

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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WHILE we must agree with the Christian philosophy expressed by our departed President, that "it is a wise and kind providence that one generation passeth away and another generation cometh," we cannot forget to-day, either the great loss this Society especially has sustained, or the exceeding great reward to which in a good old age after a faithful life he has so lovingly been called. Taught from early life to honor him, personal association for nearly twenty years in connection with the Society's growth in usefulness has not only increased your Librarian's respect, but has compelled a growing affection for him. The possession of his confidence has been a constant stimulant to duty and an incentive to improvement. Those morning half-hour chats with Dr. Haven at the library, seldom omitted for many years, cannot easily be forgotten by one who was permitted to overhear their wise but witty discourse. My election to membership in the Society in October, 1878, is pleasantly associated with the presentation of the Huntington portrait of President Salisbury and so with the fitting words of Dr. Green, Rev. Dr. Ellis and Vice-President Hoar, and Mr. Salisbury's modest reply. In connection therewith I shall venture to strengthen that tie by incorporating with this report a few paragraphs from Senator Hoar's truthful and helpful picture of the Good Steward. He said, "Mr. Salisbury has for many years filled in this community a most difficult position—that of a wise and useful manager of large inherited wealth. It is not a hard thing in this country for a man with honorable ambitions to raise himself from poverty to wealth. It

is comparatively easy to obtain the prizes of professional and political life. But it is a very difficult thing for a man born to the position of wealthiest man in a wealthy community to fill that important station wisely and usefully. Most men so situated deem themselves exonerated from the obligation to work. Our friend has done his full share of the personal labor of all public undertakings with as much fidelity and public spirit as if he had nothing but his labor to contribute. Many rich men fancy that their wealth entitles them to claim some superiority over their fellow-men. Mr. Salisbury has borne himself with such humility and simplicity that it has never occurred to the humblest man who knew him that they met otherwise than as neighbors and equals. It is said that men who contribute largely to public objects are not without the spirit of patronage or the desire to control. Mr. Salisbury has added to the large benefactions to which the success of almost every enterprise of education or charity in this community for a generation has been due—this society, that reading-room, the Technical School, the Mechanics Hall and countless others—the still larger benefaction of so limiting his gift that it has been a stimulant to other men to do their share. He has made us feel that it was not he but we that were accomplishing the purpose. He has almost seemed to think, when he contributed the endowment to a public object which ensured its success, that he was our debtor and not we his, and he has never demanded for his opinion in the administration of the enterprise even the weight to which it would be entitled independently of his share of its endowment." Recalling the closing words of Mr. Salisbury's felicitous response, how vividly he comes before us here where he said, "In the interest of our Society I must thank the eminent artist for the ingenuity and skill that he has exercised in this work of the imagination. In a few years the personal appearance of the individual will be forgotten. Then no one will

regret that a President of the Society has been portrayed as favorably as the subject would permit." It is pleasant to believe that a life such as we this day commemorate is endless even on earth in its far-reaching example and blessing, and to feel assured that in this life he knew how much we all loved and honored him.

Worcester—the city of this Society's birth and habitation—has lately honored herself and the Society by calling our President, the Hon. George F. Hoar, to speak for his adopted city on occasion of the celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the naming of the town. It hardly need be stated in this presence with what strength and beauty that duty was performed. We must not forget, however, that it was William Lincoln, the Historian of Worcester *par excellence*, who made it possible intelligently to celebrate the day, and that he was one of our number. But for his industry, energy, order, and good judgment it is quite unlikely that the invaluable mass of manuscript and printed material now in our possession would have been preserved. His History of Worcester, though published as early as 1837, ranks in accuracy and general excellence—like Shattuck's Concord, issued two years earlier—with the best local histories of to-day. Mr. Lincoln served as Librarian, 1825–1827, Corresponding Secretary, 1825–1831, Secretary for Domestic Correspondence, 1831–1841, Committee of Publication, 1827–1834 and 1837–1843. He needs from us no vindication as an historian. In point of fact the judgment of our Vice-President, Hon. John Davis, more than forty-one years ago, stands approved. It seems fitting that in Worcester's Bi-Centennial year a few passages from this just tribute to her historian and our Librarian and Secretary should be repeated before this national Society. Governor Davis said at the October meeting of 1843:—"Since our last semi-annual meeting we have lost another member by death, whose face we have been accustomed to see on these

occasions and who has almost uniformly for a series of years given us in one form or another the fruits of his gifted mind. William Lincoln, with whom in our joint labors we have been so long and so intimately associated that he seemed like a brother, will meet us no more in these mansions of earth. After a brief but painful sickness he sank into the arms of death, and his remains now repose in the Rural Cemetery in the spot selected and prepared by him for their reception. . . . At this time (in 1825), Mr. Lincoln commenced, probably with a view to its publication in the Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal, a history of the town of Worcester, but this work which was upon his hands for several years appeared in 1837, in an octavo of about 400 pages. It is executed with great ability throughout, and demanded a patient toil, a laborious investigation, which merit a fame greater than so limited a history can confer. . . . With diligence and scrutiny he examined every possible source of history, sparing no labor or expense in investigating town, county, State and proprietors' records, the ancient files of the provincial and colonial governments, and the papers of private individuals together with all printed matter which had the remotest tendency to elucidate the subject. Nothing was left to conjecture, nothing in uncertainty, but with a fidelity that is seldom surpassed he registered only such facts as were sustained by satisfactory evidence of their truth. This is the great merit of Mr. Lincoln as a historian and an antiquarian that his perceptions of truth were seldom blinded by a credulous indiscriminate respect for reminiscences and traditions. . . . In 1825 he became a member of this Society, and from that time till near the period of his death it is not easy to describe the value and importance of his services or the extent of his benevolence. He served us in the capacity of Librarian, Corresponding Secretary, and, after the Foreign and Domestic Correspondence were separated, as Secretary of Domestic

Correspondence and as a member of the Committee of Publication. In all these stations he discharged the duties assigned to him, which were often laborious, in a manner so honorable to himself and so useful to the Society as to confer upon it an obligation of gratitude which can never be cancelled. If the Society had been a pet child it could scarcely have commanded more of his attention or shared more of his sympathy and regard. Into whatever spot you enter within our territory there you find multiplied proofs of his friendship, his benevolence, his taste and of his personal labors. We who have sat at this board with him can bear testimony that in advancing our prosperity, no labor or personal sacrifice restrained his ardor or abated his zeal. His time, his mental energies, and often his pecuniary resources were expended to embellish the grounds, to increase and make more valuable the library, and to raise the association to that elevated rank among similar institutions which it has been our laudable ambition to attain. Of these varied, great and long-continued efforts to give lustre to the character of this Society, I hardly dare to speak in the simplest language of truth, lest I should subject myself to the imputation of extravagance. But no law of prudence forbids that we should be grateful, or denies to us the right to express our sorrow at the loss of so distinguished a benefactor, or to cherish his memory with hallowed feelings of respect. Few men possess the learning or the ability to accomplish as much as has been done by Mr. Lincoln, and among the many able and distinguished persons who have honored and adorned this Society, with perhaps a single exception, he stands out in bold relief, surpassing all others in benevolence and assiduity."

Next to our town histories and genealogies, our newspapers have as usual been most freely used, in the presidential year bringing many to consult the files in the interest of their favorite candidates, as well as students

of history. It is always a pleasant duty to furnish facts to searchers after truth. The president of one of our western colleges recently remarked, after comparing his manuscript which contained certain traditions and statements of the oldest inhabitants with the dates positively fixed by our Ohio newspapers of the period, that both tradition and personal recollection were to say the least a few years out of the way.

The careful cutting of all our uncut books has recently been begun by Mr. Salisbury's office clerk, Mr. Riordan. Although exactly what constitutes an uncut book may still be an open question, it is certainly desirable to be able quickly to get inside and thus save time for examination, at the same time insuring the books from injury by the use of the finger or the penknife. A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Books may yet be called for. The collating of some of our rarer books is a work to which we hope to devote some time in the near future.

We cannot help feeling that the possession of the Index so generously prepared by Mr. Salisbury, would so suggest the value of the first series of Proceedings as to induce our members to order more or less of them. An occasional Index order has been received from some one living near a library centre who desired in his own study to note the authorities to be consulted. Such indexes have been useful here even when none of the periodicals indexed were upon our shelves. They sometimes declare a want, as for instance in the case of our Princeton Review which was supplied to 1876 by Vice-President Lenox.

The Card Catalogue is naturally more and more useful as the work goes forward toward completion. Its possession makes us more earnestly desire an index or card catalogue of our manuscripts, a need which the Library Committee has had constantly in mind. The income of the Alden Fund is to be used for this purpose. It is not

only well that we now have so many librarians who are guides, but that we also have so many time and labor-saving indexes to our treasures. The remark occasionally heard in the library to the effect that, had I known these helps and collections were here I could have saved hundreds of dollars and hundreds of miles travel,—suggests that we should not only let our wants be known but our possessions as well. Thus some of the former might be supplied by the users of the latter.

We have been glad to be able to assist Mr. Charles F. Hildeburn, of Philadelphia, in his effort to make bibliographically complete a list of Pennsylvania imprints of the first fifty years, upon which he has spent a large amount of time and money both in England and America. It should be more generally known that the manuscript titles in the Thomas-Haven List of Ante-Revolutionary Publications are often much more extended than they appear upon the printed page, and so are not infrequently examined with profit. Our McCullough's manuscript account of early printing in Pennsylvania, from which some important facts were drawn by Isaiah Thomas for his History of Printing, was also helpful in this direction. It seems not improbable that the day may come when "the eternal fitness of things" will induce learned societies to exchange for publication even original manuscript material. Our wealth of early imprints gives us many opportunities to furnish copies of titles and other missing pages. The title page of the first Bible printed in Philadelphia has just been reproduced with wonderful exactness for the library of the late Bishop Whittingham of Baltimore, recently bequeathed by him to the diocese of Maryland. A gift of duplicate literature relating to the Protestant Episcopal Church has been made since the last meeting to the energetic Registrar of the Diocese of Massachusetts, Rev. Edmund F. Slafter, through whom it will be sure to do the greatest possible amount of good. Our exchanges have been smaller,

though not less satisfactory, than usual, while our cash sales show a decided increase. In the former department we have, for instance, exchanged duplicate Massachusetts Agricultural Reports—received from our Recording Secretary Ex-Senator Washburn and others,—for recent authorities in Peruvian antiquities, etc. In the latter, with other sales, the few remaining extra copies of the Boston News Letter have been wisely secured for the Boston Public Library. It was especially pleasing to be able to add to the *Leicesteriana* of the Town Library, just before the Leicester Academy Centennial Celebration, Rev. Dr. Bancroft's oration at the dedication of the new academy building in 1806, with Rev. Dr. Sumner's introductory remarks, which pamphlet, strange as it may seem, had not there been preserved.

The Lechford Note Book—received by Samuel Jennison, Esq., of Boston, from his father, Samuel Jennison, Esq., for many years Librarian and Treasurer of this Society—is passing through the press under the editorial charge of Mr. Edward E. Hale, jr., and the supervision of his father. Many years since it was copied in part and annotated in part by Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, and in 1880 the remainder of the obscure manuscript was faithfully copied by Mr. Reuben Colton, at the expense of Hon. Dwight Foster. If the expense of printing etc., can be met by the Society or by some liberal members of it, we may certainly be congratulated in advance of its publication upon the prospect of so useful and unique a work for our Transactions, volume seven.

It will be noticed that the specimens of early printing in our show cases have been re-arranged, and that some of the earlier and rarer books obtained from the Joseph J. Cooke Library have displaced a few of the later and less rare volumes. This safe and satisfactory method of showing some of our nuggets,—said to have been introduced into this country from the British Museum by

our Ex-Secretary for Foreign Correspondence, the Hon. Charles Sumner,—has served an admirable purpose in showing our desire to secure and carefully guard such treasures.

It may be well to preserve in print an interesting pencilling by Dr. Haven on early American imprints, found on the fly leaf of volume one of our interleaved catalogue. It reads as follows: "In looking over the Catalogue which was not interleaved, Mr. Brinley found one hundred and eighty-six works printed in this Country before 1700. He thinks there were not more than three hundred printed, and this library contains a far larger proportion than any other. Mr. Brinley has made this matter a subject of investigation." It should be added that through the efforts of Messrs. James Lenox, John Carter Brown and George Brinley, many other titles were brought to light, so that the Thomas-Haven pre-revolutionary list includes four hundred and eighty-one seventeenth century titles, counting almanacs and various editions of the same work. Our additions to this class, both before and since the sale of the Brinley Library from which we obtained such early rarities, have been considerable, and we may reasonably expect others.

The list of books catalogued and shelf-marked but not found, has with one exception been checked off, partly by the aid of our Card Catalogue. The exceptional case is in the hands of our President, and will receive the attention it deserves. The missing volume in the case referred to having been traced and clearly identified, it would seem that both for our own protection, as well as for that of kindred societies, legal steps to decide its ownership should be taken if moral suasion fails. It was a wise and liberal member of this society—a firm believer in and supplier of safeguards—who said, "Other things being equal my gifts will be placed where they will not only best but longest serve their purpose." There is a

lesson which should not be forgotten in the following paragraph from a report in the *Library Journal* of the past summer: "Of four hundred and seventy-one volumes missing no less than four hundred and two have disappeared from the cases of new books, novels and reference books, which are freely open to our readers and with reference to which the library is protected by nothing but their honesty." While the Librarian's experience meetings, held from year to year since 1876, have been productive of great good, it must be remembered that we best subserve each other's interests by constant, faithful and vigilant care of our own.

As in the deaths of Messrs. Trübner and Leyboldt, so in the more recent decease of their brother publisher, Mr. Henry George Bohn, librarians would join the world of letters in expressions of respect and regret. Our sets of Bohn's *Antiquarian*, *Classical*, *Illustrated*, *Scientific* and *Standard Libraries*, though incomplete, are constant reminders of this model publisher.

The six months' accessions from April 15th are as follows: By gift, five hundred and thirty-eight books, thirty-six hundred and thirty-three pamphlets, one hundred and five volumes of unbound newspapers, thirty-seven volumes of manuscript letters, thirty-nine maps, four photographs, three Japanese tiles, two portraits and one pistol. By exchange, one hundred and ten books, and two hundred and sixty-nine pamphlets. From the binder, eighty-six volumes of magazines and one hundred and seventy-two volumes of newspapers. Total, seven hundred and thirty-four books, thirty-nine hundred and two pamphlets, one hundred and seventy-two bound and one hundred and five unbound volumes of newspapers, thirty-seven volumes of manuscript letters and other articles for the Society's portfolios and cabinet. The Thomas, Davis and Chandler funds have yielded thirty, eighteen, and ten valuable volumes respectively, and we

are grateful both to the dead and the living for the careful additions which these funds have allowed us to make to these very important but nevertheless very incomplete departments of American history. Mr. Robert Clarke who, like the lamented Munsell, is often ready to print American history, especially that pertaining to his own section, without the prospect of an adequate pecuniary return, has given with rebellion material, Durrett's *Life and Writings of John Filson*, the first historian of Kentucky, with an extra copy of Filson's map of the State. We have for many years been in search of this map so conspicuously promised upon the title page of the original edition of his "*Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucke*," and generally thought not to exist. It seemed clear to us that it had been issued, since in our copy of Parraud's French translation there is a finely engraved map which is said to have been copied from it. While the book was printed by Adams of Wilmington in 1784, the map was engraved by Pursell and printed by Rook, both of Philadelphia, the same year. Hon. Samuel A. Green, who is always in search of something to make our collections more complete, has this time, with other favors, aided us in filling some gaps in Massachusetts State documents and the various magazines of Harvard College. Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington, in retiring from the Council in consequence of his removal to New York, has placed in the library a large collection of the literature of the American Episcopal Church, a field in which both he and our associate, Bishop Perry of Iowa, have been very useful to us.

Mr. Henry S. Nourse sends as his first gift after election to membership, "*The Early Records of Lancaster, Massachusetts, from 1643 to 1725*," a work of which in his labor of love he is much more than the "editor." He has added valuable material to the Records and an index, which latter help is singularly enough oftener absent from

annals and records than from any other class of historical works. In March, 1883, the town voted to appropriate five hundred dollars for publishing some of the earliest records under the direction of the Library Committee, with the result above stated. This way of preserving history cannot be too strongly commended to the attention of town authorities and all other persons interested. William F. Poole, LL.D., has forwarded his library report for the year, and from time to time important historical and educational papers contributed to the Dial and other Chicago periodicals. If we might receive files of such magazines and newspapers as our members use in this way, we should not be troubled by long searches for their missing serial articles. Dr. Poole and his coöperators in the preparation of the new edition of his *Index to Periodical Literature* are daily remembered with gratitude by librarians and scholars. It is interesting to note the fact that Dr. Haven in his first report as Librarian of this Society, read in May, 1839, urged the importance of such a work with special reference to American history. He said: "The value of these store-houses of facts and incidents, is diminished by the quantity of extraneous matter by which these facts are surrounded and buried. If it were practicable to obtain the leading periodicals of our country, religious, political, literary and scientific, as they are issued, it would be easy for the Librarian to preserve an *Index Rerum* of important matters found in them, having a bearing upon our history, by means of references placed under those heads to which the subjects relate. A valuable collection of references to minor historical materials might thus be gradually accumulated."

Having brought his series of articles on the ships of the last four centuries to a conclusion, Admiral Preble has asked leave to put them into substantial binding for our shelves. With the generous spirit of the sailor he has dryly added to his clippings on longevity, his "Grog: a

Mixture of Prose and Verse; Brewed by George Henry Preble for Private Distribution." Gen. Horatio Rogers, in editing Lieut. Hadden's Journal kept in Canada and upon Burgoyne's campaign in 1776 and 1777, has brought together a great deal of valuable matter, both controversial and otherwise, relative to Burgoyne's army in America. He has placed a copy in the library of this Society, of which he is a member. President Salisbury ordered, but a few days before his death, a large collection of pamphlets to be presented to the Society, at the same time calling attention to the importance of preserving fragments of history so small as the following, which throws a ray of light upon the festivities of three-score and ten years ago :

### Worcester Social Assemblies.

THE company of *Mr. Stephen Salisbury* is requested at HATHAWAY'S HALL, on Wednesday evening, the 27th November; and on Thursday evenings, the 19th December; 9th January; 30th January; and 20th February—at 5 o'clock, precisely.

GARDNER BURBANK,	} <i>Managers.</i>
EDWARD D. BANGS,	
TILLY RICE,	
PLINY MERRICK,	

*Worcester, Nov. 23, 1816.*

I need only mention his wise increase of the Publishing and the Librarian's and General Funds, as the bequest is elsewhere referred to.

From Vice-President Hoar we have received, as usual upon his return from Washington, a very large collection

of valuable Public Documents. At the suggestion of our Councillor, Dr. Joseph Sargent (H. C. 1834) the Class Secretary, Thomas Cushing, Esq., sends Memorials of the Class of 1834 of Harvard College, and Homer T. Fuller, Ph.D., deposits *Memorialia* of the Class of '64 in Dartmouth College. Such notices, being prepared with care, are generally found to be reliable and valuable. As they are much sought for in the preparation of biographical sketches, we are especially anxious to secure them. Judge Hamilton B. Staples has supplied us with copies of his paper on the "Province Laws of Massachusetts," for use in our sale and exchange departments. Dr. Edward Jarvis's gift of his "Supposed Decay of Families in New England, disproved by the experience of the people of Concord, Mass.," is a reminder that a learned Doctor of Medicine has the past summer found a new use for our alcove of Genealogy in the preparation of a kindred paper, bearing upon the present size of American Families as compared with that of a century ago. Our Recording Secretary, Hon. John D. Washburn, has added to his Semi-Annual gift of insurance literature a quantity of state documents from his desk in the Massachusetts Senate, and William S. Barton, Esq., has sent one hundred and fifty-eight books and seventy-two numbers of our proceedings, being material formerly in the library of his father, the late Judge Barton.

Mrs. Penelope Lincoln Canfield's gift includes some of the latest and best authorities in American History. Most of them are such books as we should purchase if the collection and research fund would allow. Mr. Joseph E. Davis has placed in the library thirty-seven well bound volumes containing family, business and political letters received from 1816 to 1852 by his father, the late Hon. Isaac Davis. The collection is an interesting one, not only biographically and genealogically, but as throwing light upon the ways of conducting the business of law, of banking, of insurance,

the beginnings of the various religious and educational institutions, — especially those under Baptist control, — and the movements of the democratic party. Many prominent citizens of America were in correspondence with Col. Davis, and their letters make a valuable autograph collection. It is certainly a useful gift well placed. With Hon. Clark Jillson's memorial of Holmes Ammidown, he sends from his private press Peter Butler Olney's admirable historical address delivered at the dedication of Memorial Hall, Oxford, Mass., Nov. 19, 1873. Judge Jillson's liberality in printing the address at his own expense, after the town had failed to do so, deserves the thanks of all persons interested in the preservation and dissemination of local history. Mr. Benjamin A. Leonard has presented as a valuable relic — if genuine — a pistol said to have belonged to Major John André. The inscription reminds one of our sole Mayflower memorial — a rude compass — which is guardedly marked "probably came over in the Mayflower." Such articles have a certain interest, but very unlike that connected, for instance, with Governor John Winthrop's "stone pott tipped and covered w<sup>th</sup> a silver Lydd," bequeathed to the Society with the vouchers by its second President, Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, which added so much interest to one of Scudder's admirable Winthrop papers, — or the box of tea picked up on Dorchester Neck by Rev. Dr. Thaddeus Mason Harris, the morning after the cargoes were destroyed, and by him sent to our cabinet. Mr. Henry J. Parker's presentation of his interesting account of the Army Lodges during the American Revolution, gives your Librarian an opportunity to say that our founder, who was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Massachusetts, left in this library no mean collection of both Masonic and Anti-Masonic literature in book, pamphlet and newspaper form.

Mrs. Henry P. Sturgis has kindly presented a copy of Appleton's *American Encyclopædia*, sixteen vols. octavo,

1858-63, in full calf binding. Hon. John Wentworth, in forwarding his additions and corrections to his voluminous History of the Wentworth Family, offered one of a few copies of the very rare New Hampshire Register of 1810, reprinted at his expense, to fill gaps in sets nearly complete. We were glad to be able to report an original in our set.

The numbers of "Carl's Tour in Main Street, Worcester," have been carefully mounted, tastefully illustrated and richly bound by Mr. Herbert Wesby for service rendered. This spirited but anonymous work<sup>1</sup> has appeared three times—in the Worcester Palladium of 1855, 1857, 1858 and 1874—as originally written, without note, comment or correction. Though not within our province, it would seem to be a timely and perhaps profitable venture for the Worcester Society of Antiquity, this Bi-Centennial Year, to put it into book form with suitable notes and corrections.

If any apology were necessary for thus publicly acknowledging our important accessions, the following incident and remarks recorded of your late Librarian by his friend whom to-day we especially remember, would at least suggest an excuse. Said President Salisbury, "Our friend asked, is Mr. Haven a good beggar? The answer was decidedly no, but he is a good receiver. This is the secret of his power to attract the accumulations with which you have been enriched. No one could bring a desirable object to the library without gaining better knowledge of the value of his gift and more good will to repeat the donation." The charm of this tribute is in its truth and in the fact that it was paid in Dr. Haven's life time by one who always spoke and acted the truth. It is all important that its

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<sup>1</sup>There is no doubt that "Carl's Tour," was written by the Hon. John S. C. Knowlton, editor of the Palladium, and it seems quite certain that he was assisted in the compilation of the material by Mr. Clarendon Wheelock, then a well known citizen of Worcester.

spirit remain with us, as although some valuable works are obtained with our special funds by purchase, and many more by exchange, our library growth still depends chiefly upon the gifts of members and friends.

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Librarian.*

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