

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

I OFFER for preservation in print a brief unpublished report of May, 1835, doubtless the last written by Christopher C. Baldwin, librarian, whose death at thirty-five years of age occurred on August 20 of that year. It again suggests Mr. Baldwin's devotion to the interests of the Society, and his rare fore-thought of the nineteenth-century needs of the students of American history who were to succeed him. The report follows:

"The Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society asks leave to submit the following report:

"The Librarian, at the annual meeting on the 23rd Oct. [1834] last, indulged the belief that he should be able to complete the Catalogue of the Library before the semi-annual meeting in May; in this, however, he has been disappointed. Since the meeting in October, he has been engaged in transcribing and preparing it for publication. Between this and the meeting in October, he expects to be able to complete the transcript and to compare each publication described on the catalogue with each publication in the Library.

"It was one of the objects of the liberal founder of the Institution that its Library should contain a complete collection of the productions of American authors. In pursuance of this plan, the Librarian has bestowed as much time as could be spared from other duties in collecting publications of American origin. It is believed that no institution in the country has proposed the accomplishment of a similar object. The materials of history are found originally in pamphlets, newspapers and publications of this description. These exist in great abundance in every part of the community and are permitted to perish from the impression that no use can be made of them. They are, however, indispensably necessary to the successful accomplishment of the labors of the historian. It is feared

that a great number of those published in the early settlement of the country are irrecoverably lost. Until within a few years past no place had been provided for their reception and preservation. Individuals had, in some instances, attempted to make collections and succeeded to a certain extent, but the result of their industry in this respect has availed little from the fact that, at their decease, their collections have been distributed among heirs, like other property. This was the case with the voluminous collection of the Mathers; and those of Thomas Prince, which he began when he was in college, have shared a fate but little better. It is believed that the collections now in the Massachusetts Hist. Society derived from the industry of this indefatigable collector, comprise only a fragment of the whole which he left at his death. A large quantity of his MSS & books were sold at auction about 1800 in the County of Worcester, and are now so scattered as to forbid all hope of their recovery. This was undoubtedly the largest collection that had been made in the country at that time, and the destruction of so great a portion of [it] is now much to be lamented."

The following official entry emphasizes the Society's national character, so strenuously insisted upon from its birth:

"Sub Council Records, November 6, 1815. Appointed *Counsellors* for Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi Territory, Louisiana, Ohio, and District West of the Alleghany. *Receiving Officers* for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania."

The Society's limitations during its earlier years are indicated by the following entries in the Council Records: "November 28, 1832. Voted that Col. Samuel Damon of Holden, in consideration of his conveying to the Society his rights and titles to any land now included within the wall of the yard of the Antiquarian Hall, shall with his immediate family have the privilege of visiting Antiquarian Hall at all hours when the Hall is kept open for visitors,

under the rules of the Society." And "April 24, 1833. The Librarian is recommended to permit any and all persons to visit the Library, *etc.*, from 11 to 12 o'clock of each day."

The modern method of teaching or studying history, whether in the high, higher or highest schools, has brought into much freer use the contemporary authorities in our treasure-house. While much time and patience are required in guiding the younger workers, it has been found necessary to impress upon all the great respect due to these priceless memorials of the past and the high value of the privileges they here enjoy.

The semi-annual record of givers and gifts—to the 15th instant—contains two hundred and eighty-one names, being those of thirty-three members, one hundred and twenty-three persons not members, and one hundred and twenty-five societies and institutions. From these sources have been received eight hundred and eighty-five books; thirty-two hundred and forty-one pamphlets; thirteen bound and one hundred and thirteen unbound volumes of newspapers; four bound volumes of manuscripts, with a collection of letters; five bound volumes and one hundred and fifty-four unbound of photographs; three hundred and twenty-four maps; one hundred and two book-plates; seventy-one portraits; seventeen engravings and six proclamations; by exchange thirty-one books and forty-six pamphlets; and from the bindery one hundred and twenty-six volumes of magazines and twenty-two volumes of newspapers; making the total accessions ten hundred and forty-two books, thirty-two hundred and eighty-seven pamphlets; thirty-five bound and one hundred and thirteen volumes of unbound newspapers, *etc.*

Prof. Franklin B. Dexter, to whom we are indebted for much Connecticut material, has presented "Yale, Her Campus, Class-Rooms and Athletics"; and Mr. George P. Winship has recognized his election to membership in

the Society by the gift of a collection of his own writings.

The name of Hon. Samuel A. Green will always be found in the list of givers and gifts. In a parcel recently received from him appears the following :

From the Massachusetts Spy.

At the late Anniversary of the *Fraternity of Odd Fellows* (a literary association,) in this town, a Poem was delivered, the subject of which was the death of *Massasoit*, a Narraganset Chief, a friend of the Whites, from which we have been allowed by the author to make the following extract. In it we think our readers will readily recognize the writer, to whom we have been indebted for the articles which have appeared in the *SPY* under the signature of E.

* * * * *

Although yon pillar'd dome, yon solid pile,¹
On Time's approach seems scornfully to smile,
And plants its columns, classic, chaste and fair,
On his destroying scythe, thrown broken there;
And in its halls those trophies there are plac'd,
That once the war-chief and his people grac'd—
Ah! what avails it? Time's corroding rust
Shall give its walls and pillows (*Sic.*) to the dust.

* * * * *

It leads your librarian to remark that the present dilapidated condition of the original Antiquarian Hall and its remaining wing on the south side, not only indicate the action of "Time's corroding rust," but suggests a desire that it would more speedily "give its walls and pillars to the dust."

The Duc de Loubat has added to the Davis Spanish-American department, reproductions—at his own charge—of two more codices relating to Mexico. One is known as the "Codex Telleriano-Remensis," the other as the "Codice Cospiano," though sometimes called the "Codice Messicano di Bologna." The originals are in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris and in the library of the University of Bologna, respectively.

¹ Referring to the Antiquarian Hall. On the seal of the Society is represented a view of the Hall, and Time sitting near to it, with his scythe broken and thrown at the foot of the pillars.

Dr. Charles L. Nichols has purchased for us "A Curious Hieroglyphic Bible," printed at Worcester in 1788. It is one of the rarest of our founder's imprints. Mr. Nathaniel Paine's semi-annual gift includes one of the twenty-five copies of his "Remarks at the Meeting of the Worcester Fire Society, January 2, 1899." Special attention is called to this pamphlet, as it contains interesting extracts from the valuable diary of Christopher C. Baldwin, a former librarian of this Society.

Gen. Horatio Rogers, chairman of the Record Commissioners, sends us, as issued, the Early Records of the Town of Providence, Rhode Island, fourteen volumes of which have already appeared.

President Salisbury's gift includes seventy of Rinehart's striking Photographs of American Indians, taken at the Omaha Exposition in 1898. They are typical representatives of twenty tribes; are young, old and middle-aged, and generally shown in full dress. Mr. Nathaniel Paine has effectively mounted and inscribed this valuable collection.

Mr. Henry P. Upham has supplied, as issued, "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents" and has placed in the Alcove of Family History Hoyt's "Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts."

In April, 1884, your librarian presented the army letters of his brothers, Captains Charles Henry Barton and George Edward Barton. The former served during the war of 1861-1865 with the Tenth Missouri Cavalry and the Forty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry; and the latter with the Fifty-first and Fifty-seventh Massachusetts Infantry. He now places with these collections of soldiers' letters, his own war journal, letters and papers covering the years 1863-1865, when he was the Relief Agent of the United States Sanitary Commission for the Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac.

The receipt from Mr. Clarence S. Brigham, of his

"Brown Record in the Revolution" and his "Brown University Bibliography" is a reminder of service rendered in the preparation of both the historical and bibliographical monographs. We are always happy to add to our rich stores of college material as well as to certify to its frequent use.

Mr. Alfred W. Burrill's gift includes a nearly complete set of the reports of the Record Commissioners of Boston; and Miss Emma C. Pratt's, fifty volumes of American newspapers in continuation of complete files contributed for many years by her father, the late Mr. Joseph Pratt. Mr. E. Harlow Russell, literary executor of Mr. Harrison G. O. Blake, has presented the manuscript sermon of Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D.D., preached in memory of Hon. Francis Blake. This is in recognition of their early membership in and distinguished services to this Society.

Mr. Cedric Chivers of Bath, England, sends us in fine binding a work upon whose wrapper appears the following legend, "Ony fule can write a book, it's the Binding o't, the Binding o't's the thing." A bit of evidence that the American sense of humor is making head-way in the mother country.

Miss Mary F. Sargent has again added to the library books and pamphlets, chiefly collected by her father the late Dr. Joseph Sargent—for years a member of our Council; and Mrs. Ginery Twichell has, by my request, kindly replenished our stock of the quaint Twichell book-plate.

Mr. R. A. Thompson, editor of *The Pioneer and Historical Review*, writes from San Francisco: "I send you under another cover, three Papers on The Explorers and Explorations of the Northwest Coast of America. The foot notes will explain why I send them. It is a matter of not much importance, but as reference is made to the Proceedings of your Society, I thought the Papers might interest you." The Proceedings mentioned are those of

1873 and 1879, which contain the articles contributed by our associate Mr. John T. Doyle by request of Hon. John D. Washburn, then our Recording Secretary. They again remind us of the Society's wide-spread influence as well as membership.

The educational and scientific material acknowledged to Mr. William G. Thompson was largely gathered by his father, our late associate, Charles O. Thompson, Ph.D. It has been classified with a view to its greatest usefulness. A collection of Washington and other portraits, with many photographs and maps are included in the valued gift.

Hon. Joseph H. Walker has presented the remainder of the edition of his "Facts and Suggestions on Money, Trade and Banking," with numerous national, state and miscellaneous publications. He has also sent to the library his undistributed government documents, from which we shall make the first selection.

Among the books received from Mrs. William T. Wardwell—daughter of our late Councillor, Hon. P. Emory Aldrich—is a copy of Salmon's Geographical and Astronomical Grammar of 1785, which bears the following endorsement made shortly before the close of the Second War for Independence :

" This volume taken from
John Bull on the Coast of
Ireland in the Winter of
1814, in testimony whereof
I hereunto set my name
Daniel Wardwell."

Two volumes of *The Boston Weekly Magazine and Ladies Miscellany* were also received from Mrs. Wardwell. The number for May 8, 1819, contains an illustrated article from *The London Observer* upon THE VELOSIPEDE OR SWIFT WALKER. The American editor introduces the reprint with the following note: "The Velocipede of which we give a cut below, was first introduced into this town by Mr. SALISBURY, Wheelwright in Water-street. Those who are curious to see this

inanimate animal can gratify their curiosity by calling at Mr. Salisbury's work shop." The claims of the inventor—Baron de Drais, Master of the Woods and Forests of H. R.H. the Grand Duke of Baden—were, briefly stated: 1. "That on a well-maintained post-road it will travel up hill as fast as an active man can walk. 2. On a plain, even after a heavy rain, it will go six or seven miles an hour; which is as swift as a courier. 3. When roads are dry and firm, it runs on a plain at the rate of eight or nine miles an hour, which is equal to a horse's gallop. 4. On a descent, it equals a horse at full speed." After careful advice as to its use, the writer adds: "The inventor proposes to construct them to carry two persons, and to be impelled by each alternately, or by both at once; and also with three or four wheels; with a seat for a lady. Besides the application of a parasol or umbrella, he also proposes to avail himself of a sail, with a favorable wind." The manufacturer appears to have been a coach-maker in Long-Acre.

Accompanying the valuable gifts of Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., was the following letter:

10 Walnut Street, Boston,

Aug. 3, 1899.

Dear Sir:

Rev. E. G. Porter tells me that he has described to you a rather bulky volume which I am about sending as a gift to the Library of the American Antiquarian Society, and which was compiled at his suggestion. I need not therefore go into any explanations on the subject, save to mention that it will be delivered to you by express prepaid about the time you receive this letter.

Early last Spring I told Mr. Salisbury that I was prepared to give the same Society autograph letters of William Bradford and Roger Williams. It was not then convenient to do so, but I have now placed them *inside the cover* of the volume in question. I do not, however, wish them to remain there, as they in no way relate to Tantiusques.

The Bradford letter is dated June 29, 1640, & will be found in print in 4 Mass. Hist. Coll. vi. pp. 158-159.

The earliest of the two Williams letters is n. d., but was undoubtedly written in June, 1637. It is to be found in print in *Ibid*, pp. 194, 195.

The second Williams letter is dated June 25, 1675, & is to be found in print in *Ibid*, pp. 299-302.

The reason I send two of Williams is that they were written at an interval of nearly forty years.

I do not know whether your Society is interested in collecting autographs of early Colonial celebrities. If so, and if you would specify any which may be needed, I might *perhaps* give additional ones, if I happened to have enough duplicates.

Yours truly,

R. C. WINTHROP, JR.

E. M. Barton, Esq.

"The Tale of Tantiusques 1644-1776" appears in a large folio volume of ninety-two pages, strongly bound in buckram. It opens with Mr. Winthrop's Introduction and Table of Contents, which are followed by one hundred and twenty-seven original agreements, letters, *etc.*, and five plans carefully mounted on cloth. Mr. Winthrop's explanatory notes add greatly to the interest of this wonderful collection, which has been deposited in our steel safe with the rare letters of William Bradford and Roger Williams.

I acknowledge to the town of Lexington, Massachusetts, the receipt of a copy of its Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths, to January 1, 1898. We should be able to secure by gift, exchange or purchase every publication of this important class. The wise distribution of the remainders of such material could be materially aided by the judicious city or town librarian, whose library should in turn reap an abundant advantage thereby.

The Worcester Fire Society, through its clerk, Mr. Charles A. Chase, has presented Reminiscences and Biographical Notices of twenty-one members, with an historical sketch by Mr. Nathaniel Paine. It is the sixth of a series of life-like pen pictures of citizens distinguished in their day and generation. Ten of the twenty-one persons

named were honored members of this society, viz. : George Folsom, Samuel B. Woodward, George Chandler, Ira M. Barton, Benjamin F. Thomas, Samuel F. Haven, D. Waldo Lincoln, Alexander H. Bullock and Francis H. Dewey. The sketches were prepared by George F. Hoar, Waldo Lincoln, Charles A. Chase, Joseph Mason, Waldo Lincoln, Nathaniel Paine, Charles A. Chase, George F. Hoar, Charles A. Chase and Frank P. Goulding, respectively. Five of the six writers mentioned are to-day among our most active associates.

We have received from the surviving members of the Worcester West Association of ministers, organized in 1780 as the Westminster Association, their Book of Records, covering the period from December 18, 1805, to February 9, 1886. A letter relating thereto follows :

1899.

Sept. 13.

Leicester, Mass.

Dear Sir :

The association (West'r & Wor. West) has not met for many years. Rev. Alvin Freeman Bailey of Barre and myself were the surviving members. I think he was President and I Secretary. The Worcester Association, of which we were also members, fills the place of both old associations, and it was agreed between us not to try to revive the old meetings. At a meeting of the latter body I made an explanation, and was requested by those who would naturally belong to the West'r Assoc. to place the records in your charge. I had left them some years ago in the Parsonage library in Templeton, and Mr. Pratt has now recognized that request.

Very respectfully yours,

NATH'L SEAVER, JR.

The Worcester Young Men's Christian Association wisely binds each volume of its periodical—"Worcester's Young Men"—before presenting it for preservation—a safe example to follow.

We have added to our curious collection of constitutions, by-laws and kindred documents one of an apparently

unique character. It is "ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT | OF THE | SALEM ASSOCIATION FOR MUTU | AL DEFENCE | SALEM: | PRINTED BY JOSHUA CUSHING. | 1812." The agreement—which is dated *Salem, August 19, 1812*—follows: "WE the Subscribers, exempted by law from military duty, agree to equip ourselves according to the Militia Law of Massachusetts, and to form ourselves into a Company by the name of the Salem Association for Mutual Defence; the officers thereof when elected shall inspect or cause to be inspected the arms and equipments of each member at least once in three months, and instruct those who request it in military affairs and call out the company when requested by the civil authority, and command the same when out, and give to each member the watchword; and the place of rendezvous or alarm-post. And we do pledge ourselves as aforesaid, and hold ourselves in constant readiness to obey the lawful call and orders of such officers as we may elect to command said company:

John Page (*chosen Capt.*)

Abel Lawrence (*Lieut.*)

Saml. Holman, jun. (*Ens.*)

Edward S. Lang,

Samuel G. Derby,

John Babbidge,

John Stone,

Joseph Andrews,

Sam'l Peabody, jun.,

} (*Serg'ts.*)

And seventy-seven privates."

I note briefly and as supplementary to the list of the Society's meeting places in Boston, which appeared in our last Proceedings, the meeting places in Worcester. The first gathering—in 1813—was at the dwelling-house of Col. Reuben Sikes, Innholder, at 6 o'clock P. M. And thereafter, when not held at the Library Rooms or Antiquarian Hall, the places indicated in the Records are the Worcester Coffee House, Sikes's Coffee House, Col.

Sikes's Inn, the house of the President, the Exchange Coffee House, Rev. Dr. Bancroft's, and the Unitarian Meeting House. The different names given to Sikes's popular Tavern were all suggestive of good cheer.

The death of our late associate, William Sumner Barton, A.M., recalls his valuable services to the Society nearly fifty years ago, in a vigorous attempt to complete its sets of Massachusetts laws, resolves, journals, *etc.*, and of the United States public documents. On account of this labor of love as well as for historical work already accomplished, he was elected to membership, 26 April, 1854.

I have been requested to ask for the name of any member of the Society who has made a special study of the use of gowns by the early ministers of New England. The Reverend Joseph B. Felt—for many years an honored member—says in his "New England Customs," published in 1853: "Gowns have been mostly laid aside as a badge of the ¹Literati. The nonconformist clergy have, for the most part, put them off. They were used more among them in our large towns and cities than elsewhere, even proportionally to population."

Fifty years ago next Monday, Samuel Foster Haven, Rev. Joseph Barlow Felt and Rev. Edward Everett Hale were elected members of the Committee of Publication; Dr. Hale—now senior member of the committee—succeeding Samuel Jennison, Esq., long time treasurer and librarian of the Society. Dr. Hale has also served forty-four years as councillor. The office of treasurer has been filled by Mr. Nathaniel Paine for thirty-six years; and twenty-five years ago today Samuel A. Green, M.D., and Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Esq., were elected members of the Council. Surely continuity of administration has been a

¹ Vice President Hoar stated upon the authority of Mrs. Samuel D. Spurr—an eye witness,—that Daniel Webster wore the gown while delivering his Discourse in Commemoration of the Lives and Times of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, in Faneuil Hall, August 3, 1826.

strong factor in the long, healthful and useful nineteenth-century life of this honored Society.

With the greater general as well as special facilities for transportation, the Society has less to fear in October, 1899, than in October, 1849, when Mr. Haven, in his report, said: "Located in a country village of comparatively small proportions, the institution has not enjoyed those advantages which the combination of literary tastes with wealth and leisure affords in larger towns and cities."

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,
Librarian.

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