

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE Society met in Ithaca, N. Y., in affiliation with the American Anthropological Association, December 26-29, 1905. During the same week met in Ithaca the Archæological Institute of America and the American Philological Association.

The Council of the Society met at 12 M., Wednesday, December 27, in Sage College of Cornell University.

At 2 P. M. the Society met for business in the Botanical Lecture Room, Sage College, in joint session with the American Anthropological Association. The Chair was occupied by Professor T. F. Crane of Cornell University, as a Past President of the Society.

The Secretary presented a Report on the part of the Council, as follows:—

During the seventeen years which have elapsed since the organization of this Society, there has taken place a great change in the status of American anthropology. To agencies at that time in existence, available for promoting the record of tradition in America, have been added important museums, able to employ funds, even though still inadequate, for purposes of research and publication of traditional matter. The American Anthropological Association, with which the American Folk-Lore Society is now regularly affiliated, has lately begun a useful career. The connection of moral and physical anthropology is so close that advance in one direction of necessity implies interest in other portions of the field; while to other causes tending to assist traditional investigations must be added the prosperity of archæological inquiry, which of necessity involves attention to folk-lore, as often alone able to supply the key and explanation, the relation to human life, without which monuments and objects are merely so much earth and stone.

Increasing attention to the subject must involve an increase in the volume of publication, alike in the presentation of new material and in the comparison of that already gathered. In spite of what has been accomplished, and of the rapid decay of oral tradition, there remain portions of the territory either altogether unworked or imperfectly explored. The persistence of folk-lore renders it still possible to do something toward completing the record. For example, during the past year it has been shown that a considerable number of old English ballads are still preserved and sung in various parts of the United States. The tales and songs, the superstitions and sayings of American negroes still remain without scientific gathering or

comparative study. Although in the United States rapidly passing away, these usages and conceptions are still to be found in vigorous life in neighboring islands, while in Mexico remains nearly a virgin field for the gathering of Spanish and aboriginal folk-lore.

Under these circumstances, and considering the extent of the territory to be covered, the resources of the Society, and number of its members, are absurdly inadequate. It is to be desired that the membership in the United States should be made sufficient to exercise a powerful influence on the collection of the remaining material, and to place at the disposal of the Society funds for important undertakings. The *Journal of American Folk-Lore* has a large library circulation, and through its exchanges offers an opportunity to investigators who desire to make known the results of their labors; in order to make the publication thoroughly creditable, it is important that editors, who for many years have given and continue to give their services without compensation, should have at their disposal moderate sums with which to encourage collaborators and obtain reports. There are also cases in which a relatively small appropriation would render it possible for deserving students to engage in useful tasks.

It seems incredible that in the United States and Canada a thousand persons should not be found who would be glad to unite with the Society, if the matter were properly called to their attention; but hitherto the recommendations of the Council have not resulted in such accession.

During the past few months, however, a very important step has been taken in the formation of a Branch in California, organized for the purpose of promoting research in that state, and associated with a club formed chiefly of professors of the University of California. It is to be hoped that this example may be followed in other states which have the opportunity of contributing to their own history in a manner which future generations will especially appreciate. So in the Southern states of the Union a movement designed to record the still existing folk-lore of whites and negroes should receive encouragement.

The Council has therefore determined to establish, as far as possible, Secretaries, whose duty shall be to promote membership and library subscription, to form in their territory branches or groups of students or persons interested to hold such public meetings as may seem desirable, and to communicate their proceedings for publication in the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*. Members of the Society are requested to make suggestions to the Secretary concerning the appointment of such Secretaries, and also the possibility of establishing local organizations in their own neighborhoods.

account, showing a credit of \$583.68. This sum represents net profits after payment of all mailing expenses of the Journal, charges for binding separates, etc., and extends to three years, 1903-1905; it has been added to the account of the current year (1906).

During the year 1906 no nominations for Officers having been received by the Secretary, the Council, according to the Rules, made nominations as follows : —

PRESIDENT, Professor Alfred L. Kroeber, University of California, San Francisco, Cal.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Professor William Curtis Farabee, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, City of Mexico, Mex.

COUNCILLORS (for three years) : Professor Franz Boas, Columbia University, New York, N. Y. ; Professor T. F. Crane, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. ; Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, City of Mexico, Mex. (For one year) : Professor J. Dyneley Prince, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

The Secretary was empowered to cast a single ballot for officers as nominated.

The Secretary paid tribute to the memory of members closely connected with the work of the Society, deceased through the year, namely, Dr. John H. Hinton, for fifteen years Treasurer, and Dr. Washington Matthews, from the year of its foundation intimately associated with the life of the Society, and author of a volume of its Memoirs.

No other business coming up, the Society proceeded to hear the reading of papers.

The printed programme was as follows : —

Presidential Address, "Psychic Relation between Men and Animals," MISS ALICE C. FLETCHER, Washington, D. C.

MR. PHILLIPS BARRY, Boston, Mass., "Folk-Poetry of New England."

MR. W. W. NEWELL, Cambridge, Mass., "Early Printed German-American Popular Medicine."

MR. JOHN B. STOUT, Lancaster, Pa., "German-American Riddles."

MR. V. STEFÁNSSON, Cambridge, Mass., "Icelandic Bird and Beast Lore."

DR. JOHN R. SWANTON, Washington, D. C., "A Concordance of American Myths." Discussion introduced by Dr. Roland B. Dixon of Harvard University.

To the regret of the members present, the President was prevented by illness from delivering the Address. The paper of Dr. Swanton was therefore taken up. In this communication the writer urged the desirability of preparing and printing a Concordance or tabulated index, in which aboriginal American myths and their elements might be presented in proper order, and with requisite bibliographical information. In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Boas, and others took part. As a result of this comparison of ideas, the following resolution was proposed and adopted:—

I. That it is the desire of the Society that a Concordance of American myths be prepared by the Society.

II. That Dr. Boas (as Chairman), Dr. Swanton, and Dr. Dixon, be constituted a Committee, to carry out at their discretion the object above mentioned, and that they have power to add to their number.

In the evening of Wednesday was held a joint meeting of the Archæological Institute of America, the American Philological Association, and the American Anthropological Association, at Barnes Hall. Professor Thomas Day Seymour, President of the Archæological Institute of America presided. An address of Welcome was delivered by President Schurman of Cornell University. At 9.30 President Schurman held a reception at his residence on the Campus.