

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

FOR

THE YEAR 1896.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1897.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

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 Bancroft, 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 SUBMITTAL.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D. C., July 15, 1897.

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 1896.

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

S. P. LANGLEY,
Secretary.

Hon. GARRET A. HOBART,
President of the Senate.

Hon. THOMAS B. REED,
Speaker of the House.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,

Washington, D. C., March 4, 1897.

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 their twelfth annual meeting, held in New York City, December 29-31, 1896. The report is prefaced by a list of officers for 1897, a table of contents, and a general summary of proceedings by the secretary. Then follows the inaugural address by the president of the Association, Dr. Richard S. Storrs, of Brooklyn, N. Y., with most of the papers that were read at the New York meeting, some that were omitted from the report of 1895, and some that were received too late for the New York programme.

The report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of the Association, for which a special appropriation of \$500 was made by the Executive Council, is also transmitted. It contains many valuable and hitherto unpublished letters obtained from the English Foreign Office, from New England, Canada, and from the "Draper Collection," in Madison, Wis. These and other materials will prove of great service in illustrating the commercial, industrial, and territorial history of this country. Of special importance are the documents which show the relations between Gen. George Rogers Clark, the conqueror of the Northwest, and Genet, the minister of the French Republic. A full account of these unpublished papers is given by Prof. J. F. Jameson, chairman of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, in his report to the Executive Council of

the American Historical Association. This account is printed as a preface to the documents themselves. "The collection and preservation of historical manuscripts" is one of the declared objects of the original act of incorporation by Congress.

As a means of showing "the condition of historical study in America," the Association has encouraged the preparation of extensive bibliographies, representing in a comprehensive way the historical literature of various individual States in the American Union. Several such bibliographies are in preparation. There is transmitted herewith a valuable list, prepared by Gen. A. W. Greely, of the Congressional Documents of Washington's first Administration, of which no entire collection or adequate bibliography is known; also a list of books relating to America in the Register of the London Company of Stationers from 1562 to 1638, prepared by Mr. P. Lee Phillips, of the Library of Congress, and a bibliography of Leopold Von Ranke.

At its Washington meeting, December 26-27, 1895, the Executive Council voted to offer a prize of \$100 for the best monograph based upon original investigation in history, and submitted to the council in the course of the year 1896. The committee of award, Profs. A. C. McLaughlin, of the University of Michigan; Moses Coit Tyler, of Cornell University, and James Harvey Robinson, of Columbia University, gave the prize to Prof. Herman V. Ames, of Ohio State University, for his elaborate monograph on "The proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States during the first century of its history." This work is transmitted herewith, and its publication recommended, for it will be a useful public document, of great practical value to Congressmen and other citizens of the United States.

Very respectfully,

HERBERT B. ADAMS,
Secretary.

Mr. S. P. LANGLEY,
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

Organized at Saratoga, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1884.

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Boston, Mass.

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JAMES F. RHODES, LL. D.,
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OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 29-31, 1896.

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

By HERBERT B. ADAMS, Ph. D., LL. D., Secretary.

The twelfth annual meeting of this national society was held in New York, December 29-31, 1896, at Columbia University. It was generally agreed that this was one of the most successful conventions in the entire history of the Association. Not only was the attendance of actual members the largest recorded in recent years, but the sustained interest shown in the various sessions was most remarkable.

The inaugural address of Dr. Richard S. Storrs, president of the Association, was given Tuesday evening, December 29, in the New York Academy of Medicine, at 17 West Forty-third street. There, in a beautiful hall, adorned with historical portraits, early assembled a large and representative audience. After a grateful acknowledgment of the honor of an election to the presidency of the Association, Dr. Storrs announced as the subject of his address the contributions made by plain, uncelebrated men to the development of these United States. He chose three examples to illustrate his theme. The first was the story of Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of the Indian school which grew into Dartmouth College, the alma mater of some of the foremost men in the history of this country. Among the alumni were Daniel Webster, Rufus Choate, Salmon P. Chase, and George Ticknor. Dr. Storrs showed the influence of Dartmouth on the schools and churches of New England and upon the political and military life of the United States. Colonel Thayer, the father of the United States Military Academy at West Point, was a graduate of Dartmouth.

A second example of far-reaching pioneer work was that of an Ipswich Congregational minister, Dr. Manasseh Cutler, born in Connecticut in 1742. He was a chaplain during the

American Revolution, an accomplished man of science and letters, a good diplomatist and politician. When the Government was financially embarrassed after the War of Independence, when old soldiers were clamorous for back pay, Dr. Cutler was instrumental in negotiating for the sale of 5,000,000 acres of public land in the West to the Ohio Company, with 1,500,000 acres more to the Scioto Company, thus relieving the Government of \$3,500,000 debt. It was the social tact and good diplomacy of Dr. Cutler which persuaded the Southern Members of Congress to vote for the antislavery clause in the ordinance of 1787, with its fugitive slave clause for a quid pro quo. It was this famous ordinance which provided for free republican government, free soil, and popular education in the great Northwest, the territory now included in the great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. By this ordinance, which satisfied the demands of Eastern settlers represented by Dr. Cutler, the great West was anchored forever to the Eastern Seaboard States.

Dr. Storrs did not have time to describe in detail the services of Dr. Marcus Whitman in saving Oregon to the United States and in pushing our western boundary to the Pacific Ocean. He urged the Association to encourage biographical studies of those comparatively unknown men who did pioneer work for their country and made our national history possible. Some of the greatest Americans, like Franklin and Lincoln, sprang from the common people.

A paper which excited great interest and a good discussion was that of Prof. John W. Burgess, of Columbia University, whose subject was "The relation of political science and history." He began by defining and distinguishing between these two sciences. The phenomena of history must be conceived under the category of time; that is, in the order of antecedent and consequent. This, however, does not distinguish history from other sciences. The phenomena of history must also be conceived under the category of cause and effect. The form of thought that gives us the best test is the category of self-progression. Historical wisdom does not consist simply in knowing what has happened under given conditions, but also chiefly in correctly apprehending the variations, however slight, in the ever-changing conditions, and the increments the variations in the succeeding events have produced thereby. The historical basis is the true basis of progress, and it is com-

paratively worthless unless it produces the spirit of time progress. History is the progressive realization of the ideals of the human spirit. Political science, on the other hand, is the science of the nation, country, State, and is tending to become the science of the human world-state. Constitutional law is the realization of the doctrines of political science. Most men instinctively feel that the facts of political science are facts about government; but the science also comprehends the facts about sovereignty and liberty. Certain principles have now become recognized as parts of political science, and in their light we must look at the past. Professor Burgess concluded by saying that while there are parts of history which are not political science, and while there is an element in political science which is not strictly history, yet the two spheres so lap over one another and interpenetrate each other that they can not be distinctly separated. Political science must be studied historically and history must be studied politically in order to gain a correct comprehension of either separate theme.

This paper by Professor Burgess led to a lively discussion, which was begun by Prof. H. Morse Stephens, of Cornell University. He began by criticising political science as represented by the Oxford translation of a well-known German writer, Dr. J. C. Bluntschli. He said that Professor Burgess had given an answer to the question "What is Political Science?" but the answer was not altogether satisfactory. The political scientists claim too much for themselves. They cut up the imperial body of history, taking all the vital elements for themselves, and leave the rest as a so-called "residuum" for history. President Gates, of Amherst College, was inclined to take a somewhat practical and utilitarian view of the subject. Prof. Simeon Baldwin, of Yale University, said that the facts of history do not materially change, but the attitude of the human mind toward those facts undergoes marked changes with the progress of time.

The subject of the teaching of history occupied the attention of the New York meeting during an evening conference at Columbia University. The discussion was opened by Prof. H. B. Adams, of the Johns Hopkins University, who called attention to the popular methods of teaching history in England by means of reading circles under the direction of Oxford and Cambridge tutors and by means of summer meetings like those at Chester and Cambridge, which he visited last summer.

The object lessons in English history afforded by pilgrimages to cathedral towns, ruined castles, and monasteries are most instructive. The speaker undertook to defend the Freeman motto that "History is past politics and politics are present history." He frankly admitted that all history is not past politics, but some history is. Political history is one of the most vital currents of the world's life. Without government and civic society there can be no lasting civilization or culture. But this contention does not imply that history is exclusively politics. It includes the development of religion, art, education, culture, civilization—in fact, the whole life of man in society. Perhaps the highest conception of history is sociological. It is the duty of the historian to show how human society came to be what it is to-day. History is the evolution of mankind. The German Droysen defined history as the self-knowledge of humanity.

Prof. E. Emerton, of Harvard University, thought that mottoes and definitions are dangerous, but proceeded to give an approximate definition which excluded any political bias. His definition laid stress upon the recorded facts of the past in their relation to great masses of men. Professor Emerton criticised the American tendency to seminary methods of teaching history as somewhat top-heavy. He said there ought to be in historical teaching three stages of progress, which may be roughly characterized as (1) the acquisition of facts or historical information; (2) the interpretation of proper understanding of facts, and (3) research, or discovery of new historical truth. Prof. Charles M. Andrews, of Bryn Mawr College, made an able plea for the study of general history, particularly of European progress after the fall of the Roman Empire. Professor McMaster, of the University of Pennsylvania, showed what could be accomplished in the teaching of American history, and outlined the results which a teacher ought to obtain with his class. Prof. J. H. Robinson, of Columbia University, read a suggestive paper on the teaching of modern European history from original sources.

Considerable discussion was occasioned by Professor Turner's excellent paper on "The West as a Field for Historical study," which was read by his friend, Mr. R. G. Thwaites. The contention was that Western history should be viewed in a large way as national and institutional history, and not merely as antiquarian or border history. The discussion was

carried on by Professor McLaughlin, of the University of Michigan, and Prof. Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, both of whom made strong appeals for the independent treatment of Western history, instead of regarding it as an appanage of the East. Indeed, Professor McLaughlin contended that our national history can be best understood from Western points of view. It was always the consciousness of a vast Western inheritance which made national unity and republican expansion historic possibilities. Professor Wilson added a plea for the proper treatment of Southern history by men who really understand it and sympathize with it. He thought the Scotch-Irishman would be the coming historian, and said there is nothing for the Southerner to apologize for in writing Southern history. A man might as well quarrel with his own nature and that of his ancestors as for the true historian to find fault with the people he attempts to describe.

It is impossible in this connection to give abstracts of the various papers. The following is a rapid enumeration of the subjects and authors: (1) The Melanchthon Quartocentenary, by President E. D. Warfield, Lafayette College (a subject discussed by Prof. Henry M. Baird); (2) The Anti-Rent Episode in the State of New York, by Dr. David Murray; (3) A Know-Nothing Legislature, by Prof. G. H. Haynes (a curious anticipation of modern Populism); (4) Peale's Original Portrait of Washington (shown to be defaced, not destroyed), by Charles Henry Hart, who is editing for McClure's Magazine an interesting series of historical sketches and portraits; (5) The Use of History Made by the Framers of the Constitution, by Prof. E. G. Bourne, of Yale University, whose paper was discussed by Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, of Philadelphia, with special reference to the sources of our Congressional Government; (6) The Capture of Port Royal and Its First English Governor, by Gen. J. G. Wilson; (7) Schemes for Episcopal Control in the Colonies, by Arthur L. Cross, of Harvard University; (8) A Plea for the Study of Votes in Congress, by Dr. O. G. Libby, of the University of Wisconsin; (9) The Northern Lake Frontier During the Civil War, by J. M. Callahan, of Johns Hopkins University, a paper discussed by General Carrington; (10) Langdon Cheves and His Administration of the United States Bank, by Miss Louisa P. Haskell, of Radcliffe College, the only lady upon the programme, whose excellent paper and good reading inspired Dr. Storrs to tell a good story, "Why do we have

men?" (11) The Influence of the American Revolution on England's Government of her Colonies, by Prof. G. B. Adams, of Yale University; (12) The Government of Federal Territories in Europe and America, by E. C. Burnett, of Brown University; (13) Life of Medieval Students Illustrated by their Letters, by Prof. C. H. Haskins, of the University of Wisconsin. A paper by Gen. A. W. Greely was read by title. Two valuable manuscripts, by P. Lee Phillips, Library of Congress, came too late for insertion in the programme.

Prof. J. Franklin Jameson, of Brown University, chairman of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, established by the Executive Council one year ago, reported progress. The objects of the commission are the collecting of information regarding manuscript materials for American history in private hands, the preservation of these materials, and the making of them available to historical students. The commission reported a satisfactory year's work in the collection of information. Circulars have been sent out, largely to libraries and societies on one hand and to individual possessors on the other. The replies have been numerous and full, and the commission are in possession of a very large body of facts on their subject. They have also prepared a bibliography which will show, as nearly as possible, all the printed guides to archives, lists of their contents, or descriptions of other collections of manuscript historical material. This, it is hoped, will help all workers in American history.

The commission recommended the immediate beginning of the work of printing some of the most important and interesting of the materials which have been found. They hope to do for America what the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, established in 1869, has done for England. The publication of their first report, they expect, will increase public interest in their work and elicit many further responses to their inquiries. The commission propose to print, as a specimen of the work they intend to do, a collection embracing series coming from various geographical sections and illustrating various portions of our national history. From the Public Record Office in London they have obtained a series of transcripts of the letters to the Foreign Office from Phineas Bond, British consul at Philadelphia from 1787 to 1812; from Canada, a correspondence showing a curious intrigue of an anonymous party or parties in Pennsylvania, in 1756, with the French

Government; for New England, an interesting collection, from widely scattered repositories, of the letters of Stephen Higginson, of the Essex Junto; from the Middle States, a selection from the correspondence of Mahlon and Philemon Dickerson; for the South, extracts from the journal of Edward Hooker, exhibiting South Carolina legislation and politics in the years 1805 to 1808; for the West, the papers giving the history of the expedition against Louisiana planned in 1793 and 1794 by Edward Charles Genet and George Rogers Clark.

The most conspicuous social feature of the convention was the Association breakfast, in the banquetting hall of the Windsor, just after the Wednesday morning session. Over one hundred subscribing members and their friends, including several ladies, enjoyed a delightful repast. Dr. R. S. Storrs, the president of the Association, sat at the high table with other speakers and one or two specially invited guests of the Association. Dr. Storrs said some good things for the encouragement of the society in its patriotic work. He thought there was great need of cultivating the historical spirit in a democratic people. We are too mercurial in our national temperament. We are subject to great exuberance of feeling in one direction or another. History tends to correct political faults by giving a certain ballast of temperament. The presiding officer called upon Mr. E. T. De Lancey, who represented the New York Historical Society; upon Mr. Winsor, vice-president of the Massachusetts Historical Society; upon Edward Eggleston, who is facile princeps in American culture history; President Gates, of Amherst College; Dr. William A. Dunning, of Columbia, and Prof. H. Morse Stephens, of Cornell. After the Association breakfast there was a meeting of the guarantors of the American Historical Review. Prof. W. M. Sloane was reelected one of the editorial board.

The following invitations to the American Historical Association were duly presented by the secretary:

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
170 Second Avenue, New York, December 26, 1896.

On behalf and in the name of the New York Historical Society, I have the honor to invite the members of the American Historical Association during their sojourn in this city to visit the library and museum of the New York Historical Society at any time between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 p. m.

Yours, truly,

JOHN A. KING, *President.*

THE AUTHORS' CLUB,
MUSIC HALL, SEVENTH AVENUE AND FIFTY-SIXTH STREET,
New York, December 29, 1896.

I am instructed by the executive council of the Authors' Club to invite the members of the American Historical Association, now in session in this city, to attend a meeting of the Authors' Club (Carnegie Hall, corner Fifty-sixth street and Seventh avenue), on December 31, 1896, at 9 o'clock p. m. Some very informal Watch-Night Ceremonies will take place at midnight. The club will feel honored by the presence of any member of the Historical Association who may remain in town, and the presentation of his card with notice upon it that he is a member of the Association will be sufficient for admission to the rooms.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully, yours,

DANIEL G. THOMPSON,
Secretary, 111 Broadway, New York City.

Invitations were also received from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and from the Authors' Guild, 226 West Fifty-eighth street.

The following letter from the honorary secretary of the Royal Society of Canada was read to the American Historical Association by its secretary:

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
Ottawa, December 15, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the council of the Royal Society of Canada, recently held in the city of Montreal, it was resolved that the honorary secretary do communicate to the American Historical Association the following facts:

1. That the Royal Society will hold their next general meeting in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, from the 21st to the 26th of June, 1897.
2. That it is proposed during the meeting to commemorate the famous voyage of the Cabots to North America in 1497, by the erection of a monument or the placing of a tablet in the province building of the city of Halifax.

3. That the American Historical Association be respectfully requested to send one or more representatives to the meeting, who will be the guests of the society on an occasion so deeply interesting to Englishmen and their descendants in all parts of the globe.

I have the honor, accordingly, to call your special attention to the foregoing resolutions and ask you to take such measures as you may deem expedient to give a favorable response to the request of the Royal Society, and of the citizens of Halifax, who are equally interested in the meeting and will gladly welcome the delegates.

I inclose herewith the report of the Royal Society in May last on the subject of the Cabot celebration.

I remain, yours, sincerely,

JNO. GEO. BOURINOT,
Honorable Secretary.

This letter of invitation was referred, upon motion by the secretary, to the Executive Council with power to appoint delegates. At a subsequent meeting of the council, Prof. Justin

Winsor, of Harvard University, and Dr. H. B. Adams, of Baltimore, were appointed delegates to Halifax, with power to increase their number. Dr. Benjamin Rand, of Harvard University, has since been added to the delegation.

Dr. Justin Winsor, who presided at two of the morning sessions of the Association, introduced on behalf of the council of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of its president, Mr. Charles Francis Adams, a memorial addressed to Congress for the preservation of the frigate *Constitution* as a naval museum at Washington. It was desired that the American Historical Association should unite with the Massachusetts Historical Society in presenting a memorial to Congress. Professor Emerton moved that the communication be referred to the Executive Council of the Association. This motion was carried, with an amendment expressing the approval of the Association of the proposed appeal.

The American Society of Church History was organized in New York March 23, 1888, through the instrumentality of the late Dr. Philip Schaff, who died October 20, 1893. Since his death there has been some discussion of the expediency of uniting the Church History Society with the American Historical Association.

The following is the proposed plan of union with the American Historical Association, adopted by the council of the American Society of Church History in New York City, November 19, 1896, approved by the Executive Council of the American Historical Association, and ratified by the Association December 31, 1896:

To the Council of the American Historical Association.

GENTLEMEN: The council of our society would respectfully lay before your body the following propositions:

1. That we be allowed to incorporate ourselves with your membership as a body; our annual members to be your annual members; our life members to be life members in your Association.

2. That you will constitute a section to be called "The Church History Section," to be composed of such members of the Association as choose to be present on any occasion at its meeting, and to take part in the meeting.

3. This section shall meet on the same days with the general Association, and, if convenient, in the same place, and shall have its own chairman and secretary elected by the section during the previous annual meeting of the Association.

4. The officers of the section named above shall be ex-officio members of the council of the Association.

5. All papers upon Church History presented to the Association at its annual meeting shall be referred to the Church History Section in which,

if its officers so determine, they shall be read, unless in the judgment of the section officers they are of such general interest as properly to be read in the general session, in which case they are to recommend these papers to the programme committee.

6. The advisability of printing any of the papers read in the Church History Section shall be determined by the programme committee of the Association, of which the secretary of the section shall be ex-officio a member, and no such paper shall be published without his consent.

The American Society of Church History held its ninth annual meeting in room 28, Hamilton Hall, Columbia University, on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 29 and 30, 1896. The following papers were presented and fairly indicate the scope and character of the work of this society, which, in the future, is to be a section of the American Historical Association:

FIRST SESSION.—*Tuesday, December 29—3.30 p. m.*

- I. The Teachings of Antonio Rosmini and the Censures passed upon them by Ecclesiastical Authority. By Rev. Prof. Henry Clay Sheldon, D. D., Boston, Mass.
- II. The Revolution in the Church Constitution in the Ninth Century. By Guy Carleton Lee, Ph. D. (Johns Hopkins), Baltimore, Md.
- III. The Development of the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Roman See till the end of the Pontificate of Nicholas I (867). By Joseph Cullen Ayer, jr., Ph. D. (Leipzig), Nantucket, Mass.

SECOND SESSION.—*Tuesday, December 29—8 p. m.*

- I. The Attitude of the Society of Friends toward Slavery in the Eighteenth Century. By Prof. Allen Clapp Thomas, Haverford College, Pa.
- II. Some Aspects of Early Methodism. By Rev. John Alfred Faulkner, Binghamton, N. Y.
- III. The Ecclesiastical Situation in New England prior to the Revolution. By Rev. Joseph Henry Allen, D. D., Cambridge, Mass.

THIRD SESSION.—*Wednesday, December 30—10 a. m.*

- I. Erasmus, the Prince of the Humanists. By Rev. George Norcross, D. D., Carlisle, Pa.
- II. The Amsterdam Correspondence. By Rev. Edward Tanjore Corwin, D. D., Greendale, N. Y.
- III. The Relation of the Church of England to the Reformed Churches during the Tudor and Stuart Periods. By Rev. Principal Sheraton, D. D., LL. D., Toronto, Canada.

FOURTH SESSION.—*Wednesday, December 30—3.30 p. m.*

- I. The Attitude of the Church toward the Study of the Classics in the Early Middle Ages. By Prof. Dana Carleton Munro, Philadelphia, Pa.
- II. The Colony of the Labadists in Maryland. By Rev. Bartlett Burleigh James, Washington, D. C.

At the New York meeting was appointed a commission to prepare and recommend to a committee of the National Educational Association a plan of historical study in secondary schools. It was considered a singularly good opportunity for the Association to bring its national influence to bear upon the proper teaching of history throughout the whole country. An entire evening had been devoted to a discussion of this subject by college and university men in the Association, and it was hoped that the historical commission might be able to harmonize the various views and to suggest practical ways and means to the National Educational Association for promoting historical study in high schools and academies.

The following five members were appointed on this commission, with power to increase its number by two additional members: Profs. George B. Adams, C. H. Haskins, H. Morse Stephens, Lucy M. Salmon, and H. B. Adams. Upon subsequent resignation of Prof. George B. Adams, Prof. A. C. McLaughlin, of the University of Michigan, was chosen in his place. Prof. A. B. Hart, of Harvard University, and George L. Fox, principal of the Hopkins Grammar School, New Haven, have since been added to the commission. Prof. A. C. McLaughlin was elected chairman.

VOTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Executive Council of the American Historical Association, at its New York meetings, December 29-31, 1896, passed the following resolutions:

1. The appropriation of \$500 for the continuation of the work of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.
2. The election of James Bain, jr., as a member of this commission in place of Douglas Brymner, resigned.
3. The acceptance of the invitation of the Royal Society of Canada to send delegates to Halifax June 21-26, 1897, to join in the commemoration of the discovery of North America by John Cabot.
4. The appointment of Justin Winsor and H. B. Adams as delegates to Halifax, with power to increase their number.
5. The appointment of a committee of three, consisting of Justin Winsor, and G. B. and H. B. Adams, to confer with a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Jackson, Richardson, and McGifford, representing the American Society of Church History, upon the project of organic union.
6. The acceptance of the proposed plan of union as adopted by the council of the Society of Church History November 19, 1896, and addressed in printed form to the council of the American Historical Association.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the American Historical Association, in Washington, December 27, 1895, it was

voted "to offer a prize of \$100 for the best monograph based upon original investigation in history submitted to the council during the coming year, university dissertations excluded, and to print the best five of the monographs thus submitted if of an approved degree of excellence." The committee appointed to make this award was as follows: Prof. A. C. McLaughlin, chairman; Prof. Moses Coit Tyler, and Prof. James H. Robinson. Four monographs were submitted in competition. At the New York meeting the committee reported progress, but requested another month for deliberation, and finally awarded the prize to Prof. Herman V. Ames, of Ohio State University, for his elaborate monograph on "The Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the United States during the First Century of its History." When printed, this monograph will form a useful public document.

It was announced to the Executive Council that the annual report of the Association for the year 1895 is now in type, and comprises, with the index, over 1200 octavo pages. The first half of the report contains the papers read at the last meeting, in Washington, December 26, 27, 1895; the second half is devoted to an elaborate bibliography of all the published work of American Historical Societies, whether in the United States or in Canada. This extensive and useful bibliographical work was done by Mr. A. P. O. Griffin, formerly of the Boston Public Library and Athenæum libraries, and now of the Lenox Library, New York. His previous work for the Association in this field is at last consolidated, revised, enlarged, and brought up to date. It is the policy of the Association to continue bibliographical work in other fields of State and national history.

The annual report for 1896 will probably consist of four distinct parts: (1) Report of the Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Meeting; (2) Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission; (3) Historical Bibliographies; (4) Prize Essay on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the United States during the First Century of its History.

RESOLUTIONS.

The committee on resolutions reported the following at the closing session of the Twelfth Annual Meeting:

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the Association be, and they are hereby, tendered to the members of the local committee of arrangements for the admirable manner in which they have performed their important

task, much of the marked social and literary excellence of this highly successful meeting being attributable to their endeavors; to the corporation of Columbia University, for its hospitable treatment of the Association, in the loan of lecture rooms for meetings, and in the tender of numerous other courtesies; to president and Mrs. Seth Low, and to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence W. Bowen, for delightful receptions at their respective homes to the members of the Association and its guests; and to the New York Historical Society, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and the Authors' Club, for their tender of the hospitalities of their rooms to the members of the Association.

REUBEN G. THWAITES, *Chairman.*

EDWIN A. GROSVENOR.