

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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THIS is the forty-first meeting of the American Antiquarian Society in the rooms of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The first letter of invitation was addressed to Edward Everett, President of the former, May 25, 1847, by the lamented Asa Gray, Secretary of the latter; and the Society met for the first time in the rooms of the Academy, No. 7½ Tremont Street, on May-Day, 1848. During more than half this period it has been my privilege to act as the bearer of despatches between the two associations, and therefore an expression of our hearty thanks to the Academy may not seem to be out of place as an introduction to this report.

Nothing of very special moment has occurred in our library life since the October meeting. The extent and importance of our work, however, has made it a season of great activity and interest.

If time allowed, it would be interesting to cite numerous instances of Dr. Haven's careful and valuable entries and insertions found in our volumes, made in order to preserve the history of the very books themselves. Let me submit but two examples. In the year 1848 our associate, Mr. William F. Poole, issued what is now one of the rarest of first editions. Its full title is "An Alphabetical Index to Subjects treated in the Reviews and other Periodicals to which no Indexes have been published: Prepared for the Library of the Brothers in Unity, Yale College. *Qui scit ubi sit scientia, habenti est proximus.* New York: published by George P. Putnam (late of Wiley and Putnam), 155 Broadway and 142 Strand, London. 1848." 8vo.

pp. 155, paper cover. Our copy was received June 25, 1848, but it was preceded by a letter written to Mr. Haven by the author at Yale College, forty years ago the tenth instant, containing the following paragraphs :

“As you manifested some interest in the Index I am preparing for the Brothers Society, I send you our circular, *not* for the purpose of soliciting a subscription but to inform you more particularly of its character and progress. The work has been received, both here and in other institutions, with much more favor than I had expected. I have received letters from the Smithsonian Institution, Brown University, Dartmouth, Union, Hamilton and many other colleges ordering from twenty to fifty copies. The prospect now is that our whole edition (750) will not be enough to supply the demand abroad. If such is the case I shall enlarge the work and issue a second edition of some two hundred and fifty pages. There will perhaps be no demand for the work in Worcester ; if, however, any gentleman in Worcester desires one or more copies, I will furnish them (however small the number) at fifty cents.”

The second edition, an octavo of 521 pages, was published by Charles B. Norton of New York in 1853. The third edition, though a coöperative work, had Messrs. Poole and Fletcher for its sponsors, and we and they may readily believe that Judge Chamberlain's estimate of its value in the Boston Public Library is true of all libraries, namely, that it has increased the use of periodicals at least one hundred per cent. The work was published in 1882 by James R. Osgood and Company, and is an octavo of 1442 pages. It is announced that the quinquennial supplement will be issued as promised.

Again, in a letter from Dr. Daniel Wilson to Mr. Haven, March 24, 1868, he writes : “By-the-bye let me beg of you to set a good example, and print the word *prehistoric*, not *pre-historic*. As I believe the word was coined by me, for my *prehistoric annals of Scotland*, 1851, I may perhaps claim some voice in the matter. Lubbock, indeed, uses

the hyphen; but why pre-historic and not pre-judicial, pre-dispose, &c., &c." By this extract one is naturally reminded of Dr. Haven's remark upon the companion words archaeological and antiquarian, in his report of October, 1879. He said, some of you will remember:

"Antiquity is just now in fashion, and both associated and individual collectors of memorials of the past are multiplying everywhere. As archæology has become one of the most popular of the sciences, the term archæological or its equivalent is often added to the name and style of societies organized for very different purposes. The word antiquary is losing its curiosity-shop associations and is gaining the prestige of signifying a scientific student of the origin and primitive history of the human race. When will the word antiquarian, used as a noun, be abolished? It has the sanction of Gibbon, the historian, but scholars should be more exact in their terms."

Your Librarian is moved to call your attention to a few errors with regard to our founder, which appeared in the Magazine of American History for January, 1887. They are to be found in the interesting and instructive illustrated article by Hon. Samuel G. W. Benjamin, entitled "A Group of Pre-Revolutionary Editors." The opening paragraph is as follows: "One of the most interesting among the figures of the Colonial period, as well as one of the most talented editors this country has produced, was Isaiah Thomas, who is well remembered for the almanac he founded, which is still published with his name and yet carefully studied, as it has been for five generations, by the farmers and fishermen of New England." The tribute is eminently fitting and true, but the author fails to distinguish—as others have failed—between "Thomas's Almanack," established at Boston by our founder, and first called by his name in 1775, and "The Farmers Almanac," the first number of which was issued by Robert B. Thomas at Boston in 1793. From first to last there was an orthographical distinction between them, namely, that one used

a final *£* in almanac and the other did not. A careful examination of our collection shows that in addition to the almanacs printed by Isaiah Thomas before 1775, but not bearing his name, "Thomas's Almanacks" were issued with some slight irregularity for forty-three years; twenty-six by the father, thirteen by the son, three by William Manning and one by George A. Trumbull; and that all, except the two editions of the first, were printed in Worcester. Titles of the first and last follow: "Thomas's New-England Almanack; or, the Massachusetts Calendar for the Year of our Lord Christ, 1775," and "Isaiah Thomas's Town and Country Almanack or Complete Farmer's Calendar for the Year of our Lord, 1820." While it is not always easy to follow our founder's life as an almanac maker, it may be said that there has been no break or change of name in the Farmer's Almanac of Robert B. Thomas. Although the latter died May 19, 1846, at the advanced age of four-score years, his address "To Patrons and Correspondents" still appears in the ninety-sixth issue for the year of our Lord 1888! The title of his first number is "The Farmer's Almanac, Calculated on a New and Improved Plan, For the Year of our Lord 1793." Boston has always been the place of publication. Mr. Benjamin's reference to Isaiah Thomas's "Wanderings from Nova-Scotia to the West-Indies" does not—according to Judge Thomas, who had before him our large collection of Thomas manuscripts—appear to be borne out by the facts. His first wife was indeed the daughter of Joseph Dill of the Isle of Bermuda, but he married her at Charleston, South Carolina. His grandson and biographer says: "Mr. Thomas had a plan of going to settle in the West Indies; it was nearly perfected, but his health failing, after a short tour among the Southern Colonies he came back to Boston in the spring of 1770." Again, Mr. Benjamin says: "On the 18th of April, Thomas engaged with Paul Revere and his associates in giving information of the march of the

British on Concord. After these transactions, he proceeded to Worcester, and four weeks later resumed the publication of the *Spy* in that city, where it has been published to this time, with the exception of the year 1776-7, when it was issued in Boston, and a temporary suspension in 1786, on account of the Stamp Act." In point of fact; after sending his press and types to Worcester the 16th, and the memorable service of his country the 18th and 19th, he took leave of his family at Watertown the 20th, and immediately set out afoot for Worcester, where two weeks later—not four as Mr. Benjamin has it—the patriot printer was again heard from through his chosen organ, the transplanted *Massachusetts Spy*. The statement that the *Spy* was, in 1776-7, printed in Boston, also requires correction. Mr. Thomas leased the *Spy* for one year to Messrs. William Stearns and Daniel Bigelow, and for the succeeding year to Anthony Haswell. The appearance of the paper remained unchanged, except that Thomas's name was omitted by Stearns and Bigelow from the engraved heading, leaving the title simply *The Massachusetts Spy*. Haswell's name appeared above the title during the year it was leased to him. It was not printed in Boston in those years. Exactly stated, the *Spy* was issued by Messrs. Stearns and Bigelow from June 21, 1776, to August 7, 1777, inclusive, and by Mr. Anthony Haswell from August 14, 1777, to June 18, 1778, inclusive. On the 25th of June,—the second lease having expired—it again became *Thomas's Massachusetts Spy or American Oracle of Liberty*, under the charge of its founder. "The temporary suspension in 1786 on account of the Stamp Act," mentioned by Mr. Benjamin, continued for two years, but in its place the *Worcester Magazine*, an octavo, was issued weekly, and as Judge Thomas truly says: "It was after all the *Spy* with a new name and form." It may be well to note that the last number of the *Spy*, issued before the suspension or change of form, was that for March 30,

1786, and the first number after its revival that for April 3, 1788. The first number of the *Worcester Magazine* was "for the first week in April," 1786, and the last "for the fourth week in March," 1788. Many advertisements appeared upon the cover and occasionally in the body of the magazine. It might be added that this periodical is rarely found in perfect condition. Even our founder's copy suffered from the cover stripping and the shears of the binder. Some of the covers which we have obtained and inserted contain lists of letters remaining in the Post-office, etc., emphasizing the great importance of retaining the covers of periodicals.

The statistics of our library's increase will be found satisfactory. We have received by gift eleven hundred and forty-eight books, thirty-eight hundred and forty pamphlets, one hundred and sixty files of newspapers, eight photographs, seven engravings, four maps, a mantel clock and collections of stamped envelopes and post-cards; by exchange one hundred and twenty-seven books and ninety pamphlets; and from our binders seventy-seven volumes of newspapers; making an aggregate of twelve hundred and seventy-five books, thirty-nine hundred and thirty pamphlets, seventy-seven bound and one hundred and sixty volumes of unbound newspapers, eight photographs, seven engravings and four maps. Your attention is called to the list of Donors and Donations which accompanies and makes a part of this report, and includes the names of forty members, one hundred and two persons not members and seventy-six societies and institutions, a total of two hundred and eighteen sources of accessions. A few special obligations are noted as follows: President Salisbury's gifts include numbers of his Yucatecan reprints to fill orders, with a partial set of Dodsley's Annual Register in fine binding. Vice-President Hoar, with his Marietta Address, gives a large collection of Congressional Globes and other government publications, to fill gaps. Mr. Robert Clarke

remembers us by sending material peculiarly appropriate to the Ohio year, including the exhaustive "Life, Journal and Correspondence of Rev. Manasseh Cutler, LL.D."; and our Treasurer, Mr. Paine, with his regular contribution, presents two of his photographs of our cast of the Labna Portal, one of which was heliotyped to accompany Mr. Thompson's "Account" in the last Proceedings. Dr. John S. Newberry has forwarded a partial collection of his own publications, and President Daniel C. Gilman a large number of those of Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Thompson carefully gathered for the purpose. Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis's gift is, as usual, of a high order, being a fine copy from the Chiswick Press of "The Court Records of the East India Company, 1599-1603." Capt. Henry S. Nourse presents the History of the Fifty-fifth Illinois Regiment, which was in greater part written by him, and of which he was the editor. We should not be without the war record of all our members, whether of the Union or Confederate armies. Mr. J. Evarts Greene has added to his other favors a large collection of American magazines in fine condition. We earnestly solicit others of a like character from our members and friends, for our alcoves of periodicals. Rev. Dr. George E. Ellis has promptly forwarded his "Puritan Age and Rule in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, 1629-1685," a subject which he has made a life study; and Mr. James F. Hunnewell his History of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1775-1887, fully illustrated. Rev. Dr. Lucius R. Paige and Hon. Edward L. Davis have sent—with other reminders of their interest—portraits for our gallery of members, while Hon. Samuel A. Green has added to his usual donations a fine engraving from the Massachusetts Historical Society's copy of Huntington's portrait of their ex-president, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop. Mr. Clinton M. Dyer has presented, "with the hope that it may for a century to come be of service to the Society," a valuable mantel clock made about one hun-

dred years ago by David Wood of Newburyport. It was for many years in the possession of Hon. Daniel Waldo, one of our early and faithful members, and is therefore an especially appropriate gift. Mr. Levi Holbrook, executor of the Gale estate in Northborough, has sent us a colored crayon sketch of Harvard College at the opening of the nineteenth century, with early historical pamphlets. Mr. Alfred S. Roe adds to early New England imprints material relating to slavery and rebellion, while General Henry R. Jackson forwards a contribution to the Confederate side of the war discussion. Mr. Thomas A. Fletcher, at the suggestion of Hon. Theodore C. Bates, places his "Descendants of Robert Fletcher of Concord, Massachusetts," in our alcove of genealogy. Colonel George W. Williams, who has spent some months with us collecting manuscript material for an extended History of the Negro Race, has given us his History of the Negro Troops in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-65. While the volume was received during the month of October, 1887, it bears the imprint of 1888, a printer's license which in the interest of exact truth should not be encouraged. Mr. Hamilton Bullock Tompkins sends his "Bibliotheca Jeffersoniana" substantially upon the plan of Mr. Paul Leicester Ford's Bibliotheca Hamiltoniana. We have been glad to serve both of these gentlemen in their praiseworthy work. In answer to a circular from Messrs. H. V. and H. W. Poor enquiring for our wants of their Manuals of the Railroads of the United States, valuable additions have been made to our set, in return for which we at once sent them all our duplicate manuals for re-distribution. It is pleasant to find this desire to complete library sets extending to the enterprising publishers of such annuals. We express our gratitude to Mrs. Sophia H. Holmes for a copy of the rare, ten-volume, Geneva edition of 1781 of Abbé Raynal's *Histoire Philosophique et Politique*, etc., and to Señor Antonio Fajardo for a manuscript Maya Catechism of early



date. Special thanks are due for large donations, to the Worcester Free Public Library and to the Merrick Library of Brookfield, as well as to the New York Academy of Sciences—successor of the old Lyceum of Natural History of New York—and the California Historical Society of recent birth. We wish to thank all persons who, in the interest of local history, have aided us in securing Church manuals, year-books and periodicals, and to urge the great importance of their publication and preservation.

The gift to this Society by the will of our late associate, Hon. Francis H. Dewey, is, like his many other bequests, wise and timely. We already have kindred funds, bearing the honored names of Chandler, Davis, Haven and Thomas, which remind us of the good works both of the living and of the dead, and are therefore doubly suggestive.

In closing these special acknowledgments I venture to suggest the need of a Society book-plate for use in all gift books not otherwise provided. With the name of the donor and date of receipt thereon and the addition of our property stamp, our duty to them and to posterity will be more surely performed, while their history as well as safety will be better secured.

Our exchanges have sometimes brought us larger but seldom better returns. The rarest work received in this way since our last report is Visconti's "*Iconographie Ancienne Grecque et Romaine*," etc., seven volumes, folio, Didot, Paris, 1808-26. It was undertaken by order of Bonaparte, who distributed the limited edition, continued after the same general plan by Louis XVIII., and concluded by Charles X. The engravings of busts, portraits, medals, etc., which are of a high order, are about one hundred and twenty-five in number.

In my report of April, 1884, certain documents bearing date of 1852 were submitted, showing the interest of this Society in the establishment of a Worcester Public Library, and Mr. Salisbury's desire that it should find its first home

under our roof. Eight years later no one questioned the statement made by Mr. Delano A. Goddard in his report to the Worcester Lyceum and Library Association in April, 1860, that "If any citizen is assured that it is entirely safe to trust undeveloped intelligence and virtue without available incentives to their development his faith is certainly without knowledge." Since then the movement toward the formation of public and association libraries has been rapid and almost uninterrupted. But it should be added, to the credit of some of the early members of this Society, that thirty years before the date first mentioned, plans were formed for a circulating library to supplement this library of reference. The result was the formation of "The Worcester County Athenæum," and its incorporation March 12, 1830, with the intention of forming a full library for general use. William Lincoln, the historian and librarian, says: "Thirty-four proprietors purchased shares at the price of twenty-five dollars each subject to an annual assessment of two dollars," and that "about three thousand volumes of works of general literature have been gathered, making a foundation for an extensive collection in future time;" that "The library is now kept in one of the rooms of Antiquarian Hall, appropriated for the purpose," and that "The Rev. George Allen has been President: Frederick W. Paine, Treasurer: and William Lincoln Secretary from the organization." With the exception of a few such books as were deposited by persons not members of this Society and subject to recall, the library gradually came into our possession. In gratitude for this important gift, which I believe has never before been formally acknowledged, I desire to call your attention to a few facts showing how the movement originated and how it was forwarded. They must necessarily be gathered from the press of the period, as the records do not appear to have been preserved. The *Massachusetts Spy* of August 19, 1829, remarks, that "Whenever we

are disposed to avail ourselves of our local situation we shall find it is not without its advantages, and that abundant facilities at this moment present themselves, to justify the commencement of the great work of laying the foundations of an extensive public library to be situated in some central place in this vicinity." Then follows in the issue of November 4, 1829: "After the adjournment of the Lyceum, on Wednesday last, pursuant to notice given at the close of the address in the meeting house, a public meeting was held to consider the expediency of adopting measures to establish a public library for the County of Worcester." A committee was appointed to report at Thomas's Coffee-House on the evening of December 10, 1829. The *Concord Gazette* of November 11, 1829, says: "We take the liberty to suggest that the *Library ought to be located in Boston* where it would be much more accessible to nine-tenths of the people than if placed anywhere within their own county." The meeting which took definite action in the matter is thus reported in the *National Aegis* of December 16, 1829:

"In pursuance of public notice a meeting of those friendly to a public Library was held at Mr. Thomas's Coffee House on the evening of Thursday last. Hon. Nathaniel P. Denney of Leicester was called to the chair, and Emory Washburn, Esq., was chosen Secretary. The number of gentlemen present was large and highly respectable. The object of the meeting having been stated by the chairman, the report of the committee raised at the meeting in November to devise a plan for effecting the establishment of the proposed library, the chairman of whom was Isaac Goodwin, Esq., was read. The report stated in substance that it was recommended to raise money for the purchase of books by shares: that these shares should be twenty-five dollars each and that when the sum of five hundred dollars should be subscribed in this way, a meeting of the subscribers should be called and regulations for the government of the Association drawn up and adopted. The report was accepted, and a committee appointed, composed of Rev. Mr. Nelson of

Leicester, Rev. Mr. Allen of Shrewsbury, Ira Barton, Esq., of Oxford, George A. Tufts, Esq., of Dudley, Joseph Willard, Esq., of Lancaster, Frederick W. Paine and William Lincoln, Esqrs., of Worcester, to act in pursuance of the measures recommended. The Association to be called the Worcester County Athenæum. The place of its meetings, and of deposit of its library are to be determined on by the foregoing committee. A lively interest was manifested by those present at the meeting. The objects and purposes of the Association were fully and ably discussed, and its importance and utility strongly urged. And as evidence of the sincerity of those who professed themselves the friends and patrons of the Association upwards of four hundred dollars were subscribed on the evening of the meeting."

While ours is a national society, and the Worcester County Athenæum was a strictly local association, I need make no apology, under the circumstances, for thus placing on record the foregoing items of special historic interest to us.

We do not forget that our fellow-member, Senator Hoar, was wisely selected as the orator on occasion of the celebration of the Centennial of the Founding of the Northwest at Marietta, Ohio, April 7, 1778. Of his scholarly and patriotic address on that occasion I need not remind you, but his very recognition of the great historic value of our material used in its preparation, suggests a present work of preservation in our treasure-house which we are in duty bound to consider. Our Society will not fail, at this celebration period, to receive honorable mention for its early and valuable archæological and historical service in connection with the great Ohio country.

Reference may be made to an interesting sale at Webster, Mass., November 22, 1887, of a remnant of about twenty-five acres of land belonging to the Dudley Indians. As is well known they were of the family of Nipmucks, or as they were sometimes called Pegans, in the midst of whose once extensive lands this Society later established

its home, and from whose camping grounds many of our collection of stone implements were obtained. This sale has not only called attention to their rights and wrongs, but is also important from an historical point of view. The marked interest which this Society has always felt in the history and language of the red man is shown both in its own publications and in the valuable contributions of its members to this most interesting study, and is, perhaps, a sufficient excuse for this brief mention.

The compensations of a librarian's life are neither few nor far to seek. One of the most delightful is that he deals with scholars, and as Richter truly says, "A scholar has no ennui." And further than this, he is in the right school, for, according to "Owen Meredith," "It is, however, not to the museum or the lecture room, or to the drawing school, but to the library that we must go for the completion of our humanity." Following the same figure, it is a great pleasure to be able to say of our own school-house—especially after the severe test of the past winter—that teachers, scholars and casual visitors have continued to enjoy a genial and safe atmosphere, which the introduction of modern methods of heating, lighting, *et cetera*, have made possible.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Librarian.*

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