

AUGUST MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, the 12th of August; Vice-President ASPINWALL, in the absence of the President, in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the last meeting.

In the absence of the Librarian, the donations for the past month were announced by the Recording Secretary.

Among those especially noticed, was a copy of "The Official Correspondence on the Claims of the United States in respect to the 'Alabama,'" London, 1867, — presented by Mr. Adams. In reference to this publication, Mr. ADAMS remarked that it does not contain all the correspondence relating to the "Alabama" in which he took part, as the date upon the title-page of the volume would indicate. It was published by Lord Russell in vindication of himself.

The thanks of the Society were presented to Mr. Adams for the gift.

A copy of the original picture of the old house in Dock Square, built in 1680, and a copy of Paul Revere's picture of the Boston Massacre, were presented to the Society by Mr. William H. Keith, of Charlestown, for which the thanks of the Society were ordered.

Mr. WHITNEY read the following letter from Captain G. V. Fox, lately the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, addressed to Mr. Winthrop: —

LOWELL, MASS., July 10th, 1869.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,

President Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.

SIR, — Mr. H. A. Whitney, a member of your Society, is kind enough to inform me that it will be agreeable to yourself and associates to receive for preservation a number of rebel flags, which have been saved from those acquired during the rebellion by the navy under the administration of Mr. Welles.

Accordingly I have sent to him, for presentation to the Massachusetts Historical Society, eight flags, numbered and described as follows:—

No. 1. The flag of Fort Walker, Hilton Head, Port Royal, South Carolina. Captured by the naval forces under the command of Rear-Admiral S. F. Dupont, Nov. 7, 1861.

No. 2. A flag found amongst the property abandoned after the above action. It is supposed to be the State flag of South Carolina.

No. 3. The flag of Fort Henry, Tennessee River. Captured by the naval forces under the command of Rear-Admiral A. H. Foote, Feb. 6, 1862.

No. 4. The flag of Fort St. Philip, Mississippi River. Captured after the memorable forcing of the defences to New Orleans by the navy, under Admiral D. G. Farragut, April 24, 1862.

No. 5. The new flag adopted by the rebels in 1863. Captured by a naval force under the command of Commodore John Rodgers, June 17, 1863. An interesting letter from that distinguished officer, describing the capture of the iron-clad "Atlanta," is enclosed.

No. 6. The flag of the iron-clad "Tennessee." Captured by a naval force under the command of Admiral D. G. Farragut, on the day of his successful entrance into Mobile Bay, Aug. 5, 1864.

No. 7. The admiral's flag of the rebel Buchanan, who commanded the "Tennessee" in the above action.

No. 8. The flag of Fort Caswell, left flying upon the flagstaff of that fort, after its evacuation, consequent upon the capture of the defences of Cape Fear River by the United-States forces, under the command of Vice-Admiral D. D. Porter and Major-General A. H. Terry.

These are truly the flags which were forwarded to Washington, with the official reports announcing the victories which are enumerated. They were placed at my disposal by the Department, because it was deemed unadvisable to preserve at the National Capitol the evidences of internecine strife.

Most respectfully your obedient servant,

G. V. Fox.

The letter of Commodore John Rodgers, referred to, describing the capture of one of these flags (*No. 5*), under his command, here follows:—

U. S. NAVY YARD, BOSTON,
COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, June 14th, 1869.

SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to repeat the history of the Confederate flag in your possession, captured on board the "Atlanta."

The history of the flag is so connected with the performance of the 15-inch guns, which you introduced into the service, that to tell the one involves some account of the other.

The previous flag of the Confederacy had been the stars and bars; but a strong current of adversity had set against the fortunes over which it waved, and the rebel government chose a new ensign.

I was told that this new flag was first hoisted in action on board the iron-clad "Atlanta."

The monitor "Weehawken," under my command, was sent to Warsaw Sound by Admiral Dupont, to prevent the rebel iron-clad "Atlanta" from getting to sea from Savannah by that passage. Subsequently the monitor "Nahant," Commander John Downes, was sent to the same place, to reinforce the "Weehawken."

On June 17, 1863, it was reported to me at daylight that the "Atlanta" was coming down the Wilmington river. I was incredulous, not believing that she would venture to attack two monitors; but a glance through a spy-glass convinced me that it was true.

We were riding to the flood-tide, heading towards the sea, without room to turn.

As before decided upon, in case an attack should be made while thus situated, we slipped the "Weehawken's" cable, and steamed down to a part of the channel which I had sounded and buoyed, in which the monitors could turn with a single sweep of the helm.

The "Nahant" commenced rapidly heaving up her anchor. The "Weehawken" passed the "Nahant" in going down, turned, and passed her in going up. The "Nahant" ran down necessarily to the same widening of the channel, turned as we had done, and came gallantly to our support. But her services were not needed. Captain Downes withheld his fire until he should be close alongside, under the impression that only then would his shot be effective. Before he reached the position he so zealously sought, the terrible 15-inch gun of the "Weehawken" had compelled the "Atlanta" to surrender.

At about three hundred yards from the "Atlanta," the "Weehawken" fired a 15-inch cored shot, weighing three hundred and forty pounds, with a charge of thirty pounds of powder.

I saw this shot strike on the side, and I saw splinters fly into the air. I learned, after the action, that it had driven about two barrels full of splinters of wood and iron into the vessel, these wounding every man of a gun's crew stationed opposite. It made a hole through the side, very ragged, but averaging six inches wide by three feet long; and it knocked down, by the mere concussion, some forty men, who lay upon the deck stunned, and as though dead.

The crew could not know that those insensible men were not killed.

Surprised at the novel effect of the huge shot employed against them, they ran below.

The next discharge was of two guns, the 11 and the 15-inch. The shot from one of these, I thought from the 15-inch, struck the top of the pilot-house, in which were four men, two pilots and two helmsmen. It crushed down the heavy wrought iron bars; and the four men fell stunned and helpless upon the floor, thus preventing the trap-door leading into the pilot-house from being raised, and thus cutting off access to the steering gear.

There remained no means of directing the course of the "Atlanta"; and the crew had deserted their quarters. She surrendered.

The first shot had taken away from the crew the wish to fight; the second had cut off the means of escape.

The flag in your possession, which had flown so confidently over the "Atlanta," was now hauled down, but was soon replaced by a smaller one, — a piece of white, hurriedly cut out of the lowered ensign.

This white symbol, seen through smoke, looked blue; and its character thus misunderstood, two more guns were fired; but they had no effect upon the action, since its result had been reached already.

The new flag had not changed the fortunes of the Confederacy. So quickly had the terrible ordnance done its work, that the "Nahant" had no opportunity of firing a shot.

Very truly yours,

JOHN RODGERS.

Hon. G. V. Fox.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Captain Fox for this valuable gift. The flags were exhibited in the room during the meeting.

The Chairman spoke of the decease, since the last meeting, of our associate, the Hon. William Brigham, and presented from the Standing Committee the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That this Society has heard with deep regret of the death of the Hon. William Brigham, and would here record their sense of the great loss which the Society has sustained thereby.

Resolved, That the President be requested to appoint one from our number to write the memoir of our late associate, for the "Proceedings."

Mr. WATERSTON paid a fitting tribute to the character of Mr. Brigham, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The Recording Secretary read the following letter from the President, in which mention is made of the death of Mr. Brigham, and also of the decease of our Corresponding Member, Mr. William Winthrop, late Consul at Malta:—

STOCKBRIDGE, 9th August, 1869.

CHARLES DEANE, Esq., Secretary Massachusetts Historical Society.

MY DEAR SIR,—As I had previously intimated, I find it impossible for me to be at our Monthly Meeting on Thursday next.

I trust that some one or more of our associates will be prepared to pay a just tribute to our valued friend, William Brigham. I would name Dr. Robbins, his classmate, for the customary memoir, if the selection is left to me.

It is fit that I should announce, in a single word, the death of our Corresponding Member, William Winthrop, Esq., the late United-States Consul at Malta. His repeated and valuable contributions to our Library, of which still another is on the way, and a handsome bequest to our funds, which will come to us after the expiration of one or two lives, entitle him to be remembered among our benefactors. But I must postpone all detailed notice of him until some future meeting.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

Henry Martyn Dexter, D.D., was elected a Resident Member.

Mr. DEANE laid before the meeting the following communications from the Hon. John G. Palfrey:—

CAMBRIDGE, 1869, Aug. 3.

MY DEAR MR. DEANE,—You know that after the discomfiture of the *Stamp* project, the Sons of Liberty used to celebrate the anniversary of the enforced resignation of the distributor (Hutch. iii. 201). Possibly some future antiquary may like to inform himself as to the composition of the company which met for that purpose just a century ago, and which, it may be presumed, celebrated not less hilariously because within a fortnight they had seen the last of Governor Bernard. By placing the accompanying paper, if you think fit, in the Collections of the Historical Society, will you provide for the satisfaction of such a curiosity, should it arise?

Faithfully, dear sir, your friend and servant,

JOHN G. PALFREY.

*An Alphabetical List of the Sons of Liberty who dined at Liberty Tree, Dorchester
Aug. 14, 1769.**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>A.</p> <p>Adams, Samuel
Adams, John, Esq.
Avery, John, Esq.
Avery, John, Jr.
Appleton, Nath.
Austin, Benj., Esq.
Austin, Samuel
Ayres, Joseph
Abbot, Samuel
Avis, Samuel</p> | <p>C.</p> <p>Cushing, Mr. Speaker
Cooper, William
Cushing, John
Church, Benj.
Church, Benj., Jr.
Church, Edward
Cleverly, Stephen
Carnes, Edward
Cobb, Capt.
Collins, Ezra
Copely, John
Cudworth, Benj.
Cudworth, Nath.
Cheever, Wm. Downe
Colson, David
Colson, Adam
Cunningham, Major
Cunningham, James
Chardon, Peter, Esq.
Cranch, Richard
Cunningham, Jno.
Cazneau, Andrew, Esq.
Carter, James
Cattle, Wm., Esq., <i>Carolina.</i>
Crofts, Thomas
Cheever, Ezek., Jr., Esq.
Chase, Thomas
Cunningham, William
Crane, John
Clap, Ebenezer
Cox, Lemuel
Carnes, Joseph</p> | <p>Dorrington, John, Capt.
Dickman, William
Doane, Elisha, Major</p> <p>E.</p> <p>Erving, John, Hon.
Erving, George, Esq.
Edes, Benjamin
Edwards, John
Eliot, Deacon
Eliot, Joseph, Jr.
Edes, Thomas
Emmes, Samuel
Edwards, Alex.</p> |
| <p>B.</p> <p>Brattle, Thos.
Bradford, John, Capt.
Bowes, Nicholas
Barber, Nath.
Bant, William
Boyer, Peter
Barrell, Joseph
Balch, Nath.
Blake, John, Capt.
Blanchard, Caleb
Brimmer, Martin
Brimmer, Hermon
Black, Andrew
Burt, Benjamin
Brigden, Zachary
Bowes, William
Bruce, Stephen
Bass, Moses Belcher
Bass, Henry
Boynton, Richard, Capt.
Breck, William
Barrett, Samuel
Bradford, Jos., Jr.
Brown, John
Baker, John
Brattle, Brig. General
Bowdoin, James, Hon.
Burdet, Benj.
Barnard, Benj.
Brackett, Joshua
Bell, William
Belcher, Sarson
Boardman, Wm.
Bowyer, Dan.
Bowman, Rev. Dan.
Barrett, John, Esq.
Burbeck, William
Billings, Richard
Brown, Enoch
Binney, Capt.
Bryant, James
Bryant, John</p> | <p>D.</p> <p>Dana, Richard, Esq.
Dickinson, Mr., Brother to
the Farmer.
Dawes, Thomas, Capt.
Demie, William
Davis, William
Deshon, Moses, Esq.
Dalton, James, Capt.
Dalton, Peter Roe
Davis, Edward
Dashwood, Capt.
Dorr, Ebenezer
Dorr, Harbottle
Dean, John, Capt.
Davis, Caleb
Davis, Aaron
Davis, Robert
Danforth, Samuel, Dr.
Davis, Solomon
Dolbeare, Benj.</p> | <p>F.</p> <p>Freeman, Jon., Capt.
Fleet, Thomas
Fleet, John
Foster, Deacon
Foster, Timothy
Foster, Bossenger
Foster, William
Fitch, Timothy
Flagg, Josiah
Fowle, William
Farmer, Paul</p> <p>G.</p> <p>Greenleaf, William
Gore, John, Capt.
Gore, John, Jr.
Green, George
Gill, John
Gill, Moses
Grant, Samuel
Green, Francis
Gardner, Joseph, Dr.
Greenleaf, John
Gardner, John
Gridley, Col.
Green, Joshua
Green, Edward
Greenwood, Capt.
Griffiths, John
Gooding, Benj.
Griffen, Wm., Esq., of <i>Vir-
ginia.</i>
Green, John
Green, Joseph
Greenleaf, Oliver
Greenleaf, Stephen
Greene, Benj., Jr.</p> |

* This paper is in the handwriting of Col. William Palfrey, the grandfather of the Hon. J. G. Palfrey. — EDS.

Gray, William
Gwin, Capt., *Newbury*.
Gooding, Joseph
Gray, Lewis
Greaton, John
Green, Nath.
Gardner, Thomas, Member
for *Cambridge*.

H.

Hancock, John, Esq.
Henshaw, Joshua, Esq.
Hopkins, Caleb, Capt.
Head, John
Heath, William, Capt.
Hill, Henry
Henshaw, Joseph
Henshaw, Joshua, Jr.
Henderson, Joseph
Hatch, Jabez
Homer, John, Capt.
Holmes, Benj. Mulbury
Holmes, Nath.
Hichborn, Thomas
Hichborn, Thomas, Jr.
Harris, Samuel
Henchman, Samuel
Haskins, John
Henshaw, Andrew
Hamock, Charles
Hill, Alexander
Hill, John, Esq.
Holbrook, Samuel
How, Samuel
Houghton, John
Hickling, William
Hall, Joseph
Homes, William, Esq.
Henshaw, Daniel
Hinckley, John
Hunt, Mr., *Schoolmaster*.
Harris, Stephen
Harris, Stephen, Jr.
Hinckley, Ebenezer
Hoskins, William
Hill, Dr.
Hewes, Robert
Honeywell, Richard
Horry, Thomas

I, J.

Jackson, Joseph, Esq.
Inches, Henderson
Jeffries, John, Dr.
Jarvis, Charles, Dr.
Johonnot, Francis
Jones, Deacon
Jarvis, Edward
Jackson, Joseph
Ingraham, Duncan
Jeffries, David, Esq.
Johonnot, Zechary, Esq.
Johonnot, Gabriel

Johonnot, Andrew
Jones, William
Ingersol, John
Jenkins, John

K.

Kent, Benj., Esq.
Knox, Thomas
Knox, Thomas
Kennedy, William
Kneeland, Barth.

L.

Langdon, John
Lucas, John
Lovell, James
Lasinby, Joseph
Langdon, John, Jr.
Langdon, Timothy
Leach, John
Laggett, Thomas
Loring, John
Loring, Caleb
Leverett, John, Capt.
Leverett, Thomas
Lowell, John

M.

Mason, Jonathan
Marshall, Thomas, Colonel
Marston, John, Capt.
May, John
May, Ephraim
Malcom, Daniel, Capt.
Matchett, John, Capt.
Molineaux, William
May, Aaron
McDaniel, Jacob
Morton, Joseph
Morton, Dimond
McDaniel, Hugh
Miller, Charles
McLain, John

N.

Noyes, Nathaniel

O.

Otis, James, The Hon. jr.
Otis, Samuel Allyne
Otis, Joseph

P.

Pemberton, Samuel, Esq.
Partridge, Samuel, Capt.
Pitts, John
Pitts, James, The Hon.
Pitts, William

Pitts, James Jr.
Palfrey, William
Prince, Job, Capt.
Parker, Daniel
Perkins, James, Jr.
Peck, Thomas Handasyd
Pattin, William, Capt.
Peirpont, Robert
Proctor, Edward
Proctor, Samuel
Pool, Fitch
Pulling, John, Jr.
Price, Thos. Maurice, Capt.
Pico, Joshua
Palmer, Richard
Pecker, James, Dr.
Price, Ezekiel
Proctor, John
Phillips, William, Esq.
Power, Isaac
Power, Mr., *Carolina*.
Pierce, Mr., *Carolina*.

Q.

Quincy, Samuel, Esq.
Quincy, Josiah

R.

Ruddock, John, Esq.
Revere, Paul
Rand, Isaac, Dr.
Ray, Caleb
Richardson, James
Reid, Mr., Secretary to Gov.
Franklin, *Jerseys*.
Read, William, Esq.
Ruggles, Samuel
Robinson, Lemuel
Ratcliffe, Mr., *Carolina*.
Roberts, Peter

S.

Swift, Samuel, Esq.
Sweetser, John, Jr.
Smith, John
Spear, Nathan
Spear, David
Salter, Richard
Savage, Habijah
Savage, John
Smith, William
Symmes, Eb., Capt.
Symmes, John
Spooner, William
Sharp, Gibbins
Scott, John
Simpson, Ebenezer
Snelling, Jona., Major
Sprague, John, Dr.
Spooner, George
Soley, John
Scollay, John, Esq.

Storey, Elisha, Dr.
 Sellon, Samuel
 Seaver, Ebenezer
 Surcomb, Richard
 Stanbridge, Henry
 Scott, William
 Searle, Samuel
 Stoddard, Jonathan
 Scott, James, Capt.

T.

Trott, George
 Trott, Jonathan
 Turner, William
 Thompson, Major
 Trott, Samuel
 Trott, Thomas
 Turell, Joseph
 Tyler, Joseph

Tyler, Royal, Hon.
 Tyler, Thomas, Esq.
 Tileston, Capt.
 Thompson, James
 Tuckerman, Edward
 Tileston, John
 Tileston, Thomas

. V.

Vose, Joseph
 Vernon, Fortescue

W.

Whitwell, Samuel
 Welles, Arnold, Esq.
 Waldo, Joseph
 Wendell, John Mico
 Wendell, Oliver

Welsh, John
 Warren, Joseph, Dr.
 Webb, Joseph
 Walley, Thomas
 Waldo, Daniel
 Wyer, Robert, Capt.
 Whitwell, William
 Wheelwright, Job
 Wheatly, Nath.
 Waldo, John
 Wendell, Jacob
 Waters, Josiah, Capt.
 White, Benjamin
 Williams, Joseph, Colonel
 White, William, Capt.

Y.

Young, Thomas, Dr.
 355, — about 300 dined.

Mr. WATERSTON here introduced to the meeting Mr. William H. Dall, who gave an interesting account of his explorations, at the head of a scientific corps, among the Rocky Mountains, embracing the "Alaskan Range." He exhibited and presented to the Society a map from a drawing made at the United-States Coast Survey Office, under his direction, from his own surveys, which had been photographed from the drawing.

The thanks of the Society were presented to Mr. Dall for the map and for his interesting remarks.

Mr. PARKMAN exhibited copies from some interesting unpublished maps of the Mississippi, and the Western lakes and rivers, made chiefly by the early Jesuit missionaries, recently procured in Paris.

On motion of Mr. R. FROTHINGHAM, it was —

Voted, That Mr. Parkman be requested to prepare a paper on these maps for the Society's "Proceedings."

Mr. PARKMAN stated that he should be quite willing to prepare an account of these maps, with fac-similes of them as suggested; but he was now engaged in publishing a work which would embrace much of this material.

Mr. WATERSTON, as the chairman of a committee from the Natural History Society, called the attention of the members

to the approaching celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Alexander von Humboldt, who was at the time of his death an Honorary Member of the Society, and suggested that those who thought of attending should secure seats together at the Music Hall, where the address by Professor Agassiz, was to be delivered.

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, September 9, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; Vice-President ASPINWALL in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian read the list of donors to the Library for the past month.

The Cabinet-keeper read a list of the donations to the Cabinet for the past month. These included a pair of tongs once owned by the family of Thomas Hutchinson; also a war-club from the Sandwich Islands, brought thence by Captain William Ballard, of Boston; given by his grandson, Mr. William Ballard, of Brooklyn, N.Y., through Mr. John J. May, of Boston.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters of acceptance from M. Thiers, of Paris; and from Mr. William S. Appleton and the Rev. Henry M. Dexter, of Boston.

Mr. DAVIS spoke of the Montcalm letters which had been the subject of a communication from Mr. Parkman at the June meeting, in one of which appeared some remarkable predictions of historical events in this country, of sufficient importance to attract the attention of Mr. Carlyle in his "History of Frederic the Great." Mr. Davis said that Carlyle was mistaken in supposing, as he seemed to do, that