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# STUDENTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

History reposes on authenticated facts as proved by living witnesses or written records. To gather and digest such materials demands critical and painstaking investigation carried on with as much freedom from prejudice as possible, by men qualified to see and accept the facts of politics, society, and religious life just as they really are. This task has been made difficult in our own country by the acrimony of party strife, the overwhelming mass of new materials and fresh discoveries launched upon us continually, and the innate tendency of a free and vivacious people to deal in exaggeration of former or passing events. In order to rescue the important facts of our own history from oblivion, to sift out facts from traditions, to arrange these facts under the discriminating eye of trained observation, and to teach aright the vital lessons that may be drawn from them, the American Historical Association was organized, which has just held its seventh annual meeting in the city of Washington, with a large array of distinguished names and a long series of extremely interesting papers and addresses.

The inaugural address prepared by the president. Hon. John Jay, LL.D., of New York City, was read in his absence by Hon. Wm. Wirt Henry, of Richmond, Va. He claimed that the national importance of the work done by the society, and its improved methods of study, had been properly recognized by its incorporation with the Smithsonian Institution, and the generous privileges accorded as to collecting materials, making exchanges and distributing reports. But he also lamented our being yet so far behind European students as to justify Professor Emerson's caustic remark that "history has been taught very badly in America, or rather, to be honest, it has hardly been taught at all." We are surprisingly forgetful of historic lessons, and too much importance cannot be attached to what is now being done by this association, and by such aids as those furnished by Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and especially by the Johns Hopkins University, to give true historic expositions of the principles and policy of this republic as exhibited in congressional acts and judicial decisions. From these high sources the lessons go down to the common schools, so that everywhere the demand arises for new histories and historic primers, by means of which the young Americans shall be taught in a way at once correct and attractive the plain, homely facts of our government, the intelligent principles underlying not only the Magna Independence, the United States Constitution and its amendments, to which may wisely be added the local coloring supplied by the annals of their own immediate neighborhood. The surest way of preserving the American spirit in its purity and manly strength will be by the truthful and earnest teaching of American citizen who is not intelligent?" Nothing will more, were graphically described by the writer. certainly develop and control the growing brainpower of history.

address were devoted to Canadian history. Dr. Bouri | political and other aspects, the organization of historinot, a member of the association, and clerk of the cal material, the co-operation of the several State his-Canadian House of Commons, claimed that the Do-torical societies, the importance of geography and minion of Canada is no longer a "province," as styled archeology to the student of history, and finally the by Secretary Blaine, but is rapidly becoming an inde-extent of governmental expenditures in behalf of pendent power, with a vast territory, an intelligent | studies like those espoused by this association. people, and a magnificent future of its own in a line of national development diverging more and more from VITAL STATISTICS OF JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES. that of this country. His protests against what he termed the extraordinary pretensions of the United to vital statistics of the Jews in the United States, part to bring Canada into the sisterhood of States till this country, most of the others had resided here for must compel them to the closest relations of amity and as settled in the United States. commerce.

New material was adduced by Prof. Rand as to the New England settlements in Acadia. There had been two great migrations, one of 11,000 persons between 1760 and 1770, and another in 1784 of about 23,000 disbanded soldiers and loyalists. Had the original idea fifteen it is greater, in the ratio of 29 to 23, indicating been carried out at an earlier day of colonizing the Maritime Provinces from New England instead of directly from the mother country, it is probable that we tained is shown by the fact that nearly two-thirds of should have retained our hold on them.

the germ of our body politic. This was controverted the richer ones, reversing the ordinary course of things. by Dr. C. M. Andrews of Bryn Mawr, who held that line, Prof. Gross, of Harvard, made a plea for reform in the study of English municipal history, a rich field centages; 80.1 per cent were engaged in commercial of study, little explored, but supplying many facts as to our own colonial period.

A lengthy and able account was given by Prof. Cohn of the formation of the French Constitution. The fate of Diedrich Flade, the most eminent victim of the witch persecution, who sacrificed himself to save others, was fully explained from records that had been lost for a century, but had now turned up and were in the possession of Cornell University. The connection between the liberal movement in Germany, led by Karl Follen, and the subsequent development of American freedom, was shown in an interesting paper by Prof. Francke, who explained how Follen, after having posed as a nihilist, was led by Lafayette's genial sympathy to the higher ground taken by our purest patriots. A sketch of Bismarck, the typical German, portrayed him as the fit product of a land of castles, whose conservatism is the outgrowth of the castle system; yet who detested bureaucracy and strongly admired sterling honesty, while consistently seeking the unity of the German empire.

In a paper on "Amendments to the United States Constitution," Mr. H. V. Ames, of the Harvard graduate school, stated that upward of 1,300 resolutions, containing over 1.700 propositions to amend the Constitution, had been offered down to the close of the Fiftieth Congress, in March, 1889. In summarizing, it was found that besides the fifteen amendments now a part of the Constitution, only four had been proposed by Congress to the States for ratification. The speaker said that nothing of strength had been added to the Constitution, except in the case of the reconstruction amendments, and these were carried only after a civil

The great land speculations in the Vazoo territory. now divided between Georgia and Alabama, were described by Dr. C. Haskins, of the University of Wisconsin, who showed that, among other results, the discussion of these frauds caused the first split in the Democratic party, and that the decision of the Supreme Court as to the claims arising from them originated the present interpretation of the law of public contracts. These claims were finally compromised by the act of 1814.

Miss Mary Tremain enjoys the distinction of being the first woman to lay a paper before the Historical Association, which was an interesting sketch of slavery in the District of Columbia. She stated the fact that slavery played no part originally in the choice of the seat of government. The capital was given to the South to win Southern votes, but there is no proof that Charta, but also the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of the surrounding influences made the government incapable of resisting the encroachments of the Southern system. It is certain, however, that the fear of endangering the Union did prevent Congress from legislating actively as to slavery in the District. The fault of Congress lay less in mistakes made than in remedies neglected for mistakes found already in existence. history to American children and youth in our schools The earliest movement for abolition in the District and colleges. We may wisely ponder President Harri-began in 1805, and the discussion was continued year son's significant question: "How shall one be a safe after year, through a great variety of phases which

Numerous other papers were read, and there was a of our country than the faithful and impartial lessons large attendance at every meeting; the remaining topics being mostly with regard to the best methods The papers immediately following President Jay's of teaching history, in its philosophical, economical,

States, e. g., as to the lines of international boundary, has been issued by the superintendent of the late the fisheries, the Behring Sea, etc., seemed liable for a census. Circulars asking for census items were sent to moment to endanger the peace of the meeting. But at a number of families, and returns were received from the right moment Senator Hoar arose and poured much 10,618 families, representing 60,630 individuals. Of the oil on the troubled waters, disclaiming any wish on our heads of these families, about 13 per cent were born in she could come in willingly, denying any spirit of con-fifteen years or over. The returns, therefore, give a quest, and asserting that the boundaries of the two good idea of the position of the fixed Hebrew populacountries that marched side by side for 4,000 miles tion, and illustrate well the characteristics of the race

> Their excellent home sanitation is shown in the statistics of births and survival of children. Of children under five years the proportion is less among the Jews than among the other population of the country in the ratio of 9 to 13. But between the ages of five and their success in averting infant and child mortality.

The social condition and comfortable position atthe families keep one or more servants. Yet the poorer An idea prevails that the "village community" is families show a slightly lower death rate than that of

The occupations of 18,115 male members of these it was an imported notion gaining later recognition in families reveal the selection of employments. Eight the original State. Following in somewhat the same general classifications of occupations were made. The most intelligible way to express the results is in perpursuits, 33.7 per cent in the wholesale and 46.4 in the retail branches; 11'4 per cent were engaged in the