

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

DURING the past six months there has been a marked increase in the number of university teachers and pupils, both foreign and domestic, who have enjoyed the privileges of the library. The same may be said of members and others who have been served in person or by correspondence. While in general it may be "more blessed to give than to receive," both delights are very real and constant to one who puts heart and soul and mind into his profession.

This Society's relation to kindred institutions has always been close and friendly. A case in point is the recent action of the Society through the Library Committee, upon the application of the Essex Institute for the use of valuable material relating to Salem, Massachusetts. The manuscripts desired, to be copied for publication were bequeathed to the Society by Rev. William Bentley, D.D., of Salem, in 1820, and by his nephew, Mr. William Bentley Fowle, of Boston, in 1866. In a letter addressed to your librarian on January 2, 1901, by George Francis Dow, Secretary, is the following paragraph: "This matter, as perhaps you may remember, was brought to the attention of this Society at the annual meeting last May. It now comes to life, and we have every reason to believe that a project that has been discussed pro and con during the past eighty years is about to be carried out and brought, I trust, to a completion." The correspondence between Presidents

Rantoul and Salisbury was concluded by the following letter :

The Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.

Mch. 22, 1901.

To the Hon. STEPHEN SALISBURY, President American Antiquarian Society,

Dear Sir :—

I desire to thank you, Mr. Paine and Mr. Barton for the extremely satisfactory adjustment of the Bentley matter which was arrived at on Tuesday last. It is a great pleasure to me to know that the work is at last in progress, and there seems to be every prospect that both societies will be satisfied with the result.

Kindly send us a memorandum of any cost you may have incurred, and be sure that the conditions you have naturally felt bound to impose shall be scrupulously observed.

I am very truly yours,

ROBERT S. RANTOUL.

The first volume of the Bentley diary was taken by Mr. Dow on March 19, the second on May 28, the third on June 10, and the fourth on October 16. With a view to the best possible verification, type-written copies are made in Salem under the direction of the Secretary of the Institute, who is the bearer of despatches between the two cities. As each volume when not in use is also kept in a fire-proof vault, our property would seem to be thoroughly safeguarded.

The Library Committee, in its wise discretion, has supplied needed additions to our electric lighting, and modern chairs for the comfort of our guests. Other improvements may be expected in the near future.

With the library statistics to October 15, I offer brief comments on a few of the benefactions received from members, friends and societies. The sources of gifts number two hundred and ninety-nine; namely, forty-five members, one hundred and seventeen persons not mem-

bers, and one hundred and thirty-seven societies and institutions. We have received as gifts six hundred and ninety-six books; five thousand and thirty-two pamphlets; two bound and one hundred and thirty-two unbound volumes of newspapers; twenty portraits; nineteen lithographs; two framed and twelve unframed photographs; five proclamations; two bound and two unbound manuscripts; three broadsides; one medal; one bank-bill and a collection of war envelopes; by exchange twenty-six books and ten pamphlets; and from the bindery fifty-four volumes of newspapers and one book; a total of seven hundred and twenty-three books; five thousand and forty-two pamphlets; fifty-six bound and one hundred and thirty-two unbound volumes of newspapers, *etc.*

I offer for preservation portions of a letter addressed to the librarian by James Davie Butler, LL.D., an honored member of this Society since April 26, 1854, and fourth on the roll of membership issued last June:

Madison, May 4, 1901.

EDMUND M. BARTON, Esq.,

My dear Associate:

* * * * * You will be pleased to learn that the Floyd monument had its crowning pyramidion swung into its pride of place two weeks ago. The dedication has been fixed upon to occur on May 30, Soldiers' Memorial day—partly because six years ago on that day in 1895, the remains of Floyd were discovered—though not till after many a vain endeavor to ascertain the spot of his second burial. At his third burial I was among the speakers, in 1895, on the anniversary of his death Aug. 20, 1804. I then laid on his funeral urn his Journal which it is our joy to have rescued from oblivion. I expect to bear that *MS.* thither again that the sight of it may gladden as many eyes as possible.

That writing I look on as the acorn from which has speedily grown an obelisk higher, stronger and more enduring than any oak. It will gratify you that your Society was a dynamo to start the germinating forces.

* * * * * It was well to print Baldwin's Journal—no

man can read a page without learning something he would not willingly leave unknown. I even learned something about the oldest settler in this county of Dane, and a man who may be said to have given the casting vote which decided that Madison should become the State Capital. * * * * *

Respectfully,

JAMES D. BUTLER.

I insert a biographical paragraph from a letter by our recently elected member from South Carolina: "The full name is Charles Stuart Vedder. The name suggests one who had his head cut off, and I have never had any pride in my namesake, but there is a family tradition that the headless man was somewhere near the head of our ancestral line."

The value of the gifts of our Recording Secretary is often increased by the addition of an explanatory note or a missing date. For instance, the Revere House menu of June 25, 1901, contains the autographs of the sixteen members of the Harvard University Class of 1855 who were present on that occasion. Our founder set an excellent example in this direction which we may well follow.

The semi-annual gift of Mr. Andrew McF. Davis includes the type-written collection of Worcester Court Papers, which supplements the "John Chandler, American Loyalist," documents copied for us in the Public Record Office in London by our associate, Benjamin F. Stevens, L.H.D., and acknowledged in the last report. The volume from Mr. Davis contains his notes, comments, list of papers and the following title-page: Certified Copies | of the papers | on file | in the Probate Court of Worcester County in the | Commonwealth of Massachusetts | in the Case of | JOHN CHANDLER An Absentee, to which is appended | A Certified Transcript of the | Records | of the Cases of | The State *vs.* Chandler | Under the Confisca-

tion Act | in 1780. | Brought in the | Inferiour Court of
Common Pleas. | Worcester. | 1901.

Mr. Benjamin Thomas Hill presents with early Worcester newspapers, his sketch of the life of our founder Isaiah Thomas, LL.D. It is a reprint from the July, 1901, number of *The Worcester Magazine*, the official organ of the Worcester Board of Trade, and contains several excellent half-tone illustrations. The representation of the Thomas tomb in the Worcester Rural Cemetery suggests that four years after the publication of the Memoir of Isaiah Thomas by his grandson, Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, on June 24, 1878, occurred the reinterment of the remains of the Revolutionary patriot and printer. I note for indexing and convenience of future reference that not only our Proceedings and the newspapers of the period, but the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons contain material relating thereto. The cemetery lot to which the tomb was transferred from the abandoned Mechanic Street Burying-Ground, was the gift of members of this Society, whose librarian has counted it one of his privileges to keep careful watch over this ivy-covered, granite mausoleum, the key to which is in our possession. The late President Salisbury, near the close of his admirable address at the reinterment exercises, in Mechanics Hall, said: "I offer a brief and imperfect outline of the American Antiquarian Society, but you will see that it is written all over with the name which you desire to honor. I will not estimate the local advantages of this institution. I will only venture to say that it is the oldest school for higher learning in your city. It is free and freely used, and it is one of the rare instances of success in the elective system. The founder and his associates and successors do not belong to the old class of miserly antiquaries who buried their treasures with themselves and cultivated rust. The aim of this Society is to restore to newness of life the

relics of the past and apply them to the uses of today. If Don Quixote should bring here a venerable copper supposed to be Mambrino's Helmet it would be faithfully scoured until it was valued as a part of the armor of truth and justice, or cast away as a barber's basin that could never again shave except in a lawful way."

Mr. Frank Roë Batchelder recently wrote for *The American Boy* a short but interesting sketch of the early life of Thomas, which was reprinted in the *Worcester Sunday Spy* of July 21, 1901.

From Vice-President Hoar we have received the remainders of many of his more important addresses and speeches. Dr. James F. Rhodes has presented his four-volume "History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850"; and Rev. Dr. Williston Walker his "Ten New England Leaders." Dr. William DeLoss Love has placed in our local history alcove his "Half Century History of Farmington Avenue Congregational Church of Hartford, Connecticut"; and Mr. Edward Hooker Gilbert has enriched our department of family history with "Homes of the Massachusetts Ancestors of General Joseph Hooker."

Dr. Joseph F. Loubat has made the following important addition to the Davis Spanish-American collection: The Tonalamatl of the Aubin Collection. | An old Mexican Picture Manuscript in the Paris National Library | Manuscrits Mexicains No. 18-19. | Published at the Expense of his Excellency the Duke of Loubat. | With Introduction and Explanatory Text | by | Dr. Eduard Seler, | Professor of American Linguistics, Ethnography, and Archæology | in the University of Berlin. | Berlin and London 1900-1901. The German edition was acknowledged to Dr. Loubat in my last report, and the translation into English is by A. H. Keane, late Vice-President of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

The various special funds for the purchase of books, the first of which was established in the year 1868 by Hon. Isaac Davis and extended by his son, Councillor Edward L. Davis, in 1891, and the last in the year 1900 by Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, Hon. Horace Davis and Andrew McF. Davis, A.M., have all been drawn upon in the interest of the departments which they severally represent.

Mr. Charles C. Beale has added materially to our stenographic literature. It is a special pleasure to have such an expert authority speak of our "very choice collection of shorthand works," and further to recall the fact that Mr. Herbert R. Cummings gave to the Society his valuable library in this interesting specialty, partly on account of our assistance in its formation.

Lord Crawford has again remembered the Society in the distribution of the parts of the very limited edition of his *Biblioteca Lindesiana* with collations and notes.

The gift of Mrs. William T. Forbes, *editor*, of her "Selections from the Diary of the Reverend Ebenezer Parkman," suggests the importance of bringing into one repository the scattered note-books of this interesting divine. Mr. Parkman's life was chiefly passed in Westborough, Massachusetts, where he ministered from 1724 until his death in 1782. We have four volumes of his Diary covering, with some breaks, Aug. 1, 1723—5 Sept., 1728; 1 Jan., 1756—31 May, 1761; and 1 Jan., 1779—30 Nov., 1782. Our earliest volume lacks the first fourteen pages, and there are long periods omitted, apparently with intent. As the rubricated title-page contains important evidence in the case, I submit it: Diurna | or | An Account | of | The Remarkable | Transactions | of | Every Day | No. 7 | being a Continuation of a Design form'd | in the Year 1719, 20 February 19th. | Prov. 14. 8. Ps. 19. 12.

Dr. Oliver H. Everett's gift includes a complete set of

The Harvard Graduates' Magazine, which he kindly offers to continue; and a valuable parcel of the War envelopes of 1861-1865, which supplements our already large collection. The memorial of William Henry Haile received from "Mrs. Haile and the Family" has been placed in our Alcove of Biography, for which we greatly desire the class of material of which this is an excellent example. A first instalment of books and pamphlets from Capt. Winslow S. Lincoln reminds us that the Lincoln family has never allowed us to forget their interest in the founding and successful continuance of this Society.

We acknowledge to Richard C. Morse, General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America, "The Jubilee Year Book, 1851-1901." Of this important series of year books we lack all before 1878, also 1881, 1883, 1885 and 1887; and of the Convention reports, numbers 2-11, 23, 29, 30, 32 and 34. Mr. Benjamin Heywood Stone's kindly service in the hanging of our office portraits should find mention in this report.

Mrs. Edward C. Thayer has placed upon our walls the two framed photographs of about five hundred citizens of Worcester. The collection was made by Mr. George R. Peckham in 1870, and was also sold in book form. President Salisbury, Senior, secured the originals, from which the plates for the market were greatly reduced, for presentation to this Society.

Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, formerly a missionary to Japan, in the service of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, has added to our already large collection over a thousand pamphlets relating to the world's missionary movements.

In addition to the genealogies purchased with the income of the George Chandler fund, mention should be made of the following givers of like material: Messrs. Frederic Amory, Elroy Avery, Josiah H. Benton, Jr., Marshall Field and Edward J. Sellers. The Field Genealogy was

sent at the suggestion of the author, Mr. Frederick C. Pierce.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts has presented the fourth and final volume of its elaborate History 1637-1888. Under Mr. Oliver Ayers Roberts, the efficient historian of the company, the first volume was issued in 1895, the second in 1897, the third in 1898, and the fourth in 1901. They contain a fund of biographical material regarding many of the leading families of Massachusetts during the two hundred and fifty years which the record covers.

The Connecticut Historical Society's List of Genealogies in its Library, 1901, recently received, will be especially valuable to historical and genealogical societies whose libraries are now so vigorously searched for such records.

The Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa has favored us with Volume 1 of its Transactions, a royal quarto volume of one hundred and eighty-eight pages. The modest, rubricated cover title-page exhibits the excellent taste of cultivated women, while the brief but affectionate legend thereon, *Love Thou Thy Land*, appeals to home lovers of all countries. The number of essays is twenty-six, and of writers twenty-two. I heartily recommend the addition of this possibly unique society to our list of exchanges.

The recent celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the graduation from Dartmouth College of Daniel Webster, reminds us of his long and faithful service to this Society. Our invaluable collection of autograph acceptances of membership from 1812 to the present time, contains the following, which was addressed to the Recording Secretary, Hon. Oliver Fiske, Worcester, Mass., and is endorsed by President Thomas, "Hon. Daniel Webster of Newhampshire":

Washington, Feb. 5, 1815.

Sir,

I owe you an apology for not having at an earlier period expressed my thanks to the American Antiquarian Society for the honor they have done me in placing my name in the catalogue of their members. The objects, plan, & organization of the Society are such, I think, as promise great aid to the progress of useful knowledge, & are particularly adapted to the preservation of the materials for the future history of our own Country.

Will you give me leave, thro' you, to present to the Society, Camden's *Britannia*, Gibson's translation, London Ed. 1695. Tho' not particularly connected with the more immediate objects of the institution, it may not be without its use, in the Library of the Society, & is not at all times to be procured in the United States. The Book is here. I shall commit it to the charge of my much esteemed friend, & your worthy Representative, Mr. Bigelow.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, Y^r Ob^{se}vt

DAN'L WEBSTER.

The Gibson's folio edition of Camden's *Britannia* referred to, has long had the companionship of the Mather library folios. It bears the autographs of Wm. Vincent in 1769 and of J. Wiley, of Georgetown, District of Columbia, in 1814, with the value entry by Isaiah Thomas, "10 dols." On the page of dedication President Thomas has written, "Presented to the American Antiquarian Society by Hon. Daniel Webster of Portsmouth N. H. May 1815."

In the search for Yale material this bi-centennial year, we have both given and received light upon the literature of the great university. I call attention to a volume in our collection of music, not found in Warrington's check-list, of which the following is a lined title: *BEAUTIES OF PSALMODY*:¹ | Containing Concisely the Rules of Sing-

¹ "Beauties of Psalmody was issued in 1786 by Chauncey Langdon (Yale Coll., 1787)."

ing | with a | Collection of the most approved PSALM-TUNES and ANTHEMS | By a member of the Musical Society of Yale College | These ever new nor subject to decay | Spread and grow brighter with the length of day. It is an oblong book, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 inches, containing fifty-six pages, forty-eight of which are devoted to psalm-tunes and anthems. On the inner cover are ink scribblings in Latin, probably written by a student then in Yale. The autograph of the giver to this Society appears on the reverse of the title-page, with date of the gift, "Charles E. Briggs, July 29, 1869." Below this entry Dr. Haven has carefully recorded: "This had the name of Fox written on it with the date of 1789." The earliest Fox mentioned in the Yale Quinquennial is James Angel Fox of the class of 1816, afterwards President of Jefferson College, Mississippi, who took his master's degree in 1826. He may have been the owner of this exceedingly rare eighteenth century imprint. More light is desired upon the Society, the compiler, the publisher and the date of publication.

I also submit a poetic contribution which is of a less serious character. It is from No. 797, Monday, November 19, 1750, of our file of *The Boston Evening Post* and is entitled:

AN EPITAPH

Upon *Thomas Turny* late Sweeper of *Yale College* in *New Haven*.

When Life hath fail'd one; (and Life's but a Bubble!)
 Death laid his Limbs in the Cold Dust 'tis Cry'd:
 But here lies one, who fain would save Death Trouble,
 And laid his Limbs in Dust, oft e'er he dy'd,
 Yet dy'd in Hope, that he should rise again,
 And be deliver'd from his dusty Prison;
 And to Convince us he believed the same,
 As often from the Dust he has arisen.
 Here let Tom lie, bereav'd of Punch and Broom,
 Of Virgil, Grammar, Flip, and ten Things more,
 Till he shall rise from Death, and his Cold Tomb,
 'Tis what he's done ten thousand times before.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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