

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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THE total of the investments belonging to the Society, together with the cash on hand April 1, 1889, was \$107,-841.98. These investments have been so judiciously made by our Treasurer, Mr. Paine, that their market value on the day named was \$118,652.98.

The committee of the Council appointed to examine the library found it in a highly satisfactory condition. The progress on the card catalogue is such as to promise the completion of that indispensable auxiliary to the library at no distant period. The steady increase in the use of the library by historical and antiquarian scholars furnishes evidence that the value of its treasures, to original investigators, is becoming better known and appreciated every year. The number of givers and the total of gifts received during the last six months, as will be shown by the Librarian's Report, indicate no abatement in the popular favor with which our library is regarded. Mr. Reuben Colton, who entered the library as an assistant eleven years ago, and who has shown great aptitude and skill, and rare intelligence in library work, has recently resigned his position for the purpose of entering with others into an important business enterprise in the city of Worcester. He carries with him the cordial respect of the Council and of all other members of the Society who have known him and the extent and value of the services he has performed in behalf of the Society.

The reports of the Treasurer and Librarian are referred to for detailed information, and they make part of the Report of the Council.

No vacancy in the membership of the Society has been caused by death during the last six months. Information of the decease of a foreign member, which occurred in 1886, has been received since the publication of the last annual Report of the Council.

**Governor Arturo Shiels** was born of humble parentage on the Island of Carmen, Yucatan, in 1835. He manifested in his youth a notable determination to avail himself of every opportunity for intellectual improvement that the public schools offered, and his energy and capacity soon brought him deserved recognition. He was made Jefe Politico of the department, Colonel of the National Guards, Senator to the Congress of Mexico, and Governor of the State of Campeche. He was an active republican partisan during the struggle with imperialism in Mexico, and sought such positions as would enable him to do the most service rather than those that would give him the most advantage or honor.

During the terrible strife between liberalism and imperialism which antagonized friends and relations against each other in bitter strife, Señor Shiels occupied the responsible position of Secretary of the State of Campeche for the liberal party.

The *Eco del Comercio* of Merida, Yucatan, thus speaks of his character. "In the public offices which he filled, he possessed a fidelity to duty from which it was impossible to cause him to swerve. Neither personal interest, the compromises of party, the motives of family connection nor those of friendship or gratitude were sufficient to move him from what his conscience dictated. His firmness and inflexibility were carried to such an extreme as to occasion great and unjustifiable misunderstandings. But this is no new experience for those who have passed through a struggle where social interests are arrayed against each other, and like others who sought to comply strictly with

his obligations, in place of applause he received much unmerited hatred."

Among the works which Governor Shiels specially promoted were the railroad from the City of Campeche to Merida, Yucatan, the erection of a theatre, the establishment of two public parks and a market, and an increase in the number of public schools.

The office held by Señor Shiels at the time of his death was that of Administrator of the Custom House of the Island of Carmen, and the high respect in which he was held by his contemporaries was shown by the very general manifestation of grief shown at his funeral. He died after an illness, attended with much suffering, of more than a year's duration, at his home on the Island of Carmen, November 23, 1886, in the fifty-second year of his age.

For the Council,

P. EMORY ALDRICH.

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