

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

FOR

THE YEAR 1898.

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WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1899.

## 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 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.

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
*Washington, D. C., April 21, 1899.*

*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 that Association for the year 1898.

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

S. P. LANGLEY,  
*Secretary.*

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

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,  
*Washington, D. C., April 18, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a general report of the proceedings of the American Historical Association at their fourteenth annual meeting, held in New Haven, Conn., December 28-30, 1898. Some of the papers there read and discussed have been elsewhere printed. For example, the report of the committee of seven on "The study of history in schools" was accepted for publication by the Macmillan Company, though this is included in the present report as a matter of great importance. Prof. George F. Burr's report on "The search for the Venezuela-Guiana Boundary" was printed in the *American Historical Review*, April, 1899; so also was Prof. William M. Sloane's article on "Napoleon's plans for French colonies in Spanish America." Other papers that were actually read and some that were presented by title are herewith submitted, together with the third report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Among things done by the Association at their New Haven meeting were: (1) The adoption of the *American Historical Review*, a quarterly magazine, now published by the Macmillan Company, and now sent free of charge to all members of the Association; (2) the appointment of a commission of five for the historical study of colonies and dependencies; (3) the institution of a general committee to represent the local and State historical interests of the Association; (4) an agreement to hold annual meetings in triennial succession in the East, West, and District of Columbia.

Respectfully,

HERBERT B. ADAMS,  
*Secretary.*

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

## AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

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

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### OFFICERS FOR 1899.

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President:

JAMES FORD RHODES, LL. D.,  
*Boston, Mass.*

Vice-Presidents:

EDWARD EGGLESTON,  
*New York City.*

MOSES COIT TYLER, L. H. D., LL. D.,  
*Professor, Cornell University.*

Secretary:

HERBERT B. ADAMS, Ph. D., LL. D.,  
*Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.*

Assistant Secretary and Curator:

A. HOWARD CLARK,  
*Custodian of Section of American History, Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D. C.*

Treasurer:

CLARENCE W. BOWEN, Ph. D.,  
*130 Fulton street, New York City.*

Secretary Church History Section:

SAMUEL MACAULEY JACKSON, D. D., LL. D.,  
*692 West End avenue, New York City.*

Executive Council:

(In addition to the above-named officers),  
Hon. ANDREW D. WHITE, L. H. D., LL. D.,  
*Ithaca, N. Y.*

CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS, LL. D.,  
*President of the University of Wisconsin.*

Hon. WILLIAM WIRT HENRY, LL. D.,  
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*Brooklyn, N. Y.*

JAMES SCHOULER, LL. D.,  
*Boston, Mass.*

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

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, DECEMBER 28-30, 1898.

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

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By HERBERT B. ADAMS, Secretary.

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The New Haven meeting of this national historical society was the most successful in its history. During the three days' convention, December 28-30, the morning and evening sessions were attended by large and enthusiastic audiences. An attractive series of interesting historical papers and reports was provided by the programme committee, of which Prof. E. G. Bourne, of Yale University, was the chairman. The local committee of arrangements did all that was possible for the entertainment and pleasure of the visiting members of the American Historical and American Economic associations. As occasionally in former years, so now these two kindred societies met at the same time, in the same city.

The opening meeting of the Economic Association was held Tuesday evening, December 27, in the beautiful and spacious hall of the New Haven Colony Historical Society. After a cordial welcome from President Dwight, on behalf of the society, the city, and the university, and after the inaugural address by Prof. Arthur T. Hadley, the visiting members of both associations were pleasantly received by Professor and Mrs. Henry W. Farnam at their house on Hillhouse avenue. After Professor Fisher's inaugural address Wednesday evening, at the opening of the Historical convention in Colonial Hall, both associations were received by the Historical Society in their lower rooms, which are nobly furnished with historical memorials of New Haven Colony and with portraits of its famous men. Not even Pilgrim Hall in old Plymouth could afford a richer or more suggestive environment for historical meetings, social and literary, than does the Colonial Hall in New Haven.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the New Haven meeting, by Dr. J. F. Jameson, was published in the *American Historical Review*, April, 1899. Prof. A. B. Hart contributed to Book Reviews (Macmillan & Co.) for February, 1899, an account of the growth and purposes of the American Historical Association.



The literary feature of the fourteenth annual meeting of the American Historical Association was President Fisher's address. He avoided burning questions of the day, and spoke of the historian, not as a politician, an economist, or a sociologist, but as a judge of the personal characteristics and merits of men and women who have participated in the world's great drama. This chosen field afforded a rare opportunity for a wide and fascinating review of human character as illustrated in human deeds which form the substance, the very life of history. Professor Fisher quoted the late Professor Gurney, of Harvard University, who, when offered at Cambridge one of two college departments, history or philosophy, chose the first because, as he said, he preferred intercourse with persons to a life spent amid abstractions. Even for the sake of divine philosophy, of which he was extremely fond, he could not part company with the men and women whom history calls back to life.

The educational feature of the programme was, beyond all question, the report of Prof. A. C. McLaughlin, chairman of the committee of seven on the study of history in secondary schools. This committee was appointed two years ago by the association and has labored hard to solve the vexed problem of college entrance requirements in history, and to promote historical study in all secondary schools, a far more comprehensive and important matter. After careful inquiries in this country and in the schools of England, France, and Germany, the committee has practically completed its report, and it will probably be published in the spring. Professor McLaughlin discussed the educational value of history and its place in the curriculum, the proposed division of history into four blocks, each requiring one year of school work: (1) Ancient, including (very briefly) Oriental history and the early medieval period down to 800 A. D.; (2) later medieval and modern European history; (3) English history, including its continental and imperial relations; (4) American history, supplemented by civil government. The report discusses in detail the methods of treating these four great divisions of human history, the best methods of instruction, and the training of teachers. It was shown that the primary aim of secondary schools is not preparation for college, but preparation for life. Public schools are already outrunning college requirements in history, and the time is soon coming when a knowledge of man's experience in

civil society will need to be recognized at least on terms of equality with the classics and mathematics. If colleges do not discern the signs of the times and the requirements of American citizens and civic leaders, so much the worse will it be for the colleges and their graduates.

A pleasant feature of Thursday morning's session was the extempore address of the Rev. Dr. William Cunningham, of Trinity College, Cambridge, England, an eminent authority on English social and economic history. He said it would be impossible anywhere in England to gather such an assemblage of historians and economists, specialists and teachers, as he had seen in New Haven. And yet, he said, it ought to be easier in England than in America to awaken public interest in historical and economic matters. English teachers and students are surrounded by reminders of the past, and yet it is very difficult in England to quicken historical interest even in secondary schools. Questions regarding the present and the future seem to absorb English attention. Englishmen meet each difficulty as it arises. Dr. Cunningham commended the American spirit, which is manifestly becoming truly historical in its methods of dealing with great public questions. America is a country most congenial to historians and very encouraging to historico-economic pursuits.

The treasurer's report was especially gratifying to the association from an historico-economic point of view. It was shown that the present assets of the association are \$11,539, an increase of about \$1,500 during the past year. In fact, the good financial condition of the association has enabled it to undertake some very important functions. For example, the historical manuscript commission is now receiving an annual subsidy for the purpose of securing and copying for publication original historical materials. Two special reports by this commission have already been published in connection with the annual report of the association. Prof. J. F. Jameson, chairman of the commission, outlined its future projects, especially the plan of printing the letters of John C. Calhoun.

The most important financial step taken at the New Haven meeting was the formal adoption of the American Historical Review, already for some years edited by Dr. Jameson and other members of the association. This step means an annual subsidy to the editors and publishers and the regular supply to every one of the twelve hundred members of the association

of this handsome quarterly magazine, the best organ of American history and of history in America.

There were various interesting papers and discussions on historical subjects: European, American, diplomatic, ecclesiastical, colonial, institutional, and constitutional. Some of them are printed in this report. By general consensus, the New Haven meeting was the best on record. In fact, it was the pronounced success of an historical convention under the auspices of Yale University that decided the Executive Council to vote for Boston and Harvard University as the rallying points for the Association's numerous historical clans from Maine to California, in Christmas week, 1899. With this intent the association elected for its next president the eminent historian, James F. Rhodes, LL.D., of Boston, and appointed as chairman of the programme committee Prof. A. B. Hart, of Cambridge. Prof. M. C. Tyler, of Cornell University, was chosen second vice-president. Prof. George B. Adams, of Yale, and Prof. A. C. McLaughlin, of Ann Arbor, were added to the Executive Council. This body also elected this worthy representative of the University of Michigan to the vacancy on the board of editors of *The American Historical Review*. Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, superintendent of the department of manuscripts in the Library of Congress, was added to the Manuscripts Commission of the Historical Association.

By formal vote the Executive Council declared for the manifest policy of another meeting of the Association in the East, then in the West, at Detroit and Ann Arbor, in 1900, with a return in 1901 to Washington, where this national society was incorporated by act of Congress and made a Government institution in organic relations with the Smithsonian, to which it annually reports.

#### VOTED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

(1) That an amount not to exceed \$1,000 be appropriated by the American Historical Association to help defray the expenses of the *American Historical Review* from July 1, 1898, to January 1, 1899, with the understanding that the October, 1898, and the January, 1899, numbers of the *Review* be sent to the members of the American Historical Association.

(2) That Article IV of the constitution of the American Historical Association be amended so that the Executive Council, in addition to the regular officers of the Association, shall include six other members elected by the Association with its ex-presidents, the number "six" being substituted for "four."

(3) The appointment of a Committee of Five on the award of the "Justin Winsor Prize," namely: Prof. F. J. Turner, University of Wisconsin; Prof. H. L. Osgood, Columbia University; Prof. C. M. Andrews, Bryn Mawr College; Prof. E. P. Cheyney, University of Pennsylvania, and Prof. W. M. West, University of Minnesota.

(4) The appointment of a Commission of Five on the Historical Study of Colonies and Dependencies: Prof. H. E. Bourne, Western Reserve University, chairman; Prof. H. Morse Stephens, Cornell University; Prof. George M. Wrong, Toronto University; Prof. Bernard Moses, University of California, and Prof. F. Wells Williams, Yale University.

(5) That the Association approves the general principles of the report on the Study of History in Secondary Schools as stated in the report of the chairman, Prof. A. C. McLaughlin.

(6) Authorization of a General Committee on the local and State historical interests of the Association, the selection being intrusted to Profs. A. B. Hart and H. B. Adams.

(7) Institution of a Bibliographical Committee to advise the Executive Council and to cooperate with the American Library Association upon matters of bibliographical interest: A. Howard Clark, assistant secretary of the American Historical Association; Reuben G. Thwaites, superintendent State Historical Society of Wisconsin; William E. Foster, librarian Providence Public Library; J. N. Larned, of Buffalo, N. Y., and George Hies, of New York City.

VOTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

(1) That the Committee of Seven shall be authorized to continue its functions and to make further report at the next annual meeting of the Association.

(2) That the Committee of Seven have leave to add to its members if it deem necessary.

(3) That the Committee of Seven have leave to report in detail to the committee of the National Educational Association.

(4) That the council recommend to the Association to meet during the Christmas holidays, from Wednesday to Friday, in 1899 in Boston, in 1900 in Detroit, in 1901 in Washington, D. C.

(5) That after 1901 meetings should be held in the East, West, and Washington in triennial succession.

RESOLUTION.

*Resolved*, That the American Historical Association desires to extend its thanks for the many courtesies which have so greatly enhanced the effectiveness and enjoyment of its meeting in New Haven.

The Association is grateful to the local committee, and especially to Profs. H. W. Farnum and E. G. Bourne, to whose labors in perfecting arrangements the success of the convention has been largely due. Special thanks are offered to the New Haven Colony Historical Society, to the Graduates' Club, to Prof. and Mrs. H. W. Farnum, and to Prof. G. P. Fisher we are also indebted for the gracious hospitality.

DANA C. MUNRO, *Chairman*.  
HENRY E. BOURNE.

## PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The following list enumerates the present leading activities of the American Historical Association:

(1) The annual meeting of the Association held during the Christmas holidays in the East or the West or the District of Columbia in triennial succession.

(2) The Annual Report of the Secretary of the Association concerning the annual meeting and its proceedings, with the papers, bibliographies, and other historical materials submitted through the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for publication by Congress.

(3) The Historical Manuscripts Commission of five members, established in 1895, and now receiving from the Association a subsidy of \$500 a year for the collection and editing of important manuscripts. At present the commission is thus organized: Prof. J. F. Jameson, Brown University, chairman; Prof. F. J. Turner, University of Wisconsin; Prof. William P. Trent, University of the South; James Bain, jr., Toronto Public Library; and Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, superintendent of manuscripts department, Library of Congress.

(4) The preservation of historical exchanges, books, pamphlets, reports, and papers of the Association in the National Museum at Washington, D. C., in the keeping of Mr. A. Howard Clark, assistant secretary of the Association and curator of the historical collections.

(5) The Committee of Seven, established in 1896, for promoting the Study of History in Secondary Schools.

(6) A general committee, representing the local and State historical interests of the Association. This committee is being gradually appointed by authority of the Executive Council. The list will be announced later.

(7) The "Justin Winsor Prize" of \$100 for the best unpublished monographic work, based upon original investigation in American history. This prize has been awarded only once, and then in the year 1896 to Prof. Herman V. Ames, a graduate of Amherst College and a doctor of philosophy of Harvard University. (For Committee on Award of Winsor Prize, see Votes of the Association.)

(8) The Church History Section, which continues the work of the American Society of Church History, was originally an institutional offshoot of the American Historical Association in 1888, but, in 1896, it became an organic part of the Association, with Dr. Samuel Macauley Jackson as secretary of the section.

(9) A Commission of Five for the Historical Study of Colonies and Dependencies. This commission is organized as follows: Prof. Henry E. Bourne, Western Reserve University, chairman; Prof. H. Morse Stephens, Cornell University; Prof. George M. Wrong, Toronto University; Prof. F. Wells Williams, Yale University; and Prof. Bernard Moses, University of California.

(10) The American Historical Review, published quarterly, and now subsidized by the American Historical Association, whose Executive Council will henceforth fill vacancies in the board of editors.