

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

In the "Rules and Regulations" adopted by the Council April 17, 1907 are the following sections:

V. LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Three members of the Society shall annually be appointed a Committee on the Library, who shall have charge of the Library, Museum and their furnishings, regulate the additions thereto, decide upon the details of administration, and superintend and direct in regard to the use of the Library and its collections, subject to the approval of the Council.

VI. LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANTS.

The Librarian and Assistants shall have charge and custody of the books and collections, subject to the direction of the Library Committee, and shall administer the details of the Library to the approval of said Committee, who shall prescribe the hours for the use of books and all matters of administration.

The careful "details of administration," which appear in section VIII., under thirteen headings, are practical safeguards to a library which is unique in several of its departments. The library committee has been constantly helpful during a year of marked activity. They have provided increased protection for the Hall and its invaluable contents, and added various improvements looking towards ease of administration by the library staff. Shelves have been added on the second floor and space secured on the first floor by the gift, sale or exchange of newspapers and duplicate material no longer thought desirable for the Society to retain. The larger gifts were to the Michigan State Library, Virginia State Library, Worcester Society of Antiquity, Williams College, Teacher's College of Columbia University, Clark University, Clark College, and the

Worcester Natural History Society. The Virginia State Library has been informed that at the close of the Jamestown Exposition our Society's exhibit of a set of its own publications, will there be deposited as the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia. A similar exhibit at the last Paris Exposition was allowed to remain in France as the Society's gift to the Société des Americanistes de Paris.

The following acknowledgment is from the Board of Directors of the Worcester Natural History Society:

WORCESTER, April 3, 1907.

Dear Sir:

I am instructed by the Directors of the Worcester Natural History Society to express their appreciation of, and thanks for, the valuable gift by the American Antiquarian Society of ten folio plates of Birds of America, drawn from nature by John J. Audubon.

By vote of the Directors, these plates are to be suitably framed, and they will be displayed in the Museum.

Very respectfully yours,

FRANKLIN P. RICE.

Mr. EDMUND M. BARTON,
Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society.

Our duplicate set of Audubon's rare work on "The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America"—in three folio volumes—has since been placed upon the library shelves of the same Society.

I note the loss from the library staff on October 9, of Miss Christine E. Robinson after five years of service marked by accuracy, industry, intelligence and devotion to the Society and its patrons. In this connection mention should be made of her painstaking work in making the required type-written copies of our unpublished Revolutionary orderly books of Col. William Henshaw.

Miss Emma F. Waite was added to the library force on the first day of October current.

The following letters refer to pages 200 and 201 of Mr. Nathaniel Paine's paper on Early American Engravings

which appeared in the Society's proceedings of April 25, 1906.

PHILADA Decbr. 3rd 1906

Dear Mr. Barton;—

As an interesting sequel to the story of the Indian Kings in Mr. Paine's paper in the last published Proceedings I send you the inscription upon a large silver two-handled cup with cover that was exhibited by Mr. George L. Schuyler at the Washington Inauguration Centennial Celebration, New York, April, 1889.

Presented by
ANNE QUEEN OF ENGLAND

to

Col. Peter Schuyler of Albany
in the province of New York

April 19th 1710

To commemorate his visit to England by request
of the Provincial Government accompanied
by Five Sachems of the
Mohawks.

Faithfully,
CHAS. HENRY HART.

Dear Mr. Barton;—

Here is another and new contribution to "the Indian Kings" portraits. The above are not mentioned by Challoner Smith under Bernard Lens (1659-1725) and are from The Carson Catalogue of Engraved Portraits, sold in Phila., December 16-17, 1905. It will make an interesting addition to the notes I sent previously on the same subject.

Faithfully,
CHAS. HENRY HART.

1|23|07.

4238. THE FOUR INDIAN KINGS. Tee Yee Neen Ho Ga Row, Emperour of the Six Nations; Sa Ga Yean Qua Rah Tow, King of the Maquas; Oh Nee Yeath Tow No Riow, King of Ganijoh-Hore; E. Tow Oh Kaom, King of the River Nation. Four bust portraits. Ovals with fancy borders, the titles on tablets beneath the ovals, all engraved on one sheet. *Mezzotinto.*

Height 12 14-16 inches; width 9 13-16 inches.

Done after the Original Limnings Drawn from y' Life
by B. Lens Jun'. B. Lens exc. Fine impression.
Very rare.

Our associate, Clarence Saunders Brigham has located and listed diaries of the Reverend Ebenezer Parkman which appear in the following memorandum:

DIARY OF REV. EBENEZER PARKMAN.

A = American Antiquarian Society.

G = Mrs. W. R. Gould, to go to Westborough Historical Society.

M = Massachusetts Historical Society.

P = Printed edition of Parkman Diary.

W = Westborough Historical Society.

Diurna, 1723, 24, 26, 27, 28. [A]

Diary, 1737. [P]

1738-1740. [G]

1744-48, 1750-52, 1754, 1756-May '61, June 1764-

3 July '69. [A]

1771-73. [M]

1773-75. [G]

July-Dec.

1775 [A]

Aug. 1777. [A]

1777-78. [G]

1778-80. [P]

1781-82. [M]

The American Antiquarian Society also possesses a series of his "Natalitia" or birthday reflections, from 1728-1734, 1740, 1743-1783; and two portfolios of sermons and notes.

C. S. B., Nov. 1906.

Further information regarding the Parkman manuscripts is desired.

Four of our original Mather portraits namely, those of Richard, Increase, Cotton and Samuel, the son of Cotton Mather, have been copied by Mrs. Harry Thompson of Paris, France, for Mr. Alonzo C. Mather of Buffalo, N. Y.

By order of the Council the seal of the Society has been redrawn, the date of incorporation, 1812, added, and plates of various sizes made therefrom. Upon the reverse of the original drawing, which has been framed and hung in the Main Hall appears in the handwriting of our founder,

Designed
by
I. Thomas.

Drawn by
John R. Penniman
Boston, 1815.

An appeal for additions to our rare collection of Harvard College theses appeared in the librarian's report of October, 1905. He has since been asked the source of the accession there mentioned. In "Donations Vol. 2" on page 67 under October 1, 1833 is the following entry: "Catalogues, Theses and Questiones of Harvard and Yale Colleges from 1719 to 1820:—Those of Harvard are greatest in number and embrace nearly all the years during the above period. They came from Boston accompanying a Box of Books, as waste paper. Presented by Dr. John Green of Worcester." The wise giver was a member of our Council from 1831 to 1855. Some years later our associate, Henry Stevens of London, in forwarding the gift of our first President Salisbury of English county histories, added "to fill case," the sixty-eight folio volumes of Zedler's Universal Lexicon which has answered many questions upon obscure subjects.

The first issue of the present form of "givers and gifts" appeared in the initial number of the new series of our Proceedings. A return to the simpler record of "Sources of Accessions" has been suggested, the present classification and alphabetical arrangement to be continued. All gifts are promptly acknowledged by the librarian "on behalf of the Council" and those of great value may be referred to in the body of his report.

The sources of gifts for the year ending October 1, number, three hundred and forty-seven, namely: thirty-five members, one hundred and six not members, and two hundred and six societies and institutions. We have received from them eighty-five hundred and seventy books; sixty-three hundred and twenty-one pamphlets; fifteen bound and fifteen unbound volumes of newspapers, with collections of manuscripts, engravings, photographs, maps, medals and broadsides; by exchange, one hundred and seventy-one books and seventy-five pamphlets; and from the bindery one hundred and seventy-two volumes of newspapers and three volumes of magazines; a total of eighty-seven hundred and forty-one books, sixty-three hundred and ninety-six pamphlets, one hundred and eighty-seven bound, and fifteen unbound volumes of newspapers, etc.

The Salisbury bequest to the Library has been received from the Executors. It includes six thousand eighty-three books, twelve hundred seventy-three pamphlets, twenty-one volumes of diaries and note-books, seventeen Mexican figures in terra cotta, five volumes of Mexican photographs, two sideboards, a stand of photographs, a secretary, sofa and table. To this list should be added collections of broadsides, diplomas, letters, photographs, portraits, postage stamps, geological specimens, and newspapers. The library is that of a gentleman especially interested in antiquarian, historical and linguistic studies. I would recommend that an engraved book-plate, with portrait of our benefactor be procured for use in this large and highly-prized collection. Mr. Salisbury preserved a copy of *The Universal Traveller* of Philadelphia October, 1829, on account of a brief entry on page 80 relating to our Society and the town in which it is located. The article follows:—

“Wand’ring from clime to clime, observant stray’d
Their manners noted, and their states Survey’d”

* * * *

“Worcester, p[rincipal] t. [own] Co.[unty] Cap. [ital] 40 w. [est] Boston, 38 N. [orth] N.[orth] W.[est] Providence, 57 E. [ast] Northampton. It is a handsome flourishing town, the largest in the interior of New England and is about to be connected with Providence by the Blackstone canal, the expense of which it is estimated will be \$500,000. The town contains the County buildings, 4 churches, a handsome edifice containing the library and cabinet of the American Antiquarian Society, and 2 printing offices, from each of which a weekly newspaper is issued. Worcester Co. Ms. P. [opulation] 2962.”

With the gift of our associate, Prof. Arthur H. Church of the University of Oxford, was the following letter:

29 July, 1907.

SHELSLEY, KEW GARDENS, ENGLAND.

Dear Sir:

I am sending you in another cover a pamphlet for the Library of your Society. The collection of old papers with which it deals will be of interest to antiquarians on your side of the water, partly by reason of the communications from New England which it contains. The great majority of these have,

however, been printed in early volumes of the Philosophical Transactions, a few I cannot find there. If on going through the Index Nominum, you should come across any names of persons whose papers are likely to prove of special interest to your Society I can easily transcribe & transmit to you their titles or topics. I may at once say that all the papers & letters of Paul Dudley, which I have indexed, have been published in the Phil. Trans.

On page 6 of my pamphlet reference is made to the two Catalogues of their Mss. published by the Royal Society in 1840. My brochure supplements this earlier work but deals with a different series of volumes.

With the copy of "Classified Papers" I am sending the Corinium Museum Guide. This treats of the Roman Remains at Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. CHURCH.

From Hon. Edward L. Davis of the Council we have received the early Bell Telephone Company circulars referred to in the following letter:

WORCESTER, MASS., Dec. 24, '77

Hon. ISAAC DAVIS,

Sir.

By the enclosed circulars, allow me to call your attention to the *Telephone*, and to some of the uses, to which, it is particularly adapted, among which it is being extensively used between private Residences and stables with entire satisfaction; and for this purpose, is the object of this note. Telephonic Communication between your Residence & Stable, you would find of great convenience, for calling your driver at any moment, or giving him directions, &c., &c.

For its satisfactory working I would refer you to
Washburn & Moen Mfg Co. (from Grove St to Quinsigamond)
Warren Thread Co. (from factory to Residence)
Two Lunatic Hospitals (or Gen'l Lincoln)
Adams Express Co. (from Pearl St to Union Depot)
Wellington Coal Co. " Manchester St to the Junction
W H Jourdan " Main to Green St

or to James H. Howe of Webster Mass for whom I have recently applied them, between his Residence & Stable also to the house of his driver, that he may call him at any moment, day or night.

An order from you is respectfully solicited

Very Respy

J. G Tobey Agent
400 Main St

This communication was written a generation ago upon the reverse of the following circular:

THE BELL TELEPHONE.

FOR CHEAP AND QUICK COMMUNICATION.

DELAY AND LOSS AVOIDED; TIME AND DISTANCE OVERCOME.

The Speaking Telephone of Prof. ALEX. GRAHAM BELL has now reached a point of simplicity and cheapness where it becomes a necessity to every business house and a convenience to every family. Its length is five inches, weight half a pound, and *yearly* cost to the user for his entire set, *twenty dollars*, exclusive of the cost of introduction. Additional instruments, on the same line, \$5.00 each. The Proprietors keep the instrument in repair, without charge, and the user has no expense except the maintenance of the line.

Using no battery, or any moving machinery, the Telephone is perfectly clean, sure and feasible, in any office or household where instantaneous communication with any other point is wanted. It needs only a wire between the two stations, though ten or twenty miles apart, with a Telephone at each end; no skill being required to work it, except to speak plainly and listen attentively.

It conveys the *quality* of the voice so that the person speaking can be recognized at the other end of the line. It transmits names, figures, foreign words, or plain English, with equal facility, and as fast as the person speaking would ordinarily talk to one in the same room. It enables the manufacturer to talk with his factory superintendent, the main office with the branch office, the house with the store, the country residence with the stables or any part of the grounds, the mouth of the mine with its remotest level, or, in short, any given point with any other point, provided a properly insulated wire can be run between them.

The outside of the Telephone is of mahogany, finely polished and an ornament to any room or office. The inside consists of a magnet, a coil of wire and a disk of sheet iron, none of which move or give any sign, when the instrument is in operation.

Patent rights have been granted for the Bell Telephone, in the United States and foreign countries, and no infringement will be allowed.

Information will be given, Telephones leased, or local agents appointed for New England, (the city of Boston excepted,) on application to

FREDERIC A. GOWER,

General Agent for New England.

Box 805, PROVIDENCE, R. I., or care THOMAS A. WATSON,
109 COURT STREET, BOSTON.

J. G. Tobey, Agent for Worcester County,
400 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

Alexander Graham Bell and Francis Blake are honored members of this Society as was also John Edwin Hudson until his lamented death, October 1, 1900.

Mr. Frederick Lewis Gay has marked his entrance into our membership by placing upon our shelves the much needed Federal editions of Lodge's *Works of Hamilton* and Bigelow's *Works of Franklin*. Vice-President Lincoln has transferred from his own library to ours, early manuscripts and American imprints of special value. The Duc de Loubat continues his gifts not only of linguistic reproductions but the publications at his expense, of other important material. Mr. Franklin P. Rice, Trustee of the Systematic History Fund—which has already allowed the publication under his able editorial supervision of some twenty-five volumes of vital records of Massachusetts towns—has presented a complete set to date. The stereotype plates of Palfrey's "Compendious History of New England" were received on November 12, 1906 from John G. Palfrey, executor of the estate of John C. Palfrey.

The family of the late Hon. Francis H. Dewey has made valuable additions to the library. Mr. Joseph Leete has sent with letter of gift dated November 20, 1906 an exhaustive history of the family of Leete, prepared at his expense. The first edition of this work was received with his letter of April 4, 1883. Prof. Justin H. Smith writes: "I have done myself the honor of requesting the publishers to send to you a set of 'Our struggle for the Fourteenth Colony: Canada and the American Revolution,' just out of press, in the preparation of which I received material assistance from documents which your public-spirited generosity placed within my reach."

The last report of Robert T. Swan, Commissioner of Public Records of the State of Massachusetts, was received from him on March 22, 1907, and his death, which occurred on July 26, 1907, caused wide-spread regret. It is interesting to note the early activity of past and present members of the Society in this important work. On February 16, 1885, Dr. Samuel A. Green one of the Commissioners on the Condition of Records etc., in the Secretary's department

sent us their admirable report. Henry B. Pierce and Justin Winsor, also members of this Society, were members of the Commission. On March 3, 1891, Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties, now of our Council—presented an exhaustive report in which he paid the following tribute to his secretary and successor. "In closing this report I desire to acknowledge and most heartily, the very valuable services of Robert T. Swan, Esq., the secretary of the Commission, to whom has been committed the details of the investigation since the work of the enumerators closed. It is by his industry and constant care that so many of the errors in past records have been corrected and brought out in this report and that hitherto unknown points of information have been brought to light." Upon the resignation of Col. Wright the Governor appointed Mr. Swan his successor and on July 5, 1889, he entered upon the duties of the office he so faithfully filled to the end of his life.

In the official magazine received from the Maryland Historical Society, in the issue for September 1906, pages 277-279 is an editorial upon "One of Celeron's plates." Your librarian's reports of October, 1903, pages 65 and 66 and of October, 1904, pages 330 and 331, refer to our apparently unique plate and call for further light upon the subject. In the hope that information may be secured through our wide-spread membership, the following portion of the article is offered:

"In 1749 the Marquis de la Gallissonière, Captain-General of New France, in pursuance of his plan of claiming for the French Crown the territory drained by the Mississippi and its affluents, despatched an officer, Celeron de Bienville, with orders to deposit at certain points, leaden plates inscribed with that claim. A description of one of these plates, in the cabinet of the American Antiquarian Society is given in the transactions of that Society, Vol. 2. The plate was buried on August 16, at the mouth of the river Yenaguè, or Muskingum. It is, unhappily, in a sorely mutilated condition, not more than one-fourth of the inscription being left. In the Proceedings of that Society for

1903 this fragment of a plate is said to be the only one now known to be in existence. The Maryland Historical Society has in its collections a facsimile of another of these interesting historical relics, which was buried two days later at the mouth of the Kanawha, and was (and presumably is) in perfect condition. The facsimile was sent in 1847 to the President of the Society, and we reproduced it with accompanying letter." Then follows the letter of Mr. James M. Laidley from Charleston, January 25, 1877 to our former associate Brantz Mayer, and the reproduction—in which there are slight variations from our plate both in spacing and spelling. The interesting account concludes:

"The Editor has endeavored, but without success, to find out where the plate now is, if still in existence. Miss Delia A. McCulloch, of Point Pleasant, W. Va., informs him that there is a report that it was taken to Richmond, copied by the Virginia Historical Society, and returned to the finder, Mr. Charles W. Beale. Mr. Beale is still living, and his statement is that he lent the plate to Mr. J. M. H. Beale, then a member of Congress, who gave it to the Smithsonian Institution; but there is no record at the Institution of its ever having been received. Miss McCulloch also states that a description and copy were given to the *Olden Time*, a periodical published in Pittsburg in 1846. As this seems to be the only perfect plate known to be in existence a knowledge of its present whereabouts is very desirable; and the Editor would be grateful for any information on this point."

As the inscription in *The Olden Time* and in volume II of our Transactions do not quite agree either with each other or with the original plate, a reproduction of "the only plate known to be in existence" would seem quite desirable.

In connection with a recent purchase, the following letter is of interest.

WORCESTER, October 26, 1906.

EDMUND M. BARTON, ESQ.,

Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society.

Dear Sir:

The three Tiles (one broken) which I have this day conveyed to the Society were taken from the chimney of the mansion

built by Isaiah Thomas on the present site of the Court House, probably in the year 1782. It was the finest residence in the town at the time. Mr. Thomas bought the land on Dec. 26, 1781, from Samuel Brooks executor of the will of Luke Brown.

After the death of Mr. Thomas his home estate passed into the hands of Hon. Daniel Waldo. The larger part was conveyed to the County of Worcester, and a stone court house was built upon it in 1845. The dwelling house was reserved and was removed to the rear, and later became the property of Mr. Waldo's cousin, Rebecca Lincoln Newton, wife of Hon. Rejoice Newton.

Mrs. Newton conveyed the house and lot on which it stood and stands to-day, to my father Moses T. Breck in April, 1850. After my father's death, the family sold to John W. Wetherell in November 1863. Mr. Wetherell sold to Walter H. Davis in January 1866. Some time later, Mr. Davis took down the old-fashioned chimney, and I secured these tiles and can therefore vouch that they are genuine.

Very truly yours,
S. JOSEPHINE BRECK.

It has been suggested that the following communication from Dr. Kingsbury to the librarian should be preserved in his report.

WATERBURY, CONN., April 10, 1907.

My dear Mr. Barton:

I enclose you a paper which I had originally intended to send to some Maine or Boston newspaper but since I have finally answered my own query the whole thing seems to me more properly to belong to the records of the A. A. S.

If you think so please make such disposition of it as seems proper and oblige,

Yours truly,
FREDERICK J. KINGSBURY.

DEDIMUS JUSTICES.¹

There is in the State of Maine, an officer, or an office which so far as I know, is peculiar to this State.

This Officer is called a "*Dedimus Justice*."

In the Statute book preceding 1903 the word "*Dedimus*" is not to be found, although the office has existed for many years, but in the Revised Statutes of Maine for 1903, page 57, Sec. 39. is the following:—

"The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council may appoint in each County, persons before whom oaths required by the constitution to qualify civil officers may be taken and subscribed."

¹ *Supra*, page 294.

In the Index is found "*Dedimus Justice*" and a reference to this act; the word *Dedimus* nowhere appears in the text of the Statute.

No one that I have found knows anything of its history. Its name clearly indicates an old law Latin writ beginning "*Dedimus potestatem.*"

Maine was a part of Massachusetts prior to 1820, but no such office is known in the jurisprudence of Massachusetts. Whether there was a Statute of this sort applicable to Maine alone before its erection into a State I have not ascertained, but one of the Justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court informs me that neither he nor one of his brethren whom he consulted knows anything of this office in Massachusetts.

One of the *Dedimus Justices* has kindly allowed me to copy his commission which I give herewith.

STATE OF MAINE.

..... To GEORGE O. PLAISTED,
 SEAL OF THE Of York, Esquire.
 STATE OF MAINE; GREETING;

..... You are hereby authorized and empowered to administer (and receive subscriptions to) the Oaths or Affirmations, prescribed by the Constitution of this State and a law of the United States of America, to each and every of the Civil Officers in our County of York, who have been or may be elected by the people, or appointed and commissioned
 J. L. Chamberlain: by our Governor, with the advice and
 consent of our Council: and also to such persons as may be appointed to act as Deputy Sheriffs in our said County and to officers chosen by either branch of the Legislature. And you are to make return of your doings herein unto our Secretary's Office as soon as may be in all instances, after you shall have executed said trust. In testimony whereof, We have caused our seal to be hereunto affixed,
 Witness—Joshua L. Chamberlain our said Governor by and with the advice and consent of our Council.

Given at Augusta, this twenty-seventh day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven and the ninety-first year of the Independence of the United States of America.
By the Governor.

EPHRAIM FLINT, *Secretary of State.*

Filed, "*Dedimus Potestatem*
Commission."

I do not understand that *Dedimus Justices* have any trial powers or even that they can take acknowledgment of deeds, or do other ministerial acts which are usually performed by Justices of the Peace. Their powers seem to be limited to administering oaths to civil officers.

The above was written several years since and laid aside but recently I have found, in the Leavenworth Genealogy, page 158, that Dr. David Leavenworth of Great Barrington, took the oath of office as a Justice of the Peace before Moses Hopkins and Gen. John Whiting, thereunto empowered by a "*Dedimus potestatem.*" This was June 18, 1819, the year before Maine became a State.

Blackstone says, Vol. 1. page 352—

"When any justice intends to act under this Commission (the King's commission to him as justice) he issues out a writ of *dedimus potestatem* from the clerk of the Crown in Chancery empowering certain persons therein named to administer the usual oaths to him, which done, he is at liberty to act."

So it appears that, in the earlier days, Massachusetts, which included Maine, copied this usage from England, and that in Maine they issued the writ to persons who might at any time be applied to, to administer the oath rather than have an application necessary on each particular occasion.

So the whole question appears to be answered. Still so far as I know, Maine is the only State which retains this office or custom.

In most, if not all, of the other States, any magistrate or notary has the power to administer an oath of office.

FREDERICK J. KINGSBURY.

In the librarian's report of October 21, 1897 appears the following: "On the 20th of October 1847, Edward Everett Hale of Worcester was by vote of the Council recommended for membership in the American Antiquarian Society and on the 23rd of the same month was duly elected. I beg leave to tender him on the eve of his semi-centennial an expression of our most affectionate regard." One week from to-day—October 23rd—our President and friend will have given to this Society sixty years of distinguished service.

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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