

## Transactions of a Meeting Held to Organize the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

[Held in the City of New York, Friday, May 27th, and Saturday, May 28th, 1898.]

### FIRST SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 11 A. M.

1. Agreeably to a call issued by the Rev. Frank Sewall, of Washington, a meeting was held on May 27th, 1898, in the City of New York, and at the rooms of The American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, Bancroft building, No. 3 West Twenty-ninth street, for the purpose of organizing a "Swedenborg Scientific Association" for the further translation, publication, distribution and study of the scientific and philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

2. The following persons were present at this meeting :

Boston, Mass.,	Rev. Samuel M. Warren.
Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Rev. J. C. Ager.
	Dr. L. C. Ager, M. D.
	Rev. Andrew Czerny, M. A.
	Mrs. A. M. Miller.
	Miss M. K. Walker.
Chicago, Ill.,	Rev. L. P. Mercer.
Detroit, Mich.,	Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, M. A.
Erie, Pa.,	Mr. Arthur Cranch.
Huntington Valley, Pa.,	Mr. C. H. Asplundh.
	Mr. S. H. Hicks.
	Prof. C. Th. Odhner, M. A.
	Mr. John Pitcairn.
	Rev. J. F. Potts, A. B.
	Rev. G. G. Starkey, A. B.
	Mr. Alfred Stroh.
	Rev. H. Synnestvedt, A. B.
Newark, N. J.,	Mr. A. J. Auchterlonie.
New York City,	Mr. E. C. Brown.
	Mrs. George Chase.
	Mr. George W. Colton.
	Mr. W. E. Curtis.
	Mr. J. R. Hunter.
	Mr. George V. Nash.
	Mr. C. C. Parsons.
	Mrs. T. G. Robinson.
	Rev. S. S. Seward.
	Dr. J. W. Thomson, M. D.
Orange, N. J.,	Rev. C. H. Mann.
Philadelphia, Pa.,	Prof. Alfred Acton, A. B.
	Dr. F. A. Boericke, M. D.
	Dr. Harvey Farrington, M. D., A. B.
	Mr. Ernest Farrington.
St. Petersburg, Russia,	Madame Anna Povolni.
Vineland, N. J.,	Rev. Adolph Roeder.

Washington, D. C., Rev. Frank Sewall, M. A.  
Yonkers, N. Y., Mr. Walter C. Childs.

Total number present, 36.

3. The meeting opened at 11 A. M. Prof. Odhner was chosen temporary secretary, and Rev. Frank Sewall, temporary chairman.

4. The chairman called the meeting to order, and then delivered the inaugural address.

The address was followed by a brief prayer for the Divine guidance and blessing, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, in which all joined. (See p. 34)

5. The chairman appointed the Rev. C. H. Mann and Mr. Alfred Stroh a committee to ascertain the names of the persons present at the meeting.

6. The secretary read communications from the following gentlemen, all expressing interest and sympathy with the objects of the present meeting : Mr. L. P. Ford, of Shortlands, Kent, England ; Rev. W. H. Acton, Colchester, England ; Rev. J. E. Bowers, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada ; Dr. E. R. Ellis, of Detroit, Michigan ; Prof. Thomas French, of Cincinnati, Ohio ; Mr. Riborg Mann, of Chicago, Illinois ; Mr. E. Nicholson, of Lakewood, Ohio ; Mr. William Niles, of La Porte, Indiana ; Mr. E. F. Robinson, of Toronto, Canada ; Mr. John R. Swanton, of Roxbury, Massachusetts ; Mr. Percy Werner, Secretary of the Swedenborg Club, St. Louis, Missouri ; Rev. John Whitehead, Urbana, Ohio ; Rev. J. E. Werren, Boston, Massachusetts.

The secretary also read a communication on "Swedenborg's Scientific Works" signed "E. M." of Maidstone, Kent, England, and published in the *Morning Light*, of London.

7. The Rev. L. P. Mercer reported a most encouraging interest evinced by persons in Chicago in the recent scientific revival. At a meeting lately held in that city, it became apparent that the proposed Scientific Association could count upon the active cooperation of from forty to fifty persons, including six or seven experts who are especially fitted by scientific training.

8. The committee on the roll having presented their report, Mr. C. C. Parsons offered the following resolution : "Resolved, That an organization be now effected to carry out the purposes of this meeting." The resolution was unanimously adopted.

9. The Rev. L. P. Mercer moved that a com-

mittee of three be appointed to consider the form of organization for this association, said committee to report at the afternoon session of the present day. The motion was unanimously carried, and the chairman, together with Rev. S. M. Warren, Dr. F. A. Boericke and Rev. L. P. Mercer, were constituted a committee on organization.

10. The chairman appointed a committee on program, consisting of the temporary secretary, together with Dr. L. C. Ager and Mr. George V. Nash.

11. The meeting took a recess until 1:30 P. M.

#### SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 1:30 P. M.

12. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

13. The committee on program presented their report.

14. The Rev. S. M. Warren distributed a number of copies of a leaflet published by Mr. John R. Swanton, and containing a transcription of Swedenborg's MSS. outline of *Philosophia Corporularis*.

15. Rev. L. P. Mercer read a paper by Mr. Riborg Mann, Assistant in Physics in the University of Chicago, on "The Value of Swedenborg's Chemistry," written expressly for the meeting.

16. Dr. Boericke presented the report of the committee on organization.

17. The meeting unanimously adopted the following as the first article of the constitution of the Association :

#### "ARTICLE I—NAME.

This organization shall be called the Swedenborg Scientific Association."

18. The article expressing the "Objects of the Association" was discussed at length by Messrs. Potts, Auchterlonie, Mercer, Warren, Odhner, Thomson, Acton, Boericke, J. C. Ager, Schreck, Hunter, Sewall, Parsons, Starkey and Synnestvedt, and the following was finally adopted as the second article of the constitution :

#### "ARTICLE II—OBJECTS.

The objects of this Association shall be : 1. To preserve, translate, publish and distribute the Scientific and Philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg ; and 2. To promote the principles taught in those works, having in view, likewise, their relation to the Science and Philosophy of the present day."

19. The following was adopted as the third article of the constitution :

#### "ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person desiring to cooperate in promoting the objects of this Association may become a mem-

ber by written application to the secretary and by the payment of an annual fee of two dollars."

20. The following were adopted as the fourth and fifth articles of the constitution :

#### "ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS.

The officers of this body shall be a president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer, and a board of directors consisting of these officers and eight additional members, all to be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the body. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to devise ways and means to carry out the objects of the association, both by the procuring of the necessary funds and by the proper classification and organization of the work to be done."

#### "ARTICLE V—MEETINGS.

This Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as the board of directors shall determine. The board of directors shall have power to call special meetings as may be required."

21. The following was adopted as the sixth and last article of the constitution :

#### "ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS.

Any article of the constitution of this association may be changed on the recommendation of the board of directors at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present."

22. A motion to appoint a committee on nominations was lost, and it was resolved that all nominations for officers or members of the board of directors be made in open meeting.

23. The Rev. L. P. Mercer, in nominating Rev. Frank Sewall for the office of president, emphasized the desirability of nominating, as far as possible, professional scientists and laymen as officers of the association.

24. Mr. Odhner, in seconding the nomination of Mr. Sewall for the presidency, dwelt on the undesirability of making any distinction whatever between laymen and clergymen as members of this association.

25. The Rev. Frank Sewall spoke of the importance of having a scientifically qualified layman at the head of the body, and expressed an earnest desire that such might be the choice of the association.

26. The meeting took a recess until 8 P. M.

#### THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 8 P. M.

27. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

28. The chairman appointed tellers for the election of officers and members of the board of directors.

29. The Association proceeded to the election of officers :

The Rev. Frank Sewall was elected president.  
Mr. John R. Swanton, recording secretary.  
Mr. Riborg Mann, corresponding secretary.  
Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, treasurer.

30. The following gentlemen were elected additional members of the board of directors :

Dr. F. A. Boericke, of Philadelphia.  
Rev. John Whitehead, of Urbana, Ohio.  
Dr. J. B. S. King, of Chicago.  
Dr. Edward Cranch, of Erie, Pa.  
Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, of Detroit, Mich.  
Rev. L. F. Hite, of Boston.  
Dr. L. C. Ager, of Brooklyn.  
Dr. Harvey Farrington, of Philadelphia.

31. It was resolved that the board of directors shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring in their number during the present year.

32. The question of publishing a journal containing the proceedings of this meeting was referred to the board of directors, together with the temporary secretary.

33. The meeting adjourned until Saturday, May 28th, at 9 A. M.

#### FOURTH SESSION.

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, 9 A. M.

34. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

35. A paper by Prof. Odhner, on "The Study of Swedenborg's Science, an Historical Sketch," was read by the author, and was briefly discussed by Messrs. Starkey, Potts, Odhner, Czerny and Acton.

36. The Secretary read extracts from a lengthy paper by Rev. Samuel Beswick, on "Swedenborg as a Scientist." The paper was referred to the board of directors for further consideration.

37. Rev. George G. Starkey read a paper by Mr. John R. Swanton, on "Methods of Study in the New Dispensation."

38. The following by-laws for the association were presented by Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, and were unanimously adopted :

"1. Five members of the board of directors and a majority of the members of any committee of this association shall constitute a quorum thereof respectively.

"2. The board of directors and all committees of this association may act either at a meeting at which a quorum is present, or without meeting, by correspondence between the members, but in the latter case no decision shall be arrived at without the acquiescence of a majority of the members of the board of directors or committee, as the case

may be, communicated in writing to the chairman of such board or committee.

"3. The annual dues of each member shall become payable on the first day of the month following his reception as a member, and annually thereafter.

"4. These by-laws or any of them may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the association, or a two-thirds vote of the board of directors."

39. The Rev. Adolph Roeder offered the following resolution, which was adopted : "Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the president of this association, to which may be referred questions arising from scientific statements made by Swedenborg in his theological writings."

40. The Rev. Alfred Acton offered the following resolution, which was adopted : "Resolved, That the president of this association be empowered to draw up a memorial to the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, setting forth the information of this association and the uses it has adopted, and offering its services in any work having relation to said uses."

41. The association adopted a vote of thanks to the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, and to its general manager for the use of the rooms of the society for this meeting, and for numerous courtesies extended.

42. The president appointed the following committee on the scientific statements of Swedenborg in the theological works: Rev. Adolph Roeder, Rev. J. F. Potts, Rev. T. F. Wright, Prof. C. Th. Odhner, Dr. Edward Cranch, Dr. Kent and Dr. J. B. S. King.

43. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P. M., subject to the call of the president and the board of directors.

FRANK SEWALL,  
President of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

C. TH. ODHNER, Temporary Secretary.

The General Convention of the New Church, at its recent meeting in Cleveland, heartily responded to the offer of the Swedenborg Scientific Association to co-operate with it in the publication of the Principia. The Convention unanimously voted to turn over the whole of this work to the newly formed association, recognizing the fact that this work belonged more properly to a scientific organization than to one formed distinctly for religious purposes. The work of securing subscriptions and proceeding with the publication will now be taken up by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, and subscriptions may be made directly to them. We understand that subscriptions for over two hundred copies have already been received. No price has yet been fixed for the work.