

**THE SCIENTIFIC ALLIANCE OF NEW
YORK. PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SECOND JOINT MEETING, HELD AT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE, MONDAY
EVENING, MARCH 27TH, 1893**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649258871

The Scientific Alliance of New York. Proceedings of the Second Joint Meeting, Held at
Columbia College, Monday evening, March 27th, 1893 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**THE SCIENTIFIC ALLIANCE OF NEW
YORK. PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SECOND JOINT MEETING, HELD AT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE, MONDAY
EVENING, MARCH 27TH, 1893**



D. S. Newberry

NOTE.

THE second Joint Meeting of the Societies forming the Scientific Alliance of New York, had for its object the honoring of the name and fame of the late Professor John Strong Newberry.

The Council of the Alliance has decided to establish a permanent memorial to Professor Newberry in the form of a fund, to be known as the JOHN STRONG NEWBERRY FUND FOR ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, for the terms and arrangement of which reference is made to page 38 of this pamphlet.

Reference is also made to the accompanying subscription blank and return envelope. It is earnestly hoped that all to whom this pamphlet comes will contribute something towards the fund.

A MEMOIR OF
PROFESSOR JOHN STRONG NEWBERRY.

BY HERMAN LE ROY FAIRCHILD.

As the bright declining sun is suddenly eclipsed by clouds and so sinks slowly into night, so passed from earth our glorious friend. But in the memory and hearts of those who knew him he still lives, as a noble personality, impressive in appearance, charming in companionship, wise in counsel, himself greater than any work that he has done. To review his life will be both a profit and a delight. He was great enough to demand our reverence, good enough to claim our affection, and human enough to win our sympathy. It is the highest tribute that those who knew him best loved him the best.

Dr. Newberry was, taking him all in all, a truly great man. To a remarkably fine intellectual and moral endowment there had been added an unusually wide experience and a large degree of scholarly attainment. His abilities were such that he could have taken a high place in almost any profession. In his chosen field of natural science he was a master, and everywhere, whether in society, the university or scientific circles, he was a conspicuous figure, admired and honored.

By gifts of birth Dr. Newberry was a naturalist, and his inborn inclination toward geologic science triumphed despite the fact of his early selection of another profession. He was born before the days of scientific schools, and lacked the advantages of special instruction and scientific association. In his scientific work he was largely a self-trained observer and an independent worker, one of the few great "naturalists" by impulse. His range was not limited nor his independence checked by undue regard for authority of predecessors or teachers. His relation to schools of science was creative, not receptive.

HIS LIFE—CHRONOLOGY.

Dr. Newberry's life was not particularly eventful or romantic. Its history is the story of an active leader in his chosen field, who did the work, assumed the responsibilities, and enjoyed the honors that came to him.

Dr. Newberry was the youngest of nine children, seven daughters and two sons, none of whom are now living. He was born December 22, 1822, in the town of Windsor, Conn., where his eminent ancestors had lived since the settlement of the town by immigration from Dorchester, Mass., in 1635,

nearly two centuries. His grandfather, General Roger Newberry, was one of the Directors of the Connecticut Land Company that in 1795 purchased of the State of Connecticut the bulk of the tract in Northern Ohio known as the "Western Reserve of Connecticut." Henry Newberry, the father of John Strong Newberry, removed to the Western Reserve in 1824. He owned at first a square mile of land near the present centre of the city of Cleveland, but exchanged it for a tract at the falls of the Cuyahoga River, nine miles south, where at that time the water power was very valuable. He founded the town since known as Cuyahoga Falls, and engaged actively in the development of the coal resources of that region. Upon his property was mined the first coal known to have been offered for sale in Ohio.* Mr. Newberry built a fine house of a local red sandstone, erected mills, and was very successful in his enterprises.

Dr. Newberry's early life was passed amid fortunate conditions of competence and refinement, and the influence of his natural surroundings on the mind of the boy can be plainly traced. We can be sure that while he roamed the fields and woods with boyish love of sport he had the observant eye of the naturalist. The deep rock gorge of the river gave him a geologic section and an illustration of geologic agencies, while the coal mine on the estate supplied the plant fossils that awakened an interest in paleontology, which was to become a passion and the subject of much of his life-work. His perseverance is proof of his scientific bent, for by his own collecting and by exchange he accumulated a geologic cabinet which filled a large room in his father's house, and was the nucleus of what eventually became that extensive collection, now one of the glories of Columbia College. Before he entered college he had collected and studied mollusca and made an herbarium and a catalogue of the flora of the State, and had substantially mastered the zoology and botany of his county.

In 1846, at the age of twenty-four, young Newberry graduated from the Western Reserve College, at Hudson, Ohio, where, in the preparatory school, he had also made his preparation. During his college course and afterwards he was a close friend of his teacher in geology and natural science, Professor Samuel St. John. In college he was the same popular, kind and manly spirit that we knew in later life. A classmate writes of him: "Not a coarse word, not a cruel speech or act,

* For most of the facts relating to the ancestry of Dr. Newberry the writer is indebted to Mrs. Newberry, and to his oldest living son, Arthur St. John Newberry, of Cleveland. For facts relating to his boyhood and college days to Rev. N. S. Burton, Needham, Mass., Rev. E. Bushnell, Cleveland, Ohio, and Hon. M. C. Read, Hudson, Ohio.

not an ungentle thing of his doing occurs to the recollection of intimate acquaintance with him."*

Another classmate writes: "He was a thoroughly manly man, a most congenial companion, a faithful student, not ambitious to excel, though '*facile princeps*' in his favorite studies, and above the average in all; with a choice fund of wit and humor which he never used to give pain, but always pleasure; a self-poised and an 'all-around man' not often met with at his age. Though he had enjoyed advantages for social culture superior to most of his classmates, he showed no consciousness of superiority to any. His tastes were refined and pure, and I cannot conceive him capable of a mean or dishonorable action. I think he had a very just estimate of his own abilities. He certainly was not conceited, and was not self-distrustful."†

After graduation he studied medicine as a post-graduate of the college and was assistant to Samuel St. John, the Professor in Chemistry in the Cleveland Medical School, from which he took his degree of M. D. in 1848. During the year following he practiced medicine at Cuyahoga Falls, and married Miss Sarah B. Gaylord, of Cleveland. In the autumn of 1849 he went to Europe for further medical study. Besides his attendance upon lectures and clinics in Paris he frequented L'Ecole des Mines and Le Jardin des Plantes, and heard the lectures of Adolphe Brongniart, the great paleobotanist of that day. Before returning to America he visited the south of France, Italy, and Switzerland.

In 1851 he resumed the practice of medicine in Cleveland, which he continued for about four years. During this time he kept up his interest in natural science and published ten papers, all in natural history except one, and the last four on fossil plants. His library and collections must even at this time have been well known, for during 1853 or 1854 they were used by Leo Lesquereux, who received from Dr. Newberry much help in the beginning of his labors on the plants of the Carboniferous.

Notwithstanding Dr. Newberry's flattering success as a physician his inclination toward scientific work was unconquerable, and it is evident from the following extract that his heart was not in his medical practice: "A conversation with him in his Cleveland office about two years after he opened it indicates his modesty and his high standard of attainment. He was asked by me whether he intended to make the practice of

* From an article by Rev. E. Bushnell, in *The Adelbert*, January, 1899.

† From a letter to the writer by Rev. N. S. Burton.

medicine the work of his life. His answer was, 'No, I am prosecuting my studies with the hope that some day I may be able to fill a place like Professor St. John's' **

In 1855 he left his practice and accepted the position of geologist and botanist on the Government expedition to northern California and Oregon, under Lieut. Williamson. The party left New York May 5, 1855, reached San Francisco May 30, and began field work, having reference to a route for the Pacific Railroad, near Benicia, July 10. Passing northward through the Sacramento Valley, and by the Klamath lakes, they reached the Columbia River October 9, but detached parties were in the field until the middle of November. The party returned to Washington, D. C., late in January, 1856. Dr. Newberry made large collections in geology, botany, and zoology, and spent the following year in Washington preparing his report, which is contained in the sixth volume of the Pacific Railroad Reports.

In 1856-7 he was Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the Columbian College, Washington, D. C.†

Dr. Newberry had scarcely completed his report of the Williamson expedition before he became the physician and naturalist of the Colorado Exploring Expedition under Lieut. Jos. C. Ives. In charge of one detachment he left San Francisco October 28, 1857, by coast steamer for San Diego and crossed the desert to Fort Yuma, where he awaited the main body of the party, which sailed from San Francisco four days later, and after much delay, by adverse winds in the Gulf of California, reached the mouth of the Colorado November 29, and these putting together a small iron steamboat, carried in sections from Philadelphia, arrived at Fort Yuma January 9, 1858. During this delay Dr. Newberry had employed his time in exploring the surrounding region and in making valuable scientific collections. The expedition steamed up the Colorado River as far as the mouth of the Black Cañon, which was reached March 5, where an accident ended the steamboat voyage. The exploration of the Cañon was continued thirty miles farther, then the party returned to Mojave Valley, and March 24, the steamboat "*Explorer*" was sent back to Fort Yuma. The party with escort left the river, explored the Colorado Plateau some distance, then struck eastward past the San Francisco Mountains, reached Fort Defiance May 22, and returned east, via Santa Fé and Fort Leavenworth. Dr.

* Extract from a letter to the writer by Hon. M. C. Bead, of Hudson, Ohio.

† In some publications it is incorrectly stated that he held this position until 1866. He held it only one year.

Newberry ever after took great interest in the Moquis tribes, with which he became acquainted upon this trip.

The report of the Ives Expedition was published in 1861. The geological report covers all the region which Dr. Newberry traversed from San Diego to Fort Leavenworth, and was the first detailed description of the lower Colorado region.*

The year following Dr. Newberry was again in the field as geologist of the San Juan Exploring Expedition, under Capt. J. N. Macomb. This expedition started from Santa Fé about the middle of July, 1859, passed up the valley of the Rio Chama, across the continental divide to the head waters of the San Juan, thence into southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah to near the junction of the Grand and Green rivers, and returned by a circuitous route to Santa Fé in November. On account of the demoralization caused by the war the report on the geology and paleontology was not published until 1876. It is important to note that it was then printed exactly as written sixteen years earlier. That it should have been published so long after the work was done and subsequent to other work in the region is proof of its value, and of Dr. Newberry's confidence in the accuracy of his own earlier work.

The outbreak of the war of the rebellion found Dr. Newberry in Washington, in the service of the War Department, with which he had been connected for five years as Assistant Surgeon. In the supreme hour of his country's peril he forsook his scientific work and gave to the nation the benefit of his medical training. On the 14th of June, 1861, he became a member of the U. S. Sanitary Commission and immediately entered heartily into its work. On the first of September he resigned from the army and took the Secretaryship of the Western Department of the Sanitary Commission, having supervision of the work in the valley of the Mississippi, with headquarters first at Cleveland, but afterwards at Louisville. By correspondence and visitation he "began the work of turning into one great channel the thousand springs of philanthropy and patriotism that were bursting out in hamlet and city all over the land." Depots for the distribution of hospital supplies were rapidly established and plans made for the relief of sick and wounded. During all the years of the war Dr. Newberry was active in ameliorating the sufferings of both friend and foe, which, with his kindness of heart, was doubtless a much more grateful work than would have been that of

* In 1859 Jules Marcou had traversed the region on the 35th parallel as geologist of one of the Pacific Railroad exploring expeditions.