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THIRD SESSION.

The third regular session of the Association was convened December 29, at 10 o’clock a.m. President A. Marshall Elliott presided.


11. “The Spanish dialect of Mexico City.” By Dr. C. C. Marden, of the Johns Hopkins University.

Remarks upon this paper were made by Professors Hugo A. Rennert, Thomas R. Price and Samuel Garner.

12. “Henry Timrod and his poetry.” By Professor Charles H. Ross, of Agricultural and Mechanical College, Auburn, Ala.

The poems of Timrod, gathered together after his death by his intimate friend and poetical associate, Paul H. Hayne, have long since been out of print, and Timrod himself is almost forgotten. His work is known only, perhaps, to the scholarly and appreciative few. This neglect of such a true poet as Timrod is due to several causes. An enormous quantity of verse has been produced in America, and this has tended to hide the work of some chance inspired singer. Again, we care only for the writer of some specially stirring poem, and we have come to think that what is not worth elocution is not worth preservation. Timrod wrote nothing really popular. Finally, the neglect of Timrod is due to the indifference of the Southern people in general to matters of poetry.

Timrod’s life was short and almost uneventful. The story of it is one of great aspirations, of unsatisfied longings, of unfulfilled ambitions—one of a bitter struggle with poverty, disease and uncongenial surroundings. Timrod was in his section, but not of it. Though a poet by descent, he was reared in an atmosphere that totally lacked the oxygen of a great poetic purpose. Can we wonder that in such an atmosphere his delicate muse, that needed all the freedom of a larger air and a broader sky, should have sickened and died?

Timrod’s father, in whom German and Scotch-Irish blood were evenly mixed, was a poet himself and a man of versatile powers and brilliant gifts. Though a bookbinder, he was esteemed as “a provincial Coleridge” in aristocratic Charleston, where the son was born on December 8, 1829. At sixteen the latter entered the University of Georgia, but did not graduate.
He studied law, but finding this distasteful, he gave it up to become a private tutor. For ten years he acted as such for the families of wealthy planters in South Carolina, writing in the meantime many poems for the Southern Literary Messenger.

In 1860 Timrod's first volume of poems appeared. It contained several lyrics of merit, some of which showed a marked influence of Tennyson. Among these were "Florabel," "The Problem," and "The Lily Confidante," the last being noted for its delicacy of fancy, sureness of touch and beauty of conception.

The war was the great destroyer of Timrod's ambitious schemes. It produced many war poems, but these are the least notable proofs of his genius. Late in the war he became a war correspondent, but gave that up in a short while to become editor of a daily paper published at Columbia. In 1864 he married Miss Kate Goodwin, an English girl, who was the inspiration of one of his best poems—"Katie." But Sherman's sack of Columbia destroyed all Timrod had, and from that time on his life was a struggle with want and disease. After great suffering, he died in Columbia, October 7, 1867. His swan song was his "Decoration Ode," which, E. P. Whipple has said, "is, in its simple grandeur, the noblest poem ever written by a Southern poet."

As a poet Timrod's range was not wide, but within it he showed a bright fancy, the feeling of a true artist, and "a singular intensity" of imagination. He is at his best in his love poems, though he was not an apostle of sentimentality. Among the notable qualities of his verse are simplicity and purity. There was nothing morbid, diseased, Byronic about his mind, and, though living in so much wretchedness and suffering, he kept it on a serene and elevated plane. Other qualities to be noted are humor, playfulness of fancy and absence of florid language. His humor was light and graceful, but more akin to the pathos of Hood than to the lightness of Chaucer. Unlike some of his poetical contemporaries, he was not "forever gushing." Timrod's vein of poetry was rich only in pockets, and there is a noticeable absence of a clearly defined seam of ore. He was distinctively a poet of purple patches. We can afford to lose much of his work, but the little that remains is almost priceless. In the words of another, "I cannot but believe that a day will come when his work will be more generally known than it is at present."

Remarks upon this paper were made by Professors Fred. Tupper, Jr., James M. Garnett, Thomas R. Price and James W. Bright.

On motion of the Secretary the report of the committee appointed to recommend place for the next annual meeting of the Association was now received.
The Committee recommended the acceptance of the invitation of Modern Language Club of Yale University to hold the next annual meeting of the Association at New Haven, Conn.

This report was accepted, and a motion passed to accept the invitation to meet at New Haven, Conn.


This paper was discussed by Professors H. Wood, H. E. Greene and Mr. W. Willner.

14. "Early Romanticists in Italy." By Dr. L. E. Menger, of the Johns Hopkins University.

This paper was discussed by Professor Adolphe Cohn.

FOURTH SESSION.

The fourth regular session of the Association was called to order by President Elliott at 2 o'clock p. m. (December 29).

Report of Committees:

Professor Adolphe Cohn, as Chairman of the Committee appointed to consider the extension of the list of the Honorary Members of the Association, recommended the election to honorary membership of the following distinguished scholars:

Graziado I. Ascoli, Milan, Italy.
Sophus Bugge, Christiania, Norway.
Konrad Burdach, Halle, Germany.
Richard Heinzel, Vienna, Austria.
W. Meyer-Lübke, Vienna, Austria.
Erich Schmidt, Berlin, Germany.
Karl Weinhold, Berlin, Germany.

By a unanimous vote these European scholars were elected Honorary Members of the Association.
In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee to nominate officers, the Association elected the following officers for the year 1895:

President: James Morgan Hart, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Secretary: James W. Bright, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Treasurer: Marion D. Learned, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Executive Council.

Kuno Francke, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
Albert S. Cook, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
Albert H. Tolman, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
George A. Hench, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Alcée Fortier, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.
J. B. Henneman, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
Charles H. Ross, Agricultural and Mechanical College, Auburn, Ala.

Phonetic Section.

President: A. Melville Bell, Washington, D. C.
Secretary: George Hempl, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Pedagogical Section.

Secretary: James T. Hatfield, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
Editorial Committee.

A. Marshall Elliott, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Henry A. Todd, Columbia College, New York, N. Y.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts reported that the accounts were found to be correct.

PHONETIC SECTION.

Secretary's Report for 1894.

Receipts.

Twenty-five membership fees for 1894..................$25.00

Expenditures.................. 00.00

On hand........................$25.00

The results of the latest circular issued by the Section have been embodied in three articles: Teat-pure, published in Modern Language Notes, IX, 5; Unaccented i, in Dialect Notes, Part VII; and Sense or Cents, which is to appear in the Diez Centenary Papers.

At the last meeting of the Section, the Secretary suggested that the year 1894 be devoted to putting together and printing a systematic statement of all facts concerning American pronunciation that have come to the knowledge of the Section during the past five years. As this idea seemed to be favorably received, the Secretary has carried it out as well as he could, summing up all his work in a long article called English in America. It was expected that the cost of printing this paper would be borne by the Section; but, owing to the kindness of the editors of Phonetische Studien, the article will soon come out in that magazine without expense to us. Copies will be sent to all members for 1894. We still have on hand, therefore, all the membership fees for the past year, amounting to twenty-five dollars.

The Secretary would say, in conclusion, that as the series of investigations which he has been conducting for five years has come to an end, and as the treasury is now in an unusually flourishing condition, he believes the time has come for a change of Secretary, and begs his fellow-members to relieve him of his interesting but somewhat arduous duties.

List of Members.

J. L. Armstrong, Lynchburg, Va.

E. H. Babbitt, Columbia College, New York, N. Y.

A. M. Bell, 1535 35th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
15. "On the development of inter-vocalic labials in the Romanic languages." By Dr. Edwin S. Lewis, of Princeton University.
Remarks upon this paper were made by Dr. L. E. Menger.

16. "Notes on Goethe's Iphigenie." By Dr. L. A. Rhoades, of Cornell University.

17. "On the Slavonic languages." By Mr. Alex. W. Herdler, of Princeton University.
This paper was discussed by Dr. P. S. Stollhofen and Professor H. Collitz.

This paper was discussed by Dr. L. E. Menger.