

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

By HERBERT B. ADAMS, Secretary.

The thirteenth annual convention of this national historical society was held in the city of Cleveland December 28-30, 1897. Once before in its peripatetic experience the association met in a Western city, but that was the city of Chicago, amid the noise and distractions of the World's Fair and in the heat of midsummer. Cleveland in winter weather afforded a striking but not disagreeable contrast. While all varieties of Erie lake-side climate in December from rare and radiant sunshine to snow and sleet were naturally exhibited, yet the joys and festivities of the Christmas season made every visiting member happy and contented.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the Cleveland convention was its social success. The local committee of arrangements (Professor Bourne and Dr. Howe), and the generous hospitality of some of the best families in the city combined to offer the American Historical and Economic associations a series of receptions and luncheons which, in opportunities for meeting old friends and making new ones, far excelled the regular sessions of the two societies.

Among these social attractions were (1) the afternoon reception given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Homer Wade, in their handsome house, with its beautiful art gallery, on Euclid avenue; (2) the afternoon reception by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Garfield, which was greatly enjoyed by people who had already become well acquainted; (3) the equally agreeable evening reception offered by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mather. Besides these charming receptions there were two dancing parties at The Stillman, which gave the learned historians and economists a double chance to see the beauty and chivalry of Cleveland.

At The Stillman, the headquarters of both associations, was one day served a late breakfast for all visiting members and their friends. Dr. James Schouler, president of the Historical Association, began the speaking by an entertaining contrast between the present day Cleveland and Cleveland as he knew it forty years ago. Prof. J. Morse Stephens, of Cornell University, acted as toastmaster, and introduced the speakers in a most felicitous manner. Among them was Senator Hanna, of Ohio, who afterwards entertained, at his own home on Lake avenue, some of the officers of the Historical Association. There was also a luncheon given to the two associations by President Thwing, at Adelbert College, where, in the Hatch library, one of the joint sessions was held. The hospitality of the Rowfant Club and other courtesies were shown to the visitors, who thus enjoyed the freedom of the city in most delightful ways. After every evening session there was a pleasant reunion of old friends at The Stillman or at some well-known club.

While these various social gatherings undoubtedly afforded the best of all opportunities for promoting the scientific, national, and academic interests of both associations, there was a great deal of hard and useful work done by committees. Most important for the interest of "American history and of history in America" were the numerous and protracted sessions of the committee of seven, appointed one year ago to consider the requirements in history for entrance to college, and also the whole subject of history in secondary schools. After much preliminary discussion a specific report of progress was made to the association. The committee stated the results of an organized inquiry regarding the status of history in representative schools in all parts of the country. It was agreed that the committee should continue in office and recommend to a committee of the National Educational Association the institution of a more extended historical course in high schools, so as to represent, so far as practicable, four great subjects in the following order: (1) Ancient history, (2) European, (3) English, (4) American history with civil government. The committee reserved for future discussion and report the subject of history in lower grades than the high school, but agreed that it was desirable to teach, in elementary ways, the history and government of our own country, with some preliminary or collateral study of biography and European history.

Most interesting was the public discussion of the use of historical sources in colleges and secondary schools. This was led by Professor Cheyney, of the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Hart, of Harvard, and Professor Woodburn, of Indiana University. Professor Fling, of the University of Nebraska, described the so-called "Nebraska method" of using original sources (in English translation) for the study of classical history in secondary schools. This German method has already been widely extended in America by the use of reprints or extracts from original historical materials. While some doubts were expressed by Dr. Avery as to the wisdom and practicability of this "source method" for young pupils, the general conviction appeared to be that it could often be happily combined with class lectures, good text-books, collateral reading, the study of special topics by reference both to standard literature and to original authorities. Professor Hart likened the occasional use of historical sources to the use of plants in the study of botany. Professor Cheyney said the source method vitalized history and converted a world of shadows into a world of realities.

A valuable and highly suggestive paper on the "Teaching of History in the German Gymnasia," was read by Prof. Lucy M. Salmon, of Vassar College, who thus summarized her recent observations: (1) The entire field of history is covered in three surveys (wider and more detailed as the course advances); (2) the work in history is correlated with every other subject in the curriculum, and in a sense becomes its unifying force; (3) ample time is given to its consideration, and it receives the same serious treatment as do other subjects in the course; (4) the division of material and the method of treatment are based on the boy's psychological development; (5) the narrative method of instruction gives the boy a vivid impression of the reality of history; (6) the course of history is complete in itself and at the same time it forms an ideal preparation for university work; (7) every teacher of history is an absolute master of the subject taught.

Keen interest was also awakened by a public discussion of the opportunities for American students of history and economics in Europe. The subject was introduced in an admirable paper by Professor Haskins, of the University of Wisconsin, on "Historical Studies at Paris." Prof. H. Morse Stephens, of Cornell University, followed with a highly entertaining as well as instructive talk on the "Opportunities for the Study of

History at Oxford and Cambridge." The advantages of Oxford appeared to be chiefly in the historical associations of the place and the library facilities of the Bodleian. Professor Stephens said the study of political economy occupied in his student days a very subordinate place in the History School at Oxford. English professors in their writings have nobly represented economics, but English students have to work out their own knowledge of both historical and political science, with the aid and suggestions of tutors. English facilities for historical study were further described by Dr. Abbott, who recently took at Oxford the new "Research Degree." German opportunities for American students of history were discussed by other speakers.

The impression was left by Professor Haskins that the schools of Paris are again becoming the historical center of the world. In his inaugural address at a Washington meeting of the Association some years ago, President C. K. Adams suggested the above noteworthy tendency of our time. American graduate students would do well to make the grand tour of English, German, Italian, and French universities after winning their Ph. D. in America, as did Dr. Haskins, whose valuable article on "The Vatican Archives," first published in the *American Historical Review* in October, 1896, and republished by the *Catholic University Bulletin* in April, 1897, was pronounced by Hofrath von Sickel, director of the Austrian Institute in Rome, the best paper ever written upon this subject. Such good work abroad can not be done prematurely by American students.

The most important business proceedings of the executive council of the Historical Association were: (1) the appropriation of \$500 for the continuation of the efficient work of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, concerning the progress of which the chairman, Professor Jameson, reported at the closing session; (2) the appropriation of \$1,000 toward the maintenance of the *American Historical Review* during the year 1898. All members of the association are to receive free copies of the first two numbers of the next volume, beginning in October, 1898. A committee of three, consisting of Prof. G. B. Adams, the secretary, and the treasurer, was appointed to perfect this arrangement and to issue a circular letter of explanation to members.

A plan proposed by Professor Salmon, of Vassar College, for Affiliated Historical Societies was encouraged and referred to the Secretary and Miss Salmon. This plan comprises the fol-

lowing important features: (1) Any local historical society may be affiliated with the American Historical Association by vote of the executive council of the national organization and on payment of the ordinary membership or life membership fee, as in the case of any public library or other corporation; (2) it shall be the duty of such affiliated societies to deposit each year with the secretary of the American Historical Association a complete list of the names and addresses of its members; (3) the American Historical Association shall send to such affiliated society the programmes of its meetings and such other circulars of inquiry or of information as may be deemed expedient; (4) the association shall publish in its annual report a list of such affiliated societies, together with the leading officers. This plan will probably lead to the Federal development of the American Historical Association, which is already a national society, chartered by Congress and reporting to it annually through the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, who is now a life member.

The only changes in the list of association officers was the addition of two members to the executive council: (1) Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, already a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the association; (2) Prof. A. B. Hart, of Harvard University. Dr. James Schouler retires from the presidency into the executive council for life. Prof. George P. Fisher, of Yale University, was elected president of the association; Dr. Jas. F. Rhodes, first vice-president; and Edward Eggleston, second vice-president. Prof. G. B. Adams and Dr. E. M. Gallaudet will retire from the council at the end of the current year.

The treasurer reported a gratifying increase of assets in 1897, namely, \$2,145.56, and total assets amounting to \$10,855.42. The present membership now numbers about 1,000 members, including over 100 life members. During the past year the list of members has been largely increased through the energetic cooperation of the Hon. Peter White, of Marquette, Mich. Among other distinguished new members are President McKinley, and ex-President Cleveland, who signed the charter of the association January 4, 1889, just nine years ago.

The proceedings of the thirteenth annual meeting may be characterized in general as exhibiting an eminently practical instead of a merely antiquarian and academic character. There was a good list of scholarly papers, but most of them were read by title only. All will probably be printed with Dr. Schouler's

inaugural address on "Constitutional Amendment and a New Federal Convention." There is no space in this connection to digest the whole programme. The main features of it were practical discussions like those already mentioned. There were two joint sessions with the American Economic Association. One, at Adelbert College, was chiefly devoted to the Relation of the Teaching of Economic History to the Teaching of Political Economy.

Highly practical, also, was the closing session of the Historical Association, devoted chiefly to a discussion of the "Functions of Local Historical Societies." By a singular fitness this subject was discussed in the audience room of the Western Reserve Historical Society, which, although local in name, is national in spirit, and with true generosity allowed the American Historical Association, which has, indeed, a name in the land, but no local habitation, the very first occupancy of a beautiful new hall, combining at once a library, a museum, and a place for assemblies. Professor Wright, of Oberlin College, welcomed the guests of the Western Reserve Historical Society, and outlined its growth and present character. Mr. Reuben G. Thwaites, of Madison, described the origin of the Wisconsin Historical Society, which is a State-aided institution and is doing most efficient public work. Professor Jameson, of Brown University, spoke of the "Functions of State and Local Historical Societies with Respect to Research and Publication." He made an earnest plea for a larger and more national spirit in local work.

The committee on time and place for the next annual meeting reported in favor of New Haven, and recommended December 27-29, 1898. A committee was appointed to prepare the next programme: Prof. E. G. Bourne, of Yale, chairman (brother of Prof. H. E. Bourne, the efficient chairman of the Cleveland programme committee), with Professor Hart, of Harvard; Professor Judson, of Chicago; Professor Turner, of the University of Wisconsin; and H. B. Adams, of Baltimore.

Prof. G. B. Adams, of Yale University, was appointed a committee by the executive council to inquire into the feasibility of instituting at the New Haven meeting a section devoted to Historical Jurisprudence, or Legal History, upon the model of the Church History section, which this year met under the auspices of the American Historical Association. The Political Science Association was, by general consent, disbanded at Cleveland.

Peace and harmony now reign throughout the American Historical Association. All recognize the wisdom of meeting in the West as well as in the East, with perhaps a triennial round-up in Washington, where the association has its legal seat and principal office, in connection with the Smithsonian Institution.