

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

FOR fifty years, the by-laws of the society have required, that the council should, "twice at least in each year," communicate to the members a statement of its affairs. In accordance with this time-honored regulation, the council herewith submit their semi-annual report, shewing the present condition, and the more important transactions of the society since the annual meeting in October last.

First, they express the great regret, which will be shared by all, that our honored Librarian, Samuel Foster Haven, LL.D., is prevented by illness from being present at our meeting to-day.

His absence deprives the society of the pleasure they have been accustomed to enjoy at these gatherings, of listening to one of those admirable papers which, under the name of "reports of the Librarian," have been presented by Dr. Haven. These papers, full of sound learning, expressed in concise and graceful language, have added largely to the interest of our published proceedings, and done much to increase the reputation of the society at home and abroad.

It is with still greater regret, that the council have to communicate the unpleasant intelligence, that owing to the present condition of his health, Dr. Haven has felt obliged to ask to be relieved from his official duties. For forty-three years the society has enjoyed the valuable services of its Librarian, which have been rendered most cheerfully, and for but a nominal pecuniary consideration. Few of the members, outside the council, are aware of the many personal sacrifices made by him, in his desire to

extend the influence of the society and to add to its collections. The council have accepted the communication upon this subject from Dr. Haven, with great reluctance, but at the same time felt it to be their duty to do everything in their power that would tend to aid in his restoration to health.

The letter of Dr. Haven to the council announcing his resignation was as follows :—

WORCESTER, Mass'tts, *March 29th, 1881.*

*To the President and Council of the
American Antiquarian Society.*

Dear and Honored Sirs.—At the close of the present month my relation to the society as its librarian will have extended through the period of forty-three years without interruption, and with no renewal of the original election.

I feel that age and infirmity have brought to a natural termination my chances of usefulness in that position, and require relief from its cares and responsibilities.

I beg therefore most respectfully, and with a deep sense of the unvaried kindness of each and all of you, to place my resignation in your hands.

S. F. HAVEN.

The council were unanimous in their desire that some arrangement might be made by which Dr. Haven's official connection with the society should not be completely severed. With this end in view, and after due consideration of his letter, the following votes offered by the President were adopted :—

Voted, that the council receive with sentiments of gratitude for the past, and anxiety for the future, the letter in which Dr. Samuel F. Haven resigns the office of librarian at the end of a service of forty-three years, in which he has increased the efficiency, not less than the size, of the library, and has elevated the character of the society by his extensive and accurate historical learning, and his graceful and instructive writings.

Voted, that the council accept this resignation of Dr. Haven with deep regret, and with the hope that relief from the cares of the office may promote the restoration of his health, and

may prolong the obvious advantages of his official relation to the society.

Voted, that Dr. Haven is requested to accept the honorary position of Librarian Emeritus, and to give the library his beneficial presence, when his health and engagements shall permit.

Voted, that the council consider with deep feeling our personal privation in the withdrawal of an associate and friend, who has been an example, a guide and support, in all our duties to this society.

Voted, that a copy of these votes shall be presented to Dr. Haven.

It is understood that this arrangement will be very satisfactory and agreeable to Dr. Haven, and it certainly will be a cause of congratulation that we can continue to avail ourselves of his most valuable advice and suggestions.

In the absence of the librarian, our efficient Assistant-Librarian, Mr. Edmund M. Barton, will present a general statement of the work done in the library the past six months, with a detailed list of the additions made to the library and cabinet.

It will be seen by his statement, that the accessions since the annual meeting in October last, have been six hundred and eighty-five books, fifty-seven hundred and thirty-seven pamphlets, one hundred and four files of unbound newspapers, five hundred and thirty-eight charts and maps, besides photographs, prints and articles for the cabinet.

Of this number, four hundred books, five thousand five hundred and forty pamphlets, one hundred and four files of unbound newspapers, five hundred and thirty-one charts and maps, fifty-four photographs and prints, and one manuscript were gifts. Twenty-one local histories have been bought from the income of the Thomas Fund, and three books were purchased at the sale of the Brinley library, from the income of the Davis Fund.

It may be mentioned, that among the gifts from members of the Society, are several publications of their own author-

ship. Hon. Robert C. Winthrop has presented his "Memorial of Henry Clay;" and Hon. Peleg W. Chandler, his "Memoir of Gov. John A. Andrew."

From Col. Charles Whittlesey we have received his "Early History of Cleveland, Ohio," and Adml. Geo. H. Preble has presented his paper on "The Mariner's Compass."

Mr. James F. Hunnewell sends us his "Bibliograpy of Charlestown and Bunker Hill;" and Dr. Sam'l A. Green, "The Early Records of Groton, Mass, from 1662-1707," edited by him, with valuable notes. From Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Esq., we have received several copies of the private edition of his "Central American Papers." Others are mentioned in the statement of the Assistant-Librarian.

From the sale of the third part of the Brinley Library, which took place in New York, early the present month, we have received one hundred and sixty-four books and six pamphlets. The books thus received, were largely biographical and genealogical, and will prove a valuable addition to our collections in those departments. The society were represented by Mr. Barton, who indicated by his bids the volumes desired under the generous gift of the heirs of our late associate, George Brinley, Esq. His report will show more in detail the nature of the accessions from this source.

At the closing sale of the library, which it is expected will take place within a few months, the society will have a credit of about one thousand dollars. This will enable us to add to our library many more valuable volumes, in addition to those already received under the satisfactory plan pursued by the heirs of Mr. Brinley, in making their liberal gift to the society.

The general administration of the library has been well cared for by Mr. Barton, the Assistant-Librarian, aided by Mr. Reuben Colton, the last named gentleman, having besides his ordinary duties, had the oversight, under the direction of Mr. Salisbury, Jr., of the preparations for a

card catalogue. Mr. Barton continues the exchanges with other libraries and institutions, thus adding much new material to our collections by a judicious use of our duplicates.

The new room for our bound newspapers, containing over three thousand five hundred volumes, proves to be none too large for the purpose. It is arranged with suitable tables, convenient for the consultation of the various papers which are easily accessible to the attendants. This arrangement, long looked forward to, and now accomplished through the generosity of the President, has added largely to the value of our newspaper literature as a source of historical information. The society have reason to be proud of this department, and can appreciate the wise policy of the founder in preserving the early journals, now so valuable as memorials of history. A list of the newspapers owned by the society would undoubtedly be of value and prove an efficient aid to those who know and appreciate how much useful information can be obtained from the periodical publications of our country. This however, cannot be hoped for in the present condition of our finances.

The report of the Treasurer, also presented as a part of the report of the council, shows the financial condition of the society to be good, and that the general improvement of business in the country has had a favorable effect upon the income derived from our investments. It may also be stated, that there has been a very marked increase in the market value of the securities belonging to the society. If the various stocks and bonds, reported by the Treasurer at par, were stated at their present market value, the aggregate of the several funds would be increased about six thousand dollars over the sum reported.

Within the past three months the funds of the society have been increased five thousand dollars, by the receipt of a legacy of that amount, from the executors of the will of the late Joseph A. Tenney, of Worcester. This generous

bequest derives additional value, from the fact, that it is free from any incumbrance as to the disposition to be made of it by the society. It is supposed to have been given in gratitude for favors extended many years ago, to a beloved son of the legator, by the librarian and officers of the society.

The son, Henry Allen Tenney, was a young man of much promise, who having an interest in the study and collection of coins and medals, had been introduced to the librarian by a member of the society, that he might examine the cabinet of coins in the library. The gracious kindness and courtesy with which he was received by Dr. Haven, was highly appreciated by the young man, and although he was suddenly removed by accidental death, many years ago, the father has cherished in his memory the attention paid the son, and expressed his appreciation thereof by this generous bequest. Formal notice of the receipt of the legacy, having been given to the council by the President, at a meeting held the 29th of March last, the following resolutions presented by him were adopted and entered upon the records :

Voted, That the bequest of Five Thousand dollars, from Mr. Joseph A. Tenney, of Worcester, Mass., deceased, to the American Antiquarian Society, paid over with cordial promptness by his Executors, Messrs. D. G. Temple and George M. Woodward, is accepted with a grateful recognition of the good will that prompted the gift, which is more gratifying as a testimonial of a generous estimation of the public utility of the society, because his interest was awakened by the facilities in the library enjoyed by a promising son, whose sudden death by casualty embittered with grief and clouded the last years of the life of the father.

Voted, That the Five Thousand dollars mentioned in the last vote, should be held in perpetuity, and safely and productively invested as the 'Tenney Fund,' and so much of the income thereof as shall be necessary, shall first be used to maintain the original value of the Fund, and the

residue of said income shall be expended for the uses of this society, as the council shall from time to time direct.

The Executors were informed of these votes in a graceful letter from the President, conveying to them the thanks of the society, and their commendation "for the prompt attention and liberality" with which they had accomplished the purposes of Mr. Tenney.

The society have contributed twenty pounds sterling to a fund raised in the United States, under the auspices of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, for the Raleigh Memorial Window, which is to be placed in Old St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, where Raleigh was buried. Cannon Farrar, Rector of the Church, was the proposer of the American subscription, which amounted to about two hundred and fifty pounds sterling, and was contributed to by the Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Long Island Historical Societies, also by societies in Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina, the Essex Institute and some others, besides our own.

About two hundred pounds was also subscribed by Americans in England. Through the liberality of a member of the society, our contribution was made without drawing upon its funds.

Dr. Haven, in his last report, called the attention of the society, to the importance of a new catalogue of the library, and stated that through the liberality of a member, this desirable result was likely to be accomplished.

The council are happy to report, that the preparations for a card catalogue of the bound volumes, are progressing under the immediate care and at the expense of Mr. Stephen Salisbury, jr., assisted in the general oversight by Mr. Reuben Colton. These preparations consist in having the titles of the volumes in each alcove plainly written upon quarto sheets of paper, with the name of the author, date and place of publication; also the size of the books and number of pages. These sheets will be carefully revised by Mr. Colton, comparison being made with the original title-pages, and

it is the intention of Mr. Salisbury, jr., to use them, after being bound in some simple form, as alcove catalogues. This will give, with the proposed card catalogue, a duplicate list of the books, which will be an additional safeguard from loss. When these sheets are completed, the matter will be transferred to suitable cards, with the added information, as to the alcove and shelf where each volume may be found. In the case of bound pamphlets, the position on the shelf of the volume which contains them, will be indicated. It is also the intention to transfer the bound pamphlets from the main hall to the north ante-room, which arrangement will, without doubt, prove a great convenience. The society are greatly indebted to Mr. Salisbury, jr., for the active interest he has manifested in its prosperity, not only as shown in the promotion of the catalogue, but for his constant exertions in every department to increase and extend its usefulness.

This much needed catalogue of the bound volumes, should be supplemented as soon as possible by a like work upon our valuable collection of manuscripts. The society have a large number of interesting letters and documents, now tied up in packages without any special order or arrangement, and exceedingly inconvenient for study and examination. It should be said that a few years ago a part of the letters and documents were made up into packages, arranged alphabetically, but without chronological or historical sequence.

These should be carefully unfolded, smoothed, and placed in appropriate bound volumes, where they can be consulted with safety to the papers and with convenience to the investigator. This plan of preserving manuscript letters and documents has been tried with success by other societies and institutions, and could be done with comparatively slight expense. If the volumes so prepared, were carefully indexed, and a brief catalogue made of the manuscript volumes in the collection, it would add greatly to their antiquarian

and historical value. When it shall be known to our members and others that we are taking proper care of such material, and making it available for use, it is probable the collection of manuscripts will be largely increased.

The interesting specimens of coins, lately presented by our associate, Senator Hoar, and the fact that additions to the cabinet of coins and medals are from time to time being made, suggest the desirability of their re-arrangement. As now preserved, they are not only kept from the view of the casual visitor to our Hall, but are practically shut off from the inspection of students who may desire to investigate and examine these important historical memorials. It is suggested, that at an early day, an appropriate case be provided and placed in the main hall, in which the more valuable and interesting specimens may be arranged, so that they may be of more practical value than at present. In thus alluding to the importance of a re-arrangement of the manuscripts and coins, it should be stated that both of these departments have received some attention of late, and so far as time and means would permit a beginning has been made in the right direction. What is now desirable is, that the work begun may be carried to a successful completion.

By a vote of the council, it was decided to adopt a new plan in the method of publishing our "Proceedings." Heretofore no attempt has been made to publish them in a form adapted for binding in regular volumes, the members arranging them according to their individual tastes. Beginning with that of the annual meeting in October last, it is proposed to commence a new series of these publications, making with the proceedings of this meeting the first volume, to be supplied with a title page, table of contents and an index. Following out this plan in the future publications, it is believed will render them more acceptable to our members. It is also expected

that at no distant day a complete index to our "Proceedings" will be prepared from the first issue to October, 1880. If this is done it will add greatly to the value of these publications, rendering them much more convenient for consultation.

Among the accessions of the last six months was a manuscript Orderly book of Col. Jonathan Bagley's regiment, Connecticut Provincials, presented by C. A. Miles, Esq., of New York city, through our recording secretary. It was written at the camp at Lake George, then under command of Gen. James Abercrombie, and includes the time from August 20th to September 11th, 1758. One or two extracts from it will give a general idea of its contents.

Gen. Abercrombie had in July made his unsuccessful expedition against Carillon, and immediately after, Gen. John Bradstreet with a detachment of from two to three thousand men had marched to Fort Frontenac and captured it. The capture of Louisburg by the troops under Lord Jeffrey Amherst, assisted by Gen. James Wolfe and Richard Montgomery, had also taken place in July, about a month before this orderly book was commenced.

One of the early entries refers to the last named expedition, and probably indicates about the time the capture was made known to the English army at Lake George. It is as follows:—

"CAMP AT LAKE GEORGE, *August 28, 1758.*

Parole 'Louisburg.' Field officers for the picquet this night—Maj. Beckwith and Maj. Griswold.

The troops to fire a rejoicing fire this evening for the success of his Majesty's arms in the taking of Louisburg. The regiments to be under arms and line the breastwork at 6 o'clock. The firing to begin with 21 guns from the Royal Artillery, and then from right of the 27th regiment round the line, and to finish with the left of Col. Bagley's regiment. This to be repeated till the whole has fired three rounds. The picquets and guards not to fire but to be formed in the rear of their regiments, the commanding officers of regiments to order a review of their arms at 12 o'clock and the balls to be drawn, and have cartridges without balls to be made up for their rejoicing fire."

August 29th, we have:—

“Parole ‘Parlin.’

For the day to-morrow Col. Halderon,¹ Col. Bagley; field officers this night Lieut. Col. Eyres, Maj. Gage. Maj. Rogers’ Rangers to discharge their pieces this evening between 4 and 6 o’clock.² The Connecticut regiments with the New Hampshire regiments to do the duty of all the provincial troops to-morrow, and the Massachusetts regiments to be mustered on Thursday by Mr. Stoton, Brigade Major of the Provincials, beginning with Col. Preble at 7 o’clock, Col. Wooster at 9, Col. Bagley at 11. Col. Nichols at 4, afternoon.”

September 1st, is the following:—

“Parole ‘Halifax.’ Field officers for the picquets this night—Lieut. [Col.] Eyres, Lieut. Col. Payson. A detachment of 4 subs and 100 Volunteers from the Rangers, the 3 companies of Light Infantry, 100 of Major Rogers’ Rangers, 100 of Col. Partridge’s Rangers, 100 of Connecticut Rangers, to march to-morrow morning at 7 o’clock with 7 days’ provisions, under the command of Capt. Dalyell of the Light Infantry. They are to take the convoy under their escort to the half-way brook. These detachments to be under arms this evening at 4 o’clock on the ground near where the old fort stood. When any prisoner or deserter comes into camp the party of guard that has them in charge is to conduct them directly to headquarters, and not suffer any person whatsoever to ask them questions and no officer to stop or offer to ask questions of any deserter or prisoner on pain of disobeying orders.”³

The gift of this manuscript memorial of the early military history of our country calls to mind others of a like nature in our library, numbering between thirty and forty, and embracing a period from 1758 through the war of 1812.

The orderly books of the Revolutionary war are of special interest, and are valuable as aids to the historian, preserving as they do so largely, the names of officers and men engaged, and the movement of troops. It is suggested that

¹ This should probably be Haldeman, afterwards Governor of Canada.

² This was Robert Rogers of New Hampshire, who entered the service in the French war, and raised a company of Rangers who were renowned for their exploits. He was a loyalist during the revolution, and banished from the country. He died in England early in the present century.

³ Lieut. Col. Eyres was of the 44th regiment of regulars, and Capt. Dalyell of Gage’s Light Infantry.

steps be taken at an early day to publish one or more of the orderly books of this period. A few years ago the Massachusetts Historical Society published, under the editorial charge of our associate, Charles C. Smith, Esq., the "Orderly Book of Col. William Henshaw," with valuable notes. This was prepared from the original manuscript, and covers the period from April 20th to September 26th, 1775. In our own collection are three of Col. Henshaw's orderly books, extending from Oct. 1st, 1775, to August 25th, 1776, which if printed would be a continuation of that issued by the Historical Society.¹ The first of the Henshaw orderly books in the possession of the society covers the period from Oct. 1st, 1775, to March 11th, and from March 19th, 1766, to March 27th inclusive. The first entry, dated Headquarters, 1st October, 1775, reads as follows :

"Parole 'Hampton.' Countersign 'Iceland.'

The colonels and commanding officers of corps are upon application from the Quartermaster-general immediately to employ under his direction all the carpenters in their several regiments, to erect barracks for the regiments and corps they respectively belong to.—Lieut. Cummings of Capt. Dowe's company, in Col. Prescott's regiment tried at a General Court Martial, whereof Col. Hitchcock was President, for misbehavior in the action upon Bunker's Hill. The Court are unanimously of opinion the prisoner is not guilty of the charge and the complaint appears to the Court groundless and malicious. The General approves the proceedings of the Court and orders Lieut. Cummings to be instantly released from his arrest."

¹ Col. William Henshaw was born in Boston, September 30, 1735; he removed to Leicester, Mass., about 1748. He served as Lieutenant in Gen. Ruggles' regiment with the troops under Gen. Amherst in 1759. In 1775 he was Colonel of a regiment of minute-men, and on the night of the 19th of April of that year marched with them to Cambridge. He was made Adjutant General of the troops under Gen. Artemus Ward (the date of his commission being June 27, 1775), but on the arrival of Washington, in July, was superseded by the appointment by the Continental Congress of Gen. Gates. He was Lieut. Col. in Little's Massachusetts regiment at the battle of Long Island. Col. Henshaw represented the town of Leicester in the General Court several years and held other offices of trust. He died in February, 1820, aged 84 years.

October 9th is the following order in relation to negroes :—

“If any negroes are found straggling about the camp, or about any of the roads or villages near the encampments at Roxbury or Cambridge, they are to be seized and confined until sunrise, in the guard nearest to the place where such negroes are taken up.”

This orderly book includes the time of the siege and up to the evacuation of Boston, and has many entries of interest. A few are given here :—

“HEADQUARTERS, 22 October, 1775.

Parole ‘Harrison.’ Countersign ‘Cooke.’

The Deputies from the Hon^{ble} Continental Congress having arrived in this camp in order to confer with the General, the several Governors of Rhode Island and Connecticut, the Council of the Massachusetts Bay and the President of the Convention of New Hampshire, on the continuing an army for the defence and support of America and its liberties; all officers who decline the further service of their country and intend to retire from this army at the expiration of their present term of service, are to signify their intentions in writing, to their Colonel, which he is to deliver with his own, to the Brigadier General, or commanding officer of his Brigade. Those braver men and true patriots, who are resolved to continue to serve and defend their brethren’s privileges and property are to consider themselves engaged, to the last day of December, 1776, unless sooner discharged by the Hon^{ble} Continental Congress, and will in like manner signify their intention. This return to be made at Orderly time Wednesday next.”

October 26th another order calls attention to that of the 22d, and states that some of the officers have not yet signified their intentions in relation to it. It orders all such officers to make immediate reply “whether he will or will not continue in the service,” and closes with this stirring appeal :—

“The times and the importance of the great cause we are engaged in, allows no room for hesitation and delay.—When life, liberty and property are at stake.—When our country is in danger of being a melancholy scene of bloodshed and desolation.—When our towns are laid in ashes, and innocent women and children driven from their peaceful habitations, exposed to the rigour of an inclement season and to the hand of charity perhaps for support. When calamities like these are staring us in the face and a brutal savage enemy (more so than was ever yet found in a civilized nation) are threatening us and everything we hold dear with destruction from foreign troops, it little becomes the character of a soldier to shrink from danger, and condition for new terms.”

Again in orders of the 31st of October we find :—

“The General would not have it ever supposed therefore, nor our enemies encouraged to believe, that there is a man in this army (except a few under particular circumstances) who will require to be twice asked to do what his honor, his personal liberty, the welfare of his country and the safety of his family so loudly demands of him. When motives powerful as these conspire to call men into service and when that service is rewarded with higher pay than private soldiers ever yet met with in any former war, the General cannot, nor will not till he is convinced to the contrary harbor so despicable an opinion of their understanding and zeal for the cause as to believe they will desert it.”

Nov. 14th, 1775, is this announcement :—

“Parole ‘St. Johns.’ Countersign ‘Montgomery.’”

This moment a confirmation is arrived of the glorious success of the Continental arms in the reduction and surrender of the fortress of St. Johns, the garrison of that place and Chamblee being made prisoners of war. The Commander in Chief is confirmed. The army under his immediate direction will show their gratitude to Providence for his favoring the cause of freedom and America—and by their thankfulness to God, their zeal and perseverance in his righteous cause continue to deserve his future blessing.”

Nov. 18th the attention of the army is called to the fact that

“‘The Honorable the Legislature of this Province’ having thought fit to set apart the 28d of November instant as a day of public Thanksgiving, to offer up our praises and prayers to Almighty God, the source and benevolent bestower of all good. That he would be pleased graciously to continue to smile upon our endeavors to restore peace, preserve our rights and privileges to the latest prosperity, prosper our arms, preserve and strengthen the harmony of the United Colonies, and avert the calamities of civil war. The General therefore commands the day to be observed with all the solemnity directed by the Legislative Proclamation, and all officers, soldiers and others are hereby directed with the most unfeigned devotion to obey the same.”

The news of the surrender of Montreal is thus announced :—

“HEADQUARTERS, 28 November, 1775.

Parole ‘Montgomery.’ Countersign ‘Montreal.’

An express last night from General Montgomery brings the joyful tidings of the surrender of the City of Montreal to the Continental arms. The General hopes such frequent favors from Divine Providence will animate every American to continue to exert his utmost in the defence

of the liberties of his country, as it would now be the basest ingratitude to the Almighty and to their country to show any, the least backwardness in the public cause."

The record for January 1st, 1776, is as follows:—

"Parole 'Congress.' Countersign 'America.'

This day giving commencement to the new army which in every point of view is entirely Continental, the General flatters himself that a laudable spirit of emulation will now take place and pervade the whole of it. Without such a spirit few officers have ever arrived to any degree of reputation, nor did any army ever become formidable."

"His Excellency hopes that the great cause we are engaged in will be deeply impressed on every man's mind, and wishes it may be considered that an army without regularity and discipline is no better than a commissioned mob, let us therefore when everything dear and valuable to freeman is at stake, when an unnatural parent is threatening us with destruction from every quarter, endeavour by all the skill and discipline in our power to acquire that knowledge and conduct which is necessary in war. Our men are brave and good men, who with pleasure it is observed, are addicted to fewer vices than are commonly found in armies, but it is subordination and discipline which is the life and soul of an army, &c., &c."

January 9th, 1776. The Parole being "Knowlton" and the countersign "Charlestown:"

"The General thanks Major Knowlton and the officers and soldiers who were under his command last night, for their spirited conduct and secrecy with which they burnt the houses near the enemy's works on Bunker Hill. The General was in a more particular manner pleased with the resolution the party discovered in not firing a shot, as nothing betrays greater signs of fear and less of the soldier than to begin a loose, undirected and unmeaning fire, from whence no good can result nor no valuable purpose answered. It is almost certain the enemy will attempt to revenge the insult which was cast upon them last night, for which reason the greatest care and vigilance is recommended, as it also is that the out posts be always guarded by experienced officers and good soldiers who are to be considered in other duties."

The following interesting order in regard to the colors of the regiments appears February 20th, 1776:—

"Parole 'Manchester.' Countersign 'Boyle.'

As it is necessary that every Regiment should be furnished with colours, and that those colours if it can be done, bear some kind of similitude of the Regiment to which they belong, the Colonels with their respective Brigadiers and the Q. M. G. may fix upon such as are

proper and can be procured. There must be to each Regiment, the standard regimental colours, and colours for each grand division. The whole to be small and light, the number of the regiment to be marked on the colours and such a motto as the Col. may choose, in fixing upon which the Gen^l advises a consultation amongst them. The Colonels are to delay no time in getting this matter fixed that the Q. M. G^l may provide the colours as soon as possible, &c.”

February 27th, 1776, is the following exhortation to courage and discipline :—

“ Parole ‘ Hancock.’ Countersign ‘ Adams.’

As the season is now approaching when every man must expect to be drawn into the field of action, it is highly necessary that he should prepare his mind as well as everything necessary for it. It is a noble cause we are engaged in, it is the cause of virtue and mankind, every temporal advantage and comfort to us and our posterity depends upon the vigilance of our exertions. In short, slavery or freedom must be the result of our conduct; there can therefore be no greater inducement to men to behave well. But it may not be amiss for the troops to know that if any man in action shall presume to skulk or hide himself or retreat from the enemy without the orders of his commanding officer, he will be instantly shot down as an example of cowardice; cowards having too frequently disconcerted the best formed troops by their dastardly behaviour. Next to the favour of Divine Providence nothing is more essentially necessary to give this army the victory of all its enemies than exactness of discipline, alertness when on duty, and cleanliness in their arms and persons. Unless the arms are kept clean and in good firing order it is impossible to vanquish the enemy, and cleanliness of the person gives health and a soldierlike appearance, &c., &c.”

March 6th, 1776. After announcing the appointment of two Aide-de-Camps to his Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, an order is recorded, calling attention to a day of fasting and prayer set apart by the Legislature of the Province and directing officers and men to “ pay due reverence and attention ” on the day set apart.

March 9th, 1776, is this announcement :—

“ His Excellency the General lost one of his pistols yesterday upon Dorchester Neck, whoever will bring it to him or leave it with General Thomas shall receive two dollars reward and no questions asked. ‘ It is a skrew’d barrel’d pistol, mounted with silver, and a head resembling a pugg dog at the butt.’—The General earnestly expects every officer and soldier will show the utmost alertness as well upon duty as off duty, as by that means not only the utmost power but the utmost artifice of the enemy will be defeated.”

The last record before the evacuation of Boston is that of March 11th. On that day the Brigadier of the day was Gen. Sullivan; Field officers of the day, Col. Anton and Col. Phinney. Then follows:—

“That there may not be the least pretext for delay and as the General is determined to march the whole or any part of the army the instant occasion shall require, His Excellency requires that not a moment's time be lost in preparing for the march. The Colonels will pay particular attention to the clothing of the men. To prevent any unnecessary preparations the Gen^l informs the officers and soldiers that it is his desire and expectation that they incumber themselves with as little baggage as possible, the enormous expense and the difficulty of procuring teams to carry superfluous articles is very great, it will be well if a sufficient number can be found to answer all requisite services. The nature of the services we are engaged in is such as requires light troops to be ready at all times and all occasions for forced marches. The less baggage therefore officers and men are incumbered with the better.—The General is desirous of selecting a particular number of men as a guard for himself and baggage. The Colonel or commanding officers of each of the established regiments (the Artillery and Riflemen excepted) will furnish him with four, that the number wanted may be chosen out of them. His Excellency depends upon the Colonels for good men, such as they can recommend for their sobriety, honesty and good behaviour. He wishes them to be from five feet eight inches high to five feet ten inches, handsomely and well made, and as there is nothing in his eyes more desirable than cleanliness in a soldier, he desires that particular attention may be made in the choice of such men as are clean and spruce. They are all to be at headquarters to-morrow precisely at 12 o'clock at noon, when the number wanted will be fixed upon. The General neither wants them with uniforms nor arms, nor does he desire any man to be sent to him that is not perfectly willing or desirous of being of this guard, they should be drilled men.”

Here the records close abruptly till March 18th, then follow ten pages evidently from another orderly book, and beginning with page 9, the volume closes with the entry for March 27th, 1776. The last paragraph is as follows:—

“Upon any alarm, Reed's, Nixon's and Poor's regiments are to repair to Bunker's Hill. Varnum's and Hitchcock's to man the fort upon Prospect Hill, Little's to repair to Cobble Hill, Arnold's and Robinson's Reg^{ts} to repair to Lechmere's Point and Smith's regiment to parade at the White House Guard and there wait for orders. Phinney's and Arnold's

Regts are positively order'd to send immediately to the Continental Store for their cloathing.

Field officer for the day to-morrow, Lt Col. Henshaw.

Adj. from Col. Little's Regt."

The next of these volumes begins with the entry of March 28th, 1776, a short time after the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, and the day before Gen. Sullivan's brigade of six regiments begun their march to New York. It is as follows:—

"HEADQUARTERS, *March 28, 1776.*

Parole 'Cumberland.' C. Sign 'Glocester.'

Genl Sullivan with the six Regts mentioned in the general orders of the 23d inst. are to march to-morrow morning at sunrise. The Q. M. Genl or his Assistant, will provide nine teams for each Regt and the Adjutant Genl will deliver the route and orders to Genl Sullivan.

Brigade Orders.

Field Officer of the Day, Lt. Col. Cornall.

Adj^t from Col. Smith's Regt."

The 29th of March Gen. Greene's command received orders to march. This consisted of Varnum's, Hitchcock's, Little's, Reed's and Bayley's regiments.¹ Three regiments under command of Col. Varnum, started April 1st for Providence, as appears by Brigade orders from Prospect Hill of that date.

The day before we find the following:—

"HEADQUARTERS, *31st March, 1776.*

Parole 'Moore.' C. Sign 'Newbourn.'

Larned's, Parsons's, Huntington's, Ward's and Willis's Regiments are to march at sunrise next Thursday morning. The whole to be commanded by Brig^{dr} Genl Spencer. The Commander of the Regt of Artillery, except the company that is to remain in Boston, with such pieces of Artillery and stores as Col. Knox shall think necessary, are to march with the above Brigade. The Q. M. Genl Assistant to pay particular attention to the providing teams for the regiment and artillery above mentioned. The commanding officers of these five regiments, may each of them have a warrant for five hundred pounds upon application at

¹ The first three were of Gen. Greene's, and Reed's and Bayley's were of Gen. Thomas' brigade, as brigaded the first of January, 1776.

Head Quarters, and they are to credit the Pay Abstract for the month of Feb'y for that sum. All the ammunition and other articles which have been delivered to the regiments of Militia out of the Continental Store are to be carefully returned or the value will be deducted out of their Pay Abstracts. The Assistant Q. M. General and Commissary of Stores are to take care that this order be fulfilled."¹

April 18th, after their arrival at New York, the following general order was issued:—

“The Hon^{ble} the Continental Congress have been pleased to direct the thanks of the United Colonies to be presented to the officers and soldiers of this army, who with unremitting courage and perseverance have surmounted every effort of the enemy, and every attack of that severe climate, in persisting eleven months in the blockade and siege of Boston, and finally forcing their enemies to make a shameful and precipitate retreat from that once devoted town.

That honorable mark of the approbation of the Congress would have been inserted sooner in the General Orders, had not the express gone to the eastward, while the army was upon the march, and arrived only last evening from Boston.”

April 23d, 1776, we have this entry:—

“Parole ‘Burke.’ Countersign ‘Barre.’

Hitchcock and Varnum’s Regiments to be ready to be mustered on Friday morning next, they will be under arms at eleven in the forenoon upon the common near the Park of Artillery where the Commissary General of Musters will attend.

Brigade Orders.—A fatigue party to parade every morning at seven o’clock, of four hundred men. The commanding officer to receive orders from Gen. Putnam.”

April 25th. The orders speak of

“Complaints having been made to the General of injuries done to the farmers in their crops and fields by the soldiers passing over and trampling upon the young growth in a wanton and disorderly manner.” * * * * *

Officers are to take care

“To put a stop to such practices and endeavor to convince their men that we came to protect not to injure the property of any man.”

The 27th, attention is again called to the “riotous beha-

¹ Col. Learned’s and Col. Ward’s Regiments belonged to Gen. Thomas’s brigade, and Parsons’s, Huntington’s and Wyllis’s regiments to Gen. Spencer’s, as brigaded Jan. 1, 1776.

vior of some soldiers belonging to the Continental Army," and the orders read :—

"It has filled the General with much regret and concern, and lays him under the disagreeable necessity of declaring that if the like behaviour should be practised again, the author will be brought to the severest punishment if taken, or treated as a common enemy if they dare to resist."

"Men are not to carve out a remedy for themselves, if they are injured in any respect, there are legal modes to pursue, just complaints will always be attended to and redressed. It should be the pride of a soldier to conduct himself in such a manner as to obtain the applause not the reproof of a people he is sent to defend, and it should be the business as it is the duty of officers to inculcate and enforce this doctrine."

The same day, orders having been received from Congress to send a General and six more regiments to Canada immediately, "his Excellency directs the Colonels or commanding officers of regiments, viz. :—Stark's, Read's, Wayne's, Irwine's, Dayton's and Wynde's to prepare their corps for immediate embarkation."

The 29th of April the army were ordered to encamp and the regiments were brigaded as follows :—

"First Brigade under the command of Brigadier Gen. Heath.—Learned's, Bailey's, Read's, Prescott's and Baldwin's.

Second Brigade under the command of B. Gen. Spencer.—Parsons's, Huntington's, Wyllis's, Arnold's and Ward's.

Third Brigade under command of B. Gen. Greene.—Hand's, Var-num's, Hitchcock's and Little's.

Fourth Brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. the Earl of Stirling.—Webb's, Nixon's, McDougall's and Ritzma's.

The third Brigade, under Brig. Gen. Greene, to encamp upon the ground marked out upon Long Island.—The companies of Virginia and Maryland Riflemen to be included in Lord Stirling's brigade."

Under the date of May 5th, 1776, is the following, relating to trespasses committed by the troops on the land of the inhabitants :—

"The inhabitants having entered a complaint that their meadow grounds are injured by the troops going upon them to gather greens, they are for the future strictly prohibited going on any of the inhabitants' grounds unless in the proper passes to and from the encampment and

the forts without orders from some commissioned-officer. The General desires the troops not to sully their reputation by any undue liberty in speech or conduct, but behave themselves towards the inhabitants with that decency and respect that becomes the character of troops fighting for the preservation of the rights and liberties of America. The General would have the troops consider we came here to protect the inhabitants and their property from the ravages of the enemy, but if instead of support and protection they meet with nothing but insults and outrage, we shall be considered as a lawless banditti and treated as oppressors and enemies."

The announcement of the Declaration of Independence was made to the troops in orders of July 9th, as follows:—

"The Honorable The Continental Congress (impelled by the dictates of duty, policy and necessity) having been pleased to dissolve the connection which subsisted between this Country and Great Britain, and to declare the United Colonies of North America

FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES,

The several Brigades are to be drawn up this evening on their respective parades at 6 o'clock, when the declaration of Congress shewing the grounds and reasons of this measure is to be read with an audible voice. The General hopes that this important point will serve as a fresh incitement to every officer and soldier to act with fidelity and courage, as showing that now the peace and safety of this Country depends (under God) solely on the success of our arms, and that he is now in the service of a State possessed of sufficient power to reward his merit and advance him to the highest honors of a free country. The Brigade Majors are to receive at the Adj. General's office several of the declarations to be delivered to the Brigadiers and Colonels of regiments. The Brigade Majors are excused from further attendance at head quarters, except to receive the orders of the day, that their time and attention may be drawn as little as possible from the duties of their respective brigades."

The closing entry in this volume is dated at the camp at Long Island, July 14th, 1776.

On the last page is, "A list of the field officers established in the year 1776."

The last of the Col. Henshaw orderly books begins July 15th, 1776. The following inscription appears on the fly leaf:—

"Present from Col. Joseph Read, Adj. General,
To William Henshaw, July 13, 1776."

Under date of July 16th, 1776, after giving notice of a

vote of the Continental Congress in relation to the pay of regimental surgeons, we find the following :—

“The hurry of business often preventing particular invitation being given to officers to dine with the General, he presents his compliments to the Brigadiers and Field Officers of the Day and requests while the camp continues settled in this city, they will favor him with their company to dinner without any further or special invitation.”

July 21st is the following entry in regard to an attack made on the fortifications at Charleston, S. C. :—

“The General has great pleasure in communicating to the officers and soldiers the signal success of the American army under Gen. Lee at South Carolina. The enemy having attempted to land at the same time a furious cannonade for 12 hours was made upon the fortifications near Charleston. Both fleet and army have been repulsed with great loss by a small number of gallant troops just arrived. The enemy had 172 killed and wounded, among whom are several officers. Two capital ships much damaged, one frigate of 28 guns entirely lost, being abandoned and burnt by their own crew, and others so hurt they will want great repairs before they can be fit for service, and all with the loss on our part of ten killed and twenty-two wounded. The firmness, courage and bravery of our troops have crowned them with immortal honor. The dying heroes conjured their brethren never to abandon the standard of liberty, and even those who lost their limbs continued at their posts. Their gallantry and spirit extorted applause from their enemies, who, dejected and defeated, have returned to their former stations out of the reach of our troops.

This glorious example of troops under the like circumstances with us, the General hopes will animate every officer and soldier to imitate and even outdo them when the enemy shall make the same attempt on us. With such a bright example before us of what can be done by brave and spirited men fighting in defense of their country, we shall be loaded with a double share of shame and infamy if we do not acquit ourselves with courage and a determined resolution to conquer or die. With this hope and confidence, and that this army may have its equal share of honor and success, the General most earnestly exhorts every officer and soldier to pay the utmost attention to his arms and health. To have the former in the best order for action, and by cleanliness and care to preserve the latter. To be exact in their discipline, obedient to their superiors and vigilant on duty. With such preparation and a suitable spirit there can be no doubt but by the blessing of Heaven we shall repel our cruel invaders, preserve our country and gain the greatest honor.”

Under date of July 24th, 1776, we find the following in regard to the uniforms of the troops :—

“The General being sensible of the difficulty and expense of providing clothes of almost any kind for the troops, feels an unwillingness to recommend, much more to order any kind of uniform; but as it is absolutely necessary that men should have clothes and appear decent and light, he earnestly encourages the use of hunting shirts with long breeches made of the same cloth, and gaiter-fashion about the leg, to all those who are yet unprovided. No dress can be had cheaper, none more convenient, as they are cool in warm weather and may be warm in cool weather by putting on under-clothes, which will not change the outward dress winter or summer, besides which it is a dress which is justly supposed to carry no small terror to the enemy, who thinks every such person a complete marksman.”

July 28th. Gen. Greene issues a Brigade order in relation to the health of the troops, and also refers to the conduct of the men who trespass upon the property of the inhabitants. Of the latter he says :—

“Many complaints are made of the troops stealing the people's water-melons in and about the camp; such practices if continued will be punished in a most exemplary manner. The General desires the officers to bring every offender to justice. Although the General is taking every measure in his power to lessen the duty of the troops, he nevertheless will oblige the troops to guard the people's property, if it cannot be preserved any other way. And as a few unprincipled rascals may have it in their power to ruin the reputation of a whole corps of virtuous men, the General desires the virtuous part to complain of every offender that may be detected in invading people's property in an unlawful way, that a stop may be put to a practice that cannot fail (if continued) of rendering both officers and men obnoxious to the inhabitants.”

The following appeal for harmony among the troops appears in orders, August 1st, 1776 :—

“Parole ‘Paris.’ C. Sign ‘Reading.’

Col. Gray's regiment of Gen. Wadsworth's Brigade to go over to Long Island to-morrow morning. They are to take their orders from Gen. Greene.

It is with great concern the General understands that jealousies have arisen among the troops from the different Provinces, and reflections frequently thrown out which can only tend to irritate each other and injure the noble cause we are engaged in, and which we ought to support with one hand and one heart. The General most earnestly

intreats the officers and soldiers to consider the consequences, that they can no way assist our cruel enemies more effectually than making divisions among ourselves. That the honour and success of the army and safety of our bleeding country depends upon harmony and good agreement with each other, that the Provinces are all united to oppose the common enemy, and all distinctions sunk in the name of an American, to make this honorable, and preserve the liberty of our country, ought to be our only emulation. And he will be the best soldier and the best patriot who contributes most to this glorious work, whatever his station or from whatever part of the continent he may come. Let all distinctions of nations, countries and provinces, therefore be lost in the generous contest who shall behave with the most courage against the enemy and the most kindness and good humour to each other. If there are any officers or soldiers so lost to virtue and a love of their country as to continue in such practices after these orders, the General assures them and is directed by Congress to declare to the whole army that such persons shall be severely punished and dismissed the service with disgrace."

Under date of August 7th, 1776, we find the following :—

" BROOKLYN CAMP, LONG ISLAND.

Brigade orders by Gen. Greene.

The commanding officers of the respective fortifications are directed to pay particular attention to the provisions lodged at each alarm post for the support of the troops in case of a siege, and see that they are in good order and also that the water casks and cisterns be filled, and whenever the water gets bad to have it pumped out and fresh put in. By a deserter from Sir Peter Parker's fleet we learn the Hessians from England, and Clinton's troops from South Carolina have arrived, and that the enemy are meditating an attack on this island and the City of New York. The General wishes to have the troops provided with every necessary to give them a proper reception. The Captain of every company is directed to examine the arms of his company immediately."

The expectation of a battle is thus referred to in orders August 8th :—

" Passes signed by the President of the Convention of New York are to be deemed authentick, and noticed as such by the officers attending at the ferries. As the movements of the enemy and intelligence by deserters, give the utmost reason to believe that the great struggle in which we are contending for everything dear to us and our posterity is near at hand, the General most earnestly recommends the closest attention to the state of the arms, ammunition and flints, that if we should suddenly be called to action nothing of this kind may be to provide, and he does most anxiously exhort both officers and soldiers not to

be out of their quarters or encampment, especially early in the morning or the tide of flood. A flag in the day-time or light at night in the fort on Bayard's Hill, with three guns from the same place fired quick, but distinct, is to be a signal for the troops to repair to their alarm posts and prepare for action, and that the alarm may more effectually be given the drums are immediately to beat to arms upon the signal being given upon Bayard's Hill.

This order is not to be considered as countermanding the firing two guns at Fort George as formerly ordered. That is also to be done upon an alarm, but the flag will not be hoisted at the old head quarters in Broadway. Col. Parsons, Col. Read, Col. Huntington, Col. Webb, Col. Bailey, Col. Baldwin, Col. Wyllis, Col. Ritzma, Col. McDougall and Col. Shepard to attend at head quarters this evening at 6 o'clock.

Brigade orders.

Field officer for the day, Col. Forman, Adj't from Col. Little's regt."

August 12th, 1776, the following appointments by the Continental Congress are promulgated in orders:—

"Major Generals of the army of the United States, William Heath, Joseph Spencer, John Sullivan and Nathaniel Greene, Esquires, and the following gentlemen Brigadier Generals—James Read, John Nixon, Alex. McDougall, Sam^l Holden Parsons, Arthur St. Clair and James Clinton, Esqrs. They are to be respected and obeyed accordingly.

* * * * *

The General orders and directs that the following arrangement of the army in consequence of the late promotions shall take place till some new disposition can be made, viz.—Glover's, Smallwood's, Miles's and Atles's regiments to compose one brigade and be under the command of Brigadier Lord Stirling. The regiments late Nixon's, Prescott's, Varnum's, Little's and Hand's to form another brigade and be commanded by Brigadier Gen. Nixon. The regiments lately commanded by Col. McDougall, Ritzma's, Webb's, and the artificers to be another brigade and under Brigadier Gen. McDougall. The regiments late Parsons's, Huntington's, Ward's, Wyllis's, and Durgees's to be another brigade commanded by Brigadier Gen. Parsons, and the regiments late Clinton's, Read's, Bailey's, Baldwin's and Learned's to be another brigade under the command of Brigadier Gen. James Clinton. Sergeant's, Hutchinson's and Hitchcock's regiments to be added to Gen. Mifflin's brigade."

* * * * *

"Under this disposition formed as well as time will allow the united efforts of the officers of every rank and the soldiers with the smiles of Providence, the General hopes to render a favorable account to his country and posterity, of the enemy whenever they choose to make the appeal to the great arbiter of the Universe."

The battle of Long Island took place August 25th, 1776, and we find several orders in relation thereto, and stirring appeals to the troops to be prepared for the expected conflict. The general orders for August 13th and 14th indicate the spirit of these appeals:—

“HEAD QUARTERS, *Aug't 13, 1776.*”

The enemy's whole reinforcement is now arrived so that an attack must and soon will be made. The General therefore again repeats his earnest request that every officer and soldier will have his arms and ammunition in good order and keep within their quarters and encampments as much as possible to be ready for action at a moment's warning, and when called to it to remember that liberty, property, life and honor are all at stake, that upon their courage and conduct rest the hopes of their bleeding and insulted country—that their wives, children and parents expect safety from them only and that we have every reason to expect that heaven will crown with success so good a cause. The enemy will endeavour to intimidate us by show and appearance—but remember how they have been repulsed by a few brave Americans. Their cause is bad and their men are conscious of it and if opposed with firmness and coolness at their first onset with our advantages of works and knowledge of the ground the victory is surely ours. Every good soldier will be silent and attentive, wait for orders and reserve his fire till he is sure of doing execution. The officers to be particularly careful of this.”

August 14th:—

“The General flatters himself that every man's mind and arms are now prepared for the glorious contest upon which so much depends. The time is too precious, nor does the General think it necessary in exhorting his brave countrymen and fellow soldiers to behave like men fighting for everything that can be dear to yeomen. We must resolve to conquer or die—with this resolution and the blessing of Heaven, victory and success will certainly attend us. There will be a glorious issue to this campaign, and the General will reward his brave fellow soldiers with every indulgence in his power. The whole line to turn out to-morrow morning at all points ready for action and continue till 9 o'clock or further orders.”

Under date of August 20th, 1776, we find the following in general orders:—

“The officers who have lately come into camp are also informed that it has been found necessary amidst such frequent change of troops to introduce some distinction by which their several ranks can be known, viz.—Field officers are to wear a pink or red cockade, Captains white or buff, Subalterns green. The General flatters himself every gentleman

will conform to the regulations which he has found infinitely necessary to prevent mistakes and confusion."

* * * * *

"The General being informed to his great surprise that a report prevailed and industriously spread far and wide, that Lord Howe had made propositions of peace, calculated by designing persons most probably to lull us into a fatal security,—his duty obliges him to declare that no such offer has been made by Lord Howe, but on the contrary from the best intelligence he can procure, the army may expect an attack as soon as the wind and tide may prove favorable. He hopes therefore every man's mind and arms will be prepared for action and when called to it, shew to our enemies and the whole world that those men contending on their own land are superior to any mercenaries on earth. The Brigadiers are to see that the spears in the different ranks under their command are kept greased and cleaned."

In the orders for August 23d and 24th, 1776, we find the following exhortation and praise from the general in command to the officers and men :—

"The enemy have now landed on Long Island and the hour is fast approaching on which the honour and success of this army and the safety of our bleeding country depends. Remember officers and soldiers that you are freemen fighting,—fighting for the blessings of liberty, that slavery will be your portion and that of your posterity if you do not acquit yourselves like men. Remember how your courage and spirits have been despised and traduced by your cruel invaders, though they have found by dear experience at Boston, Charlestown and other places, what a few brave men contending on their own land and in the best of causes can do against base hirelings and mercenaries, be cool but determined, do not fire at a distance, but wait for orders from your officers. It is the General's express orders, that, if any man attempts to skulk, lay down or retreat without orders, he be immediately shot down as an example of cowardice. He hopes no such scoundrel will be found in this army, but on the contrary every one for himself resolving to conquer or die, and trusting to the smiles of Heaven upon so just a cause, will behave with bravery and resolution. Those who are distinguished by their gallant behaviour and good conduct, depend upon being honorably noticed and will be suitably rewarded."

August 24th :

"The General returns his thanks to the brave officers and soldiers who have with so much spirit and intrepidity repulsed the enemy and defeated their designs of taking possession of the woods near our lines; he is now convinced that the troops he has the honour to command will not in point of true bravery yield to any troops in the universe. The cheerfulness with which they do their duty and the

patience with which they endure fatigue, evinces such exalted sentiments of freedom and love for their country as gives him the most satisfactory evidence that whenever called upon they will prove themselves worthy of that freedom for which they are now contending.”

* * * * *

“The General is sorry to find Col. Rawson’s regiment flying from their post, when the timorous females would have blushed to have betrayed the least signs of fear at anything which that regiment discovered at the time of their flight.”

The record closes abruptly with the orders for August 25th, 1776, in which

“All the troops in this department are desired to wear a green bough or branch of a tree in their hats till further orders.”

There is bound in the volume a few pages apparently from another orderly book. The first order bears date August 25th, 1776, and is about the same as that of the same date just referred to; no other entry appears till September 11th, the next is October 1st, and the last is for October 3d, of the same year.

Another of the orderly books in possession of the society and perhaps of equal interest with those already named, is that of Col. Ephraim Doolittle of the 24th Mass. Regiment.¹ This extends from April 22d to August

¹ Col. Ephraim Doolittle was a merchant of Worcester, Mass., from 1760 to 1772. He was a selectman in 1763, and in 1766 represented the town in the General Court. He took an active part in political affairs before the Revolution, and in 1774 was a delegate to the Provincial Congress, at Concord, from the town of Petersham, to which place he had removed in 1772. He became Colonel of one of the Worcester county regiments of minute men formed in 1774, and on hearing the news of the fight at Concord and Lexington, April 19, 1775, marched at once to Cambridge with his regiment, and was mustered into service. At the battle of Bunker Hill he was prevented by an accident, which confined him to his bed, from taking the command of his regiment. At the close of the war he removed to Shoreham, Vt., and died there at an advanced age in 1802. In the hall of the Antiquarian Society is a curious weapon, said to have been invented by Col. Doolittle, for the use of his regiment to supply the want of arms. It is a long heavy pole, with two iron blades about eight inches long, united to a strong head with two prongs, something like those of a pitchfork, two other blades of equal length descended laterally, and another turned down. These five blades or spears, when well sharpened, must have made it rather a formidable weapon, but it is not likely it was used to any extent.

19th, 1775, a very eventful period of the Revolution. Col. Doolittle's regiment was raised in Worcester County, and promptly after the news of the fight at Lexington was received, marched to Cambridge. In May, 1775, as appears from a report in the orderly book, the regiment consisted of eight companies, numbering about three hundred and eighty, rank and file. The Lieut.-Colonel was Benj. Holden, and the Major, Willard Moore of Paxton. In the engagement, at Bunker Hill, the regiment was under the command of Maj. Moore, his senior officers being absent on account of sickness. Maj. Moore was wounded at the second attack of the British, and while being carried to the rear, received a ball through the body, which resulted in his death on the field. Col. J. Trumbull, in his ideal picture of the Battle of Bunker Hill, represents Maj. Moore as one of the officers in the thick of the fight, and as present at the death of Gen. Warren.

The first regimental order given in the manuscript is dated April 22d, 1775, and is as follows:—

“Capt. Wheeler's, Capt. Dexter's, Capt. Allin's and Capt. Wilder's Companies to obtain quarters at Water Town, till farther orders and to send to Cambridge Head Quarters for stores and to appear to-morrow morning, precisely at 9 of the clock, on the parade on the Common, Cambridge, to perform military exercise.”

The entry for May 3d is:—

“Parole ‘Langdon.’

Officer of the day, Lieut. Col. Henshaw. Field officers of the main guard, Col. William Henshaw, Maj. Bigelow. Field officers of the picquet guard, Col. Parker, Maj. Moore. Adj. of the day, Fox.

General Orders. That 8 Captains, 16 subalterns, 32 sergeants & 400 privates be drafted to go upon fatigue. Col. William Prescott to command the detachment.¹ And that he apply to the Commissary General for necessary tools, and return them at night to y^e Commissary General. The officers will receive directions from Mr. Chadwick, Engineer.”

¹ *Henshaw's* orderly book gives Col. Doolittle as the Commander of the detachment, which is probably incorrect, as Col. Doolittle or his orderly would have been aware of it, if he was to have the command, and made the entry accordingly.

In examining this manuscript, we find that the action at Bunker Hill, of which so much has been written in later years, is but briefly alluded to in general or regimental orders. It would seem natural, in our day, at least, that the death of a prominent officer of the regiment, and that too in its first battle, would be the subject of notice in a regimental order, but we look in vain for any intimation from Col. Doolittle of the death of Maj. Moore. The first regimental order we find refers only incidentally to the battle the regiment had taken part in. On the day before the momentous action is this brief entry:—

“Parole ‘Lebanon.’ Countersign ‘Coventry.’

Field officer of the day, Col. Nixon. Field officer of the picquet guard to-night, Maj. Brooks. Field officer of the main guard to-morrow morning, Lt. Col. Hutchinson. Adj. of the day, Holden.”¹

June 17th, the day of the battle, the entry is:—

“Parole ‘Deerf’d.’ Countersign ‘Conway.’

Field officer of the day, Col. Gerrish. Field officer of the picquet guard to-night, Maj. Wood. Field officer of the main guard to-morrow morning, Lt. Col. Baldwin. Adj. of the day, Febiger.”²

The entries for the 18th, 19th and 20th are equally brief, and the 21st is the first day on which there appears any indication that the troops had been engaged in a desperate encounter with the British. On that day we find the following general order:—

“That the commanding officer of each Regiment, Detachment and Company, make a complete return of the numbers in their respective Regiments, Detachments and Companies fit for duty, absent on furlow, deserted, sick, killed & wounded in the late engagement, or missing upon account thereof. That each Col. appoint a Regimental Court

¹This differs from Henshaw’s book in giving the name of Maj. Brooks, instead of that of Maj. Buttrick. Maj. Brooks was John Brooks, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts.

²Henshaw has Col. instead of Maj. Wood, the latter is probably correct, being Maj. Wood of Col. Prescott’s regiment. Christian Febiger, Adjutant of Col. Gerish’s regiment, was a Dane, who subsequently went on the Expedition to Quebec with Gen. Arnold. He was afterwards a Colonel and at the storming of Stony Point with Gen. Wayne.

Martial to try prisoners belonging to their respective Regiments for crimes that are not capital."

The general order for June 22d is:—

"That all such persons as may have in their possession guns, packs, clothing, and any other article whatever that fell into their hands, at and since the time of the engagement upon Bunker Hill, the owners of which are unknown, immediately return them to head-quarters.

SAM'L OSGOOD, *Maj. Brigade.*"

On June 24th we find the first general order giving thanks to the troops:—

[The] "General orders his thanks to be given to those officers and soldiers who behaved so very gallantly in the late action at Charlestown. Such bravery gives the General sensible pleasure, he being fully satisfied that we shall finally come off victorious and triumph over the enemies of Freedom and America."

On June 27th, 1775, Col. Doolittle issues the following regimental order:—

"It is desired that if the regiment should be called into action, that the brave and prudent may be properly noticed, that their merit may be rewarded, and that their names may be handed down to posterity with veneration and grateful acknowledgment, and if there should be any cowards, that they all may be ascertained."

"God save the People."

Gen. Washington arrived at Cambridge about two o'clock, P. M., July 2d, and the next day appears his first general order, as follows:—

"HEADQUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 3, 1775.

General orders by his Excellency Gen. Washington, Esq., Commander in Chief of the forces of the United Provinces of North America, that the Col. or Commanding officer of each Regt. is ordered forthwith to make two returns of the number of men in their respective regiments, distinguishing those who are sick, wounded, absent on furlow, and also all the quantity of ammunition each regiment has."

Under date of July 4th, 1775, we find the following not given in the Henshaw orderly book published by the Historical Society:—

"General orders, that the officer of the main guard see that his sentries have such orders as will make them alert on their posts, as there is found great deficiency, and the rounds from the main guard visit their

sentries twice every hour, and the sentries hail every person that passes, and if they cannot give an account of themselves take them up and confine them, and not to disclose the countersign to any person what rank soever. If any is found not doing their duty, either sitting or standing, be immediately confined for trial, and that no man leave the guard, but that his comrade carry his provisions to the guard house. That the Adjutant of every regiment bring on their men for main guard at 8 o'clock in the morning precisely, and if any one fails to be immediately reported to the General."

At the end of the book is a complete roster of Col. Doolittle's regiment, which then consisted of nine companies.

There are several more of these manuscripts covering different periods of the Revolution, either in the form of orderly books (two of which are written by British officers) or diaries and memoranda relating to the army. From these, other extracts of interest might have been made, but enough have been given to illustrate their value as aids to historical research.

A list of the orderly books in the possession of the Antiquarian Society is given at the close of this paper.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that the society also have the original manuscript of an account of the battle of Bunker's Hill, prepared by order of the Provincial Congress for transmission to Great Britain. This was written by Rev. Peter Thacher, who was one of a committee of three, appointed to draw up a narrative of the battle, and sent to Arthur Lee at London, as an impartial account, with the request that it be inserted in the public papers.

In the examination of the Revolutionary manuscripts now in our collection, it was found that in May, 1840, the society had placed in the charge of Hon. John P. Bigelow, as secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, "a large mass of very valuable papers" relating to the Revolution. By a vote of the council, in April, 1840, we find the terms upon which these papers were passed over to the secretary. It is as follows:—

Voted—"That the Librarian be authorized to deliver to

the Secretary of the Commonwealth, such manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution, as are now in the possession of the society, upon the conditions that the Secretary will cause the same to be arranged in good order, bound into volumes, and safely kept, while the same shall remain in his custody, and return the same, whenever thereto requested, to the Library, free of expense to the society."

This vote, with the letter of our librarian, Mr. Haven, accompanying the manuscripts, appears in House Document No. 10, January, 1841, with the report of the Secretary of State upon the subject. He states that the papers received from the Antiquarian Society have been of very essential service, that they have been arranged and indexed, "the number of names amounting to 5,896."

Many of these papers were receipts for services rendered during the war of the Revolution, of no great value to the society; but others were believed to be of special historical value and interest, and it was then thought by the council, that these might be recalled at some future day and placed in our archives. Perhaps the length of time which has elapsed since the papers were deposited with the secretary, may prove to give the right of permanent possession, but might it not be for the interest of the society to investigate the matter and, if deemed advisable, make a demand for the return of any that are of importance in illustrating the history of the times? The writer would say that his attention was first called to this subject by Dr. Haven, with the request that he examine our records and get therefrom such information as they might afford.

The society has been called to mourn the loss of two members by death since the annual meeting. Ebenezer Alden, M.D., of Randolph, Mass., died at that place Wednesday, January 26th, 1881, aged 92 years, 10 months and 9 days. He was born at Randolph, March 17th, 1788, graduated at Harvard College in 1808, and was the last surviving member of the class of that year. He studied his profession at Dartmouth College Medical School, then under

charge of Dr. Nathan Smith, and received the degree of M.B. from that College in 1811. He afterwards attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, given by Dr. Benjamin Rush and his successor, Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton; the degree of M.D. was conferred upon him by this University in 1812. Dr. Alden early commenced the practice of his profession in his native town, which was continued there for over sixty years, and he was an enthusiast in the science as well as in the practice of medicine. He was elected a member of this society in October, 1865, and was always interested in its welfare. Although of so great age he but a few months before his death sent to the Treasurer of the society his check for fifty dollars, as a life assessment, thus practically showing his interest in its objects.¹ He was proud of his ancestry from John Alden of the *Mayflower*, which was clearly traced in his interesting "Memorial of the Descendants of John Alden of Plymouth Colony," a copy of which he presented to the society. Dr. Alden was actively interested in many educational and philanthropical movements, was for over thirty years a trustee of Amherst College, for many years a director of the American Education Society, a trustee of the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, of Phillips Academy, and of the Andover Theological Seminary. He was a man of decided religious character, took an active interest in his church, and was for over forty years the superintendent of its Sunday-school, and to the last enrolled as one of its teachers. He was elected a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1840, and was, as in all his other official

¹ Since this notice was prepared for the press, the society has additional evidence of the interest taken by Dr. Alden in its welfare, the Treasurer having received from Rev. Edmund K. Alden, D.D., one of the executors of the last will of Dr. Alden, a check for one thousand dollars bequeathed to the society "as a permanent fund to be kept safely invested, the income to be expended for the benefit of the Library especially in preparing catalogues."

positions, faithful to the trust. He was much interested in music, and was for many years an active member of the Stoughton Musical Society, said to be the oldest organization of the kind in America. Dr. Alden was always a strong and consistent advocate of total abstinence, as a physician discouraging the use of alcoholic liquors even as a medicine. He took an active part in the Washingtonian temperance movement started in 1841, and contributed liberally to the aid of this and other temperance movements, not only in money, but by his voice upon the lecture platform. About five years before his death he lost the use of his eyes, which to a man of his social nature and active business habits, was a great affliction, although it was at an age when he could not be active in the duties of his profession. He was a man of marked business ability, of the strictest integrity; his advice was sought for and valued by his townsmen and friends, one of whom, in writing of him says, that love of order and regularity were marked traits in his character; that his life was characterized in many respects by an almost Puritanical simplicity and rigidity emphatic in many minor details. Nevertheless, he was sometimes warmly enthusiastic and would go into raptures over a new book, or scientific invention useful in the medical profession, or again in studying a piece of new music. His long life, so full of thought for the welfare of others, endeared him to his friends and fellow-citizens, who will cherish the memory of his work among them with affectionate regard.

Since the meeting of the council, at which this report was presented, another honored name has been added to the list of our deceased members.

John Gorham Palfrey, S.T.D., LL.D., died at his home in Cambridge, Mass., Tuesday, April 26th, 1881.

Dr. Palfrey, son of John and grandson of William Palfrey, who was Paymaster-General in the army of the Revolution, was born at Boston, May 2d, 1796. He received his early

instruction under William Payne, schoolmaster, of Boston, father of the actor known as "The Young American Roscius." He was fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H., and graduated at Harvard College in 1815. Among his classmates was our late associate, Jared Sparks, and Theophilus Parsons, who survives him.

He received the degree of S.T.D. from his alma mater in 1834, and that of LL.D. in 1869. He had also received the latter title from St. Andrew's College, Scotland, in 1838. He was pastor of the Brattle Square (Unitarian) Church, Boston, from 1818 to 1830; was made Dexter Professor of Sacred Literature, in Harvard College, in 1831; was editor of the *North American Review* from 1835 to 1843, and contributed to that publication many papers remarkable for their brilliant scholarship, which were conservative upon theological questions, but inclined to more radical views upon political subjects. Dr. Palfrey was a member of the General Court of Massachusetts, 1842-43, and in 1844 became Secretary of the Commonwealth, serving with credit for four years. While in the legislature he was chairman of the committee on education, and was prominent in promoting the continuance of the Normal School system of the State.

He was elected to Congress for the session of December, 1847, remaining there till after the March session of 1849.

In a letter to a friend, extracts from which are given in Loring's "Hundred Boston Orators," he gives his autobiography. In alluding to his editorship of the *North American Review*, after a service of four years in that capacity, he says:

"At the end of four years more,—namely in 1839,—my situation was this: During five days and a half of every week of the college terms, I was doing harder and more exhausting work, in the lecture-room and in preparation for it, than I have ever done in any other way. I was one of the three preachers in the University Chapel; and during my term of duty, in what remained of Saturday after the week's lecturing was done, I had to prepare for the religious service which I conducted

on Sunday. As Dean (or executive officer) of the theological faculty, I was charged with affairs of administration in that department of the university. As editor of the *North American Review*, I was under obligation to lay before the public two hundred and fifty or more closely printed octavo pages, every quarter. I had in press a work, of some extent and labor, on the Hebrew Scriptures. And imprudently, perhaps, but for apparently sufficient cause, I had engaged to deliver and print courses of Lectures for the Lowell Institute,—which, accordingly I did deliver, in 1839, 1840 and the two following winters.”

This extract is given to show how active he was in earnest practical work, and how much of his time must have been spent in exhaustive literary labor. As a partial relief from the strain upon body and mind, he was obliged to give up his official connection with the college, and later the editorship of the “*Review*.”

His two volumes of “*Lowell Lectures on the Evidences of Christianity*,” and his “*Academical Lectures on the Jewish Scriptures and Antiquities*,” are works of great and permanent value to the student in that line of thought. He was a very careful and painstaking writer,—and in whatever department of literature he investigated gave abundant evidence thereof. Perhaps this is more clearly shown in his most important work, the “*History of New England*,” now considered an authority upon the subjects upon which it treats. It is to be regretted that Dr. Palfrey did not live to complete, under his own eye, the fifth volume of the “*History*,” the text of which, it is understood, is substantially written, bringing the work down to the commencement of the War of the Revolution.

He published a “*Life of Col. William Palfrey*,” his grandfather, who was an aide to Gen. Washington during the occupation of Dorchester; also a “*History of Brattle Square Church*,” besides many lectures and discourses. He was one of the editors of the Commonwealth newspaper in 1851, and postmaster of Boston, 1861–66.

Dr. Palfrey was always a strong and consistent anti-slavery man, showing his devotion to the cause in many

practical ways, particularly in liberating some slaves which he had inherited, and by his voice on the floor of Congress.

He was elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1825, resigned in 1838, re-elected in 1842, but again resigned in 1854. In October, 1844, he pronounced before the Historical Society, a "Discourse on the Completion of Fifty years from its Incorporation," which was published in volume nine, third series of their "Collections."

Dr. Palfrey became a member of the American Antiquarian Society April, 1856, and has manifested his interest in its welfare at various times. His relations with Dr. Haven, our librarian, were most intimate, and it was his habit to consult and advise with him upon mooted questions while preparing the "History of New England," as well as to obtain from our archives material to illustrate that work. In the preface to the first edition, he thus acknowledges his obligation to Dr. Haven: "To no one am I indebted for more light than to that eminent archæologist, Mr. Samuel Foster Haven, of Worcester. Especially have I been aided by him in elaborating the view, presented in these pages, of the origin and purposes of the Company of Massachusetts Bay."

He was a man of strong christian faith; rather conservative upon doctrinal points and of the strictest integrity, and has left to us many evidences of his great industry and literary ability, as exhibited in his pulpit discourses, in public service, and in his contributions to historical literature.

For the Council,

NATHANIEL PAINE.

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