

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

FOR

THE YEAR 1891.

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1892.

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL.

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
*Washington, D. C., June 7, 1892.*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the act of incorporation of the American Historical Association, approved January 4, 1889, I have the honor to submit to Congress the annual report of said association for the year 1891.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. P. LANGLEY,  
*Secretary Smithsonian Institution*

Hon. LEVI P. MORTON,  
*President of the Senate.*

Hon. CHARLES F. CRISP,  
*Speaker of the House.*

## ACT OF INCORPORATION

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Andrew D. White, of Ithaca, in the State of New York; George Baneroft, of Washington, in the District of Columbia; Justin Winsor, of Cambridge, in the State of Massachusetts; William F. Poole, of Chicago, in the State of Illinois; Herbert B. Adams, of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland; Clarence W. Bowen, of Brooklyn, in the State of New York; their associates and successors, are hereby created in the District of Columbia a body corporate and politic, by the name of the American Historical Association, for the promotion of historical studies, the collection and preservation of historical manuscripts, and for kindred purposes in the interest of American history and of history in America. Said association is authorized to hold real and personal estate in the District of Columbia so far only as may be necessary to its lawful ends to an amount not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, to adopt a constitution, and to make by-laws not inconsistent with law. Said association shall have its principal office at Washington, in the District of Columbia, and may hold its annual meetings in such places as the said incorporators shall determine. Said association shall report annually to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution concerning its proceedings and the condition of historical study in America. Said secretary shall communicate to Congress the whole of such reports, or such portions thereof as he shall see fit. The regents of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to permit said association to deposit its collections, manuscripts, books, pamphlets, and other material for history in the Smithsonian Institution or in the National Museum at their discretion, upon such conditions and under such rules as they shall prescribe.*

[Approved, January 4, 1889.]

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,  
*Baltimore, Md., June 4, 1892.*

SIR: In compliance with the act of incorporation of the American Historical Association, approved January 4, 1889, which requires that "said Association shall report annually to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, concerning its proceedings and the condition of historical study in America," I have the honor to transmit herewith my general report of the proceedings of the American Historical Association at the eighth annual meeting, held in Washington, D. C., December 29-31, 1891. In addition to this general summary of proceedings I send also the inaugural address of President William Wirt Henry, on "The Causes which Produced the Virginia of the Revolutionary Period," together with some of the papers read by members of the Association, including one by Prof. Jameson on "The Expenditures of Foreign Governments in Behalf of History," one by Prof. Moore on "The United States and International Arbitration," and an exhaustive review of Parliamentary Government in Canada, by Dr. Bourinot; also a bibliography of published writings of members of this Association during 1891.

Very respectfully,

HERBERT B. ADAMS,  
*Secretary.*

Prof. S. P. LANGLEY,  
*Secretary Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.  
Organized at Saratoga, New York, September 10, 1884.

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OFFICERS FOR 1891.

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President:

HON. WILLIAM WIRT HENRY, LL. D.,  
*Richmond, Virginia.*

Vice Presidents:

JAMES B. ANGELL, LL. D.,  
*President, University of Michigan.*

HENRY ADAMS,  
*Washington, District of Columbia.*

Treasurer:

CLARENCE WINTHROP BOWEN, PH. D.,  
*No. 251 Broadway, New York City.*

Secretary:

HERBERT B. ADAMS, PH. D.,  
*Professor in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.*

Assistant Secretary and Curator:

A. HOWARD CLARK,  
*Curator of the Historical Collections, National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Executive Council:

(In addition to the above-named officers.)

HON. ANDREW D. WHITE, LL. D.,  
*Ithaca, New York.*

† HON. GEORGE BANCROFT, LL. D.,  
*Washington, District of Columbia.*

JUSTIN WINSOR, LL. D.,  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

WILLIAM F. POOLE, LL. D.,  
*Librarian of the Newberry Library, Chicago.*

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*President of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

HON. JOHN JAY, LL. D.,  
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JOHN W. BURGESS, PH. D., LL. D.,  
*Professor of History and Law, Columbia College.*

G. BROWN GOODE, PH. D., LL. D.  
*Assistant Secretary Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the National Museum.*

GEORGE P. FISHER, D. D.,  
*Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Yale Divinity School.*

JOHN GEORGE BOURINOT, C. M. G., LL. D., D. C. L.,  
*Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons.*

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I.—REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 29-31, 1891.

## REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

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BY HERBERT B. ADAMS, SECRETARY.

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The eighth annual meeting of the American Historical Association was held in Washington, December 29 to 31, 1891. There were two morning sessions at the National Museum, and three evening sessions at the Columbian University, where also convened, in different rooms at various times, the Modern Language Association, the Folk Lore Society, and the American Society of Church History. The American Forestry Association had business meetings in the Department of Agriculture and public exercises in the National Museum, following those of the Historical Association.

The gathering of these five different scientific clans in the Federal city, on the very same days, was a significant sign of the times. It indicates that Washington is becoming more generally recognized as the intellectual and social capital of the nation. No other city in the American Union could attract, in successive years, the same scientific bodies that now annually assemble in the National Museum or at the Columbian University. Every association that comes once to Washington is certain to come again. Some of them, like the American Historical Association, have come to stay. Chartered by Congress, this society is now required by law to have its principal office in the District of Columbia. Its printing and business management will henceforth be in connection with the Smithsonian Institution. Although the Association may occasionally take an excursion to some Northern, Southern, or Western city, Washington is now its permanent home. The next meeting will be in Chicago, at the time of the World's Fair, in 1893.

In view of coming events, which cast their Columbian shadows before, the historical paper which eclipsed all others in popular interest at the Washington meeting, and in the Associated Press reports that flashed over the whole country, was



President Charles Kendall Adams's account of "Recent Discoveries Concerning Columbus." Perhaps the best and fullest report was printed in the *New York Times*, January 1, 1892, the morning after the original paper was read.

Besides a true view of the landfall of Columbus, President Adams gave his audience, and at the same time the country at large, the latest and most authentic information regarding the recent discovery of the burial place and remains of the discoverer himself. It seems that those patriotic body-snatchers, who in 1795 undertook to remove Columbus to Spanish Havana from Santo Domingo, which by the treaty of Bâle had just become French territory, took the wrong coffin. Not until the year 1877 was the true Columbus rediscovered in another vault on the right-hand of the altar in the cathedral at Santo Domingo. There has been much controversy between the Cubans and the Santo Domingoans upon the exact location of the holy sepulcher of the western world, but Rudolf Cronan, a German traveler and historical critic, reviewed the whole question in 1891, and has now established the fact that the remains of the great discoverer are still lying in the cathedral at Santo Domingo.

Another paper of interest in connection with the Columbian year was that of Prof. Edward G. Bourne, of Adelbert College, Cleveland, Ohio, upon the line of demarcation, established in 1493, by Pope Alexander VI, between the Spanish and Portuguese fields of discovery and colonization. Mr. Bourne showed that the discovery of America was the result of the commercial policy of Spain which was seeking a sea route to the Indies. The Portuguese were pushing for the same region by expeditions down the west coast of Africa, where they had a commercial monopoly by papal decree. The papal bulls of 1493 attempted a compromise between the interests of the two rival countries. By the treaty of Tordesillas, in 1494, Spain and Portugal agreed to draw a line 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands, and thus to divide the field of discovery. This agreement gave Portugal her claim to Brazil; but the line was never actually drawn. If it had been drawn, it would now run about 150 miles west of Rio Janeiro. The western boundary of Brazil has never been "accommodated" to this imaginary line, as Rev. Edward Everett Hale has stated in the "Narrative and Critical History of America" (Vol. II, p. 596). Neither Spain nor Portugal attached any permanent importance

to the papal bulls of 1493. In fact, in 1750, both bulls and the treaties based upon them were declared null and void. The present boundaries of Brazil rest upon other than papal foundations.

A paper was presented by Walter B. Scaife, PH. D. (Vienna), upon the commerce and industry of Florence during the Renaissance. This Italian republic is of peculiar interest to Americans, because our country was named in honor of a Florentine citizen, and because the geographical knowledge of Florentine scholars was of very great service to Columbus in his voyages of discovery. Dr. Scaife interested his audience by showing that the Florentine people were, like the Americans, a practical body of business men. Their motto would please even our American farmers' labor unions. The Florentines were fond of saying: "Who wants his mind active must make his hands hard." Their industry was untiring until the Medici became fully installed in political power. Then luxury, laziness, and display became fashionable, as they are now beginning to be under the influence of American plutocrats.

A comparative study of the personal force in congressional politics was the well-written and well-read paper by Miss Follett, of the Harvard "Annex," upon "Henry Clay, the First Political Speaker of the House." He seems to have been much the same type of a presiding officer as was the Hon. T. B. Reed. Miss Follett showed that no other Speaker so well combined the functions of a moderator, a voting member, and a party leader as did Mr. Clay. He established the tradition that a party, in putting a leader in the Speaker's chair, does not deprive itself of his services on the floor. He exercised the right to speak in committees of the whole more freely than had any of his predecessors. He added to the previously existing body of Speaker's powers more than has been added by any of his successors. The willing acquiescence of the people in Clay's conception of the speakership is of great historic significance. He had unusual qualifications for his office. He possessed remarkable tact, great personal fascination, and an extraordinary instinct for good leadership.

Considerable prominence was given in the programme to Southern history. The president of the association, the Hon. William Wirt Henry, in his inaugural address, spoke of the influences, physical and institutional, which united to make the Virginians of the Revolutionary period. He dwelt upon their

practical training for home rule in the monthly county courts and legislative assemblies. The educational influence of William and Mary College in developing such men as Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall was also touched upon. In closing, Mr. Henry called renewed attention to George Washington's idea of a national university in the Federal Capital. The president of William and Mary College, Lyon G. Tyler, son of John Tyler, gave some entertaining extracts from the records of York County, Va.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Brackett, a graduate of Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities, presented an objective review of the Virginia secession convention of 1861. His paper was a brief résumé of one of several studies which he is now making in the political history of the border slave States for the period immediately preceding and covering the civil war. Mr. Brackett attempted to show the character of the so-called "Union men" of Virginia in the spring of 1861. He said that four-fifths of the convention were opposed to secession. They wished to preserve the union by constitutional methods rather than by an appeal to force. After Mr. Lincoln's call for troops Virginia conservatives voted for secession.

President James C. Welling, of the Columbian University, traced at some length the history of slavery in the Territories, and showed the nature of that irrepressible conflict of American ideas represented by free soil and slave labor. The civil war was as inevitable as the war of the Revolution, and the issue was no less certain. Mr. W. E. B. Du Bois, A. M., fellow of Harvard University, read a scholarly and spirited paper upon the "Enforcement of the Slave Trade Laws." From 1770 to 1789 the slave trade was prohibited by all the colonies. South Carolina reopened the traffic in 1803. Mr. Du Bois showed that the prohibitory act of 1807 was not enforced. More stringent legislation began in 1818, and the slave trade was classed with piracy. Nevertheless the infamous business was continued, for the United States would not permit the right of search. Even the treaty with England in 1842 failed to suppress the slave trade. Vessels were fitted out for this traffic in every port from Boston to New Orleans. Mr. Du Bois estimates that, from 1807 to 1862, not less than a quarter of a million of Africans were brought to the United States in defiance of law and humanity. Mr. A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, gave a striking review of lotteries in American

history. He showed that they were once regarded with great favor in all the older States and colonies. The good people of Plymouth and Massachusetts, as well as the Father of his Country, took stock in lotteries. They were once everywhere organized by statutory law; but now they are everywhere illegal or discountenanced, except in Louisiana, which is still in the slimy coils of a rich gambling corporation, a monstrous anaconda called a State lottery.

In the year 1843 Wisconsin thought of annexing, for economic reasons, northern Illinois and what is soon to be the center of the world. If Wisconsin could not have Chicago with all its neighboring lands, she proposed to "be a State out of the Union." In short, though yet a Territory, she would temporarily assert independent statehood. This interesting subject of rudimentary "State Sovereignty in Wisconsin" was tersely presented by Prof. C. H. Haskins, on behalf of Mr. A. H. Sanford, a member of Prof. F. J. Turner's Seminary of American History in the university at Madison. The Wisconsin territorial legislature based its claim to Illinois land and to State independence upon provisions of the ordinance of 1787, which, as regards Western territory, was thought to be superior to the Constitution. It was held that under the ordinance Wisconsin had the right to be a State outside the Union. This legislative view was not supported by the public sentiment in Wisconsin, nor were the alleged rights of Territories under the ordinance ever upheld by the Federal courts.

The following papers on colonial history, or kindred topics, were also presented: "Earliest Texas," by Mrs. Lee C. Harby; "Governor Leete and the Absorption of New Haven Colony by Connecticut," by Dr. B. C. Steiner, a graduate of Yale and Johns Hopkins universities, now lecturing at Williams College; "Lord Lovelace," by Gen. James Grant Wilson; "Louisbourg and Memorials of the French Régime in Cape Breton," by Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C. M. G., of Ottawa, and "Characteristics of the Boston Puritans," by Prof. Barrett Wendell, of Harvard University. The paper last mentioned excited more than usual interest on account of the critical analysis of Puritan character. Mr. Wendell illustrated from the life of Cotton Mather the intense idealism of Puritan faith, and, at the same time, its anthropomorphic limitations.

An able paper of legal character was presented by Prof. Simeon E. Baldwin, of the law department of Yale Univer-

sity. He discussed historically the "Visitorial Statutes of Andover Seminary," and found their prototype in the ancient principles of visitorial jurisdiction, as laid down in the rules of English universities. The old custom of appointing visitors for educational institutions was transmitted to William and Mary College, in Virginia, as well as to New England. Prof. John Bassett Moore, formerly Assistant Secretary in the State Department and now professor in Columbia College, read a valuable paper upon the "United States and International Arbitrations." From unpublished materials, to which he has had access in Washington, Mr. Moore reviewed the experience of this country with Great Britain, France, Spain, Mexico, and South American Republics in settling our international disputes by an appeal to reason instead of to force. In view of our present disagreement with Chile, and her apparent disposition to submit to arbitration, Mr. Moore's paper is of peculiar significance. President Angell, of the University of Michigan, emphasized the importance of studying American diplomatic history, and noted the honorable part which our country has taken in the development of modern international law. One of America's greatest diplomatists, Benjamin Franklin, was made the subject of a special paper by Dr. C. W. Bowen, who exhibited a series of Franklin portraits at an evening session of the association.

Mr. William Van Zandt Cox, chief clerk of the U. S. National Museum, read an interesting paper entitled "A leaf of local history," in which he described a collection of early maps of the city of Washington, presented to the Museum by Mrs. Elizabeth J. Stone. He made special mention of a weather map, made in 1822 by Robert King, jr., who, with his brother and father, was one of the early surveyors of the city. This map, by an ingenious method, records the direction of the wind, the humidity, changes of the moon, and the temperature for the year 1821 in Washington.

Social courtesies were extended to officers and members by the Hon. A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress; Dr. J. L. M. Curry, secretary of the Peabody and Slater Education Funds; Mr. and Mrs. Leiter, Mr. and Mrs. Horatio King, and by the Cosmos Club, which is the favorite resort of all scientific associations that meet in Washington.

The officers chosen for the ensuing year are as follows: Dr. James B. Angell, president; Henry Adams, of Washington,

and Edward G. Mason, of Chicago, vice-presidents; Herbert B. Adams and A. Howard Clark, secretaries; Dr. C. W. Bowen, treasurer. The Hon. William Wirt Henry retires into the executive council with other ex-presidents—the Hon. A. D. White, Dr. Justin Winsor, Dr. W. F. Poole, Dr. C. K. Adams, and the Hon. John Jay. To that honorable council, comprising also Dr. G. Brown Goode, of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. J. G. Bourinot, clerk of the Canadian House of Commons, were added Prof. John Bach McMaster, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Prof. George B. Adams, of Yale University.

It was resolved December 30, 1891, by the executive council: (1) That hereafter all the printing of the American Historical Association be committed to the charge of the assistant secretary in Washington; (2) that the duties of the secretary's office be divided between the secretary and the assistant secretary, as they may agree; (3) that it be the sense of the executive council that the next meeting of the American Historical Association be held in 1893, in Chicago. The committee on time and place of the next meeting are President J. B. Angell, Dr. W. F. Poole, and Dr. C. W. Bowen. They have reported in favor of Chicago, and the year of the Columbian Exposition. The committee on programmes for that year are Dr. Justin Winsor, President C. K. Adams, Edward G. Mason, Dr. W. F. Poole, and Dr. H. B. Adams. The auditing committee, the Hon. John A. King, of New York, and James Alston Cabell, esq., of Richmond, found the treasurer's accounts satisfactory. The association now owns a secure investment of \$5,000, and has over 640 members, including 104 life members. This national society for the promotion of historical studies was organized at Saratoga in 1884 and was chartered by Congress in 1889.

*LIST OF COMMITTEES, 1892.*

1. *Auditing committee.*—Hon. John A. King, James Alston Cabell, esq.
2. *Finance.*—Hon. John Jay, Robert Schell, esq., Dr. C. W. Bowen.
3. *Nominations.*—Dr. Justin Winsor, Judge Charles A. Peabody, Prof. Simeon E. Baldwin.
4. *Time and place of meeting.*—President James B. Angell, Dr. William F. Poole, Dr. C. W. Bowen.
5. *Programme.*—Dr. Justin Winsor, President C. K. Adams, Edward G. Mason, esq., Dr. Wm. F. Poole, Dr. H. B. Adams.
6. *Resolutions.*—Prof. Wm. P. Trent, Prof. Charles H. Haskins.

## OFFICERS FOR 1892-'93.

*President.*—James B. Angell, LL. D., president of the University of Michigan.

*Vice-Presidents.*—Henry Adams, Washington, D. C.; Edward G. Mason, president of the Chicago Historical Society.

*Treasurer.*—Clarence Winthrop Bowen, PH. D., 251 Broadway, New York City.

*Secretary.*—Herbert B. Adams, PH. D., LL. D., professor in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

*Assistant Secretary and Curator.*—A. Howard Clark, curator of the historical collections, National Museum, Washington, D. C.

*Executive Council* (in addition to the above-named officers).—Hon. Andrew D. White, LL. D., Ithaca, N. Y.; Justin Winsor, LL. D., Cambridge, Mass.; Charles Kendall Adams, LL. D., president of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; Hon. William Wirt Henry, Richmond, Va.; William F. Poole, LL. D., librarian of the Newberry Library, Chicago; Hon. John Jay, LL. D., New York City; Dr. G. Brown Goode, assistant secretary Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the National Museum; John George Bourinot, C. M. G., LL. D., D. C. L., clerk of the Canadian House of Commons; J. B. McMaster, professor of history in the University of Pennsylvania; George B. Adams, professor of history in Yale University.

## RESOLUTION BY THE ASSOCIATION, DECEMBER 31, 1891.

The American Historical Association during its eighth annual session has received from the citizens and institutions of Washington many courtesies that have added greatly to its enjoyment and for which it desires to return its thanks. It is therefore

*Resolved*, That the American Historical Association extends its hearty thanks to the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the Curators of the National Museum, the president of the Columbian University, the managers of the Cosmos Club, as well as to Mr. and Mrs. Horatio King and Mr. and Mrs. Leiter for their courtesy in assisting the work of the association, and their kindness in adding to its social pleasures.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The committee to which was referred the question of the place and time of the next regular meeting of the association reported as follows: It is understood to be the policy of the association to hold most of its meetings in Washington in the winter, but we believe that it has been thought by our members that it may be expedient for us to meet from time to time in some other place.

We have been cordially invited by our friends in Chicago to hold our next meeting in that city at some time in 1893, when the Columbian Exposition is to be held there. It is well known that many of our national, scientific, educational, and religious associations are expecting to hold meetings there at that time. After careful consideration of the invitation from Chicago your committee have decided to recommend that, instead of holding our meeting here next December, we meet in Chicago in 1893, at a time to be

hereafter fixed, after the conference of the proper officers of the association with our friends in that city. Your committee are of the opinion that such action will suit the convenience of most of our members and will conduce to the best interests of the association.

*RESOLUTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DECEMBER 30, 1891.*

(1) *Resolved*, That hereafter all the printing of the American Historical Association be committed to the charge of the assistant secretary in Washington.

(2) *Resolved*, That the duties of the secretary's office be divided between the secretary and the assistant secretary as they may agree.

(3) *Resolved*, That it be the sense of the executive council that the next meeting of the American Historical Association be held in 1893 in Chicago.