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CONTAINING THE
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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, NO.
XI, MAY, 1880**

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AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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1880.

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P R E F A C E .

The Papers printed in this Number complete the list of such as have been selected for publication from those read at the Saratoga Meeting in 1879,—some of the omitted papers being withheld from publication at the request of the authors, and the rest for other reasons. It has never been the custom of the Association to print all the Papers read at its meetings, or to give more than an abstract of the discussions. The present Number also completes the publication of what was promised the subscribers to the Publication Fund of 1879. It is marked No. XI. in the series, the preceding Number, published in December, 1879, having been erroneously marked No. IX, when it should have been No. X. Members who have the number published in December, 1879, will please note this correction, and those, if any, who have not received the number can do so upon notifying the Assistant Secretary, Walter Channing, M. D., Brookline, Mass.

An explanation is due to the writers of Papers read at the Saratoga Meeting of 1877, which the Executive Committee proposed to print in the winter following. The necessary arrangement was made with a publisher, and a selection from the papers was placed in the hands of an editor who had undertaken to bring them out. For some reason he failed to perform his undertaking, and yet retained the manuscripts so long in his possession that it was impossible to comply with the understanding upon which the publication was to be made. Two of these Papers,—those of Prof. Amos and Prof. Baldwin,—are included in the present number. The others have been recalled by the writers.

The Publication Committee hope to issue the Papers to be read at the Saratoga meeting of 1880, before the close of the calendar year, if the state of the Publication Fund will warrant it. The Proceedings of the Annual Conference of Charities will also be published and distributed to members of the Association, as in

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former years, should the opportunity be afforded by the Secretaries of the Conference, which will meet this year at Cleveland on the 29th of June, for a three days' session. It is understood that all members of the American Social Science Association have the privilege of attending the meetings of this Conference, although they are now held at a different time and place from the meetings of the Association.

The Publication Committee would call the attention of all members to the amended Constitution, printed on page xxx. of the present number, and to the announcement of the Saratoga meeting of September, 1880, which follows it. It is hoped that all members will avail themselves of the opportunity to take part in the General Meeting at Saratoga, and that the special meetings called in connection with the quarterly sessions of the Council in December, 1880, and March, 1881, will be attended by such members of the Association as may find it convenient. The new organization of the Association renders such meetings practicable, and they will be found of importance in extending the usefulness of the Association.

BOSTON, May 8, 1880.

ERRATA—Page xxxv., Prof. Henry is deceased.

Page 61, the "local debt, 1878," of New Jersey should be \$47,000,000; of Iowa, \$7,867,963. This changes the totals at the bottom of the page to \$550,652,326, and \$139,939,394. These totals, the former of the Eastern, the latter of the Western debts, should be substituted on page 62. The excess of Eastern local debt then becomes \$410,652,322. The increase of the two debts is to be changed on page 62, accordingly, and in the summary of State and local debt on page 62, the Eastern total should be \$638,720,594, instead of \$628,223,316, and the Western total \$166,793,267, instead of \$172,825,910.

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION, 1879-80.

During the Saratoga meeting of 1879, several Papers were read before the Association and its Departments, which do not appear either in this number of the *Journal*, or in No. X. (incorrectly numbered IX. on the cover), published in December, 1879. A list of all the Papers read will be found in the early pages of No. X. Among those omitted is the Annual Report of the General Secretary, but since some portions of that Report contain information which the Publication Committee think it well to print, a few extracts from it are here subjoined:

FROM THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

(Read at Saratoga, September 2, 1879, by F. B. SANBORN.)

The American Social Science Association, which was organized in October, 1865, now includes members in more than half the thirty-eight States of the Union. A few local societies have been organized, and of late years these have taken the form of State associations, notably in Illinois and Indiana. The New York State Charities Aid Association is practically a social science body, limited in its work to the questions treated by our two Departments of Health and Social Economy. These three State societies are all managed by women, and they are at present more constantly active than our own Association, which may be regarded as their parent. The number of our own members has never been large. We began in October, 1865, with about 150; these increased in 1869 to nearly 600, then fell away in 1872-3 to less than 200, and now number between three and four hundred. The Illinois Social Science Association, only two years old, has probably more members than ours. Of course, with so few laborers, the harvest we have gathered in these fourteen years has not been enormous. We have chosen to plant new fields rather, or to renew old fallows, leaving them to be tilled and harvested by other hands. Our Association, acting as a whole, or through committees, or by its individual members, is responsible since 1865, for what has been done in the United States for civil service reform; for the organization of public charity on a better basis in many of the States; for the establishment on this side the ocean of schools which teach the deaf to be no longer dumb; for improvements in the census and statistical work in general; for introducing nurses' training schools; for planting the germ of the Boston Art

Museum, one of the best in America; for creating many State boards of health, and finally, the national board appointed last spring; for maintaining a sound policy in regard to the currency and the national debt; for keeping up a wholesome agitation of the prison-discipline question, and organizing several new reformatory prisons, particularly those in New York, Massachusetts and Indiana; for enlightening the people in regard to the curability, classification and best treatment of the insane; and for many acts of good legislation in the several States which our Association has promoted.

Thirteen years ago Mr. Edwin Chadwick, the veteran sanitary reformer of England, and one of the founders of the English Social Science Association, wrote to me in praise of our action, and expressing his belief that we could do as much in America as had then been done in England. He went on to say:

“The English Association serves to prepare questions for legislation. Our Parliament has more to do than it can do properly—at all events, by amateur legislation within the usual time of its sittings. It can only give, sometimes, not more than a day’s attention to large subjects, which can only be developed by the attention for considerable periods of persons specially interested in them. The larger public meetings of our Association are attended by persons of all parties, and, indeed, of no political party, and without any of the heats and animosities, the bigotry or the exclusiveness displayed on political platforms. I hope your new institution may be the means of getting important questions discussed for which there is no sufficient time or means in your Legislatures. The annual meetings in different parts of the country will serve to bring persons who give their attention to special subjects, as sanitarians, educationists, law reformers and political economists, into personal communication with each other.”

The anticipations of Mr. Chadwick have been fulfilled in the history of our Association; yet it has been much hampered and limited in its action by the small number of its members and by its scanty income. Seldom have more useful results been attained at so small an expense; but a little greater outlay in publication would have made our results appear much more conspicuous. Never, I will venture to say, has an institution so meritorious as ours been more modest. It worked in secret; its right hand did not know what its left hand was doing; and it still waits for the fulfilment of the Scripture promise, to be rewarded openly.

Those who remember the call, issued by the Massachusetts Board of State Charities in August, 1865, for the first meeting of our Association in Boston, will no doubt recollect that it dwelt mainly on the philanthropic side of Social Science, with some slight reference to its statistical aspect. Perhaps it has been too much the fashion, both here and in England, to regard our new science as but another form of philanthropy. Horace Greeley, at our