

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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THE present report contains a statement of some of the more important work done in connection with the library since the last meeting, an acknowledgment of certain gifts of special value either in themselves or for what they suggest, the library statistics, a few references which may be pertinent to the occasion, and the usual list of donors and donations.

In the report of the Council of April 25, 1866, Mr. Paine says: "The Council would also suggest that at as early a date as possible, measures be taken to have classified, arranged and catalogued the very valuable manuscripts and autograph letters now in the library of this Society. There are many of great value and rarity; but at present they are not in an available condition for the purposes of study and reference." It is my privilege to announce that at the charge of the Alden Fund this work, so much and so long desired, has been practically accomplished by Miss Webb, of the library staff, under the more immediate supervision of Mr. Colton, assistant-librarian, and the general oversight of the library committee. Thus Mr. Paine has not only as treasurer dispensed the income of the fund so wisely given, but as a member of the library committee has assisted in carrying out the recommendation of the Council as penned by himself just twenty years ago. On the twenty-second day of March, 1884, the Council authorized the library committee to dispose of our perishable material, including Indian, Icelandic and Hawaiian apparel, etc., and on the eighth of January, 1886, its transfer was made to the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology,

after a few selections had been made by the Worcester Society of Antiquity. The imperishable articles having been placed in the south lobby, the northeast lobby was at once fitted with drawers and shelves, as recommended in the librarian's report of last April. It will hereafter be known as the Manuscript-room, although it also now contains the regular series of government publications which formerly occupied the northwest alcove in the main hall.

We have lately been appealed to for collections of early business account books and papers, by persons who not only desired to study early methods of business but to learn the prices for which goods were bought and sold before the condition of the markets was so faithfully reported in print. In alluding to this call we will make another which shall be so broad as to include every written thing which ought to be preserved. Even the single autograph letter may throw just the light needed by the searcher after facts. For instance, we have recently found among our Joseph Lancaster papers, controversial and otherwise, a short but kindly letter addressed to him by Thackeray which proves to be the only autograph we have of that distinguished novelist and satirist. From this letter it appears that while Thackeray was interested in some of Lancaster's educational work in England, he did not wholly approve what one of our members has quite recently called "the tomfoolery of the Lancasterian system."

It seems a peculiarly fitting time to make an earnest plea for the better preservation of city, town, parish, family and other manuscript records, and to consider what we can do to further that end. In our important mission of preserving American history we have occasionally received deposits subject to recall, a right which, it should be said, has seldom been exercised. May we not expect to become the temporary or permanent custodians of much valuable material when our willingness to receive such material—so often stated by Council and Librarian—is more generally known?

In this connection the following paragraphs from a letter addressed to Samuel F. Haven, Librarian, March 18, 1857, by Rev. Edward E. Hale, are suggestive: "Only think of this! Mr. Ridgway [Edward W.], who gave to Mr. Jennison the Hull Letter-book, tells me that there was a large quantity of those old papers in his attic; that his family was kindling fires, etc., with them, when he lighted on that book which he carried to Mr. Jennison, and that if he had supposed Mr. Jennison wished for more he could have had *all the rest*. But since that time the roof of that attic has been cleared out, and they *have all been destroyed*. Is not that a little too provoking?" To the lesson to be drawn from this quotation, I will add that not only the Hull Letter-book which was so useful in the preparation of the Diaries of Hull published in our Transactions, but also the valuable Note-book of Thomas Lechford which we issued last year, came from the Ridgway attic in Worcester. A new mission of preservation which has recently been taken up under our auspices, is that of repairing records not the property of the Society which have been injured by long or careless usage. Miss Webb has thus, during extra hours and at the expense of the town, prepared for re-binding several volumes of the early records of the town of Leicester, Massachusetts.

The accessions for six months ending the fifteenth instant have been as follows: By gift, twenty-one hundred and eleven books, seven thousand six hundred and four pamphlets, six bound and one hundred and ninety-nine volumes of unbound newspapers, ninety-five volumes of bound and a collection of unbound manuscripts, one hundred and twenty-nine framed and eighty unframed engravings and photographs, one hundred and six maps, thirty-one coins, eleven specimens of the currency of the rebellion, eighteen Indian and other relics and a collection of postage stamps. By exchange, two hundred and forty-eight books, nine hundred and thirty-eight pamphlets, five volumes of newspapers

and sixty-eight photographs and engravings. From the binder, one volume of newspapers and one hundred and thirty-three volumes of magazines, making a total—with us seldom if ever exceeded—of twenty-four hundred and ninety-two books, eighty-five hundred and forty-two pamphlets, seven bound and two hundred and four unbound volumes of newspapers, one hundred and twenty-nine framed and one hundred and sixty-two unframed engravings and photographs, etc. The list includes two hundred and seventy-eight donors, of whom forty-one are members, one hundred and sixty-nine friends who are not members, and sixty-nine societies and institutions. It is interesting to note that the sources of increase number sixty-eight more than your librarian reported in October last.

With his Concord historical oration and the usual gifts from Washington, our President has sent Major Poore's Descriptive Catalogue of Government Publications, 1774–1881, which we hope may prove to be the labor-saving index so greatly needed. Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull's gift includes his "Origin and Early Progress of Indian Missions in New England,"—a rare and valuable pamphlet,—and the English edition (1715) of *The Protestant Tutor*, to be preserved with our imperfect copy of the Boston edition of 1685. In one of a series of four articles on Primers and Catechisms, prepared by Dr. Trumbull for the *Sunday-School Times* of 1883—and which should be separately printed—this *Tutor* of 1685 is called the earliest of that interesting family of early New England literature.

The continued activity of our widely separated membership is apparent from the valuable papers written by them for various societies and institutions. Two such contributions to the "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science" have been received; one on "American Constitutions" by Hon. Horace Davis, a member since 1862; the other upon "The Narragansett Planters" by Edward Channing, Ph. D., who was recently

elected to membership. Judge Hamilton B. Staples has shown his continued interest in our Art collection by presenting a choice specimen of amateur photography. The subject is the house of Bishop Berkely during his residence in America, situated about four miles from Newport, Rhode Island; and the artist is Miss Emma Colman of Boston. It is quite certain that the camera of the amateur is to fill an important place in antiquarian, historical and genealogical societies as an aid to an exact knowledge of localities and monumental inscriptions. It has been noticed that the habit of giving to some special department, is apt to grow not only with our members but with others interested in the Society's welfare. At this time we especially need such a friend in each of the departments of Biography and Bibliography. We have received a few Spanish-American books for the Davis Alcove from markets both foreign and domestic, and have further increased the collection through our exchanges. It seems wise, at least for the present, to use the income of the Davis fund chiefly for the purchase of books relating to the Central American States. The Chandler, Haven, Thomas and Collection and Research funds have yielded fifteen, five, twenty-four and thirty-three volumes respectively. Vice-President Salisbury's gift includes the instructive volume which contains the touching and truthful tribute to our late lamented President. Mr. Robert N. Toppan has sent a set of his own publications, and Judge James V. Campbell has made the transfer from his library to ours of a fine copy of Jefferys's American Atlas of 1776. The gift of the Rev. Dr. Merriam includes not only two of his own historical and biographical productions but a large collection of periodicals of which we were in need. The results of Dr. Daniel G. Brinton's labors in the fruitful field of Archaeology, both as author and editor, he has been careful to gather and forward to the library. Mr. James F. Hunnewell has added to his gifts of "The Lands of Scott" and "The

Historical Monuments of France," "The Imperial Island; England's Chronicle in Stone," an exhaustive work which like those upon France and Scotland is based upon his own personal observations and study. It is a sketch of the historical monuments of England, and is chiefly illustrated from his own library.

We are glad at this time to acknowledge from Mrs. Ginery Twichell and Miss Theolotia L. Twichell the receipt of the collection of books, pamphlets, pictures, relics, etc., of which brief mention was made in the librarian's report of last April.\* The large and generous gift is in memory of Hon. Ginery Twichell, and each article received has been designated for all time by an engraved label prepared and presented for that purpose. The gift comprises in round numbers fifteen hundred books, forty-one hundred pamphlets, one hundred framed engravings and photographs, and ninety-five volumes of manuscripts. There is also a collection of relics among which may be named the Senatorial desk occupied from 1821 to 1851 by Hon. Thomas H. Benton. Attention is called to a fitting though unusual memorial edited by the late Dr. John Orne Green, a classmate of Hon. Stephen Salisbury, and sent to us by his son and namesake. It is entitled "The Parish Register of St. Anne's Church, Lowell, Mass., Rev. Theodore Edson, S.T.D., the first and only rector from March 7, 1824, to January 25, 1883."

Mrs. Penelope L. Canfield's gift is, as usual, historical material of value, purchased for presentation to the Society. Miss Ellen M. Coe, Librarian of the New York Free Circulating Library, has gathered for us a complete set of the reports relating to that interesting experiment. Whatever may be the outcome of the present effort to secure a Free Library for the people of the great metropolis, it seemed important to preserve this history of a private effort to popularize good reading. Messrs. Drew, Allis and Company's annual gift of a portion of the editions of their Newton,

Rochester and Worcester directories indicates large additions to our duplicate-room, and suggests a mention of our desire to exchange duplicate slips with the historical or other societies which collect such material. The publishers are to be commended for having incorporated into their directories numerous statistics which are of special interest to the genealogist and biographer. Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, jr., has added to our already large and valuable collection of portraits of the early governors, that of Governor Joseph Dudley. It is accompanied by "Letters of John, Lord Cutts, to Colonel Joseph Dudley, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Wight, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts, 1693-1700," which letters were edited by Mr. Winthrop. Mention should be made of a collection of the addresses, speeches, reports, etc., of Hon. George B. Loring, which has been gathered with great care and presented by him. It will not be out of place to urge each member of this society not only to follow such an example but to accompany the gift with a complete check-list of his works, that an intelligent and vigorous search may be made for missing titles. It is not impossible that in aid of such a movement a fund at once useful and unique might be offered for our acceptance.

In the miscellaneous collection received from the family of the late Dr. William Workman an orderly-book of the American Army at Cambridge for September and October, 1776, was brought to light. It finds many companion volumes in our new manuscript lobby where others of the same class will be most welcome. Mr. Alfred S. Roe, Principal of the Worcester High School, has placed in the library, eight of his photographic views of the exterior and interior of Antiquarian Hall; and has continued his efforts to complete our set of the *Methodist Quarterly Review*. We wish to acknowledge a finding list by Mr. J. N. Larned, Superintendent of the Young Men's Library of Buffalo, as it has been especially useful to us. Our collection of cata-

logues, old and new, is large but far from complete, and we shall be glad to make additions to it, particularly from all sections of America. We should be pleased to send in exchange our Catalogue of 1837, which contains many titles not easily found elsewhere and tells of the foundation upon which our library's superstructure rests. It may be noted that our duplicate New York Canal reports, some of them early and rare, have on exchange account been placed with Mr. Larned of the Buffalo library, who is making a special effort to gather everything touching the New York canal system.

Our Davis Alcove of Spanish-American literature is indebted to Mr. Joseph A. Donohoe of San Francisco for Father Palou's "Noticias de la Nueva California," four volumes, octavo, San Francisco, 1874. One hundred copies of this important work were printed at the charge of Mr. Donohoe. The kindly intervention of our California associate, John T. Doyle, Esq., is duly appreciated. Through the Secretary and Director, Mr. M. Anagnos, we have received ten selected specimens from the Howe Memorial Press of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind. The imprints range from 1872 to 1885, and among the authors are Swedenborg, Emerson, Freeman, Howe, Longfellow, Milton and Whittier. The gift is in recognition of liberal subscriptions made to the printing fund by members of this Society. The transfer of our duplicate Episcopal Church literature to the Registrar of the Diocese of Massachusetts has led its Bishop, Right Rev. Benjamin H. Paddock, D.D., to send over four hundred American diocesan journals to fill gaps in our collection of these historical documents. From the Worcester Free Public Library we have received with the semi-annual gift of newspapers about one hundred duplicate books. We have reciprocated by returning four hundred of that library's reports, some of which are now very difficult to obtain. Our ability to make such a return indicates the



generous extent to which our storehouse has been used for the preservation of material which would otherwise have been destroyed. We are indebted to the United States Department of the Interior not only for the customary supplies received as a depository, but for valuable aid received by way of exchange, in completing our sets of the Congressional Globe, Record, etc. Through the Superintendent of its Document Room, Mr. John G. Ames, and by the coöperation of the larger American libraries, we are in a fair way of having a satisfactory answer to the oft-repeated question, "what shall we do with our government duplicates?" Mr. Ames has successfully collected and re-distributed large quantities of the Globe and Record, thereby filling the small gaps in the large libraries, and many of the large gaps in the small ones. It will readily be seen that this plan can just as easily be carried out with the other classes of United States publications, and it is hoped that Mr. Ames will not only be empowered but encouraged to do so. As a national society, we have taken an early and active interest in the matter, having sent forward over two thousand volumes to be placed to our credit on this large exchange. To our President, Senator Hoar, for many years a member of the Library of Congress Committee, and to Councillor Samuel S. Green of the American Library Association Committee on the Distribution of Public Documents, we owe much for their intelligent and helpful interest in this important movement. We are glad to note the opening, since the October meeting of the American Library Association, of new avenues for the distribution of our duplicates and the receipt of desirable material therefor. Benevolent, educational, historical and scientific institutions have thus received either their own publications, or such as related to their special fields of labor. We have, for instance, supplied the Vermont Historical Society with files of early Vermont newspapers not before upon their shelves. It will be remembered that

the great collection of newspapers made by Henry Stevens, the father of our associate who lately died in London, was burnt with the Vermont State House in 1857.

Bearing in mind the Rev. Dr. Peabody's remark in the Council report of last October, that "the most authentic and instructive form of history is biography," a successful effort has been made to enrich that department by our exchanges. Practical sympathy with Hobart College in the loss of its library by fire, has been shown by a gift of books, chiefly theological and philological.

Reference was made at the last meeting to a "Scheme of a Lottery for the American Antiquarian Society," which was projected but not carried out. The reading of Mr. Henry M. Brooks's "Curiosities of the Old Lottery" has again brought the subject to mind and suggests the printing of our scheme at this time. The draft, which is in the handwriting of President Thomas and is not dated, is as follows :

SCHEME OF A LOTTERY FOR THE AMERICAN ANTIQ'N SOCIETY.

PRIZES.

1	of	25000	Dollars.
1		5000	do.
1		4000	do.
1		3000	do.
2		2000	do.
6		1000	do.
6		500	do.

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TICKETS.

1	of the price of	4000	dollars,	entitled to	16000	chances.
1	of	3000	do.	do.	12000	do.
1	of	2000	do.	do.	8000	do.
5	of	1000	do.	each entitled to	4000	do.
10	of	500	do.	do.	2000	do.
15	of	250	do.	do.	1000	do.
20	of	150	do.	do.	600	do.
50	of	100	do.	do.	400	do.

100 of the price of	50 dollars,	entitled to	200 chances.
200 of	25 do.	do.	100 do.
500 of	10 do.	do.	40 do.
3000 of	5 do.	do.	20 do.
25000 of	1 do.	do.	4 do.
97000 of 25 cents each or $\frac{1}{4}$	do.	do.	1 do.

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The *Chances*, not the *Tickets*, will be numbered for drawing, and all the *Numbers* will be put into the wheel before the drawing commences.

Every *Chance* will be entitled to the whole of the prize drawn against its number.

A *Ticket* of the price of 25 cents has one *Chance* and may draw the highest or one of the other prizes.

Every *Ticket*, the price of which exceeds 25 cents, will have as many *Chances* as there are quarters of a dollar in the price of the ticket. *i. e.* A ticket of the price of one Dollar will have *four Chances*—a ticket of the price of five dollars will have *twenty chances*—and so on.

The *numbering* of the *Chances* will begin on the *Ticket* of the highest price, *viz.*, that of 4000 dollars, and will embrace 16000 numbers or chances, beginning with No. 1, and ending with No. 16000.—The numbering will be continued on the ticket bearing the next highest price, *viz.*, that of 3000 dollars; the numbers on this ticket will begin with No. 16001, and end with No. 28000; and in this manner will the numbering of the *Chances* be continued through the whole of the *Tickets*.

As no *Blanks* will be put into the wheel, every number which is drawn must be a prize—therefore as the highest priced tickets have a number of *Chances* proportionable to their prices, they may each in that proportion draw several, or even all of the prizes.

This Scheme is calculated for a Lottery the *Tickets* for which will amount to 110,000 dollars. Four *Chances* to a dollar.—60,000 dollars to be drawn in prizes—30,000 for the benefit of the Institution,—and 10,000 allowed for managing the Lottery—expenses attending the selling and drawing—Losses, &c.

One Class only is proposed.

The Possessors of the highest priced *Tickets* may divide and subdivide them at pleasure, and part with any number of the *Chances* which they contain designating their numbers.

Our collection of steel, copper, zinc and other plates has been so useful that we are tempted to ask for more of them.

Properly labelled and dated they may become as useful historically as medals and coins, and for practical purposes more so. During the period of the United States Centennial Celebration, many calls were made upon us in the city of its publication for wood-cuts used by Barber in his Historical Collections of Massachusetts, but it was not until after the time of greatest interest had passed that they were discovered in private hands near Boston.

The framed portraits, engravings, etc., which have been collecting for the year past have been carefully hung in various vacant spaces in the hall. Others may be placed on the walls near the stairways leading to the main hall, which are still available for that purpose. In an emergency the gallery railings could be used. It is proper to remind our members and friends that the city of the Society's birth and habitation has no public art gallery, and that therefore the field is an open one.

A few sets of our Proceedings belonging to members may be made complete by the addition of the addresses of Goodwin, Holmes or Jenks, or the By-Laws of 1821, and they are greatly desired for that purpose. The plan mentioned of collecting and redistributing the documents of Nations and States may with equal force be urged upon institutions and municipalities.

The Rev. Dr. Hale referred at the last meeting to the Society's valuable collection of canes formerly owned by distinguished persons, a list of whose names perished in 1835 by the sudden death of the librarian! It reminded your present librarian to secure, if possible, a knowledge of what the various characters mean which are placed upon the ante-revolutionary title slips prepared by Dr. Thomas and Samuel Foster Haven, Jr., M.D. The only reference in the preface to the second edition of the History of Printing is as follows: "His plan [Thomas's] included the insertion of various points of information, such as the number of pages in each work when known, and the

indication of reprints by a sign." A careful study of the characters which are as follows: [\* X † H §] does not thus far help to solve the mystery. They may indicate where the titles or books are to be found. It is barely possible that some of our earlier members may be able to throw light upon this dark subject.

Members and correspondents who have not found the title-page and index to Proceedings, volume two, new series, are informed that it is stitched to the last number of that volume. This would seem to be the safer way of distributing them, though with volumes one and three they were sent separately to avoid delaying the circulation of the Proceedings. A labor-saving plea is entered for more care in stating the dates of birth and death in all obituary or biographical notices. Librarians are well aware of the frequent omission of these all-important facts from notices otherwise full and accurate. An examination of the photographs of members—so far as we possess them—will show how attractive as well as biographically useful our treasurer intends to make them.

Among the works of national interest in the preparation of which we have continued to assist is Sabin's valuable Dictionary of Books relating to America, now in the editorial charge of Mr. Wilberforce Eames. It is important that this work upon which Mr. Joseph Sabin labored so industriously and for so many years, and the first of whose ninety numbers was issued as early as January, 1867, should not fail of completion for lack of bibliographical or pecuniary aid. Its more than nine thousand pages have been of great advantage to us as well as to the scholars who have frequented the library. Mr. Eames's separately printed pamphlet on the various editions of the Bay Psalm Book—which he has forwarded to the library—shows how carefully he has sought for light on the hidden things of bibliography. The reprinting of other similar lists from the body of the work is much to be desired. Such a list

for instance as that of the Mather publications would easily lead in fulness and accuracy all others yet prepared.

The list of American societies and institutions to which our Proceedings are sent having been carefully revised, it is suggested that the same course should be taken with that of our foreign corresponding societies. It is important that as complete sets as possible of our publications should be found in the leading library centres of Europe. As but six complete sets of the Transactions remain, the reprinting of Volume Two should be a subject for early consideration.

It is fortunate that we have upon our Council scholars who not only know the value of rare books but those also who have served as directors of free public libraries, and thus know the difference between the library of reference and that for circulation. That our library of American history may be more freely used by members and all others who will appreciate its privileges and obey its rules is, I am sure, the wish of all who have its increase and safety most at heart. We may well recall Prof. Winsor's words in his first report as librarian of Harvard University, when he said: "I try never to forget that the prime purpose of a book is to be much read: though it is equally true that we are under obligations to posterity to preserve books whose loss may be irreparable, and that the present generation cannot always decide correctly which books are the most precious." The connection of Mr. Winsor's thoughts and their application to our own library are alike clear and suggestive, and in closing this report I can do no better than to adopt them as my own.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Librarian.*

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