

PROCEEDINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 1885, AT THE HALL OF THE
SOCIETY IN WORCESTER.

THE President, HON. GEORGE F. HOAR, LL.D., in the
chair.

The following members were present (the names being
arranged in order of seniority of membership) : George E.
Ellis, Edward E. Hale, Charles Deane, George F. Hoar,
William S. Barton, J. Hammond Trumbull, Andrew P.
Peabody, George Chandler, Peter C. Bacon, Nathaniel
Paine, Joseph Sargent, Stephen Salisbury, P. Emory
Aldrich, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, George S.
Paine, Edward L. Davis, William A. Smith, Francis H.
Dewey, James F. Hunnewell, John D. Washburn, Edward
H. Hall, Reuben A. Guild, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M.
Barton, Thomas L. Nelson, Lucius R. Paige, Charles A.
Chase, Samuel S. Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W.
Haynes, Edward I. Thomas, Frederick W. Putnam,
Solomon Lincoln, Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene,
Henry S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Daniel Merriman,
Daniel C. Gilman, Reuben Colton, Robert N. Toppan,
Henry H. Edes.

The Recording Secretary read the records of the last
meeting, which were approved. The same officer commu-
nicated the recommendation by the Council of the following
named gentlemen for membership in the Society :

REV. GRINDALL REYNOLDS, A.M., of Concord, Mass.

EDWARD CHANNING, Ph.D., of Cambridge, Mass.

Each of these gentlemen was declared elected, a separate ballot having been taken on each name.

REV. ANDREW P. PEABODY, D.D., read the report which had been prepared by him and adopted by the Council as a part of their report to the Society.

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., Treasurer, and EDMUND M. BARTON, Esq., Librarian, read their reports.

All the above reports, as together constituting the Report of the Council, were accepted, and on motion of Prof. HENRY W. HAYNES referred to the Committee of Publication.

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., in seconding the motion, said he had in his possession a copy of a letter from Washington, dated either at Valley Forge or Morristown, asking the result of a lottery drawing in Philadelphia, in which he held tickets. Sparks, in his life of Washington, omitted the sentence of the letter which referred to the lottery. Judge P. EMORY ALDRICH said, as to the connection of Washington or of Harvard College with a lottery, that a misapprehension seemed to exist. He said that an act only became a crime, or an offence, when it was prohibited. A lottery may be praiseworthy in a generation which has not reached a point which makes it a nuisance. The difference between a trespass and a crime is that the former is an injury to an individual, while the latter affects the public. When the lottery came to be treated as a crime it was because the manner of the drawing became an injury to the public. Judge ALDRICH said he could not see why any man, with any knowledge of criminal law, should hesitate for a moment to say that Washington or Harvard College, for a good purpose, established a lottery. It was no crime in a time when society had not risen to regard it as a crime. Librarian BARTON said a lottery was once projected by the Society, but was abandoned.

Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, LL.D., was then elected President by ballot, and accepted the office. He said:

I thank you for this renewed honor. The opinion, expressed last year, that the interest of the Society requires a President who can give to its service more time than I can command has been confirmed by experience. But I will, if it be desired, perform the duties of the office as well as I can for another year. The Society was never more prosperous than to-day. But to maintain its rank among the learned associations of the country it needs some addition to its resources. The library depends almost wholly upon voluntary contribution for its increase. We cannot expect, now that so large a number of libraries are established all over the country, that ours will be so exclusively preferred as a depository for valuable material for history as it has been. It is to be desired that students who come here for special investigations may find in our library the means of making them complete. To this end we need a considerable fund for the purchase of books. The care of the library so enlarged, and the giving necessary aid and advice to persons who consult it will require all the time of our accomplished Librarian. Mr. BARTON'S unflinching courtesy and his great familiarity with the library have already largely increased its value to the public. A public library, nowadays, is not more than one half books to one half librarian.

We ought also to have in our service, if the Librarian and his assistants are engrossed by the care and increase of such collections as we need, some person who shall direct and pursue the original investigations for which, in part, the Society was established,—such a person as Mr. Haven was, such a person as George P. Marsh would have been, if he had lived to come home and pursue his studies in his old age. To a fund for the salary of a Secretary of Publication and Research should be added an increase of our present means for publication. Without something of this sort the Society cannot maintain its old place at the head of American institutions devoted to its special objects. It

cannot even long maintain a respectable rank among the numerous local societies that are springing up; and there is danger that it may in future times itself become an object of antiquarian research.

The Recording Secretary in a few words supported the views expressed by the President.

Rev. GEORGE E. ELLIS, D.D., gave some personal reminiscences of Rev. Dr. Bancroft and Governor Davis, and spoke of others who were his early associates in the Society.

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., during the absence of the nominating committee, referred briefly to the subject of a memoir of Rev. Manasseh Cutler, of which Dr. PEABODY had made mention in his report. He said:

I noticed, Mr. President, near the conclusion of the Council's Report, that the speaker said he had looked in vain for a memoir of the Rev. Manasseh Cutler, LL.D., of Hamilton, Mass., and he expressed some surprise that none had been published of him. Undoubtedly this is a great omission. Dr. Cutler is clearly entitled to recognition as a man of science, and as a statesman of enlarged patriotism. Dr. Asa Gray, in a note to me enclosing a scrap of paper, and enquiring if the writing on it was in Dr. Cutler's hand, called him "our first (earliest) New England botanist;" while our associate, Mr. WILLIAM F. POOLE, of Chicago, in an interesting article in the *North American Review*, for April, 1876, has shown that the country was largely indebted to Dr. Cutler for securing the Ordinance of 1787, with its enlightened and merciful provisions. His life was crowded with a diversity of employment. It has been for many years understood that a memoir of Dr. Cutler was in preparation by a gentleman of Providence, R. I., who had been entrusted with family manuscripts, including a diary, for this purpose; but it is believed that nothing was written, and the long deferred hope of a memoir from that source is now cut off by death. But I

am told that the manuscripts of which I have spoken—Dr. Cutler's manuscripts—have been reclaimed by his descendants at Marietta, and that a memoir of Dr. Cutler is now preparing by a member of the family.

Dr. Cutler was an early member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, having been chosen in 1792. But he resigned several years before his death. For that reason no memoir of him appeared in that society's publications. In sending in his resignation he said, in a letter preserved on file, that he was unable by ill health to attend the meetings, and he also found it inconvenient to pay the annual tax, which was three dollars. It may be added that a sketch of Dr. Cutler's life, comprised in some half a dozen pages, is contained in Dr. Felt's History of Ipswich, Essex and Hamilton, published in 1834.

The Committee on Nominations for the remaining officers, consisting of Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D., REUBEN A. GUILD, LL.D., and J. EVARTS GREENE, Esq., made the following report:

For Vice-Presidents:

Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT, LL.D., of Newport, R. I.
STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., of Worcester.

Councillors:

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., of Boston.
JOSEPH SARGENT, M.D., of Worcester.
Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D., of Boston.
Hon. P. EMORY ALDRICH, of Worcester.
Rev. EGBERT C. SMYTH, D.D., of Andover.
SAMUEL S. GREEN, A.M., of Worcester.
Rev. ANDREW P. PEABODY, D.D., of Cambridge.
CHARLES A. CHASE, A.M., of Worcester.
Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS, of Worcester.
Prof. FRANKLIN B. DEXTER, of New Haven, Ct.

Secretary of Foreign Correspondence:

HON. J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL.D., of Hartford, Ct.

Secretary of Domestic Correspondence:

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., of Cambridge.

Recording Secretary:

HON. JOHN D. WASHBURN, LL.B., of Worcester.

Treasurer:

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., of Worcester.

Committee of Publication:

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., of Boston.

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., of Cambridge.

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., of Worcester.

CHARLES A. CHASE, A.M., of Worcester.

Auditors:

CHARLES A. CHASE, A.M., of Worcester.

WILLIAM A. SMITH, A.B., of Worcester.

The report was accepted and all the gentlemen above named were elected to the respective offices by ballot.

Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., made the following report, on behalf of the Committee of Publication, on Lechford's Note-book, this day published as Vol. VII. of the Transactions of the Society:—

Thomas Lechford's manuscript Note-book has long been in the possession of our associate, Mr. SAMUEL JENNISON. It came to him from his father to whom it had been given by a friend (Mr. Edward W. Ridgway). Mr. Jennison the elder had made a beginning upon the work of publication and editing, which was ended, however, by his death. Some work was also done some time since by our associate, Hon. J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, but he turned his

attention to Lechford's Plain Dealing, and although he used the Note-book frequently in the valuable edition of the Plain Dealing prepared by him for Wiggin and Lunt he did not complete his valuable labors in annotating it. Subsequently our late associate, Judge Dwight Foster, turned his attention to the Note-book and desiring to publish it for the Society, he began work upon it but was unable to continue on account of his professional labors, and therefore committed the Note-book to the care of Mr. Edward E. Hale, Jr., who has finished the work of editing and publishing it under the supervision of your Publishing Committee. Copies of the book are now ready for distribution.

It will be of interest to the members of the Society to note the particular field covered by the Note-book. Its date is 1638-1641. It was kept, as you know, by Thomas Lechford, the first, or rather the earliest, Boston lawyer. It is the daily record of the business done by him while he staid in the Colony. The papers drawn up by him are here, either at length or suggested by a memorandum, and the other business done by him finds note or mention.

The class of people who seem to have constituted the larger part of Lechford's clients shows us the direction in which the Note-book will prove useful. They will be seen to be almost entirely of that class immediately below the magistracy. As is well known, Lechford was no favorite with the rulers of the Colony, and it is not therefore surprising that we find the more prominent historical names are not frequently noted. For instance, the four most important ministers in and about Boston are mentioned only in the most cursory manner. John Cotton is alluded to three times. John Wilson is named twice, John Norton but once, Samuel Shephard twice. In the case of the magistracy of the time, Winthrop, Dudley and Bellingham, each of these Governors during Lechford's stay are mentioned a number of times, usually as signing certificates of

one sort or another. But of the assistants, the name of Endicott occurs but three times, that of Nowell but five times, Bradstreet but three, Humfrey seven, Stoughton four and Saltonstall but three times. So if we should look to the Note-book for information as to the public affairs of the Colony we should be disappointed. On the other hand, of the class immediately below the magistracy and clergy, the notice is especially full. The selectmen of the Town of Boston during Lechford's stay all appear in the Note-book, most of them many times, so too with the deputies to the General Court. These men, the more prominent of the townsmen, were among Lechford's more constant clients. And, in looking over the Town Records and noting every name that occurs during Lechford's residence in the Town we find that forty-two per cent. of the names may be found in the Note-book. In the same way, in looking over the list of property-holders in the Book of Possessions (1645) we shall find thirty-six per cent. of the names in the Note-book. And had I a list of the townsmen appointed constables, fence viewers, water bailiffs, allotters (of land), surveyors of highways, fold keepers and to other official positions in the little community, I have little doubt that ninety per cent. of them would turn out to be Lechford's most prominent clients. So that our knowledge of the well-to-do and solid part of the community would become very complete should we follow out all the hints to be found in the Note-book. Besides these names, more or less well-known, the genealogist will find not a few names which do not exist in Savage's dictionary.

As for the contents of the book, the sort of entries or papers we may look for, the Society may take this as an incomplete list: We have letters of attorney, certificates, depositions, indentures, leases, bills of exchange, petitions to the general court, in one case a medical recipe, commissions to magistrates or to merchants, passports so to speak, articles of agreement or of apprenticeship, articles of

complaint, bonds, accounts, deeds, warrants, etc. But particularly valuable will be found that class of papers, such as wills, letters of attorney, bills of exchange, etc., showing connection between persons and families in New England and Old England. There are also several shorthand letters throwing light upon Lechford's private affairs and his dealings with the rulers of the Colony. These, however, had already been deciphered and made use of by our associate, Dr. TRUMBULL, in his introduction to the Plain Dealing.

WILLIAM S. BARTON, Esq., of Worcester, read some extracts from early diaries kept by his father, the late Hon. Ira M. Barton, accompanying the same by explanatory remarks.

Mr. PUTNAM gave a brief account of the continued explorations of the mounds in Ohio by Dr. Charles L. Metz and himself; calling particular attention to the discovery of a mound under which was a peculiar V-shaped arrangement of stones extending to the depth of about five feet and at the bottom of which was a stone cist containing the remains of a human skeleton extended at full length. The space above this grave between the sloping sides, walled with large flat stones, was filled with earth on which, and covering the edge of the sloping walls, were many stones forming a regular oblong structure. At one end of this structure was a small stone cist containing burnt human bones and a clay vessel. In the mound also were four stone graves made of large flat limestones put on edge and covered with flat stones. On the original surface under the mound was a large hearth, made of stones set on edge, on which was a thick layer of ashes containing burnt bones, and below the ashes was a long flint point. Over these interesting structures and graves a small mound of earth, about five feet high, had been formed.

Mr. PUTNAM dwelt on the importance of this particular mound, the discovery of which was due to Dr. Metz, in

showing how much there was yet to be learned about the mounds of this country and the importance of conducting the explorations in a thorough and systematic manner. He also called attention to some other important and novel discoveries which had been made by the workers of the Peabody Museum, and to the great advance which had taken place during the past few years in American Archaeology, which was at last being studied in a way due to its importance, by a few earnest workers who were pursuing the investigation with all the methods of science.

The meeting was then dissolved.

JOHN D. WASHBURN,

Recording Secretary.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.