

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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IN THIS my last report of the nineteenth century, I record my heartfelt appreciation of the conscientious labors of my assistants, Miss Mary Robinson and Miss Mary G. Whitcomb. In the hands of my long-time chief assistant, Miss Robinson, the reins of library government have been placed from time to time with perfect confidence. The constant oversight by the library committee, President Salisbury and Treasurer Paine, has been both an aid and a comfort to the custodian of the Society's treasures, whose grateful thanks are tendered herewith.

During the busy six months last past there has been a marked absence of startling library events.

The book of accessions furnishes the following statistics : Gifts from two hundred and eighty-two sources, namely, from thirty-nine members, one hundred and twenty-three persons not members, and one hundred and twenty societies and institutions. From them have been added to the library eight hundred and three books ; sixty-seven hundred and sixty pamphlets ; four bound and one hundred and three unbound volumes of newspapers ; two bound volumes of manuscripts and two hundred and seventeen unbound ; ninety-four photographs ; twenty-nine coins ; twenty-seven maps ; fifteen broadsides ; three framed engravings and one unframed ; two collections of newspaper clippings and one steel plate ; by exchange fifty-seven books and thirty-eight pamphlets ; and from the bindery thirty-one volumes of newspapers and sixty-eight of magazines ; a total for six months to the 15th instant of nine hundred and twenty-eight books ; sixty-seven hundred

and ninety-eight pamphlets; thirty-five bound and one hundred and three unbound volumes of newspapers, *etc.*

President Salisbury has added to his usual semi-annual contribution the first two volumes from the press of Mr. Franklin P. Rice, trustee of "The Systematic History Fund." Number one is entitled "Worcester County, Massachusetts, Warnings, 1737-1788"; and number two contains the "Vital Records of Auburn (formerly Ward), Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1850, with the Inscriptions from the Old Burial Grounds." The editions are limited to one hundred and one hundred and fifty copies respectively.

Dr. Charles L. Nichols has given us—with his painstaking work the Bibliography of the Town of Worcester—the steel plate which furnished the portrait of Isaiah Thomas. It was first used in Little & Brown's issue of Buckingham's Reminiscences, Boston, 1852. I have not been able to find the original painting or drawing of this fine head by Mr. Hammatt Billings. Mr. Stephen A. Schoff, the engraver, under date 28 August, 1900, writes: "In reply to your favour I beg leave to say I have no knowledge at all of the drawing of Isaiah Thomas referred to. When I wanted to make a good piece of work formerly, I used to put it in good shape as a vignette to better please myself, as I probably did in this case. And usually at my own expense. I am sorry that I cannot help you in the matter." Little, Brown and Company in letter of 22 September, 1900, say: "Replying to your enquiry of August 29th, we would say that we do not know that the original painting of the portrait of Isaiah Thomas—from which our steel engraving was made by Schoff—is still in existence. We regret that we cannot give you the information you desire."

The gifts of Mr. William A. Smith have always been of a high order. His latest is "Universities and Their Sons. History, Influence and Characteristics of American Uni-

versities, with Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Alumni" This valuable addition to our college material is an elaborate work in five volumes, which was begun in the year 1898 and but recently completed. It has already proved useful in furnishing well authenticated information regarding some of our own members.

Mr. Samuel Jennison<sup>1</sup> has added to the manuscript material acknowledged to him in my last report, nearly two hundred selected letters dated from 1705 to 1856. They are from the same source as the former gift; having been collected by his father, our first librarian, whose name the only son has so long and so honorably borne.

The Davis Spanish-American alcove has again been enriched by Dr. Joseph F. Loubat. At this time his liberality secures for us, as well as for other learned institutions, a remarkable reproduction of "Il Manoscritto Messicano Vaticano 3738 Detto il Codice Rios."

The contribution of Mr. J. Evarts Greene includes a fine photograph which he has kindly endorsed: "Worcester, September 12, 1900. Ralph Pomeroy, Quartermaster-General of the State of Connecticut in the later years of the Revolution. The portrait from which this photograph was taken was painted by an artist unknown to me and the date is also unknown, but it must have been not far from 1780. His daughter, the late Mrs. Eunice White of New Haven, told me that it was an excellent likeness of her father."

Dr. Mendenhall of our Council has placed in the library "Monographs on Education in the United States," edited by Nicholas Murray Butler, Professor of Philosophy and Education in Columbia University. 2 vols. 8°. Albany, N. Y. 1900. This work was issued by the Department of Education for the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition of 1900. The edition, which is limited

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<sup>1</sup> Died September 21, 1900.

to five hundred copies, contains an introduction by the editor and nineteen papers by experts. Dr. Mendenhall's important contribution thereto treats of "Scientific, Technical and Engineering Education."

We acknowledge to Mr. Henry P. Upham the six months' issues of "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents," in continuation; and to Mr. Andrew McF. Davis, in addition to his own recent publications, Rev. Thomas Shepard's *Theses Sabbaticæ*, (London, 1651), and his "Parable of the Ten Virgins Opened and Applied," (London, 1660).

A large accession from the Rev. Dr. Daniel Merriman has aided in the completion of sets of magazines and benevolent society reports.

On July 19, 1900, our associate Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis addressed to your librarian the following short but suggestive note: "John and Horace and myself propose to establish a small fund in the American Antiquarian Society in memory of Father and Mother. Can you suggest any specific line to which it should be devoted, whether governed by fitness or by the needs of the Society?" In the short list immediately forwarded to Mr. Davis, the first place was given to the literature relating to the War of 1861-1865. This department having been selected, the income from their fund—at least for some years—will be used therefor. Your librarian's strong interest in here preserving the home and field material relating to the war is most natural. The first two years of that period were passed on duty at home and the last two years at Fifth Corps headquarters in the Army of the Potomac. Upon entering your service on April 1, 1867, his first effort was to complete our imperfect newspaper files of the war period; but with limited success. The high price of paper stock had swept quantities of valuable periodical and other literature into the paper mills, and funds were not on hand for the purchase

of what we needed of the remainders. Other ephemeral publications were sought as gifts or by exchange, and later the more elaborate works. During the winter of 1877-78, when the Salisbury Annex was first occupied, an alcove therein was devoted to miscellaneous writings on what was then called "rebellion and slavery." As an object-lesson rebellion was based on slavery, the gallery being used for the former and the main floor for the latter subject. The arrangement, which is by authors, does not include manuscripts, which are in the northeast lobby on the first floor; newspapers, which are arranged by states in the newspaper hall; biographies, which will be found in the alcove of individual and collective biography; war histories of states or towns, which are in their respective alcoves; national and state government reports, which are in the stack hall; or sermons, addresses and speeches, which are duly classified and placed, in one of the north lobbies on the second floor. This wise gift of our three associates, sons of a former President of the Society, will remind other members of a rich department with many gaps which they also may help to fill. A special book-plate is recommended for use in the books, *etc.*, which are to be secured with the income of the fund.

The various book funds established by our members have been drawn upon for the enrichment of the departments which they severally represent.

Mr. John A. Dana's presentation of early imprints is of special value and interest. It includes five volumes formerly owned by Thomas Prince "minister and chronologist," and containing either his signature or his autograph notes. The Dana family of Princeton had retained these treasures for generations, but our friend, shortly before his death, selected Antiquarian Hall as their permanent home. Here they will find numerous companions bearing the clear-cut autograph of Thomas Prince.

Mrs. George S. Howe and her sister, Miss Martha Hobbs, have placed upon our walls, richly framed, "The Last Days of Webster at Marshfield," which was painted by Joseph Ames and engraved by C. Mottram.

Mr. Henry F. Harris has again remembered our department of biography by placing therein Jones's "Life and Works of Joseph Dudley"; and Miss Susan Trumbull has added to the general library, books, pamphlets and maps from the old Trumbull home in Worcester.

Mr. D. Berkeley Updike has added to our collection of manuscripts a volume entitled "An African Story, by Abijah Bigelow." It bears the inscription, "A gift to the American Antiquarian Society from D. B. Updike, Boston, 1900. The book belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Bigelow (Adams) Updike, and came to her from her aunt Lucinda Bigelow, daughter of the author." Various newspaper clippings relating to slavery have been inserted covering the period from 1819 to 1822. The date of the poem is suggested in the preface by the following: "The general interest excited by the discussion and termination of the great Missouri question first led the author to an examination of the subject of slavery. This examination gave him such a view of its horrors as could not easily be effaced and furnished the hints for the following poem, which was principally written soon after the termination of that question but for various reasons withheld from the public." Hon. Abijah Bigelow was a life-long friend of this Society and a member of its Council from 1817 until 1828.

Mr. Henry C. McFarland sends a copy of his privately printed "Personal Recollections, 1831-1891." His letter of gift says: "One day last autumn making inquiry after a locality in Worcester, I received most kindly assistance at your library. As a very slight evidence of my appreciation thereof, I have just mailed to you a copy of

'Sixty years in Concord, N. H., and Elsewhere,' which it will gratify me to have you accept."

The Misses May of Leicester, daughters of the late Reverend Samuel May, have placed in our keeping the remainders of such classes of books and pamphlets as their father had for many years brought to the library for preservation. We shall miss his kindly face as well as his timely gifts.

Miss Mary E. Liscomb, at the suggestion of our associate the Reverend Calvin Stebbins, has presented a collection of books, photographs and framed lithographs.

Mr. William G. Thompson has made a further addition of educational material gathered by his father, the late Dr. Charles O. Thompson.

Mr. F. Walter Hamilton sends three original manuscript documents relating to Mayor Knowlton's call for troops to quell an incipient riot in Worcester, May 18, 1854. The episode is thus referred to in Sawyer's recent "History of the Department of Police Service of Worcester, Mass., 1674 to 1900": "One of the unusual events that marked the progress of the year 1854 was the advent of 'Gabriel' and his horn. It was not the Archangel Gabriel spoken of in the sacred page, but John S. Orr, a Scotchman with more impudence than brains, who with a three-cornered hat and a cockade on his head, and an old brass horn in his bosom, came to Worcester. He took advantage of the political excitement and travelled about the city tooting his horn, collecting crowds in the streets, and delivering what he called a public lecture, passing the hat for contributions. His lectures generally consisted of a repetition of a few ill-chosen words, principally a tirade against the Papacy and Catholicism, resulting in a disturbance. His best argument was the tooting of the horn. He drew crowds, demanded police protection, and a rough time he had of it. He was arrested the second day he appeared on the streets and on promise of leaving the city was

released. He returned a week later, and on occasion of his lecture a riot followed. Mayor Knowlton read the riot act and the City Guards were called out. He was finally got out of town, and peace and quiet were again restored. He went to San Domingo, where he was placed in prison during one of his harangues, on the charge of being a general disturber, and died before the end of his three years' sentence." Mr. Franklin P. Rice in his "Worcester Book of Noteworthy Events" gives additional facts. He says under date of 18 May, 1854: "J. S. Orr alias 'Angel Gabriel' with his brazen trumpet collected a crowd and began the delivery of a no papacy harangue, when he was arrested by the police for disturbing the peace, and locked up. A large and excited crowd gathered about the Common, when Dexter F. Parker made a speech 'full of sound and fury,' as the *Spy* has it; followed by others. The assemblage soon became violent; stones were thrown, one hitting Sheriff George W. Richardson on the head; and a rescue of the prisoner was threatened. Finally the City Guards were ordered out and the rioters dispersed. 'Gabriel' was a Scotchman, Sandy McSwish by name, although he called himself Orr or Horr. His father was of the Clan Gordon. Sandy was born on the Isle of Skye, September 3, 1809. He was bound apprentice to a weaver. His father having died, his mother married a Baptist minister named Orr. Sandy joined a company of players; afterwards was a Methodist preacher; and then came to America and joined the Mormons. After following various avocations, he finally began preaching in public places against papist authority and foreign influence. He had a horn or trumpet which he blew to attract an audience, hence the name Gabriel. He acted as an adjunct to the Native American or Know Nothing Party."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See also, "An Episode of Worcester History," read before the Worcester Society of Antiquity, April 1, 1884, by our Treasurer Nathaniel Paine.



We are indebted to The Worcester District Medical Society for a large mass of books, pamphlets and newspapers winnowed from their valuable library. The duplicates forwarded to the United States Surgeon-General's Office Library, included many early catalogues and other publications of the Medical Schools of America, greatly needed to complete their files of such literature.

The American citizen is not often charged with an excess of modesty, but the librarian of an historical or antiquarian society is well aware that it still exists, especially during the time of spring and fall house-cleaning. We recently received a basket of books of special value with the following note: "I send down some trash for which I do not wish thanks, being only too glad of a place to send it; and shall not feel hurt if you sell some of it for old paper, or burn it." The wise librarian in such case will not only give thanks, but when possible will personally interview the giver. Our late associate, Dr. William F. Poole, when public librarian of Cincinnati, said of the tidy housekeeper who puts aside one parcel for the library and another for the pedlar: "if the parcels are transposed no mistake is made." There appears to be a general disposition to throw into the waste basket ephemeral literature which is unbound; and perhaps this disposition was never more strongly exhibited than during the civil war.

In view of the Society's centennial celebration in 1912, it is thought wise to preserve in the librarian's printed record, for easy reference, any important contemporary accounts of its early doings, or comments thereupon. For instance, *Thomas's Massachusetts Spy* or *Worcester Gazette* of August 30, 1820, contains an interesting narration of the exercises at the dedication of our first library building, with other items regarding the Society and its work, which follows: "DEDICATION. On Thursday last the elegant and commodious building lately

erected in this town for the accommodation of the *American Antiquarian Society*, was dedicated to their use with suitable solemnities. The Society assembled at their new Hall at 10 o'clock, and at 11 moved in procession to the North Meeting House. The services were opened by Prayer from the Rev. Dr. Bancroft, who also read select passages from the sacred volume. The Address by Isaac Goodwin, Esquire, was learned and ingenious, and was received with much satisfaction by a numerous audience. Sacred music was performed by a choir of singers from the various religious Societies in this town. After the Services, the Society returned to their Hall, and from thence repaired to Sikes's Coffee-House, where the most sumptuous entertainment was provided for the occasion. Mr. Goodwin's Address will soon be submitted to the public. We rejoice in the situation and prospects of this infant but respectable institution, which is not intended as a rival to any of the learned Societies of our Country, but to cooperate with them in the diffusion of Science, and in the preservation of materials for the historian and biographer. The Society are indebted for the spacious and durable edifice with which they are now accommodated, to the munificence of the President, Isaiah Thomas, Esquire, who was the founder and has been the patron and bountiful benefactor of that institution. The Library and Cabinet are far more extensive than could have been anticipated, considering the short period during which collections have been making. The former already consists of about 7000 volumes besides several hundred volumes of newspapers, neatly bound and lettered, and a very considerable collection of manuscripts and pamphlets. Many of the books and manuscripts are very rare and ancient; and of some of them it is believed that no other copies exist in the United States. A great number of valuable German books were included in the late legacy of the Reverend Dr. Bentley. We cannot forbear calling the public attention to a late interesting publication

of the Society, under the title of ' *Archæologia Americana,*' it being the first volume of the Transactions and Collections of the Society. It contains much entertaining and instructive matter, and is embellished with maps, engravings and cuts, illustrating the objects of curiosity which it describes. The price is \$3, and is certainly moderate for a volume of its size and character. It will well repay the perusal of any one who feels interested in the antiquities of this portion of the world."

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Librarian.*

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