

P R O C E E D I N G S  
OF THE  
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

---

VOL. V.

JANUARY—JULY, 1851.

No. 46.

---

*Stated Meeting, January 3.*

Present, fifteen members.

Dr. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

Dr. Joseph Leidy, a newly elected member, was introduced and took his seat.

The judges and clerks of the election held this day, reported the election of the following officers:—

*President.*

Dr. Robert M. Patterson.

*Vice-Presidents.*

Dr. Franklin Bache,  
Alexander D. Bache,  
Hon. John K. Kane.

*Secretaries.*

Dr. Robley Dunglison,  
John F. Frazer,  
Charles B. Trego,  
E. Otis Kendall.

*Members of the Council for Three Years.*

Clement C. Biddle,  
George M. Justice,  
Frederick Fraley,  
Henry Reed.

*Curators.*

Franklin Peale,  
John C. Cresson,  
M. Fisher Longstreth.

*Treasurer.*

Benjamin W. Richards.

A letter was read from Lieut. Col. J. D. Graham, dated Washington, 20th September, 1850, stating that his diploma of membership in the American Philosophical Society, had been destroyed by fire, and asking that the same might be renewed under the authority of the Society: whereupon the officers of the Society were authorized to give to Lieut. Col. Graham, an attested copy of his diploma of membership.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

The Documentary History of the State of New York. Arranged under the direction of the Hon. Christopher Morgan, Secretary of State. By E. B. O'Callaghan, M. D. Vol. I. Albany, 1850. 4to.—*From the Trustees of the New York State Library.*

The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. Vol. XI. No. 31. January, 1851. New Haven. 8vo.—*From the Editors, Professors Silliman and Dana.*

Song of the Sea Shells, and other Poems. By Thomas Fisher. Philadelphia, 1850. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

The Silent Influence of the Bible: a Discourse delivered before the Bible Society of Pennsylvania College and Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa. By Rev. Joseph Few Smith, Professor of Sacred Rhetoric and Pastoral Theology, Auburn, N. Y. Gettysburg, 1851. 8vo.—*From Professor M. L. Stoeber.*

A Collection of Pamphlets (32 in number) on various subjects by different authors.—*From E. D. Ingraham, Esq.*

Mr. M. Fisher Longstreth offered for the Transactions of the Society, a memoir "On the Accuracy of the Tabular Longitudes of the Moon, to be obtained by the construction of New Lunar Tables:" which was on motion referred to a Committee, consisting of Professors Kendall and Frazer and Mr. Downes.

Dr. Leidy offered for the transactions of the Society, a memoir "On the organization of the genus *Gregarina* of Dufour:" which was on motion referred to a Committee, consisting of Dr. S. G. Morton, Mr. Lea, and Dr. Hays.

Mr. J. C. Cresson called the attention of the Society to the fluctuations of the barometer, which had recently occurred. He had observed on the 23d of December, a fall of 0.8 inch in the course of twelve hours. The day was very windy, and

Mr. C. endeavoured roughly to ascertain the velocity of the wind by parachutes, and found it to be about sixty feet per second.

Mr. Justice referred to the case related of a person, partially drowned, in which the circumstances of the person's life passed rapidly and vividly through his memory. Mr. J. had recently met with a similar case, in which the patient, without knowledge of the former incident, described the same effect as having occurred to him.

Mr. Trego, for Mr. Du Bois, made the following statement concerning a remarkably large specimen of gold from California:—

The largest lump of gold in quartz, which, as it is affirmed, has yet been found in California, was brought to the Assay Office of the Mint of the United States, a few days since, to be valued without being destroyed. Mr. Eckfeldt, the principal assayer of the mint, found its weight to be  $265\frac{50}{100}$  ounces troy, the fineness of the gold 902 thousandths, the specific gravity of the lump 7.99. Assuming 2.6 as the average specific gravity of ferruginous quartz, and taking the known specific gravity of gold of the above fineness, when alloyed with silver, 17.93, it follows that the lump was composed of 209.48 oz. of pure gold, and 56.02 oz. stone: the consequent mint value was \$3906. The gold is reputed to have been found in dry diggings, not far from Tuolumne river, by two Mexicans, belonging to what is known in California as the "Sonorian Camp." It is now in the possession of Messrs. Ludlow, bullion brokers, in Third street, where it may be seen.

There not being a sufficient quorum for the amendment of the laws of the Society, the subject was necessarily postponed.

Pending nominations were read.

The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Justice, were read, considered and agreed to:—

*Resolved*, That the sum of three hundred dollars be paid to the Librarian, in addition to the amount provided for in the laws of the Society, for his services during the present year; for which extra compensation, he shall continue to arrange and make complete the catalogue of our library, now in progress; prepare and forward the Proceedings to our correspondents, and generally to transact all

business which custom in addition to our laws has heretofore required, and he may have rendered.

*Resolved*, That the increased labour required of our Librarian, in consequence of the extensive correspondence of the Society, the receiving and transmitting of parcels, the daily attendance at the rooms required by our members, to answer their demands for books, together with the continually increasing applications for the use of manuscripts and other books by strangers and citizens, as well as other services expected of him, not originally contemplated in his appointment as Librarian, render it needful to make some change in our laws—therefore

*Resolved*, That the whole subject be committed to the Officers and Council, with directions to report thereon at an early meeting of the Society.

The Reporter laid before the meeting, No. 45 of the Proceedings of the Society.

---

*Stated Meeting, January 17.*

Present, twenty-seven members.

Dr. PATTERSON, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Trustees of the State Library of New York, dated Albany, January 15th, 1851:—

From the New Jersey Historical Society, dated Newark, January 15, 1851: and—

From the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, dated Philadelphia, January 15th, 1851, respectively acknowledging the receipt of No. 45 of the Proceedings of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. X. No. 1.

November 8, 1850. London 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, at Boston, May 29, and at Worcester, Oct. 23, 1850. Worcester. 8vo.—*From the Society.*