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Notes and Comment

Florida Historical Society
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NOTES AND COMMENT

The most important step in the progress of the Society since the reestablishment and regular issue of our journal is taken in the publication of *A History of Jacksonville, Florida*. The author, Mr. T. Frederick Davis, after years of research, has got together all available materials and from them has produced a work which the Society believes will always be the authoritative and most nearly complete history of the first century of Jacksonville's existence. The volume, of about six hundred pages, contains reproductions of early views, maps, portraits, and other illustrations, many heretofore unpublished. The publication throughout will be in keeping with the high value of the work itself. It will appear early in November, and will be sold by all booksellers, and the Secretary, for five dollars. Mr. Davis has generously given to the Society outright this result of his labor of years, so all profits will go into our treasury.

While there are no definite plans for any future publications, it is hoped that with the growth of the Society we shall be able to give to the State others of as great value to the history of Florida.

The Society has lost one of its most earnest members in the death of Reverend Father Benedict, O.S.B., of St. Leo Abbey. A scholar, possessing a valuable library of Floridiana, Father Benedict was a deeply interested student of Florida history. Though his research and his writings related mainly to his church in Florida, yet that history is so intimately connected with the history of the colonial period of the region that a record of one is in large part a record of the other. The hope is general that the work which he

began may be continued by others as able as was he.

His name recalls that of another priest of the Roman Catholic Church who has a place in the history of St. Augustine in a later period and who was one of the original members of the Florida Historical Society - Father Madeore. It is surprising, when one considers the small number of men of God in Florida in 1856, that so many of all denominations were among the organizers of the Society or became members within the year. Reverend E. H. Myers, of Tallahassee, was then vice-president, and Reverend A. A. Miller, Rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, St. Augustine, was one of the three members of the executive committee. A second member of that committee was Reverend E. S. Aubriel, a priest, also of St. Augustine, and coworker with Father Madeore. Reverend D. J. Auld, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee during nineteen years, was among the founders. Others were Reverend W. W. Bours, Rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, at the time, and Reverend W. M. Carmichael, Rector of St. Mark's Church, Palatka. Of the Florida Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, the Society had a member in Reverend J. M. Quarterman; while Right Reverend Francis H. Rutledge, first bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Florida, was also one of the organizers.

Are we more narrow than they were?

Acknowledgment and thanks are given by the Membership Committee to Mr. Moses Folsom, whose word of commendation for the Society and its work in his column in the *Times-Union*, of Jacksonville, brought us directly five new members.

In addition to the list of new members in the last

issue, the following have since joined with us in the work we have undertaken. Their interest and support is of great value to the Society.

Goulding, R. L.	New Smyrna
Fee, William I.	Fort Pierce
D'Alemberte, J. H.	Pensacola
Blount, F. M.	Pensacola
Watson, C. Roy	Marco
Warnock, William H.	Inverness
Taylor, Mrs. Albert A.	Cocoa
Taylor, J. F.	Pensacola
Sweett, Mrs. S. J.	New Smyrna
Reese, F. C.	Jacksonville
Whiddon, Mrs. C. C.	Cedar Key
Roe, Mrs. J. E.	Lansing, Michigan
Sanford Public Library	Sanford
Skinner, R. E.	Tampa
L'Engle, Mrs. Henry A.	Jacksonville
Maxwell, E. C.	Pensacola
Knotts, A. F.	Inglis
Reese, R. P.	Pensacola
Jones, John B.	Pensacola
Wentworth, George P.	Pensacola
Reynolds, C. B.	New York, N. Y.
Shaw, Albert	New York, N. Y.

Since the July number, the Society collections have been enriched by the following donations:

From Mr. T. Frederick Davis-Reproduction of a set of wood engravings of St. Augustine, 1841, owned by Captain Silas B. Wright. (Photographic services donated by Mr. C. H. Brown.)

From Captain C. Seton Fleming-Copy of a portrait of Governor Reid.

From the author, Helen Harcourt - *Home Life in Florida. Florida Fruits.*

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