

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The Library has experienced an average growth during the past year, the total number of accessions being 2,060 volumes, 3,513 pamphlets, and 551 miscellaneous items, such as maps, engravings and manuscripts. In this total I have not included the newspapers, which number 565 bound volumes, and 8,609 unbound issues.

As in the past two years, the newspaper files have constituted the most important feature of the Society's accessions. Although the number has not equalled the unprecedented total of last year, the papers received represent a larger area and cover almost every state in the country, as well as most of the countries of South America. The larger proportion of these files have been acquired through exchange, our funds not permitting us to purchase as much as we should like. Occasionally important early files have been offered for which there were no available funds, and then the Society has had to turn to its members. In two cases during the past year we have obtained files in this way, one a complete file of the first volume of the "Chelsea Courier," of Norwich, Conn., 1796-1797, given by Mr. John W. Farwell, of Boston, and the other a remarkable file of the "North Carolina Journal," of Halifax, 1794-1796, presented by a member of the Council. A large newspaper collection, consisting of 134 volumes and 3439 unbound issues, has been received from the Essex Institute, consisting chiefly of papers published outside of New England. In return for these, the Society sent to the Essex Institute a

collection of about 400 local Salem documents, gathered by the Curwen family. These manuscripts were of local importance solely and were of greater historical use at Salem than in any other library. The newspapers, on the other hand, have strengthened our collection considerably, and made this library of greater service to the many students who come here to consult newspaper files.

Among the longer files obtained during the year are:

- PORTLAND DAILY ADVERTISER, 1857-1860.
- PORTLAND BULLETIN, 1842-1847.
- PORTLAND, CHRISTIAN MIRROR, 1841-1846.
- PORTLAND, EASTERN ARGUS, 1807-1808, 1811-1812.
- PORTLAND, FREEMAN'S FRIEND, 1807-1809.
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE JOURNAL, 1827-1831.
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT, 1865-1866.
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE STATESMAN, 1837-1866.
- PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1799, 1821-1848.
- BRATTLEBOROUGH, REPORTER, 1816.
- BRATTLEBOROUGH, VERMONT INTELLIGENCER, 1817-1821.
- AMESBURY, VILLAGER, 1860-1874.
- BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER, 1818-1820.
- BOSTON, CHRISTIAN WORLD, 1843-1848.
- BOSTON GAZETTE, 1755-1757, 36 nos.
- BOSTON, SHIPPING LIST, 1844, 1853-1854.
- BOSTON TRANSCRIPT, 1834.
- DEDHAM GAZETTE, 1813-1814.
- MILFORD, INDEPENDENT MESSENGER, 1831.
- NEWBURYPORT HERALD, 1801, 1808-1816.
- SALEM, LITERARY OBSERVER, 1826-1827.
- SALEM, OBSERVER, 1848-1865.
- NEWPORT MERCURY, 1813-1814.
- NORWICH, CHELSEA COURIER, 1796-1797.
- NORWICH REGISTER, 1792-1794.
- NEW YORK CITY.
 - ALBION, 1822-1862.
 - AMERICAN, 1828-1829.
 - CHRONICLE EXPRESS, 1803-1804.
 - CHURCHMAN, 1834-1836.
 - WEEKLY DAY-BOOK, 1856-1861.
 - MUNICIPAL GAZETTE, 1846-1847.
 - EVENING POST, 1812-1823, 1828-1836.
 - SHIPPING LIST, 1824, 1826, 1834.

PHILADELPHIA

- AURORA, 1803-1814, 1820-1822.
EPISCOPAL RECORDER, 1833-1836.
NORTH AMERICAN, 1861-1865.
PENNSYLVANIA PACKET, 1783-1790.
POULSON'S ADVERTISER, 1806-1807, 1819, 1823.
PUBLIC LEDGER, 1842-1888.
RELF'S GAZETTE, 1823-1830.
SATURDAY EVENING POST, 1831-1842.
UNITED STATES GAZETTE, 1800-1812, 1821-1823, 1831-1833.
BALTIMORE CLIPPER, 1840.
FREDERICKTOWN, POLITICAL EXAMINER, 1821-1828.
GEORGETOWN ADVOCATE, 1846-1847, 1850-1853.
GEORGETOWN, METROPOLITAN, 1835-1837.
WASHINGTON, DAILY CHRONICLE, 1863-1872.
WASHINGTON, UNIVERSAL GAZETTE, 1802-1805.
CHARLESTON, SUNDAY VISITANT, 1818, 1820.
RICHMOND, ENQUIRER, 1837-1842.
HALIFAX, NORTH CAROLINA JOURNAL, 1794-1796.

The collection of South American newspapers has received a large number of additions during the year. Many of these have come through exchange with the Harvard College Library, which has decided, so far as it is concerned, to leave this field of collecting to the American Antiquarian Society. The files deposited in this way cover the years 1824 to 1891, and include fifty-one volumes from Chili fifteen volumes from Venezuela, nine volumes from Peru, five volumes from Paraguay, and three volumes from Colombia. From Mr. Richard Ward Greene, of Worcester, the Society has received a valuable file of the "Mercurio Peruano," 1791-1793, and 121 miscellaneous issues of Chilian and Peruvian papers of the early nineteenth century.

The entire question of the acquisition of newspaper files will be complicated in the very near future by the shortage of space in the newspaper stack. Every long file that is placed on the shelves now requires considerable shifting of volumes, and if we should receive any great collection of papers, one or two of which are in view, we should be compelled to seek space

elsewhere in the building. This necessity for expansion, which has come within half a dozen years after the completion of the building, is not so much due to miscalculation in planning the space, as to the extraordinary opportunities we have had in acquiring the duplicate collections of other large libraries. Since we have nearly exhausted our possibilities in this direction, the situation should not readily arise again in the planning of another stack. The Council Report has referred in detail to what methods for enlargement are open to us, and those in the Library who are charged with the shelving and arranging of newspaper accessions can only hope that the Council's prayer will be answered.

The time of the Librarian has been taken up, although more outside of library hours than within, with preparing for the press the Bibliography of American Newspapers to 1820, and the detailed listing of our own files for this period. In the number of the Proceedings recently distributed to the members, the States of Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri and New Hampshire have been covered, and in the next issue will be printed the account of the papers of New Jersey, the material for which has largely been gathered.

The Society's collection of early American imprints has been enlarged by 708 new titles, about one-third of these from the stock of the late George E. Littlefield. A very large collection of early music books and school books, several thousand in number, has also been received from this same stock, but has not yet been accessioned or arranged.

The collection of American genealogies has been increased by eighty-one volumes, most of them important family histories published during the last three years. In March, Goodspeed's Book Shop, of Boston, issued one of the largest genealogical sale catalogues ever brought out in this country, comprising 1779 entries, and the Library Committee thought it advisable to take advantage of the opportunity thus

to fill in the gaps in our collection. The catalogue was checked and forty-six volumes purchased, at a cost of \$187. Since the Society has no sizeable fund for the purpose, the Chandler Fund bringing in an annual income of but \$23, the money for this purchase was taken out of the general book income.

It is to be regretted that some genealogical student of sufficient means, either within the Society or without, has not endowed the Library with a proper fund for keeping up this phase of its work. Genealogies constitute an important part of any comprehensive collection of Americana. The great dictionaries of biography record the lives of those who have played a prominent part in the nation's history, but the lives of hundreds of thousands of persons who have attained only a certain amount of local fame, not to mention the thousands who have been unintentionally omitted from the encyclopedias, are to be found only in the genealogies, grouped under their respective family names. A great majority of the queries for biographical facts that come to the average library cannot be answered from the encyclopædias of biography. Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography contains but 20,000 sketches and the National Cyclopædia of American Biography but 18,000. What a very small fraction this is of those who for three centuries have contributed in one way or another to the making of history! The need of a more adequate and thorough dictionary of national biography has been voiced by the American Year Book Corporation, which in 1911 announced its willingness to undertake the work on a large scale, although the project has not yet been begun for want of financial support. If the work ever is undertaken, the compilers will derive much assistance from a collection of biographical material in this Library gathered by Samuel Jennison and presented to the Society in April, 1862, by his widow and children. This consists of newspaper clippings, obituaries, personal sketches

in manuscript, and notes in every variety of form relating to well-known characters of the country, as well as to the hundreds of persons with whom Mr. Jennison came in contact. Part of this material was used by William Allen in the revised edition of his "American Biographical and Historical Dictionary," 1832, but the major part of it concerned individuals not included in that work. In this Library we never leave a biographical query unanswered without turning to Jennison's notes, and very often the search is rewarded.

But whether or not a new dictionary of biography is published, the family histories must always remain as the largest source of biographical information. The Society's collection to-day numbers 2,006 separate genealogies, not including reprints or excerpts. The New England Historic Genealogical Society which has the largest collection in the country, possesses over 7,000 titles, and knows of 400 titles which it lacks. Hence we have nearly one-third of the total number published. The income from a fund of \$5,000 would suffice to purchase virtually all the currently issued genealogies, and leave a small sum to fill in the earlier gaps. Many members of this Society have been engaged in genealogical study. John Farmer, George Chandler, Pliny Earle, Sylvester Judd, George H. Preble, Ezra S. Stearns, William Nelson, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Herbert B. Adams, not to mention the present President, have all written family histories. The collection we have is consulted repeatedly, not only by genealogical investigators, but more frequently by those interested in historical or biographical pursuits. Its lack of completeness is the one bar to its successful use.

A valuable addition to the Society's library has been the James Terry collection of bookplates, manuscript records and biographical notes illustrating the history of early American libraries, both public and private. Since the subject has been taken up fully in the Coun-

cil Report, no more than passing mention of it is made in this place.

A beginning has been made in the re-arranging and re-cataloguing of the almanac collection. The almanacs in recent years, since they became an important feature of the Society's library, have stood upright on the shelf, the longer series being tied in bundles and the more important specimens being placed in envelopes. In this way they gathered dust, became easily misplaced, and were not readily accessible. The entire collection is now to be re-shelved. The early almanacs, including most of those previous to 1750, as well as a few rare Revolutionary examples with folding plates, have been separately bound, while the great body of the collection is to be arranged in small boxes especially made for the purpose. The former alphabetical arrangement, by States, has been retained, and the collection will be carefully re-catalogued, with full cross-references for compilers and titles. Already the work has progressed, covering the States in alphabetical order, from Alabama through Connecticut. It should be entirely finished within the coming year.

Appended to this Report will be found a complete list of Donors, representing 54 names of members, 121 names of non-members and 287 names of Institutions and Societies.

Respectfully submitted,

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Librarian.

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