

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE gathering of a great historical collection such as ours is of little value to the scholarly world, if the library is merely a storehouse. The users must come after the "mousetrap," or there will be no "beaten path to the door." During the past year it has occasionally happened that the seating capacity of our reading room has been exhausted, and we have often had a room nearly full of historians and graduate students, many of whom have come long distances to spend many days or weeks with the rich resources of our collections. They have come, not alone from New England and the central states, but from Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia, from California and British Columbia, from England, France, and even from Persia.

The restorers of historic Williamsburg have asked us to help them with the architectural and social background of their enterprise. Other investigators have studied the development of keelboating on our western waters, the oriental trade of our eighteenth and nineteenth century merchant marine, the sugar industry of Louisiana prior to 1802, or the history of this or that railroad.

A well-known novelist needed the historical background of the American wars with Tripoli; an historian wished contemporary references to De Tocqueville's visit to America in 1831; while still another wished to make a study of Colonial military costumes.

A well-known authority on lithography made large use of our rich collections for a history of the introduction of that art into America. Another investigator was made happy by the discovery of our wealth of material, both engraved and in manuscript, on the

early engraver, Amos Doolittle. Our newspaper files were scanned for examples of American newspaper wit and humor between 1816 and 1865, for contemporary criticisms, in the Boston papers, of the early works of Poe, and for the history of the beginnings of sport in America, from cock fights to the prize ring, from puppet shows to dancing, from horse racing and riding to hounds to the introduction of whist and golf and the beginnings of baseball.

A restaurateur found here a wealth of colonial recipes; a graduate student unearthed many new titles for her bibliography of the writings of negroes before 1825. Students of early American fiction, of Freneau's prose works, of Maine and Vermont printing, of the development of the writing of American textbooks, of eighteenth century magazines, of New England folk songs, and of American anti-Catholic agitation, all found an abundance of material. Of course, only a few random illustrations of the varied inquiries which have come to our library have been jotted down here to show that our resources are national, and not limited to any one locality or period of our history. Those who could not come to Worcester have written, and hundreds of letters have been sent out with the historical, biographical, or bibliographical information they required.

The financial depression of the past year has, curiously enough, been a benefit to us in the building up of our collections, for the dealers have redoubled their efforts to offer us attractive material at more reasonable prices, and many a private citizen has brought us the contents of his attic with the hope, often vain, of realizing a little on the literary lumber of his ancestors. As a result, we have, this year, been able, by the searching of many lists and the examining of many heaps of books, to add fully a third more material to our shelves than in any previous year in our history. The total is as follows:

Books	11,213
Pamphlets	11,912
Engravings, maps, manuscripts, etc.	5,320
Miscellaneous unbound newspapers	1,212

or a total of 29,657 accessions for the year, including at least two large collections of several thousand manuscripts and views, which have not been itemized in the total count. This year's additions bring the total of bound volumes to 197,913, and of pamphlets to 308,825, a total of 506,738 titles in the library. This, with our uncounted collection of manuscripts, engravings, maps, broadsides, etc., brings the resources of the library to well over a million pieces.

The great financial value of our Library is well illustrated by examining the prices in a single dealer's catalogue issued during the past year. This catalogue listed fifteen volumes of unusual rarity of which this library already owned examples. These were priced at a total of over \$24,000.00. In another recent work which gives estimated values of American literary first editions, thirty-two important titles which we have on our shelves are valued at a total of around \$20,000.00.

By the will of Mr. Henry W. Cunningham, the Society secured, in addition to his most generous financial bequest, five oil portraits, and a portion of his private library. The paintings include Hanatschek's portrait of Mr. Cunningham, Christian Gullager's portraits of Mr. Cunningham's great-grandfather, David West, his grandmother, Abigail Leonard (West) Cunningham, and David West, Jr., the two latter being child portraits, and a modern copy of the well-known portrait of Increase Mather by Van der Spritt. From Mr. Cunningham's library came a total of 471 pieces exclusive of a considerable number of duplicates, including many valuable genealogies and local histories, and his remarkable collection of Harvard class reports, one of the finest in private hands. This bequest, with

the excellent showing already on our shelves, makes our collection of these reports, which have such great biographical value, greater than can be found in any other public library except that of Harvard.

The very attractive tall clock, now in the Council room, came to the Society by bequest from the late Judge Samuel Utley, who died at Worcester, November 17, 1930. The clock was made by Wilson of Birmingham, about 1810, and descended to Judge Utley from Samuel Borden of New Braintree.

The largest single purchase of the year was part of the stock of a former Cambridge bookseller. It included 3,262 books and pamphlets, and was rich in literary first editions and minor historical works. A collection of over 2,000 city directories was received by exchange from the Library of Congress, with something over 100 from other sources, making ours one of the three largest collections in this field in the country. Though directories look most uninviting on the shelves and take up a great deal of room, they are extensively used in biographical research.

What is doubtless the most valuable single newspaper ever acquired by our Library was received this year through the generous gift of Mr. I. N. Phelps Stokes, as was announced in the April Council report. It is entitled: "The Present State of the New-English Affairs," and was printed on a single folio page and sold by Samuel Green of Boston in 1689. It was the first publication in the nature of a newspaper issued in the American Colonies, and so is of the greatest importance in our collection of early American newspapers. The only other known copy is in the Massachusetts State Library. Many rare newspaper files were secured this year, the more important of which are listed below, but mention should be made of the unique files of the (York) *Volks Berichter* for 1799-1801, the (Alexandria) *Times and District of Columbia Advertiser* for 1802, and the collection of about 1000 issues of amateur journals printed during the last

seventy-five years, of which we now have the second finest collection. Some 700 philatelic magazines also came to us as the gift of one of our most generous members, and we were fortunate in securing a complete file of the very rare Fergus Historical Series, and long runs of *Der Deutsche Pioneer* and *Deutsch-Amerikanische Geschichtsblätter*, as well as two needed volumes of the *Southern Literary Messenger*. The more important newspaper files received this year are as follows:

GEORGETOWN, COLUMBIAN, 1826-29
 SAVANNAH, ADVERTISER, 1870-74
 SAVANNAH, COLUMBIAN MUSEUM, 1796-99, 1817-20
 SAVANNAH, GAZETTE OF GEORGIA, 1783-85, 1787-88
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA GAZETTE, 1788-90, 1894-1802
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIAN, 1831-33, 1851-52
 SAVANNAH MUSEUM, 1822
 SAVANNAH NEWS, 1862
 SAVANNAH, REPUBLICAN, 1809-12, 1863
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA GAZETTE, 1822-23
 HANCOCK GAZETTE, 1821-22
 LEWISTON FALLS JOURNAL, 1849-51
 LIME ROCK GAZETTE, 1849-51
 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND GAZETTE, 1789
 BALTIMORE PATRIOT, 1814
 BALTIMORE TELEGRAPHE, 1795-96
 BOSTON, BAY STATE DEMOCRAT, 1841-42
 FALL RIVER NEWS, 1845-53
 NEW BEDFORD MERCURY, 1824-25
 TAUNTON WHIG, 1838-41
 DETROIT TRIBUNE, 1861-63
 CHERRY VALLEY GAZETTE, 1820-21
 NEW YORK ADVERTISER, 1818-19
 NEW YORK PACKET, 1784-85
 TROY, NORTHERN BUDGET, 1800
 RALEIGH STAR, 1808-09
 YORK GAZETTE, 1816-17
 YORK, PENNSYLVANIA HERALD, 1792
 YORK RECORDER, 1800-02, 1818-19, 1822-23
 YORK, VOLKS BERICHTER, 1799-1801
 CHARLESTON, COLUMBIAN HERALD, 1785-86
 ALEXANDRIA, TIMES, 1802

There is a rapidly growing interest throughout the country in American literary first editions, stimulated

in part by the spectacular prices of the Jerome Kern sale, and by the writings of such enthusiasts as A. Edward Newton and Barton Currie, and by the publication of the valuable, though not exhaustive, "Collecting American First Editions," by Richard Curle, and the less detailed, but more inclusive, "High Spots of American Literature" and "American First Editions" of Merle Johnson. As a result, our library has been inundated by a flood of requests for exact bibliographical information regarding first editions, and it is a satisfaction to have a splendid collection at our elbow for reference. More than a thousand first editions of the works of our better known American authors have been placed on our shelves this year, many by purchase, but some of the most important by the generous gift of our own members, including many items of unusual interest presented by Mr. Charles H. Taylor. The importance of these accessions may be judged to some extent by the fact that within the year, we have received first editions of the following works: "The Federalist," by Alexander Hamilton and others, Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans," Irving's "Knickerbocker History of New York," with a very fine impression of the folding plate, and his "Tales of a Traveller" in the original wrappers as issued, the rare earliest issue of Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast," Whittier's "Legends of New England," Hawthorne's "Wonder Book," Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," in the rare blue cloth binding, Stockton's "The Lady, or the Tiger?," Harris' "Uncle Remus," the presentation copy to her future husband of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's "Poems of Passion," Howell's "The Rise of Silas Lapham," Stephen Crane's "The Red Badge of Courage," O. Henry's "Cabbages and Kings," and a presentation copy to the Society of the limited first edition of the "Autobiography" of our President.

The waning supply of English and Continental books has forced American collectors to turn to the

fascinating early literature of their own land, and so we find a growing interest in the beginnings of American poetry, fiction and drama, a field in which this Library has always been unusually rich. Hundreds of new titles have come our way this year, but only a few can be mentioned. One entertaining volume, of which no other copy of any edition seems to have survived, is entitled: "Verses upon Fourteen Different Occasions: Composed in Albany goal, in the year 1768. By Nathaniel Robinson." It is the third edition and was printed in Boston by William McAlpine in 1773. Who the author was or why he was in jail, neither history nor his verses have revealed. That he had been unjustly locked up without a trial, and that he disapproved of the scant prison fare provided by the thrifty Dutch burgers of Albany is, however, abundantly evident from the final poem "Composed by Nathaniel Robinson, about himself."

"Poor Robinson has left his home,
Which was at Philip's patent,
And in this goal the silly fool
Is now shut up a fattening.
If he could eat those sorts of meat,
And such condemned stuff
As rats and mice and body lice,
He might be fat enough."

He then proceeds to tell of his prison fare and what he thinks of the officials and citizens of Albany and ends with the spirited stanza.:

"I beg and pray both night and day,
The Dutch and all their gang
May swim like smelts in butter milk,
And land at Amsterdam."

Most of his verses are pious moralizings, but there is one poem "On the Taking of Fort William Henry" and another "On the Death of the Reverend Mr. Greenwood, of Rehoboth" which are of some interest.

The influence of the early English novelists such as Samuel Richardson and Fanny Burney is shown in the

anonymous novel: "Fidelity Rewarded: or, the History of Polly Granville" . . . Boston, 1796, which we recently secured. It is one of the earliest American novels and, in spite of its English tone, has American actors and an American setting, though it is singularly uninteresting. A somewhat livelier and much briefer bit of American fiction is "The Unfortunate Lovers, and Cruel Parents: A very Interesting Tale, founded on fact. Written by Mrs. Patterson." It was crudely printed in Springfield by T. Ashley in 1800. It is a curious combination of dialogue and stage directions, and though it should have been a play, it apparently awoke to find itself a novelette. Both of these crude, early attempts at the writing of fiction are unknown to bibliographers and literary historians, and seem to have survived only in the unique copies on our shelves.

Perhaps the most famous eighteenth century novel to appear in America was Mrs. Susanna Haswell Rowson's "Charlotte Temple. A Tale of Truth." Though its author was born in England, she came to America with her father at the age of five and spent much of her picturesque career on this side of the water. At one time a governess in the family of the Duchess of Devonshire, at another a successful actress both in England and America, and still later the proprietress of a select school for young ladies in Boston, Mrs. Rowson found time to write a host of magazine articles and not a few very popular books. Her greatest fame rests, however, on her one book which is still read today, the story of a poor English girl who was brought to America by a rascally Army officer and abandoned. Its sugar-coated sentimentality still attracts an audience, and it is one of the few novels of its day which is still in constant demand.

The first American edition has the title: "Charlotte. A Tale of Truth. By Mrs. Rowson, of the New Theatre, Philadelphia: author of Victoria, the Inquisitor, Fille de Chambre, etc. . . . Philadelphia: Printed by D. Humphreys, for M. Carey, No. 118 Market-

street. M D C C X C I V." It is a volume of unusual rarity, and we were fortunate in securing a splendid copy this year. Its popularity called for a second edition a few months after the first, and a third in 1797, all of which are in our Library. A review of the book is pasted on the fly leaf preceding the title in the first edition, while in the second edition the review is printed on this preliminary leaf, and the date of imprint is given in full as October 9, 1794.

In 1905 the best edition of "Charlotte" appeared under the editorship of Francis W. Halsey, and included a biography of the author, numerous illustrations, and a bibliography. Nearly all copies of this book have been read to pieces by sentimental nursemaids, so that it is now rather difficult to find it in any but the latest editions. Our Library has assembled forty-six editions, however, including sixteen acquired this year. It is interesting that over a third of our editions were not listed by Halsey.

The success of "Charlotte Temple" led the author to write a far less successful sequel, originally entitled: "Charlotte's Daughter," but later called "Lucy Temple." Our Library has one edition with each title, the latter having been secured but a few weeks ago. Several of Mrs. Rowson's other writings have been on our shelves for many years, both in first and later editions, but none of them ever appealed to the sentimental eighteenth century ladies or twentieth century stenographers as did the sad and tragic "Charlotte," on whose supposed grave in Trinity Churchyard they left so many flowers in the days gone by.

The earliest dramatic production by a native American author published in the American colonies was Thomas Godfrey's "The Prince of Parthia, a Tragedy," a five-act drama in not too bad blank verse, filling 128 quarto pages. It was first published posthumously in the author's "Juvenile Poems on Various Subjects," and was accompanied by an account of the author and his writings by Nathaniel

Evans. The volume was printed in Philadelphia by Henry Miller in 1765. Ours, which is in its original binding, is one of three located copies. In this connection, it is interesting that we also have a copy of the extremely rare first play by an American, successfully acted on the American stage. It is Royal Tyler's "The Contrast," printed in Philadelphia in 1790. George Washington's copy sold in 1919 for \$2800.00, and is now in the Wilbur collection in the University of Vermont, which is not unfitting, as Tyler was born in the Green Mountain State.

Our forefathers depended largely for their literature on importations from England and on American reprints of the esteemed English and Continental authors. It frequently happens that the first American editions are much rarer than first English, and not infrequently that the works of British writers appeared here before they did at home, as in the case of certain works of Lamb, Dickens, Kipling and Stevenson. To understand the cultural background of our predecessors we must, then, have available in such a library as this, the early American editions of the foreign authors most admired in the early days of our colonies and our republic. Four titles of special interest in this field have been acquired during the twelvemonth, and all of them are rare. Perhaps the scarcest is John Bunyan's "Jerusalem Sinner Saved," Boston, 1733, of which the only other located copy is in the Boston Public Library. It is not generally known that we also have one of the three copies of the excessively rare first American editions of "Pilgrim's Progress," Boston, 1681, a perfect copy being in the Huntington Library and a fragment in the Boston Public Library. These are but two of the titles in our remarkable collection of the American editions of Bunyan's many works, which surpasses the world's greatest collection of Bunyan literature in the New York Public Library for the period of American printing from 1681 to 1820.

Another great rarity, recently acquired, is the second American edition, and the first to have a portrait, of the poems of Robert Burns, published in New York in 1788. The Library already owned a copy of the even rarer first American edition, printed in Philadelphia earlier in the same year. The only copies of either edition located in Evans' Bibliography are those in the Library of Congress and in this Library.

The first American edition of Charles Lamb's "Mrs. Leicester's School" . . . George Town, 1811, and the first American edition of Dickens' "Christmas Carol," Philadelphia, 1844, also came to us this year, and each is a very desirable rarity. The latter is almost an exact replica of the original English edition, even to the attractive colored plates, accurately copied from the originals by John Leech.

It is probable that our collection of early American children's books is the largest in any public institution, and this collection has been greatly enriched in recent months both by purchase and by the gift of our members, especially through the generosity of one of the best known collectors of juvenile literature, Mr. Wilbur Macey Stone. Rarest of all items in this field is the horn book, the predecessor of the primer, and we were extremely fortunate when Mr. George A. Plimpton generously shared with us by presenting a fine seventeenth century example from his own unrivalled horn book collection. This year also brought us, after a long search, a set of Tuer's sumptuous monograph on the horn book, published in London in 1896.

Next in interest to the horn book is the "New England Primer," and we have been fortunate this year in adding no less than twenty-four new editions, every one a rarity, to our already remarkable collection, so that we now have 271 editions and variants of this interesting work. Of recent accessions, the unique Springfield, 1795 edition, is most interesting, with the Boston, 1798 edition not far behind.

There is always a fascination in examining an early edition of "Robinson Crusoe," several of which have come to us this year, three from Mr. Stone, who robbed his own collection to give us the only ones we lacked. We now have 79 editions, all but two or three being American. Though there are several large Defoe collections in this country, it is doubtful if any of them can approach our showing of the delightful early American editions with their quaint woodcuts and copperplates.

We always add many hundreds of new titles each year to our amazing collection of early American textbooks, but seldom can we find as interesting and valuable a title as that given to the Society this year by Mr. Charles H. Taylor. James Hodder first published his famous *Arithmetick* in London in 1661, and it went through many editions before it emigrated to the American Colonies. The title of this first American edition reads: "Hodder's *Arithmetick*: or, that necessary art made most easy. Being explained in a way familiar to the capacity of any that desire to learn it in a little time. By James Hodder, Writing-Master. The five and twentieth edition, revised, augmented, and above a thousand faults amended, by Henry Mose, late servant and successor to the author. *Boston: Printed by J. Franklin, for S. Phillips, N. Buttolph, B. Elliot, and E. Negus, Booksellers in Boston, and sold at their shops. 1719.*" This was the first arithmetic published in the country, and is doubly interesting because it was printed by James Franklin, the brother of Benjamin Franklin, and printed at the time when Benjamin was an apprentice working in his brother's office. It is one of the very rarest of American books and ours is the only known perfect copy in the original binding. As a frontispiece there is a crude woodcut portrait of the author, one of the first illustrations in any American book.

James Franklin, whose press was started at Boston in 1718, was apparently the first American printer to

make a special feature of illustrations in his books, though there was now and then a woodcut in an earlier volume. Two other publications issued by him in 1719, Richard Bernard's "Isle of Man," and Josephus' "Wars of the Jews," (a copy of the former is owned by the Society, and the latter by Dr. Rosenbach), also had crude woodcut frontispieces. Our Society has a unique copy of the 1722 edition of the latter work with a different frontispiece. It lacks the title but was probably printed for Daniel Henchman (See Rosenbach, no. 15-16). The name of the artist who engraved these cuts is unknown.

In addition to the early book illustrations published by Franklin, our library contains many others, including John Foster's woodcut portrait of Rev. Richard Mather, made from the oil portrait now in our collection. This first of all American woodcut portraits was apparently issued separately and also as a frontispiece to the 1670 life of Mather, a copy of which we also have, but without the frontispiece which apparently was not inserted in all copies. We also have Foster's seal of the Colony of Massachusetts which was twice engraved on wood and used in various volumes from 1672 on, and his famous folding map of New England which appeared in William Hubbard's "Narrative of the troubles with the Indians," Boston, 1677, our map being the "White Hills" issue.

Though Foster died in 1681, at least one of his original woodblocks seems to have lived after him, for we find in the Society's copy of Hugh Peter's "A dying fathers last legacy to an only child," Boston, 1717, a woodcut frontispiece portrait signed "J F Sculp." which was doubtless engraved by John Foster for use in an earlier book. It is probable that the original woodblock for this portrait was acquired with other printing materials from Foster's shop, by his successor, Bartholomew Green, the printer of the "Legacy."

Another of our early volumes with woodcut illustra-

tions is John Smith's "The husbandman's magazene," Boston, 1718, which contains woodcuts of various domestic animals. We also have "The pleasant & profitable companion," Boston, 1733, with its charming woodcut frontispiece of an eighteenth century gentleman writing at a desk. Unfortunately neither of these engravings is signed.

Turning from juveniles and early illustrated books to the rich field of biography, we must pass over the hundreds of interesting early volumes recently acquired, including the Fillamore pirate narrative, written about 1804, by an ancestor of President Millard Fillmore, and mention in more detail only two others which we have found especially worth collecting.

One of the most curious of War of 1812 narratives is the autobiography of an American girl who served in the United States Marines. The yarn may be absolutely true, and I hope it is, but at least it was one of the most popular chapbooks to grow out of our second war with Great Britain. The simplest way of giving a sketch of the author's life, and at the same time of indicating something of the style of the book, is to quote the title: "The Adventures of Louisa Baker, Whose life and character are peculiarly distinguished . . . Having in early life been shamefully seduced by a pretended suitor, and with her virginity, having lost all hopes of regaining her former state of respectability, became a voluntary victim to Vice, and joined a society of Bawds, and for three years lived as a common Prostitute on Negro Hill, (so termed) . . . But at length becoming weary of the society of the Sisterhood, she formed the curious project of rendering her services more to the benefit of her country's cause, in her late rupture with Great Britain . . . she dressed like a male, and under a fictitious name, in 1813, entered as a Marine on board an American Frigate where she performed the duties of her department with punctual exactness, fidelity and honor, without any discovery being made of her sex

while on board, from which she was honourably discharged in 1815, when she re-assumed her former dress, and like a true penitent has since returned to her Parents, from whom she has been nearly six years absent. *New York . . . Printed by Luther Wales. (1815)*"

Though only a 24page 12mo. pamphlet, with a crude woodcut portrait of the author for a frontispiece, it was bound to be a success, for it was supposedly true, it was spicy, yet moral, it was unusual, somewhat exciting, and very patriotic. So it became the forerunner of the modern scandal biography, and has about the same merit, as well as the same, perhaps undeserved, success.

The popularity of the first edition led to the immediate appearance of a second with a Boston imprint. The title, which was improved by shortening, began: "An affecting narrative." Though obviously printed from the types of Luther Wales for the Boston trade, it has the imprint: "*New York: Printed by Luther Wales. Boston: Reprinted by Nathaniel Coverly, Jun. Milk-street. 1815.*" The same woodcut is in this as in the first edition. Another edition, obviously pirated from the second edition, appeared in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1816, with a woodcut portrait even cruder than the original.

By this time the yarn was selling so well that the publisher decided to make a "Forsyth Saga" of the young lady's adventures, and so issued a second and third part.

The first two parts were issued together under the title "The Female Marine, or Adventures of Miss Lucy Brewer, a native of Plymouth County, Massachusetts." This was doubtless issued first with the Coverly imprint but our 12mo. edition simply states that it is "Printed for the publisher." Another edition with a particularly unattractive full length picture of the heroine with a musket in her hand and a frigate in the background, bears the statement: "Printed May

30, 1816." This was reprinted with the date "June 19, 1816" on the title and issued in blue wrappers at 40 cents. Both of these editions were picked up within the year.

The third part of the Brewer narrative as originally published by Coverly has the title: "The Awful Beacon, to the Rising Generation of Both Sexes, or a Farewell Address to the Youths of, and a Final Adieu to the State of Massachusetts. By Mrs. Lucy West, (Late Miss Lucy Brewer,) a native of Plymouth County, Massachusetts." This work bears the imprint: "Boston—printed for N. Coverly, jr.—1816" and contains 60 pages, 12mo. On the final page is the publisher's advertisement of the three parts, in which he refers to the author as "Mrs. West (late Miss Brewer, alias Baker)," thus definitely identifying the three names as belonging to the same person.

We have just secured a fourth edition of the "Female Marine," with a woodcut of the author in marine uniform, waving a flag, which states that it was "Printed for the author, 1818." This edition contains all three parts, the third having a separate title page. It is a 12mo of 120 pages. It must have been a satisfaction to her pious contemporaries to have the author decently married and comfortably settled down to a domestic life, with an assured income from the sale of her life story, after the unfortunate start and adventurous life in pantaloons on the deck of a Yankee frigate.

A similar but more authentic narrative of a woman soldier in the Revolution is also in our library. It is Herman Mann's "The female review: or, memoirs of an American young lady [Deborah Sampson] whose life and character are peculiarly distinguished—being a Continental soldier, for nearly three years, in the late American war" . . . *Dedham: Printed by Nathaniel and Benjamin Heaton, for the author.* M, DCC, XCVII. 258, (7) p., port., 12mo. We also have the 1866 reprint. It is interesting to note that the heroine enlisted at Worcester.

The publication this year of a charming limited edition of "A Journal kept at Nootka Sound, by John R. Jewett, one of the survivors of the crew of the Ship Boston during a captivity among the Indians from March, 1803 to July, 1805." reminds us that we have on our shelves a copy of the very rare first edition as well as eleven of the eighteen editions of the Richard Alsop adaptation of this famous captivity. The Middletown, Loomis & Richards, edition of 1815 was received this year.

The rare first edition of what is perhaps the most famous of all Indian captivities, also came to us during the year. It is James E. Seaver's "A Narrative of the Life of Mrs. Mary Jemison" . . . *Canandaigua*, 1824. From its year of publication until 1929, editions and issues have appeared to the total of 31. Mrs. Jemison, frequently spoken of as "the white woman of the Genesee," was carried away from her parents' home in Pennsylvania when she was a little girl by the Seneca Indians and lived most of her long life as the wife of an Indian chief in the Genesee valley near Rochester, New York. Her narrative is important as it gives the best account we have of the Revolutionary War from the point of view of the Iroquois Indians.

Many amusing chapbooks come our way each year, but none are rarer or more entertaining than those published by the quaint New England peddler of the early years of the nineteenth century, Chapman Whitcomb. The Library was recently fortunate in securing unique examples of two hitherto unknown titles published for sale by this itinerant book vendor. They are entitled: "Arguments in favor of the Ladies; or, an Answer to the Scurrilous Invectives of those who have a Light Esteem of Them," and "The History of Captain Thomas Parismas, containing a particular account of the cruel and barbarous treatment of a young lady, who was the wife of Mr. James Negotio, a merchant of the East Indies" . . . As in most of these publications, there is no imprint, merely the statement:

"Printed for Chapman Whitcomb." We now have fifteen Whitcomb titles, a large proportion of all that are known and of these several are unique.

It is very difficult to build up a collection of the military manuals used in our early wars for, of course, most of the copies were worn out or lost during the active campaigning of their owners. The most famous book in this field is Baron Steuben's "Regulations for the order and discipline of the troops of the United States," the best known of the Revolutionary drill manuals. The first edition is especially rare and we were very much pleased when Mr. Charles H. Banister of Worcester presented our Library with the copy of the first edition of this volume which was issued to his ancestor, Captain Seth Banister, of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment of Militia in 1779 and used by him throughout the remainder of the war. This edition was published in Philadelphia in 1779, and contains eight folding plates. A second part of the work was planned, but never published. This was the standard army and militia drill manual of the United States from the Revolution to the War of 1812.

Our Library now contains the following fourteen editions of the work, several of which were secured this year: Philadelphia, 1779; Hartford [1779]; Hartford, [1782]; Hartford, [1783]; Worcester, 1788; Philadelphia, 1794; Philadelphia, 1795; White Hall, 1798; Philadelphia, 1800; Boston, 1802; Portsmouth, 1804; Boston, 1805; Boston, 1807; and one early edition which has had its imprint torn away.

Another interesting Revolutionary volume among our new accessions is "The Cow Chace. In three cantos. Written in the year 1780, by Major John André, Adjutant-General to the British Army, in North-America, a few weeks previous to his capture by the Americans. *Litchfield: Re-printed by Thomas Collier.* [1790]. Of this famous poetical satire on the American army, there were four eighteenth century editions, the present copy being the only one of this edition ever discovered.

The final verse, referring to "Mad" Anthony Wayne was remarkably prophetic in view of the author's capture so soon after it was written.

"And now I've clos'd my epic strain,
I tremble as I shew it,
Lest this same warrior-drover Wayne
Should ever catch the poet."

Of course, the most important of all André publications is the "Proceedings of a Board of General Officers . . . respecting Major John André . . . Sept. 29, 1780 . . . Philadelphia: . . . M, D C C, L X X X" (1780), which was the document which recorded the trial and sentence of the brave spy. Our Library has a fine copy of the very rare first edition.

Another extreme rarity, one of three known copies, of this period which we secured this year, is George Walton's "Observations upon the effect of certain late political suggestions. By the Delegates of Georgia." Philadelphia, 1781.

After the Revolution, the people of our country turned to the new states to the westward with high hopes of rebuilding their fallen fortunes. One of the early explorers of Tennessee was Daniel Smith, who published in Philadelphia in 1796, the first edition of "A short description of the State of Tennessee" . . . , which contained the first accurate information regarding this rich, new, western country. Mr. Charles Evans could locate only the copy in the Massachusetts Historical Society, but we now have a beautiful, unworn copy, in the original binding.

Government documents are not supposed to be very interesting, but when we secured a fine copy of the first federal census, Philadelphia, 1791, and found that it contained the two slips of additions omitted from most copies, and that it had been autographed at the end by Thomas Jefferson, we were considerably thrilled, for the copy in the Library of Congress is the only recorded copy with these features.

Another very rare document is the first edition of the "Laws and Ordinances" of the City of Albany, New York, printed at Albany in 1791, of which we can locate but two other copies, one of them badly cut down in binding. Ours is a fine tall copy, largely uncut. The "Balloting Book" of the State of New York records the Revolutionary soldiers of that state who were entitled to Military Bounty lands in lieu of back pay, and locates the lands apportioned to each. Of course, it is very valuable biographically, especially to those interested in their Revolutionary ancestors. Only a very few copies were printed for official use, and it is of great rarity today.

Three important early Hawaiian books have been received recently. The most interesting is the first Hawaiian "New Testament" of which the only other copy we have been able to trace in the United States is at Yale. The books of Matthew, Mark, and John were printed at Rochester, New York, while the printer was home from the Islands on sick leave, the other books being from the Mission Press at Oahu. It was a very difficult task to print such a large work on a small hand press, and so the completion of the volume occupied several years. There is no general title page, but the separate titles of the Gospels are dated 1828, 1829, 1830, and 1829 respectively, with a colophon at the end of the volume dated May, 1832.

The first attempt at a Hawaiian-English dictionary was made by Rev. Lorrin Andrews, and was called: "A Vocabulary of Words in the Hawaiian Language." *Lahainaluna: Press of the High School, 1836.* It is an 8 vo. of 132 pp., double column, with a preface by the compiler.

Sheldon Dibble's "History of the Sandwich Islands," *Lahainaluna. Press of the Mission Seminary, 1843,* was the first attempt to write a history of the Islands. This accurate and well written work is a 464 page, 12mo. volume with a folding map, and our copy has a presentation inscription from Mrs. A. Dibble to her mother.

When this Library finds an American almanac not in its collection of 20,000 it must be either very rare or very recent. In spite of this, over a hundred were added this year, a few of the earlier being:

POOR WILL'S ALMANACK, PHIL., 1742-1743.

MOORE'S NEW-YORK POCKET ALMANACK, N. Y., 1759, with its rare folding portrait of Frederick the Third, engraved by "J. M. Ac. 14"

AMES ALMANACK. NEW LONDON, 1765, containing the diary of the Rev. Mather Byles for that year.

ANDERSON'S ALMANACK, NEWPORT, 1776.

POOR WILL'S POCKET ALMANACK, PHILA., 1776.

SHARP'S LANCASTER ALMANACK, LANCASTER, 1779.

THE WESTERN ALMANACK, CARLISLE, 1798.

BROWN'S WESTERN CALENDAR, CINCINNATI, [1805-6], the first Ohio almanac, of which only one other has been traced.

BEERS' FARMER'S CALENDAR, BENNINGTON, 1809.

In the varied and interesting field of the Arts we are always fortunate in having a wealth of new material each year, largely through the thoughtfulness of our friends. Many rare, early lithographs have been received, mainly from Mr. Charles H. Taylor, since the last report, including an especially fine collection of lithographed cartoons, making ours the largest collection in this field in any institution. In fact, the Taylor collection of lithographs is now, for the early period, the best in the country. Bookplates have been received by the hundred. During the year a monograph on the late Sidney L. Smith and his bookplates has been published, and the checklist of his plates which it contains was based almost entirely on our unrivalled collection, which has reached its enviable completeness mainly through the generosity of Rev. Herbert E. Lombard and Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed.

One of the most interesting, and certainly one of the rarest, plates received was the elaborately printed book label of "Mr. John Custis. Septemb. 7th. 1698," which was presented by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. Custis was a prominent early Virginian and the father-in-law of Martha Washington. Our bookplate collec-

tion now contains 14 of the 20 known seventeenth century American dated book labels, of which no other collection can boast of more than two or three. Each of these labels is set up from type and has a border using from one to four of the well-known type ornaments of the early Cambridge and Boston printers. Several of them were prepared while their owners were undergraduates at Harvard. It is interesting that there is one woman's label in the group. The complete list with locations is as follows:

John Cotton his Book Ann. Dom. 1674

(acorn border) AAS (Both known copies)

First dated bookplate printed in America.

William Brattle his book. 77 [1677]

(fleur-de-lis border on three sides, acorns at right end)

AAS

[*John Leverett 1677*]

Not seen. H. C. L. and Prince collection in B. P. L.

Joseph Eliot his Book, Anno Domini, 1678

(acorn border) AAS

Johannes Williams 1679

(not seen) Privately owned.

Edwardus Tompsonus me inter suos/numerat. 1680

(fleur-de-lis border) AAS

Nathanielis Matheri Liber./Dedit Pater Suus Honoratissimus.

A. D./1683

(within border differing from preceding)

original in B. P. L. Facsim. in AAS.

[*William Payne Me Su []/[] MDC, LXXXV*]

(acorn border) (His autograph, dated 1683, on fly leaf.)

Fragment in AAS

John Hancock, Hunc/Librum J[ur]e Possidet, 168[7?].

(flower orn. border) AAS

John Hancock, His Book./1687

(same border and type) AAS

John Hancock, Hunc/Librum Vendicat. 1687

(same border & type) AAS

*Samuel * Tompson, /His Book, Anno Domini, /1688.*

(Double row of type orn. above and below) AAS

Nicholaus Lynde, Me In-/ter suos Numerat. 1690.

(Border of fleur-de-lis orn.) 3 examples AAS

Gualterus Price/Hunc Librum Ven[dicat]/March 6, 1[694?]

(Border of acorns, fleur-de-lis and two other orn.)

As he graduated from Harvard, 1695, this plate is tenta-

tively dated 1694, as most such plates were made for undergraduates. AAS.

[*Simon Willard July 1, 1695.*]

(not seen). H. C. L.

Mr. John Custis/[rule]/*Septemb. 7th. 1698.*

(Double border, acorns within, fleur-de-lis without) AAS.
[4 lines latin]/*Samuelis Sewall/Liber./Anno Domini.*

(1698 filled in in pen, in original in M. H. S.)

(Border fleur-de-lis). M. H. S.

Modern bookplate of Wm. Gilman Sewall is facsimile of above, with one line added underneath. AAS.

[*Rev. John Emerson.* Undated but prior to 1700]

Not seen. Formerly owned by F. J. Libbie, now in Dartmouth College.

Hannah Sutton,/her Book.

(1700 added in ink) (scroll border).

(AAS also has her plate dated 1754) AAS.

[*Jeremiah Bumstead 1700*]

(not seen) MHS

Doubtful

Steven Day. January 11./1642.

(Border of 2 type orns.) Of course, if this can ever be proven to be the label of the first Cambridge printer, this plate probably becomes the earliest American bookplate and the second piece of printing in the United States of which a copy has survived. AAS.

Hundreds of pieces of rare sheet music, many with lithographed covers, and scores of early hymn books have been added. The outstanding volumes in the field of music are the two great hymn books of the Ephrata Cloister, the "Turtel-Taube" of 1747, the first hymn book printed at Ephrata and the "Paradisches Wunder-Spiel" of 1754, the folio choral book of the cloister. Both works were largely written by Conrad Beissel, and the former is not only the first hymn book printed in the western world in which all the hymns were original compositions, but it includes as its preface the first American treatise on the theory of harmony. Beissel's most important musical work was the large choral book in which the music was inserted by hand, with many beautiful pen illuminated

initials and decorations. Ours is an excellent copy in the original binding.¹

If early military drill manuals are rare, the instruction books for military musicians are far rarer, and we were so fortunate as to secure one of the two recorded copies of "The Compleat Tutor for the Fife" . . . Philadelphia, [circa 1805]. This was apparently printed from the engraved plates of an earlier English work, with the addition of several pieces of American music. Its first American edition seems to have been published in Philadelphia in 1776, but no copy has survived. It includes Yankee Doodle, President's March, Washington's March, Stony Point, Jefferson's March, and others of American origin. The frontispiece, by J. Norman, shows a fifer in the foreground with a camp in the rear, and an American flag flying from a castle in the distance. The fifer is in the uniform of a British soldier, with the word "Liberty" replacing the regimental insignia on the front of his hat. It is obviously adapted from a British original.

There is one place in which too many cooks do *not* spoil the broth, and that is in our wonderful cook book collection, assembled largely by Mr. Waldo Lincoln. Many new titles have been added this year, but the most important and the rarest is Amelia Simmons' "American Cookery," Hartford, 1796, the first cook-book by a native American author. The Connecticut Historical Society and the New York Public Library have the other two known copies.

Our manuscript collection received several notable additions this year including the diary of Ebenezer Parkman for 1738-1740, the gift of Judge William E. Fowler of Westboro. This gift is important when it is remembered that we previously owned Parkman's diaries for a period of some forty years.

An interesting collection of some 200 letters from

¹For an extended account of these two rarities, see "The Music of the Ephrata cloister." By Julius Friedrich Sachse. (Pennsylvania-German Society. Proceedings, Vol. XII, 1903, pp. 1-108, illus.)

Hon. Abijah Bigelow, one of our former members, written between 1810-1815 to his wife and family while he was in Congress, came largely as the gift of Mr. Chandler Bullock. They have been preserved, with additions from three great-grandchildren of Mr. Bigelow, Miss H. Frances Henshaw, Mrs. Sarah Bigelow Parker, and Daniel Berkeley Updike, in permanent published form in the April Proceedings of this year.

A large collection of documents relating in the main to Shrewsbury and Worcester County from 1760 to 1860 and formerly in the possession of the Ward family, were presented during the twelve-month. An important manuscript in the field of art, presented by Mr. Charles H. Taylor, is the account book of the artist, Bass Otis. A record of sittings, costs of portraits, and a few original sketches are included.

An Indian contract, dated 1686, between Thomas Waban and two other Indians, transferring a tract of Worcester County land to Solomon and John Johnson, is the earliest local Indian document in our Library.

It is always interesting to make a new discovery even among old material. In going over a group of supposedly English pamphlets which have been in the Library no one knows how long, Mr. Brigham discovered a little pamphlet entitled: "Precepts for Christian Practice: or, the rule of the new creature." *Cambridge: Printed by Samuel Green, 1668.* This is one of the ghost books of American incunabula. It was known to have existed, but all copies were supposed to have been lost until this unique example was brought to light.

Similarly a copy of the rare first edition of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was discovered in hiding in a box of ephemeral pamphlets, and the second issue of Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast" was rescued from the obscurity of a dreary set of unimportant books where it had stood unsuspected for many years.

A small group of outstanding recently published books worthy of special mention have been received,

including the first two volumes of the new British Museum Catalogue, the handsome three-volume catalogue of the wonderful Georgia collection in the Wymberley Jones De Renne Library, "Archibald Robertson and his diaries and sketches in America, 1762-1780," edited by Mr. Harry Miller Lydenberg for the New York Public Library, Mr. William Gates' "Dictionary of Maya Glyphs," Mr. Hiram Bingham's "Machu Picchu, citadel of the Incas," Catherine Perry Hargrave's "A History of Playing Cards," and Alexander W. Weddell's "Virginia Historical Portraiture."

As in the past, our Library has been greatly enriched by the many gifts of our own members. Our great collections of American literature, prints, journalism, and the history of printing are being constantly augmented by Mr. Charles H. Taylor. Many rare bookplates and books have come from Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed. Rev. Herbert E. Lombard has not only given most generously himself, but has lured many other friends within our walls bearing gifts. To Chief Justice Rugg, Mr. Waldo Lincoln, Mr. T. Hovey Gage, and Mr. Grenville H. Norcross we are especially indebted for the furnishing of much miscellaneous historical literature, and many periodical files which we might not otherwise hope to have on our shelves. Mr. Waldo Lincoln has also presented his excellent collection of United States postage stamps which includes practically all of the regular issues to the present time.

The rapid growth of the collections since the occupation of our present building, has already filled to capacity certain sections of our bookstacks, and only a very few years must elapse before our surplus shelf room will be completely exhausted. The erection this year of temporary wooden stacks in one of the local history alcoves, and the installation of a new case for the larger engravings in our map and print room, will take care of the immediate needs of two of our most

crowded sections. But the hundreds of bound volumes of current newspapers for the past two years which are inaccessibly stacked in the basement, are mutely eloquent in their appeal for a new wing for our main bookstack.

There is a homely New England adage that "you better take taters when taters is passin'," and so we have always secured the more important material offered to us whenever we could afford it. As a consequence, the Library has never in the past twenty years been able to catalogue its holdings as fast as they have been received. This is all the more true today, with our still more rapid growth, and the addition, this year, of one new cataloguer, can make but little impression on the ever-growing mass of uncatalogued material on our shelves. Though most of this new material is conveniently arranged and more or less readily accessible, it can never be fully available to our readers until it is completely catalogued. To do this, we must add more trained people to our staff.

In spite of our too limited personnel, much progress has been made this year in the care of the collections. Our section of tens of thousands of dated pamphlets has been catalogued from the sixteen hundreds through the year 1794. Our large genealogical collection has been recatalogued and reclassified according to the Library of Congress classification half way through the letter "D." All the more important new accessions have been temporarily catalogued as received, and will, together with the rest of the Library, be more fully catalogued and classified as progress on the new and final card catalogue is made possible. Steady progress is being made in the cataloguing of lithographs and sheet music, and in the sorting and orderly arrangement of our manuscripts.

The bindery has completed the binding of current newspapers and periodicals for the year, and has made much progress in the rebinding or skillful repair of many hundreds of the rare volumes needing proper

physical attention to insure their preservation. Hundreds of manuscripts, maps, and prints have been carefully silked or mounted, thus saving them from threatened destruction.

The staff of the Library, working under the constant pressure of more work than it can accomplish, has done a surprising amount in most loyal fashion during the past year. From Mrs. Reynolds, who has just completed her fiftieth year of unselfish devotion to the Society and to whom both readers and staff must constantly turn for advice and assistance, down to the newest cataloguer, our personnel is giving its best of skillful, accurate and prompt service.

Respectfully submitted,

R. W. G. VAIL,
Librarian.

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Pratt Institute Free Library
Preussische Staatbibliothek
Providence Athenaeum
Providence Journal
Providence Public Library
Reade Society
Reynolds Family Association
Rhode Island Historical Society
Rhode Island, State of
Rochester, City of
Rochester Historical Society
Roerich Museum
Roosevelt Memorial Association
Royal Historical Society
Russell Sage Foundation
St. Louis Mercantile Library Association
St. Louis Public Library
Shedd Family Association
Skinner Kinsmen
Smith College
Smithsonian Institution
Société des Américanistes
South Carolina Historical Society
Stanford University
Starry Cross
State Mutual Life Assurance Company
State Street Trust Company
Strobridge Lithograph Company
Surrey Archaeological Society
Svea
Tennessee Historical Society
Texas State Historical Society
Thompsonville Board of Trade
Trenton Chamber of Commerce
Trinity Historical Society
Underhill Society of America
United States Catholic Historical Society
United States Daily
United States Government
Universidad de Buenos Aires
Université de Paris
Utah, Genealogical Society of
Uxbridge Public Library

Vassar College Library
Vermont Historical Society
Vermont State Library
Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society
Virginia Historical Society
Virginia, State of
Warren Academy of Sciences
Washington and Lee University
Washington Evening Star
Watkinson Library
Waverly Press
Wenrich Family Association
West Virginia Historical Society
Western Reserve Historical Society
Wheaton College
William and Mary College
Williams & Wilkins Co.
Wisconsin, State Historical Society of
Wisconsin, University of
Worcester Academy
Worcester Art Museum
Worcester Chamber of Commerce
Worcester, City of
Worcester County Law Library
Worcester Free Public Library
Worcester Historical Society
Worcester Mechanics Association
Worcester Rotary Club
Worcester Telegram-Gazette
Worthy Paper Company
Wyoming Historical and Geological Society
Yale University
Yale University Press
York County Historical Society

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