

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

THE Council has to report the deaths of two resident members and one foreign member since the last meeting.

Edward Sylvester Morse of Salem, who was elected to this Society in 1898, died December 20, 1925.

Bernard Christian Steiner of Baltimore died January 12, 1926; he was elected in 1913, and contributed a paper on "Connecticut's Ratification of the Federal Constitution" in April, 1915. In fulfillment of a wish expressed by Dr. Steiner, his brother, Walter R. Steiner of Baltimore, has sent to the Treasurer \$300 to establish the Bernard Christian Steiner Fund, the income to be used for the purposes of the Society, one-half of this amount coming from his estate, in accordance with his wish, the other half being a gift in his memory from the brother.

Sir Paul Vinogradoff, LL.D., of Oxford, Eng., who was elected as a foreign member in October, 1892, died December 19, 1925. He was born at Kostroma, Russia, in 1854 and was, for many years, a professor of history at the University of Moscow, but owing to political disturbances he removed to England in 1902 and, in the following year, was elected to the Corpus professorship of jurisprudence in the University of Oxford, which position he held to his death. In 1907 he visited the United States and lectured at Harvard and other universities. He was an unwearied editor and writer and published much, his most important, though unfinished, work being "Outlines of Historical Jurisprudence" of which two volumes only have appeared.

The Council, and more especially the members resident in Worcester, have continued to give much thought to the increasing need of what is, if the public prints may be trusted, the chief problem of most governing bodies at the present time, that of balancing income and customary expenditure. The work which this Society has been doing of recent years cannot continue to be done with its present income. There is abundant evidence that the scholars of this country want this work done. They look to the Society to do it because most of it cannot be done anywhere else, inasmuch as it requires the use of books and newspapers which exist nowhere else. But unless more money can be provided, the Council must reduce the amount of work which the staff is now attempting to do, and the first step will be to refuse further help to literary and historical enquirers. This is unthinkable of an American institution possessing material not to be found in any other library. On the other hand, the very importance of this material makes the care and the upbuilding of it for the future a preeminent obligation, and the present cannot claim a right to use what it is not ready to pay for. These irreplaceable possessions have been provided by the past and entrusted to this Society for the use of students in the future. The Council, as Trustees for past and future, must protect the wishes and the rights of those who have gone and of those who are not yet here to assert their claim. We would gladly serve the present also, if we had the means to do so. As we have not, the present, being here to look after itself, must not be allowed to despoil the future by using up what the past has left to us.

Carefully considered efforts are being made to bring this situation to the attention of those who have it within their power to alleviate it. The generosity of several of the members made it possible to conduct a systematic preliminary campaign whereby the resources and the work of the Society were brought to the

attention of the general newspaper reading public, and the success with which this public was reached, was evidenced by a considerable increase in the correspondence which intruded itself upon an already overworked executive. In January, the Council sent to each member and to others who are believed to be interested in what the Society aims to accomplish, a frank and precise statement of its present aspirations and its present difficulties. This printed statement has been supplemented by personal interviews and by correspondence. It will not be through any lack of fair warning, if the present finds itself deprived of the gratuitous use of the Society.

Students engaged in research in many different lines are drawn to the library of the Society by its two principal collections, each of which is unrivaled elsewhere. Each of these gained its outstanding distinction from the foundation gift of Isaiah Thomas, and each has been placed in a secure position through the additions secured within the past twenty years.

Isaiah Thomas's library consisted of two main divisions, both accumulated by him in order that he might write his *History of Printing in America*. The books were American imprints, including everything which he could secure from the earlier colonial presses. Doubtless he missed much that he might have had if he had guessed that the inconsequential seventeenth century tracts were to be the special quest of a century later, but he did gather an amazingly large proportion of treasures which no money can buy now. The especial value of the imprint collection, however, is not in its famous rarities, but in its comprehensiveness. Nowhere else can one examine satisfactorily every sort of book which Americans bought, prior to the year 1820. No other collection shows so convincingly what made up the mental pabulum of our ancestors.

Remarkable as a whole, this part of the Society's library has its own exceptional glories. One is the

library, or rather what is left of the library of the Mathers. If the imprints as a whole show what readers as a whole had access to, these Mather shelves reveal what the most intellectual of colonial families actually had in its study. The books which were handled by Increase and Cotton Mather and by their descendants have been supplemented—thanks to the prevision of our predecessors—by an unequalled collection of the publications written by members of that family.

The other important division of the imprints is the Almanac section, which has been made unassailable through the generous gift of Mr. Munson, while his continued watchful oversight supplementing that which Dr. Nichols has long given this department, assures its continued strengthening.

It has been the Society's pleasant privilege, thanks to these early imprints, to co-operate actively in the work of our member, Charles Evans, in compiling the "American Bibliography" of which the ninth volume was issued recently. This volume contains 3071 entries of separate publications which appeared in the United States in the years 1793 and 1794, carrying the total number of entries to 28,145. Of these 3071 titles, the Society's library contains more than half, 1579. The volume is dedicated: "To my Friend and Fellow Worker in the Pleasant Fields of American Bibliography, Clarence Saunders Brigham, A.M. Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts. Whose Comprehensive Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820, so worthily crowns one of the Main Purposes of the Founder of the Venerable and Noble Institution which he so ably administers."

The Society, in the person of its Librarian, has for a dozen years past been engaged upon this Bibliography of American Newspapers, an undertaking which is now drawing toward its conclusion. The first instalment was printed in the Proceedings for October, 1913, and

it has proceeded in alphabetical order of states as far as Vermont. It is not yet time to speak of this task as finished, although if nothing goes wrong it will be completed when this Report is published. What has already gone into permanent form, however, justifies calling the attention of the members to the fact that this is the most important undertaking, as a contribution to the resources for American scholarship, with which the Society has been so directly connected since the founder issued his *History of Printing*.

Isaiah Thomas's greatest gift to this Society was his collection of newspapers. His books and the money which he gave might have come from other sources, but nobody else had anything comparable to these papers. He secured them, at first, as the ordinary exchanges which came to his desk as editor of the *Massachusetts Spy*. As soon as he became interested in the idea of writing a history of printing, he rapidly extended these exchanges, and made a systematic effort to secure papers from every section of the young republic. He began to hunt actively, also, for older publications, and sought information about printers and editors, living and dead, throughout the country.

For the rest of the nineteenth century, after Mr. Thomas's death, those who were responsible for the activities of the Society rested upon its secure position as the leading newspaper collection. They strengthened the library in other respects—most notably by the purchase of Mather tracts at the Brinley sales—but the newspapers were regarded as able to take care of themselves.

Meanwhile, as that century drew toward its end, there came to be a steadily increasing realization on the part of historical students of the value of newspapers as material deserving examination. Professor J. B. McMaster made a *History of the United States* largely out of extracts from newspapers, and many less competent students followed his lead. The libraries were quick to perceive the increasing demand upon

them, and sought to add to their files of the local papers. Two were early in the field and most active in their quest. The Library of Congress very properly took the position that the National Library ought to possess the periodical publications from every section of the country, and it went about securing these wherever they were to be had. At the New York Public Library, Mr. Eames accumulated newspaper files more quietly, and with gratifying results. He had the advantage of location, and of intimate friendly relations with members of the book trade. Booksellers do not like newspapers, for the obvious reasons that they are too bulky to hold for a favorable market, and because there are few purchasers who care for things as hard as these are to take good care of. Mr. Eames made the most of the opportunities which came his way, and he enlisted the assistance of his book selling friends, with the result that the New York library came to have a very important collection of papers.

This was the situation when Mr. Brigham came to Worcester. The Society's collection of newspapers was still undoubtedly the best in the country, but its pre-eminence was being threatened by at least two active rivals each intent on increasing its holdings as rapidly as possible. One way in which they tried to do this, was to print the catalogue of what each had already secured—the Library of Congress in 1901, followed in 1912 by an impressive list of its eighteenth century papers; Wisconsin in 1911; the New York Public Library in 1915; and Yale in 1916. These catalogues showed that this Society was still ahead, but they conveyed an obvious threat, in the certainty that these other libraries would grow more rapidly after their requirements and desires became more widely known.

The existence of these other catalogues justified investigators who wanted to use newspapers in expecting that the Antiquarian Society would supplement them by printing the list of what it possessed. The

demand for this became increasingly insistent, as something scholarship had a right to. When Mr. Brigham began to consider the problems involved—the labor of compilation, the needs of students, the cost of printing—it became clear that another catalogue similar to those already existing would be only a temporary palliative, so far as scholars are concerned, adding to a situation already sufficiently confused. What was needed was something which would serve students for a long while, and at the same time save them from the necessity of hunting through the several independent catalogues. Equally important from the point of view of the Society's Librarian, was accurate and comprehensive information concerning the extent of the newspaper problem—how good is the Society's collection, not in comparison with its rivals, whom it can afford to ignore, but in relation to a perfect collection of all early American newspapers?

The first satisfactory help in answering this last question was provided in 1907, when the Colonial Society of Massachusetts printed Miss Mary Farwell Ayer's list of Boston papers, 1704-1780. This is still the best list that has been printed, a model for all who aspire to work along these lines. It shows at a glance what issues of each paper exist, and where each copy that the compiler found is to be seen. The next best method is exemplified in the list of New York papers, to 1812, which appeared in 1919 in the second volume of I. N. Phelps Stokes's "Iconography of Manhattan Island." This gives in detail the most complete file of each paper, with specifications of the whereabouts of issues missing from the principal file. It shows how nearly a perfect file exists, and how the investigator can find most readily all of the existing issues, but it ignores all less complete files.

These Boston and New York lists were made up from files which are nearly all in a few large collections, mostly in the same city; they were costly to compile and to print, but the cost was justified by the number

of persons interested in the result. Mr. Brigham faced a more ambitious undertaking, with infinitely greater difficulties and less hope of co-operation. For him, there could be no avoiding the requirements which were essential if the thing was to be done as it ought to be done—it must cover the whole United States; it must extend to the year 1820, accepted as the limit of typographic interest; it must record, not the possessions of one or a few chosen collections, but every copy of each paper, wherever one could be found.

The plan adopted for the Bibliography is frankly a compromise, but it omits nothing essential, and it has stood the test of use admirably. It gives the detailed information which the Society needs for its own purposes, and it supplies everything which the student who wants to use newspapers has any right to ask for. It leaves to him the task, which properly belongs to the individual investigator, of co-ordinating the information, and of extracting from the data supplied by the entries from different libraries the specific information which he happens to want.

The important thing is that a plan was adopted which was within the means of the Society, and sufficiently simplified to enable the compiler to complete his undertaking within the period of his anticipated lifetime. To him, the gratitude of the Society is due in very deep measure. He has done this work as its Librarian, but he has done it at a cost of much money spent on long journeys, and of many hours spent in the library at such times as he could work without interruptions unescapable when the building is open to other officers and to the public visitors.

This Bibliography differs in one important respect from the compilations and similar productions which are now being prepared in considerable numbers. Mr. Brigham realized from the start that he could not get a satisfactory result by conceiving an admirable idea and then depending upon correspondence and hired representatives for his data. Not the least of

the services which this undertaking has accomplished, and for which the Society may fairly claim a full share of credit, has been the missionary work done by Mr. Brigham. He has been an apostle engaged in converting the ordinary American librarian to an appreciation of old newspapers, and incidentally of old books in general. Others, travelling salesmen and the agents of the Library Association, have doubtless visited more libraries than he has, but it may be questioned whether anybody else has tested more libraries by the only effective method, that of consulting their resources in connection with a single quest, and that a quest for which every library in an older settled community ought to be able to contribute something. As a bye-product of this work, he has become the most competent expert on the actual workings of all sorts of libraries in the eastern half of the United States.

It is too soon to speak of the Bibliography as a finished work, but not too early to begin to study the material already in print. The two states which are still to do, Virginia and West Virginia, are not likely to disturb the averages established by the 28 now in hand. The figures which follow have come from a careful, and somewhat critical, examination of the available sections, as published in the Proceedings of the Society. These will be consolidated, revised and issued as a single publication, with the earlier sections brought up to date, as soon as possible after the remaining states have been done.

The material supplied by this Bibliography gives, for the first time, a solid foundation for a study of the history of printing in this country, and upon this study depends any thoroughly accurate understanding of the development of intellectual interests in America. Heretofore, there has been no lack of evidence which justified the formation of opinions, but here we have for the first time comprehensive, uniform, definite data covering the whole settled area well into the nineteenth century.

There were, in the states already covered, before the year 1820, 1793 papers of which Mr. Brigham has been able to learn. Rather less than a third of these, 544, died at, or in most cases before, the end of the first year. Almost exactly the same number, 542, lived beyond the first but died before the fifth year began. There were, on the other hand, 341 which survived for a decade or longer, and this is the number which may be regarded as possessing real influence and as filling a place in the community. The balance, about 375, had a respectable career of from five to ten years.

Out of the total of nearly 1800 different papers, there were 203 of which no copy can now be found, well over 11 per cent. This leaves 1590 papers of which the location of one or more copies is recorded in the Bibliography.

Of these 1590, there are 183 of which only a single copy has been found, and about the same number, 197, that are known from a single file—two or more copies constituting a “file” in this count—preserved in one library. In other words, our knowledge of the appearance and character of 380 of these papers, not quite 24 per cent, hangs by a single thread. The practical significance of this thread will appear to any one who examines the record of the papers of Morristown, New Jersey. There were three of these, the *Palladium of Liberty* running from 1808 until after 1820, the *Morristown Herald* from 1811 to 1817, and the *Memoranda* for 1815–1816. The note under each of these is “There was a file in the Morristown Public Library which was destroyed by fire in 1914.” Of the *Memoranda* no copy can now be found; of the *Herald* there are 5½ copies at the New Jersey Historical Society; and of the *Palladium* there are only 6 issues from March, 1815 to October, 1819, although fair files exist before and after these dates.

On the other hand, there are over 400—417 if I counted accurately, which is unlikely—of which some sort of a file, a “file” meaning ordinarily two or more

years unless the paper was shorter-lived, is preserved in five or more libraries, these being of course in most cases the papers which had the longer lives.

Of the nearly 1600 papers of which copies exist, this Society had when the sections of the Bibliography were printed, 1216—73 per cent—and of these it has the only recorded copies of 149 different publications—9½ per cent. This is not quite twice as many as are credited to the Library of Congress, 636. Harvard ranks next, with 602. The other important collections are at the New York Historical Society, 388; New York Public Library, 302; Wisconsin Historical Society, 272; and Yale University, 161. Harvard has few long files, but it is the only rival in the way of “only copies,” of which it has 28, sufficient to make it possible to say that 10 per cent of all the recorded papers can only be seen at Worcester or Cambridge.

A comparison of the figures for the three leading cities shows how securely New York had established her position as the metropolis before 1820, with 127 papers to her credit, as against 98 for Philadelphia and only 71 for Boston. But that there is a danger in drawing conclusions from such statistics as these, is suggested by an analysis of them, for 55 of the New York papers, 43½ per cent, did not live more than a single year, as against 35 short-lived publications in Philadelphia, 35 per cent, and 16, 22½ per cent, in Boston. The chances for intellectual mortality in New York appear to have been twice as great as in Boston. On the other hand, New York had 44 papers which continued for more than five years, half of which stopped before reaching ten years. Philadelphia had 37 of more than five years, of which 22, only one less than New York, went beyond ten. Boston had 31 of more than five, and 18 of more than ten years. The way in which the people of these three communities regarded their papers may be inferred from the fact that 56 of the Boston papers, nearly 80 per cent, are now represented by five or more files, as against about

40 per cent for the other two—51 for New York and 38 for Philadelphia.

In contrast to these large centers, is the record of the smaller communities, which also gives a clearer idea of the way these early papers have, or have not, been preserved. New London, Savannah, Cincinnati and Natchez will serve as typical. With few exceptions, all the papers tried to appear weekly.

The earliest paper in the Connecticut town was the *New London Summary*, which ran from 1758 to 1763. Mr. Brigham found about 50 issues at the Connecticut Historical Society, an average of ten for each year. The New London Historical Society had 5, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the New York Public Library and the Antiquarian Society one each, with two exceptions none of these being duplicates of those at the State Historical Society in Hartford. Since these figures were printed, however, and largely as a result of the Bibliography, the Society's singleton has grown to 45. The *Summary* was succeeded in 1763 by the *New London Gazette*, which continued until after 1820. Of this paper the State Historical Society had a good file, with broken files in a dozen other libraries, that of the Society now being virtually complete to 1800. These files duplicate each other for the years when the country was prosperous, and become very scattering around 1775, 1785, and 1795.

There was no rival sheet until 1795, when diverging political opinions led the *Advertiser* to start on a brief career, of which two copies at Harvard and one at the Library of Congress are the sole surviving record. The next year the *Weekly Oracle* began its five-year life; the New London Historical Society has scattering numbers, Harvard a fair file for the year 1801 and 34 other issues, the Massachusetts Historical Society has 10, Antiquarian Society 6, and one copy each at New York Public Library, Long Island Historical Society, Philadelphia Library Company, and Library of Congress. The *New London Bee* started in 1797 and died

in 1802. Yale has the file of this paper, with a fair representation at Harvard and at the New York Historical Society; Congress has the year 1797 and the Philadelphia Library Company 1798; the Antiquarian Society had 64 issues, now increased to 144. After an interval of five years without newspaper competition, the *True Republican* started its short life in 1807. This Society had 5 issues, Harvard 2, and the Pequot Library 1. After another interval of ten years, in 1818 the *Republican Advocate* started, and lasted beyond the limit of this survey. The Society had the only two recorded issues of its first year, to which it has added ten more; the New London Historical Society has a file beginning in 1819, and the Library of Congress one beginning in 1820.

At Savannah the *Georgia Gazette* began in 1763 and continued until the troubles of the Revolution ended its career in 1776. The file for 1763 to 1770 is at the Massachusetts Historical Society and that for 1774 to 1776 at the Georgia Historical Society; none of the issues for the intervening years, 1771-1773, are among the 13 at Congress, 5 at Yale, or 1 at Worcester. While the British troops were in the city, they printed the *Royal Georgia Gazette* from 1779 to 1781; the New York Historical Society has the file for the last of these years, and there are 10 issues at Congress. With the return of peace in 1783, the *Gazette of the State of Georgia* was founded, becoming the *Georgia Gazette* in 1788 and continuing until 1802; the Georgia Historical Society has a good file, and various single years are scattered among half a dozen libraries, with very little overlapping. Of the *Georgia Journal* of 1793-1794, there is one good file at the Georgia Historical Society, the only other issues being the 2 at Worcester. The *Columbia Museum* started in 1796 and continued until after 1820; files are relatively common for the first 15 of these years, but after 1814 they become very scarce, the 25 numbers at Worcester dated over the two decades, including a high percentage of unique issues. Of the *Georgia Republican*, 1802 to after 1820, the best

file is at the State University Library, the Library of Congress coming second, the state Historical Society stopping at 1813; Harvard has scattered issues for the years 1802, 1803, and 1807, supplemented by 1808 at the Essex Institute and 1809 at Worcester.

Of the *Southern Patriot*, 1804 to 1807, Harvard has 1804 to 1806, Georgia Historical Society 1806 and 1807, the Antiquarian Society 4 issues and the Maine Historical Society 1. The Antiquarian Society has the single known issue of the *Federal Republican Advocate* of 1807, and shares with the Georgia Historical Society the known files of the *Public Intelligencer* of 1807-1809, the only other copies of this being at Harvard. All the recorded copies of the *American Patriot*, 1812, are in the Georgia Historical Society, and the Antiquarian Society has the single known copy of the *Morning Chronicle* of 1817-1818. Of the *Savannah Gazette* of 1817, only 8 numbers appeared; the complete file is at the state Historical Society and the only other known copies, 2, are at Worcester.

At Cincinnati the first newspaper to make its appearance was the *Centinel of the Northwestern Territory*, in 1793, surviving until 1796. The Ohio Historical Society has a fairly good file, the Ohio State Library the first year, Harvard 9 issues and the New York Historical Society 1. The *Freeman's Journal* took up the succession in 1796, running until after 1820; Harvard has 23 issues, the Ohio Historical Philosophical Society 2, and the Antiquarian Society 1. The *Western Spy* started in 1799 and ran until after 1820; there are files in four Ohio libraries and it is represented at three others in the state, while the Antiquarian Society and Library of Congress have good files, Harvard has scattering issues, and the University of Chicago 1. The next paper in date, *Liberty Hall*, starting in 1804 also had a long career; there are files in six Ohio libraries, at Congress, Worcester, and Madison; Harvard has 1812-1814, the New Jersey Historical Society 1817-1818, and there is 1 issue at Port Jervis, N. Y., and 1 at Yale. The *Cincinnati Whig* of 1809-

1810 is known from 7 issues at Worcester and 1 at Madison. Of the *Cincinnati Advertiser* of 1810-1811, there are only the 2 issues at Worcester. Of the *Spirit of the West*, 1814-1815, there is a file in the Cincinnati Public Library, 9 issues at Worcester, 6 in the Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society, and 1 at Madison. The *Gazette* of 1815 is known only from 8 issues at the Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society. The *Inquisitor* of 1818 had a better fate; there are files in three Ohio libraries, at Congress and the New York Historical Society, the Antiquarian Society has 6 issues and the University of Chicago 2. The *Literary Cadet* of 1819-1820 is known only from a file in the Ohio State Library.

Natchez was the home of all but one of the 16 papers issued in Mississippi before 1820. The earliest of these is the *Mississippi Gazette* of 1800-1801, known from 4 issues at Harvard. This was followed by the *Intelligencer*, which died before the end of its first year, 1801; it is known from the same number of issues preserved in the same library. Next came the *Constitutional Conservator*, 1802-1803, of which Harvard again has the only recorded issue. Of the *Mississippi Herald*, 1802-1807, which died soon after it changed its name to *Natchez Gazette*, the Antiquarian Society has 108 issues scattered over the six years; there are 18 elsewhere, among which only 4 are duplicates, 12 at Harvard, 2 at the New York Historical Society, 1 each at Philadelphia Library Company, Congress, Department of Archives at Montgomery, Alabama, and in the library of the late William Nelson of Trenton, New Jersey, who was one of the earliest to perceive the importance of preserving these early newspapers.

There is a file of the *Mississippi Messenger*, 1804-1808, in the State Department of Archives of Mississippi, the Antiquarian Society has 29 issues, Congress 4 and Harvard 1. Of the *Mississippian*, 1808-1811, the Antiquarian Society has 16 issues and Congress 1. The *Weekly Chronicle*, 1808-1811, is known from a file in the state Department of Archives, and 50 issues at

Worcester. Of the *Natchez Gazette*, 1811-1813, all of the 27 known issues are at Worcester. No copies are known of the *Mississippi Gazette* of 1811. Of the *Mississippi Republican* 1812-1820, there is a broken file at the state Department of Archives, Congress has two years, and the Antiquarian Society 7 issues. The *Washington Republican* 1813-1817, was another paper which died soon after changing its name to *The State Gazette*; there is a file at the state Department of Archives, Congress has two and a half years, and the Antiquarian Society 80 issues. No copies are known of the *Intelligencer* of 1815. The Library of Congress possesses the 5 surviving issues of the *Independent Press* of 1819.

On the whole, the South fairly held its own in this early period of colonial and national existence, and it asks little consideration for the fact that it had few centers of population. The three older seaboard states have to their credit 55 papers in North Carolina, 53 in South Carolina, and 44 in Georgia. Of these, moreover, the percentage of papers that reached a secure and influential position, living ten years or more, was one in five of the total number, as high as in Philadelphia and higher than in New York.

The figures for the Trans-Allegheny states are significant:

Ohio	90	Louisiana	21
Kentucky	84	Mississippi	16
Indiana	17	Alabama	12
Illinois	7	Florida	1
Missouri	6	Texas	1
Michigan	2		

The Kentucky figures have an especial importance, because they seem to prove that the figures as we now have them are reasonably near being complete. Elsewhere the list has had to be made up from the copies which have been preserved in the libraries, supplemented by information, giving the names of papers that have disappeared, which has happened to be preserved in the columns of other papers. In Ken-

tucky, however, the record is official and almost certainly complete. The legislature regularly made a special grant of money to be paid to each paper that printed its proceedings, and it is not likely that any editor failed to claim this assistance. There are 29 of the papers named in these grants, of which no copy can now be found, or just over one in three of the 84 credited to the state. This is not appreciably a larger proportion than is shown by the figures for the other frontier states listed above. In these eleven states, there is some record of 257 papers, about the same number as in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and 25 more than in Pennsylvania without Philadelphia. Of these, there are 81 of which no copy can be located.

I shall not attempt to elucidate the significance of these various groups of figures. Statistics are notoriously dry, and the task of sucking juice out of this particularly dry assemblage of data, is more than I shall undertake. That must be another's task. In 1922, a writer in *The Library*, published at London as the organ of the Bibliographical Society, expressed a hope that Mr. Brigham's interest in this subject would not slacken until "he completes his task by writing the history of early American journalism—a task no one else is likely to approach with so comprehensive a preparation." Since then, another member of this Society has begun his preparations for writing the history of printing in America, with an adequate background of general information and with special studies already to his credit in fields sufficiently removed from each other to assure his freedom from the provincialism which is equally characteristic of New Englanders and of those who are devoting their energies to counteracting the New England influence. All that I have attempted to do, is to place on record, on behalf of the Council, the fact that this Society has made a contribution of some value to students who prefer definite and precise information.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP,
For the Council.

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