

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council of the American Antiquarian Society desire to make their one hundred and fifty-first semi-annual report. As was suggested at the annual meeting a departure from established custom has been made in the form of arrangement of the last report of the Council, by which the topic selected for special consideration in the report is kept distinctly apart from business relating exclusively to the Society. This change, made by the Committee of Publication, it is hoped will be acceptable, as it will facilitate reference to many interesting subjects, which were in danger of being buried, together with the title of the essay treated, in miscellaneous matter of the report. It is possible, also, that the same Committee may think best to print the biographical notices so separated from other text as to render their consultation more easy. The report of our Treasurer, Mr. Nathaniel Paine, gives us a very satisfactory statement of the condition of our funds, and shows us how much we are indebted to his skilful and unremitting oversight for the present safe and abiding character of our investments. In the biographical notice of our associate, the late Hon. Francis H. Dewey, LL.D., we have informed the Society of a very liberal provision made for the purchase of the biographies and the miscellaneous writings of distinguished judges and lawyers, by the gift of two thousand dollars, the income of which is to be applied to this object. When the time arrives for the payment of this bequest the Council will take appropriate official action and will report it to the Society.

The report of the Librarian, Mr. Barton, gives a detailed account of the present condition of our collections and the accessions of the past six months. It will be noticed that we have received in that time one thousand two hundred and

seventy-five bound books, three thousand nine hundred and thirty pamphlets, and seventy-seven bound and one hundred and sixty unbound volumes of newspapers. These gifts have been received from forty members, from one hundred and two persons non-members and from seventy-six societies and institutions, making in all two hundred and eighteen sources of accession. This is a little more than an average semi-annual increase of our library. The use of our collections by scholars and students continues to grow, and the large number of gifts from others than members shows conclusively that the opportunity freely afforded for consultation is appreciated and gratefully recognized. It will be necessary for the Committee on the Library at once to provide more shelves in the lower room for the storage of such books as can be removed from the upper halls, and thus afford an opportunity for the better arrangement of the classified collections they contain.

The reports of the Treasurer and of the Librarian, which form a part of the report of the Council, are herewith submitted.

The Council are in receipt of a biography of Señor Dr. Gumesindo Mendoza, a foreign member of the Society, whose death was mentioned in the report of the Council, April 28, 1886. It was prepared at the request of our Librarian by Dr. Manuel Villada, Professor of Geology and Paleontology, in the Museo Nacional de México, and at the personal solicitation of Professor F. Ferrari Pery, of the Military College at Tacubaya, and it is the first and only notice we have seen.

Three of our associates have died since the October meeting, namely, James Carson Brevoort, Francis Henshaw Dewey and Ferdinand Vandever Hayden.

Señor Dr. Gumesindo Mendoza was born of humble parentage in the town of Aculco, district of Jilotepec, Mexico, in the year 1829. He was educated by a priest,

acquiring in this way an extensive knowledge of the Latin language. He studied philosophy with much success in the Literary Institute of Toluca, and he afterwards pursued the study of pharmacy in the Medical School of Mexico, obtaining a degree as Professor in 1860; and entering the Medical Academy in 1864 he there pursued with ardor the study of the natural sciences, taking botany as a specialty. Acquiring a very exact knowledge of the native flora of Mexico from frequent botanical excursions, he published various articles upon botanical subjects, upon the analysis of Mexican mineral waters and upon the action of certain drugs and medicines. In 1865 he was made adjunct Professor of Pharmacy in the School of Medicine of Mexico and later became Professor of Analytical Chemistry, resigning only on account of the infirmity which caused his death. He was a member of the Health Council of the city of Mexico, giving valuable aid by his chemical analyses. He was a member of the *Sociedad Mexicana de Geografia y Estadística* and of the *Sociedad Mexicana de Historia Natural*. In 1867 he became Chemical and Technological Professor in the National School of Agriculture and in the *Escuela Nacional de Artes y Oficios*. Chemistry then became his favorite study, in which he made notable discoveries.

In 1877 Señor Mendoza was made Director of the *Museo Nacional de México*, in which office he continued until the year preceding his death. He founded the periodical entitled *Anales del Museo de México*, which he enriched with his valuable essays, and his unwearying activity found in the study of archæology an extensive field for the exercise of the superior intelligence with which he was endowed. Some of his writings in this line of investigation were "An Aztec Idol of the Chinese Type," "A Bronze Chisel of the Ancient Aztecs," "A Supplement to the Essay of Señor Orosco y Berra on the Teachings of Hieroglyphics," "The Pyramids of Teotihuacan," "*Cosmogonia Azteca*," "Com-

parative Studies in the Sanscrit and the Nahuatl Languages," "Myths of the Nahuas," and a catalogue of the archaeological and historical collections of the National Museum, in which he was assisted by Señor Dr. Jesus Sanches, the present Director of the Museum. He was a member of many foreign scientific societies, whose publications he understood how to utilize from a practical familiarity with the various languages in which they were written. Señor Mendoza was elected a member of this Society in April, 1881. He died February 6, 1886, after a distressing illness of more than a year.

Hon. James Carson Brevoort, LL.D., was born July 10, 1818, at Bloomingdale, now a part of New York City, and attended school in that city, in Northampton, and afterward in Paris, and later at Baron Fellenberg's school in Hofwyl, Switzerland. He then entered the *Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures* in Paris, and graduated as civil engineer. In 1841 he was employed as surveyor in the Northeast Boundary Survey. In 1842, he accompanied Washington Irving, United States Minister to Spain, as private secretary and attaché of the legation, and made an extensive tour through Europe after the expiration of this appointment.

In 1845 Mr. Brevoort married Elizabeth Dorothea Lefferts, only child of Hon. Leffert Lefferts of Bedford, now a part of Brooklyn, and made Brooklyn his home, where he became actively engaged in whatever concerned the welfare of that city. His only child, Henry Leffert Brevoort, survives him. In 1847 he was a member of the Charter Convention, and for several years he served on the Board of Education. From 1856 to 1862 he was Secretary of the Board of Water Commission. In 1863 he took an active part in the formation of the Long Island Historical Society, was its president until 1873, and was constantly concerned in its management until his death. From 1852 to 1878 he

was a trustee of the Astor Library, serving as superintendent for the last two years of that period.

Mr. Brevoort was a member of many scientific, historical, archæological and literary societies of this country and of Europe. He was a regent of the University of the State of New York, and received the degree of LL.D. from Williams College in 1873.

“His contributions to historical and scientific journals were numerous. In Natural History he was specially interested in Ichthyology, his collections were extensive, and his writings on that subject have high authority. His ‘Notes on some figures of Japanese Fish by artists of the United States Expedition to Japan,’ were published in separate form. Other separate publications were ‘Early Spanish and Portuguese Coinage in America,’ and ‘Verrazano the Navigator, or Notes on Giovanni da Verrazzano and on a Planisphere of 1529, illustrating his American Voyage in 1524.’ His thorough acquaintance with ancient and modern languages opened to him sources of information inaccessible to many, and in his special lines of study, particularly of geographical discovery, of maps, and of general bibliography, his knowledge was extensive and accurate. Students and all others desirous of information found him always willing to impart his knowledge and to open his library to them, his kindly manner giving added value to assistance so freely and unselfishly rendered.”¹

Mr. Brevoort was elected a member of this Society in October, 1868. His gifts to the library have been numerous and valuable. The Librarian’s report for October, 1885, contains this paragraph: “One of the latest, and by far the most valuable acquisition is that from Hon. James Carson Brevoort, LL.D., for nearly twenty years a valued member of this Society. In his letter of presentation, he says, ‘I send you as a gift a number of the early books on

¹“In Memoriam.” Long Island Historical Society, 1888.

Japan, which I have been collecting for more than twenty-five years, thinking that your library is the fittest depository for the nucleus of such a collection.' * * * Beginning with the Venetian titles of 1558, and ending with those of Paris in 1859, we find one hundred and three books printed on thirty-five of the leading presses of the world—including the Cramoisy and the Elzevir—in six different languages; namely, English, French, German, Italian, Latin and Spanish. Of these issues of the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there are represented forty-three, forty-three, ten and seven titles, respectively. Two copies of Pagés's *Bibliographie Japonaise, ou Catalogue des ouvrages relatifs au Japon, qui ont été publiés depuis le Cinquième Siècle jusqu'à nos jours*, 4to, Paris, 1859, containing Mr. Brevoort's valuable notes, accompany and make a part of this most important donation. We may well be even more grateful for his noble and timely example than for the gift itself." In October, 1887, our Librarian records a gift from the same source of eight more volumes to be added to his Japanese collection, of five volumes for the Davis Spanish-American alcove, and of other books for the general library. Mr. Brevoort died December 7, 1887.

Hon. Francis Henshaw Dewey, LL.D., born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, July 12, 1821, was the son of Hon. Charles A. Dewey and Frances A., daughter of Hon. Samuel Henshaw. The first American ancestor of the family was Thomas Dewey, who came from Kent, England, and settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1634, and our associate, a descendant in the sixth generation, came from a line of distinguished jurists. His grandfather, Hon. Daniel Dewey, was appointed a justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in 1814, and his father, Hon. Charles A. Dewey, appointed in 1837, served as a justice of the same court for nearly thirty years. Francis H. Dewey graduated from Williams College in 1840, and attended both the Yale

and Harvard Law Schools, completing his law studies in the office of Hon. Emory Washburn in Worcester, with whom he entered into partnership in 1843. This partnership was dissolved when Mr. Washburn became associate justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and Mr. Dewey continued his rapidly increasing practice until 1850, from which time Hon. Hartley Williams was his associate in business until 1863. In 1866 Frank P. Goulding, Esq., became Mr. Dewey's partner, and so continued until 1869, when Mr. Dewey was appointed an associate justice of the Superior Court. He resigned his judgeship after twelve years of service, feeling unable to continue the work and at the same time to satisfy the demands of other interests with which he had become connected.

In respect to his character as justice of the Superior Court, the subjoined opinion of one of his associates¹ for years upon that bench is kindly furnished at our request :

“Judge Dewey inherited judicial tastes and capacities. He came to the bench, at a mature age, with these natural qualifications enriched by thorough professional training and varied experiences in both public and business affairs. As a judge he was, therefore, able to guide causes through the labyrinths of the law to wise and just practical results. He was rarely overruled in questions of law ; his judgment upon matters of fact was rarely questioned. With great aptitude for work and unfailing fidelity, he bore his judicial burdens with cheerfulness, and gave to his associates not only the benefit of sound counsel, but the cheer of his genial companionship.”

Another writer² says of him :

“Judge Dewey's most noticeable trait, at least to those who did not know him intimately, was his suavity. His temper was never ruffled. In the sharpest of forensic battles he maintained always the same blandly courteous manner. It was of course necessary sometimes to be severe in action and in speech, and when occasion demanded he could make his words sting and wound, but he avoided the necessity, if

¹ Hon. Robert C. Pitman of Newton, Associate Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts.

² J. Everts Greene, Esq. *Worcester Daily Spy*, December 17, 1887.

he could, and when it could not be evaded the cutting censure was accompanied by an aspect so benign as almost to deprive it of its terrors. * * * A man so quick of apprehension as Judge Dewey must often have been wearied by the tedious prolixity of trials, in which lawyers sometimes vehemently rattle the husks from which all the kernels have been shaken long before. If Judge Dewey felt such weariness he never showed it by his manner. His patience seemed to be inexhaustible. If any of his legal opponents supposed that his amenity of speech or deportment implied facility of temper or lack of tenacity, they soon found their mistake. No man more quickly grasped a fair advantage or held it more tenaciously. As an advocate he was both convincing and persuasive. He seemed to take the jury into his confidence, explaining his client's case to them as if he was sure of their interest and sympathy, as for the most part he had reason to be."

After resigning his position on the bench in 1881, Judge Dewey became the legal adviser of the Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company, of which he had been a director since 1874. His life continued to be one of intense activity and varied interest, and from the moment that he was free from the responsibilities of his position on the bench he showed a remarkable willingness to undertake new, arduous and generally unremunerative duties for which his great natural and acquired gifts eminently fitted him. He was a trustee of Williams College since 1869, in which office he had been preceded by other members of his family, and from that institution he received, in 1873, the honorary degree of LL.D. The President of Williams College, Franklin Carter, LL.D., in a letter to a friend thus speaks of his services:

"Judge Dewey's relations to the College as Trustee were very intimate. By descent and by mental qualities he was fitted for the Trusteeship, and during the many years he held the position he did heroic service for the general progress of the College in many directions. Though he was specially charged with the care of the finances, with investments and the supervision of expenditures, he had such a rugged nerve, such a conservative love of all that

was best in the past, that on the most general question he was judicious and penetrating. His sagacity and persistent adherence to what he believed to be best were of great value in many emergencies. He loved the College and gave it his best, his time, his money and his sons. The present prosperity of the institution he greatly contributed to securing, and never were his counsels more valuable or more influential than during the last two years. He had a sympathy with all human feeling, but guided by his legal training worked for the good of all, not for the advancement of personal interests or cliques. He was broad and loving at the same time; just and tender in the same act. I can not, my dear Sir, overestimate his services or express my sense of his loss. He never omitted a duty that he could perform for the College. He went out of his way to secure any good influence for its advance. His genial humor, his kindly presence were so large a part of the meetings of the board, so large a part of every gathering for the College that he could attend, that no one, after Dr. Hopkins's death, can be missed more widely than he."

He was President of the board of trustees of the Worcester Free Public Library from 1882, President of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, President of the Rural Cemetery Corporation, President of the board of trustees of the Old Men's Home, President of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Williams College, and a trustee of several philanthropic institutions. He was also President of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad and President of the Mechanics Savings Bank. He was also a director of the Mechanics National Bank, and for years was active in the support and management of the affairs of All Saints Parish (Episcopal). Judge Dewey was comparatively inactive in politics, but he had served in both branches of the city government. He was in the State Senate in 1856 and 1869, acting as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in both years.

Judge Dewey was twice married: his first wife was Frances A., daughter of John Clarke, Esq., of Northampton, to whom he was married in 1846. She died in a few years, and in 1853 he married Sarah B., daughter of Hon.

George A. Tufts, of Dudley. They have four surviving children.

Judge Dewey possessed a rare combination of kindness of manner, quick apprehension and sagacity, excellent judgment and uncommon business capacity, and in all the walks of life he was considerate and courteous. He was prompt in his decisions and took a leading part in all important deliberations. He held himself in great control and constantly acted as a peace-maker on occasions of excited controversy. Modest and quiet in his demeanor, he was accessible to all and inspired warm attachment among his associates. He had a great natural love for flowers, and a knowledge of their varieties which he had acquired from personal attention to their cultivation. The Worcester County Horticultural Society has recorded his faithfulness to its interests and to the culture of flowers and fruits during his long connection with it of forty-five years. For the society of children Mr. Dewey always manifested a marked predilection, which increased as he advanced in years, and they responded to his kindly attentions by an intuitive appreciation that was noticeable.

Judge Dewey was elected a member of this Society in October, 1869, and was constant in his attendance and interest at its stated meetings. By his will he provided for a Fund for the purchase of books, declared in the following language: "I give and bequeath to the American Antiquarian Society the sum of two thousand dollars, the same to be invested and the income thereof to be applied to the purchase of the biographies and the miscellaneous writings of distinguished judges and lawyers." Judge Dewey died December 24, 1887, after an illness of only two days duration.

Prof. Ferdinand Vandever Hayden, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D., was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, September 7, 1829. Early in life he went to Ohio and graduated from Oberlin College in 1850. He studied medicine at the

Albany Medical College, and obtained his degree in 1853. At once he was sent by Prof. James Hall, State Geologist, of New York, to visit the Bad Lands of White River, Dakota, to make collections of the cretaceous and tertiary fossils of that region. This was the beginning of his explorations of the West, which continued with little interruption for more than thirty years. The collections he made furnished the data for profitable scientific investigation; and the researches then begun mark the commencement of the geological investigation of the great West. The attention of the officers of the Smithsonian Institution was attracted to Dr. Hayden's labors, and in 1856 he was employed by Lieutenant G. K. Warren of the United States Topographical Engineers to make a report on the regions he had explored. He was appointed the same year geologist on the staff of Lieutenant Warren, who was then engaged in making a reconnoissance of the North-west. In 1859 he was appointed naturalist and surgeon to the expedition for the exploration of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. He continued in this service until 1862. The results of his work in his expeditions to the West were published by the scientific and philosophical societies of Philadelphia, and the earlier collections that he made he divided between the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and that of St. Louis.

Dr. Hayden was appointed acting assistant surgeon of volunteers in 1862, became full surgeon in 1863, and in 1864 he was sent to Winchester, Va., as chief medical officer of the army in the Shenandoah Valley. He resigned in 1865, when he was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel for meritorious services during the war.

He was elected Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in the University of Pennsylvania in 1865, a position which he held until 1872, when increasing duties in connection with the geological survey of the territories induced him to resign. From 1867 to 1879 the history of Dr. Hayden is

the history of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, of which he was the geologist in charge and to the success of which he devoted all his energies during the twelve years of its existence. In this time more than fifty volumes together with numerous maps were issued under his supervision. One of the results of his surveys, and the one in which he took the greatest interest, was the setting aside by Congress of the Yellowstone National Park. The idea of reserving this region as a park or pleasure ground originated with Dr. Hayden, and the law setting it apart was prepared under his direction.

In 1879 Dr. Hayden became geologist on the newly organized United States Geological Survey. He continued these scientific labors until 1886, when he resigned on account of failing health after twenty-eight years of active service as naturalist, surgeon and geologist. To the general interest in science excited by the enthusiastic labors of Dr. Hayden in his geological explorations is due, in a great degree, the existence and continuance of the present United States Geological Survey.

Dr. Hayden was elected a member of this Society in October, 1873. In 1886 the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University of Rochester and by the University of Pennsylvania. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and of many other societies throughout the country, and he was honorary and corresponding member of a large number of foreign societies. He was genial in character and sincere and enthusiastic in his desire to forward the cause of science, and a great part of his work for the government and science seems to have been a labor of love. Dr. Hayden died in Philadelphia, December 22, 1887, after an illness of more than a year.

For the Council,

STEPHEN SALISBURY.

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