Northwestern Tribute to Three Diplomats

Leslie M. Scott; secretary, Professor F. G. Young; treasurer, Edward Cookingham; dirctors, Leslie M. Scott and Charles B. Moores. The principal address of the meeting was delivered by Thomas W. Prosch of Seattle. His subject was "The Indian Wars of Washington Territory." The press comments on the address indicate that it was worthily presented and the speaker was unanimously thanked by the society.

President Holman spoke briefly on the great need of a permanent home for the society's valuable collections.

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Historians in the Pacific Northwest have known that the contest usually called the "Oregon Question" by which soverignty in this region was determined hinged most upon the diplomatic achievements of three great Americans—John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and Albert Gallatin. The long series of events so important in this regard began with the Treaty of Ghent in the negotiations for which it was conceded that Astoria, at the mouth of the Columbia River, should remain American no matter what had happened there during the War of 1812. The three named of the five negotiators continued their work for the Oregon country throughout their lives.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed December 24, 1814, marked the beginning of the century of peace between the United States and Great Britain. This great event was to have been celebrated throughout the Union but President Wilson asked that such celebration be deferred on account of the war in Europe. His request was complied with, except for the tribute paid to the memory of the three American diplomats by the Pacific Northwest.

While serving as President of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Edmond S. Meany, Professor of History in the University of Washington, took it upon himself to represent the historians of the Pacific Northwest in arranging for this tribute. Three large wreaths of evergreens from the forests of this "Oregon Country" were prepared and sent, one to the grave of each of the three great peace makers.

Worthington C. Ford, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and editor of the works of John Quincy Adams now being published, took charge of the ceremony which was held in First Church, Quincy, Massachusetts, where John Quincy Adams lies buried. The pastor, Rev. A. L. Hudson, entered into the plan with zest. The President of the Massachusetts Historical Society is Charles Francis Adams. He did not feel at liberty to take the initiative to honor the memory of his grandfather

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with a public ceremony, but he was pleased that a dignified memorial was sent across the continent. Brooks Adams, another grandson of John Quincy Adams, writes: "Although the ceremony was short and extremely simple, it seemed to me to be in admirable taste and of much dignity, and both the address of presentation by Mr. Ford, and that of acceptance by Mr. Hudson, the pastor, were excellent. Speaking personally, as the representative of my family at the ceremony, I wish to convey to you their and my thanks for your recognition of the service which my grandfather rendered, on behalf of his country, one hundred years ago, and to express to you the satisfaction which all of us feel in receiving so appropriate a tribute from the extreme Northwest. The wreath was hung upon the monument to my grandfather in the church by the chairman of the Parish Committee."

Henry Clay lies buried at Lexington in his loved State of Kentucky. Professor James Edward Tuthill of the State University of Kentucky arranged the ceremony there. A surprising number of relatives of Mr. Clay responded to the occasion. An unusual snow storm prevailed but paths were dug to the tomb. In the chapel, Professor Tuthill delivered a brief but appropriate address, Dr. Edwin Muller offered prayer and the procession then proceeded to the tomb. When the door of the tomb was opened the descendants of Mr. Clay walked in and Master William Brock, great-great-grandson of Henry Clay, laid the memorial wreath upon the sarcophagus. Bishop Lewis W. Burton pronounced the benediction and the simple but dignified ceremony was ended.

Albert Gallatin's grave is in Trinity Churchyard, New York City. Snow was on the ground, it was cold and in the congested part of the metropolis the noise was too great for out-of-doors exercises. William A. Dunning, Professor of History in Columbia University, and former President of the American Historical Association, called a little meeting at the grave at 4 p. m. on December 24, to match the hour when the treaty was signed one hundred years before. With sincere expression of gratitude for the past and hope for the future the wreath was placed and the company went its way. Besides Professor Dunning, that company comprised the following historians: John Bassett Moore, formerly Assistant Secretary of State; Herbert L. Osgood, William R. Shepherd, David S. Muzzey, all of Columbia University; Livingston R. Schuyler, of the College of the City of New York; Ulrich B. Phillips, of the University of Michigan, and B. B. Kendrick and W. W. Pierson.

Professor Frederick Jackson Turner, of Harvard University, helped to complete arrangements for the several ceremonies, manifesting a kindly interest in all of them.