

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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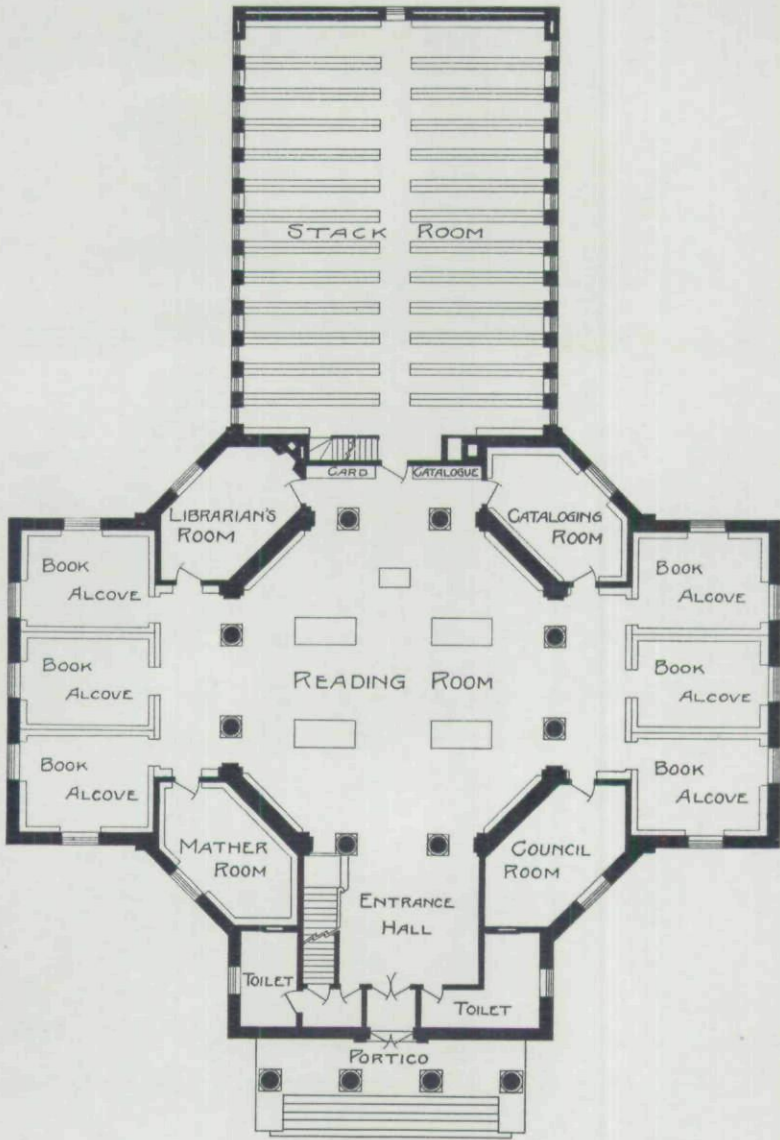
The most important feature of the work in the library during the past year has been the process of moving the collections into the new building. Only twice before in their history, in 1820 and 1853, had the volumes been subjected to such a thorough shaking-up. Preliminary to the moving, every book was taken from the shelf and dusted by the vacuum-cleaning system; the miscellaneous newspapers were arranged by states and tied in bundles; many of the photographs and engravings hanging on the walls were taken from the frames and placed in the collection of engravings; and the miscellaneous pamphlets, some fifty thousand in number, were rearranged into three comprehensive divisions. The first load of books, consisting of two tons of bound newspapers, left the building on December 5, 1910. The first book to be taken into the new building was a volume of Alabama newspapers, emphasizing, as it happened, the national character of this great collection of the journals of the various states. Day after day, for two months, the moving vans of the Worcester Storage Company were employed in taking from old Antiquarian Hall its century's accumulation. Because of the nature of its collections, it was no easy task to move such a library as this. Pamphlets, maps, broadsides, engravings, portraits, examples of colonial furniture—all of which we possess in large number—do not lend themselves to such easy handling and orderly transfer as do the well bound volumes usually comprising the stock of the average library. Yet, thanks to the carefulness of the persons employed, nothing was broken, and so far as we know, nothing was lost. The last load was duly placed in the new building on February 2, 1911.

A brief description of the rooms in the new building, in which the Society meets for the first time to-day, will best show how the collections have been placed and arranged. The rotunda room, or reading-room, is forty feet in diameter and is furnished with four large reading tables. In the cases around this room is shelved the Society's collection of family histories and genealogical reference works. This has been done for two reasons, chiefly because this class of books is most frequently asked for by strangers and visitors, and furthermore because it contains the fewest rarities and books which could not be replaced.

The four rooms grouped around the central room are the Council Room, the Mather Room, the Librarian's Room and the Cataloguing Room. The Council Room and the Librarian's Room have no book shelving, but contain several examples of colonial furniture which are made useful as well as ornamental. In the Cataloguing Room will be shelved the main portion of the bibliographical collection. The Mather Room contains two notable groups of books—the Mather Library and the collection of American Bibles. In this room, moreover, behind wire gratings, are placed the Mather tracts and the rare books.

The alcoves in the two wings are given over to special collections, thus perpetuating one of the interesting features of the old Library. In the west wing, the entire three alcoves are devoted to state and town history, comprising about 10,000 volumes. In the east wing is the Civil War collection, the Spanish-Americana, and the collection of catalogues of libraries and of booksellers. Each alcove is provided with a reading-table and two chairs and the electric chandeliers are constructed so as to light either the table or the room as a whole.

The second floor is virtually a replica in design of the ground floor, excepting the rotunda room which occupies the full height of the building. On this floor the entire east wing is occupied by the Manuscript Room, one of the largest rooms given over to such a purpose in the



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

country. With its steel cases and its walls of cement and brick, it offers the best possible depository for the many thousands of rare manuscripts which the Society possesses. The room is 40 by 22 feet and has 562 running feet of shelving. The west wing contains the Map and Print Room. This room, 27 by 22 feet, is designed for the storing of maps, broadsides and engravings, and is equipped with narrow sliding drawers for large maps and engravings, and upright filing cases for small engravings. The drawers are all fitted with dust flaps and should house a collection of 30,000 pieces. In the same wing is an almanac room, 22 by 11 feet, with 326 running feet of shelving. On this floor are also the Exhibition Rooms, and the consulting rooms for newspapers and manuscripts.

In the basement are the Bindery and the Proceedings, Duplicate, Janitor's, Unpacking, Storage and Boiler Rooms. Here also is the settling chamber into which fresh air is brought and the dust allowed to settle before being introduced into the main rooms above.

Extending from the rear of the main building and connected with it by door-ways on the basement floor, second floor, and fourth floor levels, is the stack. It has five floors, or "decks," each 53 by 44 feet and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, with 24 double and four single cases, 18 feet long, on each floor. The stack is of the so-called "Standard" construction, with slotted uprights, built by the Art Metal Construction Company, of Jamestown, N. Y. It has 27,000 running feet, or over 5 miles of shelves and is said by the officials of that company to be the largest stack of its type in New England. At one end is an hydraulic book-lift built to carry a load of 800 pounds. The floors are of glass. The windows in the stack are all of prism glass and are sealed, in order to admit a minimum of dust. A system of fans and ventilators provides for the change of air.

The arrangement of the books in the stack is largely temporary, although the intention is to have those most frequently used shelved upon the second floor level.

At present, the school-books, state and city documents, college catalogues, directories and government documents are shelved on the first floor; the early imprints and the main collection of books, omitting all the special collections, on the second floor; and the miscellaneous pamphlets, the institutional and society reports, and the collection of American periodicals on the third floor.

On the two upper floors are shelved the newspapers, of which the library has one of the most notable collections in the country. The fourth floor contains the papers of Alabama to Massachusetts, and the fifth floor those from Michigan to Wisconsin, with the papers of Canada, Mexico and Spanish America. Here the shelving is all horizontal, consisting of rollers supported by a strong framework, with vertical rolling-pins on the sides to keep the volumes from rubbing against the uprights. The capacity of these two newspaper floors is about 12,000 volumes. The fourth floor of the stack is on the same level as the second floor of the main building, from which it is separated by a fireproof door. The newspaper consulting-room is therefore within close reach of the newspaper shelves.

The card catalogue, consisting of 340 trays, is situated at the entrance of the stack, between the Librarian's and the Cataloguing Room. It is worthy of comment that this catalogue, the key to the library, is not only in close proximity to the administrative rooms, but is within sixty feet of the majority of the books. In fact one of the chief features of the building is its compactness and convenience.

The general effect of the interior is both dignified and pleasing, largely due to the lofty, domed central room, to the unusually beautiful columns of Siena marble, and to the quiet but effective color scheme, which throughout is in soft shades of gray. All the new furniture, which was especially designed by F. H. Bacon of Boston, is mahogany. The floors are covered with cork carpeting, thus insuring quiet. The lighting, especially in the dome, is strikingly effective, and the

lanterns at the entrance, as well as the wall lights, are modeled after colonial designs.

The building fully suits the needs of a library largely devoted to special collections, and should easily provide for the growth of twenty years, at the end of which time additional book-stacks can be constructed in conformity with present plans. The total number of running feet of shelves in the whole building is 33,400, or over 6 miles of shelves. If calculated at eight volumes to the foot, this would mean a total capacity of 267,000 volumes, or at ten volumes to the foot a capacity of 334,000 volumes. But since two tiers of the stack, about 10,000 running feet, are given over to newspapers, the library may be said to have a total capacity of 250,000 volumes.

As might be assumed from the above account of the transfer and installation of the collections in the new building, a large amount of time has been spent in effecting the transition. Yet the routine work of the library has been carried on and few opportunities have been let pass to acquire desirable volumes which we lacked. The total number of accessions has been 2904 bound volumes, 2115 pamphlets, 192 miscellaneous pieces, such as maps, engravings and broadsides, and 2145 unbound early newspapers. A list of donors is appended to this Report.

The collection of the productions of the early American press, to the year 1820, has received 1,571 additions. It has required a search through hundreds of auction and dealer's catalogues, and an examination of many consignments of books, to glean what we lacked. Among the more important titles noted in the accession-book are the first American edition of Shakespeare's works printed at Philadelphia in 1795-96; two sermons by Cotton Mather, the *Fisher-man's Calling*, and *Awakening Thoughts on the Sleep of Death*, both printed in 1712; the *Chronicon Ephratense*, printed at Ephrata, Penn., in 1786; the *Independent Whig*, published by Samuel Keimer at Philadelphia in 1724; and a broadside *Manifesto* issued by the King's Commissioners, October

3, 1778, seeking to quiet the "disorders subsisting in certain of the colonies in North-America," printed by Rivington at New York. The library is so rapidly increasing in this field of American imprints as to become a clearing-house of information for those interested along such lines of research. A bibliographer of national reputation, in referring to a comprehensive search which we had made for him in the printed literature of the United States of the period succeeding the Revolution, writes: "The result justifies liberally your estimate of one-third of everything printed in the United States, and largely outnumbers any other library in the world in the possession of works of this period." This pleasant commendation is not referred to in any boastful spirit, but merely by making known our strength, to encourage others to use it.

There have been no important sales of early almanacs during the year, and as a result but 258 of these interesting little publications have been added to the library, among the more valuable being a series of the Pennsylvania German almanacs from 1746 to 1799, and a collection of early western almanacs. Thirty recent family histories have been acquired for the genealogical collection. The early school literature has been enriched by over a hundred of the school-books of the first half of the nineteenth century, the gift of Miss Alice H. Bushee of Woonsocket, R. I., as well as by the purchase of a few rare imprints of an earlier period.

The additions to the newspaper collection have been constant, exactly 64 bound volumes and 2145 unbound issues of journals prior to 1870 having been acquired. Among the more important files are the *Washington Federalist*, 1801-1803, the *Kennebunk Weekly Visitor*, 1811-1822, the *Essex Journal and New Hampshire Packet*, 1793-1794, the *Staunton (Va.) Eagle*, 1807-1808, the *Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser*, 1802-1803, and the *Middlesex (Conn.) Gazette*, 1811-1824. The lack of a special fund for newspapers handicaps us considerably in the effort to fill gaps in the early files and

to maintain adequately the current files that we now preserve. In spite of its impressive showing as a national collection, this section of the library has grown without the aid of any funds devoted to its special maintenance. Changes in conditions have made it impossible that this should continue. Either we must curtail the previous broad scope of acquisition, or we must raise a fund adequate to continue the work. The new standards of competition in book prices have made the task of purchasing increasingly difficult. A library is now forced to buy at a good figure material which a few years ago could be had almost for the asking. The binding of papers, always so important for their preservation, is moreover a continuous matter of expense. It is to be regretted that that feature of the library which is among the strongest and most valuable, should have the least money to maintain it.

A notable accession to the Spanish-American collection, and one of the largest we have ever received, has been the acquirement from Harvard University of the duplicates of the Montt library. Señor Luis Montt, librarian of the National Library of Chile, possessed a library which was considered the best collection of works on Chilean history and politics outside of the library of which he was in charge, and its purchase by Harvard University made a noteworthy addition to the stock of South-American books now owned in this country. Since Harvard already possessed a large number of the long important sets, as well as many of the rarer works, it became our good fortune, partly by exchange and partly by purchase, to share in the division of the collection. The total number of books acquired by us was 535, and the most important titles, subdivided into the classes of collections, rare and early works, and works on languages, are as follows:—

Leon Fernandez, *Coleccion de documentos para la historia de Costa Rica*, 5 vols.

Restrepo's *Historia de la Revolucion de Colombia*, 10 vols.

Gay's *Historia de Chile*, 24 vols., with Atlas.



- Pezuela's *Diccionario de Cuba*, 4 vols.  
 De Angelis' *Obras y Documentos relativos a la Historia del Rio de la Plata*, 6 vols.  
 Raimondi's *Peru*, 3 vols.  
*Documentos para la historia de Colombia, Peru y Bolivia*, 14 vols.  
*Coleccion de documentos ineditos relativos al descubrimiento de América y Oceanía*, 42 vols.  
 Medina's *Coleccion de documentos in editos para la historia de Chile*, 12 vols., 1888-1902.  
 Medina's bibliographies of Chile, Spanish-America, Mexico, Manila, and the Philippines.  
 Barros Arana's *Historia general de Chile*, 15 vols., 1884-1897.  
 Andres Bello, *Obras Completas*, 15 vols., 1881-1893.  
 Calvo, *Anales de la Revolucion de la América Latina*, 5 vols., 1864-1865.  
 Valdés, *Historia de Chile*, 4 vols., 1900-1903.  
*Memorias de los Vireyes que han gobernado el Peru*, 6 vols., 1859.  
 Mitre, *Historia de San Martin*, 4 vols., 1890.  
 Sebastian Muster's *Cosmographiae Universalis, Libri VI, Basilae*, 1572.  
 Gonzalez de Mendoca's *Las Cosas mas notables del Reyno de la China, Antwerp*, 1596.  
 Pizaro y Orellana, *Varones illustres del nuevo Mundo, Madrid*, 1639.  
 Mendoza's *Chronica de S. Antonio de los Charcas en el reyno del Peru, Madrid*, 1664.  
 Piedrahita, *Conquista del nuevo reyno de Granada, Madrid*, 1688.  
 Villagutierre, *Historia de la conquista de el Itza, en Yucatan, Madrid*, 1701.  
 Garcilaso de la Veya, *Historia general de Peru, Madrid*, 1722.  
 Oviedo y Baños, *Historia de Venezuela, Madrid*, 1723.  
 Herrera, *Historia general de los Castellanos en las islas del mar oceano*. 9 vols., Madrid, 1730.  
 Peralta Barnuevo, *Lima Fundada*, 2 vols., Lima, 1732.  
 Frezier's *Relation du voyage*, Paris, 1732.  
 Garcilaso de la Vega, *Primera parte de los Commentarios de el origen de los Incas, Madrid*, 1735.  
 Original Papers relating to the Expedition to Panama, London, 1744.  
 Guinilla, *El Orinoco, Madrid*, 1745, 2 vols.  
 Villa-Señor y Sanches, *Theatro Americano*, 2 vols., Mexico, 1746-1748.  
 Juan and Ulloa, *Relacion historica*, 4 vols., Madrid, 1748.  
 Barcia, *Historiadores primitivos de las Indias occidentales*, 3 vols., Madrid, 1749.

- Touron, *Histoire générale de l'Amérique*, 14 vols., Paris, 1768-1770.
- Sarmiento, *Viage al Estrecho de Magallanes*, 1579-1580. Madrid, 1768.
- Gazophilacium regium Perubicum*, Madrid, 1775.
- Molina, *Compendio de la historia del Chili*, 2 vols., Madrid, 1788-1795.
- Molina, *Essai sur l'histoire naturelle du Chili*, Paris, 1789.
- Molina, *Saggio sulla Storia naturale del Chili*, Bologna, 1782.
- Campillo y Cosío, *Nuevo sistema de gobierno económico para la América*, Madrid, 1789.
- Gumilla, *Historia de las naciones en riveras del Rio Orinoco*, 2 vols., Barcelona, 1791.
- Cladera, *Investigaciones historicas sobre los descubrimientos de los Españoles eu el mar Oceano*, Madrid, 1794.
- Antunez y Acevedo, *Memorias sobre la legislacion eu las Indias Occidentales*, Madrid, 1797.
- Nodae, *Elementa de gramatica Quiche*. Cuzco.
- Torreo Rubio y Figueredo, *Arte de la lengua Quiche*, Lima 1754.
- Febres, *Arte de la lengua general de Chili*, Lima, 1765.
- Anchieta, *Arte de la lengua mais usada na Costa de Brazil*, Leipzig, 1874.
- Dionisio Anchorena, *Gramatica Quiche*, Lima, 1874.
- Ruiz de Montoy, *Arte de la lengua Guarani*, 2 vols., Leipzig, 1876.
- Vocabulario das palavras Guaranis*, Rio de Janeiro, 1879.
- Castillo y Oroso, *Vocabulario Paez-Castellano*, Paris, 1877.
- Cerdena, *Arte de la lengua Lule y Tonocoté*, Madrid, 1877.
- Figueira, *Grammatica da lengua do Brasil*, Leipzig, 1878.
- Bertonio, *Arte de la lengua Aymara*, Leipzig, 1879.
- Bertonio, *Vocabulario de la lengua Aymara*, 2 vols., Leipzig, 1879.
- Molina, *Vocabulario de la lengua Mexicana*, Leipzig, 1880.
- Thiel, *Apuntes lexicograficos de las lenguas de los Indios de Costa Rica*, San José, 1882.
- Valdivia, *Arte de la lengua de Chile*, Leipzig, 1887.

The most important accession to the manuscript department has been the collection of Foster papers deposited by Alfred Dwight Foster of Boston. These comprise the Journal of Dwight Foster, 1772-1787, 1793-1794, and 1795-1799, in three volumes, and his letters, 1785-1819, in five volumes. The papers of this early Massachusetts jurist and United States senator are of much historical and political interest, and some

day would be well worth printing. From Mrs. Bradley Gilman of Canton, Mass., and Mr. Roger Foster of New York, the library has received a large number of letters of Peregrine, Theodore and Dwight Foster, all of which go to make up a most interesting collection of documents pertaining to this important New England family.

The work of calendaring and indexing the manuscripts was given up last year because of lack of funds. The increased usefulness of the manuscripts, as already manifested during the past two years, has shown the wisdom of making this large and important collection more accessible to students.

A year ago the library was made a depository institution for the Library of Congress cards. The application for this great card catalogue was made only after long and careful deliberation. The policy of this library is a settled one. We aim to collect *everything* printed in America, North or South, up to the year 1820; since that date we preserve everything of importance which illustrates the history of American politics, education, law, social life, literature, etc. It should be understood that this is not a library restricted to early Americana. It has large collections of Civil War literature, local history, education, political history, bibliography, literary history—in short the whole field of Americana, in its broadest sense. It has strong collections of books relating to Mexico, Central and South America, Canada, Arctic discovery, and books printed in foreign countries relating to America. Nor should its manuscript collection of 35,000 pieces be overlooked. The overshadowing strength of the collection of earlier imprints has somewhat lessened our consideration of the importance of the more recent literature. Such collections as those of American biography (over 8,000 volumes) psalmody, philately, college publications, church history, travel—largely from the press of the last fifty years, are almost unexploited.

It would be a source of surprise to many to know how much this library is used throughout the country for

bibliographical information. It is possibly because the members of the Society, comprising men eminent in various lines of thought, use the institution and encourage others to do it; it is possibly because we pay more than the ordinary attention to such queries. Believing that it is one of our most important fields to aid students who are inquiring about American printed books, we have purchased much to strengthen the department of bibliography, in order that we may supply information regarding a sought-for book, even if we have not the book itself.

The greatest drawback in our research work has been the lack of a comprehensive bibliography of the productions of the American press of the past fifty years. We have few queries concerning the earlier printed books that we cannot answer from our own collections. But let a question arise regarding a recently issued book, or let some comprehensive bibliographical problem run over the borderland of the past into the present, we are generally compelled to seek the information in some other city. Such a defect the card catalogue of the Library of Congress would supply. The national library contains the greatest collection of Americana, in the broadest sense, in the country, and its catalogue, with perhaps three-quarters of the titles referring in some way to America, is the greatest bibliographical aid to an American library.

The depository set of the Library of Congress cards, as sent to the Society last year, contained about 450,000 cards, and about 40,000 cards are added annually. Our method of filing the cards is both economical and expansive. They are arranged in metal trays, each holding 1,600 cards, which are placed on the shelves of the first section of the stack on the main floor. By giving up a book capacity of 4,000 volumes, we obtain the space to file 1,600,000 cards, sufficient to cover the increase of twenty-five years. The cases, moreover, are within a few feet of our own card catalogue. The use we have already had of these Library of Congress cards shows that their value has not been overestimated.

The Society has published volume 12 of the *Transactions* (the Royal Proclamations) and two numbers of *Proceedings* during the year. By vote of the Council, the *Transactions* are to be distributed hereafter free to all members. Beginning with the issue for April, 1911, (vol. 21, no. 1), each volume of *Proceedings* will contain two numbers, instead of three, as formerly. This will cause more convenience in the binding, as each volume will contain the proceedings of a year and not lap over into the year following. Articles upon the new building have been published in several periodicals and newspapers, notably the *Worcester Magazine* for February, 1911, and the *Boston Globe* for February 5, 1911. During the year two volumes have appeared which have been published, wholly or in part, from manuscripts in the Society's possession. The first volume of the *Diary of Cotton Mather*, 1681-1708, printing the original diaries owned partly by this Society, has been issued by the Massachusetts Historical Society. The Historical Society has generously furnished us with 121 copies for distribution among our own members. The *Diary of William Bentley*, vol. 3, 1803-1810, has been published by the Essex Institute from manuscripts in our possession. This journal, although almost entirely one of local interest to Essex County, contains many references throwing light upon Dr. Bentley's subsequent gifts to the Antiquarian Society. The following quotation, dated August 16, 1804, is an instance: "After proper visits I spent a few hours in Dr. Mather's Library. Still without a catalogue, I could only gratify my curiosity as some accident might tempt me. But I find it diminishes. I was indulged with specimens of the Sermons of the Four American Mathers in succession, Richard, Increase, Cotton & Samuel. And I took such specimens of the hand writing of the Boston & other Clergy as I had liberty to select. This was once the largest private Library in America. The heads of Richard, Increase, Cotton, Samuel of America, & of Samuel of Dublin, & of Nathaniel of London yet remain, but their

situation does not promise their long preservation. That of Richard will soon be gone. It agrees as well as possible with my block print. That of Increase, in his old age, is a good picture & was called a likeness. Of Cotton the portrait much resembles Samuel, whom I intimately knew, but of Samuel's I cannot see & the family does not acknowledge the least resemblance. The others were probably great likenesses as they were taken upon the spot where the best artists dwelt. My small Increase is taken from the full length in the Historical Society's collection, & that was taken while Increase was abroad on Colonial affairs in England, & was out of health."

In the two exhibition cases on the second floor, will occasionally be shown exhibitions of rare books or prints. In April an exhibit of early Bibles was made, in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of the King James version. From our own collections, a representative number of incunabula and early English translations, and an almost complete showing of early American Bibles, was displayed. As a matter of record, the list of volumes exhibited is here given:

MANUSCRIPT BIBLE. 13th Century.

LATIN BIBLE, 1476. Printed at Venice by Hailbrun and Frankfordia, initial letters drawn by hand. This copy owned by Increase and Cotton Mather. The first dated Bible with printers' signatures was issued in 1476.

LATIN BIBLE, 1478. Printed at Venice by Leonardus Vuild. Initial letters never made for this copy. Old binding with brass bosses, and with clasps at top and bottom as well as sides.

LATIN BIBLE, 1487. Printed at Venice by Georgius de Rivabenis.

THE CRANMER BIBLE. Printed at London by Richard Grafton, April 1540. Prologue written by Archbishop Cranmer.

NEW TESTAMENT, 1520. Latin Translation by Erasmus, printed at Antwerp by M. Hillenius.

LATIN BIBLE, 1556. Printed at Lyons by Joannes Frellonius. Gift of Daniel Willard to Samuel Mather.

LATIN BIBLE, 1583. Printed at Antwerp by Christopher Plantin.

- POLYGLOT NEW TESTAMENT. Compiled by Elias Hutterus in 12 languages. Printed at Nuremberg, 1599.
- THE GENEVAN VERSION, or "BREECHES" BIBLE. First printed 1560; this edition printed 1599. So called from use of word "breeches" in Genesis, iii. 7.
- THE BISHOP'S BIBLE. First printed 1568; this edition printed 1598 (?). Translated by several English bishops, under supervision of Archbishop Parker. Often called the "Treacle Bible" from the phrasing of Jeremiah, viii. 22.
- THE KING JAMES, or AUTHORIZED VERSION. First printed 1611; this edition printed 1613. Translated by forty-seven Biblical scholars. Dedicated to King James I.
- BAY PSALM BOOK, 1640. The first book printed in colonial America.
- ELIOT BIBLE, Cambridge, 1663. Translated into Indian language by Rev. John Eliot. The first Bible printed in America.
- ELIOT INDIAN BIBLE. 2nd edition, Cambridge, 1685.
- THE SAUR BIBLE, 1743. Printed at Germantown by Chr. Saur. The second Bible printed in America, and the first in a European language. Subsequent editions printed in 1763 and 1776.
- MARK BASKETT BIBLE, 1766. Interesting because of the tradition, first repeated by Isaiah Thomas, that a Bible was covertly printed at Boston about 1752 with the imprint of Mark Baskett of London.
- THE AITKEN BIBLE, 1782. Printed by Robert Aitken at Philadelphia. The third Bible printed in America, and the first in the English language.
- THE YOUNG BIBLE, 1790. Printed by Wm. Young at Philadelphia. The fourth Bible printed in America.
- BASKERVILLE BIBLE, 1769. Printed at Birmingham by John Baskerville. Comparison will show that this volume served as the model for the printing of Thomas' folio Bible.
- THE THOMAS BIBLE, 1791. Printed by Isaiah Thomas at Worcester. The sixth Bible printed in America and the first folio edition in English. A remarkable piece of printing which caused Franklin to call Thomas "the Baskerville of America."
- THE THOMAS QUARTO BIBLE, 1791.
- THE COLLINS BIBLE, 1791. Printed by Isaac Collins at Trenton. The seventh Bible printed in America.
- HIEROGLYPHIC BIBLE. Printed by Isaiah Thomas at Worcester 1788.
- GREEK NEW TESTAMENT, 1800. Printed by Isaiah Thomas, Jun., at Worcester and edited by Caleb Alexander. The first Greek Testament in America.

The space given over to exhibition and museum purposes has been made more subordinate than in the old building. During its early days, the Society, being one of the few in the country devoted to antiquarian objects, was presented with many relics which to-day would more appropriately be placed in some other institution. By the end of the first half-century of its life, it had accumulated a strange collection of relics and curios, which was not complete or comprehensive in any one line, and which from its very lack of strength incited the curiosity of the chance visitor rather than the inspection of the student. Gradually, the officers of the Society realized that a national Society, which did not pretend to museum activity, was not the proper custodian of all these relics. In 1877, an Indian mummy which had been taken from a cave in Kentucky was placed with other remains of the same kind in the Smithsonian Institution. In January, 1886, according to a vote of the Council of March, 1884, a number of relics, chiefly the wearing apparel of native races and other curios of a perishable nature, were transferred to the Peabody Museum. At the same time a few relics of Worcester interest were placed in The Worcester Society of Antiquity museum. In 1892 the Council voted that "the attention of Prof. Frederic W. Putnam be called to the collection in the cabinet, with a view and with permission to select a portion for the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, to decide if others should remain with us, and to offer the residue to The Worcester Society of Antiquity." These transfers were made, the Society retaining only a few Yucatecan relics and Indian implements. In 1910 the library committee, acting upon authority given them by a vote of the Council of September, 1908, transferred to the Peabody Museum of Harvard University the remainder of the ethnological and archaeological relics contained in the four glass cases in the main hall of the old buildings, receiving in return \$450 for the purchase of the British Museum Catalogue. During the year, the statues of Christ



and of Moses were placed respectively in the Art Museum and the County Court House, and the cast of the Labna portal deposited, with the permission of the donor, Mr. Edward H. Thompson, with the National Museum at Washington. The Society has retained several important historical relics for exhibition purposes, and values most highly its fine specimens of colonial furniture which help to make the building attractive. It should give us a feeling of satisfaction to have all these relics, comparatively few in number, unarranged and worthless for comprehensive study, deposited in institutions which can make real use of them. With the growth of libraries and collections all over the country, each institution must endeavor to specialize along certain lines and must realize the futility of scattering its energies.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

*Librarian.*

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