

NEW-YORK CITY.

Lectures on "Ethnology."

On Monday evening Rev. Dr. HAYES delivered, at Hope Chapel the first of three Lectures on the Ethnology of America. Despite of the icy condition of the streets, the attendance was full and highly select.

The Doctor commenced by observing that the public have little sympathy with the details of antiquarian research. They ask only for results. His friends had desired that some of these results should be presented. His effort would be to popularize them. The most interesting question to the general observer was, whence came the population of our continent? It would be necessary to clear the ground of some errors before entering upon this question.

In the first place, it must be observed that the ancestors of all the natives of this continent (whom we call Indian) did not come at the same time.

Secondly, there are striking peculiarities of difference in the physical aspect of the native tribes in this hemisphere.

Thirdly, they did not all come by the same route.

The Doctor selected from his notes such facts as were most likely to prove of general interest, facts that had been collected and adduced in reference to three different immigrations only.

1. An immigration nearest to our own times; the probable incoming of the ancestors of those natives whom our fathers found here.

Next, the facts connected with the probable incoming of some on the Western side of our continent, particularly to New-Granada and California. This would occupy the second lecture. And lastly, for the third, the facts relating to an ingress at the Eastern side at a very early period.

The entrance from the northeastern part of Asia was very possible. The testimony of Jesuit Missionaries who served both in Asia and America, was explicit as to the actual fact. Father GROLLON (as cited by CHARLEVOIX) had afforded several surprising relations of having met and conversed, on the Asiatic continent, with several persons, who told him they had come from Canada, and notwithstanding Varen's objection to such testimony it was deserving of credit. Besides there was direct testimony to such intercourse as supplied by CHIARA TESTA and others. The Doctor proceeded to argue the authenticity of such testimony from the general resemblance of Asiatics and Americans. He quoted the statements of Arnæus and Hierati at Rome as to the resemblance of Tongrean princes who had been taken to that city, with pictures of North American Indians; also, of artists who had traveled with Missionaries to North America, and who instantly recognized the Asiatic resemblance.

The Doctor then spoke of the striking similarity which could not be accidental, between the usages and customs of the Asiatics and Americans—in their religious opinions and practices—in their dress and ornaments—their habits in peace and war—their practice of scalping, (which was Scythian in origin and adverted to by HERODOTUS)—in their mode of march, and in the use of the *calumet* or pipe of peace.

This portion of the lecture was very interesting. The Doctor proceeded to speak of the testimony from identity of language, and furnished a curious identification of the tongues of Northern Asia and of our Algonquin dialects with the Magyar tongue of Hungary. He instituted a verbal comparison of the Algonquin dialects with the languages of Northern Asia which he illustrated by numerous examples. Besides this, the syntactical or structural comparison would prove the identity of a few words was not accidental.

The learned speaker afforded some interesting sketches of Indian grammar, especially their peculiarity of the substitution of animate and inanimate for masculine and feminine, having (as we understood it) no neuter. The verbs, too, follow the same law as to inflexion as the verbs of Asiatic languages. He would not wish to dogmatize, but would leave others to deal with the facts submitted. The lecture appeared to give great satisfaction.

City Teachers' Association.

The Annual Meeting of this Association was held on Saturday evening, in the Hall of the Board of Education—the President, J. H. FANNING, in the Chair.

On motion, Hon. S. S. RANDALL, City Superintendent, was elected an honorary member, and Mr. JARVIS JENNINGS, of W. S., No. 20, was proposed for membership.

The Treasurer, H. C. MARTIN, Esq., reported a list of names of members whose whereabouts could not be ascertained, and also the names of a few whose dues had not been paid for the past two years. By a By-law of the Association, they were dropped from the roll of membership.

Mr. SCOTT, Chairman of the Committee on the "Reuck Fund," reported that a printed statement of the work, amount collected, &c., by said Committee, would shortly be sent to each school in the City, and to the numerous private donors.

Mr. HAZELTINE, President of the Board of Trustees of the "Reuck Fund," reported that the Trustees had charge thereof, about \$1,500, and were disposing of it as directed by the donors. Approved.

On motion of Mr. FOULKE, thanks of the Association were tendered to the officers, for the able and faithful performance of their duties during the past year.

The President followed with some remarks pertinent to the annual meeting. The annual report, filed in the County Clerk's office, shows, he said, that the Association has collected some 150 volumes of works upon various subjects; forming a very respectable nucleus of what will doubtless eventually be a Teachers' Library, and that it has about \$200 in its treasury. If the Association had done nothing else for the past two or three years than assisting in the completion of a work which will doubtless bring a competency to the family of the lamented McNALLY, and protecting from want for a long number of years to come the widow and orphans of a brother-teacher lately deceased, it seemed to me that it perpetually organized would commend itself to the judgment of every teacher, and of every friend of education in our City as very desirable.

The election was then entered upon with the following result:

DAVID B. SCOTT, President; Wm. W. Smith, Vice-President; Henry C. Martin, Treasurer; Jacob Fohrman, Recording Secretary; Thomas F. Harrison, Corresponding Secretary; Charles H. Kimball, Librarian.

Henry W. Dunshee and Thomas Foulke were elected Trustees for three years, and John H. Fanning and Thomas F. Harrison for two years, in the places of Joseph McKeen, deceased, and D. B. Scott elected President.

After a few remarks from Mr. Scott, the President elect, the Association adjourned.

Gen. Shields Declines a Dinner.

A large number of prominent citizens beginning with Gen. WINFIELD SCOTT, have invited Gen. SHIELDS to a public dinner during his stay in this City—as a mark of attention to the distinguished Commander of the New-York Regiment in the Mexican War. But General SHIELDS declines in the following letter:

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1857.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your polite letter inviting me to accept a public dinner in your City, for which I beg leave to return my sincere thanks and to express my regret that engagements of an urgent nature will prevent me from enjoying your proffered hospitality. But the compliment intended will not on this account be any the less gratifying to my feelings or flattering to my pride. I feel myself at liberty to regard this letter of invitation in the light of an unsolicited testimonial of respect which is supported by an array of names as eminent as any in this land; and as such a prize it so highly that I hope to preserve it as a precious treasure in the retirement of my humble Western home during the remainder of my life.

You are also pleased to refer in this letter to my connection with the New-York Regiment in the late War with Mexico. This flattering reference enables me to say that I consider my relation to that gallant and distinguished regiment among the fortunate circumstances of my life, if for no other reason than that it connects me incidentally with the history of your great and powerful State.

Again, gentlemen, please to accept for your kindness and hospitality the grateful thanks of

Your obedient servant,

JAS. SHIELDS.

Lieutenant-General WINFIELD SCOTT, Messrs. WOOD, LAWRENCE, DALY, and others, New-York.

The Engines of the Adriatic.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

What constitutes success? The article subscribed "American Engineer," in Friday's paper, relative to the *Adriatic*, hardly merits notice. If uninterested or unbiased, the writer must be satisfied with the great success of the "Novelty Iron Works" in adapting improvements, decidedly American, to our ocean steamers.

The first engines, which could be called "marine" built in this country, were constructed by those works in 1841, for the Spanish Government, and placed in two war vessels, the *Lion* and the *Eagle*. They were Coast-Guard steamers for the Island of Cuba, and have been in use from that time, without ever visiting this country for repairs.

Who does not recollect with pleasure the sailing of the first Charleston steamer, the *Southerner*, with a single side-lever marine engine? For the first time one engine of that construction was placed in a ship, American engineers predicted her failure, her wheels would never turn over, she would step on the centre, &c. Captain HENRY was urged not to think of placing one engine of that construction in his ship. It was to his judgment and determination (after consulting the builders of the machinery) that the first successful effort to establish a steam commercial marine was accomplished. Her engine still speaks for itself.

The *Washington* and *Hermann*, ships constructed to answer admirably as sea vessels, but drawing too much water for any speed, when settled down to the time of the famous *Great Western*, ran with almost her regularity.

The ships constructed for the Collins Line, the *Sabbath*, the *Pacific Mail* steamers, and various others have done well; but one, the *Golden Gate*, having two

oscillating engines of great power with American valves, successfully adopted for the first time on an oscillating engine, sailed from those works with engines working as smoothly, and wheels turning as finely, as any river steamer.

The *Adriatic*, with American valves of another description attached to oscillating engines, still remains to be tried at sea.

It was not enough for "American Engineer" that her engines worked off smoothly for eight hours at the dock. He would wish for something more; let him wait with patience; and if her success does not astonish him, then the estimate which is placed upon the gentlemen conducting that establishment will be for the first time misplaced. AMERICAN.

February Fashions in New-York.

Our fashionables are anxiously debating the question whether silk or tissue be the more fitting costume in which to listen to MATILDA HERON, or whether fruit or flowers form the most artistic coiffure to grace the triumph of Madame DE WILHELM. Indeed, the novelties of the season are mostly in the line of evening costumes.

Evening dresses are made with a high or low collar, to suit the taste of the wearer—fichus and lace pelerines being much worn with the latter. Flounces are still in favor, though side-pieces, tastefully ornamented with velvet, are more fashionable. Flounces of point lace, bordered by wreaths of flowers, are much used for silk ball dresses, and are very elegant. Puffed and flounced sleeves are still in vogue.

Short curled plush, and ruby and maroon velvet are favorite materials for evening dresses, and are very rich, especially for matrons. But some of the most beautiful styles we have seen were in silk tissue—one, of a green silk ground, with flounces striped with white velvet, studded by bouquets of roses, and terminating in a white fringe, was really exquisite. White and light silks are much worn for ball dresses.

Walking dresses are made with basques and trimmed with fringe, galloon, and fancy buttons. The last are much used. Bodies continue high. Dinner dresses are without basques, and flounces, or double skirts, trimmed with ribbon, and Greek or Doric sleeves. Hoops of the largest dimensions are still worn, though it is whispered that their days are numbered.

Clonks grow larger and longer, with a decided tendency to the shawl form. But the distinctive feature of the season is the paletot, which is fitted to the figure in the form of a deep basque—the back being rather more than a yard long, with three seams extending the whole length; two seams suffice for the front. The edge is bound with galloon, and the front is closed with cords and large buttons; the sleeves are flowing, and finished at the bottom by a large gauntlet cuff, trimmed with buttons. The pockets are ornamented with lappets, and confined at each end by a large button, and the neck is finished with a small collar, slightly pointed behind and square in front.

The bonnets continue very small, with profuse face trimming. A roll of velvet across the head is much worn. Some charming ones are made of white and light terry velvet, with a somewhat round and falling crown, and a triple curtain of terry, velvet, and blonde; the middle curtain, which is of velvet, being much narrower than the others.

The new styles of coiffures are very rich and tasteful. Flowers are universally worn by young ladies; the wreaths are large and wide, and—being placed on the back of the head—extend forward and full at the sides. An exquisite coiffure is composed of branches of coral, reeds, and moss, mixed with water-ribbon. Another, and one of the most tasteful, is of water lilies and leaves, spangled heath, and water ribbon. A very distinguished head-dress for older ladies is composed of a plait of blue or scarlet velvet passing across the top of the head, with a deep fall of lace depending from it; the plait passes under the lace at the neck, where it is fastened with bows and long ends of the velvet.

Collars of a moderate size are worn. Muslin undersleeves, with longitudinal puffs, separated by a narrow insertion, with a close band at the wrist, are well adapted to the season, and are in favor. A beautiful undersleeve for an evening costume is formed of three large puffs of illusion tulle, terminated by a flounce of Honiton lace, turned up as a cuff, and fastened by a bow of white ribbon. Berthas of lace and flowers are worn for ball dresses.

Plain and chequered poplins with paletots of black velvet, are very fashionable for walking costumes for children. Cashmere and silk skirts, with high, close jackets of black or maroon velvets, trimmed with chenille, are in vogue for girls' indoor costumes. One of the most tasteful boys' dresses we have seen was a dark green velvet tunic, trimmed with fancy braid; full trousers confined with a needlework band, with a full frill, plaid hose, and boots of dark cashmere, tipped with patent leather.