

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

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THE growth of the library during the past calendar year has been somewhat above normal. Expressed in tabular form, the total is as follows:

Bound volumes	3410
Pamphlets	5817
Engravings, broadsides and maps	554
Unbound newspapers	2685

The total number of bound volumes in the library is now 145,177, and of pamphlets 217,439.

The great mass of our ten thousand accessions for the year is made up of a selection from gifts of material of purchased items, all designed to fill in and complete our collections of American history and literature. To specify particular titles is not an easy task. Scores of examples of 18th century printing, an occasional Mather, a New England Primer or two, while not particularly interesting in themselves, are exceedingly important when added to already large collections. We have to examine many titles to find one that we want. A dealer who recently secured a lot of 257 American pamphlets dating between 1792 and 1815 submitted them to us as a whole, and we lacked eight. Our continued effort is to obtain, against much competition, the occasional items we need to fill in our collections and to make them, in consequence, more useful for historical research.

The most valuable single title of the year was the "Constitution and Nominations of the Subscribers to the Tontine Coffee-House" printed at New York in 1796, and presented by Mr. James B. Wilbur. This rare tract is sought after by collectors because the

list of share owners, which is really a list of prominent merchants of New York City, contains much important data regarding their respective families. It is an important item of local history.

A valued gift is the five volume "Catalogue of the Library of John Henry Wrenn," presented by the University of Texas, through its President Robert Ernest Vinson. This remarkable collection of English poetry and literature is a monument not only to the discrimination of its founder, but also to the generosity of Major George W. Littlefield, who purchased the collection and presented it to the University of Texas.

Two highly useful bibliographies are the checklist of "California Imprints, 1846-1851," and "The Plains and the Rockies, a Bibliography of Original Narratives of Travel and Adventure, 1800-1865." These were presented by the author, Mr. Henry R. Wagner, who was elected to membership in the Society at the last meeting. The recent sale of the Wagner collection to Mr. Henry E. Huntington assures this remarkable assemblage of early Western books a permanent home.

A really important gift to the Society and one that will be even more so a century hence, is the Alice Morse Earle collection of presentation books, donated by Miss Frances Clary Morse, of Worcester. This little library of 151 volumes, all with presentation inscriptions or letters from the authors, means much to this library, where Mrs. Earle worked so frequently and from whose newspapers she gleaned so many of her facts. Fortunately the collection is rich in the literature of old-time customs and legends, and provides us with many books that we hitherto lacked. Some reference to this gift, and to the interesting nature of the inscriptions, has been made in the Report of the Council.

A large and continued source of accession is to be found in the files of pamphlet reports, speeches and tracts which come to us regularly from Chief Justice

Rugg, Hon. Charles G. Washburn, Mr. Waldo Lincoln, Mr. Charles H. Taylor and Mr. Henry W. Cunningham. These frequent gifts are much appreciated, as they enable us to secure much of the pamphlet material of the present day.

About four hundred American genealogies have been acquired during the year, which with the large number obtained during the previous year place this library in the front rank of collections of this class of reference books. Genealogy needs no defence as a subject which a large library should collect.

Richardson, in his "Languages of the Eastern Nations," said "It is hardly necessary to observe that Genealogy is so intimately connected with Historical Knowledge, that it is impossible to arrive at any proficiency in the one, without being minutely versed in the other." All the minutiae of information regarding the lives of the millions of people who have formed the American nation can most quickly be obtained from a great collection of genealogy, and it is such a collection that primarily must be used in the compiling of that great Cyclopaedia of American Biography which some day this country is sure to have. Our late associate, Professor Dexter, has shown this indebtedness to genealogies in his six large volumes of "Yale Biographies and Annals," one of the greatest and most authoritative of all American biographical works.

Our own dependence upon such a collection has been shown time and again. The inability to answer many questions of biographical reference, due to the fact that we did not possess many of the important genealogies, was the chief factor in our determination three years ago to bring this collection up to a fair standard of completeness. And this effort seems to have been justified. A Virginia gentleman who was looking for certain facts regarding a Southerner of the eighteenth century, and who had pursued his investigations in several of the larger libraries, found

the exact facts for which he was looking in an obscure genealogy on our shelves. A long search for a portrait which had disappeared ended in the same way. Certain facts regarding an event in the War of the Revolution were answered in a diary of 1777 which was printed in full in a family history. A member of our Council was enabled to answer two interesting biographical queries almost immediately from genealogies. These are all questions that have come to us within the past month.

We have recently been most fortunate in obtaining two of the first three American genealogies. The earliest genealogy published in this country in book or pamphlet form is the "Genealogy of the family of Samuel Stebbins," Hartford, 1771. The author was Luke Stebbins, who lived at Kensington Conn., and who followed at various times the trades of merchant, inn-keeper and school-master. In his Introduction, he said:

"Genealogies, it is well known, are of as ancient date as the formation of man. Tho' all have not been of equal use and importance to mankind in general. . . . yet Genealogies have been of use among all civilized nations, time immemorial. . . . We can easily conceive of many good reasons for the continuance of genealogies in families; as it may give demonstration of the power, faithfulness and goodness of God to their ancestor; excite in their children and children's children, thankfulness, hope and dependance on the God of their fore-fathers. And also, where their ancestors have led pious and religious lives, been exemplary in their conversation, &c. it may excite in their descendants a laudable ambition to imitate those things that were excellent, praiseworthy and amiable in them."

There was every reason why the English colonists should ascribe a theological significance to the word "Genealogy," for the only book in which many of them had ever seen the phrase was in the square quarto

Bible of King James, where the thirty-four page Genealogies of the Ancient Scriptures graphically illustrated by means of charted circles the descents and family trees of well known Scriptural personages.

This Genealogy of the Stebbins Family of 1771 is a very rare book. As late as 1875, William H. Whitmore in his "American Genealogist" stated that he had never seen the work and when the pamphlet was reprinted in 1879, it was affirmed that only two perfect copies were known to exist.

It was over forty years before another genealogy appeared. In 1813 John Farmer of Concord published "A Family Register of the Descendants of Edward Farmer," which rare work we obtained four years ago. The third genealogy is the "Family Record of the Sharples Family," by Joseph Sharpless, Philadelphia, 1816, a work of 132 pages and the first attempt to compile an account of all the descendants of the name in America. This book we have just secured.

A list of the known American genealogies as far as 1837 follows:

"A Genealogy of the Family of Martin," by Wheeler Martin, Providence, 1816.

"A Genealogical Memoir of the Family of Farmer," by John Farmer, Hingham, 1828.

"The Genealogy of the Spragues in Hingham," by Hosea Sprague, Hingham, 1828.

"Genealogy and Family Register of George Robinson," Hallowell, 1831.

"Memoir of John Whitman and his Descendants," by Ezekiel Whitman, Portland, 1832.

"A Genealogy of the Descendants of Edward Goddard," by William A. Goddard, Worcester, 1833.

"Biography of the Family of Goodhue," by Stephen Goodhue, 1833.

"Family Memorial," by Elisha<sup>b</sup> Thayer, Hingham, 1835.

"Webster Genealogy," by Noah Webster, 1836.

"Genealogical History of the Families of Robinsons, Saffords, Harwoods, and Clarks," by Sarah Robinson, Bennington, 1837.

"Records of the families in New England of the name of Hodges," by Rufus Hodges, Cincinnati, 1837.

Of these fourteen earliest genealogies the Society now has all but the Martin of 1816, and the Robinson of 1831. To show the scarcity of the books, only six of the fourteen appear in the comprehensive Library of Congress checklist, and only seven were in the S. S. Purple collection.

The collection of American directories, much used in connection with genealogy and biography, has received large additions, notably 340 volumes transferred from the Worcester Historical Society, 155 volumes sent as a gift from the Providence Public Library, and 41 volumes deposited by the Worcester Public Library. The collection now numbers 5788 volumes and is especially strong in the issues previous to 1870.

A valuable genealogical publication has been obtained in "The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland and Ireland, Extant, Extinct or Dormant," by G. E. Cockayne, enlarged and edited by Vicary Gibbs. This work, which is the most authoritative and complete of anything of the kind yet published carries the alphabet as far as the letter H, in five large volumes.

The almanac collection has received 232 additions during the year, chiefly of the Pennsylvania issues. The most valuable single items were "Aitken's General American Register" for 1774, printed at Philadelphia, and Tulley's "Almanack for the year 1693," printed at Boston by Benjamin Harris for Samuel Phillips. A highly valued gift, from Dr. Leonard Wheeler, of Daniel Sewall's almanacs for 1787, 1791, 1793, 1794, 1798, and 1799, and of the Astronomical Diary for 1767, by Philopatria, all printed at Portsmouth, have aided greatly in completing our early New Hampshire files.

The greatest need for the collection of almanacs today is a bibliography of the Pennsylvania issues, which were probably more important, historically

and typographically, as well as more numerous, than those of any other State. Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut have been covered by Dr. Nichols, Mr. Chapin and Mr. Bates, Mr. Wall of the New York Historical Society has listed the New York issues, and Dr. Nichols has in preparation the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Pennsylvania, however, seems to frighten all bibliographers.

To the collection of American engraving have been added two interesting early prints, each apparently one of two known copies. One is Revere's signed engraving of the lodge notice of Tyrian Lodge of Gloucester. The cost of this appears in Revere's account book under, date of June 15, 1773, where £3 is charged for engraving, and £1-4-0 for printing 400 impressions. The other engraving is a Table of the Weights and value of Coins, engraved by Nathaniel Hurd about 1765. This curious print was reproduced from our copy in the October issue of "Old Time New England."

A few accessions have been made to the collection of manuscripts. Jesse W. Foster, of Comstock, Nebraska, has presented the unpublished manuscripts of a "History of the Indian Territory," written by his father, George W. Foster of Ithaca, N. Y. about 1879. Mr. Foster was a journalist in New York State, who was much interested in the history of the Cherokees, and had published several contributions regarding this tribe. An account of his life and labors is to be found in the "Pedigree of Jesse W. Foster," Ithaca, 1897.

From Mrs. Jeanie Lea Southwick has come several diaries of her great-uncle, Pliny Earle, dating between 1835 and 1859, also his autobiography and a collection of family genealogical notes. From Harriet M. Blake of Los Angeles, we have received the Revolutionary Diary of Henry Blake. This diary, which is an interesting journal of the daily life of a soldier during

the operations in New York State, March 17 to October 7, 1776, was partially printed in the *Worcester Spy* of October 25, 1903, at which time it was in the possession of a grandson, Ira G. Blake.

Two collections of correspondence have been presented to the Society by one of its members. One is a series of nearly a hundred letters to George N. Briggs, Governor of Massachusetts. These date from 1832 to 1861 and include letters from Mark Hopkins, Horace Mann, John Davis, Josiah Quincy, John G. Palfrey, Abbott Lawrence, Robert C. Winthrop and Edward Everett. The other collection in six portfolios contains the correspondence of Elias Nason from 1831 to 1862. He was at various times editor, teacher, public lecturer and minister, and wrote much on topics of New England history and biography. He died in 1887 and was for twenty-two years a member of this Society. His correspondence forms a long series of a thousand or more letters, not the least interesting of which are a score written when an undergraduate at Brown University. Both of these collections were presented by Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed, of Boston, who has in many other ways given his generous aid in building up our library. Undoubtedly the largest number of donations during the year has come from Mr. Charles H. Taylor, of Boston. The Collection of Journalism and Printing established by him has been increased by hundreds of books and pamphlets on newspaper history, advertising, press-work, biographies of editors and similar subjects. Perhaps the most interesting of his gifts was a series of volumes on printing, annotated and compiled by Joel Munsell, of Albany. This consisted of three volumes of a "Chronological Record of Printing 1803-1856," and seven volumes of "Typographical Collections, 1853-1867," both compiled by Mr. Munsell, in manuscript; his own printed "Typographical Miscellany," 1850, and "Chronology of Paper and Paper-Making," 1870, annotated by

him; Timperley's "Dictionary of Printers and Printing" 1839, enlarged to six volumes by annotations and a continuation of the narrative to 1857; and ten volumes of Scrap-books of newspaper clippings. Joel Munsell, born in 1808 and died in 1880, was an Albany publisher, and one of the leading authorities in the country on printing. He was long a member of this Society and aided in editing the revised edition of Thomas's "History of Printing," in 1874.

A second gift from Mr. Taylor of much bibliographical value is a type-written copy of Logan Esarey's "Calendar of Indiana Newspapers," 1804-1922, listing nearly three thousand journals of that state.

The newspaper collection has grown about normally, most of the accessions of earlier files having come through purchase. Among the gifts, however, should be noted a large collection of the papers of Berkshire County, Mass., from Mr. Robert C. Rockwell, of Pittsfield, and a practically complete file of "Living Issues," published at Pontiac Mich., from 1892-1897 by the late Dr. Henry A. Reynolds. A list of the longer files obtained during the year is appended:-

- WISCASSET CITIZEN, 1828-1830.
- AMHERST, VILLAGE MESSENGER, 1799
- CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE COURIER, 1794-1796
- MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE MESSENGER, 1849-1851
- MIDDLEBURY, PEOPLE'S PRESS, 1841-1844
- MIDDLEBURY, NORTHERN GALAXY, 1844-1849
- BOSTON IDIOT, 1817-1818
- DEDHAM, NORFOLK DEMOCRAT, 1839-1842.
- GREAT BARRINGTON, BERKSHIRE COURIER, 1841, 1870-1874.
- HYDE PARK INDEPENDENT, 1884.
- LEE, CENTRAL BERKSHIRE CHRONICLE, 1869
- NORTHAMPTON, REPUBLICAN SPY, 1805-1807.
- PITTSFIELD, BERKSHIRE COUNTY EAGLE, 1872-1900.
- PITTSFIELD, SUN, 1848-1859
- SALEM, ESSEX GAZETTE, 1770-1772.
- HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT MIRROR, 1824-1826.
- NORWICH PACKET, 1793-1797.
- ALBANY, CHRISTIAN VISITANT, 1815-1816.
- BROOKLYN, LONG ISLAND STAR, 1818-1819.
- HUDSON GAZETTE, 1801-1803.

NEW YORK, AMERICAN MINERVA, 1793-1794.  
NEW YORK, SPECTATOR, 1814-1819.  
PHILADELPHIA, AURORA, 1811-1812.  
PHILADELPHIA, NATIVE AMERICAN, 1844  
PHILADELPHIA, NATIVE EAGLE, 1846.  
CARLISLE, SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, 1817-1819.  
CHAMBERSBURG, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN, 1815-1817.  
SHIPPENSBURG, SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, 1817.  
BALTIMORE PATRIOT, 1838-1843.  
CINCINNATI, LIBERTY HALL, 1818-1821.  
PONTIAC, MICH., LIVING ISSUES, 1892-1897.  
CARACAS, LA PRENSA, 1846-1848.  
CARACAS, EL PATRIOTA, 1845-1854.  
MARACAIBO, LA MAIPOSA, 1840-1842.

The library is being increasingly used for its newspaper collection. Many students journey to Worcester to consult the newspaper files, and fully one-third of the historical queries that come to us by mail concern this one feature of the Society's collection. This may be due to the fact that whereas many of our books are to be found in other libraries, the newspaper files are frequently unique and not to be found in such number in any one depository; but more likely it is the result of the reputation which the Society has gained through the publication of its newspaper *Bibliography*. Therefore it is a lamentable fact that so many of our files are stored in the basement, where they are not easily accessible. Each new volume added to the already overcrowded shelves frequently requires the reshelving of an entire section. In no department of the Library is the need of expansion and increased space so apparent as in the newspaper collection. Not until the new stack is erected will our troubles in this regard be at an end.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,  
*Librarian.*

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