

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

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THE work of the Society, as evidenced by the service given by its Library, has progressed steadily during the past year. The details of this growth will be given in the Report of the Librarian, leaving to this Report discussion of matters of general concern to the Society. As buildings approach a quarter of a century of use, certain repairs are inevitable. In the last annual Report, mention was made of the installation of two oil burners, for the purpose of burning oil rather than coal, with the consequent saving thereby effected. Now that a year has passed, a fair estimate can be made of comparative cost. Judging from the amount consumed in previous years, coal would have cost us \$1500, to which should be added \$125 for removal of ashes, or a total cost of \$1625. During the past season 19,000 gallons of oil have been burned at a cost of \$1140, which makes a saving of \$460 for the year. Since the burners cost \$1548, plus the charge of \$150 for a draft regulator, it will be seen that the total cost will be made up in about three and a half years. Additional points in favor of oil over coal are the opportunity to use the services of a coal fireman in some other work of the library, and the changing over of the large coal-cellar to book storage purposes.

One of the two Mercer boilers installed when the building was constructed in 1910, gave out during the early fall, and had to be replaced. Since repair was highly expensive and would soon have to be repeated, for the life of a boiler is not much over twenty years, it was deemed best to install a new oil-burning boiler, the H. B. Smith Mills, no. 44, eight section boiler,

with a guaranteed rating of 6,925 square feet of hot water radiation, at a total cost of \$1044. The second Mercer boiler which, as it happens, has been given less use, ought to last a few years longer.

A matter which has frequently been brought to the attention of the Society has recently been acted upon by the Council. For many years it has been the precedent that only papers or monographs contributed by members could be published in the Proceedings of the Society. There has been no rule or by-law regarding the matter, but such invariably has been the custom. Yet many monographs of suitable length come to our notice, which we should like to publish and which would give added prestige to the Proceedings. Especially is this true in the subject of bibliography. Worthington C. Ford, for many years a member of the Council, always thought that bibliography should be featured in the Proceedings, chiefly since it would emphasize the Library's pre-eminence in the field of Americana, and since it would provide us with the reference aids to expand our own collections because of the knowledge of what existed in other collections.

The subject has been forcibly brought to our notice during the past year, when several bibliographies, largely compiled in this Library and which we should greatly like to see in print, have gone begging for want of a publisher. Such monographic material could not be published commercially, nor is there at present any organization which has sufficient funds, even if it had the inclination, to act as publisher. Moreover, the printing of scholarly and trustworthy bibliographies would add greatly to the value of our Proceedings. It has been repeatedly shown in the past that bibliographies, when they have been published in the Proceedings, have been far more sought after by libraries and collectors, than any other of our contributions. The reprints of Thwaites' "Ohio Valley Press," the various checklists of Almanacs, Mr. Vail's Bibliography of Mrs. Rowson and Mr. Tinker's Bibliography

of Louisiana Periodicals have virtually become exhausted, even though we issued two or three times as many reprints as we did for essays, biographies or articles of a general historical nature. Therefore, the Council at its September meeting voted to permit publication in the Proceedings of papers and contributions prepared by persons not members of the Society, provided the same were recommended and approved by the Committee on Publications and were confirmed by vote of the Council.

Two deaths have occurred in the Society's membership since the April meeting.

William Glover Stanard of Richmond, elected in 1924, died May 6, 1933. Librarian of the Virginia Historical Society and editor of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography since 1898, he was eminent as an authority on historical, antiquarian and genealogical researches in his native State.

Francis Henshaw Dewey of Worcester, elected in 1891, died April 20, 1933. A member of the Council since 1912, he was one of the Society's oldest friends and one of our most active supporters. At a special meeting held April 27, 1933, the Council adopted the following minute, prepared by Mr. Bullock:

After an active life of seventy-seven years, Francis H. Dewey is dead. The important place that he filled in this community was evidenced by the wide variety of his connections. We are proud of his association with this Society for so many years.

He was elected to the Council of this Society in 1912, the centennial year. For twenty-five years, until his death, he served as a member of the Finance Committee. He was punctilious in his attendance at Council and Finance meetings, always keenly interested in our proceedings and progress, always helpful.

He had those qualities which made him a highly valued and much sought trustee. He had sagacity and that great common sense which is too often uncommon. He was meticulous in smaller as well as in the larger affairs, and he always desired to know and understand all the facts in any matter in which he was interested or which were presented to him. Details were never neglected or overlooked by him. The result was that his judgment and conclusions were always based upon a complete

knowledge of all the premises involved in any given situation. Thus he was a sage counselor and advisor.

His advice was often sought by younger men on many matters. It was unstintingly given when asked for. His sound and keen perceptions have aided many.

His sense of loyalty was one of his strong characteristics. He always stood by, if help was needed. He never veered from a steadfast loyalty to his family, to his many friends, or to the institutions with which he was connected. He always strove in an unobtrusive but persistent way to advance their welfare.

Frank Dewey knew mankind and human nature. He knew well our world as it is, and he loved it; while it gave him much, he gave back to it more than he was given. For some decades his sane, wholesome influence was felt in many channels in this city and county and state.

"The product of a life," says one of the philosophers, "is the quality of its accomplishment multiplied by its quantity." Francis H. Dewey's record stands high on both counts. This Society will always honor him and his memory.

The Society has administered during the year the second grant of \$3000 made by the American Council of Learned Societies in behalf of Mr. Charles Evans of Chicago for aid in publishing the twelfth volume of his "American Bibliography." This volume, next to his last, covers American printing for the year 1798 and part of 1799 and will be published in the early winter. Because of the strength of our collections of American printing, we have regarded this invaluable work almost as a catalogue of the Library. Sabin's Dictionary is another undertaking of constant and daily concern to us, since the work is being largely compiled in this Library, with Mr. Vail as its chief editor. It is expected that this publication which has so far been compiled through the letter T, will be finished before the close of another year.

The financial situation is destined to be most perplexing for the Society during the coming year and only by the strictest economy can we continue to function. Our income will be \$6400 less than last year, this due to shrinkage of dividends and the probability of less money in the form of gifts. Since we have already reduced salaries, there is nothing now to do

but to cancel all book purchases, except to use certain small funds specifically devoted to books. This is particularly unfortunate as never within recent times have books of the kind we need to fill in our collections been purchaseable for so little money. Even with strictest economy, there will be a probable deficit of \$1150.

Yet there should be no lessening in our efforts to serve historical writers and researchers. Two letters received by us within the last few weeks illustrate the direct result of such efforts. One from a writer on church history who came here to examine newspaper files and who had visited on his tour all of the larger libraries of the East, said: "I must state that for completeness of files, and for real helpfulness in my quest, none have equalled the American Antiquarian Society in real productiveness." Another from a well-known New York collector, who was trying to decide where certain of his treasures should be placed, stated: "I honestly feel that the American Antiquarian Society is a much alive and awake institution and perhaps the most admirably adapted to the use of scholars and investigators of any institution I am acquainted with. It has a tone, atmosphere and management scarcely to be equalled."

These letters are quoted, not to draw comparisons or to indulge in self-praise, but to show that our service is real and appreciated. The present Director came to this Society twenty-five years ago. Through the aid of loyal friends and able officers, especially that of the late Waldo Lincoln, the Society has prospered to a notable degree. It has truly become a national Society. But there should be no decline in our activities, for such a recession would affect not only Worcester and New England, but would concern the scholarship of the entire country.

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,  
*For the Council*

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