

THE LAW SOCIETIES.

The Association of Philadelphia Lawyers in the Past—The Names of Those Who Were Connected with Them—The Present Law Academy—Its Condition and Prospects.

In the olden time, when Philadelphia was the seat of government for the whole United States, the courts of this city were looked upon, from all quarters, as models, and as the head of all legal proceeding. Action in any of our courts, whether Federal, State, or county, was a precedent for proceedings in any court throughout the land.

At this time, or immediately preceding it, just after the Constitution of the United States had been adopted, a party of young disciples of the law met together for the purpose of forming a society that should have for its aim the improvement of its members in all things appertaining to the law.

This society continued for some time with various changes and modifications, with a rotation in membership, as the older members got into extended business, with no need for outside improvement, new and younger members taking their places, until the year 1800, when its existence came to an end, there being at that time but a very small membership and but little interest from those who still held to the organization.

For five years from this time there was no organization of Philadelphia lawyers of any kind, but in 1805, on a Saturday evening, the 20th of December, the old association was revived under a new name. It was then called the Law Society, and the reorganizers were Bayse Newcomb, Clement C. Biddle, Joseph R. Ingersoll, Samuel H. Jacobs, John Lowber, Magnus M. Murry, Philip Nicklan, Edward Tilghman, and Samuel Wilcox.

This society continued until 1812. Those who founded it are now all dead. Many of them died young, though several lived long enough to attain great eminence. The oldest member of all lived the longest, with one exception.

The roll at first consisted of Richard Biddle, James C. Biddle, H. J. Williams, William M. Meredith, Thomas Dunlap, David Paul Brown, Bloomfield McElvain, John N. Conyngham, John M. Read, John K. Kane, Francis Hopkinson, Duncan S. Walker, Joseph Tate, Thomas M. Pettit, George M. Stroud, Perisfor F. Smith, George Selden, M. R. Sayers, John Musgrave, John Warts, R. Dillon, Drake Travenant, B. Dallas, Arthur Middleton, Henry Middleton, D. J. Desmond, Jonathan Fowle, T. A. Budd, and Robert Bethell.

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A PUBLIC DINNER IN FIJI.—A public dinner in Fiji is a very great affair, and you must take care how you behave at it. All the guests bear a hand in feeding the oven or stirring the pot. A floor of clean leaves is covered with cocoa-pots, on which are heaped baked taro and yams "to the amount of several tons."

A GENTLEMAN THOROUGHLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE CUBA AND WEST INDIA BUSINESS AND GENERAL COUNTING-HOUSE WORK, after an experience of eleven years in this city, possessing the Spanish and English languages, and who, with numerous friends in Cuba, can influence considerable business, is open for engagement as a Consulting Partner, or otherwise, in any of our business.

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during the intervening time, was merged into the Law Academy of Philadelphia, of which Peter J. DuPont was then elected Provost. This still exists under most favorable auspices. It has turned out many good lawyers. It holds its meetings weekly, and its exercises consist of mock arguments, and sometimes of an essay, read by one of the judges of the courts. While nearly all the present members of the bar have passed through the academy in some way or other, and still retain their connection by paying the yearly dues, the organization is kept up by the younger men who have just been admitted to the bar or who are about to enter. The officers are elected annually. The place of meeting is the new room of the Court of Quarter Sessions. The legal profession generally take a great interest in its welfare, and do everything in their power to promote its interests. It has now been kept running with unabated interest for forty-five years, and its prospects are good for the future.

AMERICAN BOOKS IN ENGLAND.—A London letter to the Boston Advertiser says:—The Westminster Review in the new number vouchsafes us a paper on American literature, in which panegyrics and patronizing condescension are oddly mixed. "There is not a score of names in American literature," says the writer, "that may be placed in the front ranks among poets, historians, and novelists, and there is not one to vie with the leading names in the Old World."

THE MOABITE STONE.—At the British Association, in the department of Ethnology and Anthropology, a paper on "The relation of the Ancient Moabites to neighboring nations, as disclosed in the newly discovered Moabite Stone," was lately read by Rev. C. D. Guisburg, LL. D. He said that the inscription on the stone read almost like a chapter in the Bible, and when it was borne in mind that this curious relic dated back nine hundred years before Christ, it would be seen that the inscription was older than two-thirds of the Old Testament.

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The following statement of the affairs of the Company is published in conformity with a provision of its Charter: PREMIUMS RECEIVED from November 1, 1869, to October 31, 1870:— On Marine and Inland Risks \$799,419-36 On Fire Risks 154,801-20 Premiums on Policies not marked of November 1, 1869, 502,489-32 1,456,709-88

PREMIUMS MARKED OFF as earned from November 1, 1869, to October 31, 1870:— On Marine and Inland Risks \$899,746-79 On Fire Risks 151,548-67 1,051,295-46 Interest during the same period—Salvages, etc., etc., 152,500-98 1,184,796-44

LOSSES, EXPENSES, etc., during the year as above:— Marine and Inland Navigation Losses \$515,555-93 Fire Losses 99,003-08 Return Premiums 81,921-40 Reinsurances 49,993-85 Agency Charges, Advertising, Printing, etc., 50,501-40 Taxes—United States, State, and Municipal Taxes 63,000-12 Expenses 24,045-90 \$75,198-97 \$309,667-47

ASSETS OF THE COMPANY November 1, 1870. \$200,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (lawful money) \$333,375-00 200,000 City of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan 214,000-00 200,000 City of Philadelphia Six Per Cent. Loan (exempt from tax) 204,102-50 164,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan 185,520-00 20,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds 20,700-00 25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Second Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds 25,350-00 25,000 Western Penn. Railroad Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds 20,000-00 30,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan 13,000-00 7,000 State of Tennessee Six Per Cent. Loan 4,500-00 12,500 Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 50 Shares Stock 15,000-00 5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 100 Shares Stock 4,800-00 10,000 Philadelphia and Southern Mail Steamship Company, 50 Shares Stock 4,800-00 261,650 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, first liens on City Properties 261,650-00 \$1,260,150 Par. Market Value, \$1,993,507-50

Real Estate Cost, \$1,264,447-34 \$56,000-00 Bills Receivable for Insurance 239,971-27 Balances due at Agencies—Premiums on Marine Policies—Accrued Interest and other debts due the Company, on and after 1st of December proximo, free of National and State Taxes. 99,375-47 Stock and Scrip, etc., of sundry companies, \$7,960. Estimated value 142,911-75 Cash 1,880,727-91 \$1,880,727-91

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They have also declared a SCRIP DIVIDEND OF TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT. ON THE EARNED PREMIUMS for the year ending October 31, 1870, certificates of which will be issued to the parties entitled to the same, on and after the 1st of December proximo, free of National and State Taxes.

They have ordered, also, that the SCRIP CERTIFICATES OF PROFITS of the Company, for the year ending October 31, 1869, be redeemed in CASH, at the office of the Company, on and after 1st of December proximo, all interest thereon to cease on that day.

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