

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-
ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AT
THE ANNUAL MEETING,
JANUARY 2, 1889**

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THE SOCIETY'S HOUSE, 18 SOMERSET STREET.
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OFFICERS
OF THE
NEW-ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,
JANUARY 2, 1889.

President.

ABNER CHENEY GOODELL, JR., A. M., Salem, Massachusetts.

Vice-Presidents.

WILLIAM ENDICOTT, JR., A. M.	Boston, Massachusetts.
HON. JOSEPH WILLIAMSON, A. M.	Belfast, Maine.
HON. JOSEPH BURBREN WALKER, A. B.	Concord, New Hampshire.
HON. JAMES BARRETT, LL. D.	Rutland, Vermont.
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Ex Officio.

ABNER CHENEY GOODELL, JR., A. M.	Salem, Massachusetts.
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FRANCIS HENRY BROWN, M. D.	Boston, Massachusetts.
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For Three Years.

REV. ANDREW PRESTON PEABODY, D. D., LL. D.	Cambridge, Massachusetts.
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For Two Years.

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JOHN TYLER HASSAM, A. M.	Boston, Massachusetts.

For One Year.

WILLIAM BLAKE TRASK, A. M.	Boston, Massachusetts.
GRENVILLE HOWLAND NORCROSS, LL. B.	Boston, Massachusetts.
FRANK ELIOT BRADISH, A. B.	Boston, Massachusetts.

* Died April 3, 1880.

† Resigned February 1, 1880.

‡ Died February 21, 1880.

OFFICERS

APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1899.

Historiographer.

HAMILTON ANDREWS HILL, A.M. Boston, Massachusetts.

Editor of Publications.

JOHN WARD DEAN, A.M. Medford, Massachusetts.

ADDRESS

OF

ABNER C. GOODELL, JR., A.M.

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS THIRD ELECTION AS
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN:

I am aware that in accordance with established usage something more will be expected of me on this occasion than a grateful acknowledgment of the manifestation of your partiality, which has again placed me in the honorable post that I have held for two years past. I had intended, if the opportunity were offered to me of addressing you officially at the beginning of another year, to prepare an exhaustive account of the donations which this Society has received from the beginning, and to propose certain plans for systematizing the work of the Society, with a view of securing the active cooperation of members who either have remained wholly inactive heretofore, or have taken only a subordinate and very unimportant part in the labors for the promotion of which we are united in this organization. The preparation of such a paper, I thought, would be profitable, since it could not but involve a careful study of what had been done *by* the Society in the course of its existence of more than forty years, as well as *for* the Society by its members and well-wishers. Moreover, the incorporation of such an essay in the annual address seemed a convenient way of furnishing to every member the means of readily ascertaining, by reference to the printed proceedings, the particulars of each donation, both as regards the amount and the conditions of the gift. In pursuance of

this design, I have gone carefully through the nine volumes of our MS. records; that is, the seven volumes of the Society's proceedings and two volumes of the records of the directors, making minute and copious extracts as I proceeded. The results of this examination, when compared with the books of the Treasurer, disclose the fact that no complete statement such as I proposed could be made without an equally careful examination of our fiscal accounts from the beginning. I have therefore concluded to abandon my original purpose and to lay the subject before the Council at an early day, with a recommendation that it be placed in the hands of a competent committee to consider and report upon it with a view to having the matter thoroughly investigated and the results of the committee's examination printed for the use of the Society in such manner as the Council may deem expedient.

By the report of the Treasurer, which has been read to you, you will have observed that there remains in his hands a surplus of income over all current expenses and liabilities, after extinguishing the balance of the outstanding account for binding books which had increased to \$239.58. Let us indulge the hope that, small though it be, this improvement is the beginning of a new era in our financial condition. With regard to the expenditure of the building-fund I have nothing to add to what I stated in my last annual address, except that, of the fund which remains intact, \$20,000 has been more profitably invested, and that the income from this source has been applied to the general purposes of the Society under a liberal interpretation of the expressed intention of the donors, which has been construed to warrant any necessary outlay for the better arrangement and preservation of our library and cabinets, which are confessedly the only purpose for which a new building or the enlargement of our present house is required. To this increase of income, also, we are indebted for the favorable showing on the Treasurer's books, notwithstanding several extraordinary expenditures incurred during the past year.

A large number of books, pamphlets and newspapers which had been stored in our cellar, or had been inaccessible for common use, have been removed to a building in Pemberton square, where the committee charged with the duty of making this change have made considerable progress in sorting and arranging them for future disposal.