

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE Society met in Hamilton Hall, Columbia College, on Tuesday, December 29, 1896, the First Vice-President, Mr. Stewart Culin, presiding.

In taking the chair, Mr. Culin referred to the loss which the Society had suffered in the death of its beloved President, Capt. John G. Bourke, of the United States Army. Mr. William Wells Newell made remarks in relation to the general sorrow felt by all those who had come into contact with Captain Bourke, whose lovable qualities were as attractive as his scholarship and intellectual enthusiasm were useful. Miss Alice C. Fletcher particularly emphasized the generosity of character which caused Captain Bourke to be the most valuable of helpers to students, whom he was at all times ready to assist with the data at his disposal, the result of his own labors. Prof. Thomas Wilson said that, in admiration of the mental virtues of the late President of the Society, it was not to be forgotten that first of all he had been a soldier. At the motion of Professor Wilson, Miss Fletcher, Dr. Boas, and Professor Wilson were appointed a committee to prepare a resolution on behalf of the Society in regard to the death of their President.

The Chairman said that in the same year had also passed away the first president of the Society, Prof. Francis James Child, of Harvard University. The Permanent Secretary, in a brief tribute to Professor Child, remarked that Professor Child might be considered as indirectly the founder of the Society, which had grown out of the interest awakened by his labors, and of which he had been the encourager and one of the first members. He observed the remarkable simplicity and generosity of character belonging to Professor Child, which won for him universal love. The Permanent Secretary was authorized to express in a suitable resolution the sentiment of the Society.

Dr. Boas, on behalf of the city and the University, welcomed the Society. He offered, on the part of subscribers in New York interested in the work of the Society, a fund intended for the purchase of a valuable manuscript.

The Permanent Treasurer read the Annual Report of the Council, which was accepted.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

In making the Eighth Annual Report, the Council have to express their sense of the great loss which the Society has suffered in

the death of its President. Captain Bourke was deeply interested in the success of this organization, and to encourage its enterprises, and preside over its meetings, was for him a labor of love. It had been his own expectation that retirement from active service would have given him an opportunity to occupy his whole time with anthropological studies, and with collection in the field of folk-lore. The removal of a scholar so generally respected and beloved, following that of J. Owen Dorsey, former Vice-President of this Society, leaves a void which cannot be filled.

The purpose of the American Folk-Lore Society is primarily a practical one, namely, to promote the making of a proper record of tradition in America. The Council has often pointed out the extent of this task, and the inadequacy of the means at hand for its accomplishment. A society of five hundred members, paying three dollars each, can do little more than call attention to the imperative character of the obligation. An enlargement of this number to fifteen hundred would put the affairs of the Society on a much more satisfactory footing; and it does not seem unreasonable to expect from the American public such increase. During the year 1896, however, the Society has been able to do little more than hold its own. Members are requested to do their part in the work of extension, and to communicate to the Secretary the names of persons who may be willing to assist in the accomplishment of the objects with which the Society is engaged. During the year 1896, in addition to the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*, the Society has published the fourth volume of its series of memoirs, a work by Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen, entitled "Current Superstitions," being a collection made among the English-speaking people of America, in the main of English descent. The fifth volume will contain "Navaho Legends," edited and translated by Dr. Washington Matthews, Major and Surgeon, U. S. A. This book, now in hand and nearly ready for the printer, will appear in the first months of the following year. The collection contains, especially, the "Origin Legend," and a Navaho account of the creation of the existing world, and the migrations of the tribe. It is accompanied by such a body of ethnological notes as will elucidate the relation of the legendary material to ritual and to tribal life, and will be extensively illustrated. The Council believes that the book will be found a good example of the manner in which mythic material should be edited, and of the value which such matter has in illustrating tribal life. As this enterprise is of such a character as to tax the resources of the Society, the Council commends the work to the support of libraries and collectors, in the hope that the demand will be sufficient to warrant the continuation of the series.

Annual Meeting of the American Folk-Lore Society. 57

In order to obtain means for the publication of its Memoirs, the Society has established a publication fund, especially supported by contributors, who, in return for the publications of the Society, make an annual payment of ten dollars. The sums in this manner obtained, however, have not proved adequate to defray the expenses of the Memoirs, which have in part been paid for from the surplus in the treasury of the Society. The Council understands that such payment has been intended for the support of the publications of the Society, and in part as a donation, not necessarily to be entirely recompensed by the volumes published in the year. The forthcoming volume of Memoirs will belong to all subscribers to the fund for the year 1896, but will also be separately obtainable.

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

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, December 25, 1895	\$1,166.52
Fees of annual members	1,318.90
Subscriptions to the Publication Fund	498.00
Sales to members through the Secretary	34.00
Sales of publications through Houghton, Mifflin & Co.	1,001.25
	<hr/>
	\$4,018.67

DISBURSEMENTS.

To Houghton, Mifflin & Co. for manufacturing and mailing Journal (Nos. 31-33)	\$1,143.00
To Houghton, Mifflin & Co. for manufacturing Memoirs (vol. iv.)	440.69
Postage, printing of circulars, and other expenses	226.40
Salary of clerk employed by the Secretary	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,060.09
Balance on hand, December 28, 1896	1,958.58
	<hr/>
	\$4,018.67

An amendment to the Constitution, offered in 1896, was then proposed and adopted, as follows :—

Past presidents of the Society shall, during five years after the expiration of their term of office, be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The Society proceeded to the election of officers.

The Permanent Secretary reporting that he had received no additional nominations, according to the privilege of members as provided by the Rules, the nominations of the Council were announced:

PRESIDENT, Mr. Stewart Culin, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Prof. Henry Wood, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Dr. Frank Boas, Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

COUNCILLORS (for three years), Dr. Robert Bell, Ottawa, Can.; Mr. Stansbury Hagar, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. Gardner P. Stickney, Milwaukee, Wis.

The Permanent Secretary and Treasurer hold over.

The Permanent Secretary was instructed to cast a ballot for the officers as nominated.

The Permanent Secretary was given authority to arrange the time and place of the next Annual Meeting, to be fixed on or about December 28, 1897; in making such arrangement, he was instructed to give preference to the place at which the Psychologists and Naturalists should meet. The Secretary was also authorized to call a summer meeting at the time and place of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The Secretary was further instructed to present the thanks of the Society to the Baltimore Branch for the invitation to meet in Baltimore in 1897.

Miss Fletcher gave an account of methods taken in Washington, D. C., by the Woman's Anthropological Society, to promote the study of folk-lore.

As honorary members of the American Folk-Lore Society, on nomination of the Council, were elected: Mr. Edwin Sidney Hartland, Highgarth, Gloucester, England; and Dr. H. Steinthal, Berlin, Germany.

The Society proceeded to listen to the reading of papers, as follows:—

A Star Legend from the Interior of Alaska, and its Analogues from other parts of America, DR. FRANZ BOAS, New York, N. Y.

The Pyschic Origin of Myth, PROF. D. G. BRINTON, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Folk-Lore and Mythology of Invention, DR. A. F. CHAMBERLAIN, Worcester, Mass.

Divinatory Diagrams, MR. STEWART CULIN, Philadelphia, Pa.

(1) Notes on Certain Early Forms of Ceremonial Expression. (2) Ceremonial Hair-cutting among the Omahas and Related Tribes. MISS ALICE C. FLETCHER, Washington, D. C.

Weather and the Seasons in Micmac Mythology, MR. STANSBURY HAGAR, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Folk-Lore of Common Salt, DR. ROBERT M. LAWRENCE, Lexington, Mass.

The Legend of the Holy Grail, MR. W. W. NEWELL, Cambridge, Mass.

Annual Meeting of the American Folk-Lore Society. 59

The Mexican Divinatory Calendar, MR. M. H. SAVILLE, New York, N. Y.

Negro Folk-Songs, PROF. W. S. SCARBOROUGH, Wilberforce, Ohio.

An Ojibwa Myth, MR. HARLAN I. SMITH, New York, N. Y.

On the Tale of "Bluebeard," PROF. THOMAS WILSON, Washington, D. C.

The Holy Grail, REV. CHARLES F. WOOD, York, Pa.

A resolution was adopted expressing the thanks of the Society to Columbia College for the courtesy extended to the Society.

The Society adjourned to meet on or about December 28, 1897, at such place as should hereafter be appointed.

The Annual Meeting for 1897 has been appointed for Baltimore, Md., December, 28.