

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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THE recent publication by the Society of the Diary of Librarian Christopher C. Baldwin should find grateful mention in the report of a successor. Perhaps no one living can better appreciate the great service he rendered or the value of the lessons taught in these notes of a young librarian of the olden time. Like George B. Emerson's "Reminiscences of an Old Teacher," they impress one by their wisdom and genuineness. The reports of your present librarian have contained from time to time extracts therefrom. While they have related to the various subjects under consideration, a secondary purpose has been so to indicate their excellence that the Diary might be thought worthy to appear as a volume of our *Archæologia Americana*. Its lessons in library economy, taught and practised so many years ago, may well be pondered by the librarian and the library school student of today. For while times change and methods of library administration change with them, the spirit which pervades this private journal is as important for the early twentieth-century librarian as it was for the librarian of the early nineteenth. We are often reminded that not only this Society, but the country at large, has been abundantly blessed by the labors of such librarians as our Jennison and Lincoln and Baldwin and Haven.

The following entry in the Records of the Council appears on November 25, 1831: Voted "To choose a committee to select from the books bequeathed by Mr. Thomas such volumes as they may think proper to preserve for the use of the Society. William Lincoln and Isaac Goodwin chosen." We may well believe that this

strong committee exercised its weeding power with judgment and discretion. What disposition was made of this material was not made a matter of record and is not likely to appear after the lapse of nearly three-score and ten years.

At a meeting of the Council on October 2, 1900, it was voted: "That the Librarian be authorized to select from the Society's collection of Bibles such copy as he may approve, said copy to be loaned for use in the Rufus Putnam House at Rutland, Massachusetts." The seventeenth-century Bible selected contains the above-mentioned vote, the Society's book-plate and its embossed stamp. The transfer of the volume was made on October 15, 1900, through our associate, Hon. Elijah B. Stoddard.

In the Baldwin Diary, under date of June 16, 1834, will be found a reference to an early venture of John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home." Among the papers received from our late associate, Samuel Jennison, is the prospectus of another, twenty-four years earlier, of which I find no mention. It again emphasizes the importance of preserving a record of the beginnings or even the efforts to begin. The appeal follows:—

1810.

PROSPECTUS  
OF THE  
LITERARY EXCHANGE.

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SHOULD adequate encouragement offer, the subscriber proposes to establish a READING ROOM in this city, to be entitled,

*The Literary Exchange;*

Which is intended for a general depository of Newspapers, Magazines, and Pamphlets, both political, literary, and scientific.

This room<sup>1</sup> will be situated in some central part of the town, and great pains will be taken to make it an attractive rendezvous for the merchant, as well as the man of letters.

Every Newspaper and Magazine published in New-York, Charleston, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Boston, and such similar works of any note as are printed elsewhere, will be taken at the LITERARY EXCHANGE. To these will be added, the principal European Miscellanies; and all Pamphlets, either foreign or domestick, which may excite attention.

At present it is not possible to state the particular conveniences which may be added to this establishment, when it is once founded. In the beginning it certainly cannot exhibit the vigour of maturity; and in the early stages of its existence, we can only hope that it may become useful. One thing, however, is certain: an institution of the kind, skilfully conducted, may furnish citizens with the best and cheapest means of acquiring a competent knowledge of the topics of the day; and of gratifying strangers who visit this city from abroad, with the earliest intelligence from their respective dwelling places.

Such as are conversant with these matters can imagine how much superior to anything of the kind that now exists here, it is possible to make a Reading Room on the plan of the LITERARY EXCHANGE. There are many that cannot attend the Coffee-Houses, and if they can, the clamour and confusion of business must prevent them from comprehending what they read. A *literary* rendezvous is much to be desired; and if the citizens of New-York will support him, the subscriber pledges himself to do all he can to establish one. He is prepared to obviate whatever objections may occur. An establishment of the same nature, though infinitely more extensive, has risen in a neighbouring city, notwithstanding a very strong opposition. FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS were collected in less than three weeks for the BOSTON ATHENEUM. And will not the citizens of New-York subscribe a portion of that sum in support of a similar institution?

The subscriber wishes to make his LITERARY EXCHANGE the introduction to a scheme, which, if properly encour-

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<sup>1</sup> An elegant room in front of the City-Hotel, will be appropriated for this purpose until May.

aged, may eventually enable him to abandon his present precarious profession for a more substantial one.

In the commencement of his enterprize, the subscriber will make no promises. The success and extent of his establishment will depend upon the patronage of others, and he can only hope that it will be sufficient to enable him to give general satisfaction.

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

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THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

Will be Ten Dollars a year, which, to save the great trouble and expense of collecting, is requested in advance.

Each subscriber will be entitled to have free access to the Literary Exchange (which will be kept in the best order) from nine in the morning until ten at night. Subscribers will have the privilege of admitting a friend, provided that friend be a stranger, and has not resided in the city more than three months.

Any Pamphlet, Newspaper, or Magazine, that a subscriber may desire, shall be promptly procured, and deposited in the Exchange.

NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 20, 1810.

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SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

TIME OF PAYMENT  
IN ADVANCE.

The following statistics for six months ending the 15th instant appear in the book of accessions. Number of givers three hundred and ten, namely, thirty-nine members, one hundred and twenty-five persons not members, and one hundred and forty-six societies and institutions. From these sources we have received seven hundred books, sixty-five hundred and thirty-four pamphlets, seventeen bound and one hundred and forty-five volumes of unbound newspapers, sixty-six manuscripts, three framed and forty-six unframed photographs, twelve maps, nine broadsides, five medals, four stereotype plates, four engravings, three specimens of colonial and continental currency and ten

articles for the Cabinet. By exchange, twenty-nine books and six pamphlets, and from the bindery forty-nine volumes of newspapers and twenty-one of magazines; making a total of seven hundred and twenty-nine books, sixty-five hundred and forty pamphlets, sixty-six bound and one hundred and forty-five unbound volumes of newspapers, *etc.*

Mr. Andrew McF. Davis on October 9, 1900, writes:—  
“The enclosed programmes represent a phase of life during the war. I thought I had deposited them with you, but to my surprise came across them to-day. I now perform what I find that I have heretofore neglected and send them to Worcester.” Whether these amateur performances of 1861-1863 were given by “The Lawyers’ and Spinsters’ Dramatic Club” or otherwise, they were for the benefit of the Soldiers’ Relief Fund, the United States Sanitary Commission, or the Worcester Soldiers’ Relief Society. The dramatic notes attached—which are generally signed W. S. B.—were doubtless written by an associate recently deceased. The collection will be placed in alcove N, which contains the miscellaneous literature of the War of 1861-1865.

The enrichment of the department of local history by our associates, the Hon. Samuel A. Green and the Hon. Henry S. Nourse, is continuous, and this exceptional service rendered to their native towns is noteworthy. Groton and Lancaster are indeed rich in material prepared for the press by these painstaking historians.

The roll of givers and gifts again connects the name of the Duc de Loubat with important Spanish-American material which probably would not have been printed without his coöperation.

President G. Stanley Hall has placed upon our shelves “Clark University, 1889-1899. Decennial Celebration,” containing his decennial address. This royal quarto volume with its modest title-page is in every way worthy of

the great institution it represents. It is significant that of the nine trustees named in the act of incorporation all but the founder, Mr. Jonas G. Clark, and his relative, Mr. George Swan, were honored members of this Society: namely, Stephen Salisbury, Charles Devens, George F. Hoar, William W. Rice, Joseph Sargent, John D. Washburn, and Frank P. Goulding. Upon the death of General Devens, our associate Dr. Thomas H. Gage was elected in his place. Dr. Hall has been a member of this Society since 1888 and of its Council since 1891.

President Salisbury's gift includes books for the Davis Spanish-American and the Thomas Local History departments, and he has also added to the general library the ten-volume edition of the "Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1898."

Treasurer Paine has sent with his usual semi-annual contribution an extended copy of the Baldwin Diary. It is in two volumes, which contain a large number of illustrations, chiefly photographs of persons and places. We have received from the same source a large, framed photograph of Mr. Baldwin's birthplace, which has been hung in the office near his portrait.

The timely gift of Mr. Benjamin Franklin Stevens was accompanied by the following explanatory letter:

4 Trafalgar Square,  
LONDON, W. C., 6th April, 1901.

The American Antiquarian Society,  
Worcester, Mass.  
United States of America.

Dear Mr. President:

Acting upon a hint from Mr. McFarland Davis that particulars of the claims of John Chandler, Loyalist, would be acceptable to the Society, I have had transcripts and extracts made from the original documents in the Public Record Office, and I beg the Society will pay me the compliment to accept the volume which is sent by the steamer taking this letter.

My New York correspondent is requested to forward the package without unnecessary delay.

The transcripts, extracts, and endorsements written in black or red ink, have been carefully made to follow the spelling, abbreviations and peculiarities of writing of their respective originals.

My own explanatory notes or additional words are written in blue ink.

Hoping the book will reach you in good time for the meeting of the 24th inst., I am always

Yours sincerely,

B. F. STEVENS.

The full title of this perfect work of three hundred and fifty-four folio pages of manuscript will be found in the list of givers and gifts. It is sumptuously bound, and modestly backed "John Chandler American Loyalist," with the date of its preparation, 1901.

Mr. Stevens also forwards Mr. Charles Archibald Mitchell's report on "Camphor in Japan and Formosa" with the following statement: "A Company of which I am one of the Directors has privately printed this Report for private circulation. The Directors have allowed me to send two copies of this book to America, one to your Library and the other to the New York Public Library. It is curious in its paper, printing and binding, and is interesting in its subject matter. I shall be glad if you will let it come on to your table for your personal observation and I beg you will accept it as a contribution to your Library."

Our associate Mr. Henry P. Upham has practically completed his wise gift of "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents." We must agree with *The Nation* which in a recent issue says: "Rarely has a set of historical documents covering so wide an extent of territory and so long a stretch of time been brought out with such rapidity, with such clear signs of editorial care, and in such handsome form." The text of this monumental work is in seventy-one volumes, and it is understood that the index will require two more.

The following letter is from the Hon. Julius L. Clarke, who in his early days as an editor was associated with

Elihu Burritt, and later became a trusted officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts :

NEWTON UPPER FALLS,  
277 Eliot St.  
Sept. 22, 1900.

Mr. SALISBURY.

My Dear Sir:—

I hope I shall not be intrusive in addressing this letter to you, but I could recall no one else whom I thought might be interested in or connected with the American Antiquarian Society.

I was editor and publisher of the first daily paper printed in Worcester County, commencing some time before the *Daily Spy*. I refer to the *Worcester Transcript*, some years after sold to the *Worcester Ægis* and changed in name to *Worcester Evening Gazette*. I find among my papers *the first volume of the Transcript published in 1845*, and before destroying it with other Library waste it occurred to me that it might be of some interest to the Antiquarian Society, and this is why I write thus to you to know to whom I may send it as a gift for such purpose.

I claim no credit therefor, but simply offer it as *a relic of old times*. \* \* \* \* \*

Kindly and sincerely yours,

JULIUS L. CLARKE.

The *Daily Transcript* of 1845 referred to as having so narrow an escape needs for its completion the issues of June 26, July 10, 15, and August 22. While Vol. 1, No. 1, is dated June 9, the second number did not appear until June 24. The first issue of the *Worcester Daily Spy* was a month later, *i. e.*, on July 24, 1845. Mr. Clarke has also sent us a cabinet photograph which bears the following endorsement: "Elihu Burritt 'The Learned Blacksmith,' was a very dear friend of the writer, and between the two arose a kindly acquaintance, while the former, working year after year at his anvil in Worcester, became proficient in many languages, learned largely from extracts posted daily upon the walls in front of him. As now remembered he was averse to any photograph or portrait of himself, but while associated with him in the editorship of *The Christian Citizen* he was invited to England, in 1847, as a Representative of the American



Peace Society, of which he was a member; and a London paper in some way secured an excellent likeness of him, and from a copy sent to the writer the above and a few others were taken, and believed to be the only ones in this country."<sup>1</sup> It should be here recorded that the first Antiquarian Hall was Mr. Burritt's school of languages and that our learned librarian, Samuel Foster Haven, was his beloved mentor therein.

Mrs. Caroline H. Dall has made an interesting addition to our Cabinet. Its nature and value will best appear by a few extracts from her letter addressed to the librarian on March 23, 1901:

By the advice of Senator Hoar, I send to you to-day four articles, one of which, a silver casket, is of priceless value to me. It was made in the year 1650 in Amsterdam in Holland.

Enclosed you will find an old embroidered purse, which once had a gold clasp and inner clasp for gold, that is of no special value, except that *it also* was made in 1650, and is the exact duplicate of one which belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots.

There is a Lutheran prayer book printed in 1798, with the censor's autograph and an interesting engraving, and gold clasps worth \$60, that is thirty dollars each. These belonged to later members of the same family—the two wives of Thomas P. Tappan of Newburyport—originally of mixed Spanish, Peruvian and Dutch descent, apparently of great wealth, named Parker, Elisabeth and Martha, descended from De Fero, spelt in Dutch de Feraa.

I send a set of silver gilt jewelry belonging to a Norwegian peasant bride, said by the sender to be 200 years old and impossible to duplicate.

The rings were worn on the thumb of both bride and groom. The set is perfect. Nothing missing except the bride's crown, which the family refused to give up to the landlord at any price.

The gift of Mr. Gherardi Davis, member of the New York Assembly, was announced by a letter of 14 January, 1901, in which he writes:

I have sent you by express, with my compliments, a copy of the Report of the New York Commission on the monuments of our soldiers on the Gettysburg Battlefield.

<sup>1</sup> See the *New England Magazine*, Vol. 16, 1897, pp. 386, 392; for other portraits

I see by the circular which you sent me, that curiously enough, this is in line with the fund which my uncles founded in memory of my grandfather and grandmother, the proceeds of which I see are for the purchase of literature relating to the Rebellion.

Mrs. Alice Morse Earle again recognizes service rendered, by sending her "Stage Coach and Tavern Days"; and Hon. Ellery B. Crane the second volume of his "Genealogy of the Crane Family."

Mr. Charles P. Merriam, of London, presents his "Genealogical Memoranda relating to the Family of Merriam" through Mr. Benjamin F. Stevens.

Among the papers of the late Mrs. Robinson P. Dunn were found carefully marked "For the American Antiquarian Society" early maps of Key West, which had probably been sent north by her uncle, Mr. Henry K. Newcomb.

Mr. James Green's "Causes of the War in South Africa" has been received from the author with forty-two European books and pamphlets relating to the subject under discussion; and Mr. Louis H. R. Gass has contributed ten of his photographs of historic sites in Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Charles G. Reed, Miss Fanny M. Whitcomb and Miss Mary G. Whitcomb, nieces of Mrs. John B. Gough, have given a mass of material in printed, manuscript and medallion form, all pertaining to the life of Mr. Gough as the Apostle of Temperance in America and the British Isles.

Mr. Francis B. Rice of Boston, but formerly of Worcester, has presented two interesting memorials of his grandfather, Hon. Francis Blake. 1. A life-size silhouette in frame marked "Hon. Francis Blake of Worcester Mass. Born October 14th 1774 Died February 23d 1817." On the reverse is written "Presented to the American Antiquarian Society by Francis Blake Rice of Worcester, Mass., grandson of Hon. Francis Blake, April 12, 1901." 2. Manuscript law briefs of Hon. Francis Blake. Upon

page one is the following: "Worcester Dec<sup>r</sup> 5, 1856. My dear Sir: The accompanying *Professional Briefs* have long been in my possession, and are still cherished by me, as most valuable memorials of a distinguished man and eminent Lawyer, whose association at the Bar, and whose friendship, it has been my happiness to enjoy. I know of no disposition I can now make of them more appropriate, in the advance of my own life, than to commit their future preservation to the grandson of the author, now entering upon the study of the profession, in the earnest desire on my part, that these proofs of fidelity, industry and learning, which these brief forms of cases exhibit, may stimulate to the like application, research, acquisition and eloquence which made the name and reputation of his ancestor illustrious. Levi Lincoln. To Mr. Francis Blake Rice." In the Society's Act of Incorporation the name of Francis Blake immediately precedes that of Levi Lincoln, Jr., the writer of this kindly endorsement.

Dr. Henry A. Reynolds has greatly strengthened our collection of Michigan State documents; and Mr. George Bouchard, for service rendered, that of the historical literature of New France.

Mr. John A. and Miss Frances W. Sweetser have selected from material left by their father, the Rev. Dr. Seth Sweetser, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, *etc.*, for preservation by the Society he served for so long time.

Mr. Henry F. Stedman has again remembered us with books from his library, including the rare Thomas 12<sup>o</sup> Bible of 1798. The lower quarter of the title-page follows: UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA. | PRINTED AT WORCESTER MASSACHUSETTS, | BY ISAAH THOMAS. | Sold by him in WORCESTER, by Wholesale, bound or in Sheets. | Sold also by said THOMAS and ANDREWS in Boston, and by the | Booksellers in the UNITED STATES OF COLUM-

BIA. | 1798. The 12<sup>o</sup> edition of 1797 bears the same curious imprint with the exception of the date; while the folio and quarto editions of 1791 and the octavo editions of 1793 and 1802 are imprints of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The volume is inscribed "Clarry Lyon | Her Bible 1800. | Gift of Mrs. Urania Marcy." And on the fly-leaves are recorded eight births, five marriages and five deaths in the Lyon family, the dates covering from 1760 to 1851. The staying quality of the ink therein used during the eighteenth century is markedly superior to that used for the nineteenth century entries.

A second large gift of medical and surgical literature, largely obsolete, has been received from the Worcester District Medical Society. This material is valuable from an historical point of view, and the duplicates have served the library of the United States Surgeon General's office as well as various hospitals and medical schools.

The death of Dr. Moses Coit Tyler has reminded the library staff of one whose summer visits to the library were a delight to all who were privileged to aid him in his researches.

The return to Mount Holyoke College of duplicate material relating thereto, brought from the librarian the following suggestive acknowledgment: "Very much obliged, as we lost most of our stores of documents when our main building was burned in 1896."

Bound copies of our Proceedings, Volume XIII., New Series, are now ready for members and others who may prefer the Society's binding.

Our collection of early American newspapers still holds its place, perhaps the first place among the library treasures. These papers are full of contemporary facts, figures and opinions which are nowhere else to be found. For instance, one hundred and fifty years ago today—April 24, 1751—No. 844 of Thomas Fleet's *The Boston Evening Post* contained for the third and last time a lengthy advertisement

of an electrical exhibition in connection with two lectures by Ebenezer Kinnersley.<sup>1</sup> The announcement reads:—

“ Notice is hereby given to the Curious, That at Faneuil Hall in Boston is now to be exhibited and continued from Day to Day, (the Weather being suitable) a Course of EXPERIMENTS on the newly-discovered *Electrical Fire*, containing not only the most curious of those that have been made and published in *Europe*, but a considerable Number of new Ones lately made in *Philadelphia*; to be accompanied with methodical LECTURES on the Nature and properties of that wonderful Element.”

Under the twenty headings of subjects to be treated in the first lecture are:—

“ IV That it doth not take up any perceptible Time in passing thro. large Portions of Space.

VI That our Bodies at all Times Contain enough of it to set a house on fire.

XV That this fire will live in Water, a River not being sufficient to quench the smallest Spark of it.

XVIII The Salute repulsed by the Ladies Fire; or fire darting from a Lady's lips, so that she may defy any person to salute her.

XIX Eight Musical Bells rung by an electrified Phial of Water.

XX A Battery of eleven Guns discharged by Fire issuing out of a Person's Finger.”

Among the fifteen subject headings for the second lecture are:—

“ IV Electrified Money which scarce any Body will take when offer'd to them.

VI Spirits kindled by Fire darting from a Lady's Eyes (without a Metaphor).

X Animals killed by it instantaneously (*sic*).

XV A Battery of eleven guns discharged by a Spark, after it has passed thro' ten Foot of Water.”

The advertisement concludes with the following paragraphs:—

“ As the Knowledge of Nature tends to enlarge the human mind, and give us more noble more grand and more exalted Ideas of the AUTHOR of Nature, and if well pursu'd seldom fails producing something useful to man; 'tis hoped these Lectures may be thought worthy of Regard and Encouragement. TICK-

<sup>1</sup> A friend of Franklin and interested in his electrical discoveries.

ETS to be had at Capt. James Gouch's House in Cornhill, Price half a *Dollar* for each Lecture. The Lectures to begin at 3 in the Afternoon of Each Day. Any Gentleman proposing a New Experiment, may have it tried at a Vacant Time.

*Note.* These Experiments succeed best when the air is dry, the Wind between West and South; therefore it is proposed when one Course is ended, to begin again the next fair dry Day; provided Tickets enough are sold to make up a Company of at least 20 Persons.

Those Gentlemen and Ladies who intend to be Spectators of these entertaining and astonishing Wonders of Nature, are desired to send for their Tickets in the Morning, that it may be timely known when a Company is to be expected.

N. B. It has lately been discovered that the Magnetic Vertue may be given to a Needle, and that Gun-Powder may be fired immediately by the Electric Spark."

The names of Alexander Graham Bell and Francis Blake, of our present membership, and of the lamented John Elbridge Hudson, recently a member, may suggest a reason for the selection of the foregoing illustration.

It is now fifty years since the first official action was taken by the Society looking towards a change of location for our library home. At the semi-annual meeting in April, 1851, Hon. Edward Everett in the chair, on motion of Prof. Simon Greenleaf it was voted: "That the thanks of the Society be presented to Hon. Stephen Salisbury, for his munificent donation of a valuable lot for a new library building." And on motion of the same gentleman it was further voted: "That the whole subject of erecting a new library building, and the disposal of the old building and land, be submitted to the discretion of the Council, with full power to sell the old building and land, and erect a new one as they may think proper."

We are also reminded that at the same meeting it was voted: "To proceed to ballot for the election of John C. B. Davis, Esq., of Worcester [now in London], as a member of the Society. Mr. Davis was accordingly elected." Mr. Davis, who is second on our roll of living members, has not only from time to time placed in our

keeping many gifts of the highest historic value, but has been otherwise mindful of our needs. The Librarian's heartfelt greetings and best wishes are hereby extended to him on the jubilee anniversary of his membership in the Society over which his honored father presided, and in which his brothers, Hon. Horace Davis and Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis are also active members.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Librarian.*

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