

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The Librarian takes great pleasure in reporting a marked increase in the use of the library during the past six months, with accessions from an average number of donors. Thus our President's words of last April have been reaffirmed, viz. : "That the use of our collections by scholars and students continues to grow, and the large number of gifts from others than members shows conclusively that the opportunity freely afforded for consultation is appreciated and gratefully recognized." Let me add that while this growth appears to have been slow, it has been both healthful and continuous.

Our attention is often called to the abundance of misstatements and misquotations in printed publications, including those from manuscripts and even from monumental inscriptions. The perpetuation of these blunders is sometimes far-reaching, like those handed down from generation to generation, through encyclopaedias and biographical dictionaries. By way of illustrating the latter class, I may be allowed to correct an error in one of our standard dictionaries of American biography, as it relates to a deceased member. In a very concise and otherwise truthful notice of the late Hon. Charles Allen, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, the closing sentence reads : "Allen's reports make fourteen volumes (1861-8)," evidently confounding him with Charles Allen now one of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, who was the author of those reports. It is thus true that history upon her printed page is not always trustworthy ; and it need hardly be added that some of her omissions

are also especially trying to the genealogist and biographer. The fact is of course recognized that errors in the copying of early manuscripts are not uncommon, and that in deciphering the chirography of some of the early fathers of New England, they are well-nigh unavoidable. An American librarian, who has not read our President's paper on "Early Books and Libraries," acknowledges the receipt of a copy of Livy, printed at Basle, Switzerland, in 1535, adding that "It is supposed to be the oldest printed book in America, except the celebrated Gutenberg Bible of 1457, purchased by Mr. Brayton Ives of New York for \$15,000." I need hardly remark in this presence that we should have little tangible proof that "the art of printing was perfected almost as soon as it was conceived," but for our numerous fifteenth and sixteenth century specimens, issued from thirty-five to sixty-five years before the Livy mentioned, and which are exhibited in our cases and upon our shelves.

To further illustrate: This month's issue of the Magazine of American History, contains an interesting article by Hon. Horatio King, entitled "A Boston Newspaper of the Revolution, 1778," from which I quote the opening and closing paragraphs. It begins: "Through the favor of Mrs. Mary E. H. Stebbins, well known in the literary world of fifty years ago, as Mary E. Hewett, author of a volume of poems—now over eighty years of age—I have in my possession a Revolutionary relic of curious interest, a newspaper, with the significant heading, *The Independent Chronicle and the Universal Advertiser*, Thursday, June 11, 1778, Massachusetts-State, Boston: printed by Powars and Willis, opposite the new Court House." The closing paragraphs of Mr. King's article follow: "With one other domestic incident we will close this brief description. T. & J. Fleet, Cornhill, offer for sale the second edition of Mr. Fiske's sermon on the tragical death of Mr. Joshua Spooner (who was lately barbarously murdered at Brook-

field by three ruffians, hired for that purpose by his wife), preached on the day of his interment, from 2d Samuel III: 34. *As a man fallest before wicked men so fallest thou.* Alluding to this, Mrs. Stebbins writes: My mother told us of the execution of the woman and her ruffians who were British officers. They were hung on Boston Common—the woman in white satin, between two of the men. Mr. Spooner's body was found in a well where they had thrown him. In those days parents used to send their children to see the men hung, and my grandmother sent all her children to witness the impressing ceremony." Mr. King adds: "Is there in any public or private library a copy of Mr. Fiske's sermon?" The first paragraph is given merely as showing the authority for the concluding ones, which, according to contemporary authorities, contain the following errors. First: The text of Mr. Fiske's sermon is misquoted from the *Chronicle*, which gives it correctly according to the King James version, viz.: "As a man falleth before wicked men so fellest thou." Second: The statement that the ruffians were British officers needs careful revision,—according to a pamphlet of the period, entitled "The Lives, Last Words and Dying Speech of Ezra Ross, James Buchanan and William Brooks." It begins: "I, James Buchanan, was a lieutenant in the army under General Burgoyne, born at Glasgow, in Scotland, aged 36 years. I, William Brooks was a private in said army, born in the Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, in England, aged 27." Ezra Ross signs the document, adding, "A Continental soldier, born at Ipswich in the Parish of Lyndebrook (New England), aged 18." The reply to the assertion that the murderers were executed on Boston Common may be safely drawn from *The Massachusetts Spy or American Oracle of Liberty*, issued at Worcester, July 9, 1778, which notes the fact that "Last Thursday (July 2) were executed here for the murder of Mr. Joshua Spooner at Brookfield on

the evening of the first of March last, James Buchanan, William Brooks, Ezra Ross and Bathsheba Spooner, wife to said Joshua. Upon which occasion, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Maccarty of this place from Deut. xix 13: Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel that it may go well with thee." A later authority is Lincoln's History of Worcester published in 1837, which records under executions "1778, July 2, William Brooks, James Buchanan, Ezra Ross and Bathsheba Spooner for the murder of Joshua Spooner of Brookfield," adding, "As Worcester has been the seat of the courts of justice, these dreadful exhibitions have taken place here." It will not be necessary to deny that the grandmother sent all her children to Boston Common to witness "the impressing ceremony," for the greater denial includes the less. If in those days parents used to send their children "to see the men hung" we may be thankful that this is not the eighteenth but the nineteenth century. Two editions of the sermon on "The guilt of innocent blood put away," preached on the day of execution by Thaddeus Maccarty, A. M., pastor of the church in Worcester, and the first edition of that preached on the day of the interment of Mr. Joshua Spooner by Nathan Fiske, A. M., pastor of the third church in Brookfield are preserved in this Library with all the other authorities herein mentioned.

Once more: For the past thirty-two years it has been repeatedly affirmed, and perhaps as frequently denied, that this Society at one time, viz. in 1856, possessed the first edition of Mother Goose's Melodies, said to have been printed by Thomas Fleet in 1719 at his printing-house in Pudding Lane, Boston. It has been suggested by a member of our Council that an authorized denial of this statement should be made in the librarian's report, and thus the matter be put to rest so far at least as this Society is concerned. Dr. Haven was clearly

of the opinion that no such book had ever been upon our shelves and your present librarian after a second careful examination of all our material of this class, fragmentary or otherwise, as well as the newspapers of the period, fully agrees with him. In point of fact, our earliest edition of Mother Goose is a 24mo. of ninety-four pages, printed by Isaiah Thomas at Worcester about 1786-87. The title-page is imperfect but the work is advertised as "Mother Goose's Melody; or Sonnets for the Cradle. In two parts. Part 1st Contains the most celebrated Songs and Lullabies of the old British nurses, Calculated to amuse Children and to excite to Sleep. Part 2d of Wit and Humor, Master William Shakespeare. Embellished with Cuts and illustrated with Notes and Maxims, Historical, Philosophical and Critical." For further light upon this whole question reference may be had to the following authorities: Noted Names of Fiction, Pseudonyms, etc. by William Adolphus Wheeler; Mother Goose's Melodies published by Hurd and Houghton in 1870 containing an essay by "G. A. R."¹ to prove that the title was given by the publisher Fleet in 1719; The New England Historical and Genealogical Register of 1873 in which volume appear articles upon the subject by Messrs. William H. Whitmore, John A. Lewis, George Lunt and John Fleet Eliot, great-great-grandson of Elizabeth Foster Goose; Sewall's Diary, volume 4; Boston Athenæum Library catalogue, volume 3; Memorial History of Boston, volume 2; and American Notes and Queries, volume 1, number 2 (May 12, 1888). In the Thomas-Haven list of Ante-Revolutionary publications the title appears under the year 1719, followed by a query and a reference to the Register of April, 1873, page 144, and is as follows: "Songs for the Nursery, or Mother Goose's Melodies, for Children, Boston, T. Fleet." As the latest statement of

¹ Guilielmus Adolphus Rotator, *i. e.* William Adolphus Wheeler above mentioned.

the case—viz. : that in Notes and Queries—seems a fair one, let me quote a few paragraphs from it.

“In the record of marriages in the City Registrar’s office in Boston, may be found this entry :

Thomas Fleet
Eliz’th Goose
Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather, Presby’
June 8, 1715.

Now Elizabeth Goose was the oldest daughter of a lady née Elizabeth Foster, who had married July 5, 1692, into a famous Colonial family originally known as Vertigoose, changed afterwards to Vergoose, and finally shortened to Goose. Thomas Fleet was a printer, an Englishman who had emigrated to Boston in 1712, and started a printing-house in Pudding Lane. So much is fact, not legend. In 1719, it is said, there appeared from his printing-press a book with the following title: ‘Songs for the Nursery, or Mother Goose’s Melodies for Children. Printed by T. Fleet at his printing-house, Pudding Lane, 1719. Price two Coppers.’ A rude drawing of a goose with a very long neck and wide open mouth, adorned the title-page. Here we begin to tread on dubious ground. No copy of this book is now known to be in existence. Bibliomaniacs have explored every clue and failed to find it. The authority for the circumstantial description of the title page is given in G. A. R.’s edition of *Mother Goose*, Boston, 1869. About the year 1856, a gentleman of Boston,¹ a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, while examining a file of old newspapers in the library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, came across a dilapidated copy of the original edition of *Mother Goose’s Melodies*. Not more than twelve or fifteen pages were left, but as the price was only two coppers it is not probable that there were many more. Being in search of other matter he merely took note of the title and general condition and character of the work, intending to make a further examination of it at another time. Whether he ever did so is not known. His health being impaired he soon after went to Europe, where he remained for many months. G. A. R. goes on to say that he

¹ Mr. Edward A. Crowninshield.

became acquainted with these and other facts after the gentleman's death in 1859, and made a protracted search for the book or for any notice of it in the newspapers of the time, but without success. As to the fact that the gentleman referred to discovered an imperfect copy of the *Editio Princeps* he insists that there can be no doubt. Well, evidence of this sort is absolutely valueless and would be ruled out of any court of law. It is not quite certain that Fleet was in Pudding Lane in 1719. Either in 1713 or 1731 (the former date is favored by Winsor's History of Boston), he removed his business to Cornhill. According to an ancient account-book preserved in the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Daniel Henchman, a Colonial book-seller, published in 1719 a volume of Verses for Children, which may have been the book attributed to Fleet."

It should be added, that my researches indicate that the date of Fleet's removal to Cornhill was probably 1731, as Thomas gives it in his History of Printing, and not 1713, as stated in the Memorial History of Boston. He certainly printed Cotton Mather's "Sober Sentiments" in Pudding Lane in 1722, and his "Balance of the Sanctuary" was "printed and sold by T. Fleet in Pudding Lane near the Town-House, 1727." Both of these tracts are in our Mather collection. The Boston News-Letter of June 30, 1726, advertises as just published, "Some Account of the Condition to which the Protestant Interest in the World is at this day reduced," etc., as sold by T. Fleet in Pudding Lane.

The present interest in everything which pertains to folklore as well as a desire to correct an error while furnishing an illustration, will, I trust, sufficiently excuse this extended reference. I append the following suggestive letter written since the October meeting, by our associate Dr. Langley and which needs no explanation:—

“ WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 3, 1888.

DEAR MR. HALE:

You may like to know that when in the Bodleian two months ago, I found two copies of 'Mother

Goose's Melody,' one 32mo. the other 12mo. London, 'printed and sold by John Marshall;' which, as far as an extremely hasty examination went seemed to be identical with our New England 'Mother Goose's Melodies.' I found no date but Mr. Spofford here, informs me that John Marshall was a London publisher and bookseller as early as 1696, and continued until 1706 or later.

I do not recall the date assigned the mythical copy of a New England "Mother Goose," said to have been once in the Worcester Library; but as I remember, it was well on in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Does not the existence of this Bodleian copy create strong presumptive evidence against the New England origin?

Yours most sincerely,

S. P. LANGLEY.

The Reverend E. E. Hale."

The value of contemporary history has recently been further indicated by the use of our early literature bearing upon the history of Kansas and the New England Emigrant Aid Society's connection therewith; and again by the use of the proceedings of the Women's Rights Conventions. A renewal of thanks to Rev. Dr. Hale and Col. Higginson would not perhaps be out of order even thirty years after the first acknowledgment of these gifts. As personal knowledge of the library and thus of its needs suggested these ante-rebellion presentations, so may it well do in these latter days.

It is always possible that a public-spirited citizen who sees with the eye of faith the coming public library, will even take advance steps in its interest. In this we have no less an example than our ex-President who for years securely held a nineteenth century file of our founder's paper that it might become the property of the Worcester Free Public Library. As our country is presently to become thickly dotted with public libraries, our members may fairly expect to be called upon to render intelligent service in this most important department of education,

and thus earn at least the gratitude of posterity. In assisting to build these libraries for the people, may we not also help to bring about the good time when public library and free public library will be synonymous terms? They are not necessarily so now. For instance, while the Public Library of Boston and the Free Public Library of Worcester are equally free, the St. Louis Public Library is not so. A recent magazine article says that "In St. Louis there are two hundred and forty-one churches and no Free Public Library." This is strictly true, for while the Boston Public Library is free, the terms of membership in the St. Louis Public Library are "For all residents of St. Louis \$1.00 for four months; \$2.00 a year. Life membership \$12.00."¹ These brief remarks may properly be considered supplementary to some suggestions in the same line made in my report of October, 1886.

Before submitting the usual library statistics, I shall be pardoned if in my retrospect of fifty years I venture to quote briefly from the first report of my predecessor, which was made in October, 1838, but not printed. It will remind us all of his irrepressible wit as well as of the great increase in the number of gifts to the library. Mr. Haven said in that report, "The additions to the library and general collections during the past six months consist of between three and four hundred pamphlets, about fifty bound volumes and fifteen or twenty articles of curiosity, besides many files more or less perfect of newspapers." He adds that "Besides the actual donations, the librarian mentions with satisfaction that a respectable number of promises have been bestowed, the results of which may appear in a future report." Verily our friend dearly-beloved was "a good receiver" even of promises!

The printed list of accessions shows that we have received by gift from two hundred and fourteen sources, viz. : from forty members, ninety-two persons not members and

¹ The Library is now free for reference.

eighty-two societies and institutions—three hundred and twenty-books; forty-four hundred and thirty-seven pamphlets; one hundred and twelve volumes of unbound newspapers; one framed and one hundred and twelve unframed portraits; twenty-nine maps; twenty-seven photographs; two volumes of manuscripts; one coin; one medal and one hundred and eighty-nine fac-similes of paper money, autographs, proclamations, etc. By exchange, seventy-eight books; and one hundred and three pamphlets; and from the binders ninety-five volumes, making the total accessions of the half-year, four hundred and ninety-five books; forty-five hundred and forty-three pamphlets; one hundred and twelve volumes of unbound newspapers; and the other articles above written. I desire to make special mention of a few—and of but a few—suggestive gifts. A fine copy of the portrait of “Henry Laurens in the Tower,” by Copley, recently purchased by our government, is the gift of Vice-President Hoar. Prof. William F. Allen indicates his acceptance of active membership by forwarding several of his recent historical brochures. Hon. James V. Campbell with a continuation of the series of Michigan Pioneer Collections, presents the interesting genuine and spurious editions of *Scaligerana*, of 1667. Henry W. Taft, Esq., has remembered our newspaper room by sending thereto a collection relating to the war of the Rebellion. The first supplement to Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature has been received from the author immediately upon its publication. While cabinet photographs have been contributed to our members’ album by Dr. George E. Francis and Messrs. Samuel S. Green and Reuben Colton, our treasurer, Mr. Paine, has added to our general Collection many specimens of his own work in the photographic art. Mr. Robert Clarke has made us a gift of valuable Ohio Centennial material and Rev. Dr. Edward E. Hale has sent from his study a mass of benevolent and educational society reports. Dr. Justin Winsor’s contribution of portraiture and other

illustrations from his latest and largest work will be of special service in our classified portfolios. The value of manuscripts of a minor character appears in the gift of *St. John's Echo* from the Librarian. In its issue of last February, he printed two private letters dated October 2 and December 13, 1835, from Hon. Ira M. Barton to his brother-in-law, Rev. Lot Jones, D.D., which give the long-sought information as to the circumstances attending the introduction of the Protestant Episcopal Church into Worcester. All such letters should be carefully preserved in repositories like our own. Rev. George F. Clark, in recognition of service rendered in its preparation, places upon our shelves his *History of the Temperance Reform in Massachusetts, 1873-1883*; and Dr. Pliny Earle adds to his semi-annual contributions his "Ralph Earle and his Descendants." Seven volumes of his *Shakesperiana* have been forwarded to us by Mr. James O. Halliwell-Phillipps—whose lamented death has occurred since this report was written—at the suggestion of Mr. Benjamin F. Stevens. Among the periodicals received from our binders, the Wesby Brothers, were numbers in duplicate which completed a set of the *Worcester Acadeeme* for the school in whose interest it is published. At the request of Mr. Royal Paine we have received from Messrs. Macdonald and Williams, publishers of the Putnam (Conn.) *Patriot*, twenty-three numbers of their paper, comprising about as many columns of Woodstock Ancient Records. They contain lists of marriages from the settlement of the town, April 9, 1690, to December 1, 1780, and of baptisms from June 29, 1727, to May, 1834. Such work is creditable to all concerned and should be in every way and everywhere encouraged. Mr. Caleb B. Metcalf's donation includes his Records, 1846-1856, as Master of the Boys' English School, later known as the Thomas Street Grammar School. They are of real historic value and have been examined with much interest by the Worcester boys of that period. The Ames Free Library

Bulletin was curiously enough addressed to our hard-working Librarian and cataloguer of 1827-30 and 1831-35, Christopher C. Baldwin, who died more than fifty-three years ago! A clearance of pamphlets and newspapers not especially desirable for a public library has been given to us at the request of Miss Sarah F. Earle, by the Trustees of the Grafton Public Library. I desire to give thanks for the classified and descriptive book-sale and other catalogues received, which are always to us as they must be to other busy librarians real labor-savers. The receipt of a most useful catalogue of the Sunday School Library of the Second Church, Worcester, prepared as a labor of love by a daughter of our late lamented councillor, Dr. Joseph Sargent, has called our attention to one of the very best of its kind. It may well serve as a sample for many another of the same class. The first number of his "Mail Book Auction Catalogue—patent applied for"—a strictly new arrangement for the disposing of books, has been received from a North-western correspondent. The following paragraph states the plan: "The books will be shipped to the first bidder if the offer proves acceptable, otherwise the bids will be filed and the books kept for four weeks for competition or offers which may arrive during this period, after which time they will be sent without reserve to the highest bidder." It is a bit of history in the art of book-selling and book-buying which it seems well to note.

The Librarian has lately been reminded, by the arrival of certain publications, of the importance of clear title-pages that neither the reader nor the card cataloguer may be in doubt as to the authorship, etc. I refer to such titles as these, which to say the least are somewhat ambiguous: "The Bishop's Address, A. D. 1884, Diocese of Albany." "Thirty-first Anniversary of the Salem-Street Church. By the Pastor." "Addresses by the Bishop of Central New York." "Everlasting Punishment attended with

Everlasting Decay. A Discourse. By a Congregational Pastor." And "Live Soberly: a Sermon preached to the First Church in Brookline. By the Pastor." In such cases, if the date be given, we may with slight trouble find the good Bishop's name, but if no date appears, we are truly on a sea of doubt as to what Bishop, which pastor, or even the place to which an acknowledgment should be sent. Such excessive modesty may be highly creditable, but it is certainly very confusing.

It was Dr. Haven's habit when the accessions were — as at this time — less than usual, to draw upon his own private library, so that a fair growth might always be reported. This privilege has often been taken of late years by our President and ex-President. It is interesting to note the early method of collecting material for the Society, as it appears in the "communication" from the President, October 24, 1814. He says, "Articles intended to be presented to the library or museum of the American Antiquarian Society, may be lodged at No. 6 Marlborough Street, Boston, where they will be received, carefully attended to, and forwarded to the librarian and cabinet keeper. James Wilkinson, Esq., of Providence, will also receive articles presented to the Society. Magazines, newspapers, almanacks, or any books published in the country, especially such as were early printed in North and South America, or the Westindia Islands, will be very acceptable to the Society." Possibly the scattered members needed a second call to duty, for in "the address to members," in March, 1819, receiving officers were named for Massachusetts, Old Colony, District of Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Louisiana, and the statement was volunteered — true now as then — that "Many of the articles were presented by gentlemen not members of the Institution." As a sample of the quality of the collectors

it may be mentioned that one of the representatives in New York State was the Hon. DeWitt Clinton.

I venture to make a parenthetical suggestion, more especially to my brother librarians, to the effect that the sending of small parcels long distances by express when the same may be forwarded as safely and at less expense by mail should be vigorously discouraged. The unhappy custom which prevails in at least one State document room of allowing the express to pay a small sum for the doing up of each bundle, and then to collect of the receiver, is another small matter, too small, in fact, for any State or municipal government to countenance.

It has been suggested that from time to time short lists of our wants should appear in the body of the Librarian's report, and it seems possible that good may result from a step in this direction. We shall be very glad to secure any of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company's Election sermons for the following years to complete our set, viz.: 1660 (1672 is imperfect), 1676, 1691, 1695, 1698, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1704, 1705, 1708, 1720, 1737, 1748, 1765 (1767 is imperfect), 1788, 1795, 1830 and 1851. Capt. Albert A. Folsom has continued his interest in our behalf, so that we now have one of the best sets in existence.

We lack volume 5 of the Narragansett Club publications and can supply volume 1. Of the Hakluyt Society volumes we need all after 48; and of *The Dial* of Chicago we desire the numbers for October, 1882, and January 1883, with the title-page and index to volume 3. A *Worcester Palladium* for October 12, 1836, will make entire our file of that paper. Any numbers of the *Boston Daily Whig* are desired. To complete *The Liberator* we want 1831, February 5 and 12 (January 15, February 26, March 26, April 9, and June 11 are imperfect), 1834, March 22 (February 22 and November 1 are imperfect), and 1848, September 22.

The following is a list of missing numbers in our file of

the *Boston News-Letter*, 37-70 (71 is imperfect), 76-80, 87, 90-140, 144-167, 189, 194-206, 220-256, 259-381, 383-387, 393-399, 405-415, 442-453, 455-466, 495-515, 517, 518, 521-558, 572-578, 581-584, 598-606, 608-610, 614-620, 629-634, 637-639, 643-645, 649-656, 689-691, 693-720, 723-725, 727-763, 765-768, 774-783, 785-789, 791-793, 807-809, 811-815, 817-820, 823, 826-833, 837-863. It will be understood that the dash indicates that we wish the numbers named and all between.

Among our wants should be included any books formerly owned by Richard, Increase, Cotton or others of the Mather family. We own so many of the working tools of the early Mathers that it would seem desirable that all these tools should be gathered into our Mather alcove as a memorial of their scholarship. The books are usually indicated by their autographs which are frequently in latin. It is quite well known that original portraits of the three above named members of the family as well as of two of the Samuels have for many years been the property of the Society and that our collection of their own works is one of the very best. I further wish at this time to make an urgent appeal for church music, early and late, to be added to our collection, already large and rare. Even before the musical library of Mr. Oliver Holden was sent us by some Charlestown friend, we had numerous specimens made from copper-plates, the early typographically printed music and many later products of the musical press. The unknown donor of the Holden Library may be glad to learn that by it we were enabled to answer some important questions for use by Rev. Dr. Henry S. Burrage in a biographical sketch of its owner.

The arrival in America of the historical library of Leopold Von Ranke, is worthy of mention. Chancellor Lewis of Syracuse University is authority for the statement that it will there be furnished with fire-proof quarters, and be made as useful as possible to the American scholar. As a national body we should be especially grateful for every

such addition to our rapidly increasing library wealth. It may be questioned whether it is better to keep such a library wholly together, but it will be generally agreed that it should, at least, be under one administration.

It seems proper occasionally to remind our members and friends that scarcely anything they are likely to send us will come amiss. One of our careful and industrious historians, in the preparation of an article upon the early paper makers of Worcester County, recently made good use of the manufacturers' water-marks upon the unprinted pages kindly given us for use in the repairing of books or pamphlets requiring old or discolored paper. Our large collection of arithmetics was examined, the past season, by a distinguished mathematician, who was seeking information as to the history and progress of such text-books. Let us remember that collectors as wise as Messrs. George Brinley and George Livermore did not ignore even this class of books. One of our latest calls for what would ordinarily be thought worthless has been for a collection of the art sale catalogues of the past twenty-five years for use in tracing an artist and the person portrayed, and thus settling important points in dispute. These examples once more enforce the truth of the statement that a library of American history can hardly be too inclusive. It should always be a trial to the custodian of such a library to be obliged to give a negative answer to a call for any authority, old or new, however trivial, remembering always the saying of Dr. Holmes that "old books are the books of the world's youth and new books are the fruits of its age." The following from the *Library Journal* of July, 1887, bears directly upon this subject, and, while it may be too strongly stated, contains food for reflection. The editor says: "We believe in having one library in the world where all literature, so far as it can be brought together, shall be kept, not for reading, but for reference. In that place and for that purpose it does not matter whether the literature is

valuable or worthless from the point of view of a newspaper writer or anybody else. The object to be attained is that anybody at any time shall be able to find anything that has once been printed, which for any reason he desires to see. This object is defeated if any part of the books which come into the repository are carried off to be read to pieces in popular libraries."

On the 26th day of April last your librarian read a second paper before the Columbia College Library School, taking, this time, for his general subject, "Minor Topics in Library Economy." As it was to some extent the recitation of those practical lessons learned under a good master in Antiquarian Hall during the years 1866-1881, the bare fact is here mentioned.

The following contribution to the literature of slavery in Massachusetts was found carefully bound with our file of the *New England Weekly Journal* for 1737, and has been transferred to the alcove of Slavery and Rebellion. The endorsement thereon—which is in the hand-writing of Chief Justice Sewall—reminds one of Mr. Weeden's statement in his paper upon The Early African Slave-Trade in New England, read at our meeting last October, that "even Cotton Mather employed his negro servant." It is as follows: "Left at my house for me when I was not at home, by Spaniard, Dr. Mather's Negro: March 23, 1714." I do not find that this document has seen the light in any other form, and therefore reproduce it as exactly as possible. The text follows:—

R U L E S

For the Society of

NEGROES. 1693.

WE the Miserable Children of *Adam*, and of *Noah*, thankfully Admiring and Accepting the Free-Grace of GOD, that Offers to Save us from our Miseries, by the Lord Jesus Christ, freely Resolve, with His Help, to become the Servants of that Glorious LORD.

And that we may be Assisted in the Service of our *Heavenly Master*, we now Join together in a SOCIETY, wherein the following RULES are to be observed.

- I. It shall be our Endeavour, to Meet in the *Evening* after the *Sabbath*; and *Pray* together by Turns, one to Begin, and another to Conclude the Meeting; And between the two *Prayers*, a *Psalms* shall be Sung, and a *Sermon* Repeated.
- II. Our coming to the Meeting, shall never be without the *Leave* of such as have Power over us: And we will be Careful, that our Meeting may Begin and Conclude between the Hours of *Seven* and *Nine*; and that we may not be *unseasonably Absent* from the Families whereto we pertain.
- III. As we will, with the Help of God, at all Times avoid all *Wicked Company*, so we will Receive none into our Meeting, but such as have sensibly *Reformed* their lives from all manner of Wickedness. And therefore, None shall be Admitted, without the Knowledge and Consent of the *Minister* of God in this Place; unto whom we will also carry every Person, that seeks for *Admission* among us; to be by Him Examined, Instructed and Exhorted.
- IV. We will, as often as may be, Obtain some Wise and Good Man, of the *English* in the Neighbourhood, and especially the Officers of the Church, to look in upon us, and by their Presence and Council, do what they think fitting for us.
- V. If any of our Number, fall into the Sin of *Drunkness*, or *Swearing*, or *Cursing*, or *Lying*, or *Stealing*, or notorious *Disobedience* or *Unfaithfulness* unto their Masters, we will *Admonish* him of his Miscarriage, and Forbid his coming to the Meeting, for at least *one Fortnight*; And except he then come with great Signs and Hopes of his *Repentance*, we will utterly exclude him, with Blotting his *Name* out of our List.
- VI. If any of our Society Defile himself with *Fornication*, we will give him our *Admonition*; and so, debar him from the Meeting, at least *half a Year*: Nor shall he Return to it, ever any more, without Exemplary Testimonies of his becoming a *New Creature*.
- VII. We will, as we have Opportunity, set our selves to do all the Good we can, to the other *Negro-Servants* in the Town; And if any of them should, at unfit Hours, be *Abroad*, much more, if any of them should *Run away* from their Masters, we will afford them *no Shelter*: But we will do what in us lies, that they may be discovered, and punished. And if any of us, are found Faulty, in this Matter, they shall be no longer of us.
- VIII. None of our Society shall be *Absent* from our Meeting, without giving a *Reason* of the Absence; And if it be found, that any have pretended unto their *Owners*, that they came unto the *Meeting*, when they were otherwise and elsewhere

Employ'd, we will faithfully *Inform* their Owners, and also do what we can to Reclaim such Person from all such Evil Courses for the Future.

- IX. It shall be expected from every one in the Society, that he learn the *Catechism*; And therefore, it shall be one of our usual Exercises, for one of us, to ask the *Questions*, and for all the rest in their Order, to say the *Answers* in the *Catechism*; Either, The *New-English* Catechism, or the *Assemblies* Catechism, or the Catechism in the *Negro Christianized*.

Before closing, let me call your attention to the fact that to-morrow, October 23d, two of our most distinguished associates, honored alike for their faithfulness to this Society, and to all duties, public and private, will have served us for half a century. Their names will readily occur to you as the first two on our list of members, viz. : the Honorable George Bancroft, and the Honorable Robert Charles Winthrop. It may be proper to add that their friend and ours — Samuel Foster Haven — was elected to membership at the same time.

It has been my privilege to present for your consideration five consecutive reports as Assistant-Librarian in charge, in addition to the brief reports made in Dr. Haven's absence; and the present is the twelfth since my promotion to the librarian's chair. In their preparation I have tried to have in view a definite purpose: with an earnest desire first of all to forward, in a suggestive way, the work of the Society. It need hardly be added that the second wish has been to honor the profession of my choice by giving all possible aid and comfort to my fellow-librarians, now so happily associated in their honorable calling and in their abundant labors.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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