

May, 1868, when Mr. Wilder again bought into the paper, and the firm was Wilder & Wright, Wilder editor. In August, 1868, Mr. Wright sold out to H. S. Sleeper. In September, the firm bought the *Daily Times* of John C. Vaughan, and the paper became the *Times and Conservative*. Some of the local editors were Geo. T. Isbell, Wm. W. Bloss, Richard H. Boughton, W. H. Bisbee, W. W. Creighton, and Jos. Clark; Hume, Prescott and Buckingham also wrote for the paper while they were connected with it.

Mr. Wilder came to Kansas in June, 1857; did not come to live till August, 1858, in Elwood; practiced law; wrote for the papers; was elected probate judge; went into the *Free Democrat*, St. Joseph, August, 1860, putting in all the money he had; was indicted as an incendiary in December, and compelled to leave town, with the loss of his entire pecuniary investment; within six weeks he was practicing the same kind of incendiarism through the *Conservative*.

B. R. WILSON.—In connection with Chas. Helm and Robert C. Satterlee, he was engaged in publishing the *Weekly Herald*, in Leavenworth, in 1861. On the death of Satterlee, June 13th, in that year, he severed his connection with the *Herald*, and soon went into the army. In the winter of 1867, in connection with E. F. Campbell, he started the *Ellsworth Advertiser*, and published it two months. On the 25th of September, 1868, he resurrected the *Jefferson County Democrat*, at Oskaloosa. The paper had been published in the summer of that year, by Stafford & Nesbitt. They issued eight numbers. Mr. Wilson changed the name of the paper to the *Kansas Weekly Statesman*. L. A. Heil was a partner with him till December, 1868. The press on which the *Statesman* was printed was brought to Kansas by John Speer, and used by him at Lawrence, and by the Ross brothers, by E. C. K. Garvey, by J. F. Cummings, and by Judge Greer, at Topeka.

IN MEMORIAM—HON. GEORGE GRAHAM.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held in the room of the Society, October 4, 1880, the following among other proceedings were had. Chief Justice Horton said:

Since the last meeting of the Board of Directors, we have lost by death from among the members of our Board the Honorable George Graham. I knew Mr. Graham intimately and well in his life-time, and think, in consideration of his connection with this Society, the prominent position he occupied in the State, and the many honorable places he filled, some note should be entered on the records of our Society, of his death and the high estimation in which he was held.

Mr. Graham was a native of the State of New York, and moved to Nemaha county, in this State, in 1857. He resided there until the day of his death, in the month of February last. In 1859, he represented his county in the House of Representatives of the Territorial Legislature. In 1866, he represented his county in the House of Representatives of the State Legislature. In 1867, he represented Brown and Nemaha counties as State Senator. In 1868, he was elected to the position of State Treasurer, and, on retiring from that office, was appointed by Governor Harvey a member of the State Board of Railroad Assessors. At the time of his death, he occupied the position of Probate Judge of his county. He was greatly esteemed in the community in which he lived, and was a man of great public spirit. He was among the foremost actors in promoting all public measures calculated to advance the material interests and permanent prosperity of northern Kansas. He was an active laborer for education, religion and morality, and by his death the State has lost a most estimable citizen, Nemaha county an influential worker, and this Society a useful member.

Ex-Governor Harvey said:

I knew Mr. Graham, more or less intimately, for nearly twenty years in Kansas. I met him and formed his acquaintance at Fort Leavenworth, in August, 1861. He brought

down from Nemaha county at that time, thirty men whom he had enlisted for the army of the Union, in the Seventh Cavalry. I remember the excellent spirit shown by him at that time. He entered the service of his country with enthusiasm, and discharged his duties as a soldier with true patriotism and devotion to principle. He seemed to have imbibed a large measure of that zeal for the Union cause, which in Kansas, in its early political struggles, inspired so many of the volunteers who entered the army from this State. He served his full term of three years; entering as a Sergeant of his company, and retiring as Captain.

I afterwards knew Captain Graham in the State Legislature. He occupied important places upon committees, and was an industrious, active and useful member. During my first term of service as Governor, Mr. Graham was State Treasurer; and for that period I was brought into contact with him very frequently, not only in official, but in private relations. I consider that he was one of the best men Kansas ever had, as a citizen, and as a public servant.

Col. S. N. Wood said:

I remember Mr. Graham as an early settler of Kansas, active among the Free-State men, especially in one of the first Territorial Legislatures. He was a man of principle and courage, and devoted to the object of forming good institutions. As such, and as an active member of this Society, it is very appropriate that something in memory of him should go into our proceedings.

Hon. F. P. Baker said:

My first entrance into Kansas was in 1859, and in Nemaha county. Did not meet Mr. Graham until some time after that, but I early heard him spoken of as one of the most prominent, useful and influential citizens of that county. When I came to know him afterwards, I found exemplified in his character all the good that I had heard spoken of him. He was an upright, public-spirited and most useful citizen. It was an honor to the Historical Society of Kansas to have such a man among its membership, and it is most proper that the Society should pay a tribute to his memory.

Mr. J. C. Hebbard offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted:

Whereas, The late Hon. George Graham, of Nemaha county, a Director of the State Historical Society, departed this life on the 21st of February, 1880; and

Whereas, As a distinguished and honorable pioneer of Kansas, he, as a private citizen and public servant of the city, county and State in which he lived, helped to lay the foundation of our Society and government, it is hereby

Resolved, That this Society tenders its warmest sympathy to the bereaved widow of Mr. Graham, and trusts she may obtain in her hour of trial an enduring support "from him who doeth all things well," and that a copy of these proceedings be sent to Mrs. Graham.

On motion of Judge Horton, the executive committee was directed to cause suitable memorials of Mr. Graham, and also of the late R. B. Taylor, also a member of the Board of Directors at the time of his death, to be published with the proceedings of the Society.

The following was submitted, and adopted:

The Kansas State Historical Society most fittingly gathers in from every source it may, whatever pertains to Territorial and State history, whether relating to settlements, organizations, or individuals who bore a reasonable prominence in affairs of general historical importance affecting the State, or its political or social institutions. Hence, a short recital of some of the services performed by the late Hon. George Graham, of Seneca, Nemaha county, who departed this life February 21st, 1880, then a Director of the Society, becomes a matter alike of propriety and duty. Born in the town of Shaw-

angunk, Ulster county, New York, on the 6th of February, 1819, it will be seen that his earth-life reached the period of 61 years and 15 days. The oldest child of John S. and Hannah Gee Graham, who were the parents of several sons and daughters, he descended from a stock regarded as models for sturdiness of character and fidelity to principle. Therefore, receiving an excellent early training, "as a boy he was the father of the man;" and all through his early life he developed solidity of character and innate integrity, which caused him to be honored and respected wherever known. The family removing to Cortland county, he became a student at Virgil Institute and Cortlandville Academy, where he prepared himself to become a teacher, in which avocation his labors were marked by his accustomed energy and enthusiasm, and in which he became eminently successful. Later, entering upon active business life, after four years' experience, he decided that the condition of his health required out-of-door employment, and so he engaged in the lumber business, at Jasper, Steuben county, where he became acquainted with Ann Eliza Andrews, to whom he was joined in marriage. To them was born a daughter, Helen, but mother and child were soon removed by the hand of death.

On the 19th of August, 1848, he was again married, to Miss Mary Jane Robinson, of Virgil, Cortland county, who was a most faithful companion through all his subsequent life in the State of New York and in the Territory and State of Kansas.

Engaging in the mercantile business at Addison, Steuben county, he suffered severe losses by fire, and partly because of this, with his enthusiastic love for freedom and the rights of man, he ardently looked toward the setting sun, and determined to emigrate to Kansas and help make her soil free. So, in 1857, he settled upon a quarter-section of land in township one, range fourteen, Rock Creek township, Nemaha county.

From the first he was accorded honor by his fellow-pioneers. In the neighborhood meetings, of whatever name and nature, he was called upon to take an active part, either as president, speaker or worker.

Located just west of the head of Pony creek, in Brown county, he stood intimately related to the old settlers of both Nemaha and Brown counties, and that influence broadened and strengthened to the day of his death.

In township affairs, he was justice of the peace and supervisor, and in 1858, was chairman of the County Board of Supervisors of Nemaha county, and in that position exerted a very potent influence in the somewhat protracted struggle of county-seat contests, in securing the shire-town of the county at Seneca, to the final satisfaction of a large majority of the people of the county.

In 1858, he was chosen member of the Territorial House of Representatives, from the counties of Brown and Nemaha. The legislative session, opening at Leecompton, adjourned to Lawrence, in January, 1859. A reference to the House journals of that session will show how conspicuous a worker Mr. Graham was in that body. Without detailing his labor, reference is made to his forecast in promoting legislation that secured the amnesty act, and that overthrew a projected wild-cat banking system, that if enacted would have been a serious public calamity.

This, with his work consummated on the 2d of August previous, on which day the Leecompton Constitution and human slavery on the soil of Kansas were consigned to a death that could know no resurrection, put him in the front rank in northern Kansas, and made his counsels valuable in forming the Republican party of Kansas, in 1859.

In the autumn of 1858, he was quite prominent in the formation of one of the first Congregational churches in northern Kansas, that at Albany, and his house for a long time was the most general place for the assembling of the congregation.

Through his efforts the organization of the first school districts was made in that section; and here it may be said that he regarded the polling-place, the church and school house a trinity, each to supplement and perfect the other, in our early as well as later civilization.

Early in 1861, he volunteered his services to his country, and enlisted in the Kansas Seventh Cavalry, where his varied martial efforts at Fort Leavenworth, far South, and elsewhere, attest his fidelity to the cause and country he loved so well.

In 1865, he removed to Seneca, and prepared himself to engage in the mercantile business, and in that autumn was elected to the State Legislature from the northern district of Nemaha county, and a year later was elected to the Senate from Brown and Nemaha counties. In 1868, he was elected State Treasurer, and after his term of office expired he served as Railroad Assessor for the Second Judicial District. After this he held various local offices, the last being that of Probate Judge of Nemaha county, in November, 1879.

In 1866, he was one of the principal founders of the Congregational church, at Seneca, and on through the remainder of his life he stood by and worked for it, through all its days of darkness, as well as through its periods of prosperity. Where duty called he knew no shrinking, whether considered in relation to his political party, his church organization, the public school, the social circle, his neighbor or friend.

On the last day of the winter of last year, in the beautiful Nemaha county court house, public services were performed, and the court room was densely crowded with neighbors and friends who came to pay tribute to the worth of him who, ten days previous, was performing the functions of the office of Probate Judge in the same structure. Following the public services, appropriate resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted, referring to his great worth as an officer and citizen, a Christian and a friend. The Congregational Association of Northern Kansas, at their meeting at Hiawatha, April 15th, 1880, and the State Association, at their meeting at Sterling, Rice county, in June, passed highly appropriate resolutions embalming his memory, and expressing the warmest sympathy towards the bereaved wife, who had so zealously supplemented his valuable work and faithfully coöperated with him through all the struggling years, emulating his life in manifesting a like fidelity to principle, and devotion to the right. It may be left for the builders in ours and succeeding generations to so shape their acts that his example shall prove a blessing for all time.

MARBLE BUST OF HON. ELI THAYER.

At a meeting in the room of the Society, Wednesday evening, February 9th, 1881, Hon. A. P. Riddle was called to the chair. On opening the meeting, the chairman remarked that the object of the gathering was to take some action in recognition of the fact of the recent accession to the collections of the Society, by gift, of the fine marble bust of the Hon. Eli Thayer, of Massachusetts. It was an object worthy of a special meeting of the Society, and he hoped such action would be taken as would pay some just meed of honor to the distinguished benefactor of Kansas, whose features in enduring form were now before those present, and give some due expression of gratitude to the friends of Mr. Thayer who have made the gift.

Major J. B. Abbott said:

I, as one of the early settlers, came to Kansas under the auspices of the Emigrant Aid Company. Like hundreds of others, I think it very probable that I should never have been in Kansas, had it not been through the influence of this company. Many of us were poor, and this company cheapened the expenses of emigration. To a poor man, the saving of fifteen or twenty dollars in fares, and a like proportion in freights, for each member of his family, in the cost of moving to a new country, is no small item. It was a noble conception that organized the Emigrant Aid Company, and to Mr. Thayer is due the credit of it. It was he who conceived the project of solving the slavery question through this scheme of emigration, and it was owing to his energy that the scheme was carried out. More is due to him than to any other person, for the success of the efforts to colonize Kansas with a majority of Free-State voters. The slave States, with Missouri on our eastern border, had greatly the advantage of the free States in the contest; and had it not been for the Emigrant Aid organization, it may be questioned whether the country would not have become all slave State, and the Southern planter really have been able to count the roll of his slaves from Bunker Hill monument. It is due to those who have contributed this beautiful bust, that the gift should be suitably recognized.

Ex-Gov. N. Green said:

I regret that, in the press of business, I have not been able to prepare some words calculated to express the high sense I have, as a citizen of Kansas, of the honor due to Mr. Thayer for his services in establishing free institutions upon our soil. It seems to be in the order of Providence that, when a great event in the progress of the world is to be performed, some great man is raised up as the instrument through which the work is to be brought about. So it has been, since the day that Moses was raised up and qualified to be the deliverer of his people. The battle in Congress over the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act, in 1854, left the freedom-loving people of this Nation almost in despair. Bitter hostility between the two sections had grown out of the discussion in Congress, and it seemed that the Nation would be dissolved—that a house divided against itself

could not stand. It seemed almost inevitable that the number of slave States was now to be increased, for certainly the South had greatly the advantage in the contest for the settlement of Kansas. But scarcely had the bill passed, when the organization of the New England Emigrant Aid Company was announced—a company which proposed to organize the liberty-loving people of the North, the moral sentiment of the North, the Christian philanthropy of the North, and the business enterprise of the North, in an effort to save Kansas to freedom. And to him whose marble bust stands here is due the credit of conceiving that bold and far-reaching measure for solving the slavery question, for the result of the measure reached far beyond the mere making of Kansas a free State. Through Kansas, all the States were made free; and no agency in accomplishing that result was more powerful than that devised by Mr. Thayer. He accepted the doctrine of squatter sovereignty as right in principle. In this, he differed from most of those whom he brought to work with him in his emigration movement. He declared himself a believer in squatter sovereignty, and announced a determination to make the principle subserve the purpose of making Kansas a free State through its operation, and through the agency of an organized emigration movement, which should enlist the whole people of the North in a crusade for freedom. Through his indomitable zeal and energy, the Emigrant Aid Company was made such an agent. It accomplished its work. No more fitting memorial of Kansas history could be placed in the room of this Historical Society than this beautiful representation in marble of the man who did that work.

Col. S. N. Wood said:

I do not know that I am qualified to speak of the work which Mr. Thayer did for Kansas. I did not come to Kansas from the far East; I came from Ohio. I was in Kansas before I ever heard of the Emigrant Aid Company. I was always an Abolitionist, and took to the idea of helping to outnumber the Slave-State men with Free-State men, naturally. I had made a pledge to come to Kansas, if the Kansas-Nebraska bill should pass, and here I was, long before the first party of Mr. Thayer's emigrants came. That party came and camped not far from where I had built my cabin. I went down to see them. I found many of them not of a character qualified to stay and fight it out. Some of them were: such men as D. R. Anthony, J. C. Archibald, and Sam. Tappan. I took Anthony to Westport, and saw his courage tried. He was true grit, and has been ever since. After I first heard of the Emigrant Aid Company, and saw what an agitation it made among the Missourians on the border, I thought I would help on the excitement. Coming up from Westport on the old California road, I stopped by the roadside, and, peeling an elm tree, wrote on it a legend like this: "Eli Thayer claims twenty miles square from this central point for one thousand settlers, coming out under the New England Emigrant Aid Company." A knowledge of this claim made by Mr. Thayer spread like wildfire through western Missouri. It fired the "butternut" heart amazingly. It was easily fired in those days, and it seemed as well, sometimes, to have a little sport over it, as to take it all in earnest. They offered a thousand dollars reward for Eli Thayer's head. They never got it. But here, after more than a quarter of a century has elapsed, we have a representation of Eli Thayer in marble. It is well that we should pay respect to so important an accession to the collections of the Historical Society. The movement originated by this man enlisted the aid of thousands of people in encouraging emigration to Kansas. It established the nuclei of settlements, and in many ways gave prominence and support to the movement for making Kansas a free State. I never accepted the doctrine of squatter sovereignty myself. Men of all parties were divided upon it. Many accepted it, as it suited their purposes. Its application to practice, when our Free-State Territorial Legislature, in 1860, prohibited slavery in Kansas, caused a split in the Democratic party. Gov. Medary vetoed the bill prohibiting slavery, declaring in effect, that the people, through their Representatives in the Legislature, had no

right "to establish their institutions in their own way." Half the Democratic party in Kansas agreed with their Governor, making a split in the party, which caused its defeat by the Free-State party. But Thayer believed in squatter sovereignty, and that belief seemed to inspire him to action, and he rallied around him a band of noble men, who, as well as himself, gave their money freely, and the influence of name and position to aid in making Kansas a free State. This Society does well to receive this bust with thanks, and to esteem it an honor to have the keeping of such a memento of one of the best and ablest of the benefactors of Kansas.

Hon. S. O. Thacher:

I did not come to Kansas until 1858, and cannot join with the old settlers, as one of them, to participate in proceedings to commemorate matters of early Kansas history. But I am not, of course, entirely ignorant of these subjects, nor indifferent to their importance. The character of the country of eastern Kansas was comparatively well-known before the passage of the bill opening the Territory to settlement. Explorers had told the public of it. Senator Sumner, in his speech in Congress during the pendency of the bill, had painted in glowing colors the advantages of Kansas for Free-State settlers. He told the Southern advocates of the measure that their bill was at once "the worst and the best" they could have devised. The worst, because it struck down an established safeguard against the encroachment of slavery; the best, because it gave a challenge to the people of the North which they would take up, and, under the leadership of such men as Eli Thayer, enter upon a contest which would not only plant freedom upon Kansas soil, but would end slavery itself, throughout the country. But Kansas was a far-off country, and the facilities for getting here were not well understood. The New England Emigrant Aid Company proved an efficient means of making those facilities known; of advertising routes and modes of transportation, of combining emigrants in companies, and thus securing cheapened rates of fare, and cheapened costs of outfits, and in many ways so opening the way that thousands were induced to come and settle in Kansas who otherwise never would have come. This is a matter of history. The Emigrant Aid Company was one of the great agencies which history will ever point to as having helped to solve the slave question in Kansas, and as thus hastening the downfall of slavery in America. Mr. Thayer was an original man. So far as concerned the principle of opening a Territory to a local strife for the settlement of the question of slavery in it, he took grounds in opposition to most Northern people. But to him it was a grand idea, and it stimulated him to the utmost zeal in the great work he undertook—that of vindicating the right of the people of this new Territory to plant free institutions in it. And through his organization he rallied freedom-loving people of all diversities of opinion, and sent them out here in such numbers that Kansas became a free State in spite of all the odds against the North, and in spite of all the extraordinary measures resorted to to make Kansas the means of extending the area of slave territory. Kansas owes much to Mr. Thayer: we can scarcely say to whom it owes more. It is most appropriate that this fine marble bust in his honor, should be received for the State of Kansas, with expressions of thanks.

Fry W. Giles:

During the pendency of the Kansas-Nebraska act in Congress, a fever of anxiety prevailed in New England, bearing about the same relations of intensity, compared with other sections of the country, as the general sentiment in regard to slavery had previously borne; and every thoughtful Abolitionist was exerting the best energies of his mind to find a way to circumvent the designs of the slave power upon Kansas. How far this intensity of thought and consequent discussion contributed to form in the mind of Eli Thayer the plans of operation for the promulgation of which Kansas, the whole country and the whole civilized world turns to him with profound thankfulness to-day, and ever will

thank him, need not be asked by us. The fact is patent, that Mr. Thayer devised and brought to the notice of his countrymen a scheme, through the operation of which, more largely than from any other single cause, Kansas became a free State. That the influence of his measures operated more powerfully in New England than elsewhere, is undoubtedly true. Other portions of the country were more especially influenced by other causes, and as a New England man I disclaim every thought of arrogating to that section special claims for the honor of the magnificent results in which Kansas now rejoices. As an honorable co-worker in the field with others from New England, and from other sections of the country, I will dispute with no man as to the meed of honor that should be accorded to Mr. Thayer, but will leave that to rest upon the work accomplished by New England men in Kansas, and ascribe to him the broadest of influences that brought them here. The bust that is before us is a most excellent likeness of a man who should ever be remembered as a great light to the American people in their hard and troubled way out of the monstrous crime of holding their fellow-men in slavery.

Maj. Henry Inman:

We did not meet on this occasion to consider in any pecuniary phase what was done by the man whose bust in marble stands unveiled before us, but to honor the spirit which prompted him to do the work which he did do for the good of humanity—in the interest of human freedom. We know what was the result of his work; and to-day not only Kansas, but the Nation feels the effects of it. We are right in honoring him, who was, as I believe, God-inspired; brought upon the stage, as we might say, to suit the times, to meet the occasion of a great moral need, the need of a great political conception, and of practical wisdom to carry that conception to the solution of a great problem in the progress of humanity, in the progress towards better civil government, and of a better application of the principles of justice to all. For being such a man, for having performed his mission noblest, and because Kansas shared in so large measure the benefits arising from his acts, it is most proper that, without qualification, we should honor Mr. Thayer this evening, in giving unstinted thanks to the donors of this fine piece of statuary made to represent him.

Hon. James F. Legate:

I have an exalted opinion of Mr. Thayer, and of his work for Kansas, and I desire that this Society should give full expression to sentiments such as are due to one who did so much for Kansas in a most critical period of our history. I formed my opinion of Mr. Thayer from an acquaintance with him at a time when he was engaged in his work for Kansas. Like others, in the year 1856, I was called East for some months to give testimony in the Fremont campaign as to the events which had occurred in Kansas; to show what the slave power had been doing out here to crush out Free-State sentiment and drive out Free-State people. I went to the home of my people in Massachusetts, near where Mr. Thayer lived. He was then a candidate for Congress. He was making his own canvass—making his speeches in his own behalf, and making his canvass on the Kansas question. Before that time the matter of a candidate going on to the stump, in Massachusetts, to speak for himself, was unheard of. But his zeal in behalf of the cause he advocated, and his own original views as to the eternal fitness of things, led him to go into the contest personally. He came to me and questioned me about Kansas in every way; drew out from me a recital of the events that had come under my own observation and within my own knowledge. Then he said I must go to his meetings with him; that I must go and tell these facts to the people of Massachusetts. I was young, and unaccustomed to such work as that. But I went, and talked as best I could; for you may well suppose I felt a personal interest and responsibility in the matter myself. Thayer would have me make my talk first; then he would follow me, making my remarks the text for his speech. And a speech of such power, in the then excited state

of the public mind, I have never known the like of. He held up the facts of the Kansas struggle as they had thus far transpired, showing how the slave power, through the proximity of Missouri to our border, had bleeding Kansas by the throat, a struggling victim, only to be rescued by the emigration agency which he had inaugurated, and through the power that such as he might be able to exert in Congress. He told of the number of emigrant parties his company had sent out; where they were located, what they were doing, how the company had given emigrants facilities for getting to Kansas, for building their houses, for opening their fields, for organizing churches and schools, for establishing printing presses. "Here," he says, "we set up a blacksmith shop, furnish tents for temporary abiding-places, then set up a saw mill to cut out lumber for dwelling-houses; and the saw mill goes to work, and the saw as it goes up and down says, every time, 'Free-State, Free-State, Free-State.'"

Such a picture of the practical operations of the Emigrant Aid Company as he drew was perfectly overpowering. He carried his audiences with him irresistibly. He made his canvass successfully, and he greatly added to the popularity of the emigration work. All New England became enthusiastic in the Kansas cause. Conservative men, of wealth and influence, like Amos A. Lawrence, J. M. S. Williams, Samuel G. Howe, and Anson J. Stone, enlisted with him, and money and influence were given without stint to help him carry out his work; not only the work of establishing the emigrants in Kansas, but giving them the means of defending themselves after they got here, and fighting back the Pro-Slavery invaders who came in here, driving them back across the Missouri line. None were more liberal in contributing money and labor than Mr. Thayer himself. The Emigrant Aid Company was a most prominent factor in the contest fought out here in the early days. The man who organized that company will ever be ranked among the foremost of the benefactors of Kansas. That quiet, unobtrusive, conservative man of wealth and influence, who might be said to have been the right hand of Mr. Thayer in his work for Kansas, Amos A. Lawrence, did a most characteristic and appropriate act, in furnishing that beautiful block of Carara marble, out of which this bust was cut. Mr. Kinney, the artist, has done himself great honor in executing so faithful a likeness of his neighbor and friend, whose features he had the thoughtfulness to mould at the time he was engaged in his noble work.

Governor St. John communicated the following note:

MR. SECRETARY: Regretting that I cannot be present to join in the action taken in recognition of the gift to the Historical Society of the bust of Mr. Thayer, I yet must give you a few words to show my appreciation of the object of your meeting. Mr. Thayer was an extreme Eastern man; an educated, cultivated Eastern man. Born at Mendon, Massachusetts, June 11, 1819, he received a classical education, graduating at Brown University in 1843. He became the principal of the Worcester, Massachusetts, Academy, and in 1851 founded the Collegiate Institute for girls, known as the "Oread Institute," an institution of learning still existing, and widely and favorably known. A member of the Legislature of Massachusetts in 1854, he organized the emigration of Anti-Slavery men to Kansas, through the agency of a company for which he procured a charter. His work in connection with that company was such as not only to lead us now here in Kansas to pay him just honor, but it gave him a present and local prominence which caused him to be twice sent to the House of Representatives in Congress, from Massachusetts, in which body he served with distinction from December 7th, 1857, to March 3d, 1861.

In his education and surroundings, Mr. Thayer was unlike many of those Western men who make up so large a portion of the present population of Kansas; and in fact, as I am told, unlike a large proportion of the first settlers here. You, yourself, as have also others, have told me that, among the first settlers you found, in the timbered bottom

lands along our rivers and creeks, in those early times, a very large proportion of the population to be men from Missouri, from Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky, even; and a very large majority of them were Free-State men, uneducated, perhaps, in those nice moral distinctions which made Abolitionists of the New England emigrants; but yet staunch Free-State men—men ready to fight "at the drop of the hat" for what they esteemed their personal or political rights; and among those rights they cherished that of voting to make their own laws, and the right to make Kansas a free State. But history will justly accord to Eli Thayer the merit, through the influence of the organization he effected, of having brought to Kansas thousands of emigrants, who went to swell the number of those who voted for, and fought for, laying the foundations of Kansas upon the broad principles of justice, and of freedom for all who should dwell here. And in large measure, too, does Kansas owe it to-day to the class of immigrants whom Eli Thayer sent out, that we possess many of the enlightened and liberal institutions which are the pride and glory of Kansas. We do well to honor Mr. Thayer as one of the first among the benefactors of Kansas. It is most proper that his marble bust should stand among our historical memorials. It should be accepted with words of sincere thanks to the donors.

Hon. Joseph P. Root, by message, from Wyandotte:

Your invitation comes too late for myself, by rail or letter; therefore please accept, through the kindness of electricity, all the warm words you can imagine an old Kansan would say in memory of the noble Thayer, or of any of the other patriots and heroes of early Kansas history, through whose efforts, struggles and trials the State was saved to freedom, and eventually our Nation redeemed from the blasting crime of human slavery.

J. P. Root.

The following letter from Gov. Charles Robinson was read:

LAWRENCE, February 9, 1881.

I regret that another engagement will keep me from the meeting this evening, to take action relating to the bust of Eli Thayer. Kansas can never too highly honor her early friends, without whose exertions freedom would have been driven from our borders. Of the long list of names that Kansas will ever delight to honor, that of Eli Thayer stands at the head. It was his brain that conceived, and his indomitable will and energy that accomplished, the organization of emigration, without which Kansas and the country would have been cursed with slavery to this hour. Let us see: During the critical period, Kansas Territory was all Pro-Slavery, except Lawrence, Topeka, Manhattan, Osawatimie and Wabaunsee; and all these, except perhaps the last, were settled under the auspices of the New England Aid Society. So, it is safe to say, that without these settlements, Kansas would have been a slave State without a struggle; and without the Aid Society, these towns would have never existed. And that Society was born of the brain of Eli Thayer. Such being my conviction, I can never cease to honor his name while life shall last.

Next to Thayer, in my estimation, stands Amos A. Lawrence, who did, in many respects, that which Thayer could not do. Being a conservative Whig of the highest social position, and of great wealth, he gave the movement a character indispensable to success which a thousand radical agitators could not give it. He was the treasurer of the society, and I think the truth will sustain the assertion that not a dollar was contributed to the cause, through the society, that was not first advanced by him. I refer to him in this connection, as I am in receipt of the accompanying letter, donating the table used in the secretary's office, in Boston, about which gathered from time to time the friends of Kansas in council. The letter will explain itself; and I trust the table will find a place in the Secretary's office as long as the Kansas Historical Society shall have a name.

Yours,

C. ROBINSON.

"NEAR BOSTON, Feb. 1st, 1881."

"MY DEAR SIR: The address has been received. I read what you sent before with great interest. This seems to be more full, and therefore more valuable. I expect to read it all as soon as an opportunity offers.

"The old table of the Emigrant Aid Society, which stood in the center of their large room, around which we all sat as long as the Society lasted, and on which you and others wrote your letters when you visited the rooms, has been standing here in my large counting-room for many years. When the business of the company was closed up, I bought this as a relic of interest to us all, and wrote upon it what it had been used for.

"Now I have directed that it be carefully packed up, and forwarded to you, for the Kansas Historical Society. It may be some time in reaching you, but when it does, will you be good enough to present it? Also, please to tell me how much freight you are obliged to pay upon it.

"Will you please remember me to Mrs. Robinson, and believe me,

"Very truly, yours,

AMOS A. LAWRENCE.

"HON. CHARLES ROBINSON, Lawrence, Kansas."

The following resolutions were then adopted:

Whereas, The friends of Hon. Eli Thayer, of Massachusetts, have presented to this Society a marble bust of this distinguished friend of Kansas: therefore,

Resolved, That with sincere thanks, and with hearts filled with emotion, we accept the same; and this Kansas State Historical Society takes this occasion to express, in the fullest measure, a recognition of the great services rendered by Mr. Thayer to Kansas and the cause of human rights—a cause greater than Kansas, but which Kansas, at a most critical period in the history of the country, was privileged to have vindicated on her soil and by her people.

Resolved, That the name of Hon. Eli Thayer must ever be held in grateful memory by every thoughtful citizen of Kansas; that, for his disinterested efforts in encouraging emigration to our Territory; for the firm stand he took in the work of making Kansas free, and in favor of freedom everywhere, sparing neither time nor money in the cause of liberty and the equal rights of the human race, his name should be carved in the highest recess of fame, to be honored by the people of Kansas and of the country for all time.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are due that early friend of Kansas, Hon. Amos A. Lawrence, of Boston, who furnished the marble block from which this bust has been cut; and to Mr. B. H. Kinney of Worcester, Massachusetts, who executed it, for the faithful representation he has given of this illustrious man, at the period when he was engaged in his noble work for Kansas, God, and humanity.