

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE original By-Laws of the American Antiquarian Society, adopted in October, 1812, provided that there be three meetings each year; viz. one in Boston on the 22d day of December, and when the same shall fall on the Sabbath, then the day after; one in Boston on the first Wednesday in June; and one in Worcester on the Wednesday next after the fourth Tuesday in September. The annual meeting was fixed for the 22d of December, at which time a "public oration" was to be delivered by some person appointed by the Society.

This was undoubtedly the origin of the present reports of the Council.

The first of these orations that appears in the printed Proceedings of the Society was delivered in October, 1813, by "William Jenks, A.M., S.A.S., pastor of a church in Bath, and Professor of Oriental Languages, etc., in Bowdoin College, Maine." Fifty years later Dr. Jenks again delivered an oration before the Society.

The addresses of Dr. Abiel Holmes in 1814, and of William Paine, M.D. (first Vice-President), in 1815, were orations, rather than reports of the Council. It is worthy of note that on the occasion of the address by Dr. Paine at Boston, the members were escorted to the place of meeting by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

The first report of the Council to the Society was made by President Isaiah Thomas in October, 1814, and in January, 1818, Oliver Fisk made a brief address, which may properly be considered as a communication from the Council.

The first annual report of the Council, as such, that appears in the printed Proceedings, was made by Rejoice Newton and Samuel Jennison in October, 1821, and the first semi-annual report of the Council was made by William Lincoln, and printed in the Proceedings of May, 1839. Since that year the Council reports have been presented with substantial regularity. In the early days of the Society, these reports were confined to the consideration of the ordinary affairs of the Society and its needs. It was not till October, 1853, that the present custom of presenting as a part of the report of the Council, communications upon antiquarian or historical subjects, came in vogue. At that time Edward E. Hale, D.D., after the usual report upon the affairs of the Society, spoke of the recent discoveries in the Polar Sea by Commander McClure of the English ship *Investigator*. The writer of this report will follow the earlier custom, and confine his remarks to the general affairs of the Society and its collections.

The report of the Librarian, which forms a part of the report of the Council, will give such information in regard to that department of the Society's work as he thinks desirable, and also a list of the givers and gifts of the past six months.

Since the annual meeting in October, by direction of the Committee on the Library, the portraits in oil of past Presidents of the Society, and those of Librarians Baldwin and Haven, have been cleaned and renovated and brought together in the office of the Librarian, where they greatly improve the general appearance of that room, and are seen to greater advantage, the light being so much better than in the main hall, where most of the portraits have heretofore been hung. It is much to be regretted that the collection of portraits of our Presidents lacks that of Edward Everett, President 1841-1853.

The constant additions being made to the Society's collections bring with them some embarrassment, as the

capacity of our building is greatly taxed to find room for them. The Library Committee are most forcibly reminded that at no distant day it will be necessary to increase the size of our building, or to decline contributions so generously offered us. The newspaper department especially has outgrown the room provided for it; its shelves are crowded with the bound volumes, and unbound papers are piled upon the tables and floor. It seems absolutely necessary that some new arrangement should be made if we continue to receive all newspapers that are offered us. Perhaps it may be well to reduce the number of papers to be bound, selecting for that purpose only those that seem to be of the greatest use and value. This department of our library is in constant use by historical students, who visit our rooms for the purpose, and many calls are made from all parts of the country for information only to be found in the newspapers of the past.

The sale of the library of the late William H. Whitmore at Boston in November last, at which twenty-one mezzotint portraits engraved by Peter Pelham, and one by John Singleton Copley, sold for about \$1,500, caused the writer to make an examination of the portfolios of engravings in the possession of the Antiquarian Society.¹ He was pleased to find that of these, four of the Pelham portraits sold in the Whitmore sale, and the engraving by Copley were in our library. These five prints, viz. Rev. Benj. Colman, D.D., Rev. Timothy Cutler, D.D.,

¹ Peter Pelham was an Englishman, who came to America about 1726, and was the first artist of any skill who executed portraits on copper or steel in New England. He was a painter as well as an engraver, and his first mezzotint portrait after his arrival was one of Cotton Mather in 1727, the original of which is, without much doubt, that in the possession of the Antiquarian Society. Another portrait painted and engraved by him was that of Rev. John Moorhead, minister at Boston; this was engraved in 1731. He also engraved portraits after Smibert of Rev. Benj. Colman, D.D., and Rev. Joseph Sewall, D.D. In 1734 Pelham advertised himself as a teacher of reading, writing, painting and dancing. Henry Pelham, a stepson, was also an engraver of considerable skill, and the Society have his map of "Boston and vicinity, 1775," which is very rare.

Thomas Hollis, Thomas Prince, by Pelham, and Rev. William Welsted, by J. S. Copley, sold for nearly \$600. The Society have five of the Pelham mezzotints not in the Whitmore sale; viz. Sir William Pepperell, A.M. (1747), and Rev. Joseph Sewall, D.D. (1735), after paintings by Smibert, and Rev. Charles Brockwell, A.M. (1750), Mathew Byles, A.M., V.D.M., and Rev. Henry Caner, A.M.

With the approval of the Council, "The Timothy Bigelow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution" are to place a bronze tablet on the granite post at the southeast corner of the Society's grounds to mark the location of the building in which President John Adams taught school in 1755-58. There has been much uncertainty as to the location of the school-house, but the ladies of the Bigelow Chapter seem to have finally solved the problem as to this historic spot, and will designate it by a suitable inscription on an artistic tablet.¹

The Council has lately received information from the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington that Dr. J. H. Trumbull's Natick-English and English-Natick Dictionary is nearing completion. It has been in the hands of the Public Printer since May, 1900, but "by reason of the technical character of the matter, and unforeseen difficulties in proof-reading," has been unexpectedly delayed. This important work, which has been awaited with great interest by those interested in the Indian languages, has an introduction by our associate, Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale.

In the report of the Council for April, 1873, the writer made brief allusion to the large and valuable collection of manuscripts owned by the Society, and suggested the importance of having a catalogue of these treasures prepared for the information of members. Since then a brief list

¹ The tablet was placed in position with appropriate ceremonies on Saturday, May 23, on which occasion addresses were made by Hon. George F. Hoar, Hon. Charles Francis Adams and Dr. G. Stanley Hall, members of the American Antiquarian Society.

of some of the more important has been prepared, and is of some help, but the writer believes that a card catalogue giving more in detail the contents of the various volumes, as well as descriptions of single manuscripts of historical interest, should be made, that the collection may be more available to the student.

At the Lenox Library department of the New York Public Library, "a separate title is made for every letter or document under the writer's name, or if a document, under the name of the official body by which it is issued." In the library of Congress a more elaborate or detailed plan has been adopted; all manuscripts are classified with reference to the subject treated, and one card made for each group. Some plan might be adopted more applicable to our collection than either of these; but of the importance and necessity of *some* catalogue there can be no question.

It is proposed in this report to speak more at length of this department of the Society's collections, with the view of bringing to the attention of members its real value as an aid to historical investigations.

The earliest manuscripts in our library are two richly illuminated missals; one, supposed to have been written early in the 14th century, is a small volume with designs in gold and colors, and another is a Persian tale or romance, with gilt border to each page, and several highly colored illustrations. The wooden covers of this volume are ornamented both inside and out with representations of men and women, birds and reptiles, all in brilliant colors. A folio volume of the Koran in manuscript is also one of the attractions in the show-case in the main hall.

From our collection of manuscripts there have been printed, under direction of the Committee of Publication:

"The Diary of John Hull, Mint Master and Treasurer of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay," with a memoir by Samuel Jennison and notes by Edward E. Hale. *Archæologia Americana*, Vol. III.

"A short discourse of a Voyage made in ye yeare of our lord 1618. to ye late discovered Countrie of Greenland; and a briefe discription of ye same countrie, and ye Comodities yer raised to ye Adventurers."

This was published by the Antiquarian Society in Vol. IV. of *Archæologia Americana*, with an introduction and notes by Samuel F. Haven, LL.D. Fifty copies were also printed in separate form.

Note Book kept by Thomas Lechford, Esq., Lawyer, in Boston, Massachusetts Bay, from June 27, 1638, to July 29, 1641. Edited by Edward Everett Hale. With a sketch of the life of Lechford by J. H. Trumbull. *Archæologia Americana*, Vol. VII.

The Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin, Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, 1829-1835, with an introduction and notes by Nathaniel Paine, Worcester, 1901.¹

THE MATHER MANUSCRIPTS.

These manuscripts being among the oldest and rarest in the Society's archives, may properly first claim attention. In the diary of Isaiah Thomas, our first President, are these entries in regard to their coming into possession of the Antiquarian Society:

Nov. 11, 1814. "Purchased the remains of the old library of the Mathers, which had belonged to Drs. Increase and Samuel Mather. This is unquestionably the oldest in New England. The remains are between 600 and 700 volumes. Worked hard all day with Lawrence and other assistance in packing and removing it."

Nov. 15. "The Mather library came up from Boston and was unpacked."

Nov. 28. "Have been engaged in taking a catalogue and putting the books in order of the Mather library for the last eight days."

Dec. 26. "Still at work on the Mather library very assiduously; have been only to bank and church for a month past. Have got through with the bound books, and am now engaged on the manuscripts."

From the large number of these found in the collection, a few only can be selected for the limited space allowed this report.

¹ Among other works of Mr. Baldwin in manuscript are two volumes containing complete indexes to Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts and to Mather's "Magnalia." Also four volumes of a History of Sutton, Mass., four volumes of Epitaphs, etc. Two volumes of letters to Mr. Baldwin, among which are letters from John Quincy Adams, George Bancroft, Alden Bradford, Lewis Cass, John Davis, S. G. Drake, Edward Everett, Rev. Dr. W. Jenks, Dr. T. M. Harris, Levi Lincoln, Jared Sparks, Charles Sumner, Thos. L. Winthrop, and other prominent men of the time.

We are fortunate enough to have the original draught of the "Platform of Church Discipline," by Ralph Partridge, and the revised copy in the handwriting of Richard Mather, from which the document, as approved by the Synod was printed; these manuscripts are in good condition, considering they were written more than two hundred and fifty years ago.

(In our library there is also a copy of the *first edition* of the "Platform of Church Discipline," printed at Boston by Samuel Green, 1649, which has the autograph of Increase Mather on the title page).

Other manuscripts of Richard Mather are :

"An Answer of y^e Elders to certayne doubts and objections ag^t sundry passages in y^e 'Platform^e of discipline' agreed upon by y^e late Synod." Oct. 26, 1651.

"Answers to Arguments for the Government of the Church to be in the hands of the People." 1644.

"Observations and Arguments respecting the Government of Christian Churches." About 1650.

"Answers to the twenty-one questions from the General Court as Hartford to the General Court at Boston." 1657.

"Answer to the objections against the Imposition of hands in Ordination." 1635.

There is also a large number of his manuscript sermons.

INCREASE MATHER.

One of the most valuable and interesting manuscripts of Increase Mather is his autobiography written for his children. It is preceded by the following letter to his children, which I take from a copy made from the original by our late esteemed librarian, Samuel F. Haven, LL.D. :

TO MY CHILDREN :

Dear Children:—You are all of you so many parts of my life, and dearer to me y^e all things which I enjoy in this world. Wee must not live together long here below, but if wee shall meet in Heaven to be forever with the Lord, that's happiness enough. I am not altogether without hope concerning my sure interest in Christ.

I have thought y^e relation of what y^e Lord has done for y^e Father, and y^e wonderful experience w^h he has had of God's faithfulness

towards him might be a means to cause you to give y^o selves entirely to y^e Lord Jesus and to endeavor to walk wth God. If you live to him here you shall live with him in another and better world.

The autobiography was copied several years ago by Rev. Abijah P. Marvin with a view to publication, but it will require careful revision and comparison before it is printed. Undoubtedly it would prove an interesting publication, and it is hoped that the time may come when the funds of the Society will permit its publication.

A few titles are given to show the general character of the collection :

"Fatherly Kindness from God calling for Dutifull Carriagees from Men." 1688.

"Dr. Increase Mather's Testimony against several profane and Superstitious Customs prevalent in New England." (Written when he was President of Harvard College, and Printed in 1687).

Contained in fifteen or sixteen volumes of interleaved Almanacs is the diary of Increase Mather for the years 1660, 1668, 1693, 1695, 1696 to 1698, 1702, 1704 to 1706, 1717 and 1721. The Almanacs used are of various dates from 1660 to 1721, and include Rider's British Merlin, 1660, and Tully's (various dates), New England, New England Kalendar, Kalendarium Nov-Anglicanum, and others. Two of the diaries are in small volumes without the letter-press, and some of them are incomplete.

COTTON MATHER.

The sermons, letters and other papers in the handwriting of Cotton Mather in our collection comprise the larger part of the manuscripts of this remarkable family.

A few only can be mentioned here :

"The Ancient Gospel." 26 d. 6 m. 1688.

"Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob." 1688.

"Seth, and Methuselah and Noah." 1688.

"Gideon, and Jephthah and Sampson." 1688.

"The Mystery of Providence." 1689.

"On a Day of Prayer at Lyn to stop the plague of Quakerism." 1694.

"Enquiry what are the evils which have provoked the Lord to bring his judgments on New England."

"The Observations and Reflections of the Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather concerning Witchcraft." In a letter to Rev. John Cotton, Aug. 5, 1692.

"The Best of Blessings,—Real and Vital Piety described and assisted in six brief essays on the Thessalonian."

"O' Lord before the Ecclesiastical Court."

"O' Lord Before the Political Court."

"One Among the Myrtle trees. A Brief & Plain Essay on Good Services to be done by people in low stations."

"The New Heavens Opened."

"Where to find Gog and Magog."

"The New Earth Surveyed."

"When shall those Things be? When the Grand Revolution to be look'd for!"

Five "Sacramental Discourses on the name of y^e Lord Jesus Christ." 1689.

"A Day of Prayer Kept by the North Church for Direction about y^e calling of a Minister." 2 d. 8 m. 1717.

"Triparadisus. Essays on, I. The paradise of the old world enriched with some instructive illustrations on the Sacred Geography. II. The Paradise of Departed Spirits fortify'd with well attested Relations to Demonstrate as well as illustrate the state of such. III. The Paradise of the New Earth under the Influences of the New Heavens."

"A Declaration of the Oppressed Brethren in the South part of Boston."

"Letter to the Brethren of the Church at New Haven, 20th 4 m. 1715."

"Letter proposing an address to the new King." 1715. (Geo. I.)

"Letter respecting the appointing of a Chaplain at the Castle." Nov. 7, 1716.

"Letter concerning the call of Mr. Fisk to the New South Church, Boston."

One entitled "A Brand Pluck'd out of the Burning," is an account of Mercy Short, one of those said to have been afflicted with witchcraft in 1692. This was followed by the story of Margaret Rule, with the title, "Another Brand Pluck't out of the Burning," an account of which appears in "More Wonders of the Invisible World," by Robert Calef. London, 1770.

"The Angel of Bethesda." Some remarks on the grand causes of sickness about 1724; pp. 418. It is a treatise on diseases and their remedies. Dr. Joseph Sargent, in his report of the Council, April, 1874, gives a full and

interesting account of this curious manuscript. Our late librarian, Samuel F. Haven, also speaks of it in his report of the same date.

"*Problema Theologicum.*" An Essay Concerning the Happy State expected for the Church upon Earth, endeavoring to Demonstrate that the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be att the Beginning of that Happy State, with some Thoughts upon the Character and Approaches to it. In a Letter to Rev. Nicholas Noyes in Salem, Dec. 25, 1703."

In 1717, Jan. 18, he writes: "I have now a charity school erected for the instruction of Negroes and Indians. Whereof I am at the sole expense, God prosper it."

There are in whole, or in part, nine of the diaries of Cotton Mather in the library of the Antiquarian Society for the years 1692 (in part), 1696, 1699, 1703, 1709, 1711, 1713, 1716 (in part), 1717. The Massachusetts Historical Society has the diaries for 1681, 1683, 1685, 1686, 1692 (in part), 1693, 1697, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1705, 1706, 1718 (in part), 1721 and 1724, twenty-five in all. The entries are in many cases very brief and often undecipherable.

Heads of sermons, various dates—1678–1723. On the inside of cover to the volume for 1723 is this memorandum: "Su. Dec. 16, 1723. I find I have married 946 couples."

There is a copy of an original catalogue of Dr. Cotton Mather's Library. Also of that part purchased by Isaiah Thomas and presented to the American Antiquarian Society, and the remains of the Mather Library purchased by Isaiah Thomas.

There are over two hundred letters to various persons.

SAMUEL MATHER.

There are a number of manuscripts of Rev. Samuel Mather, 1726–1771, most of which are sermons of no special interest now. There is a volume entitled "An Essay on Money and Trade," in the form of a letter "To

the Publishers of the *Weekly Rehearsal*," a journal published in Boston 1733 to 1735. It is a communication of three quarto pages unsigned, but evidently in the handwriting of Mather. The letter begins as follows :

"If you will please to give the Public a few Facts, which I am about to offer, referring to Money and Trade, I cannot but think that the sentiments of many concerning them will be rectified."

President Thomas has written on the back of the letter :

"Essay on Money and Trade written for The *Rehearsal*, a weekly journal published in Boston 1733 to 1735," and Librarian C. C. Baldwin has added the words, "By Sam Mather."¹

Other volumes are "Collections Miscellana." 1723. pp. 610 and an index.

"Disquisitions concerning the Most Holy Duty in which it is endeavored to communicate the Scriptural Doctrine concerning God and His manifestations to His Intelligent Creatures," etc. 12 chapters.

"The Song, the very Song of Solomon Himself, the Prince of Peace, or an Honest attempt to translate and explain the same with destractable Truth and Fidelity." By Samuel Mather, D.D.

"Scriptural Philosophy, or An Attempt to show that the Right Principles of Natural Philosophy are contained in Sacred writings." By one of the Academy of Arts and Sciences in the Massachusetts Commonwealth.

A letter, dated Fort Edward, Jan. 18, 1761 :

"To the Rev. Mr. Mather in Boston," a postscript to which reads : "Tell the doctor that living in the country in the Winter is better for a Man's health than all his Physick."

"A Disquisition concerning God and his Manifestations to His Intelligent Creatures according to the Holy Scriptures."

There are several letters written to Samuel Mather, and with them is one to "Rev. Mr. Mather," Nov., 1759, in regard to the relief of those who were sufferers by the fire, which is signed by Joshua Henshaw, Wm. Jackson, Thos. Cushing, Samuel Howes, John Scollay, Benj. Austin, and A. Oliver, Jr.

¹ A search in the volume of *The Weekly Rehearsal* in the library of the Antiquarian Society fails to show that Mather's letter was ever published there. The volume appears to be nearly complete from Oct. 4, 1731, to Aug. 11, 1737, the numbers missing being those for April 24, 1732, Jan. 3 and Sept. 16, 1734, and all after Aug. 11, 1737.

In the collection is the following letter from a member of this illustrious family, which would seem to indicate that the writer did not inherit the ability of his ancestors. It is addressed "To the Rev. Mr. Samuel Mather, at Boston in New England, Living near the old North meeting house," and is dated, "Lying at the Downs on Board his Majesty's Bomb Carkas, Sept 23 1761."

Honoured Sir and Madam, thro the favor of Heaven I am in Good Health as I Hope Both you and the Rest of our Family. I Desire that my Dutyfull Regards may be Presented to my uncles and aunts & Likewise my Honoured Parents, my Kind Love to my Bretheren & Sisters & all that think it worth their while to ask after me. I have Bean on Board of this Bomb Ship this two years & Have not Bean on Shore yet.

Capt. Edwards & Capt Caleb Prince came into the Downs ye 22^d I had Liberty from our Lieut. to go on Board of Her where Capt Prince used me Very Kindly. He gave me so much Sugar and Rum as the Capt. would let me Bring on Board which was two Gallons of Rum if it should come to my chance ever to meet with Capt. Edwards I would Beat him so that he Should not ever Be able to go on Board of any ship again & if I should get on shore in England & see him I would shoot him for dead.

I Red for the newspapers & magazine that my unkle was Lieut Governour of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. I Have no more to say at Present.

But still Remain your loving son &
Humble Servant, till death

INCREASE MATHER.¹

THE CURWEN PAPERS.

These papers, contained in six folio volumes, consist of over nine hundred letters and documents, written by or to some of the Corwin or Curwen family, or are in some way connected with Salem history.

Capt. George Corwin, or Curwen, the first of the family to settle in New England, came to Salem in 1638.

¹ Increase Mather was son of Samuel (son of Cotton) and Hannah Hutchinson (sister of Gov. Hutchinson) Mather. Little is known of him, save that he was born in 1741 and died in 1761, two years after the above letter was written.

He married Elizabeth Burk, a widow, and a daughter of Gov. Edward Winslow.

Jonathan Curwen was a member of the Province Council and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Province. His correspondence dates back to 1653.

Samuel Curwen was a distinguished American citizen and a loyalist of the Revolution, a graduate of Harvard University in 1735. In 1744 he was a captain under Sir William Pepperrell in the expedition to Louisburg; a Judge of the Admiralty Court; and went to England at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War in 1775, but returned to Salem in 1784. He was one of the addressers to Gov. Hutchinson in June, 1774. He died at Salem in 1802. While in England he kept a journal containing much valuable information about the American loyalists. This has been published, and a copy in an 8^o volume is in the library of the Antiquarian Society.

Among the letters is one of Rev. John Sherman to Rev. John Eliot, 1658, and one of Rev. John Davenport of New Haven to "Parson Eliot and the Brethren of the Church at Roxbury, no date, but probably about 1668." Other papers are a certificate of the ordination of Rev. John Sparhawk, "son of the late Mr. Sparhawk of Bristol," as minister to the First Parish of Salem, December, 1736, and other documents relating to that parish; also several letters written and signed by Mr. Sparhawk.

There are also letters of Paul Dudley, Chief Justice of Massachusetts, William Stoughton, Rev. Joseph Sewall, Samuel Sewall, and other men of note.

THE CRAIGIE PAPERS.

They consist in part of letters written to Andrew Craigie, numbering between five and six hundred, and are in three folio volumes. They are mostly business communications to Andrew Craigie, who was Apothecary General of the

Northern Department of the Revolutionary Army at the commencement of the Revolutionary War.

The Craigie manuscripts came to the Antiquarian Society through our late honored librarian, Samuel Foster Haven, LL.D., whose mother was a daughter of Mrs. Bossenger Foster, a sister of Andrew Craigie.

Mr. Craigie bought the Col. Vassall house in Cambridge in 1792, and resided in it for some time, as did also Bossenger Foster, the grandfather of Dr. Haven. Known afterwards as the Craigie house it has an historical interest, having been occupied by Gen. Washington as his headquarters after he took command of the army in 1775. It was also for many years the residence of the poet Longfellow. Our associate, Samuel S. Green, in his report of the Council in April, 1900, gave an interesting account of this historic mansion.

THE BENTLEY PAPERS.

Isaiah Thomas in his diary, under date of Jan. 6, 1820, says :

"Received information that the Rev. Dr. Bentley of Salem has left a handsome legacy to the Society. The information comes to me in a letter from one of the professors at Harvard University."

Jan. 7. "This evening received from Dr. Bentley's executor official notice of the Dr.'s legacy to the American Antiquarian Society."

Other entries in relation to the Bentley legacy are :

April 24. Went to Boston in our family carriage with Rejoice Newton and Samuel Jennison, Esqrs. All of us going to Salem to receive the late Dr. Bentley's legacy to the American Antiquarian Society.

25. Went to Salem on the mail stage with Mr. Newton and Mr. Jennison, Rev. Mr. Jenks, and Mr. Fowle, Exctr. to the late Dr. Bentley. Began to receive and pack up the articles contained in the legacy. . . . We worked till past 9 o'clock in the evening.

26. Up and at work at 6 this morning. Our team arrived from Worcester.

27. Continued to pack up the articles of the legacy; finished this afternoon. Got the team loaded, a heavy load, consisting of 3 large trunks and 18 boxes.

30. Whole expense of getting Dr. Bentley's legacy to the American Antiquarian Society from Salem, which I paid, is about 65 dollars and 80 cents.

The legacy of Dr. Bentley consisted of his books printed in New England, his cabinet, engravings, and manuscripts not of his own hand. The latter include letters from Timothy Alden, Jeremy Belknap, Thaddeus M. Harris and others, equally noteworthy.

The books have been arranged in an alcove called the Bentley Alcove. The manuscripts have been mounted in four 4^o volumes, and consist of about thirteen hundred letters and documents. There are also books of Persian, Chinese and Arabic manuscripts from the same source.

It seems quite likely that the Pelham engravings before alluded to came from the Bentley legacy.

Mention should be made of his diary in twelve volumes, containing much interesting matter.

The Bradstreet papers, in one folio volume, consist mainly of military letters and documents, many of them written at Albany and Schenectady.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS.

A folio volume thus marked contains letters from Gen. Timothy Ruggles, who commanded a regiment at Crown Point in 1755, and from Col. Ephraim Williams, of Deerfield, founder of Williams College, and others. Many of the letters are addressed to Major John Burk, of Bernards-ton, who kept a journal during the war. There are also muster rolls and other military documents in the volume.

ORDERLY BOOKS.

In the report of the Council presented by the writer in April, 1881, mention was made of over forty Orderly Books and Journals in the possession of the Society, hence but brief mention of them will be made at this time.

As was stated at that time, the American Antiquarian Society have three of the Orderly Books of Col. William Henshaw, from Oct. 1, 1775, to August 25, 1776. An earlier one, April 20 to September 26, 1775, in the library

of the Massachusetts Historical Society, has been published by that society under the editorship of our associate, Charles C. Smith, Esq.

The Antiquarian Society has well under way a type-written copy of those in their possession, which it is hoped may be put in a more permanent form at a not distant day.

In this connection the following letter from the collection of the Antiquarian Society may be of interest:—

Camp at Roxbury, Augt. 19, 1775.

Sir,

As there are several vacancies in the Army which your Excellency will undoubtedly Judge best to have filled up as soon as may be, I beg leave to recommend to your particular notice Col. William Henshaw, who before the arrival of Gen. Gates officiated as an Adjutant-General, being appointed to that office by the Provincial Congress. His conduct since the arrival of your Excellency I doubt not has been noticed. . . . I therefore request that your Excellency as a reward which his past services have merited would recommend or appoint him to the Command of a Regiment & you will greatly oblige,

Your Excellency's most obedient, most humble servant

ARTEMAS WARD.

To His Excellency, General Washington.

A quarto volume of Autographs presented to the Society by Mrs. Davis—wife of Hon. John Davis, a former President of this Society. The volume was prepared for Mrs. Davis by Matthew L. Davis, the friend and biographer of Aaron Burr, and consists mainly of letters addressed to Burr, or some member of his family; a few have been added since by Mrs. Davis. There are over ninety letters or documents in the volume; special mention will be made only of a few of the rarer ones.

John Randolph, of Roanoke, writing to Col. Burr, says:—

“John Randolph finds, to his extreme surprize and chagrin,

that the house of representatives, instead of acting on the business of the *nation*, have, by the vote of a great majority, gone into committee of the whole on a complicated *private claim* not comprised in the report of the joint committee of the two houses. He therefore *despairs utterly* of getting away before the middle of next week. He is not vain enough to suppose that Col. B. will postpone his departure on *that* account, but he shall be highly gratified by any cause of detention not disagreeable to Col. B. which shall give J. R. the pleasure of accompanying him through Virginia."

There is a dainty little note from Theodosia Burr, afterwards Mrs. Alston, signed T. B. ; she says :—

"The books and note were received with pleasure; the latter would have honored Petrarch as much as it would have flattered Laura. I shall not leave town to-day, and if you should not be otherwise engaged, Mrs. Prevost and myself have disposed of you for this afternoon."

Thomas Jefferson writes to Burr, Dec. 15, 1800, in regard to the election of President and Vice-President ; the official vote not having been received, he speculates as to the way electors might vote. He says at the close of the letter :—

"I had endeavored to compose an administration whose talents, integrity, names and dispositions should at once inspire unbounded confidence in the public mind, and ensure a perfect harmony in the conduct of public business. I lose you from the list, and am not sure of all the others. Should the gentlemen who possess the public confidence decline taking a part in their affairs and force us to take up persons unknown to the people, the evil genius of this country may realize his avowal that "he will break down the administration," etc., etc.

Com. Biddle writes from U. S. Sloop-of-War *Constellation*, May 8, 1802, thanking Burr for courtesies shown him while in New York in the summer of 1800.

One of the most interesting, as well as one of the

rarest letters in the volume, is the following, from that bluff old soldier, Gen'l Israel Putnam, written with as much disregard for the rules of orthography and grammar, as he had for his country's enemies. Parton, in his *Life of Burr*, says that Margaret Moncrieffe, daughter of Major Moncrieffe, who was stationed with his regiment at Staten Island, wrote to Putnam for assistance in enabling her to join her father. The General received the letter about the time that Major Burr joined him as aide-de-camp, and his reply was prepared for his signature by Burr. This letter was, without doubt, the original answer written by Putnam himself, and which was copied by Burr; it is written on a sheet of foolscap, but without direction, and the endorsement on the back is apparently in the handwriting of Burr. An account of Miss Moncrieffe's (afterwards Mrs. Coghlan) acquaintance with Putnam may be found in her memoirs, published in New York, in 1795.

New York, 26 of July 1776

Dear Marm¹

I must Beag your Pardon for not answering your Leaters sooner but the reason was becaus I did not know how to give you an answer and not because Majr Moncref did not give me my titel for I dont regard that in the Least but am willing to do him or any of his any kind offes lays in my Power not withstanding our Political Disputs for I know let his sentiments be what they will he must fight and am well assured we shall fight sooner than give up our Libertys. According to your Desir I have been tryeng to git leave for you to go to Stratons Island for that end have waited on his Excelency for liberty for you to go his answer was that when the last flag was up hear that Collo Paten said he had it in his Power to offer to exchang Mastor Level for Govenor Skeen the Giñral had no power to exchang any prisnors without the Leave of Congres but would send to Congres for Leave and did not doubt but that thay would consent and he told me I might tel you that if thay Did mak the Exchang you might go with govenor Skeen but would not send a flag on pur-

¹This letter was without doubt written to Miss Moncrieffe.

pos. Yesterday Majir Leaventon was hear and said you had desired to com to New York but all the Lades of his acquaintance was gon out of town and asked my consent for your coming hear as Mirst Putnam and two Daughters are hear be assured if you will com you shall be heartely welcom and I think much mor likley to accomplish the end you wish for that is to see your father.

I am with the greatest respects

Yours

ISRAEL PUTNAM

James Rivington, the loyalist printer, writes to "A Burr, Atty at Law at Albany," in regard to an indictment served against him; then comes a brief letter from Genl. Horatio Gates; then one from Com. James Biddle, dated "on board U. S. Ship Constellation," thanking Burr for courtesies and favors shown him while in New York, in summer of 1800, giving an account of the trip to Gibraltar, and addressed to Burr as Vice-President. General Charles Lee writes to General Wooster, who was then in Canada, as follows:—

New York, Feby ye 2th 1776.

Sir

I am to inform ye that I am appointed by the Continental Congress to the command of the Troops in Canada. I hope and dare say we shall agree well together. I must request you to contract and grind into flour twenty thousand Bushels of Wheat. I must also desire that you will suffer the Merchants of Montreal to send none of their woolen Cloths out of the Town—the post is just gowing out I must therefore conclude.

Sir, yours

CHARLES LEE

Major General.

I have ordered twelve twelve-pounders from Crown Point to Sorrel—I leave it to your discretion whether it would not be prudent before it is too late in the season to send on to the Falls of Richleau where it appears to me you ought to establish a Post.

Then follows an interesting letter from Joseph Reed, Secretary and Aide to Washington, written from the Camp at Cambridge.

The following letter, dated Philadelphia, June 23, 1775, from Roger Sherman, is of interest:—

Dear Sir

The Congress having determined it necessary to keep up an Army for the defence of America at the charge of the United Colonies, have appointed the following general officers:—

George Washington, Esq., Commander-in-Chief; Major-Generals Ward, Lee, Schuyler, and Putnam; Brigadier-Generals Pomeroy, Montgomery, yourself, Heath, Spencer, Thomas, Sullivan (of New Hampshire) and one Green of Rhode Island. I am sensible that, according to your former rank, you were entitled to the place of a Major-General, and as one was to be appointed in Connecticut, I heartily recommended you to the Congress, &c.

The general officers were elected in the Congress, not by nomination but by ballot.

I am with great esteem,

Your humble servant,

ROGER SHERMAN.¹

David Wooster, Esq.

A four-page letter from Schuyler to Montgomery, dated at Ticonderoga; a letter in French, dated "District de Quebec, Mar. 4, 1776," signed "Benedict Arnold, Brig. General and Commander in Chief of the Army before Quebec"; letters from Gen. Wooster, Edward Livingston, Timothy Dwight (who dates "New Haven, I don't know the day 1772"), Benj. Lincoln, Gov. Trumbull, Charles Pinckney, and Elbridge Gerry, the latter introducing "a fellow soldier." Genl. McDougal writes a letter of eight pages.

The following letter from Gen. Washington to Mrs.

¹ *Memoirs of Aaron Burr. Vol. I.*

Provost, who subsequently became the wife of Burr, is dated,

Head Quarters, Middlebrook 19 May 1779

Madam,

It is much to be regretted that the pleasure of obeying the first emotions in favor of misfortune, is not always in your power. I would be happy could I consider myself at liberty to comply with your request in the case of your brother Mr. Peter De Visme. But as I have heretofore taken no direction in the disposition of marine prisoners I cannot with propriety interfere on the present occasion, however great the satisfaction I should feel in obliging where you are interested. Your good sense will perceive this, and find a sufficient excuse in the delicacy of my situation.

I have the honor to be

Madam, your most obedient and
hb^{le} serv^t

G WASHINGTON

Mrs Provost

In this volume, too, is the marriage certificate of Aaron Burr to Theodosia Provost, July 6, 1782.

March 13, 1802, Samuel S. Smith, D.D., President of Princeton College, writes to Col. Burr:—

“The edifice of the College in this place, together with three libraries, containing about three thousand volumes, was a few days ago entirely consumed by fire,” &c.

There are also letters from Gens. Montgomery, Schuyler and Heath, Presidents Madison, Monroe and Van Buren, from Calhoun, Gallatin, and many others of equal interest. A fine specimen of the autograph of Charles Dickens, with several lines from the *Pickwick Papers* has been added by Mrs. Gov. Davis.

“Sammy—Have a passage ready taken for 'Meriker. The Merriken gov'ment vill never give him up, ven they finds as he's got money to spend Sammy. Let the gov'ner stop there, till Mrs.

Bardell's dead, or Dobson and Fogg's hung wick last event I think is the most likely to happen first Sammy; and then let him come back and write a book about the 'Merrikin's as 'll pay all his expenses and more, if he blows 'em up enough."

CHARLES DICKENS.¹

Worcester,

February Sixth 1842.

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY.

Six folio volumes thus marked contain a large number of muster-rolls, orders and other papers of the revolutionary period, besides many others of interest.

There is an interesting letter dated June 12, 1776, at Concord, Mass., written by Samuel Langdon, President, Harvard College, in which he returns thanks to the selectmen of Concord and others who have favored the College with their encouragement and assistance in its removal to Concord, by providing accommodations and the use of public buildings.

In one volume is a Journal of the march of Gen. Clinton's Brigade from Albany to Tioga on the Susquehanna, and several letters from American loyalists.

Two volumes marked Worcester Papers contain letters and documents relating to Worcester, among which are the Commissions of Isaiah Thomas, the founder of our Society, as Deputy Post-master of Worcester, signed by Post-masters Genl. Ebenezer Hazard, Saml. Osgood, Timothy Pickering and Jos. Habersham.

Other manuscripts of interest are: Records of the Association of the Boston Booksellers. Two volumes. 1801-1820. First secretary Caleb Bingham. Among the names signed to the constitution or articles of membership are John Boyle, Saml. Hall, Thomas and Andrews, John West, Manning and Loring, C. Metcalf, Thos. Wells

¹This was written at the time of Dickens's first visit to the United States, at which time he was entertained by Gov. Davis at his mansion in Worcester.

and Wm. Pelham. The last secretary seems to have been Wm. B. Fowle. The meetings of the association were held at Concert Hall and at James Vilas's.

Asia and America or an Historical disquisition concerning the ideas which former geographers had about the geographical relation and connection of the Old and New World. By J. G. Kohl of Bremen. In this manuscript are over thirty well drawn maps.

The work of Dr. Kohl was noticed in the Proceedings of the Society, Oct., 1867, April, 1869, and April, 1872.

MISCELLANEOUS AUTOGRAPHS.

Under this head may be classed about two thousand letters, documents and signatures of men of note, arranged alphabetically in over one hundred portfolios. Many of the letters and documents are of historical value, and the signatures alone would have at least some commercial value as autographs.

I will speak of but a few of them at this time. Mention is made of some of the most interesting specimens.

Letters of Samuel, John and John Quincy Adams, Sir Jeffrey Amherst, Fisher Ames, and documents signed by Sir Guy Carleton, Gen. Geo. Clinton and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Letters of John Cotton, 1690, and Rev. Wm. Cooper, 1740.

A letter of Abraham Lincoln to Maj. Gen. Hunter under date of April 1, 1863.

Two MS. sermons of Rev. Joseph Eckley, D.D., pastor of the Old South Church, Boston, 1779, whose services were then held in King's Chapel as their own church had not been repaired after being occupied by the British troops.

Paul Revere to Isaiah Thomas, May 6, 1790, in regard to the bell made for the second parish in Worcester, also his receipt for same.

Gen. Rufus Putnam to Isaiah Thomas in regard to certain falsehoods respecting the transfer of Indians to New York. He asks Mr. Thomas to have certain papers published in the *Spy*. Dated Jany., 1786.

A letter of Deborah (Gannett) Sampson, the female soldier of the Revolution, who served under the name of Robert Shirliffe, to the captain of her company, Capt. George Webb of Holden, dated June 2, 1804.

Letters and documents signed by Secretary Rawson, 1653.

"The Rebelliard, an Anonymous Poem. Scene, Harvard University during a Rebellion." Signed "Caetera desiderantur." pp. 16. No date.

Letters of Samuel Rogers, 1782-84, the poet banker, to Dr. William Paine, first vice-president of the Antiquarian Society.

Letters of Thomas Prince, Boston, 1728, to Rev. Mr. Prince and lady. This was probably Rev. Nathan Prince, brother of Rev. Thomas Prince.

A four-page letter of Gen. Ph. Schuyler dated Ticonderoga Nov. 30, 1775, to Gen. Montgomery.

Maj.-Gen. Charles Lee to Gen. David Wooster, Feby. 28, 1776.

Jos. Reed, Secty. to Washington, writes to Gen. Wooster from the Camp at Cambridge July 25, 1775, notifying him by direction of Gen. Washington that a Man of War had sailed from Boston.

Of interest to students of the Mass. Paper Money is a List of Bills emitted in Province of Mass. Bay, 1700 to 1739. The years when emitted and when to be brought in, together with the course of exchange during the time.

Another reads :

Province of Mass Bay March 16 1743

We certify that seven Shillings and six pence in Province Bills of the last form of Tenor is equal in value to one ounce of silver

and that ten shillings in said bills is equal in value to one hundred pounds sterling in good bills of exchange payable in London.

WM PEPPERRELL
EBENEZER BURRILL

Accompt of Province Bills made by order of the General Court and delivered to the Treasurer of the Province, for which also he gives credit in the several years set against their names. Also an accompt of what bills have been burnt. Also the times when and the price of Silver and Exchange 1703-1731. Dated Oct., 1740. Signed Wm. Dudley in behalf of the Committee.

An account of Bills of Credit made and issued by the Government of the Province of Massachusetts Bay for the support of the said Government from the year 1700 to the year 1738. The Provision made for the sinking and discharging of which Bills, on their emission, was by taxes upon the Polls and Estates, and the duties of Impost and Excise.

Memo., The Bills emitted the first year viz. 1701 were Bills of the late Colony of the Massachusetts, and brought to be burnt in that and the next year.

Among the Boston papers is

A petition of the inhabitants of the town of Boston (1757,)

To Spencer Phips Esq, Lieut. General and Commander in Chief in relation to power of the Assessors to ease persons by abating their taxes

Signed Thos Cushing Samuel Adams
Royal Tyler, Thomas Greene.
et als. Committee of the Town

Also Instructions of the Town of Boston to their representative May, 1755, and a List of polls taxed in the Town of Boston in 1758 as appears by the books, two thousand two hundred and seventy four, out of which are abated 194, and expect to abate as many more that are at sea and very poor, then there will remain 1886 ratable polls. The

valuation of these that have left the Town since the last valuation in the Province.

WORCESTER MILITARY.

A volume thus marked contains letters of the revolutionary period and of the time of the Shays rebellion.

Among the latter is a letter from General and Judge Artemas Ward to Gov. Bowdoin, 1787, in which he gives important information as to the movements of the insurgents at the barracks at Rutland, Mass. Another, dated Shrewsbury, Jan'y 1st, 1787, signed by Edward Flint, Town Clerk, also to Gov. Bowdoin, agreeing not to obstruct the sitting of the Courts in the County of Worcester the 23d of Jan'y, provided he withhold the troops from marching, and that the people who have taken an active part in the late rising remain unmolested in person and property.

Another letter dated Feby., 1787, from the Sheriff of the County in regard to state prisoners held for treasonable actions against the Commonwealth, asks for some provision for their support, &c., &c.

A letter from Daniel Shays in his old age, dated April, 1818, calls for help from the charitable, &c.

THE ISAIAH THOMAS DIARIES.

Volumes of interleaved almanacs, from 1774 to 1828, contain interesting entries made by Isaiah Thomas, the founder of our Society.

The Almanacs used are Low's, Bickerstaff's, Stearns's, Thomas's, I. Thomas, Jr.'s, and Robert B. Thomas's.

They give much information of the early days of the Society, as well as a record of events of interest of the period.

As our associate, Benjamin Thomas Hill, has made an accurate copy of the interesting material contained in these volumes for presentation to the Society, it is not necessary to make more than this brief allusion to them.

THE LINCOLN PAPERS.

The manuscript material from the Lincoln family is large, and of especial interest to residents of Worcester. It consists of a large collection of letters written to Levi Lincoln, Attorney-General of the United States and Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts by his friends and prominent men of his time.

A collection in four volumes of correspondence of Governor Enoch Lincoln, Governor of Maine 1827-28. Also a volume of historical papers.

Several volumes containing letters to Governor Levi Lincoln, Military Orders as Commander in Chief of the State Militia and original Fast and Thanksgiving proclamations promulgated by him.

In fifty or more portfolios and several volumes will be found the manuscript material of William Lincoln, a member of the Antiquarian Society and the historian of Worcester. Mr. Lincoln saved all written matter that would tend to throw light on the history of his native town, and there will be found in these volumes, invitations, notices of meetings of societies and local historical material of very diversified character.

His interleaved copy of the History of Worcester gives abundance of new matter he had collected.

In fact all the manuscripts of this family so closely connected with the State of Massachusetts and the City of Worcester, will be found of great historical interest and value.

There are also many record books of societies in Worcester and vicinity that have long ago passed out of notice.

SAMUEL JENNISON BIOGRAPHIES.

Perhaps one of the most useful of the manuscript collections in the possession of the Society is that prepared by Samuel Jennison, a former librarian, treasurer and

corresponding secretary of the Antiquarian Society. It consists of a great number of biographical notices of prominent men of the time, filed in alphabetical order, and prepared with great care.

These notices are often consulted and were largely used by Rev. Dr. William Allen in the preparation of his *American Biographical Dictionary*.

In our collection is the original manuscript of George Richards Minot's "The History of the Insurrection in Massachusetts in the Year 1786, and of the Rebellion consequent thereon." 4^o. pp. 260. The first edition of which was printed at Worcester in 1788 by Isaiah Thomas.

Isaiah Thomas in May, 1775, writes concerning a proposition to publish a weekly paper in Worcester, to be called "The Worcester Gazette and American Oracle of Liberty," and speaks of the necessity of removing his printing material from Boston.¹

"A poem on the death of the revered pastor, incomparably learned and faithful servant of Christ in the work or the ministry, Mr. Urian Oakes, Pastor of the Church at Cambridge and President of Harvard College." Nineteen verses; signed, Daniel Gookin, Jr. of Sherburne.

At the annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1888, our associate, Samuel S. Green, read a paper entitled "The Case of Bathsheba Spooner," who was sentenced to be executed June 4, 1778, for the murder of her husband.

As supplementary to that paper it is of interest to note, that the Antiquarian Society has in its archives the original order for the execution of Mrs. Spooner and her accomplices. Also an order of the Council for a stay in the execution till June 24, that the accused might have more time to prepare for death.

On the back of the original order for the execution is

¹ The first number of "Massachusetts Spy and American Oracle of Liberty," was printed at Worcester, May 3, 1775.

the certificate of William Greenleaf, the Sheriff, dated Lancaster, July 2, 1778, that he had "hanged each of them till they were dead."

Other papers in this remarkable case are a copy of the certificate of the men and women midwives in relation to the physical condition of Mrs. Spooner. This is signed by John Green, Josiah Wilder, Elijah Dix and Hannah Mower; also the certificate of Elizabeth Rice and Molly Tallmun, matrons, and the report of the coroner's inquest on the body of Joshua Spooner.¹

Besides the various collections of manuscripts to which I have alluded are many letters and autographs of historical interest scattered through volumes in the library. In this necessarily restricted report on our manuscripts, I have not attempted to give a complete list of even the most important of our treasures. My main object has been to call the attention of the Society and others interested in historical studies to the wealth of material open to their inspection under the rules of the library, and to impress upon the Council the necessity and importance of a catalogue to make more available the extensive collection of manuscript matter in our archives.

For the Council,

NATH'L PAINE.

¹ Mrs. Spooner was executed at Worcester and buried on Green Hill in that town.

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