

## PROCEEDINGS.

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 30, 1890, AT THE HALL OF THE  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BOSTON.

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THE President, STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., in the chair.

The following members were present (the names being arranged in order of seniority of membership): George E. Ellis, Edward E. Hale, George F. Hoar, Andrew P. Peabody, Nathaniel Paine, William C. Endicott, Stephen Salisbury, P. Emory Aldrich, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard, Edward L. Davis, James F. Hunnewell, Egbert C. Smyth, Albert H. Hoyt, Edward G. Porter, Charles C. Smith, Hamilton B. Staples, Edmund M. Barton, Charles Devens, Thomas L. Nelson, Lucius R. Paige, Charles A. Chase, Samuel S. Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Edward I. Thomas, Solomon Lincoln, Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene, Henry S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Daniel Merriman, Reuben Colton, Robert N. Toppan, Henry H. Edes, Grindall Reynolds, Edward Channing, Frank P. Goulding, A. George Bullock, John N. Brown, William E. Foster.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Charles A. Chase, A.M., was chosen Secretary *pro tempore*.

The record of the last meeting was read and approved.

J. EVARTS GREENE, Esq., of Worcester, read that portion of the Report of the Council prepared by himself.

The portion of the Report, prepared by Hon. JOHN D. WASHBURN (absent in Switzerland as Minister Resident from the United States), was read by Hon. EDWARD L. DAVIS.

Prof. HENRY W. HAYNES expressed the hope that Mr. GREENE would add to his notice of Dr. CHARLES DEANE, a bibliography of his writings for the benefit of those members who do not know where to look for them.

The Report of the Treasurer, NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., and the Report of the Librarian, Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON, were then presented by those gentlemen.

These reports, as together constituting the Report of the Council, were, on motion of Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, accepted and referred to the Committee of Publication.

SAMUEL S. GREEN, A.M., said :—“ In 1798, the French Directory forced upon the Swiss nation a stronger central government, and Napoleon, also exerted his influence in a somewhat similar direction. But I suppose it is well understood that although this form of government was forced upon Switzerland, the experience of it was found to be so beneficial in some respects that a party was immediately created favoring a strong central government; and we are not surprised, although the old interest in cantonal government as opposed to centralized government came to the front again and was very powerful, that there was a growing interest in favor of a strong central power; and so we are not surprised to find that interest showing itself when the time came to form the constitution of 1848. Mr. Washburn has referred to the work of Adams and Cunningham, published in 1889, which is an admirable popular summary of Swiss institutions. There is also an excellent little book published in our own country, in 1889, by Dr. Moses, Professor of History and Political Economy in the University of California, which describes Swiss institutions minutely, and besides compares them with those of the United States, and also of other federal governments, such as the South American Republics, the republic of Mexico and the empire of Germany. During the present year the Swiss Constitution of 1874 has been published in a very accessible form as one of the pamphlets issued by

the University of Pennsylvania. This gives a translation in full of the Constitution. So also does Old South Leaflet No. 18 which contains, besides, many excellent references illustrative of the Swiss Constitution."

The Council having recommended to the Society for membership—

HANNIS TAYLOR, Esq., of Mobile, Ala.,

HAMILTON ANDREWS HILL, Esq., of Boston, Mass.,

THOMAS LINDALL WINTHROP, Esq., of Boston, Mass.,

they were, by separate ballot, elected members.

The PRESIDENT called attention to the fact that there is before the public an appeal to erect at Delft Haven a monument to the pilgrims, somewhat smaller than the one at Plymouth, and much less expensive. He stated that an appeal in regard to it had been sent to the Society, and had the endorsement of well-known societies and individuals, and was certainly interesting. He said that another appeal had also come to the Society in regard to erecting a monument by the Buffalo Historical Society, to the distinguished Indian, Red Jacket.

JAMES F. HUNNEWELL, Esq., read a paper, in continuation, upon "Illustrated Americana from 1600 to the present time."

Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, said: "I would like to suggest to Mr. HUNNEWELL that it might be worth while as a part of his paper to give a little statement of the artists and engravers of the illustrated edition of Isaiah Thomas's Pulpit Bible; which was printed in 1791. There is a great variety of engravers, a list of whose names is given in O'Callaghan, I think; at least I have seen it in print, and their residence is also given in some cases. Whether they are all Americans or not I do not know; but the engravings are some of them of great merit, and I suppose it was the first book published in this country so elegantly ornamented in the way of engravings. I would also suggest that perhaps it would be well to add some notice of James Earle's prints of the

battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, which are very valuable indeed for their historical accuracy; and I suppose that Earle's prints furnish as absolute a picture of these events as could be made."

Mr. HUNNEWELL stated that he had omitted a great deal pertaining to the Revolutionary period, considering that as a class by itself, and he or somebody else might have something to say about that branch of the subject at another time.

Rev. EDWARD G. PORTER of Lexington read a paper upon "The Aborigines of Australia."

ANDREW MCFARLAND DAVIS, Esq., of Cambridge, read a paper upon the "Early College Buildings at Cambridge."

NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., read a paper prepared by Dr. FRANZ BOAS of Clark University, at Worcester, being an Analysis of a Prehistoric Skull from Yucatan.

The PRESIDENT read a letter from EDWARD H. THOMPSON, Esq., United States Consul at Mérida, Yucatan, presenting to the Society plaster casts of vases and other articles found by him in Yucatan, or owned by the *Museo Yucateco* at Mérida.

Upon motion of Mr. HOAR, a vote of thanks was passed for the gift of Mr. THOMPSON to the Society.

Senator HOAR said: "I think this is as fitting an opportunity as may occur to call attention to a very serious statement made by Mr. Spencer Walpole, author of the *Life of Lord John Russell* and of the *History of England since 1815*, in regard to Mr. Everett, who was a member of this Society, and whose membership was highly valued. Mr. Walpole, in his *Life of Lord John Russell*, is giving an account of English politics in 1845-46, especially with regard to the Oregon controversy between England and this country, and says: 'The state of Ireland and the relation of this country with the United States, increased the anxiety of the Minister. American statesmen seemed bent on war, and Mr. Everett, the American Minister in London, took the unusual course of appealing from the govern-

ment to the opposition. Lord John sent him the following answer,' Then follows Lord John Russell's letter, dated February 3, 1846, beginning:—'My dear Mr. Everett: I am indebted to you for the clear and able view which you have communicated to me of the controversy now pending between your country and mine.'

"Now, Mr. Everett was the most discreet of men. Nothing would have been more abhorrent to him than to be accused of a diplomatic indiscretion, which would have caused his recall by his own government, or his instant dismissal by the English Government. As this letter of Lord John Russell was dated February 3, 1846, the letter of Mr. Everett to which it was a reply must have been dated about the same time. Now, Mr. Everett took his leave of Her Majesty on the 17th of August, 1845, and I suppose had got home and was considering the question of accepting the Presidency of Harvard College when this letter of Lord Russell was written. It was merely the letter of a patriotic and public-spirited man, seeking to avoid a quarrel between two friendly governments. I may perhaps add that this is a very admirable life of Lord Russell. The controversy growing out of the operations of the 'Alabama' and the other rams, during our civil war, is quite amusing to an American who remembers the history of that time. Lord John himself seems to have owned up pretty well, subsequently, though he complains of the conduct of Gladstone's government at the time to which Walpole refers. He states one fact not known in this country, that the law officer to whom the question of stopping the 'Alabama' was submitted was ill, as one excuse; but even the fidelity and candor of Walpole in giving an account of the final negotiation when the rams were stopped omits the very interesting and pregnant fact that one morning Mr. Adams requested the stoppage of the rams, and that Lord Russell answered that Her Majesty's government had considered that question, and thought they had no authority, and the

case did not furnish one which gave them power to interfere ; and Mr. Adams, within an hour, sent his reply, saying that he regretted his Lordship's answer, and added a single sentence, which I consider the most eloquent of any in American history ; 'It is superfluous to observe to your Lordship that this is 'war.'—whereupon the rams were stopped."

On motion of Dr. GREEN, it was voted that the several papers and reports which had been presented be committed to the Committee on Publication ; and furthermore that the various extemporaneous remarks by the several gentlemen be committed to paper, and take the same course.

The meeting was then dissolved.

CHARLES A. CHASE,

*Secretary pro tempore.*

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