

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

SINCE our last meeting we have lost by death three members, whom we may fitly hold in memory, for personal excellence, for public service, and for work of enduring merit in the department of research which gives name and character to our Society. Peleg Whitman Chandler died on May 28; Henry Wilder Foote, on May 29; Thomas Coffin Amory, on August 20, 1889.

Peleg W. Chandler was born at New Gloucester, in the then District of Maine, April 13, 1816. He graduated at Bowdoin College in 1834, studied law at Cambridge and in Boston, and was admitted to the bar in 1837. He early distinguished himself as a counsellor and advocate, and, at the same time, as the founder and for ten years the editor of the *Law Reporter*. He was in 1844 and '45 President of the Common Council of Boston, and afterward for several years represented the city in the Legislature, in which as chairman of important committees, in 1847 and 1863 respectively, he reported the bill for supplying Boston with pure water, and the bill establishing the State Board of Charities. In 1846 he succeeded John Pickering as City Solicitor, and held that office for seven years. He was subsequently a member of the Executive Council. More than thirty years ago his hearing became so much impaired as to interfere essentially with his practice in the courts, especially in jury trials. But he had already obtained and merited so high a reputation equally for learning, skill and acuteness, that the residue of his active life was full of such valuable and remunerative work as required only eyesight and brain-power.

Mr. Chandler was richly possessed of those traits of character which win universal reverence and love. Pure,

upright and honorable, generous and public-spirited, genial and hospitable, he made his home supremely happy, and his presence, wherever he went, a benediction. His society was eagerly sought by a younger generation as the ranks of his coëvals became thin, and there were never wanting those who took their place by his ear-trumpet to enjoy his wealth of anecdote and his unabated flow of strong thought and kind feeling.

Mr. Chandler was a devoutly religious man, a loyal member of the New Church, a constant attendant at its worship, and a contributor to its literature. His entire life manifested the guiding and controlling power of Christian faith, and he approached the confines of the unseen world with an assurance that seemed clear vision rather than undoubting hope.

Mr. Chandler was the author of several legal works of permanent value, and of an ably reasoned essay on the Authenticity of the Gospels. His chief contribution to American antiquities is his two volumes of "American Criminal Trials," published in 1841 and '44. These contain authentic and full reports of the most important criminal trials under the provincial and in the infancy of the State governments. Conspicuous among these is a detailed account of the trial of Captain Preston and his soldiers for what is miscalled the Boston Massacre, which was very plainly proved by abundant and uncontradicted evidence to have been an act of self-defence against a drunken and brutal mob. Had our Governor or the Chairmen of the Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives taken the trouble to read this narrative, we should have been spared the hideous monument on the Tremont street side of the Boston Common, which commemorates equally the degradation of art and the falsification of history.¹

¹For the opinion here expressed the writer of the Report assumes the sole responsibility, and must not be understood as speaking in the name of the Council.

Henry W. Foote was born at Salem, Mass., June 2, 1839. He graduated at Harvard College in 1858, and at the Harvard Divinity School in 1861. After declining invitations from religious societies in Portsmouth, N. H., and Cincinnati, O., he became minister of King's Chapel in Boston, toward the close of the year 1861, and retained that office till his death. No man can ever have been better fitted than he for his sacred office, or have won in it stronger confidence, warmer affection or more hearty gratitude. He so blended gentleness and firmness, that either might have been named as his specially characteristic trait. While his time, his unflinching courtesy and forbearance, his genial sympathy, his best services were freely bestowed, his opinions and principles were his own, and were uttered and maintained without concealment or compromise. As a writer he was distinguished for a rare purity of style, for a taste refined and delicate, yet never fastidious, and for the simplicity and ease that indicate the careful elaboration which they hide. As a preacher, his aim manifestly was not the writing of satisfactory sermons, but the meeting of the actual needs of all human souls, or of the special needs of those under his charge in their peculiar temptations, duties and trials. Thus his sermons always had a specific purpose, and were listened to as if directly addressed to the hearts and consciences of his hearers. As a parish minister, he endeared himself by his intimate fellow-feeling, which made him seem as a member of every family in his flock, sharing their joys and sorrows as if they had been his own. He was earnestly interested in the great charities of his time, and still more so in those enterprises of Christian love which make no show and are heralded by no trumpet-sounding, but go directly, in personal ministries, to the poor, the neglected, the imperilled,—to classes always numerous in a great city, and liable to be overlooked for larger and more remote philanthropic work. In these home-charities he has been constantly the leader and helper of his people, and has

enlisted in such service very many who have learned under his tuition and guidance the blessedness of doing good. In his devotion to the labors of his calling, he sought no opportunities of placing himself before a larger public; but that larger public gradually became aware of his pre-eminent merit and ability as a Christian minister, and has of late years looked upon him as among the strongest pillars of religious faith, social order and general well-being. Christians of every name claimed kindred with him, and the whole community is bereaved by his removal.

Mr. Foote at an early period of his ministry suffered severely from bronchitis, and remained liable to slighter and transient attacks of that disease, but was, for the most part, in good health and full working power till last December, when, with the old bronchial affection, it became manifest that there was heart disease which threatened to be, as it proved to be, incurable. The succeeding months of infirmity and suffering brought into full relief the rich beauty of his spirit and character, and witnessed the transcendent power of Christian faith in making the deepening shadows of death full of light and peace and gladness.

Mr. Foote was deeply interested in the ecclesiastical history of New England, and among his printed discourses are several historical sermons of more than transient value. But what he hoped to make his life-work in this department was "The Annals of King's Chapel." Of this work he completed the first volume, and left the second volume, printed in part, with memoranda for the remaining portion that will need to be arranged and filled out by other hands. The first volume is admirable for its thoroughness of research, for the large amount of collateral history and biography which it furnishes, and for the generous and catholic spirit in which it treats the religious questions and controversies of the time which it covers.

Thomas C. Amory was born in Boston, Mass., October 16, 1813. He graduated at Harvard College in 1830.

Admitted to the bar in early manhood, after a few years he suspended the practice of his profession, devoting himself in part to the care of his father's estate, in part to literary pursuits. He was at one time a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was for several years an Alderman of Boston, subsequently one of the Overseers of the Poor, at a still later time a member of the School Committee,—in all these offices efficient, enterprising, public-spirited, and having at heart the highest welfare of his fellow-citizens. During the war of the Rebellion he was among the foremost in patriotic service, and put his life in serious peril in his energetic endeavors to quell the mob-spirit for a time rampant in the city. He bore a large part in superintending the building of the City Hospital, and was President of its first board of Trustees.

Mr. Amory gave much of his time and labor to historical and biographical literature. Among his writings were the Life of Governor James Sullivan, his grandfather, and various papers illustrative and vindicative of the merits and services of his great-uncle, General and President John Sullivan, of New Hampshire. He wrote also the Life of Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin. He was for many years an active member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, whose Proceedings contain valuable contributions from him on a great diversity of subjects.

In private life Mr. Amory was worthily esteemed and beloved. A few years ago he met with a severe and disabling accident, and though he recovered from its immediate effects, it left him in feeble and declining health, with no hope of complete restoration.

For the Council.

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

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