

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE Society held its Seventh Annual Meeting at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., on Friday and Saturday, December 27 and 28, 1895.

On Friday, the Society met at 11 A. M. for the transaction of business, the President, Washington Matthews, Major and Surgeon, U. S. A., in the chair.

On behalf of the university remarks of welcome were made by Dr. Fullerton.

The Permanent Secretary read the Annual Report of the Council, as follows : —

From the time of the formation of the American Folk-Lore Society, each successive year has assisted in more clearly demonstrating the importance of the field which it is called on to occupy. The increasing interest of the contributions to the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* exhibits the numerous opportunities for observation of popular ideas, customs, and traditions, as well among English-speaking people as in districts where French and Spanish are the prevailing languages ; while in another field, results of the recent investigations in primitive American life have dispelled any possible doubt that the surviving body of tradition is capable of furnishing, not only some comprehension of pre-Columbian culture, but also a key to the general history of mental development, indispensable to philosophic theory. Important as may be the results of archæological research in other continents, these cannot be more illuminating than the discoveries mentioned.

In addition to the publication of its quarterly organ, it has seemed necessary for the Society to enter on a more extensive field of publication, in issuing a series of *Memoirs*, supported by subscriptions to the Publication Fund. In the last annual report the Council was able to refer with satisfaction to the completion of the first volume of this series, the "*Folk-Tales of Angola*," by Mr. Heli Chatelain, a work which has been received with approbation, in Europe as well as in America, as a useful contribution to the literature of the Negro race. During the present year two other numbers of the series have appeared, namely, "*Louisiana Folk-Tales*," by Prof. Alcée Fortier, and "*Bahama Songs and Stories*," by Prof. Charles L. Edwards. Now passing through the press, and to be in readiness for delivery to subscribers early in 1896, is the fourth volume of the *Memoirs*, "*Current Superstitions*," by Mrs. F. D. Bergen. This collection

will show how extensive is the mass of survivals of ancient superstition which lingers even in the minds of the English-speaking population of America, and in point of interest and psychologic value will, it is believed, compare with any similar gathering made in Europe.

For the year 1896 the Council has recommended the publication of a work to be entitled "Navaho Legends," by Dr. Washington Matthews, U. S. A., now in course of preparation; the volume will present a section of the mythology of this interesting tribe, and be accompanied by an introduction, which, as it is hoped, will render the work a useful introduction to the study of American aboriginal mythology.

When the duties which the Society ought to accomplish, in respect of research as well as publication, are compared with its means, the contrast is most unsatisfactory. That an organization dealing with perishable material, so valuable that its record is indispensable for the elucidation of early history, and obtaining its support in all parts of the continent, should include only about four hundred members, cannot be regarded as a condition of things creditable to American scholarship. On general principles, it would be supposed that it would be possible, with small effort, to enlarge the roll, in such manner that the Society should have thousands of members instead of hundreds, thus enabling it to become an active power in fostering investigations now sadly neglected; but appeals in the interest of such extension have hitherto met only with an inadequate response. The Council can do no more than press on the educated American public the importance of the task, and express their hope that universities and museums may promote this important class of inquiries more effectively than at present it is within the capacity of the Society to do.

Herewith is communicated the substance of the report received from the Treasurer:—

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand December 24, 1894	\$1,303.60
Life memberships	100.00
Annual payments	874.40
Subscriptions to publication fund	617.00
Subscriptions for research	50.00
Sales to members	49.50
Sales through Houghton, Mifflin & Co. . . .	185.15
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	\$3,179.65

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DISBURSEMENTS.

To Houghton, Mifflin & Co., manufacture of Journal .	\$1,108.17
To Houghton, Mifflin & Co., manufacture of Memoirs	685.81
Preparation of Memoirs	50.00
Printing of circulars, and minor expenses	85.15
Salary of assistant of the secretary and travelling expenses	84.00
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	\$2,013.13
Balance to new account, December 25, 1895 . . .	1,166.52
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	\$3,179.65

Notice was given of an amendment to the Rules, providing that past presidents of the Society, during five years after the expiration of their term of service, should *ex officio* be members of the Council. (This amendment will come up for consideration at the next annual meeting.)

A committee was appointed to nominate officers for the year 1896. This committee made their report, and on ballot were elected the following officers for 1896 :—

PRESIDENT, John G. Bourke, Captain 3d Cavalry, U. S. A., Fort Ethan Allen, Vt.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Mr. Stewart Culin, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Prof. Henry Wood, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

COUNCILLORS (to serve three years), Mr. Heli Chatelain, New York, N. Y. ; Mr. James W. Ellsworth, Chicago, Ill. ; Mr. John W. McCormick, Washington, D. C.

The Council recommended that the American Folk-Lore Society associate itself with the Folk-Lore Society (of England) in the publication of a Bibliography of Folk-Lore, hereafter to appear as a volume of the Memoirs of the Society. Resolutions were adopted that subscriptions be solicited sufficient in number to secure the preparation of such Bibliography ; and the following resolution was added :

Resolved, that the American Folk-Lore Society embraces this opportunity to express its sympathy with the labors of the Society in England, and its interest in the progress of English scholarship, with which the intellectual life of America is indissolubly connected.

The Society then proceeded to the reading of papers. This reading was continued on Saturday, the Society being called to order at 10 A. M., the newly elected president presiding. At the two sessions were presented the following papers :—

Poetry and Music of the Navahoes, DR. WASHINGTON MATTHEWS, Major and Surgeon, U. S. A.

Magic and Medicine among the Micmacs, MR. STANSBURY F. HAGER, Brooklyn, N. Y.

On the Poetical Aspects of American Aboriginal Speech, PROF. ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN, Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

Cherokee Medicine Myths, MR. J. H. McCORMICK, Washington, D. C.

Angolan Customs connected with Funerals, Adultery, Marriage and Courting, Swearing and Ordeals, MR. HELI CHATELAIN, New York, N. Y.

On the Development of the Indian Mythologies of the North Pacific Coast, FRANZ BOAS, Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

Folk-Lore of the Horseshoe, MR. ROBERT M. LAWRENCE, Lexington, Mass.

Moon Superstitions in America, MR. W. W. NEWELL, Cambridge, Mass.

American "Cuss Words," PROF. DANIEL G. BRINTON, M. D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Great Shell of Kintyel, DR. WASHINGTON MATTHEWS, U. S. A.

Kootenay Indian Mythology, PROF. A. F. CHAMBERLAIN.

Notes on the Dialect of Newfoundland, REV. GEORGE PATTERSON, D. D., New Glasgow, N. S.

Notes on some Arabic Survivals in the Language and Folk-Usage of the Rio Grande Valley, JOHN G. BOURKE, Captain 3d Cavalry, U. S. A.

Gypsy Lore, MR. R. G. HALIBURTON, Magnolia, Mass.

Certain Negro Folk-Tales, MR. J. H. McCORMICK.

Some Customs and Beliefs of the Winnebago Indians, MRS. FANNY D. BERGEN, Cambridge, Mass.

Five Algonquin Myths from the Ottawa Region, DR. ROBERT BELL, Ottawa, Canada.

Notes on the Accuracy of the Indian's Memory and Transmission of Song, MISS ALICE C. FLETCHER.

Account of certain Sporadic Religions among some Indian Tribes of the United States, MISS ALICE C. FLETCHER.

The Society adjourned, to meet in Baltimore, Md., during the Christmas holidays, December, 1896.

The meeting was under the charge of the following local committee: Prof. Daniel G. Brinton, chairman; Messrs. Richard L. Ashurst; Carl Edelheim; Victor Guilloû; William Young; Francis T. Ziegler; Stewart Culin, secretary.