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## Editorial Notes

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## Editorial Notes.

The annual meeting of the Historical Society, of which a full report is given elsewhere, made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in numbers. Several new members were present and some new ideas were suggested. Action was taken with a view of dividing up the educational and necessary routine work among a greater number of members.

It was decided to secure some one possessing desirable literary qualifications and an abundance of public spirit to act as editor of the *Quarterly* in conjunction with the Directors and to appoint correspondents in the various counties of the State from time to time until the whole State be covered by enthusiastic public spirited representatives of the Society who will take an active interest in interesting others in collecting and preserving historical data of Florida.

The members of the Society present thought it time to take some steps to awaken general interest in the deplorable neglect of valuable State documents and to solicit Legislative action to remedy the matter and a Committee of representative citizens was appointed for that purpose. These were all progressive steps and merit approbation from the Society generally and should tend to show the good people of the State the purposes of the Florida Historical Society.

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This issue of the *Quarterly* it is hoped will interest the members of the Florida Historical Society. We have not so much of original matter as we should like but it is the best that could be done this time. Write us, help us interest others. Get in touch with the new editor, send him material to examine, edit and publish. We have a number of articles spoken for in the near future but they are mostly biographical. We need more variety. Bear this in mind when you write us.

The Board of Directors at a recent meeting elected the Rev. Edwin G. Weed, as President of the Florida Historical Society, to fill the unexpired term of the late Governor Francis P. Fleming. E. J. L'Engle was chosen as a Director and Rev. S. F. Gale as Editor of the Quarterly. These gentlemen are all well known throughout the State and are workers in any cause in which they are enlisted. The following new members were elected: Walter Mucklow, F. M. Williams, C. Seton Fleming, Rev. S. F. Gale and Geo. C. Bedell, all of Jacksonville, Florida.

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As we are going to press the sad news has come that our President, Francis Philip Fleming passed to his rest on the 20th day of December, 1908. His death is a great loss to us and to the whole State. During the two years he was President of the Florida Historical Society much of his time was given to its interests. Born in Florida and interested in the traditions of his native land it was natural that this Society, which has for its object the preservation of the historical data of the State, should command his attention and consideration.

President Fleming took a great interest in the formation of the Society, and was elected first Vice-President when it was organized. After the death of President George R. Fairbanks on August 3rd, 1906, the Executive Committee elected Francis P. Fleming to fill the unexpired term. In November of the same year at the annual meeting, by common consent, he was chosen as the one most fitted to look after the affairs of the Society. He remained President till the day of his death. It has never occurred to any one that a better selection could have been made and as time went on the question was frequently asked, if Governor Fleming should resign who could fill his place?

Few men in the State had the intimate knowledge of the changes in government and conditions that he had. As a soldier he was thoroughly acquainted with the ani-

mating spirit of the people during the dreary years of the war between the States; as a lawyer and a politician, his studies and duties kept him in touch with the political history of his country; as a historian his interests centered in the records of the past, which, according to his conception, unfolds the definition of much which happens in the development of the State. Intensely interested in the progress of Florida, he took an interest in all that pertained to its development, and believing that the student of history was better furnished to meet the daily requirements, because the philosophy of the past tempers judgment and manifests the influence of energy and determination, he willingly gave his time and thought to the task of procuring data for the enlightenment of future generations.

Men whom the world calls great have in many instances revolutionized communities, changed the condition of nations, founded empires, or perhaps given a new impetus to life by the discovery of hidden forces, and by the application of forces to commercial uses, but he is no less great who quietly, almost secretly, lays the foundation for the advancement of future generations. President Francis P. Fleming was a quiet worker, but a constant worker for the uplifting and advancement of his fellow men. He wanted to be of use to his fellows and as a consequence did not look for present reward. It was enough for him that future generations should derive a benefit from his labors. We shall miss him, the whole State will miss him, but his labors will continue to bear fruit as long as the world shall last.

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It is the earnest desire of the officers and directors of the Society to increase the number of books and manuscripts relating to Florida which it now possesses. Because of the rapidity with which public and historical society libraries are organizing and growing out-of-print books of a historical nature are yearly becoming more and more scarce. Now is the time to secure all we can

that relates to the early history of the State. Catalogues are frequently received offering books which the society ought to own, but which its funds do not permit of purchasing. Perhaps some members deeply interested in the accumulation of a valuable library for the coming generations will be glad to send a check to the treasurer for the purchase of such books. Perhaps, too, some members may be able to donate desirable books or pamphlets to the society, as a number have generously done already, or may be able to induce others to donate such material.

The Society is glad to receive anything of a historical nature, ancient or recent, which relates to our State. If you hear a historical address or sermon will you not ask the author to send a copy to the Society for filing? Photographs or prints of old landmarks are much desired. Many a lawsuit has been decided by the timely appearance of an old photograph as evidence. The members and other friends throughout the State can help the Society very much in these lines. Will you aid in the march of progress of your State in this way also?

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As most of the members already know the Society is entirely dependent for financial support on the annual dues of the members. As a member you will receive at this time the annual bill for membership from the treasurer. Will you n o t return your check promptly to the treasurer, C h a s . S. Adams, Jacksonville, without waiting for any further notification?