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The Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History

Samuel Macauley Jackson

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THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH HISTORY

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH HISTORY.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY..

The Society met in the reception rooms of the Columbian University, in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 29 and 30, 1891.

The first session was held on Tuesday at 8 P.M., and was opened with prayer by the President, the Rev. Dr. Schaff. He then congratulated the Society on its past year of progress and hope. Not only has it contributed to historical studies by the publication of its papers, but it has secured the co-operation of a number of competent scholars in preparing a history of American Christianity in a series of denominational histories. From this series much good may be expected.

The Secretary then read his report, which was as follows :

Since our last meeting we have received thirty-two new members, and have lost three by resignation and two by death. It is fitting that some biographical account should be given of the latter.

One of these was one of our honorary members elected at our first meeting, EDMOND DEHAULT DE PRESSENSÉ. He was born in Paris, January 24, 1824, and died there on Wednesday, April 8, 1891, having but just completed his sixty-seventh year. His education in the arts was made in the University of Paris, and in theology at Lausanne under Vinet, in Halle under Tholuck, and in Berlin under Neander. Fresh from the teachings of the last-named, he came to Paris in 1847 to be pastor of the Free Evangelical Congregation of the Taitbout, and so continued until 1870. From 1871 till 1876 he was Deputy to the National Assembly from the

Department of the Seine. In 1883 he was elected a life senator. He founded the *Revue Chrétienne*, and was its first editor. He organized the Synodical Commission of the Free Church of France, and was its president. He thus played a prominent part in Protestant Church life in France. He received the degree of doctor of divinity from the universities of Breslau (1869), Montauban (1876), and Edinburgh (1884). His great and international fame was derived from his writings. Of these the best known among us are his *History of the First Three Christian Centuries*, and his *Life of Jesus Christ*. The list is as follows :

(The place of publication is Paris and the size is octavo where not otherwise stated.)

Le synode réformé de 1848, par deux témoins ; histoire critique (with Léon Pilatte). 1848 (pamphlet).

Humiliez-vous ! Sermon. 1848.

Conférences sur le christianisme dans son application aux questions sociales. 1849.

Le témoignage de la primitive Église à la vérité. La vie—la parole—le martyr. Trois discours. 1850.

Du Catholicisme en France. Prospérité matérielle. Décadence morale. 1851.

La ruine sociale ; réponse à M. Proudhon : Ni matérialisme, ni jésuitisme. 12mo. 1852 (pamphlet).

Le rédempteur ; discours. 1854. [Ger. trans., *Der Erlöser*, Gotha, 1883. Eng. trans., by J. H. Myers, *The Redeemer*, Edin., 1864, Boston, 1867.]

L'immaculée conception. Histoire d'un dogme catholique romain, et comme l'hérésie devient un dogme. 1855 (pamphlet).

La famille chrétienne ; sermons. 1856. 3d ed., 1891. [Ger. trans., *Die christliche Familie*, Leipzig, 1864.]

La chambre haute et le Temple. Actes, ii., 1-4. Discours d'inauguration de la chapelle du Luxembourg. 1857 (pamphlet).

Essai sur la divinité de Jésus Christ. 1857 (pamphlet).

Lutte entre Hippolyte et Calliste sur l'absolution cléricale, ou l'Église de Rome au IIIe siècle, d'après un manuscrit d'Hippolyte, récemment découvert. 1856 (pamphlet).

La jeunesse chrétienne ; sermon. 1857.

L'individualisme chrétien ; discours pour l'ouverture du synode du Vigna. 1885.

Histoire des trois premiers siècles de l'Église chrétienne. 1858-77, 6 v. 2d ed., vol. i., 1887. Première série : l'ancien monde et le christianisme. Vol. ii., 1888. Le siècle apostolique, première période. Vol. iii., 1889. Le siècle apostolique, seconde période. L'âge de transition. [These three volumes are the expansion of the original first two. Vols. iii. and iv. of the original edition are entitled : Le grande lutte du christianisme contre paganisme. Les martyrs et les apologistes. Vol. v., L'histoire du dogme. Vol. vi., La vie ecclésiastique, religieuse et morale des chrétiens aux deuxième et troisième siècles. Ger. Trans., Geschichte der drei ersten Jahrh. der christlichen Kirche (by E. Fabarius), Leipzig, 1862-6-77. Six parts. Eng. trans., separate vols. under different titles. Vol. i., The Religions before Christ (by L. Cokran), Edin., 1862. Vol. i., revised ed., The Ancient World and Christianity (by Mrs. Annie Harwood Holmden), London and New York, 1888. The history proper is translated by Miss Annie Harwood under the title, The Early Years of Christianity. Vol. i., The Apostolic Era. 1869 Vol. ii., The Martyrs and Apologists. 1871. Vol. iii., Heresy and Christian Doctrine. 1874. Vol. iv., Christian Life and Practice in the Early Church. 1877.]

Discours religieux. 1re série : l'Église et ses moyens de grâce. 2e série : l'Apôtre saint Paul, ou un chrétien des temps primitifs. 1859.

Le pouvoir temporel est-il nécessaire à la religion ? réponse aux derniers mandements des évêques. 12mo. 1859 (pamphlet).

L'individualisme normal, ses défenseurs, ses adversaires et ses progrès depuis vingt ans. 1859 (pamphlet).

La liberté religieuse. 12mo. 1862.

La compassion de l'Église pour les multitudes qui ont faim ; sermon. 1863.

L'école critique et Jésus Christ, à propos de la vie de Jésus de M. Renan. 1863 (pamphlet).

Le pays de l'Évangile ; notes d'un voyage en Orient. 12mo. 1864. [Eng. Trans., The Land of the Gospel, Notes of a Journey in the East. London, 1865.]

L'Église et la révolution française ; histoire des relations de l'Église et de l'État de 1789 à 1802. 1864. 2d ed., 1867. 3d ed., 1890. [Eng. trans., by J. P. Lacroix, *Religion and the Reign of Terror ; or, The Church during the French Revolution*. N. Y., 1868.]

La liberté religieuse et la législation actuelle. 12mo. 1866.

Jésus-Christ, son temps, sa vie, son œuvre. 1866. 7th ed., revue et augmentée, 1884. [Eng. trans., by Miss Annie Harwood, *Jesus Christ, his Times, Life, and Work*. London, 1866. Abridged ed., *Vie de Jésus Christ*, 12mo, 1866 ; Eng. trans., Cincinnati, 1866.]

Études évangéliques. 12mo. 1867-68. 2 v. [Ger. trans., by E. Fabarius, *Evangelischen Studien* : 1. *Das Leiden im Lichte des Evangeliums*. 2. *Betrachtungen und Reden verschiedenen Inhalts*. Halle, 1869. 2d ed., 1884. 2 v. Eng. trans., by Annie Harwood, *The Mystery of Suffering and other Discourses*. London and N. Y., 1866.]

De la liberté religieuse en France, à l'occasion du projet de loi sur le droit de réunion. 1867 (pamphlet).

Essai sur le dogme de la rédemption. 1867.

Saint Paul jugé par M. Renan. 1869.

Les réunions publiques de Paris et les élections prochaines. 18mo. 1869 (pamphlet).

Le vraie liberté ; quatre discours. 12mo. 1869.

Les leçons du 18 mars, les faits et les idées. 12mo. 1871.

Le concile du Vatican, son histoire et ses conséquences politiques et religieuses. 12mo. 1872. 2d ed., 1879. [Ger. trans., by E. Fabarius, *Das vaticanische Concil. Seine Geschichte und seine politischen und religiösen Folgen*. Nördlingen, 1872.]

Discours prononcés à l'Assemblée nationale, le 8 et le 9 janvier, 1873, dans la discussion générale de la loi sur le Conseil supérieur de l'instruction publique. 18mo. 1873.

Trois discours sur l'unité de l'Église. 1873.

La liberté religieuse en Europe depuis 1870. 12mo. 1874.

Le devoir. 32mo. 1875 (pamphlet).

La question ecclésiastique en 1877, avec une préface et des notes explicatives. Premier discours : l'individualisme chrétien et la Réforme. Deuxième discours : l'individualisme chrétien et la crise du protestantisme française. 12mo. 1877.

L'apostolat missionnaire. 1879.

Études contemporaines. 1880. [Eng. trans., by Mrs. Annie Harwood Holmden, *Contemporary Portraits*. London and N. Y., 1880.]

Les origines. Le problème de la connaissance ; le problème cosmologique ; le problème anthropologique ; l'origine de la morale et de la religion. 1883. [Ger. trans., by E. Fabarius, *Die Ursprünge. Zur Geschichte und Lösung des Problems der Erkenntnis und Kosmologie, Anthropologie und der Ursprungs der Moral und der Religion*. Halle, 1884. 2d ed., 1887. Eng. trans., *A Study of Origins ; or, The Problems of Knowledge, of Being, and of Duty*. London and N. Y., 1883. 5th ed., 1887.]

Variétés morales et politiques. 12mo. 1885.

Alexandre Vinet d'après sa correspondance inédite avec Henri Lutteroth. 12mo. 1890.

In English translation : *Rome and Italy at the Opening of the Vatican Council*. N. Y., 1870.

The other member to die was our fellow-countryman CHARLES WESLEY BENNETT, whose *Christian Art and Archaeology of the First Six Centuries*, published by the Methodist Book Concern, in New York, in 1888, has been well received. It embodied the results of long and enthusiastically prosecuted research. He was born at Bethany, New York, July 18, 1828, and died at Evanston, Illinois, Friday, April 17, 1891, not quite sixty-three years old. He was graduated from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in 1852. After teaching for several years he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1862. In 1864 he became principal of the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary at Lima, N. Y. From 1866 to 1869 he travelled in Europe and the East, and studied church history and archæology in Berlin under the late Professor Piper, who esteemed him one of his best pupils. On his return he preached for two years, and then, in 1871, became professor of history and logic in Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, and in 1885 professor of historical theology in the Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Illinois. His health broke down in the closing months of 1890, and he was in

consequence unable to complete a paper which he had projected for our last annual meeting. He sought recuperation in Florida, and returned home much improved, as he supposed. He accepted (March 7, 1891) the position of historian of Methodism in our projected series of denominational histories, but died soon after his letter of acceptance was written. He received the honorary degree of doctor of divinity from Genesee College, Lima, New York, in 1870; and that of Doctor of Laws from Syracuse University in 1887. Besides the volume named above he published *A Digest of the Laws and Resolutions of Congress Relative to Pensions, Bounty Lands, Pay of the Army, etc., with Complete Forms of Application*, Washington, 1854; *History of the Philosophy of Pedagogics*, New York, 1877; *National Education in Italy, France, Germany, England, and Wales, Popularly Considered*, Syracuse, 1878; and numerous articles and reviews.

One of our honorary members, the Rev. Dr. Mandell Creighton, the distinguished historian of the Papacy in the time of the Reformation, has during the year left the ranks of university teachers, having exchanged the position of professor of ecclesiastical history at Cambridge for that of Bishop of Peterborough.

The chief event of the year in its bearings upon us as a Society was the inauguration of the denominational series. As recorded in the minutes of last year (p. xii.), Professor Schaff, Bishop Potter, Bishop Hurst, Professors Fisher, Wolf, and Newman, and the Secretary were chosen the editorial committee. Three meetings were held—all in New York—the first on January 30th, the second February 27th, and the last for the year, May 16th. At the first meeting the following paper, which lays down the lines on which the series is to be carried out and names the publisher, was adopted:

“AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY,

“Consisting of a series of denominational histories published under the auspices of the American Society of Church History.

“The American Society of Church History at its third annual meeting held in the city of Washington, D. C., Dec. 31, 1890, resolved to undertake the preparation of a series of denominational histories which would constitute together an American Church History. It appointed an editorial committee to secure a publisher, to select writers, and to superintend the publication. The committee consists of Rev. Dr. Schaff, Bishop Potter, Prof. G. P. Fisher, Bishop Hurst, Prof. E. J. Wolf, the Rev. H. C. Vedder, and the Rev. S. M. Jackson.

“The editorial committee have secured as publisher the Christian Literature Company of New York, which will undertake the financial responsibility, and allow the authors the usual royalty. The committee have matured the following scheme:

“1. The whole work is to embrace ten or more octavo volumes of about 500 pages each, averaging 340 words on a page; one volume being devoted to each of the largest and oldest communions of America—the Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Reformed (Dutch and German), and Roman Catholic bodies; two or more volumes to the smaller communions, and possibly one to contain a compendious history of American Christianity as a whole, setting forth its relations to Europe, its distinctive features, especially the separation of Church and State, and its common institutions and operations.

“2. The history of each communion is to be prepared by a competent scholar of that communion, who will be selected by the editorial committee. Each author is responsible for his own work and shall be entitled to the whole benefit of the copyright.

“3. The different authors are expected to execute their task in the spirit of conscientious Christian scholarship, with loyalty to their respective communions and fraternal regard to all other portions of Christ's Kingdom. Each author is expected to base his work on a critical study of the sources, to indicate his authorities, to give a classified list of literature to trace his communion to its roots in Europe, to exhibit its growth, its work at home and abroad, and to present a clear

view of its present condition and relation to other Christian Churches. The style should be scholarly, yet popular and interesting, so as to attract intelligent readers of all classes and creeds.

"4. Each author is allowed from two to five years to complete his task.

"5. The editorial committee reserve the right to examine the manuscript, and if necessary to return it to the author for enlargement or abridgment."

The following gentlemen, whose addresses will be found upon our list, have accepted the position of historian of their respective communions: Baptist, Prof. Newman; Congregational, Prof. Walker; Lutheran, Prof. Jacobs; Methodist, the Rev. Dr. Buckley; Protestant Episcopal, the Rev. Dr. C. C. Tiffany; Presbyterian, Prof. R. E. Thompson, of the University of Pennsylvania; Reformed Church (Dutch), the Rev. Dr. Corwin; Reformed Church (German), Prof. Dubbs; Roman Catholic, Prof. O'Gorman; Unitarian, the Rev. Dr. Allen; Universalist, the Rev. Dr. Eddy; Disciple, the Rev. B. B. Tyler; Moravian, Prof. Hamilton; Friends, Prof. A. C. and Dr. R. H. Thomas.

The other smaller denominations will be provided for. It is planned to unite several of these in one volume. Perhaps a sort of dictionary of the minor denominations of the country will be issued.

Professor Newman having become one of the historians resigned his position on the editorial committee and Mr. Vedder was chosen in his place.

In his capacity of treasurer the Secretary reported thus:

1890.			
Dec. 30.	Balance on hand,	.....	\$159.21
1891.			
Dec. 29.	Received for dues and sale of Transactions.....		524.48
1891.			683.69
Jan. 20.	Paid G. P. Putnam's Sons for printing.....	\$	39.60
July 8.	" " " "		425.00
Oct. 10.	" " " "		125.00
Dec. 11.	" " " "		87.93
	Balance on hand.....		6.16

After the Secretary had finished his report, the reading of papers according to the program was begun. Professor Gillett's on "The Religious Motives of Columbus" was briefly discussed by the Rev. Dr. Childs of Washington, after whose remarks Professor Walker read his paper on "The Heads of Agreement, and the Union of Congregationalists and Presbyterians Based on them in London in 1691." He was followed by Mr. Thomas Davidson upon "Christian Unity and the Kingdom of Heaven."

The second session was held the following morning, Wednesday, December 30th, at 10 o'clock. At its opening the Rev. Dr. Hamlin extended to the members of the Society a cordial invitation from himself and wife to attend a reception to be given at his church that evening at 8 o'clock. The invitation was accepted.

The Rev. Professor Gordon then read his paper on "The Papal Bulls Distributing America," and it was discussed by the Hon. L. Q. M. Curry.

In the absence of the Rev. Professor Newman extracts of his paper on "Recent Researches Concerning Mediæval Sects" were read by the Secretary.

The last paper of the session was by the Rev. Mr. Nicum on "The Confessional History of the Lutheran Church in America." In the discussion which followed the Rev. Dr. Elliott, the Rev. Professor Richard, and the Rev. Mr. McIlvain took part.

The third and concluding session was held at three o'clock. The committee on nomination and place of next meeting made their report, recommending the re-election of the officers and council who had served during the year. The list is accordingly as follows:

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH
HISTORY.

President: Rev. Prof. Dr. Philip Schaff.

Vice-Presidents: Rev. Prof. Dr. Henry Martyn Baird; Rev. Bishop Dr. John Fletcher Hurst; Rev. Prof. Dr. George Park Fisher; Rev. Dr. Richard Salter Storrs.

Secretary and Treasurer: Rev. Samuel Macauley Jackson, 14 East 31st Street, New York City.

Councillors: Rev. Dr. Talbot Wilson Chambers; Rev. Prof. Dr. George Richard Crooks; Rev. Henry Clay Vedder; Rev. Chancellor Dr. Henry Mitchell MacCracken.

Bishop Hurst reported that he had examined the treasurer's accounts and found them correct.

The following persons were then elected to membership [those who accepted are starred], viz.:

*Joseph Albree (layman), Allegheny; J. H. Barrows, Chicago; E. C. Bissel, Hartford; H. S. Bliss, Brooklyn; A. J. Bonsall, Rochester, Pa.; *H. M. Booth, New York; R. R. Booth, New York; *W. Bowler (layman), Cleveland, O.; E. R. Burkhalter, Cedar Rapids, Ia.; *D. J. Burrell, New York; *H. K. Carroll (layman), New York; *G. W. Childs (layman), Philadelphia, Pa.; *J. G. Craighead, Washington, D. C.; B. S. Dean, Hiram, O.; D. S. Dodge, New York; *W. E. Dodge (layman), New York; *L. R. Foote, Brooklyn, N. Y.; E. W. Gilman, New York; W. E. Griffis, Boston, Mass.; *H. Harrison, Ellicott City, Md.; F. E. Häusser, Bloomfield, N. J.; H. V. Hilprecht (layman), Philadelphia, Pa.; *J. M. Hoppin, New Haven, Conn.; R. C. Houghton, Portland, Oregon; *J. T. Kelly, Washington, D. C.; C. E. Knox, Bloomfield, N. J.; J. J. Lampe, New York; P. F. Leavens, Passaic, N. J.; *J. J. McCook (layman), New York; H. McDiarmid, Bethany, W. Va.; W. R. Mackay, Pittsburgh, Pa.; J. W. McGarvey, Lexington, Ky.; *G. W. McLanahan (layman), Washington, D. C.; R. T. Matthews, Lexington, Ky.; W. S. Miller, Washington, D. C.; *G. Norcross, Carlisle, Pa.; *T. O'Gorman, Washington, D. C.; Professor Painter, Salem, Va.; W. Phraner, Bloomfield, N. J.; *J. H. Prugh, Pittsburgh, Pa.; *N. B. Remick, Geneva, N. Y.; E. W. Rice, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. S. Robinson, New York; *W. O. Ruston, Dubuque, Ia.; H. W. Seibert, Bloomfield, N. J.; J. B. Shaw, New York; *T. J. Shahan, Washington, D. C.; J. M. Sterrett, Faribault, Minn.; C. A. Stoddard, New York; A. J. Tittsworth, Milwaukee, Wis.; K. Twining, New York; W. H. Ward, New York; R. F.

Weidner, Rock Island, Ill. ; E. N. White, New York ; B. F. Woodburn, Allegheny, Pa.

The Rev. Professor Schaff then read his paper on "Calvin and Melanchthon," which was discussed by Rev. Professor Richard, and the session was closed, as far as the papers were concerned, by Mr. Ferree's paper on "Christian Thought in Architecture," and the ensuing discussion in which Bishop Hurst, Mr. McIlvain, and the Rev. Professors Schaff, Wolf, Richard, and Hulbert participated.

The Honorable Frederick Douglass being present was unanimously elected an active member.

On motion, the president and officers of Columbian University were thanked for their courtesy towards the Society.

The Rev. Professor Hulbert called attention to the advisability of increasing interest in our public meetings by the Secretary securing the discussion by competent persons on the papers offered. The Secretary was also instructed to print in the proceedings a bibliography of the historical literature of the year.

Bishop Hurst suggested that members bring with them literary rarities for exhibition at our meetings.

Mr. Power suggested that the Society make an exhibit at the coming Columbian World's Fair at Chicago, Ill.

The Secretary was authorized to offer the back volumes of the Society's proceedings to members at one dollar each.

The session was closed with prayer by Bishop Hurst.

The following members enrolled themselves during the sessions :

J. G. Craighead, Thomas Davidson, Geo. Elliott, Wm. H. Gillett, C. D. Hartranft, Henry Woodward Hulbert, John F. Hurst, Samuel Macauley Jackson, J. William McIlvain, John Nicum, Fred'k D. Power, Philip Schaff, Charles Averette Stakely, Williston Walker, E. J. Wolf.

SAMUEL MACAULEY JACKSON,

Secretary.