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MARCH, 1871.

A stated monthly meeting was held on Thursday, March 9th, at 11 o'clock, A.M.; Vice-President ADAMS, in the absence of the President, in the Chair.

The record of the last monthly meeting was read.

The Librarian read his monthly list of donors to the Library.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter of acceptance from the Rev. W. I. Budington, D.D.

Mr. Abner C. Goodell, Jr., of Salem, was elected a Resident Member.

Dr. GREEN read some original letters of Benjamin Franklin, of which copies are here given:—

Address, — To Mess^{rs} WRIGHT, SMITH, & GRAY, Bankers,
Lombard Street.

GENTLEMEN, — Inclos'd I send you three Bills of Exchange, White on Bacon, for five hundred pounds sterling. They are different bills, tho' on the same paper. Please to present them for acceptance, and enter them in my book.

Send me p M^r Stevenson, the bearer, thirty guineas, of which two in silver.

I am, your most obed^t hum^{bl} serv^t,

B. FRANKLIN.

CRAVEN STREET, July 13, 1765.

Address, — Mr. DAVID HALL, Printer,
Philadelphia.

Via Boston.

Free, B. FRANKLIN.

LONDON, April 9, 1761.

DEAR FRIEND, — I receiv'd yours of Feb. 9, with the bills for 200*l*, for which I thank you. I shall take care to send the lower case Brevier r's that you write for; and acquaint M^r Strahan with what you mention. The loss of Faulkner & Lutwydige has baulkt correspondence between Philad^o & London a great deal. I lately receiv'd the enclos'd from Edinburgh, & sent the answer you will find copy'd on the back. I cannot but blame Mess^{rs} Scot and McMichael, for continuing to draw on such correspondents, after what pass'd last year, and think they ought now to suffer a little. As the goods you order'd from M^r Balfour were, or would be, sent, I judg'd your affairs would not suffer by my not taking it up, for otherwise I should have done it.

I hope you will not disapprove my conduct in this respect, being,
dear friend,

Yours affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

Indorsed, — M^r FRANKLIN,
April 9, 1761.

Address, — To M^r HUMPHRY MARSHALL,
West Bradford,
Chester County.

p Capt. Osborne,
with a brown paper parcel.

LONDON, April 22, 1771.

SIR, — I duly received your favours of the 4th of October and the 17th of November. It gave me pleasure to hear, that, tho' the merchants had departed from their agreement of non-importation, the spirit of industry & frugality was likely to continue among the people. I am obliged to you for your concern on my account. The letters you mention gave great offence here; but that was not attended with the immediate ill consequences to my interest that seem to have been hoped for by those that sent copies of them hither.

If our country people would well consider, that all they save in refusing to purchase foreign gewgaws, & in making their own apparel, being apply'd to the improvement of their plantations, would render those more profitable, as yielding a greater produce, I should hope they would persist resolutely in their present commendable industry and frugality. And there is still a farther consideration. The colonies that produce provisions grow very fast: but of the countries that take off those provisions, some do not increase at all, as the European nations. and others, as the West India Colonies, not in the same proportion. So that tho' the demand at present may be sufficient, it cannot long continue so. Every manufacturer encouraged in our country makes part of a market for provisions within ourselves, and saves so much money to the country as must otherwise be exported to pay for the manufactures he supplies. Here in England it is well known and understood, that wherever a manufacture is established which employs a number of hands, it raises the value of lands in the neighbouring country all around it; partly by the greater demand near at hand for the produce of the land; and partly from the plenty of money drawn by the manufacturers to that part of the country. It seems, therefore, the interest of all our farmers and owners of lands, to encourage our young manufactures in preference to foreign ones imported among us from distant countries.

I am much obliged by your kind present of curious seeds. They were welcome gifts to some of my friends. I send you herewith some of the new barley lately introduced into this country, & now highly spoken of. I wish it may be found of use with us.

I was the more pleas'd to see in your letter the improvement of

our paper; having had a principal share in establishing that manufacture among us many years ago by the encouragement I gave it.

If in any thing I can serve you here, it will be a pleasure to

Your obliged friend and humble servant,

B. FRANKLIN.*

M^r HUMPHRY MARSHALL.

Address, — To Mess^{rs} SMITH, WRIGHT, & GRAY, Bankers,
Lomb^d Street.

GENT^l, — Enclosed I send some bills; viz.:

Harly & Drummond	£200 0 0
W. Cunningham	20 0 0
D. Milligan	52 0 0
Alex Grant	30 0 0
	302 0 0

for which please to return receipt p^r bearer.

Yours, &c.

B. FRANKLIN.

Mess^{rs} SMITH, WRIGHT, & GRAY.

The Chairman took notice of the recent decease of an Associate Member, JOSEPH PALMER, M.D., and reported from the Standing Committee the following Resolution, which was adopted: —

Resolved, That the Society have heard with regret of the death of Dr. JOSEPH PALMER, a Resident Member, and that the President be requested to appoint one of our number to prepare a Memoir of him for the Society's Proceedings.

Mr. DEANE read the following extract from a letter addressed to him by the President of the Society, then in New York, dated 5th March, in which reference was made to the late Dr. Palmer: —

I see that our friend, Dr. Palmer, has at length been released from his infirmities. I would gladly have said a kind word about him at our meeting on Thursday; but I cannot be at home, and it will be better said by some one else. Hillard and I were among his pupils, when he was an usher of the Latin School, half a century ago. His "Necrology" of Harvard is really valuable. Perhaps Mr. Sibley would undertake a Memoir of him.

In haste,

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

CHARLES DEANE, Esq.

Messrs. Mason, Thayer, and E. B. Bigelow were appointed a Committee on the Treasurer's accounts.

* This letter is printed from a lithographic copy. — Eds.

Messrs. Lincoln, Blagden, and W. G. Brooks were appointed a Committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. GREEN exhibited a medallion of Dr. Franklin, in red clay, made by Nini in 1777. An engraving of it, on a reduced scale, appears in Lossing's "Field Book of the Revolution," ii. 855. It was probably this medallion that Franklin refers to in a letter to his daughter, dated June 3, 1779 (Sparks's Life, viii. 373). He there says: "The clay medallion of me, you say you gave to Mr. Hopkinson, was the first of the kind made in France. A variety of others have been made since of different sizes; some to be set in the lids of snuff-boxes, and some so small as to be worn in rings; and the numbers sold are incredible."

Mr. ELLIS AMES exhibited two very large, elegant, colored maps or plans, on parchment; of the territory formerly "Dorchester South Precinct," now comprising the towns of Canton, Stoughton, Sharon, Foxborough, a part of Dedham, and a large portion of Wrentham; and extending on the Plymouth Colony Line from Braintree to within one hundred and sixty rods of Rhode Island.

The earlier of the two plans was a copy made by James Blake, Jr., surveyor, in 1726, from a plan made by John Butcher, surveyor, from the surveys by the latter in detail made in 1696 and 1697, of what is now Canton, from the lines of Milton and Braintree, in the Blue Hills, including the reservation for the Punkapog Indians, and extending some distance into the northerly part of what is now Stoughton, and as far into Sharon as the east side of Massapoag Pond. This was what was called the "Twelve Divisions."

The second was an original plan of great length, made by James Blake, Jr., himself, from his own surveys of the "Twenty-five Divisions," so called, and finished by him in 1730; comprehending a laborious, complete, and detailed survey of the easterly, south-easterly, and southerly part of Stoughton, and of all the territory of ancient Dorchester South Precinct not described upon Butcher's plan, including the residue of Sharon, all of Foxborough, the gore of Wrentham, and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles into Wrentham on the Plymouth Colony Line. That gore of Wrentham was cut off from Dorchester South Precinct in 1724, and set to Wrentham by an Act of the General Court.

Upon these plans the few then existing roads or paths and all the rivers and ponds were delineated, and all the sections of land plotted, and the owners' names inserted. The first child of English origin born upon that territory was in the

year 1700. These surveys of sections were chiefly of the earliest sale and laying out to individuals of the lands of that territory. Mr. Ames said that he had never known or heard of any ancient surveyors' plans of the kind, of equal extent, to compare with these in elegance and finish.

The Cabinet-keeper called attention to a portrait in oil, of cabinet size, of Governor Mascarene, of Nova Scotia, painted from the original (which is now in Nova Scotia) by our member, Mr. WHITMORE, who presented it to the Society.

Mr. WHITMORE presented a copy of the National Intelligencer, of Oct. 25, 1862, containing some letters of General Washington, addressed to Lund Washington, which were referred to the Publishing Committee. They are here printed:—

*Letters of General Washington to Lund Washington, Esq.**

ALEXANDRIA, Oct. 22, 1862.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

I send you extracts from three of Gen. Washington's letters. They will be found exceedingly interesting, and I offer them for publication.

CASSIUS F. LEE, Jr.

COL. MORRIS'S, ON THE HEIGHTS OF HARLEM,
30th September, 1776.

DEAR LUND,—Your letter of the 18th, which is the only one received and unanswered, now lies before me. The amazement which you seem to be in at the unaccountable measures which have been adopted by — would be a good deal increased if I had the time to unfold the whole system of their management since this time twelve months. I do not know how to account for the unfortunate steps which have been taken but from that fatal idea of conciliation which prevailed so long, — fatal, I call it, because, from my soul, I wish it may prove so, though my fears lead me to think there is too much danger of it. This time last year I pointed out the evil consequences of short enlistments, the expenses of militia, and the little dependence that was to be placed in them. I assured — that the longer they

* "Mr. Lund Washington was the agent for superintending General Washington's plantations, and managing his business concerns, during the Revolution. It was not known what degree of family relationship existed between them, though it was supposed that they both descended from the same original stock. . . . From the beginning to the end of the Revolution, Lund Washington wrote to the General as often at least as two or three times a month, and commonly every week, detailing minutely all the events that occurred on the plantations. . . . These letters were regularly answered by the General. . . . Hardly any copies of this description of letters were recorded, if retained, and the originals have been lost or destroyed. But Lund Washington's letters are preserved. . . ." — *Sparks's Writings of Washington*, III. 170, 171. — Eds.

delayed raising a standing army the more difficult and chargeable would they find it to get one, and that, at the same time that the militia would answer no valuable purpose, the frequent calling them in would be attended with an expense that they could have no conception of. Whether, as I have said before, the unfortunate hope of reconciliation was the cause, or the fear of a standing army prevailed, I will not undertake to say; but the policy was to engage men for twelve months only. The consequence of which, you have had great bodies of militia in pay that never were in camp; you have had immense quantities of provisions drawn by men that never rendered you one hour's service (at least usefully), and this in the most profuse and wasteful way. Your stores have been expended, every kind of military (?) destroyed by them; your numbers fluctuating, uncertain, and forever far short of report,—at no one time, I believe, equal to twenty thousand men fit for duty. At present our numbers fit for duty (by this day's report) amount to 14,759, besides 3,427 on command, and the enemy within stone's throw of us. It is true a body of militia are again ordered out, but they come without any conveniences and soon return. I discharged a regiment the other day that had in it fourteen rank and file fit for duty only, and several that had less than fifty. In short, such is my situation that if I were to wish the bitterest curse to an enemy on this side of the grave, I should put him in my stead with my feelings; and yet I do not know what plan of conduct to pursue. I see the impossibility of serving with reputation, or doing any essential service to the cause by continuing in command, and yet I am told that if I quit the command inevitable ruin will follow, from the distraction that will ensue. In confidence I tell you that I never was in such an unhappy, divided state since I was born. To lose all comfort and happiness on the one hand, whilst I am fully persuaded that under such a system of management as has been adopted I cannot have the least chance for reputation, nor those allowances made which the nature of the case requires; and to be told, on the other, that if I leave the service all will be lost, is, at the same time that I am bereft of every peaceful moment, distressing to a degree. But I will be done with the subject, with the precaution to you that it is not a fit one to be publicly known or discussed. If I fall, it may not be amiss that these circumstances be known, and declaration made in credit to the justice of my character. And if the men will stand by me (which by the by I despair of), I am resolved not to be forced from this ground while I have life; and a few days will determine the point, if the enemy should not change their plan of operations; for they certainly will not—I am sure they ought not—to waste the season that is now fast advancing, and must be precious to them. I thought to have given you a more explicit account of my situation, expectation, and feelings, but I have not time. I am wearied to death all day with a variety of perplexing circumstances—disturbed at the conduct of the militia, whose behavior and want of discipline has done great injury to the other troops, who never had officers, except in a few instances, worth the bread they eat. My time, in short, is so much engrossed that I have not leisure for corresponding,

unless it is on mere matters of public business. . . . I am, with truth and sincerity, dear Lund, your affectionate friend,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

Another letter dated —

FALLS OF THE DELAWARE, SOUTHSIDE,
December 10, 1776.

DEAR LUND, — . . . I wish to Heaven it was in my power to give you a more favorable account of our situation than it is. Our numbers, quite inadequate to the task of opposing that part of the army under the command of Gen. Howe, being reduced by sickness, desertion, and political deaths (on or before the 1st instant, and having no assistance from the militia), were obliged to retire before the enemy, who were perfectly well informed of our situation till we came to this place, where I have no idea of being able to make a stand, as my numbers, till joined by the Philadelphia militia, did not exceed three thousand men fit for duty. Now we may be about five thousand to oppose Howe's whole army, that part of it excepted which sailed under the command of Gen. Clinton. I tremble for Philadelphia. Nothing, in my opinion, but Gen. Lee's speedy arrival, who has been long expected, though still at a distance (with about three thousand men), can save it. We have brought over and destroyed all the boats we could lay our hands on upon the Jersey shore for many miles above and below this place; but it is next to impossible to guard a shore for sixty miles with less than half the enemy's numbers; when by force or stratagem they may suddenly attempt a passage in many different places. At present they are encamped or quartered along the other shore above and below us (rather this place, for we are obliged to keep a face towards them) for fifteen miles. . . .

From the same letter, dated —

DECEMBER 17, ten miles above the Falls.

. . . I have since moved up to this place, to be more convenient to our great and extensive defences of this river. Hitherto, by our destruction of the boats, and vigilance in watching the fords of the river above the falls (which are now rather high), we have prevented them from crossing; but how long we shall be able to do it God only knows, as they are still hovering about the river. And if every thing else fails will wait till the 1st of January, when there will be no other men to oppose them but militia, none of which but those from Philadelphia, mentioned in the first part of the letter, are yet come (though I am told some are expected from the back counties). When I say none but militia, I am to except the Virginia regiments and the shattered remains of Smallwood's, which, by fatigue, want of clothes, &c., are reduced to nothing. — Weedon, which was the strongest, not having more than between one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty men fit for duty, the rest being in the hospitals. The unhappy policy of short enlistments and a dependence upon militia will, I fear, prove the downfall of our cause, though early pointed out with an almost

prophetic spirit! Our cause has also received a severe blow in the captivity of Gen. Lee. Unhappy man! Taken by his own imprudence, going three or four miles from his own camp, and within twenty of the enemy, notice of which by a rascally Tory was given, a party of light horse seized him in the morning after travelling all night and carried him off in high triumph, and with every mark of indignity, not even suffering him to get his hat or surtout coat. The troops that were under his command are not yet come up with us, though they, I think, may be expected to-morrow. A large part of the Jerseys have given every proof of disaffection that they can do, and this part of Pennsylvania are equally inimical. In short, your imagination can scarce extend to a situation more distressing than mine. Our only dependence now is upon the speedy enlistment of a new army. If this fails, I think the game will be pretty well up, as, from disaffection and want of spirit and fortitude, the inhabitants, instead of resistance, are offering submission and taking protection from Gen. Howe in Jersey. . . .

I am, your affectionate friend,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

TO LUND WASHINGTON, Esq.

HEADQUARTERS MIDDLEBROOK, May 29, 1779.

DEAR LUND,— Your letter of the 19th, which came to hand by the last post, gives a melancholy account of your prospects for a crop, and a still more melancholy one of the decay of public virtue. The first I submit to with the most perfect resignation and cheerfulness. I look upon every dispensation of Providence as designed to answer some valuable purpose, and hope I shall always possess a sufficient degree of fortitude to bear without murmuring any stroke which may happen, either to my person or estate, from that quarter. But I cannot, with any degree of patience, behold the infamous practices of speculators, monopolizers, and all that class of gentry which are preying upon our very vitals, and, for the sake of a little dirty pelf, are putting the rights and liberties of the country into the most imminent danger, and continuing a war destructive to the lives and property of the valuable part of this community, which would have ceased last fall as certain as we now exist but for the encouragements the enemy derived from this source,— the depreciation of the money (which in a great measure is the consequence of it) and our own internal divisions.

I am, sincerely and affectionately, your friend and servant,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

LUND WASHINGTON, Esq.

Mr. DEANE read a letter from Messrs. Cyrus and Darius Cobb, presenting to the Society a cabinet picture of the late Dr. John Appleton, so long Assistant Librarian of the Society.

He also read a letter from Mr. Charles E. Wiggin, of Boston, presenting to the Society, in the name of Mrs. M. H. School-

craft, widow of the late Henry R. Schoolcraft, of Washington, a number of books in the Indian languages of America.

Mr. Deane communicated at the same time an interesting letter from Mrs. Schoolcraft, addressed to Mr. Wiggin, which, by the kindness of the latter, had been placed in his hands; and in which, in a touching manner, she speaks of the literary labors of her husband, of his prostration for many years by disease, during which he was dependent on his wife as nurse and amanuensis. It is understood that the six folio volumes of Mr. Schoolcraft on the History, &c., of the Indian Tribes of the United States, were written wholly by Mrs. Schoolcraft at his dictation.

The thanks of the Society were returned for these several gifts.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A social meeting was held on Thursday evening, March 23d, at the house of Mr. Robert M. Mason, No. 1 Walnut Street, corner of Beacon Street, at 7½ o'clock; the President in the chair.

The President communicated a copy of a photographic likeness of the late Winthrop Sargent, a Corresponding Member of the Society, presented by his sister, Mrs. Henry Duncan; together with the following Paper:—

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA, December 12, 1870.

[*Extract from the Minutes.*]

Mr. JORDAN remarked that the Society had lately lost by death one of its valued members, Winthrop Sargent, who died in Paris on the 18th of May last.

Mr. Sargent's loss has been the subject of more than usual notice by the press of the United States and the different bodies with which he was connected. The Bar of Philadelphia, his native city, from which he had long been separated, had publicly expressed the sense of affectionate regret for a member who had illustrated by his literary productions the culture and refinement of the profession in which he had been educated. The Massachusetts Historical Society had placed upon their record their sense of his great services to American History. He thought it fitting that this Society, under whose auspices Mr. Sargent had edited some of his most valuable works, should make an extended acknowledgment of the great merit of their late member.