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PROFESSOR WINCHELL'S RELATIONS WITH THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

By President T. B. Walker

Back in the year 1865, Secretary of State Seward, in an address from the balcony of the old Merchant's Hotel, said to the street full of people: "We are too close to the men of the hour,—Lincoln, Grant, Chase, Stanton, Sherman, and others historically related to the great Civil War, to appreciate and understand their true place in history, and the full measure of their contributions to the vital welfare of the present and future generations of this country." It seemed a very strange view of the situation, that we, who had been so daily and hourly impressed with the real momentous events that were occurring in the battle field, and the shifting tides of success and failures, and having arrived at the time of the close of the great conflict, should not be more appropriately qualified to judge these men, and including particularly the part that Seward himself had taken in it, than to leave it until the memory of the events had drifted away into the pages of history. But his meaning was, that the comparative measure of greatness of character and measureless value of their services to the country could be realized in fifty or one hundred years later, better than at the time in which their services were given to the country. And in looking over the history of our honored, respected and esteemed friend and associate, and particularly as it relates to his interest and connection with the Academy of Science, I think we can speak of either side of the question, of whether we of the present appreciate more fully than future generations can, his worth as a citizen, his faithfulness, reliability, and sincerity as a friend, and his high character, usefulness and real greatness as an investigator, thinker and writer in the scientific world. His contributions along these lines will be presented by Professors Sardeson, Emmons and Upham, who are more ably qualified to speak on these matters. As president of this association, upon my part, and on the part of Mr. Harlow Gale, as secretary of the Academy, this brief review of his relations to

the Academy will be given, without occupying too much time, as there are a number of papers or addresses to be given.

Professor Winchell came to Minneapolis in September, 1872, when he was thirty-three years of age. He was called by President Folwell of the state university, to be state geologist and professor of geology in the University of Minnesota. In December of the same year, Prof. Winchell proposed to Dr. A. E. Johnson and later to several other persons, the propriety of organizing a state association, to be known as the Geological, Paleontological, Archaeological Society of Minnesota. On December 28th (1872) he called a meeting at the office of Drs. Johnson & Simpson, Wensinger Block, corner of Central avenue and Main street, East Division, to consider the organization of the Minnesota Academy of Natural Sciences. It was organized by Drs. A. E. Johnson, A. E. Ames, C. E. Rogers, Charles Simpson; W. H. Leonard, M.D.; Dr. Stoneman, dentist; Dr. A. F. Elliott; Mr. A. W. Williamson, Professor of Mathematics in the university; E. W. Harvey, Superintendent of Schools for St. Anthony; and Prof. Winchell.

Although the really active and most efficient member for the forty-one years for which he was more actively engaged and exhibited greater interest in the Academy and in the work accomplished by it than any other member, he never sought personal honor, but always considered the best interests of the Academy. He was president of the institution for only three different terms—from 1879 to 1881 and during 1897 and 1898.

During the forty-one years of his connection with the Academy, he was really the most active, diligent and interested worker of all the members of the Academy. He did this quietly, and unobtrusively, to large extent, working only for the upbuilding and advancement of the interests of this association, which he always regarded as the beginning of that which will work out in the course of time, to a most important and valuable scientific and educational institution for the northwest. Amid the many and continual discouragements in a newly building city, so many things demand the attention and activities in lines more directly connected with the obligations and necessities of practical affairs, that it made the work of this Academy of secondary consideration, and kept our citizens mostly so busily engaged in other

lines that the work of the society could not attract sufficient membership and interest in the work to any more than gradually build up the Academy and its museum of natural objects. But during these many years of his work in the society, he was a most useful and faithful member of the Board of Trustees, from its organization to the end of his course.

The original intention of this organization was to direct the researches and work of the Academy and its museum toward *natural* science in general, and especially to the science of geology and archaeology. Afterward, about the year 1900, the title of the organization was changed and the word "natural" was dropped from the name, and it was called the Minnesota Academy of Science, so as to include sociology, mathematics, political economy and all manner of investigations and research to come under the general terms of any of the sciences or their branches.

The first home of the association was in the room back of Dr. Johnson's office on the second floor of the Wensinger Block, on the corner of Central avenue and Main street, East Division, just across the street from the stone arch bridge. It remained there in rather unpretentious quarters until about 1880, when I first became interested in it. I suggested to Prof. Winchell that we move it over to this side or into some more appropriate and enlarged quarters. Upon the question of expense coming up, which they had no means to meet, I suggested that I would assist some in making the change. A location was secured in the Kelly Block, the next building but one to Pence Opera House, on Bridge Square, North side, where larger and lighter rooms were procured at a moderate rent. Mr. Anthony Kelly, our prominent wholesale grocer, gave us a most favorable lease.

At this period some quite respectable cases were secured to hold the specimens that were already gathered and making room also for others to come in the future.

Dr. Johnson was the first president of the Academy,—from 1873 to 1878, during which time Prof. Winchell was, part or all of the time, vice-president.

During the year 1883, largely through the efforts of Prof. Winchell, but in which I as a comparatively new member assisted to some material extent, the Association for the Advancement of Science, which was then a comparatively small body,

was induced to hold its annual meeting of that year in Minneapolis, while we were in the quarters at Kelly Hall, where this national association held a number of meetings during the several days it was here. About 1884, the Academy was moved to Center Block and occupied very comfortable apartments on the second floor above the crockery store of Mr. Foss, who was successor to Harmon & Holmes.

In the establishment of the Public Library, through the organization of the Library Board in 1885, and in which I was most particularly concerned and had worked many years to secure its organization, provisions were made as follows:

“There is hereby created and established in and for the city of Minneapolis, a board which shall be styled the ‘Library Board of the City of Minneapolis,’ said board shall have power to establish and maintain in the city of Minneapolis, public libraries and reading rooms, galleries of art and museums for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of said city,” etc.

And in Section 9. “Said Library Board may enter into association with any independent society or other organization owning libraries or museums or existing for purposes kindred to those contemplated in this Act, upon such terms and conditions as shall best promote the object for which said board is created.”

The library was completed in 1889, and in the construction of the building, quite a large room was provided for the Academy of Science museum and cases, and another one for the use of the Art Society. The Academy occupied this room until about 1904, when its room was needed for the Atheneum collection of art books. Then the books and specimens of the Academy were packed into the directors’ room and they remained there until, through active co-operation with the Library Board, the new wing in which the Academy is now located, was built, and the museum installed, where it has remained to the present time. During all these years of the constant and steady growth of the museum, Professor Winchell was very active and greatly interested in its continued growth as a museum. It was to a considerable extent through his interested efforts and encouragement that the Menage expedition to the Philippines was undertaken, and which brought to the Academy a magnificent collection of the animal life of the Philippine Islands.

In 1909, very largely through Prof. Winchell's efforts and influence, the Association for the Advancement of Science was again induced to hold its meeting of 1910 in this city. I went to Chicago with him and we put in a good share of the time both day and evening, with the help of a number of the university professors, in securing its coming to our city.

In 1897 and again in 1898, Prof. Winchell was president of the Academy. He had been vice-president more or less of the time since the Academy was organized. He has been its most constant and faithful member. His interest in the Academy and its up-building has not been equalled by any other of the members, at least for so great a length of time, as he was the last of the charter members of the organization. He has presented many valuable contributions to the discussions and consideration of questions in the Academy and always took great interest in securing the publications in the annual bulletins, and in preparing this he was very helpful and willingly devoted time and attention to seeing to its compilation and proper publication.

The loss of Prof. Winchell's services to this Academy is most certainly a serious one, and although the up-building of the Academy has been a slow process, yet his faith in its final growth into a most useful and valuable educational institution never faltered, even in its continued advancement and growth, in the years after his services in its up-building should cease; but it is to be hoped that others of these who have been also diligently faithful and useful in the work of the Academy and its progress and prosperity will continue their interest and most useful services and possibly to feel an interest in making up, as far as they can, the loss of the services of Prof. Winchell.

We have other members who have contributed useful services and have never lost faith in the ultimate future usefulness and value of the Academy as a public educational institution, and it is to be hoped that they, with newer members, will feel the importance and necessity for increased interest, and in giving additional services and earnest efforts in the future developments and growth of this Academy of Science.