

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
FOR THE YEAR 1891, PART I**

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Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, for the Year 1891, Part I by
Massachusetts Horticultural Society

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OF THE

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PART I.

MASSAC



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The following papers and discussions have been circulated to some extent in the form of slips reprinted from the reports made by the Secretary of the Society in the Boston Transcript. As here presented, the papers are printed in full, and the discussions are not only much fuller than in the weekly reports, but, where it appeared necessary, have been carefully revised by the speakers.

The Committee on Publication and Discussion take this opportunity to repeat what they have before stated, that the Society is not to be held responsible for the certainty of the statements, the correctness of the opinions, or the accuracy of the nomenclature in the papers and discussions now or heretofore published, all of which must rest on the credit or judgment of the respective writers or speakers, the Society undertaking only to present these papers and discussions, or the substance of them, correctly.

O. B. HADWEN,
WILLIAM H. HUNT,
FRANCIS H. APPLETON, } *Committee on
Publication and
Discussion.*

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

BUSINESS MEETING.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1891.

A duly notified stated meeting of the Society was holden at eleven o'clock, the President, WILLIAM H. SPOONER, in the chair.

This being the commencement of the term of office of the new board of officers and standing Committees, the President delivered an appropriate annual address as follows :

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT SPOONER.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society :—Another year has passed, and we meet to exchange friendly wishes for that which is before us, and to recall with pleasure the successes in which we have all felt so much interest during the months that have left their treasures with us. Three of our principal exhibitions were remarkably fine ; that in March, of bulbs, which were of high merit, and notably the Annual Show of Plants, which, even in the sultry month of August, aroused great enthusiasm among the lovers of the beautiful, long to be remembered. The meeting of the National Society of Florists, at that time, furnished a pleasant stimulus to our efforts in this direction, and the opportunity was certainly improved to the fullest extent. The members of that Society, representing the most intelligent cultivators of the country and so strongly influencing its commercial floral industries, were visitors who added greatly to the zest of the occasion, and the Committees having all arrangements in charge deserved high praise for their untiring energy in bringing together so large a number of exhibitors with their magnificent collections.

of plants. Such opportunities as this furnish a good test of our capabilities, and show what we have acquired; each member is ready to do his best, and those who visited Music Hall during the August exhibition will need no reminder of the beautiful result.

In a financial point of view, the Chrysanthemum Show in November was by far the best of its kind ever held by the Society, and fully emphasized the fact that the public appreciate a good exhibition if it presents something out of the regular course, and is not a mere repetition of its predecessors.

A gratifying improvement has been apparent also in the weekly shows of the season, many of them being of remarkable excellence and giving the best incentive to our exhibitors to keep up the standard, each one striving still further to excel.

One of our members has suggested the value of membership in our Society, and how much he has enjoyed its privileges; instead of a membership of eight hundred, we ought to have on our list twice that number. Can we not each endeavor to bring in one or more new names to the list?

I am glad to notice by the report of the Library Committee, a more general use of the books. Our privileges in this respect are extensive; we have one of the finest libraries of its kind in the world; the rooms are pleasant and convenient, and it would be advantageous to promote social interchange and increase mutual interest in this beautiful science. These privileges not being restricted to members, and the competition for prizes being open to all, the liberality of the city and of the Commonwealth towards our Society is repaid in kind.

And this leads me to emphasize the importance of the meetings for discussion, as a branch of our work which deserves more attention from members, and which ought to attract public interest also. The papers read here are from practical and scientific men, upon subjects relating to practical Horticulture and Agriculture, and they deserve fuller notice by the press, which I hope our Committee may make arrangements to insure. The Chairman of the Committee says the TRANSACTIONS will in time become an encyclopædia of practical Horticulture. The delays which have occurred in preparing these transactions have been unavoidable, owing to repairs being made in the halls and library, during 1889, necessitating frequent interruptions to our Secretary's labors.

From the report of the Committee on Window Gardening we learn that its work has been actively continued, with apparent success, showing a gain in its missionary efforts which renders it worthy of continued support; its influences tend to increased information on the subject of our art, and ultimately perhaps to an increase of our membership.

I desire to call your attention to the World's Columbian Exposition, to be held in Chicago, in 1893,—a national celebration of such magnitude that it should receive the support of all. Horticulture should be fully represented in all its branches, in a distinct department, as such an Exposition could not be complete without this beautiful feature. Its large commercial importance justly entitles it to proper representation, and I trust that our Society as one of the oldest, will take measures at an early day to secure the opportunity of showing some, at least, of the achievements of Massachusetts Horticulture.

This Society has a representation in the State Board of Agriculture, and receives its annual bounty; as the Board holds an annual meeting of several days' duration in different counties of the State it would be an appropriate act of courtesy on the part of our Society to extend an invitation to the Board to hold its next meeting in Boston, with the free use of our halls for the purpose.

During the year the Society has lost from its membership, by death:

John S. Farlow, of Newton, an amateur cultivator on his large estate, and a frequent and valued contributor to our exhibitions. Mr. Farlow left by his will, a conditional bequest to this Society.

George Hill, of Arlington, one of our strong members, a man of sterling character; an exhibitor whose products were of the finest and whose place here will not easily be filled.

Mrs. Francis B. Hayes, widow of our late President, who was a large and constant contributor to our exhibitions, continuing to encourage the pursuits in which her husband had shown so much energy.

Warren Heustis, of Belmont, even within a few days has been stricken suddenly from among us, and will be greatly missed. He has been a valuable contributor in the department of fruits and vegetables, and a most successful amateur rose cultivator.

Stiles Frost, of Newton and Hermann Grundel, of Roxbury, were also members of long standing and of undoubted ability.

Also, Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, who became a member of our Society only a few months before his death.

The vacant spaces left in our ranks admonish us that we need to train up recruits for active membership. I am more forcibly impelled to urge this by the discovery, from reference to the records of membership, that less than one-half as many persons were admitted as members of our Society during 1890, as there were in 1889. It is, therefore, noticeable that while our exhibitions have greatly advanced in merit, our members have not proportionately increased, though it should, in justice, be said that the large accession in 1889, was chiefly due to the efforts of one member.

The finances of the Society are in a prosperous condition; the stores are under favorable leases, and the halls have been in frequent demand during the year, yielding good returns with judicious management. During the past year \$10,000 has been paid on the mortgage debt, leaving a balance of \$15,000 to be paid, and we have in the Sinking Fund the sum of \$5,000. The John Lewis Russell fund, of \$1,000, is permanently invested.

No expenditures of importance have been made upon the building, but some repairs to portions of the premises need immediate attention. The Treasurer's report, which is delayed for examination, will show gross receipts for the year of \$48,781.39, including a balance on hand January 1, 1890, of \$10,620.55. The total expenditures have been \$33,559.31, leaving a balance of cash on hand December 31, 1890, of \$15,222.08. There has been received from Mount Auburn Cemetery \$5,360.44, included in the above amount.

Joseph H. Woodford, from the Committee appointed at the last meeting to prepare a memorial of the late Mrs. Francis B. Hayes, reported the following, which was unanimously adopted:

The Committee to prepare resolutions on the death of Mrs. Francis B. Hayes report the following:

It is with feelings of deep sorrow that we record the death of our associate, Mrs. Francis B. Hayes, which sad event occurred on the 20th of November, 1890, after an illness of a few months' duration. Mrs. Hayes was a woman of great activity, very hospitable and social in her domestic life, and remarkably sympathetic and benevolent toward the suffering and needy. She took up the grand work of Horticulture immediately after the death of her good husband, our late President, and continued it with

unabated energy until the day of her death, being all the time a constant and valued contributor to the exhibitions of our Society.

We cannot, therefore, permit the great loss that has befallen us to pass by without recording our appreciation of her many virtues and the great satisfaction she always experienced in contributing so often to the cultivation of the social element in our Society. Therefore :

Resolved, That by the death of Mrs. Hayes our Society has lost one of its most valued members, ever active in promoting the advancement of horticulture by her grand exhibitions at her own beautiful home in Lexington and in our halls, and by the great interest she always manifested in the social enjoyments of our Society.

Resolved, That we will cherish the memory of her noble deeds, her unselfish spirit, and her devotion to the interests of horticulture.

Resolved, That we tender to her afflicted family our sincere sympathy in this time of their great bereavement.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered on the records of our Society, and that a copy thereof be forwarded to the family by our Secretary.

Mrs. E. M. GILL,	} Committee.
Mrs. A. D. WOOD,	
JOSEPH H. WOODFORD,	

John G. Barker, Chairman of the Committee on Gardens, reported the awards made by that Committee for the year 1890. The report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication, and it was voted that further time be granted the Garden Committee to complete their report.

The President, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported a recommendation that the Society make the following appropriations for the year 1891 :

For the Committee on Window Gardening, this sum to cover all incidental expenses of the Committee and to be paid through the regular channels,	\$250
For the Library Committee, for the purchase of magazines and newspapers, binding of books, and incidental expenses of the Committee,	300