

## JUNE MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday, June 13, at noon. In the absence of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the meeting was called to order by the Recording Secretary, and the Hon. Judge WHITE was requested to occupy the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the American Antiquarian Society, the Chicago Historical Society, Essex Institute, New-Jersey Historical Society, New-York State Library, Peabody Institute, Ulster Historical Society, and Yale College; from Martin Paine, M.D.; J. S. Homans, M.D.; Hon. Theron Metcalf; and from Messrs. Brigham, Green, Lamson, Lowell, Mason, Robbins (C.), and Sibley, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary read a communication from the Chicago Historical Society, and also from Henry B. Dawson, Esq., of Morrisania, N.Y. The latter communication was referred to the Standing Committee.

The Cabinet-keeper communicated the following letter from Rev. E. M. Stone, of Providence, R.I.; accompanying, and presenting to the Society, a small quantity of earth and other relics taken from the graves of Roger Williams and his wife; together with a copy of the "Providence Journal," containing a paper read by Z. Allen, Esq., before the Rhode-Island Historical Society, relating to Roger Williams, and the exhumation of his remains, March 22, 1860; and a map showing the location of his residence and burial-place:—

PROVIDENCE, May 22, 1860.

To the Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

DEAR SIR, — I herewith transmit, for the acceptance of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the following articles:—

1. A copy of the "Providence Journal," containing a paper read by Z. Allen, Esq., before the Rhode-Island Historical Society, relating to Roger Williams, and the exhuming of his remains, March 22, 1860.

2. A map showing the location of the residence and the burial-place of Roger Williams.

3. A stone taken out of the grave of Roger Williams.

4. Earth taken out of the grave of Roger Williams.

5. Earth taken from the bottom of the grave of the wife of Roger Williams, in which is mingled the dust of her remains.

6. A nail from the coffin of the wife of Roger Williams; the coffin being entirely decayed, with the exception of a few fragments, and the nails left in the earth. The nail, as will be perceived, is very much corroded; and, upon slight pressure, crumbled.

The exhumation of these remains excited a deep interest among the citizens of Providence, and resulted in the adoption of measures for the erection of a monument to the memory of the founder of the State. This object was long a cherished one with the late venerable John Howland, the second President of the Rhode-Island Historical Society, who, many years previous to his decease, made an earnest effort to effect it; but the propitious time had not arrived, and his effort proved unsuccessful. He had studied, more thoroughly, perhaps, than any man living, the character, policy, and services of Williams; and was anxious for a suitable recognition of him as a statesman, and an undaunted advocate of entire freedom "in religious concerns." It is reserved for others to do a work in which he, at the time referred to, engaged; and, were he living, none more than he would rejoice in the present prospect of its achievement.

In presenting these relics to your Society, I am reminded that its honored President is descended from one who thoroughly estimated the moral worth of the subject of these remarks; and who, through all his troubles in Massachusetts and to the close of life, remained his steadfast friend. The joint proprietorship of a beautiful island in Narragansett Bay brings them both distinctly, and at the same

time, before the mind's eye. Could the mutual private services of these noble men be written, — services known to few in their day, — the facts revealed would show how much beyond common supposition were both Massachusetts and Rhode Island indebted to them, as they would also impart freshness to the perennial wreaths that encircle the names of John Winthrop and Roger Williams.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STONE.

On motion, the letter of Mr. Stone was, after some expression of opinion on the part of the members adverse to the encouragement of the practice of disturbing the sepulchres of the dead, referred to the Standing Committee, with instructions to take into consideration the propriety of receiving, or declining to accept, the relics offered by Mr. Stone, and to prepare a suitable reply to his communication.

Mr. EVERETT presented a volume in manuscript, — containing an account of the revolution in St. Domingo in 1791, together with sketches of St. Domingo from January, 1785, to December, 1794, — written by the late S. G. Perkins, Esq., in the form of letters addressed to the late Franklin Dexter, Esq., never printed; a gift from Stephen H. Perkins, Esq., the only surviving son of the writer, coupled with the request, that the contents of the volume should not be made public without the consent of the donor.

*Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Stephen H. Perkins, Esq., for his very valuable and interesting donation to the library.

James M. Robbins, Esq., of Milton, and Charles Eliot Norton, Esq., of Cambridge, were elected Resident Members.