

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY.

THE alphabetical list of Donors and Donations, which forms a part of this report, proves that the society's storehouse of history continues to be kindly remembered.

The accessions from October 15, 1880, to April 15, 1881, have been as follows: *Gifts*, four hundred books, fifty-five hundred and forty pamphlets, one hundred and four files of unbound newspapers, five hundred and thirty-one maps and charts, eight photographs, forty-six prints, a manuscript orderly book, and a fragment of the Confederate Privateer Alabama. *Exchanges*, two hundred and fifty-nine books, one hundred and eighty-one pamphlets, seven maps, one print, and a manuscript letter of Benedict Arnold. *Purchases*, twenty-six books and sixteen pamphlets. *Total*, six hundred and eighty-five books, fifty-seven hundred and thirty-seven pamphlets, one hundred and four files of unbound newspapers, five hundred and thirty-eight maps and charts, eight photographs, forty-six prints, two manuscripts, and one article for the cabinet. Twenty-one of the thirty-nine members whose names appear upon the list, have furnished publications of their own. The department of local history has been enriched by Dr. Green, Mr. Hunnewell, Col. Jones, Dr. Metcalf, President Salisbury, Hon. Isaac Smucker, Col. Washburn and Col. Whittlesey; the alcove of Biography by Governor Bell, Hon. P. W. Chandler, Rev. Dr. Ellis, Prof. Salisbury and Hon. Robert C. Winthrop; and of Genealogy, by Senator Hoar and Nathaniel Paine, Esq.; while Archæological, Scientific, Educational and other literature, has been received from Mr. Ammidown,

W. S. Barton, Esq., Mr. Brock, Dr. Chandler, Prof. Chase, Hon. Isaac Davis, Hon. E. L. Davis, Judge Devens, Dr. Guild, Rev. Dr. Hale, Dr. Haven, Prof. Hitchcock, Major Huguet-Latour, Rev. Dr. Huntington, Judge Nelson, Mr. Salisbury, Jr., Rev. Dr. Smyth, Rev. Mr. Stone, Prof. Thompson, Dr. Tyler, and the Assistant-Librarian.

In Dr. Haven's gift are included one hundred and eight bound volumes and nine hundred and seventy-nine pamphlets, chiefly relating to American History; in Senator Hoar's, twenty copies of the new Peirce Genealogy; and in Mr. Salisbury, Jr.'s, seven copies of the private editions of his Yucatan publications, to fill cash orders, and a set of Dawson's Historical Magazine in twelve volumes.

Among the eighty-one donors not members of the society, the following may be named for gifts of special value: Hon. Charles J. Hoadly, for the last two volumes of the Colonial Records of Connecticut, edited by him; Dr. Elias Loomis of Yale College, for the three volumes of his Loomis Genealogy, sent at the suggestion of Dr. Trumbull; Mr. Charles A. Miles of New York City, for Colonel Jonathan Bagley's manuscript orderly book of the Abercrombie expedition of 1758; and Sidney S. Rider, A. M., of Providence, R. I., for as complete a set of his Rhode Island Historical Tracts as he was able to supply, with a copy of Miller's notes on the Wampanoag tribe of Indians. In addition to the foregoing, seventy societies and institutions, nearly all being correspondents, appear. Besides the transactions of these learned bodies, the valuable catalogues of the Boston Athenæum, the Brooklyn Mercantile Library Association, and the Massachusetts State Library, have been added to our collection of Bibliography.

We are indebted to the various colleges, for their prompt replies to our call for their Triennials, which were used in the preparation of the new catalogue of members. The Worcester Free Institute continues to send us the balance of the edition of its annual catalogue, so that we have been

able to fill orders from France, India and Japan, as well as from various points in our own country.

The income of the B. F. Thomas Local History Fund, has allowed the purchase of twenty-one New England locals for the alcove which bears Judge Thomas's honored name. The third part of the American Library of the late Mr. George Brinley, containing seventeen hundred and seventeen lots, and about twenty-seven hundred titles, was sold at Messrs. George A. Leavitt & Co.'s, New York, April 4th to 8th inclusive, Mr. Joseph Sabin being the auctioneer. The balance to the society's credit was over fourteen hundred dollars, but it was thought best to hold the major part for the final sale. One hundred and sixty-four books and six pamphlets, containing in all two hundred titles, were bid off at a charge of \$368.59. They may be classed as follows: *Biography*, ninety-one volumes, including the early edition of the National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans, 4 vols. 4°, and *Mémoires Correspondance et Manuscrits du Général Lafayette*, publiés par sa Famille, 6 vols. 8°. *Genealogy*, thirty-four volumes, many of them privately printed and rare. *Indian Languages*, twenty-four volumes, including Dr. Shea's Library of American Linguistics in thirteen volumes. *American Indians*, eighteen volumes. *United States*, nineteen volumes. *Local Histories*, eight vols. *South America*, four vols. *Psalmody*, three vols., an early New England Psalter and the first Connecticut Bible.

For the Davis Spanish-American alcove, were purchased Mr. Brinley's copies of Waterton's *Wanderings in South America*, Brett's *Indian Tribes of Guiana*, and a *Popular Description, Geographical, Historical and Topographical of Mexico and Guatemala*, published in two volumes.

The sale just closed was perhaps not so largely attended as the previous sales of 1879 and 1880, but the bidding was spirited and well sustained to the end. Monday was devoted to the South and West; Tuesday, to the General,

Civil and Political History of the United States, Military and Naval History, and Biography; Wednesday, to Mexico, the West Indies, Central and South America, and American Indians; and Thursday, to Indian Languages, Bibles, Catechisms, Primers, Music and Psalmody. The last was the great day of the sale and the attendance was largely increased. The three remaining copies of Mr. Brinley's seven Indian Bibles were offered, one passing into the hands of Ellsworth Eliot, M.D., a lineal descendant of the apostle Eliot, another to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the third to a private collector. Christopher Saur's extremely rare German Bible, also known as the First Pennsylvania and the first printed in America in a European language, was sold. The day was made still more memorable by the sale of the Gutenberg Bible, the first book printed with types, which was bought by Hamilton Cole, Esq., of New York city, for eight thousand dollars.

Mr. Brinley was not only a successful collector, but a pains-taking and liberal one. When last at the library, he had just returned from a trip to Kentucky in search of one of the rare histories of that State. This he not only found, but said to the writer, that he knew when he was nearing it; that it grew warmer and warmer, as in the children's game of "hunt the slipper," until he reached it. At this interview, he expressed a willingness to put his collection with those of Mr. James Lenox and Mr. John Carter Brown for preservation. When we consider that three parts of this famous library have brought forty-eight, thirty-three and thirty thousand dollars respectively, the rarity of the collection and the generous offer of the owner, may be better appreciated. Mr. Brinley began, nearly forty years ago, to draw from among our duplicates early New England rarities, and both his earlier and later returns show how he appreciated and remembered our efforts to help build up his great American Library. Whether pages for an Eliot Bible, Mather tracts, or plates for the Massachusetts

Magazine were supplied, he never forgot the service rendered.

We have open exchange accounts with thirty-seven individuals as well as with a large number of societies. The very lack of funds has led us to seek in this way to fill vacancies in our alcoves of specialties, though two exchanges are often required to secure the books we need. The shelves will show that we have been reasonably successful. That the alcoves of Genealogy, Biography, and Rebellion and Slavery literature, may, like the Davis Spanish-American and Thomas Local History alcoves, soon have funds connected with them, is greatly to be desired. The history of the dead institutions of slavery and rebellion will be imperfectly preserved in the library, unless we have some live friend, like Mr. Lawrence of the Massachusetts Historical Society, to take a pecuniary interest in it. Second editions of Regimental Histories, for instance, are almost never met with. This leads naturally to a few words about the society's duplicates; a collection much larger and more valuable than is generally known, even to the members. The lower hall, intended by our President for the temporary use of a Free Public Library for Worcester, is shelved and well filled with a library of classified duplicates. They range in quality from Ayer's almanacs (a parcel of which we have, by the way, recently sold), to rare books and pamphlets not often found on sale. Some of the latter have been known to pass into the hands of collectors, thence to the possession of members of the society, who were obliged to pay the middle-men large profits. The duplicate newspapers bound and unbound have all been arranged in the large attic at the east end of the library building, the same plan being followed as in the Salisbury annex newspaper hall, where the grouping is alphabetical by States and again by cities and towns in the several States, in the interest of local historians. A large part of our duplicates of the Boston News Letter filled important gaps for Harvard College, the

early Boston Gazette and a score of other American newspapers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries have materially helped towards completion, or supplied in nearly entire files, the Boston Public Library, while many volumes of the Boston Daily Advertiser have been sent to the National Library at Washington, on the same mission. The donation to the Chicago Historical Society, made shortly after the great fire, included all we had of Chicago newspapers. This society is always willing to receive and bind these bulky parcels of every-day history and should be known as having for sale or exchange much of like material. While a personal examination is preferred, we can usually exchange classified title slips of duplicates. In checking sale catalogues of Americana for purchase or exchange, we have sometimes indicated the titles we could supply, that duplicate orders might be tendered. The question of how best to dispose of this extra material is still an open one, the junk shop, auction-room, book dealers, collectors, kindred libraries rich and poor, and an American Library Association Agency, or clearing-house, each having its advocates. Such an Agency might add to the number of rare books and pamphlets by bringing together odd volumes and valuable fragments. The Philadelphia Mercantile Library Company issued last year a printed catalogue of their duplicates, followed by a long list of books wanted. Cash bids were called for under both headings and it was proposed to exchange what were not sold. We were able to supply some of *their* wants and indicated a large number of *ours*, hoping to receive a satisfactory return under the terms mentioned.

The society's publications are sought for more than ever, securing to us desirable books, and some cash. Applications from new societies as well as from members and others, are so frequently received, that we have thought it important to pick up our own reports wherever found. There are but six sets of the Transactions remaining, the edition of volume two, a part of which was destroyed at the

Stationers' Hall fire in Boston, being nearly exhausted. This *Archæologia Americana* volume two, is perhaps the most valuable of the series, and should be reprinted as soon as the Publication Fund will allow. The Lechford Note Book or Business Record which is to form volume seven, is not yet in press. The Proceedings—the seventy-sixth number of which has just been issued—cannot now be furnished entire, numbers two, three, five, eight, ten and eighteen being out of print, and some of the other early issues nearly so.

The collection of the private editions of papers read before the society by its officers and members, is not complete; a fact to be regretted, as corrections and additions are sometimes made therein and the limited number issued gives them high market value. Hereafter the remainders of Proceedings will be kept in the South-east lobby, first floor, it having been shelved for that purpose, at the charge of the Salisbury Building Fund. The other lobbies and the duplicate room will require the same treatment at no distant day. The severe winter, just passed, has tested the capacity of the large boiler used for warming the Court Houses and Antiquarian Hall, and with the increased feeling of safety, a comfortable degree of heat has been generally furnished. The presence of the janitor during the night could be secured at slight expense, and a still further sense of security be enjoyed. Bars have been placed at the office doors to prevent intrusion, and the alcove safeguards continue to serve their purpose admirably. The Bay Psalm Book, one of our copies of Eliot's Indian Bible, the early editions of Massachusetts Laws, the Mather manuscripts and other articles of great rarity, have been placed in the steel safe in the lower hall. Absolute protection is the order of the day, and the report of the Council Committee on Rules and Orders will no doubt aid us in the enforcement of it. In December last, a copy of Dugald Stewart's "Philosophy of the Human Mind" was returned

to us by President Eliot of Harvard College, it having been lately found in University Hall. It had been borrowed in 1846, by a son of one of the Worcester County Athenæum stockholders, then a member of the college, and thirty-five years later, when he had become the honored President of a sister college, the volume joined its fellows in Antiquarian Library. In our mission of identifying early books, one of the Mather Tracts, long absent from the shelves, and still showing a part of the Thomas book plate and our shelf numbering, has been brought to our notice by a Worcester collector whose wife found it in lot "No. 201 Sermons and Essays," which she purchased from a catalogue of articles shown at the Antique and Art Loan Exhibition, Putnam, Conn., March 15 to 20 inclusive, 1880. It is Cotton Mather's "Much in Little; or Three Brief Essays to Sum up the Whole Christian Religion," Boston, 1702, and is very rare. Mr. Sabin in his *Bibliotheca Americana* mentions no other copy than this of ours, and we earnestly hope it may be returned speedily to the library.

A beginning has been made in Alcove Lists, which are being prepared by Mr. Colton under the general direction of Mr. Salisbury, Jr., and at his expense. Following the shelf lists, will come, what has been so long waited for, a card catalogue. The manuscripts of Rev. William Bentley, D.D., have been carefully examined for Salem items by Mr. Edward Stanley Waters of that city, who has published in the *Salem Gazette*, under the head of "Bentley Notes," twenty-four numbers containing about twelve columns of extracts from them. They have also furnished material towards an Ecclesiastical History of Salem by another hand. All the framed portraits, engravings, maps and silhouettes have been placed upon the walls, and the first step has been taken towards putting the Cabinet of Relics in order.

The Library was represented at the late Library Conference at Washington by Mr. Colton, and various members of

the society were present at that most successful meeting.

In closing, an earnest appeal is made for liberal contributions to the various departments of the library. Let both members and friends bear in mind that nothing will come amiss.

Although the administration of the library for the past few months has lacked the immediate presence of the chief librarian, and so the presence of the best index to its treasures, his counsel and services have been constant.

E. M. BARTON,

ASSISTANT-LIBRARIAN.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.