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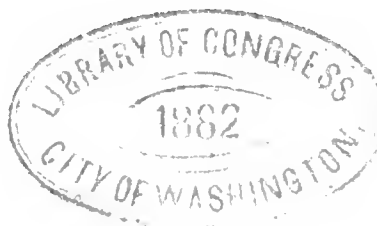
BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

NEW-ENGLAND

Historical and Genealogical Register.

1847—1876.





*Mr Robert C. Winthrop, U.S.D.*

*With compliments of  
A. C. Hoar*

BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

NEW-ENGLAND

Historical and Genealogical Register,

BEING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION, SUBMITTED AT  
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC,  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, JAN. 5, 1876;  
REVISED AND ENLARGED.

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Reprinted from the Society's "Proceedings" for January, 1876.

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BOSTON:

DAVID CLAPP & SON, PRINTERS.

1876.



Committee on Publication,

ALBERT H. HOYT,  
JOHN WARD DEAN,  
WILLIAM B. TOWNE,

LUCIUS R. PAIGE,  
H. H. EDES,  
JEREMIAH COLBURN.

21-21-21-16

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

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Mr. Albert H. Hoyt submitted the following report:

**T**HE HISTORICAL and GENEALOGICAL REGISTER for the year 1875 has been regularly issued. The last October number contained six orations, viz.: of the Hon. Henry Armitt Brown, delivered in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, September 5, 1874, on the centenary of the meeting of the first Continental Congress, in that place; of Abner C. Goodell, Jr., Esq., before the Essex Institute, on the one hundredth anniversary of the meeting of the Provincial Legislature of Massachusetts in Salem, October 5, 1774; of the Hon. Richard H. Dana, LL.D., on the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Lexington; of George William Curtis, LL.D., on the centenary of the Battle at Concord; of the Hon. Charles Devens, Jr., in commemoration of the Battle of Bunker Hill, delivered on the 17th of June, 1875; and of the Rev. Andrew P. Peabody, D.D., LL.D., on July 3, 1875, the centenary of Washington's taking command of the Continental Army in Cambridge.

The orations were printed from revised copies furnished for this purpose by their respective authors, and with the consent of the municipalities and associations, or committees, under whose auspices they were delivered. To these are annexed very full and carefully revised reports of the other proceedings at these commemorations, and several other papers relating to the same events.

These discourses, proceedings and papers have been also published in a separate volume, entitled: "CENTENNIAL ORATIONS COMMEMORATIVE OF THE OPENING EVENTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION," to which is prefixed an excellent portrait of General Joseph Warren, engraved by W. H. Smith from an original painting by Copley. This volume contains one hundred and seventy-eight compactly printed pages, octavo. The edition is limited to two hundred and fifty copies.

Of the orations themselves, it seems not too much to say, that whether regarded as eloquent and forcible expressions of patriotic wisdom, as lucid and philosophical expositions of the chief operating causes and motives of the Revolution, or as vivid and accurate narratives of important events and interesting incidents, they will not suffer in comparison with similar discourses in any age or language. For these reasons, and from the peculiarly

interesting circumstances under which they were delivered, we believe these discourses will have an abiding and prominent place in the historical literature of this country.

Soon after the organization of this Society, its members took into formal consideration the feasibility of publishing a magazine to be "devoted to the printing of ancient documents, wills, genealogical and biographical sketches, and historical and antiquarian matter generally." The value of such a periodical and its pressing necessity, in view of the scattered and perishing condition of the larger part of such important materials of history, were sufficiently obvious.

It was not, however, until the autumn of the year 1846, that definite arrangements were concluded for the publication of such a work under the auspices of the Society. By this arrangement it was understood and agreed between the publisher and the Society that the "title and good will" of the magazine should forever remain in the Society, and that it should be published and edited under its general direction; but that the salary of the editor and all other costs and charges incident to the undertaking should be paid by the publisher. A member of the Society volunteered to publish the magazine, and an editor was chosen by the Society,—the Rev. William Cogswell, D.D.\*

The first number was issued on the fifth day of February, 1847, under the title of "The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register." Under this title every volume of this Quarterly has been regularly issued without interruption; and with adequate support, we see no reason why it should not be continued for generations to come.

\* The following is a statement of the names of those who have edited volumes or parts of volumes of the Register, their residences at time of execution, and the numbers edited within their respective terms.

The Rev. Wm. C. Cogswell, D.D., of Boston,	Jan.	1847,	4 numbers.	
Wm. C. Deane, A.M., of Boston,	"	1848,	5 "	
Wm. O. Fisher, H. C., A.M., of Cambridge,	April,	1849,	3 "	
Samuel G. Drake, A.M., of Boston,	Jan.	1850,	1 "	
Samuel B. French, M.D., of Boston,	April,	1850,	3 "	
Wm. C. Deane, A.M., of Boston,	Jan.	1851,	4 "	
Thos. G. Joseph, B. T., H. D., of Boston,	"	1852,	2 "	
Thos. M. Timothy, Esq., H. D., of Boston,	July,	1852,	1 "	
Wm. C. Deane, of Dorchester,	Oct.	1852,	1 "	
Samuel G. Drake, A.M., of Boston,	Jan.	1853,	24 "	
Wm. C. Deane, of Boston,	}	Jan.	1859,	8 "
Thos. G. Deane, A.M., of Boston,				
Samuel G. Drake, A.M., of Boston,	Jan.	1861,	1 "	
Wm. C. Deane, of Dorchester,	"	1862,	1 "	
The Rev. Cyrus Nelson, A.M., of Lytton, N. H.,	April,	1862,	1 "	
The Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M., of Lexington,	July,	1862,	1 "	
John Ward Dear, A.M., of Boston,	Oct.	1862,	5 "	
William B. French, of Dorchester,	Jan.	1864,	2 "	
John Ward Dear, A.M., of Boston,	July,	1864,	2 "	
William B. French, of Dorchester,	Jan.	1865,	4 "	
The Rev. Cyrus Nelson, A.M., of Biddeford,	"	1866,	8 "	
Amos H. Hoit, A.M., of Boston,	"	1868,	32 "	
John Ward Dear, A.M., of Boston,	"	1876,		

From 1847 to 1864, inclusive, the Register had four different publishers.\* In the summer of 1864 a few members of the Society, with its consent, formed themselves into an association, known as the Register Club, for the purpose of securing the continuance of the Quarterly, the members of which pledged themselves to bear the responsibility of the publication. The Society readily conceded to them the privilege of annually nominating the Committee on Publication, the latter choosing the editor. This Club existed for nine years, some members going out and other persons interested in the work coming in at the end of each year to lend their support. They so prudently administered this trust that, while saving themselves from loss and gradually enlarging and improving the publication, they were enabled out of the small surplus to place upon the shelves of the Society's library a considerable number of much-needed volumes and useful periodicals.†

The editor of the first volume was engaged at a salary of one thousand dollars. The first publisher, and for several years nominal editor, of the Register, Mr. Drake, kept a book-store, and issued publications of his own.

\* The publishers have been as follows: Samuel G. Drake from 1847 to 1861, inclusive, except for the years 1852 and 1857; Thomas Prince, 1852; Charles B. Richardson, 1857; Joel Mansell, 1862, 1863, and 1864. Since the last date the successive volumes have borne the imprint of the Society. David Clapp & Son have been the printers since 1864.

† The names of those who were members of the "Register Club," and the years of their membership, are as follows:

Winslow Lewis, M.D., 1865, 1866, 1869, 1871.  
 William B. Towne, A.M., from 1865 to 1874, inclusive.  
 Frederic Kidder, from 1865 to 1874, inclusive.  
 Charles S. Fellows, 1865, 1869, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870.  
 William B. Trask, from 1865 to 1874, inclusive.  
 William H. Whitmore, A.M., 1865, 1866, 1868, 1869.  
 William S. Appleton, A.M., 1865, 1868, 1870.  
 Samuel G. Drake, A.M., 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1872.  
 John K. Wiggin, from 1865 to 1868, inclusive.  
 John Ward Dean, A.M., from 1865 to 1874, inclusive.  
 Jeremiah Colburn, A.M., from 1865 to 1874, inclusive.  
 John M. Bradbury, from 1865 to 1868, inclusive.  
 Deloraine P. Corey, from 1865 to 1874, inclusive.  
 Edward S. Rand, Jr., A.M., 1865, 1866, 1868.  
 George W. Messinger, 1865.  
 The Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D.D., 1865, 1866, 1870.  
 Calvin Fletcher, 1865, 1866.  
 Almon D. Hodges, 1865.  
 David Clapp, 1865.  
 The Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D.D., 1865.  
 Charles W. Tuttle, A.M., from 1866 to 1874, inclusive.  
 Ebenezer W. Peiree, 1866.  
 William R. Deane, from 1866 to 1869, inclusive.  
 Francis French, 1866.  
 The Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, A.M., 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1874.  
 The Rev. Elias Nason, A.M., 1868.  
 Albert H. Hoyt, A.M., from 1868 to 1874, inclusive.  
 The Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, from 1868 to 1874, inclusive.  
 H. H. Edes, from 1870 to 1874, inclusive.  
 The Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., 1871, 1872, 1873.  
 Thomas Waterman, 1871, 1872.  
 Commodore Geo. Henry Preble, U.S.N., from 1871 to 1874, inclusive.  
 John H. Sheppard, A.M., 1872, 1873.  
 The Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., 1874.

He used the pages of the magazine as an advertising medium, and undoubtedly realized no inconsiderable returns from that source, as he did also from the sale of surplus portions of each issue of the Register. To him as editor the publisher of the volume for 1857 paid, we are informed, the sum of five hundred dollars as salary for that year. It is stated, also, that two hundred dollars was paid to Mr. William T. Harris for editorial service in 1849. With these three exceptions, no editor of the Register, so far as we are aware, has ever received any compensation for his services.

The legal and equitable property in the title, subscription list, and good will of the Register has always been in the Society; and this has never been questioned by any one, so far as our knowledge extends, since that matter was settled by the timely and decisive action of the Committee on Publication and the Society in 1849.\*

\* The following are the names of those who have served on the Committee on Publication, and their places of residence at the time of their first election:

Charles Lyver, of Boston, . . . . .	Mar. 1847, to	Jan. 1851
The Hon. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1847, to	" 1849
The Rev. Samuel H. Riddell, A.B., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1847, to	" 1851
David Hamblin, of Boston, . . . . .	Jan. 1849, to	Oct. 1855
William T. Harris, A.M., of Cambridge, . . . . .	Feb. 1849, to	" 1849
The Rev. Joseph B. Felt, LL.D., of Boston, . . . . .	Jan. 1850, to	July, 1852
The Hon. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1850, to	Jan. 1851
The Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., of Cambridge, . . . . .	" 1850, to	" 1851
Charles Deane, LL.D., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1851, to	Oct. 1851
J. Wingate Thornton, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1851, to	Mar. 1852
William T. Harris, A.M., of Cambridge, . . . . .	" 1851, to	Oct. 1851
Frederic Kidder, of Boston, . . . . .	Oct. 1851, to	" 1855
The Hon. Timothy Farrar, LL.D., of Boston, . . . . .	Nov. 1851, to	Dec. 1854
William B. Trask, of Dorchester, . . . . .	April, 1852, to	Oct. 1853
Charles Mayo, of Boston, . . . . .	Oct. 1852, to	" 1853
The Rev. William Jenks, D.D., LL.D., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1853, to	" 1858
Lynnan Mason, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1853, to	Dec. 1854
†John Ward Dean, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	Dec. 1854, . . . . .	
William Reed Deane, of Brookline, . . . . .	" 1854, to	Oct. 1856
Lemuel Shattuck, of Boston, . . . . .	" 1854, to	" 1856
The Rev. Abner H. J. Quin, D.D., of Jamaica Plain, . . . . .	Oct. 1855, to	" 1856
James Spear Loring, of Boston, . . . . .	" 1855, to	" 1856
The Hon. Francis Brinkley, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1856, to	" 1858
Charles H. Morse, of Cambridge, . . . . .	" 1856, to	" 1858
William H. Whitmore, A. M., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1856, to	Nov. 1861
The Hon. Timothy Farrar, LL. D., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1857, to	Oct. 1858
William B. Trask, of Dorchester, . . . . .	" 1858, to	" 1867
The Hon. Charles Hudson, A.M., of Lexington, . . . . .	Nov. 1861, to	" 1863
The Rev. Elias Nason, A. M., of Exeter, N. H., . . . . .	" 1861, to	" 1864
George Wingate Chase, of Haverhill, . . . . .	" 1861, to	" 1862
William H. Whitmore, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	Oct. 1862, to	Nov. 1872
William S. Appleton, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1863, to	" 1872
The Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D.D., of Roxbury, . . . . .	" 1864, to	Oct. 1867
The Rev. Elias Nason, A.M., of Billerica, . . . . .	" 1865, to	" 1868
†William B. Toyne, A.M., of Brookline, . . . . .	Nov. 1865, . . . . .	
Frederic Kidder, of Boston, . . . . .	Oct. 1867, to	Oct. 1868
†Albert H. Hoyt, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	" 1867, . . . . .	
Charles W. Tuttle, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	Nov. 1872, to	Nov. 1873
Commodore Geo. Henry Preble, U.S.N., of Charlestown, . . . . .	" 1872, to	Oct. 1874
†The Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D.D., of Cambridge, . . . . .	" 1873, . . . . .	
†H. H. Edes, of Boston, . . . . .	" 1873, . . . . .	
†Jeremiah Colburn, A.M., of Boston, . . . . .	Oct. 1874, . . . . .	

\* Members of the Committee for 1876.



And here it is but just to say, that the Society and all friends of the Register are more indebted than is generally known to Mr. John Ward Dean and Mr. William B. Towne for prompt and most valuable services, at a critical period in the history of our Quarterly, in the autumn of 1861, when they saved it from premeditated death.\* They have also rendered, since then, long-continued and unselfish service in its behalf.

To Mr. Joel Munsell, of Albany, who volunteered, at a crisis in the existence of the Register, to undertake its publication, we are under great obligations. He bore the sole financial responsibility of its publication during the years 1862, 1863, and 1864, "without any idea of deriving profit from it, but rather as a contribution to a cause in which he felt," and still feels, "a deep interest." Mr. William B. Trask also volunteered his services as editor of the first number of the volume for 1862. He has edited and assisted in editing fifteen other numbers, besides having been a contributor of valuable papers from the beginning. Mr. Frederic Kidder is also entitled to special mention, for having furnished means to one of the early publishers, and for other labors in the interest of the Register.

While the Quarterly was under the control of the Register Club, others, besides those already named, rendered important services in extending its circulation, among whom Charles W. Tuttle, Esq., and Commodore George Henry Preble, U.S.N., should be mentioned.

The Register Club having voluntarily dissolved in the autumn of 1874, the financial responsibility for the publication of the Quarterly was assumed by the Society, where it now rests; while its editorial conduct still remains in the hands of the editor chosen by the Committee on Publication.

It is gratifying to know that the magazine has a wider circulation at the present time than at any former period of its existence; and the Committee have good grounds for believing that it was never more highly appreciated. Still, as the history of all periodicals teaches, systematic, persistent and continuous efforts must be made to keep the Register before the public and secure its continued prosperity.

That this publication has accomplished all, and more than all, its projectors anticipated, and that it is worthy of continued support, will be evident to all who consider how large a number of valuable historical documents, and how much of family and town history it has drawn from private sources, and thus saved from destruction or oblivion. Not only this, but it has begotten what may properly be styled a habit in the community of collecting and preserving such materials. It has also fostered a widespread and honorable desire among the people generally to ascertain, compile and secure the data pertaining to family histories,—data obtained with

\* See "Publisher's Preface" to vol. xv., for 1861.

difficulty always, even in respect of the later generations, but with still greater difficulty the further back the investigation is prosecuted. Advantage has thus been taken of the aid to be derived from aged people, whose clear recollections extended into the last century, and of family traditions.

When this Society was formed in 1844, only a few genealogies of American families had been published or printed. The first of which we have any knowledge is a pamphlet of twenty-four pages, printed in 1771. Between that date and the year 1813, only one more was printed; while during the ensuing thirty years twenty-two were produced. Prior, therefore, to the establishment of the Register in 1847, but thirty-two genealogies or family pedigrees had been printed; and these, for the most part, were very limited in extent and inferior in character, as compared with most of those published at the present day. Since the year 1847, or during the last thirty years, the number of genealogies, more or less extended and complete, that have been printed, is nearly six hundred; of which by far the larger number were produced in New-England. Of histories of New-England towns, published anterior to 1845, we have knowledge of only forty-one; since that date about one hundred and twenty have been published, and many more are in preparation. In other parts of the country also, genealogies and town-histories are rapidly multiplying. Of each of these classes of publications, no inconsiderable number were compiled by subscribers or readers of the Register.

In this magazine itself will be found the genealogies, or at least historical outlines, of about four hundred and fifty families of English origin; while the number of papers containing genealogies, ranging from one page or less to ten or more pages, is about one thousand. Besides these are hundreds of biographical and obituary sketches. Many of these articles embody the results of laborious and costly research.

Prior to the establishment of this Quarterly, the only book printed in this country that could afford much aid in the study of family history, was the "Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New-England," by John Farmer, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the New-Hampshire Historical Society,—a volume of 351 pages, published in 1829. This work was a great help to the early conductors of our magazine. From our Register Mr. Savage drew largely for materials for his invaluable Genealogical Dictionary, published in 1860-1862. He corrected many errors in our early volumes; while many mistakes into which he himself was led, have been pointed out, and his own work has been greatly supplemented, in our later volumes.

It may, therefore, be fairly assumed that this Quarterly has afforded no little aid and stimulus in all these praiseworthy and useful labors of historians and genealogists,—much more aid, apparently, than is sometimes acknowledged.

Moreover, the Register has been essentially serviceable to this Society, as its special organ, and as a potential agent in making its existence known and its objects respected. Other Societies, too, in New-England and beyond, that have done and are doing distinguished and valuable service for historical and archaeological science, neither have received nor will receive, we are sure, any injury from the circulation of this periodical.

With the close of the last volume, the writer of this report resigned his place as editor, which he had held for eight years,—a longer period of continued service, it appears by the records, than has been rendered by any of his predecessors. His efforts have been to make the publication worthy of the patronage and confidence of historical students and experienced genealogists; to make it thorough and accurate; to introduce a larger proportion of historical matter; to elevate its literary character; to improve its typography and dress; to keep its pages free from personal and party animosities; and to extend its patronage. How far he has succeeded in these efforts is best known to the patrons of the work. To the gentlemen with whom he has been associated on the Publishing Committee, he returns hearty thanks for their unvarying kindness, support and encouragement. Not the least pleasant of his recollections of this long association will be the fact, that from first to last the Committee have been a unit in every vote or act affecting the interests of the Register.

The January number of the Register is already published. With this issue the Quarterly enters upon its thirtieth volume, under the editorial charge of Mr. John Ward Dean, the librarian. His experience, having been a member of the Committee on Publication continuously for upward of twenty-one years, and other ample qualifications, are a sufficient guaranty that the work will not suffer in his hands.

After the reading of this report, Charles W. Tuttle, Esq., spoke as follows:

*Mr. President:* I believe it is announced to the Society for the first time that Col. Hoyt has retired from the editorial chair of the Register. This is an event that cannot be allowed to pass without notice on this occasion. Eight consecutive years devoted to this publication as the responsible editor, without pecuniary reward, has no precedent in its history, and is not likely to be repeated soon. It is a bounty that challenges at once our admiration and our gratitude. Such a service cannot be represented by any money standard; it ranks with the unpurchasable and the unbought, and must ever remain conspicuous in the annals of this Society.

Having myself been an occasional contributor to the Register during this period, I have come to know something of the labor, the anxiety, the perseverance and the ability required for this undertaking; and I am sure I do

not exaggerate when I say that the number of persons qualified to fill the editorial chair is small, much smaller than we are apt to imagine. The Register is no brief chronicler of the time; it is a standard authority on matters within its scope, every page importing absolute verity as near as may be. Its pages are not open for raw and loose compilations or compositions. These, when otherwise meritorious, must first be made to come up to the required standard of completeness and accuracy, and this must be done by the editor. He must be familiar with all sources of information, and with New-England history in its details. The Register is designed to carry accurate information not only to this generation of readers, but to future generations in distant ages. Responsibility attaches to every date and to every word it contains. In this age of frivolity, of vast issues of popular literature rated as merchandise, it is a real pleasure to think that the Register must survive all; that as long as the name of New-England shall be repeated with respect or veneration, so long shall an interest in its pages continue.

Every reader must have noted marked improvements, especially in the systematic arrangement of genealogies, in uniformity of style, in typographical beauty, and completeness in the indexical department. The historical and antiquarian matter has manifestly been selected with good judgment and discrimination; and the contents of these eight volumes are unsurpassed for variety, quality and interest. They are a monument of self-sacrificing labor, generously given to the public, the contributors as well as the editor working without reward. I know of no other periodical in the world where the entire literary labor is performed gratuitously. Fortunately the editorship has fallen into competent hands.

I beg leave to offer these resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Society be given to Col. Albert H. Hoyt for his long able and efficient services as editor of the Register, the official organ of this Society.

*Resolved*, That the Recording Secretary transmit to Col. Hoyt an attested copy of these resolutions.

Mr. William B. Towne then said:

*Mr. President*: I rise to second these resolutions with pleasure. Having been a member of the Publishing Committee for the eight years that the gentleman has edited the Register, I can speak understandingly in the premises. And here let me say, that I think we are far more indebted to him for his patient, painstaking, and successful efforts than most members of the Society suppose. The work of editing a publication of this kind is far different from editing a purely literary quarterly. In both literary ability is

requisite, but the historical is replete with names, dates and facts, that have to be verified by laborious research, and a failure in any one of these would bring discredit on the publication; and, if it often occurred, destroy its reputation as an authority. During the eight years before referred to, this work has been so conducted as to increase its reputation as an authority, has been made attractive by its literary merit, and consequently has had an increased number of readers. In conclusion, I will only add, that I regret that the Society is not in a condition to offer some fitting testimonial for such faithful, long-continued and valuable services.

The Rev. Dorus Clarke, D.D., next addressed the Society as follows:

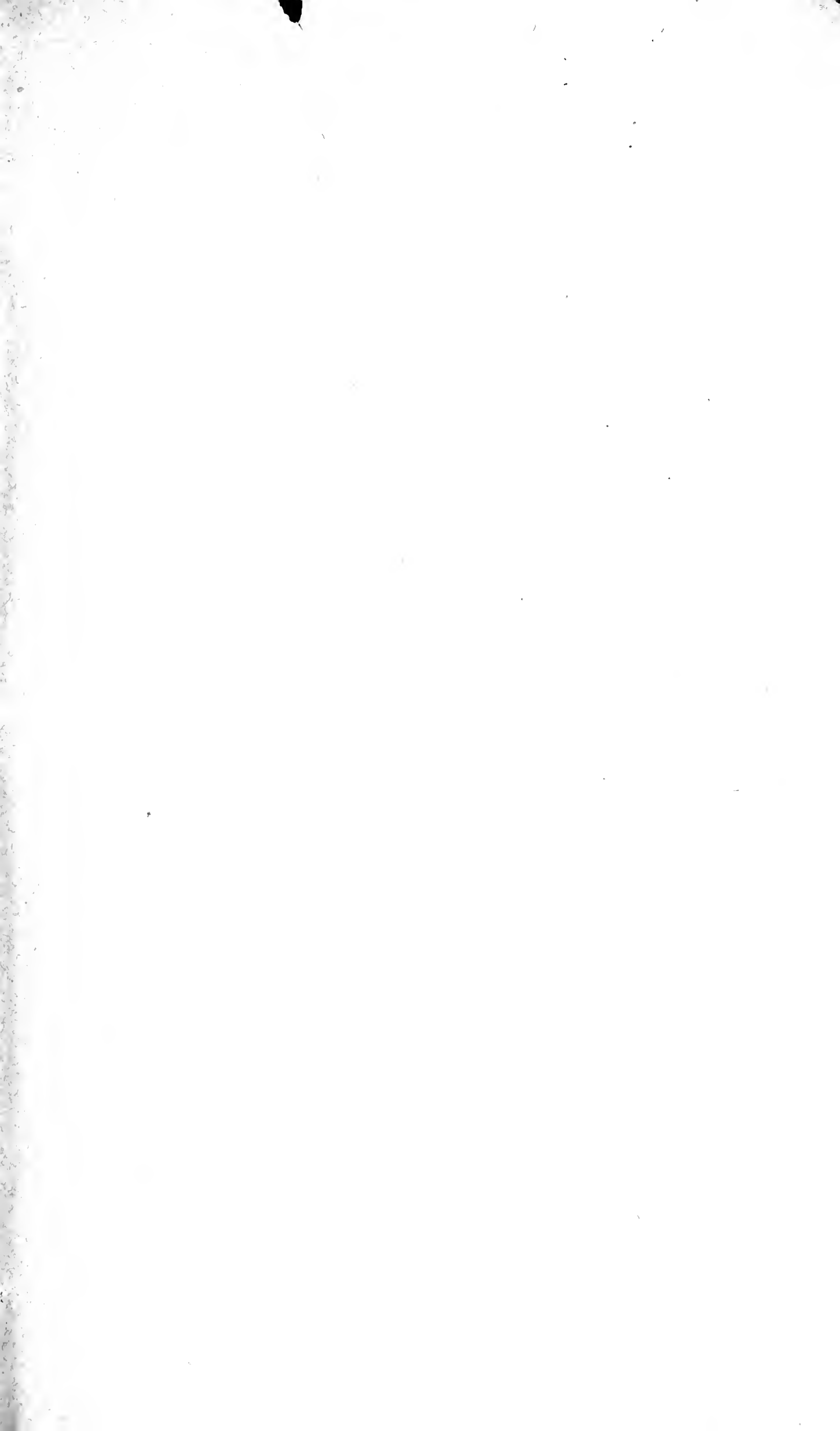
*Mr. President:* It is hardly possible for me to keep my seat and remain entirely silent, when a motion is pending before this Society, complimentary to Col. Hoyt, for the able manner in which he has edited "The Historical and Genealogical Register" for eight years past. The resolution commands my warmest support. To conduct successfully such a work as the Register, is no easy task. It is so largely made up of names, and tables, and dates, and other figures, that the hundred eyes, which fable ascribes to Argus, would be quite insufficient to prevent mistakes. To edit an ordinary literary work is a pastime to this. I have been myself an editor of several other publications, and also the Historiographer of this Society for seven years,—a sincere, quite similar to that of editing the Register for ease and pecuniary profit,—and have therefore had some experience in these matters, and some opportunity to know the extreme difficulty of conducting a work of this peculiar character. Sometimes libraries have to be ransacked, and the mails and telegraph put in requisition, to rectify or verify a single letter or numeral. I have often been deeply impressed by the untiring industry and the ceaseless effort to be accurate, which have marked the editorial career of Col. Hoyt in the eight years' service which he has gratuitously rendered in his department of the multi-form operations of this growing Institution. I cannot therefore refrain from congratulating him, and the Society and the public, upon the ability, the research, and the success of his editorial labors.

The Rev. Mr. Slafter spoke as follows: The value and importance of the work bestowed upon the Society's quarterly publication cannot be over-estimated. This publication consists for the most part, as we all know, in all its thirty volumes, of original papers, printed here for the first time, and the careful annotation which they have received from the late editor, and his predecessors, has greatly enriched the collection, and will save the historical student, when he comes to consult them, a vast amount of preliminary and embarrassing labor. These publications hold up a mirror to

our minds, in which we may see shadowed forth, more clearly than any where else, the local, domestic and family history of New-England. If the labor and time bestowed upon them have been gratuitously and cheerfully rendered, it ought only to inspire us with a deeper sense of gratitude to those who have voluntarily performed this valuable service. I should be very glad if the expression of gratitude, incorporated into the resolutions before us, could go beyond that formula, and take here to-day a practical shape. No compliment, I am sure, could be so acceptable to the late editor, or to the present editor, or board of publication, as to know that all of our members, not already subscribers to the Society's quarterly publication, would become such before returning to their homes to-night. There are at least two reasons why all the members of the Society should have this publication. In the first place, its perusal from year to year would gradually enrich the mind of the reader with a wide knowledge of New-England history, which can be obtained from no other source. In the second place, two hundred additional subscribers would enable us to enlarge the magazine, to enrich it with illustrations and maps, and to make it a still nobler monument of the Society's great purpose. The sum of three dollars annually is but a small sacrifice for each member, but in the aggregate would enable us to enlarge and enrich the sources of our history for all coming time. I venture therefore to hope, Mr. President, that our members, distant and near, will send in their names to be enrolled as patrons and co-workers in the Society's enterprise of publishing its historical quarterly, already venerable with age, under the familiar and honored title of the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register.

The venerable William Lawton, Esq., of New-Rochelle, N. Y., remarked, in substance, that he was deeply gratified that, in this bustling age, largely devoted to the mere accumulation of money and to the excitements of politics, so many men were willing to give their time, their talents, and their substance to the study of history, and to the work of collecting and preserving the records of our fathers. He had given his early years and middle life to the struggles and competitions of commercial and financial pursuits. They exerted upon him a fascination for which he could not and did not care to account; but for many years now last past he had devoted a good deal of time to historical and genealogical investigations in which he had been greatly helped by this and kindred societies. He, therefore, felt himself to be under obligations to those gentlemen who had given and are giving so much valuable time and ability to the writing, editing and accumulation of the materials of public and family history.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.



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