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"Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science."  
1859 Boston Daily Evening Traveler, 4 August, p. 4, c. 5-6.  
Fisch, First Supplement.

REPORTED FOR THE TRAVELLER.

Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of this Association commenced at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock yesterday, in the City Hall, Springfield. For two or three days past the members, many of them bringing their families, have been arriving by every train, until the city now presents quite a thronged appearance.

Before the time for commencing the proceedings, a large number of the Association, with many ladies, had assembled in the beautiful hall, where half an hour was pleasantly spent in the renewal of scientific acquaintance among the members from the various parts of the Union.

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Prior to commencing the public proceedings, the Standing Committee of the Association held a business meeting, at which the general arrangements for the week were discussed and partly concluded.

At the hour above-named the permanent officers for the year ascended the platform, and the Association was called to order by Prof. Alexis Caswell, the late President, who introduced his successor, Prof. Stephen Alexander, of Princeton College.

On taking the chair Prof. Alexander called on Rev. George B. Ide, D. D., to offer prayer.

Dr. Ide then made an appropriate address to the throne of grace, fervently invoking the divine guidance in the deliberations of the Association.

President Alexander, at the close of the prayer, delivered the usual opening address.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Fellow Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Entertaining, as I believe I do, no other than a just estimate of all that would be appropriate in your presiding officer, you will pardon me when I say that it is with an unfeigned self-distrust that I enter upon the discharge of the duties to which you have invited me, as being those of a position which I would not have sought, but which, regarding it as a testimonial at once of your confidence and your kindness--I have felt to be one which I might not, ought not to shun.

In the exercise of an earnest reciprocal feeling, relying implicitly on that same kindness and confidence--I shall offer no apology in advance for the manner in which I may discharge the duties of the chair; though to the fullest extent sensible of how often I may need your indulgence.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science--invited and encouraged though its members were by all that had preceded it--was yet entered upon with judicious caution as an experiment, but it has now become an enlarged and progressive experience.

Eminently worthy are the objects which it contemplates, and worthily should they be pursued--with a unity of feeling and of purpose akin, in sincerity and earnestness, to that experienced by children who, hand in hand, and shoulder to shoulder, are perusing--in our case, even reverently perusing--the pages of the same book.

Nay more, this oneness of feeling, of purpose and of action too, is even vital as it respects efficient progress at all; as, in the human system, the nerve of sensibility is throughout associated and intimately connected with that of voluntary motion, so that either an inflammation or a paralysis of the one would almost of course be fatal to all that is either durable or useful in the other. And as withal, conversely, an appropriate activity is itself indicative of a quick-set vitality, so the origin and veritable progress of an associated body, such as this, are themselves the index and the measure of a sympathetic co-operation.

While, in the good providence of God, so many of us are permitted to re-assemble here to-day, some, even since our last meeting, have ceased to be numbered with the living; and first among them in the order of time, was one of our most venerable members, one whose devotion to the great object of our association began ere science in this country had fully asserted itself, and co-operation, such as we now have it, was comparatively unknown. Yet no history of chemistry at least could be regarded as complete which should fail to render due honor to the genius and early labors of Dr. Robert Hare.

But not alone chemistry--astronomy, too, has had cause to mourn--to mourn that he whom she has lost was cut off ere he had attained to an age which would entitle him to the epithet of venerable. Though frequently threatened with dissolution, it is yet in an important sense true, that up to the limit when he ceased to be seen among living men, the eye of William Cranch Bond was not dim, nor his natural force abated. The memory of his ingenuity and his discoveries furnish him with an epitaph always readable and always read.

Almost at the moment of our meeting, the progress of the anniversary exercises of Dartmouth College, has brought to mind the loss which that institution has sustained in the decease of Prof. Ira Young, who was elected at our seventh meeting, and has at other times been present and assisted in our deliberations.

And, oh! we miss withal the cordial grasp and friendly greeting of Prof. Denison Olmsted, best esteemed and loved by those who knew him best. We must not be betrayed into his eulogy which it belongs not to us to utter; yet assembled as we are at this very season--even here and now--we might well be reminded that the progressive movement toward a regular and extended observation of the periodic meteors, that this derived from him its projectile force. In our annual catalogue of members the fatal asterisk is prefixed to yet two other names--that of Joseph Clark, Esq., of Cincinnati, elected

at our fifth meeting, and Lieut. R. Ap. Catesby Jones of Washington, elected at our eighth meeting. The removal of the dead imposes new obligations to a united and vigorous effort on the part of those who survive.

Under every aspect we have reason to congratulate one another on our place of meeting. What wonder that it needed no second invitation to induce us to select such a place as this; while we at the same time remembered as we ought how Springfield invited us now three years ago. And even now, arriving as we do in obedience to our own motion, we find that the citizens of Springfield, with a courtesy and a kindness which are their own best praise, stand ready to welcome--in the person of their most appropriate representative--a welcome from which I will no longer detain you.

At the close of the address of the President, His Honor Mayor Calhoun, who, by the way, bears a strong resemblance to the late Hon. John C. Calhoun, offered the following welcome:

#### MAYOR CALHOUN'S ADDRESS.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the American Association for the Advancement of Science:

In behalf of the government and citizens of Springfield, I have the honor and pleasure of bidding you welcome on this, the occasion of your annual meeting. The invitation to pass the week, which you devote as a body to the claims of Science, in this comparative retirement in the valley of the Connecticut, was presented to you by the public councils of this city of a former year; they honored themselves by thus honoring you, and, through you, the cause of Science. The present city government respond fully and cordially to the wishes, the purposes and the salutations of their predecessors.

We bid you welcome, because we know, and see, and feel the importance of science, and of all good learning and knowledge. It is true, we have no institution amongst us devoted distinctly and systematically to the promotion of science, aside from those schools, in which, throughout all the accustomed gradations, our youth are trained to that mental culture which our laws so happily require. But we have here, very largely, the fruits, the practical applications, of science--in that large body of intelligent mechanics and artizans of various classes, who, if you shall have leisure to examine their works, will be reminded by you of the great principles developed by yourselves and your coadjutors, on which their beautiful and finished products depend.

We welcome you, because we desire to seize this occasion and all occasions to renew our fealty to the great purpose of the men to whom we owe our origin. They placed religion first--blessed be their memory that they did so. But they made all science, all knowledge, the object of their unceasing devotion and unwearied efforts. We hail the advent of this association amongst us, because we desire to be drawn off from schemes and exhibitions, merely or mainly of a sensual and material kind, to such as make man, the immortal spirit, prominent and pre-eminent. We are reminded, too, of the

obligations devolving upon us by the provisions of our constitutional charter, which declares it to be a "duty" "to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, to encourage private societies and public institutions, to promote agriculture, arts, sciences, commerce, manufactures, and a natural history of the country; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty, and punctuality, sincerity, good humor, and all social affections and generous sentiments among the people." I need not say how intimately and indissolubly these new requirements of the constitution of our commonwealth stand connected with the pursuits in which the members of this association are engaged.

We welcome you to this portion of our country, gentlemen, because we think you will here find some things to interest you in the walks of science, strictly so called. You will visit the college in our vicinity--a rising and already distinguished institution of learning, in whose halls you will be greeted by the voice of science, and be privileged to witness its large and increasing appliances, and to rejoice in some of its triumphs. Here, too, in this range of country, you will find those tracks of birds and animals, various and numerous, which have attracted so much of both popular and scientific attention, and which carry us back, in a sort of bewilderment, to ages, if not beyond the power, at least beyond the certainty of computation--those tracks, which have been made to utter the language of science through the researches and investigations, as modest as they have been profound, of an eminent associate of your own.

We welcome you, because we delight to do honor to those pursuits, which, in retirement and repose, without any of that glare which too often blinds and bedizens, are working out the true good of man, and garnering treasures of unfading renown. We are just now beginning to breathe freely again, after the monstrous exhibitions of self glory, treachery and war on the plains of Italy. Whilst, under the presence of power and carnage, man continues to be trodden under foot, and the world shouts victory, be it ours still to strive and pray that the world may, even though slowly, yet surely be advancing in wisdom, and to rejoice in the progress of that science which elevates, never depresses, humanity.

We welcome you, gentlemen, in a closing word, because of the influences which we cherish the hope, nay, the unfaltering belief, you will be sure to leave behind you--influences to reach the heart, to be felt in the life, and to lift up the spirit--influences which may guide us to the meaning of the poet, when he answers his own question:

"What constitutes a State?"

by that apt and terse averment--

"Men, high-minded men."

These constitute a state. These are at once the ornament of a community, and its imperishable foundation.

Men of science, we greet you; we bid you welcome.

On closing, the speaker was warmly applauded.

The number of papers on the docket was then announced by the Permanent Secretary, to be forty-one.

It was then moved by Prof. Caswell, that the Association proceed to elect six members of the Standing Committee, and this being carried, nominations took place; after which a ballot was taken, and the following were declared elected:--Profs. Benjamin Pierce of Cambridge, A. D. Bache of Washington, Benjamin Silliman, Jr., of New Haven, Rev. J. W. Foster of Monson, Prof. W. Gibbs, of the New York Free Academy, and Dr. Joseph Le Conte of Columbia, S. C.

The Standing Committee have recommended that the general meeting each day commence at 10 o'clock, and that at 1 o'clock a recess be taken until 4, when the sectional meetings shall be held.

The recommendation was adopted by the meeting.

The meeting then adjourned until 4 o'clock P. M.

After the close of the general business the Sections retired to their rooms and made the following elections:--

Section A--Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry--Permanent Chairman, Prof. B. Silliman, Jr.; Secretary, Prof. Wm. G. Peck; Standing Committee of Section--Prof. E. Loomis (chairman), John L. Le Conte, and J. H. C. Coffin.

Section B--Natural History--Chairman, Prof. Edward Hitchcock of Amherst; Permanent Secretary, Oliver Marey of Wilbraham; Standing Committee--Philip T. Tyson of Baltimore, Prof. A. Gray of Cambridge, and Prof. J. D. Whitney of New Haven. Nominating Committee--Dr. J. H. Gibbons, M. J. Clark of Missouri, Sir William Logan of Montreal, and Prof. J. P. Leslie.

This was the only business done by sections through the day.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

On coming to order in the afternoon, prompt to the time, a large company was present, the ladies again showing in full force.

Prof. Pierce read a paper upon the theory of the comet's tail, after which the meeting adjourned till 10 o'clock this morning.

Hon. George Bliss, Chairman of the Local Committee, gave a levee to the members of the Association, and the ladies accompanying them, last evening, at his mansion in Chestnut street, and a large number accepted his polite invitation.

In order to have the leisure time pass profitably as well as pleasantly to the large number of strangers in the city, invitations have been extended them to visit the United States Armory, Hampden Park, and other places of interest; as, also, all the large manufacturing establishments in the city and its vicinity.

An object of much interest, and which attracts a majority of the savans, is a very fine collection of mineral specimens which Mr. C. W. A. Herrmann of Schenectady, N. Y., has on exhibition in a room in the City Hall.

It is in contemplation by the Association to accept an invitation to visit Amherst College on Saturday next, to inspect the Mineralogical Cabinet there.