

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL.

DEATH OF CHARLES DEANE.

AT a special meeting of the Council, held on November 27, 1889, the President, STEPHEN SALISBURY, said:—

I have called a special meeting of the Council of this Society to consider the loss of their beloved associate, Charles Deane, LL.D., of Cambridge, who died in that city November 13th, instant, at the age of seventy-six years and three days. The high position of Dr. Deane as a literary critic, and the exceptional services he has rendered to our Society deserve more than a passing notice. He was elected a member of the Society in October, 1851, and stood sixth on the list in seniority of membership at the time of his death. He was a member of the Committee of Publication in 1856, a member of the Council in 1865, and Secretary of Domestic Correspondence in 1880; all of which offices he held to the close of his life. Three very valuable reports of the Council, upon "The European Discovery of America," upon "Burgoyne's Surrender at Saratoga in 1777," and upon "The Connection of Massachusetts with the Slave Trade and with Slavery," are from his pen, and remain in our collections as historical data of exceptional merit. Besides these formal papers Dr. Deane has addressed the Society at its meetings on seventeen different subjects, many of which appear as monographs of considerable length; and all of them were prepared with the care and completeness that characterized his historical work. These we have in our publications as a monument to Dr. Deane and to the interest he took in our Society and to his fidelity to its objects.

I would propose for your consideration these statements as embodying the views of the Council :—

In the loss of Charles Deane, LL.D., this Society is deprived of a member whose mind and disposition endeared him to his associates by constant acts of service and courtesy, which his ability and talents rendered the more important and enduring.

We recognize the exceptional honor that we enjoyed in the coöperation and assistance of a writer of such rare and admirable literary taste, and we delight to declare our gratitude for his constant labors in our behalf.

We desire to place on record our opinion that to the untiring vigilance and aid of Dr. Deane much of the increased interest shown by the Society in purely historic research is justly due, and that to him we are especially indebted for a conspicuous example of a conscientious and unprejudiced historical method.

Vice-President HOAR, on moving for the adoption of the memorial, spoke of the very high attainment in history achieved by Dr. Deane, which made him the acknowledged chief and arbiter in that department of knowledge; of his readiness to aid others in their studies in that direction; of the modesty which accompanied his learning; and of the beauty of his personal character.

Other remarks were made by Messrs. PAINE, CHASE and GREENE, in eulogy of Dr. Deane, and the memorial was unanimously adopted.

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.