THE AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
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VICE-PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the meetings of the American Philosophical Society were held on the first and third Fridays of each month from October to May, inclusive, and the scientific programs consisted of a principal lecture and minor verbal or written communications from local members or distant correspondents. With the removal of residence of local members from the center of Philadelphia and the wider geographical distribution of the membership of the society it became increasingly difficult to get good attendance at these fortnightly meetings, and in the early years of the present century the regular meetings began to be held monthly, while an annual general meeting was held in the month of April extending over a period of two or three days. The success of these general meetings was so great and the interest in the monthly meetings so small that the latter were abandoned in 1835 and in their place an Autumn General Meeting in the month of November was instituted, to which there was soon added a Midwinter Meeting in the month of February, each of these extending over two full days. By thus decreas-
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