

**THE TREATY OF GHENT; AN ADDRESS
DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW YORK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON ITS ONE
HUNDRED AND TENTH ANNIVERSARY,
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1914**

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The treaty of Ghent; an address delivered before the New York Historical Society on its one hundred and tenth anniversary, Tuesday, November 17, 1914 by William Milligan Sloane

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WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE

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BY

WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE, LL.D.

NEW YORK
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Treasurer, and Librarian are members of the Executive
Committee.]

PROCEEDINGS

At a meeting of The New York Historical Society, held in its Hall on Tuesday evening, November 17th, 1914, to celebrate the One Hundred and Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of the Society.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. William Montague Geer, S.T.D., Vicar of St. Paul's Chapel, New York.

The President addressed the Society on the history, progress and needs of the Institution.

The Anniversary Address, entitled: "The Treaty of Ghent," was delivered by William Milligan Sloane, LL.D., First Vice-President of the Society.

Upon the conclusion of the address Mr. Frederic Delano Weekes, with remarks, submitted the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be expressed to our distinguished First Vice-President, William Milligan Sloane, LL.D., for his most able and interesting address entitled: "The Treaty of Ghent," that has so happily commemorated to our mutual advantage and pleasure the One Hundred and Tenth Anniversary of the Founding of this Society, and that Dr. Sloane be requested to furnish the Society with a copy for publication.

The Society then adjourned.

Extract from the Minutes.

FANCHER NICOLL,
Recording Secretary.

THE TREATY OF GHENT

C LIO is a stately Muse; but not destitute of humor. Infernal as are the many scenes through which she has, alas, too often to guide her steps, there are intervals of verdant pastures across which she strolls beside quiet waters, meditating the hidden meanings of circumstances and events. The obstinate inertia of social and political systems arouses the primitive passion for battle; what peaceful agitation cannot accomplish, war, grim and terrible, has so far in the record of history either granted or denied. This in peaceful perspective the historian is forced to admit. But what the gains and losses, and what the credit or debit balance is, has to be calculated in the council chamber, where treaties are made. The reckoning is not easy, for the ambition of the statesman and his ruses are comparable to those of the warrior, while personality tells far more in debate than in battle. The strategist works alone, the negotiator in contact with his antagonist. Without, the warfare has not ceased and every turn of fortune re-arranges on one day the conditions of the day before. In warfare there is a central power, in conference the dominance is fortuitous. The former rarely sees a fight without result; in the latter