

*Mr. Marshall P. Wilder  
with Mr. A. Day's compliment,  
J. C. King*

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
31st Annual Meeting

OF THE



JANUARY 10, 1883.

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1883.



# PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

## THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

—OF THE—

### United + States + Agricultural + Society.

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The United States Agricultural Society held its thirty-first annual meeting on Wednesday, the 10th of January, 1883, at the Department of Agriculture, by invitation of Commissioner LORING.

Hon. JOHN A. KING, of New York, the President of the Society, called the meeting to order and took the chair.

Major BEN : PERLEY POORE, of Massachusetts, the Secretary of the Society, read the journal of the thirtieth annual meeting, which was approved.

Dr. WILLIAM M. FRENCH, of New Hampshire, the Treasurer of the Society, presented his accounts for the past year, which were approved.

On motion of Mr. HARRIS, of Mississippi, seconded by Col. NOTLEY, of Missouri, it was—

*Resolved*, That when this meeting adjourn, it adjourns to meet here on Wednesday, the 24th inst.; that the President be requested to postpone the delivery of his annual address until then, and that Commissioner Loring be requested to invite the delegates to the agricultural convention, which will then be in session, to attend the meeting.

On motion of ALLEN DODGE, of Maryland, seconded by JAMES H. NOYES, of Maine, the Society then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were declared elected :

## OFFICERS FOR 1883-'84.

**PRESIDENT:**  
JOHN A. KING, of New York.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS:**

<i>Alabama</i> .....	THOMAS WILLIAMS,	<i>Nebraska</i> .....	D. H. WHEELER,
<i>California</i> .....	JOHN BIDWELL,	<i>Nevada</i> .....	JOHN P. JONES,
<i>Colorado</i> .....	ROGER W. WOODBURY,	<i>New Hampshire</i> .....	JOHN B. CLARKE,
<i>Connecticut</i> .....	H. H. HYDE,	<i>New Jersey</i> .....	E. W. P. LEWIS,
<i>Dakota</i> .....	JOHN PATTEE,	<i>New York</i> .....	J. W. WADSWORTH,
<i>Delaware</i> .....	JOHN JOHNS,	<i>New Mexico</i> .....	W. F. M. ARNY,
<i>Dist. of Col.</i> .....	W. W. CORCORAN,	<i>North Carolina</i> .....	ROBERT B. VANCE,
<i>Florida</i> .....	GEORGE F. DREW,	<i>Ohio</i> .....	W. I. CHAMBERLAIN,
<i>Georgia</i> .....	ALEX. H. STEPHENS,	<i>Oregon</i> .....	S. G. REED,
<i>Illinois</i> .....	JOHN WENTWORTH,	<i>Pennsylvania</i> .....	DAVID TAGGARD,
<i>Indiana</i> .....	CLAUDE MATTHEWS,	<i>Rhode Island</i> .....	GEO. F. FEARING,
<i>Iowa</i> .....	S. A. KNAPP,	<i>South Carolina</i> .....	D. WYATT AIKEN,
<i>Kansas</i> .....	F. T. BAKER,	<i>Tennessee</i> .....	R. HOFFAIM,
<i>Kentucky</i> .....	C. M. CLAY,	<i>Texas</i> .....	ASHBEL SMITH,
<i>Louisiana</i> .....	J. FLOYD KING,	<i>Utah</i> .....	GEORGE Q. CANNON,
<i>Maine</i> .....	J. R. BARDWELL,	<i>Vermont</i> .....	JOHN B. MEAD,
<i>Maryland</i> .....	EZRA WHITMAN,	<i>Virginia</i> .....	JOSIAH E. WARE,
<i>Massachusetts</i> .....	GEORGE B. LORING,	<i>Washington</i> .....	THOMAS H. BRENTZ,
<i>Michigan</i> .....	JAMES H. McGOWAN,	<i>Wisconsin</i> .....	CHESTER HAZEN,
<i>Minnesota</i> .....	C. W. THOMPSON,	<i>West Virginia</i> .....	HENRY M. MATTHEWS
<i>Mississippi</i> .....	JAMES L. ALCORN,	<i>Wyoming</i> .....	GEORGE GRAHAM.
<i>Missouri</i> .....	C. C. SWALLOW,		

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

FRED'K SMYTH, of New Hampshire, *Chairman.*

T. J. EDGE, Harrisburg, Pa.;	ROBERT BEVERLY, of Virginia;
WILLIAM S. KING, of Minnesota;	N. M. CURTIS, of New York;
B. W. SEILER, of Pennsylvania,	W. T. HAMILTON, of Maryland.

*Ex-officio Members:*

JOHN A. KING, of New York;	BEN: PERLEY POORE, of Massachusetts.
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**SECRETARY:**

BEN: PERLEY POORE, of Massachusetts,  
(Office: Ebbitt House, Washington.)

**TREASURER:**

WILLIAM M. FRENCH, of New Hampshire,  
(Office: 1810 Fourteenth street, Washington.)

On motion of Mr. WHITNEY, of New York, seconded by Mr. TALBOT, of West Virginia, it was—

*Resolved, unanimously.* That the officers and members of the United States Agricultural Society, assembled at its Thirty-first annual meeting, tender their sincere congratulations to its Founder, the Honorable Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, with their wishes that his health may be spared for many years to come.

On motion of Col. James BUCKLEY, of Kentucky, seconded by Dr. HAMMOND, of North Carolina, it was—

*Resolved.*, That the officers of the United States Agricultural Society take such measures as they may deem expedient to revive its usefulness (interrupted by the late civil war), and that they invite the co-operation of State, County, and local organizations for the advancement of agriculture.

*Resolved,* That the officers of the United States Agricultural Society be and they are hereby authorized to make arrangements for a National Exhibition in 1884, should they deem it expedient.

On motion of Dr. FRENCH, the Society adjourned until the 24th, inst.

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The adjourned meeting of the United States Agricultural Society was held at the *Department of Agriculture* on the 24th of January, 1883. President KING presided, while Secretary Poore and Treasurer French attended to their respective duties.

Hon. GEORGE B. LORING, Commissioner of Agriculture, having introduced Hon. JOHN A. KING, President of the United States Agricultural Society, to the delegates assembled in convention, that gentleman proceeded to deliver his

#### A N N U A L   A D D R E S S .

##### *Gentlemen of the Agricultural Society:*

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, from a sudden and deep fall of snow, it seemed impossible for many to come to the annual meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, which was held on the 10th of January; and, therefore, after the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the passage of a resolution of pleasure at the continued health and activity of our chief founder, the Honorable Marshall P. Wilder, it was proposed to adjourn until the 24th instant, upon which morning the Honorable George B. Loring, the United States Commissioner of Agriculture, and long connected with this Society, had placed at our disposition the spacious room in his Department building. It was hoped that there might then be a more numerous gathering of life members; and, added to them, the presence of many of the leading agriculturists from different sections of the Union. These latter were to convene at the Department on the 23d of January, in response to an invitation from the Commissioner, to discuss various topics touching upon agriculture, and the collegiate institutions which were giving instruction upon that subject. The continuance of inordinate wintry weather, it is feared, may now prevent many of the life members, generally well advanced in years, when five and twenty and thirty years since they joined the Society, from being with us. They are not now in condition to leave their comfortable firesides and undergo the unusual hardships of a journey hither. Only two new life members have been inscribed since 1861; and while several of those on the roll have sent their best wishes, their personal attendance must be excused.

As the United States Society had not been in active work for a period of years, although several efforts had been made to that end, it was deemed proper that the address prepared for the annual meeting should be read at this adjourned meeting, giving an outline of the history of the Society as to its origin, progress in the past, and asking for consideration as to its future.

Remembering that Mr. Ben: Perley Poore, formerly an active member of the Executive Committee, was, not only now, our able and energetic Secretary, but had been such for more than twenty years, and during a portion of the vigorous working days, and that he was therefore thoroughly conversant with the transactions in the past, more so than I could possibly be after much research, I asked from him a sketch, which he has kindly furnished, and in language so lucid and fitting that I shall read it, as it came from him, for your information. It is as follows:

"The seed from which the United States Agricultural Society sprung was planted upwards of forty years since. In 1841 a convention of agriculturists, anxious 'to elevate the character and standing of the cultivation of the American soil,' was held at Washington to organize a national agricultural society with the fund which had been bequeathed by Hugh Smithson for its support. The establishment of the Smithsonian Institution prevented the realization of the hopes of those who had desired to make this endowment practically useful, and the national society remained dormant until 1851, when a convention was called to meet at Washington by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, Maryland State Agricultural Society, New York State Agricultural Society, Southern Central Agricultural Society, Ohio State Board of Agriculture, American Institute (New York), Massachusetts Society for the promotion of Agriculture, Indiana State Board of Agriculture, New Hampshire Agricultural Society, Vermont Agricultural Society, and the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of American Industry.

"At this national convention, held at Washington on the 14th of June, 1851, there were present one hundred and fifty-two delegates, representing twenty-three States and territories, and the United States Agricultural Society was organized. The high standing of the delegates may be inferred from the following list of the committee which drafted the Constitution: the committee was Messrs. Holcomb, of Delaware; Douglas, of Illinois; J. A. King, of New York; Steele, of New Hampshire; Thurston, of Rhode Island; Hubbard, of Connecticut; Stevens, of Vermont; Elwyn, of Pennsylvania; Calvert, of Maryland; Campbell, of Ohio; Hancock, of New Jersey; Callan, of the District of Columbia; G. W. P. Custis, of Virginia; Burgwyn, of North Carolina; Taylor, of Alabama; De Bow, of Louisiana; Spencer, of Indiana; Mallory, of Kentucky; Bell, of Tennessee; Weston, of Wisconsin; McLane, of California; Pickhard, of Maine; Dawson, of Georgia; French, of Massachusetts, and Seaman, of Michigan.

"The objects of the Society, as declared by the preamble to its Constitution, are to 'improve the agriculture of the country by attracting attention, eliciting the views, and confirming the efforts of that great class composing the agricultural community, and to secure the advantages of a better organization and more extended usefulness among all State, county, and other agricultural societies.'

"Soon after the formation of the Society, Congress was asked to grant it a charter, but objection was made on the ground that it would be unconstitutional to

incorporate citizens of different States. The difficulty was finally solved by selecting as corporators members of the Society who were owners of real estate in the District of Columbia. Accordingly, William W. Corcoran, Benjamin B. French, Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, Ben Perley Poore, and John A. Smith and their associates were made, declared, and constituted a corporation and body politic within and for the District of Columbia, in law and in fact, to have continuance forever, by the name and style of the United States Agricultural Society, and by such corporate name, style, and title shall be hereafter ever able and capable, in law and equity, to sue and be sued, &c. This charter has been carefully preserved, and forms a rallying point around which the agriculturists of the United States can unite, for immediate concerted action, with the recognition of the general Government.

"It was fortunate for the United States Agricultural Society that it had as its first President the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, who had been largely instrumental in founding it, and whose rare executive abilities secured its immediate prosperity. The annual meetings which it held in th's city until the commencement of the civil war were a realization of the National Board of Agriculture, recommended by George Washington, the farmer of Mount Vernon. Gentlemen from almost every State in the Union (many of them delegates from agricultural associations) were annually assembled to discuss such topics as were calculated to advance the cause of agricultural improvement; interesting and valuable lectures were delivered by practical and scientific farmers; reports were submitted by committees especially appointed to examine new inventions and theories, and by delegates who had been accredited to the agriculturists of other lands; and there was a general interchange of opinion. 'The great practical truth and characteristic of the present generation,' said Daniel Webster, the farmer of Marshfield, "is, that public improvements are brought about by voluntary association and combination. The principle of association—the practice of bringing men together for the same general object, pursuing the same general end, and uniting their intellectual and physical efforts to that purpose—is a great improvement in our age. And the reason is obvious. Here men meet together that they may converse with one another, that they may compare with each other their experience, and thus keep up a constant communication. In this practical point of view, these agricultural associations are of great importance. Conversation, intercourse with other minds, is the general source of knowledge. Books do something. But it is conversation, it is the meeting of men face to face and talking over what they have in common interest, it is this intercourse that makes men sharp, intelligent, ready to communicate to others, and ready to, receive instruction from them.'

"National exhibitions and field-trials were held by the United States Agricultural Society at Springfield, Mass.; Springfield, Ohio; Boston, Mass.; Philadelphia, Penn.; Syracuse, N. Y.; Louisville, Kentucky; Richmond, Va.; Chicago, Ill.; and Cincinnati, Ohio. These national exhibitions were self-sustaining, the receipts meeting the disbursements of upwards of \$100,000, for premiums and expenses; and they not only increased the efficiency of State, county and local associations, but called together larger assemblages of the people than convened upon other occasions, embracing not only our most intelligent yeomanry, but gentlemen of every art and profession, from every portion of the widespread Union evincing that the national pulse beats in unison with agriculture, and that

the public voice was responsive to the call. At the banquets with which these national jubilees were concluded, eminent gentlemen met upon the board platform of good citizenship, merging all sectional jealousies and party distinctions in a general desire to improve and elevate that great calling which gives independence and strength to our nation. Such men as Daniel Webster, Edward Everett, Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Crittenden, Henry A. Wise and Caleb Cushing spoke at these banquets, with the leading farmers and planters of the United States and Canada.

"The Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, published by the United States Agricultural Society, during the five years preceding the war, contained reports of the annual meetings, exhibitions, and operations of the society, with a general statement of the position of agricultural affairs at the metropolis and reports of the operation of State boards and societies, agricultural colleges, and of all legislative recognition of the predominant interest of the country. The bound volumes of this Quarterly Journal of Agriculture are now in great demand, as they contain a great amount of valuable information not otherwise accessible.

"The United States Agricultural Society, also had at Washington a secretary's office and reading-room, where the members of the society and others interested in agricultural improvement could meet as brothers at a common home, and find a collection of objects in which they have a common interest. Many state and county societies contributed their published transactions, premium-lists, the names of their officers, and other information, which were registered, and they received the publications of the society in return. A majority of the agricultural and numerous other publishers contributed their periodicals and newspapers, and thus aided in forming a free agricultural reading-room at the national metropolis.

"The establishment of a Department of Agriculture was urged at every annual meeting of the Society until the desirable result was attained, and it was then relieved of many of its self-imposed duties. The preparations made by the Society for a national exhibition at Washington in 1861, which could not be held, exhausted the small balance in the Society's treasury at that time. The Society has not, however, a dollar of indebtedness. Upward of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars were received and disbursed by it between 1852 and 1862, and of this the highest sum ever received by any one of its officers, in a year, was \$600, which barely defrayed his personal expenses while attending to the business of the Society.

"During the war, the officers and members of the United States Agricultural Society were estranged. Some wore blue uniforms and some gray, and many were conspicuous on hard-fought fields or languished in military prisons. The Society was, however, kept alive, and the annual meetings, prescribed by the constitution, were regularly held. Messrs. Tilghman, of Maryland, Hubbard, of Ohio, French and Corcoran, of the District of Columbia, Frederick Smyth, of New Hampshire, and Merryman, of Maryland, were successively chosen to the office of President. The Secretary was annually re-elected; and on the death of the Treasurer, our present efficient officer, Dr. Wm. M. French, of New Hampshire, now a sojourner at Washington, was chosen as the successor.

"In 1880 the Honorable John Merryman, of Maryland, was elected President, and, with him, an earnest Executive Committee. These gentlemen were alive to the value of the interests confided to them; and, after considering the situation of the Society in its various bearings, in regard to its future usefulness, its

relations to the Bureau of Agriculture, and to a new organization which had started under the name of the American Agricultural Association, they propounded certain questions to the life members for discussion and action at the next annual meeting. Although asked for, no formal vote seems to have been afterwards taken. One of the questions was as to the propriety of surrendering the charter. Of this, evidently, there was no desire. As to the other two, of resuming active operations, and the feasibility of an exhibition in conjunction with the new organization, steps were undoubtedly taken with that view. Mr. Merryman was, in 1881, re-elected as President. Well-known in Maryland and many other States as an agriculturist and great stock grower, he had been chosen President of the Society of his own State, and also President of the recently founded American Agricultural Association. Of this latter Association, your Secretary had been elected as its Secretary. Thus the question of 1880 seemed to have, in the main, resolved themselves by the skillful management of President Merryman, and an exhibition, commensurate with the undertaking, under the auspices of the United States Agricultural and the associate societies, was to be held in the Autumn of 1881 in the State of Maryland, but the proposals of men were not permitted to be accomplished. The death of Mr. Merryman before any preparations were finally made for the fair put an end to the combination. At the next election of officers by the American Agricultural Association, your Secretary was not continued as its Secretary.

"At the annual meeting of 1882, but little was done except the choice of officers for the ensuing year. The propositions developed two years before, and, at one time, apparently so happily disposed of, again recur in their full force for the consideration of the members, and are worthy of very serious attention. It is only with the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture and the State and county associations that success may be insured. I invite a full, an earnest, consideration of the best method of promoting the usefulness and the efficiency of the United States Agricultural Society."

Such is the admirable *resume* of our Secretary, all too brief, for it only touches incidentally upon the consummate skill and energy of Mr. Wilder and his associates in developing the purposes of the Society, and in the holding of many successful fairs in different sections of the Union. It does not give the name of Calvert, of Maryland, who, backed by the persistent efforts of a strong executive committee, finally prevailed in urging upon the attention of the Congress of the United States the necessity of a Department of Agriculture, although that Department, as yet, has not attained the full strength accorded in other nations, and such as was ever contemplated by Calvert, and those acting with him. It does not speak of the land grant to the States for agricultural colleges, although the incipient steps thereto were probably taken from the frequent discussions and resolutions in relation to such grant, at the earlier annual meetings of this Society. It does not allude to other subjects of equally engrossing and national interests which were brought to notice and public attention, and which, when accomplished, were evidence of the value of the combined and intelligent efforts of our predecessors. With such a history of the position of the United States Agricultural Society in the past; with the valuable charter granted by the National Government; with its past and present roll of members and life members, composed of so many of the best citizens and leading men of different sections of the Union; with its honorable record of usefulness; and, without a dollar of indebtedness, it

has been aptly compared to a line of battle-ship, fully equipped and officered and ready for service—the question arises, What shall that service be?

Since the sword was happily sheathed, and the people have returned to their more natural and peaceful pursuits, the plowshare cleaves the virgin soil of our extensive country with renewed vigor, and the generous earth yields of its freshness the most abundant results. The immensity of production year by year, increases, and the volume of emigration from other nations to the Western Continent, to assist our ever enlarging population in tilling the land swells so vastly that it behooves us to pursue the researches, begun by our founders, as the best methods whereby men may be enabled to unfold to each other the most economical processes for getting from the willing earth the great secrets of her possession, to ascertain what are the most valuable crops for the different portions of our great territory, which the best strains of stock for these differing sections, what the most profitable fertilizers for the varying soils and climates.

These are live questions and need patient and combined investigation. Add to these the diffusion of knowledge in relation to the constantly improving quality of implements and machines, invented by American ingenuity, to save manual labor, and thus to increase and cheapen the necessities of life to the consumers. When I call to mind the rude implements and husbandry which are yet in use in the most ancient parts of Egypt and Europe, and have scarcely varied with the lapse of centuries, and when I remember such as were formerly used even here, and compare them with those now in the hands of our farmers, I am amazed at the wonderful economical progress, gradual at first, but constantly and ever developing. Came this development by itself, or, by the yearly rivalry, as displayed in the county, state and national exhibitions, where men were brought together to see and know for themselves things which were new and possible, which could be adopted to general use, and were labor saving, time saving, and often temper saving and, withal, conduced to a better and more abundant yield of the land?

Whilst the Old World, except in a few portions, was groping along in the ways of olden times, thoughtless of the elevation of its laboring classes, the wise and philanthropic men of our country were constantly searching by more improved implements and careful management to assist in the cultivation of the land and the gathering of its crops. Such were among the purposes of the originators of this society. Having in their several States perceived the advantages resulting from local exhibitions, they thought yet greater might be produced by making a society co-extensive with the magnitude of our country, and by coöperating with the State societies, as well as with local, in their exhibitions. Certainly much valuable knowledge was distributed wherever these conjoint fairs were held, and, though some difficulties arose in the joint management of one or two of the exhibitions, yet it is believed that where there is a right and clear understanding in advance between the respective parties, and where the invitation proceeds freely from a State society to coöperate, we may again resume active operations to the advantage of the farming interests of that State and of the adjacent sections.

The sudden death of the Hon. John Merryman, our then President, and equally the President of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, prevented the holding of a joint exhibition at Baltimore, in 1881, under the auspices of the two societies. Since then an exhibition has been proposed to be held at Washington, but it is a serious question whether such can be held with any great resulting benefits, ex-

cept in the populous and vast agricultural sections of the nation. In such sections, I doubt not, by the massing together of multitudes of farmers and stock raisers, bringing with them their respective products and adding thereto a display of the implements, machines, and mechanical manufactures from all parts, marked results would be obtained for the betterment of the people and the national wealth.

I would, therefore, suggest that among other things we should consider the propriety of again inviting co-operation between State associations and the United States Agricultural Society as a means of entering upon and renewing active work, such as was had in the past. Certainly agriculture with its subordinate pursuits affords every American citizen an opportunity of gratifying his especial tastes. Some prefer the cultivation of the soil, some the breeding and improving of stock, while, for others, forestry is a pastime. The daily pursuits of agricultural labor, under the guidance of an observing eye and a reasoning mind, are converted into a series of experiments, establishing results of high importance. By having, as a central reservoir, a national agricultural society, the results of these investigations can be received and diffused all over the land, and the action and reaction of theory and practice will strike out still more extensive good. So we may obtain another feature of usefulness in offering and awarding premiums for essays, either by the society directly or in conjunction with State societies.

An experimental farm was early thought of and proposed, but large funds would have been needed, and indeed were asked for from Congress, as the working of such a scheme was felt to be beyond private resources, but the creation of the national department and the energetic action of several of the States in that direction have relieved the Society from such an undertaking. I only now allude to the subject to vindicate the breadth of views of our predecessors. After the organization of the Society generous donations were made by liberal men of wealth, and especially from Boston, so that during the first ten years the treasury was always in possession of a comfortable balance, resulting from donations, annual and life member subscriptions, and surplus from exhibitions. Our officers never received salaries beyond their disbursements for personal expenses, and of late years I fear that our Secretary has not always been supplied with the funds required for printing, postage, stationery, and advertising, all of which were, and continue to be, so necessary for the operations of the Society.

If we propose to resume active work, either by exhibitions or by awarding premiums for essays, or even to be ordinarily just to our able and faithful Secretary, we ought to take some measures toward increasing the number of members of the Society, or of devising some other mode by which we can keep our honor in its present untarnished condition of defraying annual expenses and of being without a debt.

I have thus, as desired, drawn an outline of the past, the present, and of the possible future of a society, the existence of which spans over the full measure of a generation of men. I have adverted to the fertility of the virgin soil and its generous returns, but have not had time to speak rightly of the necessity of preparing our farmers to study the quality of fertilizers or modes of cultivation which hereafter may be required to assist our impoverished land. Boundless now, apparently, are our resources, and almost as boundless the yet uncultivated territory. Not in our day, perhaps, will the strain be felt, but with the advancing myriads from abroad, seeking in our midst the fruition of plenty and of liberty, and with the enormous exportations of food demanded by the people of the Old

World from our great storehouses and granaries, and with our own population, ever on the increase, the day must come when the mere upturning of the earth will not suffice. Nature must be assisted, and partial exhaustion must be enlivened.

Is it not, then, another of the great duties of this Society to study out this great problem; and as we have received from the wise founders of the past generation broad and enduring blessings as the result of their forecast and efforts in behalf of agriculture, so let us, by patient investigations, seek to transmit to the future such well-devised processes as may tend to restore to the land some of the richness of which it is now so lavishly despoiled by imperfect and careless tillage. Looking to that end, and for the furtherance of the various purposes of the Society, full and intelligent discussions upon this and other great economic questions may be had at our annual meetings or in conjunction with the conventions like unto this present one, which may be brought together by the Honorable the United States Commissioners of Agriculture; for it is only, perhaps, with the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture, and with the State and county associations, that the success of our Society in the future may be insured.

In submitting the foregoing, and desiring to express thanks for the honor of having been again returned as your president, I would invite a full and earnest consideration of the best method of promoting the usefulness and the efficiency of the United States Agricultural Society.

At the close of President King's address, there was an informal discussion among the gentlemen present on the best way to increase the usefulness of the society, and then, on motion of Col T. A. Holison, of Tennessee, the meeting was adjourned, *sine die*.

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## THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

The United States Agricultural Society will hold its thirty-second annual meeting at the Department of Agriculture, in Washington City, on Wednesday, January 9, 1884, at ten o'clock, a. m., when the election of officers will be held, and the other business required by the constitution will be transacted.

Officers and Members of the Society are respectfully notified to attend ; and a cordial invitation is extended to State and other Agricultural Associations to send delegates, that there may be a general representation of agriculturists "in Congress assembled" to protect and sustain their interests, acting as a national organization on such matters pertaining to agriculture as may be deemed appropriate.

Gentlemen who wish to become Life Members of the Society can do so by remitting ten dollars to the Treasurer, Wm. M. FRENCH, Esq., Washington City. This will entitle them without any further payments, to the full privileges of Life Membership, including free admission to all exhibitions of the society, the published transactions, and a large and elegant diploma. The fee for annual membership is two dollars.

JOHN A. KING, *President.*

BEN : PERLEY POORE, *Secretary.*





