

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

By a resolution of the Society, adopted January 14th, 1886, the following report was ordered to be furnished to the various newspapers published in the State, with a statement of the actual condition of the Publication Fund, and the names of the Trustees of the Fund, and the officers of the Society.

The Committee to whom was referred the communication of our fellow member, Charles Minor, of Wilkes Barre, in relation to the organization of auxiliary county societies, the members of which should pay an annual contribution to the Pennsylvania Historical Society permanently established at Philadelphia; such auxiliaries to receive in return copies of the publications of this Society - respectfully report:

That they have given to the communication the respectful and careful consideration due to the suggestions of a gentleman so well known to us as Mr. Minor, as an able, zealous and successful investigator of Pennsylvania history.

That they concur with him in believing that it is the duty of our intelligent and progressive fellow citizens throughout the State, to give hearty and active aid to such measures as shall be necessary to transmit to posterity a knowledge of the details of our commonwealth, its numerous and increasing population, the variety and magnitude of its resources, and its relations to the Republic, must give peculiar and growing importance to its history.

The arrangements by which we can secure a steady collection, digest and publication of the materials awaiting our efforts, must of course be adopted after careful consideration of the special difficulties of the case, the nature and situation of those materials, the degree of our necessary dependence upon voluntary and gratuitous services, and the instruction derived from experience in other communities, as well as to our own.

The funds upon which we are to rely should be procured with the least practicable deduction for expenses of collection and administration, and their application should be so directed as to concentrate the labors of the trustees, which are to stimulate the collector of historical material and the writer.

It is with such views that the Historical Society of Pennsylvania was made an association for the State rather than for the city in which, on account of its origin and the special advantages there available for literary labor, the meetings of the members have been held. Its proceedings have always been open to all Pennsylvanians, without respect to residence, and they are of a character to be eminently useful to all who choose to enjoy them according to the original design.

The contributions to its literary resources have come from every quarter of the State, and it now enrolls in its list of members many of our most eminent and useful citizens.

In accordance with the patriotic liberality of its plan, the Society, regarding it as a duty to place within reach of every reader at the earliest opportunity the fruits of its accumulations, has laid the foundation of a Trust Fund, the employment of which, as limited by the terms of the trust, proceeds to give the earliest and largest effect to the legitimate purposes of the society.

On the whole, therefore, your committee are of opinion that it is most expedient for the Society to take early steps to inform our citizens generally of the plan and prospects of the Fund, and of its convenience and importance as an instrument for the production of a valuable historical literature in our midst.

WILLIAM BIGLER, of Clearfield. GEORGE CHAMBERS, of Chambersburg. SAMUEL BRACK, of Philadelphia.

The Publication Fund is composed of subscriptions of twenty dollars each, the payment of which by any person entitles him or her for life to a copy of all the publications of the Society. This Fund is of recent establishment, yet its increase has been rapid and steady, and it already amounts to nine thousand dollars.

The Society being designed for the whole State, and its memberships being open to our fellow citizens of every county, every available opportunity is embraced by us to invite their co-operation in the collection and preservation of materials for the history of our Commonwealth, and for securing a just tribute from posterity to the memory of citizens who have been in any way distinguished by local or general services.

It is hoped that historical notices of towns and annals, memoranda or remarkable facts, biographical and genealogical notices, and letters, diaries, and other manuscripts, a statement of such facts as may be requisite to establish the genuineness and authority of the documents, as the name of the donor, and any information respecting the archives are recorded and filed by the Society.

President - THOMAS SERKENT. Vice-Presidents - George Sherwood, J. R. Tyson, William Duane, William Slipp.

Recording Secretary - Horatio Gates Jones. Trustees of the Publication Fund - George W. Norris, Sixteenth and Locust streets; John Jordan, Jr., Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank; Harry Conrad, No. 123 North Third street.

Treasurer - Charles M. Morris. Librarian - Townsend Ward. Signed by order of the Society. THOMAS SERKENT, President. Attest - FRANK M. ETTING, Sec. Sec'y. January 28th, 1886.

A Yankee and an Englishman were recently disputing, when the latter remarked: "Fortunately the Americans can go no further than the Pacific shore."

The Yankee searched his pregnant brain for an instant and, then triumphantly replied: "Why, good gracious, they're cutting down the Rocky Mountains, and carting the dirt out West; I had a letter from my cousin, who is living only two hundred miles west of the Pacific shore - on made land."

Bank Note Detector.

PROSPECTUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN.

THE ONLY ENGLISH DEMOCRATIC PAPER IN THE COUNTRY.

THE DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN - This is the title of a new Democratic paper published in Beloit, Penna., and pledged to establish the same in the State.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U. S. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

FRANKLIN PIERCE, President. WILLIAM L. MARCY, Secretary of State. JAMES GUTHRIE, Sec. of the Treasury.

JAMES C. DOBBIN, Secretary of War. ROBERT McCLELLAND, Sec. of the Interior. CALVIN CUSHING, Attorney-General.

Consists of one Secretary, one Assistant Secretary, one chief clerk, twelve Assistant Clerks, one translator, and one librarian.

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