, and very few, old or young, who had an opportunity, failed of improving it. The oldest one that I saw dancing was the Hon. Daniel Davis, Solicitor General of the Commonwealth, who is now very near eighty years old. The supper prepared for the company was very grand indeed, and worthy of the accomplished and intelligent lady who gave it. It was the happy conclusion of a very happy day to all who had a part in it. The Ladies were all very pretty and many of them very handsome. And most of them, old as well as young, joined in the dance. It was indeed a singularly odd spectacle to see all the grave and learned judges of our highest judicial tribunal "tripping on the light fantastic toe." The Chief Justice weighs at least two hundred and fifty pounds. It is customary for these "reverend seniors" to join occasionally in such diversions and Mr. Solicitor Davis never omits any opportunity of the kind. Even the Chief Magistrate himself mingled in the mazes of the dance, and acquits himself as happily in the business as in the management of the more weighty concerns of government.

There is appended to this report, which is in Mr. Baldwin's handwriting, the history of the Company of Cadets from Boston who honored the occasion with their presence, an autograph letter from Chief Justice

Shaw giving some account of himself and of his ancestry and a copy of the Prayer delivered by Dr. Bancroft at the Meeting House.

We venture to suggest the propriety of printing this account of the Centennial Anniversary of 1831, in the Proceedings of the October meeting of 1931.

Judge Ira M. Barton presenting the report of the Council in April, 1855, begins as follows:

The munificent founder of this Society in one of his earliest communications made to it in 1813, congratulated the members upon the safe location of their Library and Museum "forty miles distant from the nearest branch of the sea, in the town of Worcester, Mass., on the great road from all the Southern and Western states to Boston, the capital of New England." This location of our institution in the country, upon so extensive a thoroughfare was, no doubt, a wise arrangement. May it not be regarded less so, since the quiet town of Worcester has become a city of twenty-five thousand souls and since its "great road" has given place to a star of railways radiating in every direction from its centre.

The solicitude of our fellow members of an earlier day, now, after the passage of nearly seventy years, seems to have been without foundation, and great material changes have followed in quick succession without menace to our cherished institution. This may well encourage us to believe that it will continue to flourish, in its present secluded location, and will be safe in the hands of future generations who may, perhaps, turn to our records with the same respectful interest with which we to-day have examined some of the transactions of the past.

CHARLES G. WASHBURN,
For the Council.

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