

PROCEEDINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 1886, AT THE HALL OF THE
SOCIETY IN WORCESTER.

THE President, the 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, Andrew P. Peabody, George Chandler,
Nathaniel Paine, Joseph Sargent, Stephen Salisbury, P.
Emory Aldrich, Samuel A. Green, Elijah B. Stoddard,
George S. Paine, William A. Smith, Francis H. Dewey,
James F. Hunnewell, John D. Washburn, Ben: Perley
Poore, Edward H. Hall, Albert H. Hoyt, Reuben A.
Guild, Charles C. Smith, Edmund M. Barton, Lucius R.
Paige, Franklin B. Dexter, Charles A. Chase, Samuel S.
Green, Justin Winsor, Henry W. Haynes, Edward I.
Thomas, Horatio Rogers, Frederick W. Putnam, Solomon
Lincoln, Andrew McF. Davis, J. Evarts Greene, Henry
S. Nourse, William B. Weeden, Ebenezer Cutler, Reuben
Colton, William W. Rice, Henry H. Edes, Grindall Rey-
nolds, Frederick J. Kingsbury, George E. Francis.

On motion of Colonel SOLOMON LINCOLN the reading of
the records of the last meeting was dispensed with and the
record declared approved.

The Recording Secretary reported from the Council their
recommendation of the following named gentlemen for
membership in the Society :

Mr. LUCIEN CARR, of Cambridge.

FRANK PALMER GOULDING, Esq., of Worcester.

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

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., read a report which had been drawn up by him and adopted by the Council as a part of their report to the Society, NATHANIEL PAINE, Esq., Treasurer, presented his report in print, and EDMUND M. BARTON, Esq., Librarian, read his report,—all the above together constituting the report of the Council.

Col. JOHN D. WASHBURN, referring to that part of the report of the Council which announced a large gift of money to the Society, made the following motion, which was unanimously adopted :

That the Society accept with grateful acknowledgment the gift of five thousand dollars made by their second Vice-President, STEPHEN SALISBURY, Esq., as an addition to the Salisbury Building Fund, reminded by this generous act of the unnumbered benefits conferred on the Society by his honored father, which have identified his name with its welfare and prosperity, and made for him a precious and enduring memory.

On motion of the same gentleman the Report of the Council was referred to the Committee of Publication.

JUSTIN WINSOR, Esq., in seconding the motion for reference, said that the suggestion of the Librarian as to the preservation of newspapers brought to mind a matter of great importance. He had been informed that so much clay is used in the manufacture of paper at the present day that their preservation for a century is extremely doubtful. He thought that it might be advantageous for the Society to make some arrangements with the publishers of the leading journals for the printing of a few copies of each issue on material that could be preserved.

Mr. HALE said that in connection with the Library and the report upon it, he wished again to call attention to the invaluable work of our associate, Mr. BEN : PERLEY POORE, in the preparation of the wonderful descriptive catalogue of government publications. This masterly index was fitly

alluded to in the Librarian's Report of last April, but Mr. HALE said that it seemed to him that the literary journals of the country had hardly paid sufficient attention to it. In truth, it multiplies manifold the value of any collection of public documents, whether large or small,—and as there is in the world no complete collection of our documents, the value of such a catalogue is all the greater. Mr. POORE says that he has been fettered by the failure of the government to give him the proper assistance, and he seems to apprehend that very many errors will be found in his work. Many errors there must be in a book involving so many details unless, by good luck, it be made by archangels. But Mr. HALE felt bound to say that having used it since its publication, perhaps more than any other man, in connection with his work on the Stevens collection of Franklin papers, he had yet to discover the least omission or mistake.

Hon. Mr. HOAR, in confirming Mr. HALE's remarks, called attention to the important literary work done by Mr. POORE in his collection of the American Constitutions and Charters. This work has been done very thoroughly and contains a mass of historical and political information much of which could not be obtained elsewhere but by a visit to the capitals of the respective states.

Dr. ELLIS said :

A suggestion has come to my mind while I have been listening with much satisfaction to the admirable paper in which Dr. DEANE has so thoroughly and successfully met and answered the slanderous and false charges made against Massachusetts in the Senate of the United States, as having originally engaged in a brisk and profitable slave traffic, and after the Emancipation Act having sold her slaves to the South. The suggestion came in the form of a question whether the repelling evidence of facts which Dr. DEANE has presented as referring to Massachusetts was equally applicable to all New England. For as our associate has

said, on time and occasion Massachusetts was held to stand for New England. Besides the direct traffic in slaves there was a commerce closely connected with it, in the article known as "New England Rum," which was manufactured in large quantities by distilleries in Boston, Providence and Newport. I know nothing of the relative amounts in the business in each of those places, but I have received an impression that Newport profited very largely by its distilleries, the products of which were turned to account in the slave-trade on the African coast. Miss E. P. Peabody, a devoted and confidential friend of Dr. Channing, in her "Reminiscences" of him (pp. 360, 361), referring to the reflections cast upon him by Mr. Garrison, writes: "In the course of the controversy he was assailed with the charge of living in luxury on the proceeds of rum-selling and slave-trading which were charged on his uncle and father-in-law." Dr. Channing, in 1814, had married his cousin, daughter of a rich merchant in Newport. Miss Peabody writes that she "was extremely indignant at this brutal attack, and wrote to him to get his denial of the facts." He replied, "I am willing to answer your question, because it affects the reputation of those who have gone. I remember that forty years ago my wife's father owned a distillery, of which he sold the product to those who wanted it, without asking questions about the use, which was then universal. I learn from one now living, and who knows more of the business then done by Mr. Gibbs than any other person, that now and then rum was sold to a firm supposed to be engaged in the slave-trade just as it was sold to other people. This, so far as I can learn, is the ground of the charge referred to in your letter. I know no other. The distillery was a very trifling item in Mr. G.'s vast concerns. The whole profit from it was a drop of the bucket compared with what he gained from a commerce spread over the globe, and the share of profit from selling to slave-dealers a mere nothing. I have paid

the debt many times, by my labors in the cause of slavery. [Written in 1838.] Such charges would make me smile, if they did not indicate unprincipled malice. For the sake of giving me a stab, a man is dragged from his grave, who died thirty-five years ago," etc.

I would ask Dr. DEANE if the exculpatory facts and the denials which he has advanced as relating to Massachusetts, especially as to selling emancipated slaves, are equally applicable to all New England, as sometimes represented by the Bay State?

Dr. R. A. GUILD, in confirmation of the remark that Rhode Island was at one time engaged in the slave-trade, alluded to the diary of the late Thomas Robbins, D.D., of Hartford, the first volume of which, covering a period of thirty-one years, from 1796 to 1825, has recently been printed for private distribution at the expense of the family. In 1799 he visited his relatives in Bristol and dined with the husband of one of his cousins, Capt. James D'Wolf, an enterprising tea merchant, whose immense fortune, however, as the editor states in a foot-note, was largely due to the African slave-trade, which he followed until 1808, when it was prohibited by law. Dr. Robbins speaks of the splendor of the house and furniture, alluding to a "set of chinaware which cost two hundred and fifty dollars in Canton." On another visit, made in 1801, he "dined at Capt. D'Wolf's on a West India turtle,—the richest entertainment I have ever been at."

Mr. BEN: PERLEY POORE said, substantially, that the interesting statements concerning the early slave-trade, reminded him of the last cargo of slaves imported into the United States. During the administration of Franklin Pierce, one of the most indefatigable lobbyists at the capitol was a stout, middle-aged gentleman, known as Captain Corrie. He was prosecuting a claim for the military services of an association of South Carolina gentlemen, which had a shooting-club-house on an island off the coast

of South Carolina, and which had, during the war with Great Britain, performed patrol service, for which pay was claimed. Jacob did not serve more faithfully for Rachel than Captain Corrie served his relatives and friends in this wearisome campaign. The Buchanan administration came into power, and Southern influences were predominant. Then it was that Captain Corrie succeeded, and the money obtained from the Treasury was invested in a beautifully fitted-up yacht called the "Wanderer." It could hardly be suspected that a craft so expensively ornamented and victualled should be devoted to the befouling traffic of the middle passage. But Captain Rynders, a pot-house politician, then Marshal of the city of New York, was informed that the "Wanderer" was about to engage in the slave-trade, and he took possession of her. Captain Corrie was indignant, and the Marshal and his deputies, after enjoying his good cheer, felt a sort of sheepish mortification at having taken her in hand with such a rude suspicion. The New York newspapers were indignant over the detention of a craft on which editors and reporters had been generously entertained, and the Treasury officials at Washington ordering her release, she sailed away with flying colors and the good wishes of the United States officials, who, while she was under doubt, had feasted from her sumptuous larder.

A few months later—it was, I think, in December, 1858,—mysterious statements were made in the Southern journals about the re-appearance of the "Wanderer" at Jekyll Island, near Brunswick, Georgia, where maugre her varnish and gilding, her French cooking, and her Kentucky whiskey, she had successfully landed three hundred and fifty slaves. She hailed from St. Helena, and was without regular papers, as there was no American consul there, but she had informal papers from native officials without any seal attached.¹ The United States Marshal of Georgia made

¹The "Wanderer" was subsequently captured, taken to Boston and condemned. Her mainmast now serves as a flag-staff in Union Park.

a feeble attempt to take possession of the negroes thus landed, but the federal authority at the South was then on the wane, and public opinion was against him. The negroes, — men, women and children, — were sent by railroad, in small squads, into the interior of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. At that time able-bodied male slaves were sold at auction at from \$1,600 to \$1,700, and the newly-imported Africans were disposed of at about one-half of the trade price. The obtaining of labor at this low rate, which would in a few years double in value, was intended as an argument in favor of the re-opening of the slave-trade.

Mr. HAYNES remarked that probably the underhand pursuit of the slave-trade was not confined to any particular New England town. It was a common tradition in Portland, Maine, that the wealth of one of the prominent families of that city was derived from this source.

The Society then proceeded to the choice of a President, by ballot, which resulted in the unanimous choice of Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR, LL.D., who accepted the office.

A committee of which Hon. SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D., was chairman was appointed to nominate candidates for the other offices to be filled by election. That committee reported the following nominations :

Vice-Presidents :

Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT, LL.D., of Washington, D. C.
STEPHEN SALISBURY, A.M., of Worcester.

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.

All of the above officers being *ex-officio* members of the Council.

And the following 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, LL.D., 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.

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 of the committee was accepted and the gentlemen named therein were elected by ballot to the respective offices.

While the committee of nomination were out, Mr. NATHANIEL PAINE called the attention of the Society to a valuable addition lately made to the collection of MS. Revolutionary Orderly Books. A volume containing orders from the Headquarters at Roxbury and Cambridge from July 29, 1775, to January 12, 1776, had been presented by William

A. Banister of New York, but temporarily residing in Worcester. Mr. Banister is unable to say with certainty who was the original owner of the volume, but thinks that it was his grandfather, Col. Seth Banister of Brookfield, Mass. Col. Banister at the time of the Shays insurrection in Massachusetts served as a lieutenant in a company which came from Brookfield to Worcester to aid in the defence of the courts. The period from August 25, 1775, to January 12, 1776, was not covered by any of the orderly books heretofore in the possession of the Society. The volume also partially fills the gap made by the withdrawal of the Col. William Henshaw orderly books. These volumes, which covered most of the period from October, 1775, to August 25, 1776, were claimed by a descendant of Col. Henshaw, and by vote of the Council were given up. Within the past year another orderly book has been added to our collection, which contains orders between September 6 and October 8, 1775.

The Society's collection of MS. Orderly Books is a large one and has great value as an aid to historical students. In the report of the Council for April, 1881, which he had prepared, he called attention to this collection and alluded to a volume lately presented, containing orders of Col. Jonathan Bagley's regiment. The donor of the volume stated that Col. Bagley was in command of a Connecticut regiment, and it was so stated in that report. From information obtained since Mr. PAINÉ is satisfied this was a mistake and that Col. Bagley was of the Massachusetts troops and not of those of Connecticut, and he took this occasion to make the correction.

STEPHEN SALISBURY, Esq., presented and read a paper on "The Antiquity of the Ruins of Yucatan," which had been prepared by Mr. Edward H. Thompson, the Consul of the United States in Yucatan. The thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Thompson, and the paper referred to the Committee of Publication, on motion of Prof. PUTNAM,

who expressed the hope that the necessity of making deep excavations would be urged upon Mr. Thompson.

Mr. HALE gave some account of the great collection of Franklin papers, formerly the property of W. Temple Franklin, lately purchased from Mr. Henry Stevens by the Government of the United States. He had studied these papers at Washington and he called attention to the additional value which they give to the great collection of letters to Franklin in the possession of the American Philosophical Society. It is very much to be desired that these two important collections might be preserved together.

Mr HALE said that he thought sufficient importance had not been attached to the two visits made by Franklin to France in 1767 and 1769. It is now evident that to the very close friendship which he then formed with the School of the French Economists was due the cordiality of his introduction in Paris, when he arrived there in 1776. His reception was not so much due, as it would seem, to his reputation as a natural philosopher as it was to his cordial intimacy with Turgot, Dupont, Dubourg, and the Marquis de Mirabeau, who was the great patron of the Economists. Mr. HALE read the following letter, never published until now, as one among many illustrations of this intimacy; Dupont, who afterwards visited this country, was one of the "pillars" of the new School of Economists:—

“LONDON, October 2nd, 1770.

DEAR SIR,—I received with great Pleasure the Assurance of your kind Remembrance of me, and the Continuance of your Goodwill towards me, in your Letter by M. le Comte Chreptowitz. . . . I should have been happy to have rendered him every Civility and Mark of Respect in my Power (as the friend of those I so much Respect and Honor) if he had given me the opportunity. But he did not let me see him.

Accept my sincere Acknowledgements and Thanks for the valuable Present you made me of your excellent Work

on the Commerce of the India Company, which I have perused with much Pleasure and Instruction. It bears throughout the Stamp of your Masterly Hand, in Method, Perspicuity, and Force of Argument. The honorable Mention you have made in it of your Friend is extremely obliging. I was already too much in your 'Debt for Favours of that kind.

I purpose returning to America in the ensuing Summer, if our Disputes should be adjusted, as I hope they will be in the next session of Parliament. Would to God I could take with me Messrs. Du Pont, Du Bourg, and some other French Friends with their good Ladies! I might then, by mixing them with my Friends in Philadelphia, form a little happy Society that would prevent my ever wishing again to visit Europe.

With great and sincere Esteem and Respect, I am,
Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

B. FRANKLIN."

The intimacy thus formed between Franklin and the Economists proved of the greatest importance afterwards. It is interesting to observe that Adam Smith was but a few months before him in forming the same acquaintance, to which, indeed, the English-speaking world owes "The Wealth of Nations."

Prof. FREDERICK W. PUTNAM gave a brief account of the progress of excavation and of recent discoveries in the Indian mounds of Ohio, for which the thanks of the Society were voted to him and a copy of his remarks requested for publication.

The meeting was then dissolved.

JOHN D. WASHBURN,

Recording Secretary.

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