

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW-
ENGLAND HISTORIC,
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AT
THE ANNUAL MEETING,
JANUARY 3, 1877**

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NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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With Lists of Present Members, and of Officers
from 1845 to 1877.



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BOSTON :

THE SOCIETY'S HOUSE, 18 SOMERSET STREET.

M. DCCC. LXXVII.

LET it not be thought that we are working for ourselves alone, nor for those only who are now living; but let us remember that thousands yet unborn will bless the pious hands that rescued from oblivion or destruction our precious records. Nor is it to New England only that we devote our labor and our efforts. The star of empire has risen in the western sky, and its trail of light streams across the continent, touching the rock of Plymouth upon the Atlantic coast. — Hon. William Whiting, LL.D.

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1877.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SOCIETY :

I cannot express too strongly my sense of gratitude for this repeated testimony of your confidence in appointing me to preside over your deliberations for another year. I shall perform my duties, prompted by the deep interest I feel in the objects of the Society, with the best strength that a gracious Providence shall bestow upon me. The state of my health, although I have reason to thank God for much improvement of late, will be a sufficient apology for limiting my present remarks to a few brief words.

I am happy to congratulate you, as I have for several years past, on the steady and successful progress of the Society in all its departments. The reports of the several officers and committees soon to be offered will bear testimony to this.

The library has been steadily increasing in the number of its volumes, in valuable manuscripts and rare autograph letters; and we are also gradually accumulating a collection of curious relics highly important to the illustration of the different epochs of our history.

Our gallery of portraits is also increasing. We have the portraits of several colonial worthies, by Smibert, Copley and other distinguished painters, besides some of more modern date. An effort has been made to place upon our walls portraits in oil of those who have held office in the Society, or who have otherwise contributed to its success. A year ago we possessed only two, namely, those of Charles Ewer, Esq., its first president, and the Rev. Wil-