

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY.

OUR records show that during the six months just passed, members, friends and societies, have been unusually mindful of our requirements. The accessions are as follows: gifts, fourteen hundred and sixty-one books, thirty-three hundred and sixty pamphlets, one hundred and sixty-one files of newspapers, sixteen lithographs, seven maps, one marble and six plaster busts, two alabaster vases and one framed engraving. By exchange, three hundred and eighty-seven books, eight hundred and thirty-six pamphlets, five files of newspapers, ten lithographs, three maps, six photographs and one book-case. From the binder, thirty-eight volumes. Total, eighteen hundred and eighty-six books, forty-one hundred and ninety-six pamphlets, one hundred and sixty-six volumes of newspapers, twenty-six lithographs, ten maps, six photographs and the other articles named. Mention is here made of some of the more important benefactions, following in each class the order of entry in the Book of Donations.

To Dr. William F. Poole, we are indebted for the third edition of his invaluable and indispensable *Index to Periodical Literature*. All scholars will thank him and his faithful associate-editor, Mr. William I. Fletcher, for their conscientious and laborious work. In this connection, an earnest appeal is made for additions to our collection of periodicals, as there are important gaps which should be filled. Dr. Haven's special call in October, 1871, was responded to by quick and large returns. Many of our friends were convinced that he said truly, "A thoroughly life-like and accurate history of a period, cannot be written

without an examination of its periodical literature." These words might well be inscribed upon our four alcoves of magazines. The stock of duplicate serials is very large and will doubtless help us to exchange in kind, with libraries, dealers and others. The funds of the society have not justified us in buying sets of magazines, but the Salisbury Binding Fund has enabled us to send volumes to the binder as fast as they were completed. Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Esq., has remembered our wants in Mexican and periodical literature, and especially by his valued and arduous labors in the preparation of what is modestly called "A Partial Index" to the First Series of the Society's Proceedings. Few persons can fully appreciate the difficulties attending the preparation of such a work, but in its completed form its value will be apparent to all. In a recent number of *The Nation*, a correspondent suggests that this business of indexing "is incomparable for teaching order, patience, humility, and for thoroughly eradicating the last trace of old Adam in whoever pursues it." As an increased demand for our Proceedings is sure to follow the publication of the Index, it is suggested that members who desire to complete their sets give timely notice, and that others who do not care to preserve their copies should turn them over to the society. It is quite possible that in this way some of the rarer numbers would reach us, and by their sale the Publishing Fund be materially increased. The remainder of Mr. Salisbury's edition of Aymé's "Notes on Mitla" has been deposited in the library. Hon. Samuel A. Green, M.D., whose gifts are so wide-spread, has supplied a new chapter in the history of Groton, bearing upon the witchcraft times, and has lessened the breaks in our collection of Boston City Documents. The mass of Washington material received from Hon. George F. Hoar required as usual the setting apart of a couple of days for its classification. Two excellent original daguerreotypes of members of the society have

also been presented by him. One is of Daniel Webster — who was elected in October, 1814, when he was residing at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and continued a member until his death in October, 1852 — the other of Rev. Alonzo Hill, D.D., a member for many years and Recording Secretary from 1865 to 1871. The gift of Charles A. Chase, Esq. includes many numbers of the *North American Review*, which will help to complete the fine set in numbers received from the family of the late Governor Lincoln. Hon. Francis H. Dewey sends a first instalment of books intended for the library; and Dr. George H. Moore a copy of the rare “*Memorials of the Graduates of Harvard University*,” published by his father in August, 1833, when in company with John Farmer. From Hon. Robert C. Winthrop we have received Canon Farrar’s sermon at the unveiling of the Raleigh Window, a memorial to which the Society contributed, as in so many other instances, through the liberality of its President. Admiral George H. Preble has added to the departments of history, biography and travel, contributions from his own pen. Hon. Stephen Salisbury, besides adding more of his reprints to our salesroom, and recent local histories, biographies and magazines to our shelves, has placed upon our walls a full size photographic fac-simile of Sebastian Cabot’s *Mappe-Monde*, which has been so learnedly discussed in our Proceedings by Rev. Dr. Hale, Dr. Deane and Col. Washburn. Permission to have a few copies of the latter taken from the original in the *Bibliothèque Nationale* was obtained by Hon. Robert C. Winthrop while in Paris last summer. An interesting volume on “*American Hero Myths, a study in the native religions of the western continent*,” has been received from the author, Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, who promises others on kindred subjects. It may not be generally known that his valuable manuscript collection includes that of our late associate, Dr. C. Hermann Berendt, for many years a careful student

of Mexican and Central American antiquities. Our Treasurer, Mr. Nathaniel Paine, contributes largely of such material as he so well knows we stand in need. Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington presents his "One and Twenty Years of a Massachusetts Rectorship," with his "Prayer Book and Common Prayer, a boundary question," and Hill's "History of the Church in Burlington, New Jersey"; and Rev. Dr. Egbert C. Smyth two pamphlets on the creeds of Andover Theological Seminary, with Cleveland and Packard's History of Bowdoin College. Mr. James F. Hunnewell has favored us with his carefully prepared Historical Sketch of the First Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Prof. Frederick W. Putnam sets the good example of placing a collection of his own publications upon our shelves; while Prof. Herbert B. Adams adds his Germanic Origin of New England Towns, with Freeman's Introduction to American Institutional History. These last named monographs comprise numbers one and two of a series to be designated the "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science," of which Professor Adams is to have the editorial supervision. Dr. George Chandler's donation of valuable pamphlets should not be forgotten. He has for many years examined every family and local history received at the library, with a view to culling therefrom items relating to the Chandlers. It will especially interest those who failed to secure any of the forty-one copies of his Chandler Genealogy, saved from the Boston fire of November, 1872, to know that a second edition, revised and enlarged, is now passing through the press. As Prof. Charles O. Thompson was in Paris at the time of Gambetta's death, he kindly remembered the society by forwarding the illustrated and other papers relating thereto. The society's faithful Recording Secretary continues to preserve for its use files of the leading insurance periodicals of America. Robert Clarke, Esq., furnishes from his press in Cincinnati a careful

reprint of what is now an exceedingly rare pamphlet, "John Leith's Short Biography, with a Brief Account of his Life among the Indians," to which Mr. C. W. Butterfield has added illustrative notes. Rev. Dr. Lucius R. Paige has given his exhaustive History of Hardwick, Mass., as a companion to his Cambridge, issued in 1877. A very full genealogical register makes a part of each work. The gift of Hon. Edward L. Davis indicates his continued interest in our departments of art and literature. It includes the marble bust of his father, the late Hon. Isaac Davis, made by Benjamin H. Kinney in 1856, which has now been placed in the Davis Spanish-American Alcove; two large Italian vases of alabaster, beautiful in design and workmanship; busts of Washington, Franklin, Lafayette, Shakespeare, Milton and Scott; a fac-simile of Billings's design for the Pilgrim monument at Plymouth; a framed engraving of White's "Signing of the Compact in the Cabin of the Mayflower;" Delamotte's views of the colleges, chapels and gardens of Oxford; and Sparks's Life and Writings of Washington. Seven volumes relating to Mexico and Central America and six volumes on South America, have been purchased for the Isaac Davis alcove. We are indebted to the late Holmes Ammidown, Esq., for a large map of St. Augustine, Florida, as it appeared fifty years ago. It was lithographed at his expense from the original drawing by the surveyor-general. Eighteen volumes, chiefly issues of the past few years, have been added to the Benjamin F. Thomas Local History alcove, which at present includes our English County Histories. To this latter invaluable collection we have added an occasional volume in the way of exchange, but it remains substantially the same as when Mr. Henry Stevens filled our President's order some twenty years ago. We should be very glad not to be obliged to refer members and visitors to other libraries for these county and kindred authorities not on our shelves. Mrs. Samuel F. Haven, Executrix, has

recently deposited in the Haven alcove two hundred and five volumes, comprising about one-fourth part of the valuable library of her late honored husband.

Among friends of the society, Mr. H. G. O. Blake has added to the library quite a large number of books, magazines and pamphlets, in recognition of a year's care of the Thoreau manuscripts. Capt. Albert A. Folsom has supplied some copies missing from our file of Ancient and Honorable Artillery Election Sermons, and has made earnest endeavors by correspondence and otherwise to still further complete the same. It may be proper to add that the Richardson sermon of June 10, 1675, which was "Reprinted by company vote 1839," has been found not to belong to this series. Mr. Caleb B. Metcalf makes his regular contribution of educational pamphlets, and Dr. Pliny Earle his usual gift of insane asylum reports, to be added to his collection. Mr. Charles R. Hildeburn sends his List of the Publications issued in Pennsylvania from 1685 to 1759. It is a valuable addition to the larger works of Messrs. Sabin and Haven, and the smaller ones, like that of Mr. Hunnewell. All are more or less imperfect, because some of the original publications cannot be found or accounted for. Already some cities and towns are making efforts to secure the early issues of their printing presses, a work exceedingly difficult and expensive because too long delayed. Mr. William W. Smith has left for our portfolio of town views, some drawings of the surroundings of Worcester Common, as they appeared to him early in the nineteenth century. The Gay family of Suffield, Connecticut, have for the sixtieth time forwarded their annual file of the Connecticut Courant; and Hon. John Wentworth a copy of Arnold's Historical Chicago. Mr. Ellis Van Voorhis has given us his clearly printed Tombstone Inscriptions from the Churchyard of the First Reformed Dutch Church, of Fishkill, New York; and Mr. Alvah H. Burrage his Genealogical History of the Descend-

ants of John Burrage. Hamilton Andrews Hill, Esq., has presented his privately printed Biography of Abbott Lawrence—a valued member of this society—largely extended from the memoir prepared by him for the New England Historic, Genealogical Society. Mrs. Edward Southwick has made a donation of some two hundred volumes from the library of her father, the late John Milton Earle of Worcester. Among them were found a few copies of Mr. Earle's exhaustive report on the Indians of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, made to Governor Andrew in 1861, while biography, horticulture and slavery are well represented in this valuable gift. Mrs. Maria Bullard Barton has added to our collection of manuscripts, for the especial use of the genealogist, a box of Bullard family papers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Such material should be carefully examined for strictly private papers before deposit, but should not be subject to withdrawal thereafter. At the suggestion of our friend, the Rev. Samuel May of Leicester, Mrs. Abby Kelley Foster has presented a file of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, from volume eight, 1847, to volume thirty, 1870, an appropriate companion for the *Liberator*, now very nearly complete upon our shelves. Prof. John B. McMaster, in remembrance of some weeks spent in the library last year, has sent the First volume of his *History of the People of the United States from the Revolution to the Civil War*, a pleasant reminder of Green's *History of the English People*. From this work it will readily be seen that our library, and especially the newspaper department, can furnish valuable material for the post-revolutionary as well as for the ante-revolutionary history of the United States. Col. Horatio C. King, Recording Secretary of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, in forwarding the last two reports of their Proceedings, to complete our set, promises to put the society on the permanent list of institutions to which the reports will be sent. Mr. G. D. Scull

of Oxford, England, mails to us, upon application, the two valuable Evelyn and Scott Genealogies, of which he modestly styles himself the editor. The first named is one of a small edition of a large work containing, among others, portraits of English officers in the War of the American Revolution. Accompanying the books was a note of thanks for the opportunity given to deposit them in the Genealogical alcove of the library. In November last, acting Secretary of State Hon. John Davis, offered to supply, from his department, Journals and Documents of Congress, for the past fifty years, provided the society would pay all expenses of selecting, packing and transporting the books, and furnish a list of wants within one week. In accordance with this offer we have received two hundred and seventy volumes at an expense of twenty-eight dollars.

Early in March there was sold in New York, by Messrs. George A. Leavitt and Co., the first part of the library of the late Mr. Joseph J. Cooke of Providence, Rhode Island. The society was represented by its Treasurer, Mr. Paine, and Mr. Colton, the Assistant-Librarian. By the terms of the will the society is allowed to bid off five thousand dollars' worth of books without charge; and of this amount about one-fifth was expended, the society receiving therefor four hundred and forty-two books, at an average cost of two dollars and fifteen cents a volume. The following roughly classified list will, perhaps, best indicate the enrichment:

- Poetry, seventy-six volumes;
- Periodicals, sixty-one volumes;
- English Literature, fifty-four volumes;
- Bibliography, forty-six volumes;
- History, forty-five volumes;
- Voyages and Travels, forty-three volumes;
- Biography, forty-one volumes;
- Bibles, twenty-three volumes;
- Science and Art, twelve volumes;
- Theology, ten volumes;
- Dictionaries, six volumes;

Masonry, three volumes;
Trials, two volumes;
Miscellaneous, twelve volumes;

Among the more noteworthy books acquired are the following: Macklin's edition of the Bible in seven volumes, folio, published in London in the year 1800, at seventy-three pounds sterling; seven volumes of Dibdin's rare works, namely, *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, four volumes, octavo, London, 1814, with its supplement *Aedes Althorpianæ*, in two volumes, octavo, London, 1822-23; and the Cassano Catalogue, octavo, London, 1823; Bohn's edition of Lowndes's *Bibliographer's Manual of English Literature*, six volumes, octavo, London, 1864; Johnson's *Works of the English Poets*, seventy-five volumes, duodecimo, London, 1790; and Lodge's *Peerage and Baronetage*, octavo, London, 1860. We have reason to be entirely satisfied with the result of the sale. The New Jersey Historical Society sends volume six of *Documents relating to the Colonial History of New Jersey*; and the State of New Hampshire volume eleven of her publications in the same line; the latter treating especially of the *towns* of the Granite State. The centennial volume of the *Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*; the *First Annual Report of the United States Bureau of Ethnology*; and the *Fourth volume of the Reprint of the Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay*, are very acceptable and valuable contributions. By the closing of several exchange accounts, the material received from this productive field has been greatly increased. Among other works obtained, are those of George Finlay, LL.D., for thirty-eight years a member of this society, in Greece. It may be noted as an interesting fact that in the earliest of these, "*Greece under the Romans*," printed at Edinburgh in 1844, he honors himself, as well as the society, by placing under his name, on the neat title page, "Member of the American Antiquarian Society and Corresponding

Member of the Archæological Institute at Rome." Duplicates accumulate rapidly, and unless put upon the market more freely, some suitable provision for their storage must be devised. Some extra volumes of bound newspapers have lately been disposed of, but the attic avenues are still lined with the unbound newspapers of New England and the Middle States. These are for the most part geographically and chronologically arranged, and are available for any cities or towns desirous of securing material in this form, for their history. Much time and hard labor have been spent upon them. It should be borne in mind that we have the remainders of the editions of some rare, early books, for example, among others, Whitney's History of Worcester County, Mass., octavo, Worcester, 1793, and Lincoln and Baldwin's Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal, two volumes, octavo, Worcester, 1825-26. Attention is called to the fact that in nearly every large lot of books received, we find some whose pages are badly defaced by having been used for pressing leaves and flowers, the texture, in some cases, having been nearly destroyed. At a recent hearing before the Committee on Education, in reference to the further legislation for the protection of libraries, the society was represented by your Librarian. The bill in which we are especially interested provides a penalty for "whoever wilfully, maliciously or wantonly and without cause, writes upon, injures, defaces, tears or destroys a book, plate, picture, engraving, map, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, manuscript or statue belonging to a law, town, city or other incorporated library." Our associate, Mr. Samuel S. Green of Worcester, and Mr. William B. Clarke of Boston, have been active in securing this much needed protection.

Whenever the Publishing Fund shall be so increased as to allow the reprinting of the second volume of the Society's Transactions, now about out of print, the propriety of offering the first six volumes to libraries at a

large discount, that we may have regular subscribers for the succeeding volumes, should be seriously considered.

It may not be amiss at the present time to offer a very few words with regard to the present condition and future prospects of the society's cabinet of curiosities. In 1868 Messrs. Stephen Salisbury, Jr., and William A. Smith arranged in two upright cases a general collection of Indian stone implements, with specimens from the Western mounds, and printed a catalogue of the same. Our careful Treasurer has protected the coins and medals, in two cases standing in the North lobby adjoining the office and in the main hall. The other cabinet material, a portion of which has been catalogued, is unarranged, and to some extent inaccessible. Though an historic painter has occasionally sketched an Indian blanket or Hawaiian dress, the collection is practically useless. It is clear that our Founder, Dr. Thomas, intended to establish a cabinet and a library, hoping that both would be helpful here to the student of history. It might, however, be worthy of consideration whether some of this material which is particularly liable to decay, should not be sent, in a fair exchange, to the great National Museum at Washington, or to the hardly less celebrated Peabody Museum at Cambridge. A large number of geological and other specimens were many years ago transferred to the Worcester Lyceum and Natural History Association, and, in 1876, the exsiccated Indian from Kentucky, commonly known as the mummy, was sent on exchange account to the Smithsonian Institution.

Copies of the *New England Home Journal* for February second, 1883, containing an interesting illustrated article upon the society and its library, have been mailed to all members and corresponding societies, at the request of the President. The account was carefully prepared, and includes an excellent cut of the society's building in its present condition.

A short plea is offered to authors, publishers and printers,

for greater care in dating, not only books and pamphlets, but newspapers and handbills. Even reprints from our own Proceedings have escaped from the press not only without the society's name, but with no date of publication. Upon the exterior of some of the newspapers of the late war, this important information has not been found, and large numbers of sale catalogues, which we would like to arrange chronologically, are issued with only the day of the week and the day of the month, as if, with the two facts stated, we ought easily to guess the third.

Under the By-Laws of 1831 the library was for fifty years open from nine until twelve and from two until five o'clock, but under the new Rules and Regulations the Library Committee are authorized to fix the hours of opening and closing. Although no action has been taken by them, it has been found desirable gradually to extend the time, for the especial benefit of scholars and others from a distance, until now the regular hours are from nine in the forenoon to five in the afternoon.

In our work upon Sabin's Dictionary of Books relating to America many early tracts upon our catalogue were found not marked as in the library, and as a consequence the titles could not be verified and extended. Dr. Haven's solution of the problem was that a portion of the printed catalogue was made up from Dr. Thomas's lists, and that some of the pamphlets failed to reach the library. Twenty-two volumes containing about one hundred and fifty of these titles have been discovered and the proper shelf entries made.

Antiquarian Hall has always been known as a pleasant, well-filled retreat for scholars, but not often as a place from which to send out for information. The latter use of the Hall has lately been tested for a member of the Council who desired facts with regard to certain laws of the various States. Letters were addressed to all the Secretaries of State, and prompt answers received from all but one, in

which case one of our members obtained the information desired.

As a society we have completed three-score years and ten of quiet, unpretending usefulness. Bearing this in mind, may we not hope that with increased facilities and an active membership its future record will be not less satisfactory than its past.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

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.