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GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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GENEALOGICAL

AND

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

OF THE

FLETCHER FAMILY;

DESCENDANTS OF

ROBERT FLETCHER,

OF

CONCORD, MASS., 1630;

DELIVERED AT THEIR

SECOND REUNION AT LOWELL, MASS., AUGUST 21 AND 22, 1878,

TOGETHER WITH THE PROCEEDINGS AND A COMPLETE LIST
OF MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ATTENDING THE REUNION.

LOWELL, MASS:

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE M. ELLIOTT,

GENEALOGICAL BOOKSELLER, 48 CENTRAL STREET.

1878.

THE FLETCHER FAMILY.

1146077

On Wednesday, August 30, 1876, the descendants of Robert Fletcher, who settled at Concord in 1630, assembled to the number of over two hundred in this city, and organized an association for the purpose of promoting the family interests and accumulating all facts of value in the history of the successors of the brave pioneer. The meeting was a grand success, as all present testified, and its influence was of incalculable importance in the way of advancing social good feeling among the now wide-spread family. It was a beautiful spectacle to behold so many well-looking men and women all descended from a common parent, and even those who were not fortunate enough to be able to answer to the name of Fletcher felt a lively interest in being among those who traced their lineage to a man to whom Middlesex county, and especially the city of Lowell, was indebted for his heroic enterprise when this region was a wilderness. The success of the reunion was so marked that a repetition followed almost as a matter of course, and today there are so many people of the name in the city to attend the second gathering that it is safe to address almost any stranger whom you may see in our streets as Mr. or Mrs. Fletcher and rely on hitting the name correctly. This reunion has been brought about by the active labors of a committee of sixteen Lowell Fletchers with the industrious Isaac A. at their head, and the members of the family have reason to be grateful that so energetic and creditable a representation of their name dwells in the city which occupies the land once owned by their ancestor. The family is so extensive that in the genealogical book it is divided into more than a score of branches numerically, and in the language of the members the different branches have acquired names from the localities in which they predominate, as the Westford branch, the Chelmsford branch, the Concord and Acton branches, etc. Although all have descended from the same ancestor, the representatives of the family here, some twenty or thirty, are mostly sprung directly from the Chelmsford branch. William, of the second generation from the hardy and adventurous Robert, once owned all the land comprised in Lowell, or at least that portion comprised within the city limits before the annexation of the territory over the rivers. From him most of the present Fletchers in the city and vicinity have directly descended, though there are one or two exceptions. The

most venerable bearers of the name hereabouts are William about 87 years of age, and who although feeble was able to attend today's meeting, and Horatio. The latter, who is an old and respected citizen and for many years a well known business man, is hale and hearty at 82, and surpasses in vigor and activity many a young man of 60 or thereabouts. His third child is the wife of Mr. W. P. Brazer, and that gentleman is as energetic and as much interested in the family affairs as if he were to the manner born. Mr. Horatio Fletcher besides being present in person was represented at the meeting by a goodly number of children and grand-children, and as he is still vigorous there is a reasonable prospect that at some future reunion another generation may assemble about him. Other prominent members of the local family are Isaac A. and Edmund Dix Fletcher, both of whom are so well known that any reference to their ancestry would be a work of supererogation. Besides these there are many Fletchers in the city who "along the cool sequestered vale of life keep the noiseless tenor of their way" and do not appear in public quite so much as those mentioned, but who are nevertheless worthy representatives of the name. And it is a singular fact, though perhaps not so singular after all, when you come to think about it, that the women who have made men of other names happy by permitting a graft upon the family tree, create as much enthusiasm among their lords in all matters concerning the historic name as though they were full-blooded descendants of the original Robert. So it need surprise no one to see among the list of names of the attendants at the gathering those of persons whose cognomens are no more like that of Fletcher than night is like day. The same spirit pervades all connections and it is a graceful spirit and heartily to be commended.

Tuesday the decorators were busily at work at Huntington hall, the managers calculating rightly that Messrs. Nichols & Hutchins's spacious rooms, in which the first gathering was held would not properly accommodate all who desired to witness the exercises. Sheppard, the florist, had converted the stage into a blooming garden, with fragrant pot plants and handsome shrubs, and the spot was as pretty as the most æsthetic taste could desire. Over the clock, which in its time has supported nearly as

many mottoes as it has told hours, was inscribed on a blue ground surrounded by national flags, in letters of gold. "Welcome to the Descendants of Robert Fletcher, 1630." And a right royal welcome was provided. The janitor of the hall, who, as everybody knows, is a Fletcher, spared no pains to have everything about the halls clean and in first-rate order, and his efforts were appreciated by all who visited the premises during the day.

Last night there was a preliminary gathering at Nichols & Hutchins's rooms, and there was a large attendance of the family. Ex-mayor John W. Fletcher of Chelsea, president of the association, and Mr. Edward H. Fletcher of New York, secretary, were present, and with the assistance of the executive committee, the programme for today's proceedings was completed. The meeting was entirely informal, and the time was spent in talking over family matters and social intercourse of the friendliest nature. When all was arranged the company separated, looking forward to an excellent and enjoyable occasion on the morrow.

And this expectation was in no wise disappointed. The morning opened rather gloomily, but the clouds mitigated the warmth of the sun's rays, and produced a better day than if the glorious orb had been shining undimmed. At 9 o'clock, the hour named for the meeting to begin, the committee on reception were present at the hall and the members of the family began to arrive, coming at first in groups of two and three. As the morning wore on and the trains entered the depots the Fletchers came in throngs and two assistant secretaries had all they could do to register the names. The early comers meanwhile amused themselves by promenading about the hall, admiring the handsome floral decorations, studying the family chart suspended on a frame near the Dutton street entrance to the gallery, greeting old acquaintances, and examining photographs of persons and places connected with the family name. One of the most interesting pictures was a family group comprising four generations of one branch of the tree. It was the counterfeit presentment of the mother of George L. Fletcher of Chester, Vt., a lady aged 90, Mr. Fletcher's son and grandson. The latter, who is also named George L., is the first representative of the 11th generation from Robert, and is 11 years of age. Photograph and autograph albums met a ready sale and all over the hall the Fletchers were writing their names in one another's album or exchanging photographs. The gathering was augmented by every arriving train, and up to noon 317 names had been entered on the registry. The opening of the formal exercises was deferred until quarter past eleven, when President John W. Fletcher called to order, and prayer was offered by Rev. L. J. Fletcher, D. D., of Buffalo, N. Y.

After the prayer the president gave a resume of the previous meeting, stating that

the result of the first gathering was the present. We have reason to be proud of the name, and of the noble men who have borne it. We come not here to talk, but to learn to live for one another. We meet to enjoy one another's company, to sympathize with one another, and to promote social intercourse. Let us live that when we separate on earth it shall be to be reunited in one family in heaven.

Mayor Richardson was introduced by the president and made a few felicitous remarks in which he showed that the Fletchers and Richardsons were at an early period in the history of the country made one by marriage. He welcomed the Fletcher family to Lowell and expressed the hope and belief that the members present would be hospitably entertained, and be much pleased with their visit.

The report of Mr. Edward H. Fletcher, of New York, secretary of the association, was then read. In the past two years, the report says, while no important discoveries have been made relating to our early history, the bulk of our genealogical records has largely increased. Several considerable branches have been added and the records of many families made more complete. The collection of photographic portraits, belonging to the association has increased, but not largely and all members of the family are called upon to contribute to the album. In the past two years a number of representatives of the family have joined their ancestors gone before. The deaths were: William Otis Fletcher, a merchant at Westfield, who was present at the previous gathering; Adeline E. [Hatch] widow of Alpheus Fletcher at Cavendish, Vt.; Ellen [Lord] wife of W. A. Bacon, at Ludlow, Vt.; J. Wesley Fletcher, a merchant in Canada; Elijah Fletcher of Indianapolis; Parrot Fletcher, a farmer at Madison, Maine; Rev. Jabez Fletcher, at Dixon, Maine; Mary Fletcher, wife of Thomas Richardson of Westford; Mary Fletcher, wife of Ellis Tower of Westford; Nelson Hunt, husband of Abigail M. Fletcher of Barton, Vt. Rockwell Emerson, a lawyer in New York; George H. Fletcher, one of the vice presidents of the association, died last June at his home in Union, Oregon; he had been making preparations to attend this reunion; Cynthia Fletcher at Hornellsville, Vt.; John L. Fletcher, merchant at Derry, N. H.

Upon the family records there are over 8000 names, and it may be reasonably estimated that there are one thousand more of which there is no account, making the total comprised in the eleven generations of Robert and his descendants, over 9000 souls. Four members of the family passed the bound of 100 years before dying. One was Miriam Keyes, wife of Dea. Samuel Fletcher of Westford, whose son Horatio of this city, was present today. There are three now living who are verging to a century; Reuben Fletcher in Reading, Vt., is 95; Caleb Remington Fletcher of Solon, Ohio, is in his 94th

year, and Parmelia Fletcher, widow of Cyrus Kendall, is living in Westford, 96 years old.

REV. J. C. FLETCHER'S ADDRESS.

Rev. J. C. Fletcher of Indianapolis was the next speaker, and he made one of the best speeches delivered during the day. In beginning he made a few introductory remarks concerning his whereabouts at the time the first meeting was held. He said he was on the edge of the blue bay at Naples, and felt deep interest in reading on those classic shores the account published in the *Lowell Courier*. Continuing he said: "Wherever I have been the sentiment of family has been strong in me and I have welcomed every man that was a Fletcher, whether from England, France, Switzerland (their native home) or America, whether in Brazil, or in Portugal, in Italy, in France or in Great Britain; wherever I met them it was with me as the poet has said, "Like the heart of Argye to the tartan I warm."

I will now give a history of the name. It is not Norman, but Burgundian French, and our ancestors, without doubt, had their origin in that part of Switzerland once Burgundian, but now known as the Canton de Vaud, on the northern shore of the lake of Geneva. The origin of the name has to do with the chief weapon of defence. *Fleche*, an arrow—a word derived from the Latin verb *flectere*, to bend and has to do with the bow. The French verb is *Flechir*. Now the man who bent the bow was *de la Flechiere*, the bender of the bow—in other words, the *archer*.

There is no substantive in the French language called *Flechie*. Fletcher is an English common name, and as Tarnier, author of the best English and French dictionaries, gives the English word Fletcher, he has to translate the word into French by a circumlocution—saying that the English word Fletcher is a *fabricant de fleches*. Brady in his "Dissertation on Names" perhaps has hit upon the origin of the English word by giving it as *fledger*, the man who fledges or feathers an arrow. Our name is distinctly French, and the original word is *de la Flechiere* which M. Littré in the great French dictionary (equal in size to six of our largest unabridged Websters), says it has as its synonym *sagittaire, archer*.

How did the Fletchers come into England? Here the speaker gave an account of the Castle of Chillon on the Lake of Geneva in Switzerland, the Palace in the 13th century of Pierre, the powerful warlike and conquering Duke of Savoy, whose relative was Eleanor of Provence, the Queen of England, wife of Henry III. His visits to England in the latter part of the 13th century were frequent. His popularity was great in England. He was made Earl of Richmond. That part of London known to this day as Savoy was given him by the King. Lord Macanlay refers to it in his history as a place where a man was as exempt from his creditors if he fled there, as if he were across the Alps in Savoy. In some of his visits in the latter

part of the 13th century he took over a number of young men, in his suite, from what are now known as the Cantons de Vaud and Neuchatel. Vuilmin in his interesting history of "Chillon" says that the names of three of the titled and landed gentlemen were respectively Porter, Granson and de la Flechiere. These gentlemen married into good families in England; but their names were anglicised, Porter became Porter; Granson, Grandison; and the de la Flechiere became Fletcher.

It is an interesting fact that the family of the de la Flechiere still exist in Switzerland, noted for their piety and patriotism. The Methodist Fletcher of England was of that family, and his name was Jean de la Flechiere, which he changed to Fletcher in England. The family is not only most respectable but is most highly connected socially with the Nicolls, Neckar, De Staël and other noble Swiss families.

Having thus traced the Fletchers from their patriotic home to England, let us look at them there. I find that before Columbus discovered America, William Fletcher of Cockermouth was a gentleman of station and consideration. Cockermouth is the place where Wordsworth was born. You note the old family name of William, so well known to us in America. His son Henry, born there 370 years ago, and enjoying the title of Henry F. of Cockermouth castle, comes plainly into history during the trouble connected with Mary Queen of Scots. This Henry Fletcher (the name occurs 40 times in the genealogy) had the trust of Mary Stuart when she journeyed from Workington. He treated his royal charge (although she was defeated and a prisoner) with all the deference due her exalted station, and he received a letter of thanks from her for this courtesy and also for the presentation of a robe of velvet (a very costly present in those days). I could not at first understand this until hunting up the history of the affair, I found in Mignet's *Mary, Queen of Scots*, the following: "She wrote on the 17th of May to Elizabeth, 'It is my urgent request that Your Majesty will send for me as soon as possible, for my condition is pitiable, not to say for a queen, but even for a simple gentlewoman. I have no other dress than that in which I escaped from the field. My first day's ride was sixty miles across the country, and I have not since dared to travel except by night.'"

We are not yet done with the Fletchers in their relation to Mary, Queen of Scots. There was a Rev. Richard Fletcher, a prebendary of Elizabeth. Indeed he was chaplain to Elizabeth as early as 1581, and had a rapid advancement. In 1587 he was officially present at the execution of Mary at Fotheringay and tried to convert her, so the French say; and they further say that he exclaimed, when her head rolled from her body, "So perish all the enemies of Queen Elizabeth." In 1589 he was made bishop of Bristol, in 1592 of Worcester, and in 1594 of London.

Then he was, for a time, in the displeasure of the queen, because he married a second time. He died suddenly in 1596, and Camden, the old historian, said it was because of the immoderate use of tobacco.

Our name in England is an honorable one. It is not eminent in politics but in various ranks of society. No less than three Fletchers hold baronetcys and others have high offices in the army and navy and in civil life. And 19 of the families in the gentry are Fletchers. In Lancashire and Yorkshire and in London you see the names on signs of wholesale merchants and manufacturers and retail tradesman. There is a curious evidence of their respectability. There are twenty-nine clans of Gypsies in Great Britain, who had no names. They came into England in the 15th century, and adopted as their names, those of leading families. The Stanleys (Lord Derby's family) the Barnets, the Lees, the Fletchers, and the Bucklands are amongst the family names adopted by them.

The earliest notices of the Fletchers in England is in the "Coventry Mysteries" (religious plays by the monks). These go back earlier than 1450 and show that in less than a century they were reputable. In the prologue of the "Mysteries" the monks summoned the people by name as follows:

Tom Tynker and Betry's Belle,
Feyn Potter and what-at-the-well,
Syn Small Feyth and Kate Kelle,
And Bertylmiew the Bocher.

Kyte Cakeler and Colett Crane,
Gille Fetyse and fayr Jane,
Powle Powthter and Farnel Pnare,
And Phelypp the good Fleccher.

In Cock Lorell's Vote, a satirical poem, "imprinted by Wynkyn de Worde" (the second printer in England, Caxton being the first), and printed about 380 years ago, there is a similar rigmarole of names:

The pardoner says I will rede my' oll,
And ye shall here the names poll by poll.

* * * * *
Pers Potter of Brydge-water,
Saunder Sely, the mustard maker,
With Jelyan the Jangler.
Here is Jenkyne Bewarde of Barwycke
And Tom Tumber of Warwyke
With Phyllyp Fletcher of Fernan,
And Patrick Perysse, heerbeter
With Lusty Harry Hange-man.

Others perhaps have given you most of the facts about the Fletchers here at home; but I would like say that both at home and abroad they have struck me, first by their love of agriculture; second, by their patriotism; third, by their evident belief in women, for there are few bachelors; fourth, by their belief in God. May we emulate their virtues.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

A telegram was read from E. Y. Fletcher of Columbus, Indiana, and a letter was read from Mrs. Dix Fletcher of Marietta, Georgia, regretting her inability to be present. Similar letters were received from Arthur

Fletcher of Concord, N. H.; James W. Cross of West Boylston; Milton F. Richardson of New York city; Fletcher K. Barrows of Brattleboro', Vt.; G. Y. Fletcher of Columbian, Alabama; Mr. Dix Fletcher of Marietta, Georgia; David Fletcher of Rochelle, Ill.; G. T. Fletcher of Castine, Maine, Abel Fletcher of Massillon, Ohio.

Rev. Dr. L. J. Fletcher of Buffalo, N. Y., made an interesting address. He exhibited a powder-horn carried by his great grandfather in the French and Indian war, and by his grandfather in the revolutionary war.

Rev. Stephen D. Fletcher of New London, N. H., made a brief address and then Mr. A. B. Fletcher of Boston University addressed the audience. He said:

A. B. FLETCHER'S REMARKS.

Mr. President and Dear Kinsmen:

It was a common saying of my fathers that boys and cabbages needed transplanting, and I have found in my own little experience that it is a good thing to go away from home once in a while. I used to think that about all the Fletchers in this country lived in Mendon, the town in which I was born, but about a year ago I found that the Fletcher family had had a meeting in this city and that my branch had not even been invited. I felt that it was a matter which needed looking into and after a time I got hold of the book, the compilation of which has occupied the time and talents of our honored kinsman from New York for so many years, and I found that the branch to which I belong was so insignificant when compared with the others that he hadn't noticed us at all. I wrote to Edward H. and as the result of our correspondence he has promised to give us a small branch upon the family tree, and I feel that I have been reinstated into good society.

On searching the Mendon records I find the first mention of the name of Fletcher is that of my great-great-grandfather who was married in that town in October, 1731. I find the family to have been largely farmers, thrifty, honest, and respected; in fact the only thing that I can find against any of them is that a brother of my great-grandfather ran away from his family, but his wife didn't seem to take it to heart very much for she soon married again and not only reared a large family herself but left a daughter whom I visited a few days ago and found the wants of her declining years ministered to by a family of 19 children. I am glad to have the honor of meeting you all face to face and to live over with you in imagination the scenes to us made sacred by the roll of centuries. I feel ashamed when I remember that I have passed the door of our honored president almost daily for the past six years and never stopped to inquire whether he was of our family or not. I trust that these meetings will awaken in us a deeper interest in each other and that they will be the means of drawing us closer together into a truer family. I hope to meet you all again and if you

come to Boston you will always find my latch-string upon the outside.

The following poem written for the occasion, by Miss C. F. D. Fletcher of Norridge-wock, Me., a daughter of Amos Fletcher of Nashua, was then read:

This gathering of a summer's day,
So soon to scatter far and wide,
What means it? but that each would say,
One tie binds brother side to side.

It is a name. The common name
Of those who meet each other here,
And so to all who kinship claim,
E'er may its honor be most dear.

Name of our fathers, borne so long
By honest burghers o'er the sea,
In this fair land may it belong,
Only to those who worthy be.

Let no dark stain of crime or vice
Tarnish its beauty or its fame;
No soul be bought for any price
To bring it down to grief and shame.

May sturdy virtue mark the name,
Whether of youth or waning age;
May Christian love and Christian aim
Make bright the record of its page.

Thus in the true nobility,
God makes of character on earth,
Long may the name of Fletcher be
A synonym of truth and worth.

A committee of five was appointed on recommendation of the committee on publication of a second edition of the genealogy of the Fletcher family, to canvass for subscriptions at this gathering in aid of such publication.

Amos Fletcher, esq., of Nashua, N. H., made the concluding address of the forenoon, after which

DINNER

was served at Jackson hall and nearly every chair at the well-spread tables was occupied. It is very seldom that so large a dinner party and rarer yet that so intelligent and well-to-do appearing a party has assembled in the hall. Beside the hundreds who dined at the hall, and who were gratified with the excellent catering of Messrs. Nichols and Hutchins, many dined at the restaurant kept by the caterers, and at other places. There was music by an orchestra and singing by the company before leaving the tables.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first business in the afternoon was the soliciting of contributions for the fund of \$500 to ensure the publication of the second edition of the genealogy of the Fletcher family; it being understood that none of the money would be called for unless the sale of a sufficient number of copies to pay the expense of compilation and publication is made. The chairman, and afterward Rev. Dr. Fletcher of Buffalo, N. Y., called for subscriptions, and the \$500 was pledged in a few minutes, in sums of from \$25 to \$5.

The report of the treasurer, J. Varnum

Fletcher of Boston, was read. It showed that there was \$13 55 received by him and that the expenditures were \$13; leaving 55 cents in the treasury.

George Fletcher of Westford, Vt., chairman of the committee on amendment of constitution, presented a brief report, the principal amendment being one prescribing that the meetings of the Fletcher union shall be held as often as once in five years; more frequent meetings being optional with the executive committee. This amendment was discussed at some length, one speaker urging that ten years interim might be not too great in the future for these meetings, while another urged that he should be pleased to have them every year. The amendment was adopted.

The following poem, written by a grandson of Amos Fletcher—W. H. Dole of Boston—was read by the chairman:

W. H. DOLE'S POEM.

Opinions differ as to how the human race began;
Some think that Adam was the very first primeval man,
A being made of dust and clay that God breathed into life,
Who sleeping, lost a rib one night and waking found a wife.
And others think that this tremendous mystery is solved
To say that from a mollusk or an ape he was evolved.
In either case, however, there is no great credit due:
The monkey and mollusk they grew better it is true.
But Adam fell from grace and filled the world with lamentation,
And all his sons have had to toil and travel since creation;
Their very names are often synonyms of hard endeavor,
And Smith and Wright and Clark will speak of sweat and ink forever.
We wonder who the earliest Fletcher was and whence he came,
And how he won unto himself a dame and name and Jane.
I dreamed last night; I saw a mighty man in coat of mail,
His hair was long and black; his eyes were blue; his face was pale;
He had a quiver in his hand, a quiver in his voice;
He spoke a tongue I understood—it made my heart rejoice.
Behind him stood another form, it was his spouse, I trow.
She had a smile upon her lips, a kerchief on her brow;
Her hair was fair and slightly curled, her face was kind and strong;
She held her husband's battle bow, 'twas made of ash and long.
Both bowed and then he spoke these words I never shall forget;
Their mellow tone, melodious strength and music linger yet.

WHAT HE SPOKE.

"Hail child of the Fletchers, a Fletcher am I,
The first of the race to Scotland I came,
On the braes of Glenorechy in fight did I die,
And gained there my glory and left there my name.

This bow and these arrows were made by my hand;
 'Twas the best bow in Scotland, the mightiest bow,
 And I was the doughtiest chief in that land,
 'Till an arrow from Affin, my foe, laid me low.
 Oh, many's the tale I cou'd tell of those days,
 And brave were the deeds that were done by our men,
 When first rose our smoke from the mountainous braes,
 When we fought for our homes in valley and glen.
 My dame she was proud when I came to woo;
 The Stewarts were proud to acknowledge my claim;
 And never a time did my sweet wife rue
 The hour that I took her and gave her my name.
 And now on the lands the Fletchers have spread;
 They cross the wide seas, my descendants, my clan;
 My blessing goes with them; I watch them though dead;
 May none of them ever come under my ban!"
 And here the brimled cock, the cursed clarion of the morn,
 Unfortunately w. ke and blew upon his bugle horn.
 The figures vanisht like blue smoke away and tenuous air
 Told not that any such celestial strangers had been there.

Prof. Robert Fletcher of Dartmouth college was next introduced, and made a brief but pleasing address.

E. Dana Bancroft of Ayer, whose grandfather was Benjamin Fletcher of Chelmsford, made an interesting address, during which he recited an old humorous poem entitled "Tobias and Carbuncus" Fletcher, which he led the audience in singing.

J. M. Fletcher of Nashua was next announced, and read an interesting poem; pre-acing its delivery by a few appropriate remarks. He gave the information that his grandfather at one time owned a large portion of the land on which Lowell now stands, and built the first mill in the city, on the banks of the Concord river, in 1810. Mr. Fletcher's poem was not prepared for publication.

A committee consisting of Dr. Edwards Hall of New York, Sherman D. Fletcher of Westford, Henry E. Fletcher of St. Johnsbury, Vt., Austin B. Fletcher of Boston, and Prof. Robert Fletcher of Dartmouth college was appointed to report a list of officers for the ensuing term; and subsequently reported the following list, which was adopted:

President, John W. Fletcher of Chelsea.
 Vice-presidents, Abner W. Fletcher of Burnham, Me., Rev. Stephen C. Fletcher of New London, N. H., Samuel Fletcher of Thetford, Vt., George Fletcher of Dunstable, Massachusetts, Horace R. Fletcher of Brooklyn, N. Y., Marsh W. Fletcher of Wayne, Illinois.

Executive committee, E. Dix Fletcher of Lowell, Warren Fletcher of East Boston, John Fletcher, jr., of Acton.

Secretary, Edward H. Fletcher of New York city.

Treasurer, J. Varnum Fletcher of Boston.

Mr. S. B. Morse of Watertown, although not a Fletcher, expressed his pleasure, as connected with the family in being present. He was pleased to know that his father by marriage was an esteemed and respected member of this family.

Rev. S. S. Fletcher of Exeter, N. H., made a forcible speech, expressing his pleasure that this organization had been formed, and urging his members to cultivate friendly and intimate relations, and to use every effort to maintain the high standing of the Fletchers.

After a few congratulatory remarks by the president, and singing by the assemblage, the business sessions of the gathering were concluded.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. G. L. Fletcher of Chester, Vermont, presided. The attendance was much smaller than in the day sessions, as many from out of town returned home on afternoon trains. Addresses were made by Messrs. Josiah N. Fletcher of Nashua, N. H., William Fletcher of Chelmsford, Edward H. Fletcher of New York City, Rev. J. C. Fletcher of Indianapolis, Ind., and by the president, Mr. A. B. Fletcher of Boston gave some interesting readings. Music was furnished by a string band, and dancing, continuing till about 10 1-2, concluded the festivities.

Notes.

The youngest representative of the family present was Asa F. Fletcher, 8 months old, son of Mr. Silas W. Fletcher of this city. He took a lively interest in the proceedings.

In his speech yesterday Rev. J. C. Fletcher gave the salutation of the branch of Jesse Fletcher that settled in Indianapolis, Ind., the senior member of which is Stoughton A. Fletcher, sr. In the evening Rev. J. C. F., referred to some of the eminent women of the Fletcher family—the self-sacrificing women of the early days. He also mentioned two that are well known in this century by their marriage relations, viz: Grace Fletcher, the first wife of Daniel Webster, and her niece—née Fletcher, the wife of the eminent Dr. Brown-Squard of Paris so widely known for his treatment of the late Chas. Sumner.

WHO WERE PRESENT.

The following is an accurate copy of the register kept of the attendants at the gathering:

Fletcher, Geo L, Chester, Vt.
 Fletcher, Emily C, Chester, Vt
 Fletcher, Joseph T, Bridport, Vt
 Fletcher, Aurelia, Bridport, Vt
 Fletcher, Albert A, Bridport, Vt
 Fletcher, Delia, Bridport, Vt
 Fletcher, Isaac A, and wife, Lowell
 Fletcher, Thomas A, Lowell
 Fletcher, Arthur F, Amherst, N H
 Fletcher, Simon T, Lowell
 Fletcher, Amira B, Lowell
 Fletcher, Parker, Winchester
 Fletcher, Samuel A, and wife, Middleton
 Fletcher, Arthur, Winchester
 Fletcher, Josiah R, Chelmsford
 Fletcher, Charles, and wife, Charlestown
 Fletcher, Samuel W, Watertown
 Fletcher, Joel W, Cambridgeport

Fletcher, J D, East Cambridge
 Fletcher, Mrs E J, East Cambridge
 Fletcher, Helen M, Charlestown
 Fletcher, Francis P, East Washington, N H
 Fletcher, Othiel, Malden
 Fletcher, David B, Boston
 Fletcher, Mrs N Frank, Boston
 Fletcher, Alice L, Lowell
 Fletcher, Sarah E, Dorchester
 Fletcher, Geo M, Westford
 Fletcher, B M, Westford
 Fletcher, Mrs Ella M, Westford
 Fletcher, Amos, Nashua, N H
 Fletcher Mrs Amasa, Fletcher
 Fletcher, S C, New London, N H
 Fletcher, Warren, East Boston
 Fletcher, Mrs Walter, Everett
 Fletcher, J Varnum and wife, Belmont
 Fletcher, Mary K, Westford
 Fletcher, A B, Westford
 Fletcher, B S, South Cornish, N H
 Fletcher, Wm W, Concord, N H
 Fletcher, J M, and wife, Nashua
 Fletcher, J M, Stow
 Fletcher, L P, Westford
 Fletcher, Mrs Sarah, Westford
 Fletcher, Mrs Carrie, Westford
 Fletcher, Henry E, and wife, St John bary, Vt
 Fletcher, Mrs John, Greenfield, N H
 Fletcher, Eva, Greenfield, N H
 Fletcher, Joel A, Westford
 Fletcher, Herbert E, Westford
 Fletcher, Sherman H, Westford
 Fletcher, Mrs Mary R, Westford
 Fletcher, Charles G, and wife, Lexington
 Fletcher, T C Littleton
 Fletcher, Minnie L, Littleton
 Fletcher, Daniel C, Littleton
 Fletcher, William, and wife, Boston
 Fletcher, Parker, and wife, Groton
 Fletcher, J E, and wife, Ayer
 Fletcher, Carrie H, Ayer
 Fletcher, Alta H, Fletcher
 Fletcher, May M, Ayer
 Fletcher, Mrs C H, Lowell
 Fletcher, Arthur L, Lowell
 Fletcher, Hattie E, Haverhill
 Fletcher, Charles R, and wife, New Ipswich, N H
 Fletcher, Asa, Winchester
 Fletcher, Solomon Lawrence, Winchester
 Fletcher, J W, Townsend
 Fletcher, W D, Townsend
 Fletcher, Edwin, Acton
 Fletcher, Andrew, Westford
 Fletcher, Sherman D, and wife, Westford
 Fletcher, Emily F, Westford
 Fletcher, Rev S S, Exeter, N H
 Fletcher, Mabel F, Exeter, N H
 Fletcher, Samuel, and wife, Westford
 Fletcher, Mrs George H, Westford
 Fletcher, Ruel H, East Cambridge
 Fletcher, Carrie W, Pepperell
 Fletcher, William, and wife, Chelmsford
 Fletcher, Nelle R, Chelmsford
 Fletcher, Willie, Chelmsford
 Fletcher, S C, Athol
 Fletcher, Mark W, and wife, Cane county, Ill
 Fletcher, George W, and wife, Dunstable
 Fletcher, Mrs Maria, Dunstable
 Fletcher, Gardner, Dansville, Mich
 Fletcher, Robert, and wife, Chelmsford
 Fletcher, Isabel A, Lowell
 Fletcher, Jennie M, Lowell
 Fletcher, Sophronia F, Fitchburg
 Fletcher, Everett S, Derry, N H
 Fletcher, Mrs John L, Derry, N H
 Fletcher, Wm, Lowell
 Fletcher, Reief, Lowell
 Fletcher, Mrs Shuah H, Lowell
 Fletcher, Zaccheus, Mansfield

Fletcher, S T, Boston
 Fletcher, Nathan B, Lynn
 Fletcher, R R, Ayer
 Fletcher, E F, Ayer
 Fletcher, J W, and wife, Littleton
 Fletcher, Nathan, Billerica
 Fletcher, Alvin Coburn, Tyngsboro
 Fletcher, Rev Stephen C, London, N H, Col 1st
 Maine Vet Vol
 Fletcher, Benj, and wife, Lowell
 Fletcher, Mrs Sarah M, Lowell
 Fletcher, Miss Martha M, Lowell
 Fletcher, Frank H, Lowell
 Fletcher, Charles Daggett, Lowell
 Fletcher, Levi T, and wife, Westford
 Fletcher, Miss Clara A, Nashua, N H
 Fletcher, Miss Mary Etta, Billerica
 Fletcher, Mrs Oliver, Lowell
 Fletcher, Noah, Grafton
 Fletcher, Emily D, Fitchburg
 Fletcher, Franklin A, and wife, Lexington
 Fletcher, Roby, Fitchburg
 Fletcher, George F, East Washington, N H
 Fletcher, G D, and wife, Templeton
 Fletcher, J S, and wife, Stow
 Fletcher, Adice L, Stow
 Fletcher, Samuel, Theford, Vt
 Fletcher, Mrs Shuah H, Lowell
 Fletcher, Joseph M, and wife, Chelmsford
 Fletcher, Wm Isaac, Hartford, Conn
 Fletcher, Emily, New York
 Fletcher Luther J, Buffalo, N Y
 Fletcher Edmund D, Lowell
 Fletcher Samuel, Theford, Vt
 Fletcher Geo M, Rumney, N H
 Fletcher Miles J, Lowell
 Fletcher Kessie L, Lowell
 Fletcher Clarence W, Lowell
 Fletcher Eliza J, Lowell
 Fletcher John W, Chelsea
 Fletcher John A, Chelsea
 Fletcher Anna Dix, Lowell
 Fletcher Hattie E, Haverhill
 Fletcher Edward H, New York
 Fletcher Ora A, Lowell
 Fletcher Sarah L, Lowell
 Fletcher John, jr, Acton
 Fletcher Martha, Acton
 Fletcher Clara S, Acton
 Fletcher Austin B, Boston
 Fletcher Asa A, Franklin
 Fletcher Laurin, Lowell
 Fletcher Emily, Lowell
 Fletcher Mary E, Lowell
 Fletcher Fremont C, Lowell
 Fletcher Mary E, New York
 Fletcher Horatio, Lowell
 Fletcher Mrs E Dix, Lowell
 Fletcher Hezekiah F, New York
 Fletcher Louisa L, New York
 Fletcher Frank A, Lowell
 Fletcher Nettie J, Lowell
 Fletcher John S, Lowell
 Fletcher Henry H, and wife, Lowell
 Fletcher Charles W, Lowell
 Fletcher Mary E, Lowell
 Fletcher Mary E, Charlestown, N H
 Fletcher Ellen L, Charlestown, N H
 Fletcher John B, St Albans, Vt
 Fletcher Rev J C, Brazil
 Fletcher Geo W, Rumney, N H
 Fletcher Sophronia, M D, Claremont, N H
 Fletcher Silas W, Lowell
 Fletcher Ruth E, Lowell
 Fletcher Amanda E, Lowell
 Fletcher Asa F, Lowell
 Fletcher Mary A, New York
 Fletcher Robert, Hanover, N H
 Fletcher Ellen M, Hanover, N H
 Adams Mrs J W, Winchester

- Abbott, Lucy K, Cambridge
 Adams, Mrs J W, Winchester
 Burrage Hamilton, Lowell
 Burrage Mary Howe, Lowell
 Burrage Katie, Lowell
 Burrage George H, Lowell
 Burrage Mabel H, Lowell
 Bartlett Mrs. Stephen, Haverhill
 Boynton Mrs Frank W, Haverhill
 Brazer William P, Lowell
 Brazer Mrs Mary Fletcher, Lowell
 Brazer Ralph Fletcher, Lowell
 Brazer Kate E, Lowell
 Brazer May, Lowell
 Barnard, Joel, Arlington Heights
 Bennet, Fanny C, Worcester
 Bearse, Benj Cambridge
 Bowers, Mrs Hannah R Fletcher, Chelmsford
 Blood, E H N, Pepperell
 Blood, Mrs Mary A, Pepperell
 Boynton, Mrs Martha, Haverhill
 Bowers, Laura, Nashua
 Butte, field, R J, West Chelmsford
 Butterfield, Mrs Susan A Fletcher, West Chelmsford
 Brown, Mrs Lydia Fletcher, Westford
 Bancroft, E Dana, Ayer
 Babbidge, Mrs Eliza A, Pepperell
 Bartlett, Mrs Stephen, Haverhill
 Boynton, Mrs Frank W, Haverhill
 Clement, Dr G W, Boston
 Clement, Mrs Maria Fletcher, Boston
 Clark, Miss Susie F, Tewksbury
 Caldwell, Julia M Fletcher, Brighton
 Clark Daniel, Boston
 Clark Caroline, Boston
 Chappen, Delia, Middleborough, Vt
 Cates, A T, Lowell
 Cates, Mrs Sophronia Fletcher, Lowell
 Cooper, Martha P, Ayer
 Colburn, Mrs G W, Nashua
 Clark, Mrs John, Tewksbury
 Clark, Jennie, Tewksbury
 Clark, Edward P, Tewksbury
 Clark, John, Tewksbury
 Lix, Miss Anna, Lowell
 Drew, Mrs P S, Lowell
 Davis Sidney, Lowell
 Davis Mary J, Lowell
 Davis Henry J, Lowell
 Davis Lizzie A, Lowell
 Davis, Mrs Susan, Dunstable
 Drew, Mary E, Lowell
 Davis, R F, New Ipswich, N H
 Derby, Eliza G, Boston Highlands
 Davis, Elsha, Lowell
 Dodge, Mrs Addie E, New York
 Day, Mrs Cornelia A, Westford
 Estabrook, Ida F, Boston
 Farwell, Mrs J W, Melrose
 Frederick Clarissa A, Boston
 Farwell Mrs N W, Boston
 Farwell, Evelyn A, Boston
 Green, Miss Ella C, Lowell
 Gilman, Roxy, Boston
 Hicks, Mrs Wm E, Boston
 Hayward Otis F, Hudson
 Hayward Mrs M L, Hudson
 Hildreth A G, Lowell
 Hall Dr Edwards, and wife, New York
 Hicks Mrs Harriet, Boston
 Hicks, William L, Boston
 Harris, James, Tyngsboro
 Harris, Mrs L M Fletcher, Tyngsboro
 Heywood, Otis, Hudson
 Hodgman, Edwin R, Westford
 Hale, Fanny A, Belmont
 Hodgman, J L, and wife, Malden
 Hastings, Mrs H, Lyndonville, Vt
 Hildreth, Mrs Mary R, Groton
 Haywood, Edwin E, Westford
 Haywood Mary F, Westford
 Jaquith, C B, Keene, N H
 Jaquith, Mrs Elmira Fletcher, Keene, N H
 Jenkins, Mrs Wm, Milford, N H
 Jaquith, G O, Boston
 Kendrick, Mrs Mary F, Arlington
 Keniston, Elizabeth, Dixmont, Me
 Kempton Achsah, Claremont, N H
 Kileski Henry, Lowell
 Kileski Susan, Lowell
 Kileski Etta, Lowell
 Kileski Arthur, Lowell
 Kileski Louis, Lowell
 Lang, Otis, Bradford
 Lahe, Leonora Fletcher, Cambridgeport
 Lear, Mrs Wm D, South Cornish, N H
 Moore, Jonathau Fletcher, McHenry county, Ill
 Moore, Mrs Maria Fletcher, McHenry county, Ill
 Moss, Luther B, Watertown
 Moss, Mrs Julia Fletcher, Watertown
 Moss, Harry Fletcher, Watertown
 Marden, Louisa H, Dixmont, Me
 McQuesten, Mrs George E, Fashua, N H
 Marden, Wm H, and wife, Cambridgeport
 Manning, J W, Reading
 Manning, Mrs L B, Reading
 Manning, Warren H, Reading
 Messer, Mrs S S, Lowell
 Newhall, N A, Stow
 Newhall, Mrs Lucy Ann Fletcher, Stow
 Newhall, Ella, Stow
 Newhall, Josie, Stow
 Nash, James W, and wife, Lowell
 Osgood, Charles, Townsend
 Osgood, Mrs Betsey H, Townsend
 Osgood, Maria, Lowell
 Pope Mrs F D, Ayer
 Pope, Nellie F, Ayer
 Page, John, Leominster
 Page, Mrs Caroline Fletcher, Leominster
 Richardson, Sarah, Westford
 Rice, Mrs Martha Ann Fletcher, Allston
 Ranlett, Orrin B,
 Raymond Mrs Perley, Winchester
 Raymond, Mrs Perley, Raymond
 Reed, Almira H, Lowell
 Symmes, T E, Westford
 Sweetser, Judson, Westford
 Sweetser, Rebecca, Westford
 Sweetser, Nathaniel, and wife, Westford
 Smith, Joseph E, Hollis, N H
 Smith, J R, Hollis, N H
 Sawtelle, Nancy, Shirley
 Symmes, William E, Westford
 Sherwin, Levi, Ayer
 Sherwin, Mrs Mary J Fletcher, Ayer
 Spalding, Dr Joel, Lowell
 Spalding Sara Rebecca, Lowell
 Sawyer, Mary F, Fitchburg
 Trull, Jesse L, Tewksbury
 Tarbell, Joseph H, and wife, Hudson
 Woods, Mrs Adriana, Nashua N H
 Wood, Mrs Ida M Fletcher Eastport, Me
 Whitcomb, Mrs Peter S, Littleton
 Whitcomb, Nellie M, Littleton
 Whitcomb, Lon H, Ayer
 Wallingford, Mrs Ida S, Ayer
 Weston, Ellen M, Fitchburg
 Whitney, John Fletcher, Cambridge
 White, Mrs Louisa Fletcher, Foxboro
 Wright, Gilman F, Graniteville
 Wright Mrs Walter, Lowell
 Wright Miss Ella T, Lowell

