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Proceedings on death
of Charles Janeway
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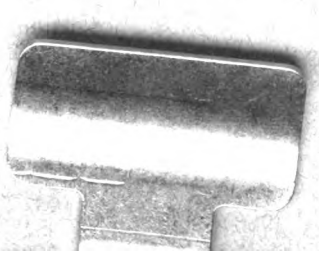


PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

ON THE DEATH OF

CHARLES JANEWAY STILLÉ, LL.D.

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

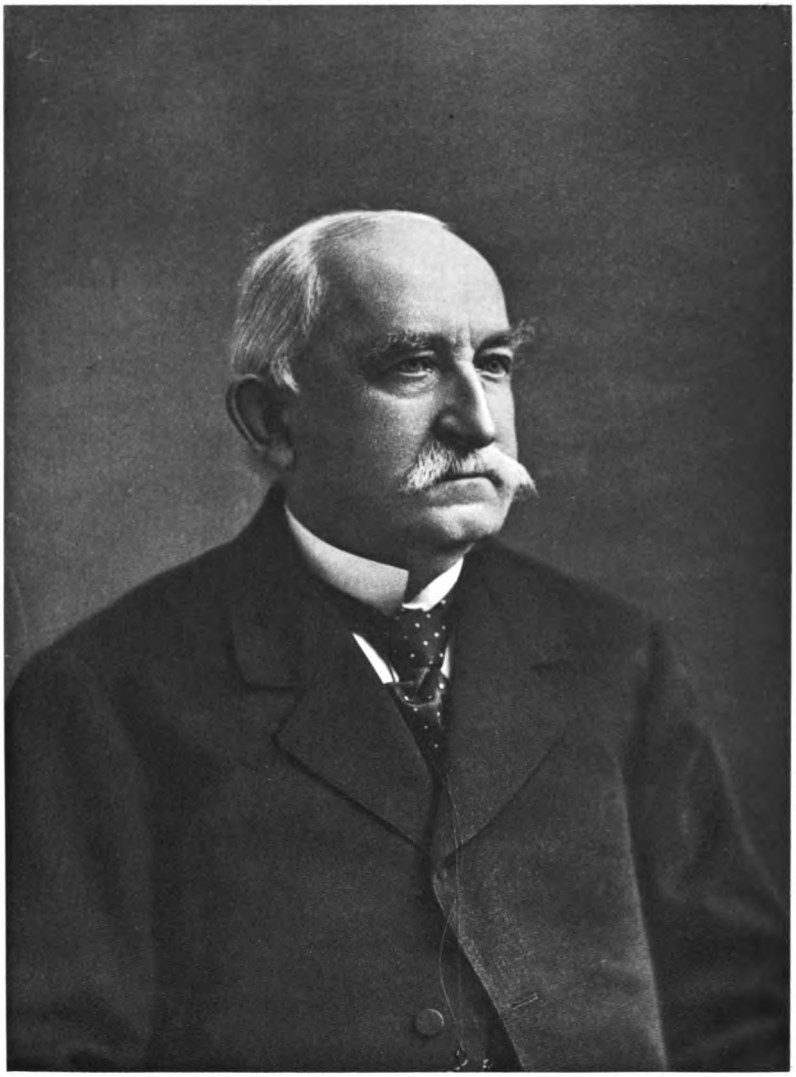
HELD MAY 21, 1900

PHILADELPHIA
PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
1900

IN MEMORY

OF

CHARLES JANEWAY STILLÉ, LL.D.



Yours faithfully
C. P. Stille

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PROCEEDINGS AND ADDRESS.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Assembly Room on Monday evening, May 21, 1900, the President, the Hon. Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker, LL.D., in the chair, and Hampton L. Carson, Esq., Recording Secretary. A large and sympathetic audience was in attendance. The President, on opening the meeting, said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Since the organization of this Society in the early part of the present century down to the time of Dr. Charles J. Stillé, and including that time, it has been unusually fortunate in the character of the men who have been called upon to preside over its deliberations. William Rawle, Peter S. Du Ponceau, Thomas Sergeant, George W. Norris, Joseph R. Ingersoll, John William Wallace, Brinton Coxe, and Charles J. Stillé, were all of them not only of high position in the community, but of great intellectual vigor. Of them all, however, Dr. Stillé has done the most to explore and elucidate the history of Pennsylvania, and in this respect to advance the purposes of the Society.

It gives me pleasure to present to you Professor Robert Ellis Thompson, President of the Central High School, who will depict to you the life and career of this learned historian and eminent scholar.

Professor Thompson then said:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It has been the glory of our city in every period of its history to have been the mother of men. From the time

of Story and Benezet to the present there has been an unbroken succession of citizens, whose names adorn the annals and add to the lustre of her good name—men of great abilities, fine achievement, distinct personal flavor, and above all of that sterling social quality our fathers called "public spirit." Such a man was the late President of this Society, in whose honor we are assembled this evening, and of whom I am to speak to you at the request of its managers.

Charles Janeway Stillé was born in this city on the 23d of September, 1819. He was descended on his father's side from Olof Stillé, a member of the third Swedish colony which reached the shores of the Delaware in 1641. He came from the parish of Länna in Roslagen, and settled at a place known to the Indians as Techoherassi, and to the Swedes as "Olof Stillé's land," on the Delaware, just above Upland, now Chester, Pennsylvania, and afterwards removed to Passyunk, near the old site of the United States Navy Yard. Olof Stillé was a person of note, occupying high offices in the Swedish colony, and his descendants became prominent merchants of Philadelphia, at a time when commerce was the leading business interest, and when the city clung to the Delaware front. This traditional employment continued in the family down to John Stillé, the father of our deceased friend, who lived in the opening decades of the present century.

While Dr. Stillé's descent on the father's side thus reminds us of the era which preceded Penn's acquisition of the colony, and the settlement of Philadelphia proper, that on his mother's side carries us back to ancestors still more widely known. His mother, Maria Wagner, was the descendant of the Rev. Tobias Wagner, an eminent Lu-

theran clergyman of Reading, who represented in America the Wagner family of Wurtemberg, eminent in both the clerical and the legal annals of that kingdom. The best known member of it was Tobias Wagner, Chancellor of the University of Tübingen in the seventeenth century, and a learned champion of Lutheran orthodoxy, as well as a prolific author.

The marriage of John Stillé and Maria Wagner was unusually felicitous. She was a lady of rare domestic virtues, and active in all good works; and she left the impress of her character upon her children. Charles Janeway Stillé was their second son.

His education was at the best schools accessible at the time, when the succession of Scotch-Irish clerical teachers was still unbroken, and the excellent tradition of classical training they had brought to the New World enjoyed unimpaired credit. He studied under one of these, Rev. Dr. Steele, in his academy at Abington, Pennsylvania, and then at Edge Hill School near Princeton, New Jersey. From this he proceeded to Yale in 1835, and graduated there in 1839. To be a student of Yale was his ambition from an early age. In letters to his older brother, written when he was but eight years old, he expresses this wish.

Yale was then under the government of Rev. Jeremiah Day, the successor of the first President Dwight. He was a man of less inspiring influence, but a faithful guardian of the traditions of this great college. Mr. Stillé produced a marked impression on his fellow-students both by the character of his mental powers and the lofty ideals which controlled his conduct. Their respect for him was shown by his being chosen the president of their literary society, Brothers in Unity; and on his graduation in 1839 he pro-

nounced a valedictory oration on The Social Spirit,[1] which was the first of his published writings, but which exemplifies the conservative and ethical spirit that pervades them all.

He returned to his Alma Mater again in 1863, to address her Alumni on the Historical Development of American Civilization;[2] and at her hands, in 1868, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, in recognition of his services to his country, and of the eminent and responsible place to which he had just been called in his native city. And in his last will he bequeathed to his Alma Mater a third of his residuary estate.

After his graduation in 1839 he entered upon the study of the law in the office of Joseph R. Ingersoll, Esq., then among the leaders of our city's bar, and afterwards President of this Society. He completed his course and was admitted to practice, but his inclination led him rather to the fields of literature and of history. He gratified his tastes for both these by repeated visits to Europe. One of these took him as far as Moskow. He twice visited Sweden, and on the second of these visits, which occurred in 1888, he pursued important historical researches in her archives relating to the history of the colonists on the Delaware. He thus obtained and translated the records of the colony, which he afterwards presented to this Society.

In 1845 he was commissioned by the Governor of Pennsylvania Second Lieutenant of the "Junior Artillerists"

[1] The Social Spirit. A Valedictory Oration pronounced on the departure of the Senior Class from the Society of Brothers in Unity, Yale College, June 28, 1839. By Charles Janeway Stillé. Pp. 31. New Haven: 1839.

[2] The Historical Development of American Civilization. An address before the Society of Graduates of Yale College, July 29, 1863. By Charles J. Stillé. Pp. 38. New Haven: 1863.

attached to the "First Regiment of Volunteer Artillery," and, with his beloved friend W. Heyward Drayton, who enlisted in the State service at the same time, was ever ready to perform military duty when exigencies demanded it.

It was, however, the war for the Union which gave our departed friend his opportunity to use his talents for the advantage of his country and of mankind. Two fields of activity were thus opened to him, as a man of letters and as a philanthropist. He became the author of the most important pamphlet of the struggle, and as a member of the United States Sanitary Commission he contributed to the humanizing labors which both abated the sufferings and horrors of that fraternal but deadly strife, and prepared the way for reconciliation of the two sections of our country.

As we now know, the American people began the war for the Union with a most inadequate idea of what it was to cost them. If indeed the curtain could have been raised on what was to come in the terrible four years of its continuance, and the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives on the battle-field and in hospital had been forseen, they might well have shrunk from such a costly undertaking, and looked for some other way out of the difficulty. As it was, they entered upon the war, if not with a light heart, at any rate with no practical sense of what was ahead of them, and with confidence that it would be brought to an end as easily as was the Whiskey Insurrection. Seventy-five thousand men on a service of six months were all that the President thought necessary, and only a few realized, with General Sherman, what an undertaking was the conquest of an area of five hundred thousand square miles, and a population of ten millions, most of them of the same brave stock as the Nation at large.

*

Exactly proportional to this foolish confidence were the disappointment and disheartenment which grew and gathered as the years went by. One hero of the hour after another failed the Nation. Capable leadership was slowly evolved by survival of the fittest. The armies learned but slowly the necessary lessons of discipline and obedience. The waste of life and the suffering of our soldiers through the inexperience and incompetence of the bureaus subsidary to the army were terrible. At times it seemed as if the struggle must collapse through the inability of the country to become really efficient for military purposes. Even in the army itself, and among its officers, there was a loss of heart at critical moments.

It was when this depression was at its worst that Mr. Stillé published his pamphlet of less than forty pages with the title: "How a Free People Conduct a Long War." (Philadelphia: 1862.) Never was historical scholarship employed more finely for a patriotic purpose. As I have been assured by some whom it reached as they labored or fought at the front, that pamphlet itself was an event of the war. It passed from hand to hand among the officers, and was read aloud by the more intelligent of the common soldiers. It was translated into several of the languages spoken by our soldiers, and half a million copies were distributed. President Lincoln wrote to its author:

"The pamphlet is far the best production upon the subject it treats that I have seen. The reading and re-reading of it has afforded me great pleasure, and I believe also some profit. May I express the hope that you will not allow your pen to rest."

"I have often wished to thank you," writes Dr. H. Clay Trumbull, "for the service you rendered to us all in the dark days of war, by your impressive story of 'How a Free People Conduct a Long War.' My

command was on one of the islands of Port Royal harbor when first I saw that work. Everything seemed against us at that time, and our officers and men were alike despondent. I felt it my duty to speak only words of cheer. Your book furnished me with the idea and the inspiration of a sermon for the encouragement of those whom I might influence, and I had reason to be profoundly glad in the results of the appeal then made to the soldiers who had but lately been on the verge of despair. I am sure that that work was a moral tonic to many others also. You can never know how much it did for the cause you espoused so heartily. It has occurred to me that it may be pleasant for you to know of one isolated case of the peculiar advantages of your story to those then in peculiar need."

Its picture of England in her twenty years' struggle with the imperialism of revolutionary France, and of the final triumph of the national principle in the liberation of Spain from Napoleon's yoke, was told in terms which made that great chapter of history vivid and near to us. The story was the more effective because of the spirit which pervaded it. It was the voice of a sober, dispassionate, conservative patriotism which made itself heard. The freedom of this and the supplementary pamphlet[1] from the spirit of bitterness and recrimination which characterized so much of the writing of that time, was especially notable. In a note to the latter pamphlet he says:

"We differ from Mr. Reed in many things, but we cordially join him in his protest against dragging the private life and personal motives of our opponents into the arena of party strife. Many, in these unhappy days, have reached conclusions directly opposite to those of Mr. Reed, through a path of duty beset with sore trials; and their remembrance of the sacrifices they have made of life-long friendships, and even of tenderer ties, is too fresh to permit them to judge, with indiscriminate harshness, the motives of those who may not agree with them."

[1] Northern Interests and Southern Independence: A Plea for United Action. Philadelphia: 1863.

But in both the note was one of confidence in the Nation's power to maintain its unity, and in its high and resolute purpose to re-establish its authority over the whole land. The very sobriety of manner lent added force to the strenuousness of plea for heroic endurance for an end worthy of any sacrifice.

It was no doubt the admirable quality and influence of the pamphlet which led to Mr. Stillé's being invited to a place on the Standing Committee of the United States Sanitary Commission, after having served for some time first as secretary of its Philadelphia branch. This excellent organization took its name from the Sanitary Commission created by the British government in 1855 to check the abuses and retrieve the blunders of the medical and commissary department of the British army in the Crimean War. It had a similar aim in that it labored to supplement the imperfect organization and spasmodic action of our medical bureau in the opening years of the war. But it was given by the official class much less than even the modest scope it asked for, and was forced to turn to the people for the moral and material support which it needed in its efforts to abate the sufferings, diminish the the mortality, and guard against the diseases which attend military operations on a large scale. It was the first forerunner of the Geneva Commission and its humane labors on the battle-field. As the work finally shaped itself, the Commission was obliged to ask large contributions in money and supplies for the support of its agents at the front and in the hospitals; and no city was more prompt than our own in response to this. The crowning effort was in the great Fair of 1863, which occupied Logan Square for a month, and secured more than a million dollars for the relief and pro-

tection of our soldiers. In the management of the Fair, which had the co-operation of our two adjacent States as well as our own, Mr. Stillé, as corresponding secretary of the Executive Committee, took an active and most useful part, and afterwards prepared a history of it, which enables many of us to recall the stirring days of popular enthusiasm, through which we were then passing.[1] It was therefore natural that he was chosen by the national Commission to write the history of its labors, when the victory of the national cause brought these to a close. His volume on this subject[2] is admirable in both spirit and execution. Although written and published at a time when the national exultation in the triumph of the Union cause had made the public indifferent to the blunders which made that triumph costly far beyond need, it is pervaded by the judicious criticism which was the truest patriotism. The purpose was to warn the nation and its rulers against the recurrence of such mistakes. As Dr. Stillé says in the preface:

"He who, at the termination of a successful war, bestows indiscriminate eulogy on all the measures adopted for the prosecution, is not the best friend of his country; but rather he, who, having clearly seen its shortcomings, does not hesitate to expose the evils which have flowed from them, and raises a voice of warning against their recurrence."

Can we say that the warning was not needed, or that it was heeded when the occasion came? The book constitutes a

[1] Memorial of the Great Central Fair for the United States Sanitary Commission, held in Philadelphia, June, 1864. By Charles J. Stillé. Quarto, pp. 211, with three photographic illustrations. Philadelphia: United States Sanitary Commission, 1864.

[2] History of the United States Sanitary Commission, being the General Report of its Work during the War of the Rebellion. By Charles J. Stillé. Octavo, pp. 555. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1866.

solid and important addition to the historical literature of that great struggle, and a corrective of much that has been hastily and eulogistically written of it.

Another matter, in which Dr. Stillé took great interest about this time, was the erection of the statue in honor of President Lincoln in Fairmount Park, and, as President of the Lincoln Monument Association, he had a principal part at the unveiling of it in 1871.

The resignation of Professor Henry Coppée, who in 1886 left the Chair of History and Belles Lettres in the University of Pennsylvania to become President of the newly founded Lehigh University, led to Mr. Stillé's being invited to fill that place,—a chair consecrated by the memory of Henry Reed. He accepted and entered upon its duties with characteristic zest, but was at once impressed with the unsatisfactory condition of the University in its collegiate department. In its earliest years the College of Philadelphia—afterwards the University of Pennsylvania—had taken the foremost place among the higher institutions of learning in America. Its first provost, Dr. William Smith, of whose career our friend published an account in 1869,[1] had attracted students from other colonies, including the British West Indies. The curriculum of study is now recognized by the historians of higher education as the most liberal then known in America, and especially as the first in which time was given to the sciences of nature. But in later years the institution fell upon evil days and declined in importance and efficiency, while its medical school increased in both. At last in 1829—tradition says—one Freshman

[1] **A Memoir of the Rev. William Smith, D.D., Provost of the College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia. By Charles J. Stillé. Pp. 63. Philadelphia: 1869.**

presented himself for admission. The trustees set themselves to restore its fortunes by a complete change of the teaching force, and under Provosts De Lancey, Ludlow, Vethake, and Goodwin there was a slow but steady advance. Dr. Daniel R. Goodwin, under whom Professor Stillé labored for two years, was especially useful in re-establishing college discipline and elevating the tone of the institution.

Professor Stillé found, however, that no change had been made in the course of study for two generations, and no addition to its endowment except a single gift of five thousand dollars. An effort made by Bishop Alonzo Potter in 1842 to enlarge and reform the course of study, had come to nothing. The later attempt to establish a "School of Mines, Arts, and Manufactures" had resulted in nothing but the erection of a sign-board over the door of an unused room, no money being forthcoming in this manufacturing city to set the school on foot, and both Trustees and Faculty had come to acquiesce in this condition of affairs as inevitable and permanent. It was assured that the City wanted nothing more or better, and that any attempt to go farther would result in disaster.

The resignation of Dr. Goodwin in 1868, to devote himself entirely to the duties of his chair in the Divinity School of the Protestant Episcopal Church, left a vacancy, which the Trustees promptly filled by the election of Dr. Stillé as the tenth in the succession of the Provosts. He was inaugurated on the 30th of September, 1868, in the Academy of Music, and delivered an address[1] in which he exhibited the needs of the University, and of the city as regarded the higher

[1] The Claims of Liberal Culture in Philadelphia. An address delivered on the occasion of his public inauguration as Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. By Charles J. Stillé, LL.D. Pp. 40. Philadelphia: 1868.

education. He had already been trying to stir the dry bones of conservative passivity, and his election was an indication that the Trustees were awakening to the fact that a new era was dawning for higher education in America.

The American college had been a copy of the English college, when that was at its worst and lowest. The College of Philadelphia had avoided many of these defects through the fortunate circumstances of its first Provost being a Scotchman, and a graduate of the University of Aberdeen. But both English and Scotch models had ceased to satisfy American educators, who had their attention drawn to Germany by long contact with the scholarship of that country. This new influence became effective in the decade after the close of the war, leading to the establishment of elective courses of study in place of the old uniform curriculum, which presented the same mental food for all. In this general movement the University began to share before Provost Stillé's administration, when, in 1867, electives were introduced into the Junior and Senior years of the college course in Arts. But now new departments were created within the College,—that of Science in 1872; that of Music in 1877; that of Dentistry in 1878. To meet the needs of the new system two things were necessary. The first was more room. The two ugly barns on Ninth Street, which had replaced the old residence of the President of the United States in 1826, were now inadequate in size, and misplaced as surrounded by the city. By purchase on very low terms from the city, ten acres of ground were procured through his assiduous endeavors, in West Philadelphia, and the College building, the medical building, the dental building, and the hospital were erected during the provostship of Dr. Stillé. The Ninth Street property was resold to the national govern-

ment, at a much higher figure than it got for it in 1801. By these changes the University obtained adequate accommodation for its expansion, in a desirable quarter of the city, and was launched upon a new career. When Dr. Stillé became Provost it was an institution of little note or prominence, being often mentioned by residents of our own city as "that medical college on Ninth Street." Under his rule it moved rapidly to its rightful place as a leading American university, in touch with the throbbing life of the new time, and doing its share in the scientific and scholarly labors of an active generation.

Its professors were given the stimulus of publicity and recognition. Its work was no longer eminent merely through the individual labors of a Hare, a Reed, or a Leidy, but the outflow of a new *esprit de corps* within the institution. Great as have been the changes since Dr. Stillé resigned the provostship, they are not to be compared with those he effected, in reach and value.

It would be pleasant to be able to add that the city rose to the needs of the new era in the University by an adequate endowment. But it is impossible to say that it did. One splendid gift, the reversion of the estate of Mr. Henry Towne, promised to place the Scientific School above want forever. But the great collapse of the iron business, after the introduction of Bessemer Steel, caused a calamitous reduction of the value of what he had bequeathed, although it still remains one of the largest additions to the University's resources. Other gifts were obtained, notably the endowment of the John Welsh chair by the people of the city in recognition of that gentleman's grand services to the city during the Centennial year, the gift of ten thousand dollars from Mrs. Bloomfield Moore for the education of women,

and the same amount to found the Tobias Wagner Library. But neither then nor since has Philadelphia shown the generosity needed for the adequate endowment of a great university. The spirit which made Leyden prefer a charter for a university to an exemption from taxes, is not largely poured out upon our wealthy citizens. There is readiness enough in the community to call for an elective and varied system of the higher education, and to scorn that which it replaced; but not the correspondent readiness to pay for it. I speak of this frankly, because his pamphlet on his provostship shows this to have been one of the disappointments Dr. Stillé felt very keenly.[1]

In the internal administration of the University, Dr. Stillé was unwearied in his efforts for its welfare. Besides his own work as professor of history and literature, and at first Political Economy, he had direct charge of the discipline, oversight and care of the grounds and buildings, the reception of visitors, and the general care of Faculty business. In his ideas of discipline he differed widely from his predecessor, perhaps not appreciating the condition of affairs which Dr. Goodwin found there in 1860. He leaned to the side of mercy and patience, laboring to win the confidence of the pupils and to influence them for good through kindness.

"To a singular extent," writes one of his pupils, "Dr. Stillé lived in and for the University. . . . In History and English Literature, his peculiar branches of instruction, he was an inspiring teacher, but more than that—perhaps unconsciously to himself—he so aroused the affections of his pupils, and so impressed upon them a sense of the reality of goodness, that this impression vividly survives long years of separation and the frictions of active life."

[1] Reminiscences of a Provost, 1866–1880. "*Forsan olim et nos meminisse juvabit.*" Pp. 58. Philadelphia. Privately printed, n. d.

He showed a personal interest in them, especially in those who were struggling for an education in the face of difficulties which would have deterred less stout hearts. It came out quite incidentally that he visited some of them in their homes, when they were kept from their work by serious illness, and he showed a similar concern in the health of his associates in the Faculty. He was always the first to recognize any evidence of ability in the younger members of the Faculty, and to rejoice in their promise of usefulness. He took a personal interest in their welfare which evinced his sincere regard for their success and happiness. When any publication of theirs attracted favorable attention, he was among the first to praise it. His colleagues were to him not mere instruments to an end, even though that were the success of the University. They were human beings, to be thought for and considered as such.

For those of his colleagues who were his seniors in the Faculty, he showed an esteem which amounted to reverence, —for John F. Frazer, the versatile and encyclopedic professor of natural science; for George Allen, the gentle and cultivated professor of Greek, who won the love of all his pupils; for E. Otis Kendall, the high-toned Christian gentleman, at whose funeral I last met Dr. Stillé; for Charles Porterfield Krauth, the superb scholar in philosophy and theology, whose vast attainments even were less impressive than his courtesy, his friendliness, and his unwearied kindness; for Francis A. Jackson, last survivor of a noble group, and not less worthy than any.

One feature of Dr. Stillé's policy as Provost was to bring the University into relation with the school system of the city by the establishment of city scholarships for graduates of the public schools, his interest in which is established

by his service as President of the Board of Directors of the Eighth School Section of Philadelphia. Under his provostship, as well as that of his successor, this has been effected and extended as a matter of compensation to the city for grants of land to the University. He moved in this matter with hearty interest in the class thus benefitted, being convinced that the University must be broadly based in popular esteem before it could attain its proper place in the hierarchy of our educational institutions. For the same reason he took the first of the few steps which have been taken to extend facilities for the higher education of women.

The Centennial Exhibition, which occurred during his occupancy of the office, and after whose success he labored in many ways, laid especial claims on him, which he met more than amply. Scholars and educators of eminence, who visited our city during that memorable summer, found in him a cordial and hospitable representative of the city's intellectual life, and many of them entered into friendly correspondence with him which lasted the rest of his life. The Swedish Commissioner, Herr Dannefeldt, was especially his welcome guest, as coming from the original home of the Stillé family. Also Baron Hermelin, who had charge of the exhibit of Fine Arts sent out by Sweden, a very charming man and an accomplished painter in oils, who became a dear and intimate friend of Dr. Stillé. It was in taking the Swedish Commissioners to the anniversary of Gloria Dei Church, that he acquired his own interest in that venerable parish, founded by Swedish Lutherans, in whose churchyard rest the remains of several of his ancestors. He gave generously from that time to its support, and left to it a third of his residuary estate, to preserve intact the venerable building in which his forefathers had worshipped.

The University kept open house that year and the noble and cultivated Emperor of Brazil was one of thousands who visited the University, but the only one who had the indiscretion to select seven o'clock in the morning for his visit. Nor was it only during the Centennial year that Dr. Stillé's hospitable home was open to such visitors. He loved to gather around his hospitable table whatever was most individual in intellect, most representative of the best in the life of the city, and especially men of a somewhat earlier generation than his own, on whom he looked with reverence. His annual birthday dinner to Mr. Henry C. Carey was an especially notable occasion, when such men as Joseph R. Chandler, General Robert Patterson, Morton McMichael, William D. Lewis, George W. Childs, John Welsh, and John W. Forney gathered to do honor to the greatest of American economists, and to express their hope that he might add many more years to those he had used so well.

His provostship ceased in 1880, and his occupancy of the John Welsh professorship a year later. His resignation grew out of his disagreement with the Board of Trustees on three important points. The first of these was his conviction that the Provost should be a member of the board, as in our other universities. The second was his contention that discipline over the students should be vested absolutely in the Faculty, without allowing any appeal from their decisions. The third was the necessity of a united effort to place the finances of the University on such a footing as would lift the burden of debt and put an end to annual deficits in the income. When his resignation was announced his colleagues in the Faculty spontaneously and formally expressed their regret at its occurrence, and their hope that some way might be found to meet his wishes on

the two first points. But no such basis of agreement was found possible.

His successor in the office of Provost, in his Inaugural delivered in February of the following year, bore just testimony to the character and worth of Dr. Stillé's services to the University.

"It is impossible," said Dr. William Pepper, "to pass from this hasty summary of the advances in the strength and organization of the various departments of the University without pausing to pay a tribute of hearty admiration to the leader in this onward movement, to whose sustained enthusiasm and ceaseless energy its success is largely due. The task of inaugurating extensive changes in a long-established institution, —of arousing wide-spread interest and zeal at a time when they had flagged,—of organizing a complicated and yet thoroughly practicable system of education in two of the most important departments of the University,—of collecting a corps of highly competent teachers, imbued with earnestness and lofty aims similar to his own,—of winning the confidence of the community, the cordial co-operation of his colleagues, and the respect and affection of the students,—this task was indeed one requiring rare qualities as an organizer, a leader, a teacher, and a man. As an alumnus of the University, as a teacher in one of its departments during the period referred to, and now as the representative of the Board of Trustees, I can testify to the general feeling of admiration for the work done, and for him who bore so large a share of the burden. Well for our beloved University was it that at such a crisis in her history, so able and devoted a leader was found. The good work he has done will long survive his departure from his official position; and when, in the distant future, the historian of this University shall record the services of those who have most contributed to her proud position, among the foremost must stand the name of Charles J. Stillé."

The retirement of Dr. Stillé from the provostship, after twelve years of memorable service, left him free for those historical studies, which had long been the favorite employment of his leisure. The years of his provostship naturally

were not those of great production. A biographical sketch of Horace Binney, Jr., in 1870,[1] a criticism of a plan to import the Harvard Examination of Girl's Schools into our City,[2] and a volume of studies in medieval history (dedicated to his life-long friend, the Hon. John I. Clark Hare),[3] which grew out of the lectures of his professorship, constitutes the scanty harvest of his years as a teacher and provost. He now took the study of American history, especially of the colonial and revolutionary periods of Pennsylvania history, in a manner both vigorous and fruitful of good results. There was need of such labors, if our State was to obtain the proper share of recognition for services rendered in that great struggle. Up to the appearance of Mr. Bancroft's History of the United States, in 1834 and the years following, the early story of the country had been told mostly in a spirit hostile to New England, and with an evident purpose to make the most of the faults and the unhappy occurrences of that section. Mr. Bancroft, with laudable devotion to his native State, set himself to redeem the balance, but, as is not unusual, went much too far in the other direction. In the first edition of his history a brief was held for nearly everything that had been done by the colonists and the patriot leaders of that section. Men like Samuel Adams were not only awarded their full meed of praise for their real services, but were set up as a standard by which the

[1] A Memoir of Horace Binney, Jr., read at a Meeting of the Union League of Philadelphia, June 1, 1870. Pp. 24. Philadelphia: Henry B. Ashmead, 1870.

[2] The Higher Education of Women and the Harvard Examination. In the *Penn Monthly* for February, 1878. Pp. 93–104.

[3] Studies in Medieval History. Pp. 475. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1882.

popular leaders in other parts of the country, and especially in Philadelphia, were to be judged. The Boston method of procedure was the ideal method for Mr. Bancroft, and the more cautious and conservative course taken by the trained lawyers of Philadelphia, was contrasted with it as tending to the pusillanimous. And what Mr. Bancroft did his successors in New England outdid, until an impression had been created that American history had been transacted in Boston and its vicinity, and that Washington and Franklin were the only men of real leadership in that time who were not residents of that favored section. Thanks to the judicious editing of Mr. Bancroft's great work by President Scott of Rutgers, the most of these unfair judgments have been eliminated from the book, but their echoes are heard in every work on that period which emanates from the New England press. Even our own writers have caught the infection, and one of these quite recently, in an otherwise excellent history of our city, expresses a judgment of our revolutionary patriots which is as unjust as it is unfortunate.

To set our colonial revolutionary history in its proper light was the chief purpose of Dr. Stillé's literary activity in his later years. In 1885 he contributed to the Proceedings of this Society a paper on "Religious Tests in Pennsylvania," showing the limits set by English law to the policy of religious equality inaugurated by Penn. In 1887 he contributed a striking paper on "Beaumarchais and the 'Lost Million'" to the PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY (April number: pp. 1–36, with portrait), and in 1888 he wrote for it "The Life and Services of Joel R. Poinsett," the Confidential Agent in South Carolina of President Jackson during the Nullification Troubles of 1832 (pp. 84). In 1888 he also contributed to the Papers of the

American Historical Association one in which he disputed the claim of Virginia to have been in advance of Pennsylvania in adopting in 1796 the principle of entire religious toleration. In 1890 he gave the PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE a paper on "Pennsylvania and the Declaration of Independence" (pp. 47) in which he began his vindication of our revolutionary patriots from the unjust aspersions which had been cast upon them, of "timidity," "weakness," and "want of patriotism." This was the forerunner of the edition of the works of John Dickinson, undertaken by this Society, to which Dr. Stillé furnished the first or biographical volume,[1] leaving the editing of Dickinson's writings to another hand. The work is one of the greatest importance for the understanding of the time, dealing as it does, with the career of the ablest political writer in defence of the patriotic cause,—a man whose state papers were praised by Lord Chatham in terms almost of hyberbole. It shows the complications which existed in the situation of affairs in this commonwealth, and which presented difficulties that only the finest sagacity could deal with. And it sets the work not only of Dickinson, but of General Mifflin, Charles Thomson, Benjamin Rush, and other patriots of the time, in the right light for historic judgment.

A fit complement to this important work is presented by his biography of Major-General Anthony Wayne.[2] The popular impression of this brave man and true patriot has been derived not from any acquaintance with his career, but

[1] The Life and Times of John Dickinson, 1732–1808. Prepared at the Request of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Pp. 438, with portrait. Philadelphia: 1892.

[2] Major-General Anthony Wayne and the Pennsylvania Line in the Continental Army. By Charles J. Stillé, President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Pp. 10 and 441, with Portrait. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1893.

from a stray epithet applied to him by a drunken soldier in a moment of irritation. But he whom men have called "Mad Anthony Wayne" was one of the most cautious and capable commanders of the Continental army, and as such enjoyed the confidence of the Commander-in-chief in an unusual degree. As he showed at the capture of Stony Point, he was ready for the most perilous task to which duty called him; but in every situation he exhibited the forethought and the steadiness of a born soldier. In Dr. Stillé's work he becomes intelligible to us in his true character and his solid worth, as a conservative citizen, a capable commander, and a gentlemen of the finest instincts.

Dr. Stillé's last important piece of work was his historical introduction to the biography of Dr. George Logan of Stenton, the grandson of the Secretary of our Quaker Founder, and himself the friend and supporter of Thomas Jefferson. The biography is by Dr. Logan's brilliant and estimable wife, and was published by this Society at the instance of their grandchild. It was Dr. Stillé's part to embody what we know of its subjects from memoirs and letters published since it was written, and this he has done amply and well.

These books and a few pamphlets[1] of less importance constitute the literary and historical labors of his later years, during eight of which he served this Society as its President. By his example, by his publications, and by his generous bequests, he encourages this Society to proceed with the

[1] **Silas Deane, Diplomatist of the Revolution. A paper read before the Society of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania. Pp. 20. Philadelphia: 1894.**

The Historical Relations of Christ Church, Philadelphia, with the Province of Pennsylvania. An address delivered at the Two Hundredth Anniversary of Christ Church, November 19, 1895. Pp. 27. Philadelphia: 1895.

good work of setting in fair light the work of the fathers and founders of the Commonwealth.

In private life Dr. Stillé was an example of the solid Christian virtues which are at once the ornament and the best support of society. He was a devoted and tender husband to the honored wife, who survives to mourn her loss in his death, and who encouraged him in his labors for the public good. Especially beautiful was his relation to his niece and adopted daughter Miss Anna Dulles, daughter of the Rev. John Welsh Dulles, and his wife, the noted missionary, Harriet L. Winslow. Her fine intellect and her beautiful spiritual character matured in the atmosphere of his home, and became to him at once a delight and an aid in his labors. To her he read his works in manuscript, relying on her fine tact and judgment for suggestion and correction. To her he turned for the playful gaiety, with which youth cheers our age. Her death some three years ago was a blow which he never ceased to feel. No less strong and tender were the affections which bound him to his kindred, especially his older and surviving brother. For more than fifty years, no matter what the weather might be, he paid his weekly visit to Dr. Alfred Stillé, until his failing health made exposure dangerous to him. And even then he often scanned the winter skies in hope of a break in their threatenings, which would permit of his going. He was not a man who starved the affections of the inner circle, to give his strengh to public objects, but one who found in that circle the best stimulus to public duty.

Of his religious life, I need only say that it was sincere, devout, and earnest, burning with a quiet and unchecked fervor through all his years. His life was always pure and upright. He loved whatever was excellent and of good re-

port, and he thought on these things. His copy of the Bible and of the Imitation of Christ, always on his desk, gave indication of his constant and loving use.

He was sincerely loyal to the Protestant Episcopal communion, and his attachment to the venerable Dr. Morton, *vir nulla non donandus laura*, a Trustee of the University, I always thought one of the most beautiful things in his life as I saw it. His intimacy with his rector, Mr. Phillips Brooks, was very close, and the latter frequently visited him at his home. For many years he was a member of the Council of the "Church Home for Children," and was greatly interested in the "Home of the Merciful Saviour for Crippled Children," to both of which institutions he left liberal bequests. But his churchmanship involved no narrowing of his sympathies, as was shown by his warm friendship for Rev. Dr. Henry W. Bellows of New York, whom he learned to know and to esteem in their labors in the Sanitary Commission. For twenty-five years he was a sojourner during the summer at Lake Mohonk, and passed much of his time there in pleasant intercourse with Doctors Philip Schaff and Theodore L. Cuyler, constant visitors at that place.

When at last the end came, he had reached the four score years which the Psalmist specifies as the farther bound of human life. He died at the Hotel Brighton in Atlantic City, on the morning of August 11, 1899. But those who mourned his loss looked back upon those eighty years with the knowledge that they had been spent for useful ends, and were stained by nothing base.

So we add his name to the list of the worthies of Philadelphia,—a long and noble series, among whom he takes an honored place through his labors, his influence, and his character, all of which told for social good.