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THE RELICS OF GENERAL JOSEPH WARREN.

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by

J.S.Loring

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in

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order, it is said, to respect his feelings — females being allowed to vote in that religious society — the act was so drawn by the committee as to read “he or she” when referring to the qualified voter; and although this act was repealed in 1797, a new act passed on the 22d February of that year, and which took effect on the 1st March, 1798, retained the same phraseology. Under this law, *and not before*, Mr. Parker states that some females voted in Elizabethtown at a contested election for Councilmen; and in the Presidential contest of 1800 there were many instances of their voting in different parts of the State; and thereafter, until the passage of the act of 1807, to which I have referred, the practice continued in various places when contests were animated or close. At an election in Hunterdon county in 1802 even some women of color were allowed to vote, and their votes elected a member of the Legislature.

W. A. W.

THE RELICS OF GENERAL JOSEPH WARREN.

A paper read before the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Wednesday, November 4, 1857.

BY JAMES S. LORING, ESQ.

It is good to be here, and for an hour turn aside from the financial agitations of State Street, and the political contests of Faneuil Hall, which shake the old Bay State to its very centre — and indulge in early historical associations. I regard it as impossible to have cognizance of any warlike weapons of our glorious Revolution that are of more intensely absorbing impressiveness than the sword of the great Washington, and this veritable sword or rapier of our noble Warren, [*Here the sword of Warren was exhibited*] tarnished, blackened and rusted though it be, by the neglect of four score years, wielded as it was on the field of Lexington and in skirmishes around Boston. This relic has been loaned for exhibition here by Dr. John Mason Warren, who is a lineal descendant of the brother of the martyr of Bunker Hill. Ah, valiant Warren, even at this moment thy scouring rapier to its very hilt, is tinged with the blood of Britons; and braver champion never unsheathed from its scabbard “the sleeping sword of war,” in the cause of liberty.

The consecrated oration now in my hands [*Here the autograph manuscript of Warren's Boston Massacre Oration was exhibited*] which the first great martyr Warren bore through the pulpit window of the Old South Church; and, amid the officers and soldiers of garrisoned Boston delivered to an indignant people, was brought here by the only son of the present Doctor Warren, a youth of fifteen. May he prove a worthy

scion of this patriot stock. In every age of the world, great reverence has been attached to the relics of great men and great events. The council of Constantinople in Trulio ordained that those altars should be demolished under which no relics were deposited. In the autograph scrap-book, of the son of Dr. John C. Warren, on the table before us, is preserved this original manuscript of General Warren's Massacre Oration, which is of greater value than all the relics of ancient superstition when arrayed together. This quarto manuscript of Warren is written on white English laid post, as you see, in a handsome round hand, with very few interlineations; and is in a black paper cover. This antiquarian rarity, every sentence of which burns with the fire of patriotism, and which greatly accelerated the vigor of the people, is perhaps of equal value to Washington's last legacy to his countrymen, purchased by the princely James Lenox, of New York in 1850, for the sum of twenty-three hundred dollars. May these great national relics ever be preserved. “I will have America at my feet,” boasted Lord North. “Were I an American,” nobly declared Lord Camden, “I would resist to the last drop of my blood.” Warren was such an American.

It is stated by Rees, in his Cyclopædia, that Warren himself hastened to the scene of action at Lexington, and was engaged in the hottest part of the contest. Moreover, Dr. John Eliot relates that “at the Battle of Lexington, General Warren was, perhaps, the most active man in the field. His soul beat to arms, as soon as he learnt the intention of the British troops.” Warren said to the last person with whom he conversed in Boston near the ferry, just as he was about crossing, in reply to a question regarding the political aspect, “Keep up a brave heart. The British have begun it — that either party could do; and we will end it — that only one can do.” According to Frothingham, Dr. Warren, about ten o'clock, rode on horseback through Charlestown. He had received by express, intelligence of the events of the morning, and told the citizens of Charlestown that the news of the firing was true. Among them he met Dr. Thomas Welch, one of the orators of the Boston Massacre, who said to him, “Well, they are come out.” “Yes,” replied Warren, “and we will be up with them before night.” Shortly after this, Warren was upon the field at Lexington, and Dr. James Thacher states that the people were delighted with his cool, collected bravery there, and already considered him as a leader whose gallantry they were to admire, and in whose talents they were to confide. Doubtless the valor of Warren could be measured by no instance short of that related by General Lamb in reference to Alexander Hamilton at the storm-

ing of Yorktown, when the palisades were sealed; who placing one foot on the shoulder of a soldier who knelt for that purpose, sprang upon the parapets, and was the first man within the wall, an act worthy the days of chivalry.

In the cabinet of this society we have the donation of the sword, epaulets and military sash worn by General William Heath, of Roxbury, during his service in the war of the Revolution. [*Here these relics were exhibited.*] The well burnished blade of his sword glitters on this table. It did good service at Lexington. As General Warren rode beside him in that fight, we will cite a passage from Gen. Heath's narrative of the battle. Gen. Heath on the morning of the 19th Apl. 1775, proceeded to the Committee of Safety, of which Gen. Warren was the vigilant chairman. From the committee Gen. Heath took a cross road to Watertown, the British being in possession of the Lexington road. At Watertown, finding some militia who had not marched, but applied for orders, he sent them down to Cambridge, with directions to take up the planks, barricade the south end of the bridge, and there to take post; that in case the British should, on their return, take that road to Boston, their retreat might be impeded. He then pushed to join the militia, taking a cross road towards Lexington, in which he was joined by Dr. Joseph Warren, afterwards a major general, who in the language of Gen. Heath, "kept with him." Our General joined the militia just after Lord Percy had joined the British; "and having assisted in forming a regiment, which had been broken by the shot from the British field pieces; for the discharge of these, together with the flames and smoke of several buildings to which the British nearly at the same time had set fire, opened a new and more terrific scene; and the British having again taken up their retreat, were closely pursued." On descending from the high grounds in Menotomy, on to the plain, the fire was brisk. At this instant a musket ball came so near to the head of Dr. Warren as to strike the pin out of the hair of his earlock. Here we must digress for an allusion to a singular oversight in the Hundred Orators where we state that this event occurred on the day *after* the Battle of Lexington, when it should read on the day *of* the battle. How evident is it that authors are responsible to the literary tribunal for every error stated.

Soon after, the right flank of the British was exposed to the fire of a body of militia, which had come from Roxbury, Brookline, Dorchester, and other towns. For a few minutes, the fire was brisk on both sides; and the British had here recourse to their fieldpieces again; but they were now more familiar than before. Here the militia were so close on the rear of the British, that Dr. Downer, an active and enterprising man, came to

single combat with a British soldier whom he killed with his bayonet.

On the day succeeding the battle of Lexington, where was first shed the blood of the Revolution, Joseph Warren, who had but just escaped with his life, felt it his duty as president of the Provincial Congress, to address a dignified letter to General Gage in reference to our besieged, degraded, and garrisoned Boston. Here we must take occasion to allude to a passage in the prize essay of the Abbe Raynal on "The Revolution in America," written for the Academy of Science, Polite Literature and Art, at Lyons, France, in 1783, for which he was awarded the sum of fifty Louis d'or. Raynal thus defines the powers and duties of the President of the Provincial Congress: "The executive power was committed to its president. His rights and obligations were to listen to every application from any of the people; to call them together when circumstances might require it, to provide for the arming, and subsisting of the troops, and concert the operations of them with their officers. He was at the head of a secret committee which was to hold a continual correspondence with the general congress." I will now quote a portion of Warren's letter to Gage. "Your excellency," remarks Warren, "knows very well, I believe, the part I have taken in public affairs; I ever scorned disguise. I think I have done my duty; some may think otherwise; but be assured, Sir, as far as my influence goes, everything which can be reasonably required of us to do, shall be done, every thing promised shall be religiously performed. I should now be very glad to know from you, Sir, how many days you desire may be allowed for such as desire to remove to Boston with their effects, and what time you will allow the people in Boston for their removal. When I have received that information, I will repair to Congress, and hasten, as far as I am able, the issuing of a proclamation. I beg leave to suggest that the condition of only admitting thirty wagons at a time into the town, appears to me very inconvenient, and will prevent the good effects of a proclamation intended to be issued for encouraging all wagoners to assist in removing the effects from Boston with all possible speed. If your excellency will be pleased to take the matter into consideration, and favor us as soon as may be, with an answer, it will lay me under a great obligation, as it *nearly concerns the welfare of my friends in Boston.*"

"I ever scorned disguise" — says the ingenuous, magnanimous Warren, to Thomas Gage, the oppressor of Boston. Here we have Warren's opinion of Gage in a letter to Josiah Quincy, Jr. After stating that Gen. Gage had rendered the entrenchments at the entrance of Boston as formidable as he possibly could, he states: "I have frequently been sent to him on committees, and have

several times had private conversations with him. I have thought him a man of honest, upright principles, and one desirous of accommodating the difference between Great Britain and her colonies in a just and honorable way. He did not appear to be desirous of continuing the quarrel in order to make himself necessary, which is too often the case with persons employed with public affairs ;" but a copy of a letter *via* Philadelphia said to be written by him to Lord North, gives a very different cast to his character. His answer to the Provincial Congress, which was certainly ill-judged, I suppose was the work of some of that malicious group of harpies whose disappointments make them desirous to urge the governor to drive every thing to extremes ; but in this letter, if it be genuine, he seems to court the office of a destroyer of the liberties, and murderer of the people of this province. But you have doubtless read the paper and thought with indignation of its contents." Warren said to Quincy of the Bostonians in 1774, that "they take an honest pride in being singled out by a tyrannical administration as the most determined enemies of arbitrary power."

Having exhibited the visible and tangible indication of the devotion of General Warren to the independence of his native land, which was far dearer to himself than his own life's blood, I invite your attention to an indication of his devotion to his God, in the possession of the book of pure piety, now before us, which was printed within one year of three centuries ago. [*Here an antique book was exhibited.*] Perhaps the proof that this volume was actually found in the pocket of Warren after the Battle of Bunker Hill, is not so positive as is the evidence in relation to the sword, yet we think it highly probable.

A British soldier, on his return from Boston to London, exhibited a Psalm Book to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wilton, of that city, stating that he took the volume from the pocket of General Warren, after the Battle of Bunker Hill. The title of this great rarity is as follows : "The Boke of Psalmes, wherein are contained Praires, Meditations and Thanksgivings to God for his Church, translated faithfully according to the Hebrew. With brief and apt annotations in the margin. Printed at Geneva, by Rowland Hall, 1559." It is a sweet little 32mo. volume. On the inside cover of this book is written — "North America. Taken at y^e Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, out of Dr. Warren's pocket." On the inside cover, at the end of the volume, is written "Thomas Knight," probably the name of the regular who found the book. I was informed by Dr. John C. Warren, that General Warren's autograph, which was on a blank leaf, has been abstracted. I gather further information of this relic from "The Genealogy of Warren," by Dr. John C.

Warren," of Boston. In the year 1776, Dr. Gordon, the historian, then of Roxbury, of whom we have many animated reminiscences, received a curious, ancient small book of Psalms from an English clergyman. The edition, one of the earliest translations of any part of the Bible, was executed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and printed at Geneva. The typography is very fine. The binding is in a beautiful and peculiar style, being composed of goat skin, and studded over with gilt fleurs-de-lis, and is in every part still perfect. The book is about two by three inches. It contains another inscription on the back of the title page, which informs us that it was purchased of a private engaged in the Battle of Bunker Hill, by an English clergyman, Dr. Samuel Wilton, who gave ten times its value, lest, as he says, it should be exhibited in triumph as the spoil of a Presbyterian rebel. Dr. Wilton sent it to Dr. Gordon, with the request, that it should be delivered to surviving relatives, if any there were. Dr. Wilton died within three months after. Dr. Gordon faithfully executed the commission, consigning the book to Dr. John Warren, from whom it passed into the hands of Dr. John C. Warren, its recent possessor. It is now transmitted to Dr. John Mason Warren, who has kindly loaned it for the inspection of our antiquaries here. I shall ever remember my agreeably surprised sensation, when the venerated Dr. Warren, now deceased, very cautiously presented this highly antique relic to my view, when preparing the Hundred Orators, before I had heard of its existence, and his extreme care to prevent a copy of Dr. Wilton's inscription from being taken.

The fourth, and last Warren relic which we have here is, the bullet that the Hon. Alexander H. Everett exhibited at Charlestown, June 17, 1836 [*here the bullet was exhibited*] on the delivery of an anniversary oration, which, he informed the audience, was the identical ball that killed Gen. Warren. "The cartridge paper," exclaimed he, "which still partly covers it, is stained, as you see, with the hero's blood." While I regard the evidence that the bullet was one of the balls that entered Warren's body as being as strong as that regarding the identity of either the Rapier or the antique Psalm Book, I see no evidence that it was the actual ball that occasioned his death. The blood stains upon it will ever sanctify the precious relic. It is important to examine the testimony of the Rev. William Montague, formerly rector of Christ Church, in Boston, regarding Arthur Savage, of London, who stated that he removed the ball from the body of Warren, after the battle, for evidence upon this subject.

I would here enter a protest against the uncontrollable passion among our countrymen, and even among antiquaries, for the varied relics

of eminently noted persons, or of great or singular events in the world, either ancient or modern. Were every institution of this character to appoint a committee like the Papal Court of Rome, which has its Congregation of Relics, or Council of Cardinals, to superintend the relics of every age, it would frequently be as impossible to separate the spurious from the genuine, as it ever has been with the Court of Rome. Indeed I verily believe that were all the reputed relics of the Pilgrim Mayflower, of the year 1620, and of but 180 tons burthen, carefully gathered on Boston Common, they would accumulate to such an immense extent that the British steamer, *Great Eastern*, could not contain them. Moreover, is not the autograph enthusiast quite liable to be the most frequent victim of imposition? A lithographic facsimile of Patrick Henry, William Penn or Alexander Hamilton may be palmed upon him for a round sum, as a pure original, and when redress is obtained, who next becomes the purchaser of the same imitation?

Admirable, indeed, is it for the historian and the biographer, that while conversational tradition is ever changing with the varying memory of man, authentic autograph letters and other documents of past time give confirmation and rich developments of important principles and events, that otherwise could not be established; and it would be well for every household before they destroy the old letters and other manuscripts in their dwellings, to take them to an autograph collector, or some learned neighbor, who will know how to estimate their value; especially those written by persons who have figured in public life. Those of the most ancient date will generally be the most highly valued.

That noble patriot, the ever to be venerated John Adams, whose bust is in this Hall, in writing on the practice of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, when they first formed their army, remarks of Joseph Warren, their president, that he was accustomed to make a harangue in the form of a charge in the presence of the assembly, to every officer, upon the delivery of his commission; and he never failed to make the officer, as well as all the assembly, shudder upon those occasions. There is no question that his eloquence at such times, could be measured by nothing short of his valor on the field of battle.

"It is the united voice of America," said Warren to Quincy, when alluding to the Provincial Congress—"to preserve their freedom, or lose their lives in defence of it. You would have thought yourself in an assembly of Spartans or ancient Romans had you been a witness to the ardor which inspired those who spoke upon the business they were transacting. An injunction of secrecy prevents my giving any particulars of their

transactions, except such as by their express order were published in the papers; but in general you may be assured that they approved themselves the true representatives of a wise and brave people, determined at all events to be free."

Our great chronicler, Mr. Adams, further remarks on the decease of Warren and Quincy, in 1775, that they were two characters as great in proportion to their age,—the former being but thirty-four, and the latter but twenty-five years of age,—as any that he had ever known in America. Indeed he was animated by them in the painful, dangerous course of opposition to the oppressions brought upon our country, and the loss of them had wounded him too deeply to be easily healed. Moreover, John Quincy Adams, in the biography of his own noble father, relates, that as the struggle for independence approached, his beloved mother was accustomed to recite to himself and his brothers, as applicable to the fall of Warren, the following impressive lines of Collins, addressed to a lady, on the death of Col. Charles Ross.

"O'er him, whose doom thy virtues grieve,
Aerial forms shall sit at eve
And bend the pensive head;
And fallen to save his injur'd land,
Imperial Honor's awful hand
Shall point his lonely bed.
The warlike dead of every age
Who fill the fair recorded page
Shall leave their sainted rest;
And, half reclining on his spear,
Each wandering chief by turns appear
To hail the blooming guest."

In Force's ponderous American Archives we find among the revolutionary papers for the month of June, 1775, "An eulogium sacred to the memory of the late Major General Warren, who fell June 17, 1775, fighting against the Ministerial Army at Boston." The peculiar fervor of style in which it is written indicates that its author was James Allen, the famous poet of that day, yet we have no other evidence. It pours so warmly from the spirit of Bunker Hill that we will quaff a few libations. "Say, illustrious shade, what new resentments kindled in thy bosom at the prospect of executing vengeance upon the foes of liberty? Say, what were the transports of thy mind, when the twice repulsed enemy fled before thy powerful arms? But, when, alas, borne down with numbers, thou wast forced to retreat, and death showed his commission to the ball that pierced thy bosom, say, what joy thrilled after it, at the prospect of having thy brows encircled with the patriot's crown of martyrdom? Tell me, ye brave Americans who beheld our hero fall, did he not, in his last moments, pour forth his usual expressions of loyalty to the crown of Britain, and his wonted prayers for the welfare of his country? Did he

not in faltering accents, call upon his fellow soldiers to forget his death, and to revenge his country's wrongs alone? Ah! he breathes his last! Crowd not too closely on his shade, ye holy ministers of Heaven. Make room for yonder spirit! It is the illustrious Hampden who flies to embrace him, and pointing to the wound that deprived him of life in a conflict with arbitrary power, above an hundred years ago, he claims the honor of conducting him to the regions of perfect liberty and happiness. * * * * Come hither, ye American fathers and mothers, and behold the sad earnestness of arbitrary power! Behold your friend, your fellow-citizen, one of the guardians of your country, the pillar of your hopes; behold this illustrious hero covered with blood and wounds! But pause not too long in bedewing his body with your tears. Fly to your houses, and tell your children the particulars of the melancholy sight. Chill their young blood with histories of the cruelty of tyrants, and make their hair to stand on end with descriptions of the horrors of slavery! Equip them immediately for the field. Shew them the ancient charter of their privileges. Point to the roofs under which they drew their first breath, and shew them the first cradles in which they were rocked. Call upon Heaven to prosper their arms, and charge them with your last adieu, to conquer, or, like Warren, to die in the arms of liberty and glory."

A thousand benedictions on the appeal of the blood-stained pavements of the Boston Massacre, and the conflicts of the Battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, which forever crushed the power of Britannia over Columbia! We may very properly adapt to Warren the sentiment of our patriotic Robert Treat Paine in reference to Washington, that the temple of freedom can never be demolished; for

"His sword from the sleep
Of its scabbard would leap,
And conduct with its point,
Every flash to the deep."

Societies and their Proceedings.

MASSACHUSETTS.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY (Officers No. 1, p. 18). — The annual meeting was held at Worcester, on Wednesday, October 21st, it being the anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. Hon. Stephen Salisbury presided. The report of the Council, prepared by Judge Barton, and the reports of the Librarian and Publishing Committee, were read, accepted, and referred for publication. The officers of the past

year were unanimously reëlected. [See a list of these officers in the January number of the H. M.] Rev. Chandler Robbins of Boston, Dr. Geo. Chandler of Worcester, and Mr. R. Inupay Murchison, President of the Geological Society of Great Britain, were chosen members. The various reports of the Society represent it to be in a flourishing condition as to funds, accessions to the library, and literary productions of its members. — *Boston Courier.*

NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Officers No. 2, p. 46). — A meeting was held at Boston, on Wednesday Nov. 4, Hon. Timothy Farrar, Vice President, in the chair. Mr. Trask, chairman of the Library Committee, reported a number of donations. Mr. Drake, Corresponding Secretary, read letters of acceptance from Daniel Henshaw, William Emerson Baker, and Daniel Bates Curtis, all of Boston, who had been previously elected resident members of the Society; also a letter from J. Y. Akerman, Esq., of London, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, announcing that certain publications of that Society had been forwarded through the Smithsonian Institution, to this Society. Five resident and three corresponding members were, on nomination of the Directors, elected.

Hon. Timothy Farrar, who has been chosen a Vice President of the Society, for five years, stated that having lately received a note from the nominating Committee informing him that they had selected him as a candidate for reëlection, he would improve the present occasion to announce — what he had before determined to do — his inability to serve longer in that office. He returned thanks to the Society for the repeated testimonials of their approval of his services.

Rev. Joseph Richardson, of Hingham, then read a paper on the influence of hereditary laws upon the formation of character, which he illustrated by examples drawn from ancient and modern history. The main argument of the paper was directed against the assumption that talent or greatness is principally attributable to hereditary descent.

Frederic Kidder, Esq., exhibited a cannon ball found on the battle-field of Bladensburg, which he presented for preservation in the cabinet of the Society.

James Spear Loring, Esq., next read a paper on the relics of Gen. Joseph Warren, the revolutionary martyr. He exhibited the swords and other relics of Gen. Warren and his friend Gen. William Heath, who was with him at the battle of Lexington. The relics of Gen. Heath belong to the Society; those of Gen. Warren (except the ball taken from his corpse at Bunker Hill) had been loaned for the occasion by Dr. J. M. Warren, a grand nephew of the General. The paper

was quite interesting, and was listened to with deep attention.

Col. Samuel Swett followed with some reminiscences that he had gathered of General Warren and his appearance at the battle of Bunker Hill.

One who saw him early on that day states that having presided in a public assembly, he was much dressed. He wore a light cloth coat, covered buttons worked with silver, with his hair curled up at the sides.

Col. Swett afterwards spoke of Aaron Burr and stated that beyond doubt Aaron Burr worked his passage home from Europe to Newburyport, on which occasion the ship was driven by stress of weather into Boston. Neither Burr nor his biographer have stated this fact, but Col. S. considered it well authenticated.

The thanks of the society were tendered to Messrs. Richardson and Loring for their papers—copies of which were requested for the archives—and to Dr. Warren for the loan of the relics.

NEW YORK.

AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On the evening of Oct. 13th, this Society held their first meeting since the summer recess, at the house of George Folsom, Esq.

It has been in existence about twelve years, and, under the presidency of the late Hon. Albert Gallatin, published two large volumes of Transactions, which are known in Europe as well as in America. The first part of the third volume, which was printed three or four years ago, was unfortunately destroyed by fire before its publication. The Society now propose soon to commence the publication of frequent bulletins, to contain their original papers and foreign correspondence. The Society have directed their researches primarily to American antiquities, customs and languages, as their first duty; and, by confining themselves to facts, and passing by theories, have done their part to repair the faults of past times, and to lay a solid basis for future investigations in that interesting department. They have availed themselves of some of the facilities offered by the commercial position of New York, to obtain information from remote and secluded portions of the human family, from which individuals are sometimes brought by vessels visiting the centre of American commerce.

At the late meeting, in the absence of the president, Professor Robinson, Mr. Figanicre, the Portuguese minister, was called to the chair; and after some preliminary business, a paper was read by Mr. Hodgson of Savannah, describing and commenting on a curious manuscript volume, which he exhibited. It had been obtained from a gentleman in Texas, who had removed thither from Virginia, and it was the production of one of his negroes, a

native of Africa. Although it was written in the Arabic character, Mr. H. discovered, after studious attention, that it was a part of the Gospel by John in the Negro English dialect spoken through the Southern States. The writer, who seems to have been a Mandingo, and had received an education in Africa, became a convert to Christianity in the United States, and undertook the difficult task of writing down in Arabic characters a portion of the New Testament, probably from the lips of some fellow slave, who could read English, though in an imperfect manner.

Mr. Hodgson gave some interesting particulars of the application of several alphabets to books originally written in others; as Arabic works in the Gothic character, taken to Africa in the 16th century, by "Nuevos Cristianos," or converted Moors, who were driven from Spain with their Mohammedan brethren. He then suggested the importance of our missionaries applying the Arabic alphabet to the negro languages in Northern and Middle Africa, and the European alphabet to those in the southern part of that continent, on the ground that they have been already so far established in those regions respectively, as to render it easy to extend them, and difficult to introduce others.

Mr. H. then exhibited a page of Arabic writing, from the pen of an aged negro, named Rahman Abdel, who was manumitted by his master in Mississippi, and sent back to Africa in 1835, by the Colonization Society; and he referred to another African, lately living in Fayetteville, N. C., who writes Arabic with facility.

The Recording Secretary then informed the Society that he happened to have in his pocket a specimen of the writing of the individual last referred to, written in 1831, which he had laid before the Society several years ago, with a translation made by the Treasurer, Mr. A. J. Cotheal. Although the author (Omar ben Said, a Moro) stated that he was ignorant of Arabic grammar, and had been in America twenty-five years, he gave a few interesting particulars of his life, in a style which, with all its difficulties, the translator succeeded in comprehending. The MS. was dated in 1831, and was obtained by the Secretary in 1835. It stated that the author was a native of Futa Toro, taken prisoner in war, sold and carried to Charleston, where he had a hard master, from whom he ran away, and after reaching North Carolina, found a kind master with whom he had lived ever since.

The Secretary informed the Society, that Rahman Abdel, (above mentioned) was the man from whom he obtained the information he laid before the Society several years ago. He was called Paul in this country, and by the Sereules (his people,) Lahmen Kébé. A brief notice of him published in 1836 had excited interest in Europe, and ap-

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