

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

IN the librarian's semi-annual account of his stewardship, a reference to those matters of routine which are common to all libraries of our class may not be required, but your attention should perhaps be called to certain matters of unusual interest. It is, for instance, pleasant to note a closer tie to Cornell and Harvard Universities through the pupils of our associates, Ex-President Andrew D. White, Dr. Moses Coit Tyler and Prof. Edward Channing. The presence of these students for the special purpose of examining our files of revolutionary and pre-revolutionary newspapers, reminds us of the pressing need of what for a better name might be called the Eighteenth Century Newspaper Fund. Every opportunity should be taken to enrich the remarkable collection above referred to. Even stray numbers, such as were recently offered at the Lewis sale should, if needed, be secured. Certain of our other departments, which are rich in good works, should be made richer both for our own sake and for the sake of all scholars. Such opportunities as have been afforded by the recent Barlow, Brevoort, Cole and Quaritch sales emphasize the importance of an enlarged book fund for general use. While in such case I would not advocate the indiscriminate purchase of rarities, it would seem wise to honor our founder—the author of the *History of Printing*—by more fully illustrating the progress or decline of the art of which he wrote; and again to make as complete as possible the rare collection of Mather tracts which came to us so largely through his munificence. Regarding the Mather rarities, I find in the library the following manuscript entry by Mr. Christopher C. Baldwin: “January 10, 1834: Cotton Mather's works are 382, and

yet not more than eighty are in any of our public libraries." Fifty-six years later, we find on our shelves over two hundred of the more than four hundred of their separate works mentioned in Sabin. To aid in the strengthening of such collections, it is quite possible that there may be found in the future some way of carrying out Col. Washburn's novel suggestion made in his Council Report of October, 1888. He said, "Assume that we have a collection of authorities on any particular subject which is almost perfect; the nearer perfection is approached the more vital and pressing the necessity of reaching it even if the material necessary to complete it be among the more insignificant in inherent importance. Some other library has this, thinks little of it because it is so insignificant, would gladly give it to us in exchange for something which, valuable to it on the same grounds, is comparatively unimportant to us." Alongside this statement of our Recording Secretary, I submit as guardedly seconding his motion, two paragraphs from an article in the March number of the *Library Journal* by Mr. Reuben B. Poole, Librarian of the Young Men's Christian Association of New York. The paper is upon "Specializations in New York Libraries" and the quotation therefrom follows: "A system of exchange which would not conflict with established rules or customs duties, or the requests of donors, might be effected which would result in greatly enriching all without impoverishing any. There is unquestionably now much in all our libraries that is absolutely dead stock which, if put in the right library, would fulfil some other mission than simply occupying shelf-room and accumulating dust." In this connection the efforts of the New England Historic Genealogical Society to centralize and specialize their work as well as their collections may well attract attention.

We have been able to assist very materially the venture which the New Jersey Historical Society contemplates in the publication of several volumes of early newspaper ex-

tracts relating to the State of New Jersey. Such a chronological arrangement of the editorials, letters, ship news, advertisements, etc., in the exact language of the period, will be an interesting if not always a trustworthy form of history. Our early pamphlet literature has yielded many titles for the Hon. Joseph Williamson's Bibliography of Maine; while we are assisting—as we have done the past twenty-four years.—Sabin's Dictionary of Books relating to America, now happily nearing its completion. Miss Susan H. Yerkes, Librarian of the Arthur Winter Memorial Library of Staten Island, has been aided in the preparation of a bibliographical account of American theatrical literature including works historical, bibliographical and critical relating to the theatre and to actors. Our department of Rebellion and Slavery, including the collection of War scrap-books, has also been carefully examined for our associate, Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, in the interest of his great commission as military and naval historian of Massachusetts. At the suggestion of Minister Washburn, duplicates of the insurance periodicals received for so many years past from him and from William A. Smith, Esq., have been turned over to the Insurance Library Association of Boston, by whom the files will be completed, so far as possible, and bound. The transfer of Boston documents to that City has led to such a strong effort to complete its department files, that a like step has been taken with the same class of Worcester reports. Following the publisher's gift of *The Voice* was an appeal for our imperfect file for redistribution. The request of Gen. Adolphus W. Greely, chief signal officer, for an exchange of meteorological duplicates, has resulted in our sending him not only such authorities as Espy on Storms, but a set of the Worcester Lunatic Hospital reports in which for more than thirty years careful and detailed observations were recorded; an unusual and unexpected but very welcome source of desired information. One of the minor advantages of our system

of the re-distribution of duplicate benevolent society reports, is found in the fact that an appeal to the societies or institutions for missing numbers, often suggests the propriety of caring for their surplus reports. The call of the American Historical Association for an account of our Society, its library, its work and its membership, was promptly met by forwarding the recent brochures of Messrs. Green and Paine of our Council, our President's Partial Index to the Proceedings, the new list of officers and members, etc. We should not forget the assistance of Vice-President Hoar in the successful effort to secure government recognition of this young and vigorous society. Though organized at Saratoga, N. Y., September 10, 1884, it was chartered, as you are aware, at Washington as late as January 4, 1889, "for the promotion of historical studies, the collection and preservation of historical manuscripts and for kindred purposes in the interest of American history and history in America."

The transfer of the Library School from Columbia College to the care of the Board of Regents of the University of New York, places it at the capital under the fostering care of a great State and leads its friends to hope for its continued success under the leadership of its founder. The Society has twice been represented in the lecture course in New York by its librarian. On the 22d instant, by invitation of Mr. Samuel S. Green, librarian of the Free Public Library, who is also a member of our Council, the School visited Worcester, and while under his hospitable guidance made a somewhat hasty examination both of our treasures and our methods of administration.

Since the publication of the interesting paper on Cotton Mather and his Slaves, read by Prof. Henry W. Haynes, at our last meeting, I have noticed the following brief entry in Cotton Mather's Diary, confirming the truth of his quotation from the Rev. Wm. B. O. Peabody's life of Dr. Mather. It bears date January 17, 1717, and reads: "I have now a

Charity-Schule erected for y^e instruction of Negroes and Indians, Whereof I am at y^e sole Expence. God prosper it." His labors for the blacks and for the copper-colored would seem to have been both very personal and long continued.

The external improvements upon our library building have been of an important and permanent character. They consist of snow-guards for the Highland Street roof of the main hall and a copper conduit leading from the same side of the Salisbury Annex alongside the inner wall to the city sewer. A further draft upon the indispensable Salisbury Building Fund must soon provide more book-cases for the lower main hall and thus relieve the still overcrowded lobbies above. On the first day of March Miss E. M. C. Rice withdrew from service in the library, and from the first of April we have had the undivided labors of our janitor.

Following a precedent long since established, a set of our publications as complete as circumstances would allow, was forwarded to our associate, Sir Daniel Wilson, President of the University of Toronto, whose buildings and library were destroyed by fire on the evening of the 14th of February. President Wilson says in his note of acknowledgment, "Accept of grateful thanks on behalf of my colleagues and myself for the kind and valued gift of the publications of the American Antiquarian Society to the Library of the University. We highly appreciate this kind mark of sympathy."

In the appendix to this report will be found the names of two hundred and eighty-six givers, the largest number ever recorded in a semi-annual report of the librarian. The list includes forty members, one hundred and thirty-four persons not members, and one hundred and twelve societies and institutions. The average number for the five years last past, not including the present report, is two hundred and twenty-seven, namely, forty-four members, one hundred and four persons not members, and ninety-three socie-

ties and institutions. I need not call your attention to the lesson which this comparison is intended to convey. The accessions which far exceed the average in quantity, though perhaps not in quality, may be entered, for convenience of reference, under the following heads: *Gifts*, fourteen hundred and eighty-seven books, fifty-three hundred and forty-six pamphlets, two hundred and eight volumes of unbound newspapers, forty engravings, twenty-six specimens of pottery, sixteen maps, two framed and twelve unframed photographs, five pieces of war currency, five broadsides and two book-cases; *Exchanges*, one hundred and thirty-eight books and two hundred and twenty-six pamphlets; and from the *Bindery* one hundred volumes of newspapers; making a *Total* of sixteen hundred and twenty-five books, fifty-five hundred and seventy-two pamphlets, one hundred volumes of bound and two hundred and eight of unbound newspapers, and the other articles above-named. There would seem to be at this time no call for extended notices of special gifts, but a few brief, suggestive references follow. We have received with peculiar pleasure three of the five volumes of B. F. Stevens's facsimiles of manuscripts in European Archives relating to America with descriptions, editorial notes, collations, references and translations, which were subscribed for at the charge of Messrs. Salisbury, Hoar and Davis. The *Athenæum* after strongly commending the work says, "These documents are full of facts out of which the intelligent student can frame a history of an episode in the American Revolution which shall be trustworthy"; and the *Nation* remarks, "We heartily recommend the Collection to all serious students of the history of the Revolutionary War," adding that "For the thorough understanding of minor characters and secondary events, and for side lights upon persons and things of great importance, few publications can prove more useful." Our President, who has again honored our call for his Yucatecan reprints, will be glad to know that his investment has

already added some two hundred dollars to the Publishing Fund; a very suggestive fact. Large gifts of public documents have as usual been received from Vice-President Hoar and the Hon. William W. Rice, and a set of Brooks's Old Times Series, from the Hon. Edward Isaiah Thomas. Dr. George H. Moore has forwarded for the Mather Collection a reprint—with an introduction by himself—of Cotton Mather's Rules for the Society of Negroes, 1693, adding several of his historical brochures for the general library. Hon. Edward L. Davis has sent with his semi-annual gifts of books and pamphlets, a framed photograph of Vice-President Bancroft's birth-place on Salisbury Street, and of the Stone Tower at Lake Park, Worcester, Mr. Davis's latest benefaction to his native town. And here I wish to supplement a previous acknowledgment to Mr. Davis of the Sumner-Longfellow portraits of the war period, with the statement of the owner of the original, that but fifty copies were printed; and further to note the following paragraphs as to the first named as found in Librarian Christopher C. Baldwin's Diary December 13, 1834. He says, "I ought to have mentioned that last week I was visited by Mr. Charles Sumner, son of C. P. Sumner, Esq., Sheriff of Boston. He is a young man of good promise. He came to Worcester to be admitted to the Bar. He was admitted here, I believe, the 3d. I have never seen him before. I cannot but believe that he is destined to make a conspicuous figure in his profession." Judge P. Emory Aldrich presents a carefully prepared and certified copy of a report to the Massachusetts Legislature by him and his associates in the case of the Dudley Indians *versus* the Commonwealth, with the suggestion that "It may be of interest to some future enquirer after Indian antiquities." Mr. Henry Adams has forwarded the four volumes of his exhaustive account of the second term of Jefferson's administration; and Dr. Daniel G. Brinton his numerous recent contributions to the departments of Archaeology and Ethnology. Bishop Wm.

Stevens Perry has completed our set of the *Iowa Churchman*, to which he has always been the largest contributor, and Mr. Henry H. Edes our set of the *Civil Service Record*. The Hon. Robert C. Winthrop has placed in the alcove of Biography, Curry's Sketch of the Diplomatic Service of Hon. George Wm. Ewing, who was a member of this Society. It contains an introduction by Mr. Winthrop and is of peculiar value as no notice of Mr. Ewing's death appeared in our proceedings. Rev. Dr. Daniel Merriman presents an imperfect copy of Increase Mather's Meditations upon Death, to perfect our own copy, with Curtis's Topographical and Historical Sketch of Epsom, N. H., which is a rarity in this complete form. The latest and perhaps the most valuable gift is from Mr. Edward H. Thompson, of Merida, Yucatan. It consists of twenty-four of his excellent reproductions of the early utensils and implements of that country. Prof. Edward Hitchcock has added to the same department two casts of small pots found in Revere and Marblehead, Massachusetts. We have secured with the Chandler, Davis, Dewey, Haven and Thomas funds, ten, fifteen, eight, twelve, and thirty-three valuable works respectively.

The following references are to persons not members of this Society, who nevertheless appear to have a marked regard for its welfare. Mr. Clinton M. Dyer, who has shown much interest in improving our Numismatic Collection, has placed in our coin cabinet the rare liberty-cap cent of 1796. Through Miss Fanny E. Sweetser we have received a large mass of pamphlet literature including many of our early proceedings—which are always desirable; and Mr. Van Wyck Horton has deposited a valuable collection of magazines relating to photography, with specimens of early European photographs. We have received from the author, Mr. Curtiss C. Gardiner, his Genealogy of the Gardiner family, and from Mrs. William T. Forbes her Hundredth Town—Westborough, Mass., both on account

of special service rendered. These are but samples of such wise deposits. The Rev. George F. Clark has made a second large gift of Unitarian and Temperance literature, while the Rev. Samuel D. Hosmer has added to our newspaper room a much needed twenty-year file of the *Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror*. From Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Ph.D., we have a framed copy of Brady's excellent photograph of the officers of the American Historical Association. It was taken December 30, 1889, and of the eight persons represented, six are members of our Society. Following is the untitled list, alphabetically arranged: Charles K. Adams, Herbert B. Adams, George Bancroft, Clarence W. Bowen, John Jay, Wm. Frederick Poole, Andrew D. White and Justin Winsor. The following paragraphs from recent notes of the Rev. Francis T. Russell, son-in-law of Mrs. Lydia Huntley Sigourney, refer to the only unidentified bust in our collection. Mr. Russell writes, "I enclose photographs of the Greenough bust and Wilson crayon portrait. The former is not at all like Mrs. S., but the latter was, or rather is, a good likeness, slightly idealized. You will see that the shape of the head, the droop of the shoulders and the general outline of the form and particularly the downward line of the nose show that the bust in your rooms could not have been designed for Mrs. Sigourney." In an earlier communication, written after he had visited our hall, Mr. Russell said, "In the bust, the mouth is the most expressive and beautiful I have ever seen." As this latter impression is shared to a certain extent by your librarian, he will be excused for reporting one more effort to identify this marble presentment. The Reverend Edward G. Porter, who has also been interested in the quest and to whom a photograph of the bust was sent for inspection, sends the following judgment of an old friend of Mrs. Sigourney. "It is not the bust of Mrs. Sigourney. I am quite sure of it, as I had the plaster cast of her bust for some months in my parlor in New York. It was a very striking likeness

of her." A careful comparison of our photograph with many engraved portraits at the Boston Athenæum brings us the statement that "A likeness has been found to both Mrs. Sigourney and Mrs. Hemans, but the preference has been given to Mrs. Hemans by two persons of artistic taste to whom the pictures have been submitted." By far the largest gift of the past six months is that of the Spy Publishing Company, represented on our Council by J. Evarts Greene, Esq., and by Messrs. John S. and Charles C. Baldwin, sons of the Hon. John D. Baldwin, a former member of the Society. The public documents, found to be duplicate, were at once sent on their mission to supply libraries less fortunate than our own. We acknowledge from the Worcester Society of Antiquity, Worcester Town Records 1784-1788, the publication of which has been wisely encouraged by a city appropriation. This volume is in continuation of similar work which they have brought out under the excellent supervision of Mr. Franklin P. Rice. And just here it may not be improper to add that our President, in practical recognition of their good work, has deeded to that society a valuable lot on Salisbury Street, upon which to build a well-deserved society home for their rapidly increasing library and cabinet. May I further add that owing to the fact of the marked similarity of the names of the two societies which are to be such near neighbors, your librarian has frequently been asked, "What is to be done with your old hall when the new one is ready?" together with other queries of like import! I desire to record the fact that special interest attaches to the recently received Oxford and Salem public library reports, inasmuch as they sketch the successful and unsuccessful efforts to establish various libraries in these early Massachusetts towns. The city and town documents received from the new administration of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, are in return for a like gift from our duplicate room, which has also added to their stock a large collection of their duplicate publications.

The societies will try to aid each other in what may be called a broad exchange. In like manner we have been able to assist the Historical Library of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and the British Provinces—Mr. Jacob T. Bowne, of Springfield, Mass., Custodian—receiving a valuable return therefor. This unique library aims to secure not only all classes of Y. M. C. A. documents, but the publications of other religious societies of young men, both denominational and undenominational, and of young men's literary, library, benevolent and moral reform societies, etc., with books of all kinds written for the welfare of young men. In fact they desire anything which will in any way tend to illustrate the history or methods of work for the physical, social, moral, and religious welfare of young men. All such special efforts should meet with our hearty approval and coöperation. An unusually high grade of material has been received by way of exchange; the departments of biography, genealogy, local history, psalmody and witchcraft having been especially strengthened thereby.

Since our last meeting, the north wing of the Society's old hall on the corner of Summer and Belmont streets has been torn down and a modern apartment-house erected upon its site. As its further destruction is a probable event in the near future, I am led to record a few facts with regard to the old home. They have been chiefly gathered from unpublished records and other manuscript sources. An official advertisement in the *Massachusetts Spy* of August 23, 1820, signed Rejoice Newton, Recording Secretary, announces that "The Building lately erected for the use of the Society in Worcester by the bounty of the President Isaiah Thomas LL.D. being now completed, will be dedicated on Thursday the 24th inst. (tomorrow). The exercises on the occasion will be prayers, a Public address by Isaac Goodwin Esq. and appropriate musick. Members of the Society and others disposed to Countenance this

National Institution, are requested to attend. The Society will dine at Sikes' Coffee-House." The Sub Council Records of August 24, 1820, inform us that "On this day the President, Vice President Bancroft, Sub Council and other officers of the Society met in the new building for the library, together with a number of the members, and went in procession to the Church of the North Parish¹ where the Dedication was performed agreeably to an order on the 10th of April last. A large number of people visited the Library after the exercises were over." The building having been completed and occupied, the following entries in the Sub Council Records show how the Collections were to be made useful: Sept. 18, 1820, it was "voted that the members in Worcester take turns, each one week, to take charge of the Library and Cabinet." February 7, 1822, it was "Agreed that the following gentlemen, in the order of their names as stated below, attend for the purpose of waiting on persons who shall be admitted to visit the Society's Library, weekly, one of them a week each, viz.: Mr. Thomas, Rev. Dr. Bancroft, Mr. Bangs, Mr. Bigelow, Mr. Burnside, Mr. Jennison, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Maccarty, Mr. Newton." Our founder's plea for protection from the dangers by fire, which was written with his own hand under date August 4, 1823, in a volume marked "Donors and Donations to the American Antiquarian Society," is as follows: "No fire is ever to be made in the Rooms occupied for the Library and Cabinet, and no fire must be made in the room appropriated for the Librarian until the wood work of the fire-place is taken away or covered at least half way up with tin or sheet-iron, and floor adjoining the Hearth covered at least four feet each way where the Hearth projects, with tin or sheet-lead, after which a stove should be used placed back from the Hearth. No fire or lights to be used after sunset. Too much care cannot be taken as it respects fire." Possibly too little fire had resulted in too much dampness and

¹ The Church of which the Reverend Dr. Bancroft was then pastor.

this may have been, in part at least, the occasion of the following entry in the Sub Council Records of July 13, 1826, viz.: "The Librarian was requested to take an assistant and put the library and cabinet in better order—which was soon after attended to." Thus much of the building in its original form and the service therein rendered. Dr. Thomas died April 4, 1831, and at the semi-annual meeting, June 20, following, the Society accepted the report of a Sub Council Committee consisting of Frederick W. Paine, Isaac Goodwin and Rejoice Newton, which had been appointed to consider and report on the subject of erecting a fire-proof wing or wings to Antiquarian Hall under the provisions of the will of the late Isaiah Thomas. They reported in favor of "the erection of two wings as soon as may be convenient, each wing to be twenty-five feet long and twenty deep, two stories high and covered with slate or zinc. One of the wings to have the floors covered with stone or brick and to communicate with the main building by means of an iron door." The estimated expense was twelve hundred dollars, and for painting the wooden part of the main building thirty-five dollars including the cupola, which latter, however, it is frankly added, "Your committee consider neither useful nor ornamental but on the contrary, as defacing the building and very difficult to render tight, and they would, therefore, suggest the propriety of taking it away." A foot-note records the fact that "I(saac) G(oodwin) objects to that part of the report which recommends removing the cupola," and his objection has been sustained for nearly sixty years. The minutes of the Annual Meeting, October 24, 1831, mention a report of the Building Committee (Governor Levi Lincoln and Frederick W. Paine, Esq.) on the erection of the library house, and the Semi-Annual Report of the Council, October 24, 1832, says "Two wings to their Hall have been erected and are now finished. Repairs and some alterations have been made in the main body of the building, rendered necessary by the

additions, the want of proper ventilation and the rot occasioned by damp and leakage." The element of dampness is again forcibly suggested by the following entry in the librarian's account book the month previous; "Paid Jonathan Wood for old barrels for my well in the cellar 12½ c."! I add from the above-named report the following paragraphs: "The want of more room was felt before the death of Mr. Thomas, and he left a legacy of one thousand dollars towards building the wings. It was thought most judicious to erect at this time two wings sufficiently spacious to meet the wants of the library for some years to come, and also, to accommodate the Librarian. These objects have been fully attained and the expense as appears by the report of Mr. Frederick William Paine for the Building Committee will be about nineteen hundred and fifty dollars, one thousand of which is provided by the aforesaid legacy." The Council Report of May 29, 1833, signed by William Lincoln and Samuel M. Burnside, speaks of the building as "Convenient for the purposes of appropriation, neat and elegant in appearance, alike useful for the Society and ornamental to the town." (The present hall was first occupied for a meeting of the Society, October 2, 1853.)

Referring to our list of members, it appears that but five remain to tell us of the annual doings at the Hall of our Founder. Their honored names follow in the order of seniority of election: George Bancroft, Robert C. Winthrop, George E. Ellis, Edward E. Hale, and J. C. Bancroft Davis. Such reminiscences would be of marked interest to members of a later period and might well be illustrated with the existing cuts of the building as it has appeared from time to time. Before leaving the old home, I venture to submit, chronologically arranged, a few items relating to the library and the librarian's life in the days of the Society's youth and early manhood. Admission to the enlarged treasure-house was to be obtained under the new By-Laws of October 24, 1831, "On the personal in-

roduction or on producing a ticket of a member of the Society.”

The quotations which follow have been taken from the important though very personal Diary of Christopher C. Baldwin, Esq., who was elected to membership in the Society October 23, 1827, was later placed temporarily in charge of its library and collections, was elected Librarian in the autumn of 1831, and took the office April 1, 1832. As a whole it covers from January 1, 1829, to the morning of his sudden death, August 20, 1835; and has a decidedly quaint style, with a marked local coloring. It may serve to indicate to us the strong personality which was thrown into the library work within and without the library walls, not only by Mr. Baldwin but by others of the Society's early and devoted librarians. The following paragraphs fix the date of Mr. Baldwin's first salaried service and the location of the librarian's room: "April 1, 1832. This day my salary begins as Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. I build a fire in my apartment in the Hall of the Society (in the south wing) and answer several letters." The following refers to the personal service of one who was for thirty-seven years a faithful officer of the Society: "His Excellency, Governor Lincoln, came with several men to lay out the grounds in front of the Antiquarian Hall. He worked very diligently two days and made some very acceptable alterations. The thermometer stood at 91, and I have no question but that he had a warm time of it." Two facts appear from the next selection, viz., that our newspaper collection of 1832 numbered about twelve hundred volumes, and that it was placed on the second floor of the wing now demolished. "July 10, 1832. This day I have shelves erected in the chamber of the north wing of the Antiquarian Hall for the reception of newspapers. The shelves are put up and I load them with six hundred volumes of papers, which comprise about half of our collection of that kind of reading." An early visit to the library

by Peter Force is thus chronicled: "October 8, 1833. Peter Force, Esq., of Washington, D. C., came to town last evening. He is engaged in collecting and arranging for the press, the documentary history of all the colonies from their origin to the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, April 13, 1789. He has been employed about it several years already. He has now associated with him Matthew St. Clair Clarke, Clerk of the House of Representatives of Congress, and both are acting under a direction contained in a Resolve of Congress. They visit Worcester for the purpose of examining the collection of newspapers in the Antiquarian Hall. Mr. Force was with me all day. I have never found one who was so familiar with the events of our Revolutionary War as he." The facts of a visit and a request from Hon. Henry Clay are thus entered: "November 5, 1833. I was visited by Mr. Clay at the Antiquarian Hall, this morning, in company with the committee. He requested me, upon his arrival at Washington, to write him, giving an account of the Antiquarian Society."

Perhaps Mr. Baldwin's devotion to his library work is nowhere more forcibly put than in the following short paragraphs: "January 21, 1834. But what right has a Librarian to have any affection but for books and manuscripts? I doubt his authority for any other love even though it be for a beautiful lady." The intention, expressed in the following, as to a Dictionary of books relating to America would doubtless have been carried out in our old hall had Mr. Baldwin's life been spared, as frequent allusions to his purpose are to be found in his diary. "March 13, 1834. I must account this one of the happiest days of my life. I received early in the morning a copy of the *Bibliotheca Britannica* by Robert Watt in 4 vols. 4to. Edinburgh 1824, for which I paid thirty-eight dollars. It has often occurred to me how much we want such a work in this country, and since I have been Librarian I have uniformly held out the idea that our Library was designed to collect all the pro-

ductions of American authors. I shall begin shortly to make a sort of *Bibliotheca Americana*, but there will be no occasion for many notes because our continent is so new. But by making such a book I may get some fame, and of all fame in this world the fame of a librarian is the most to my taste. I can make a work of this description and a History of American Printing at this time." Evidence of his interest in the external surroundings of the hall appear in the following entries: "March 17, 1834. Set out in front of Antiq'n Hall ten Locust Trees which I procured from the nursery of William Lincoln. I brought them on my back at two loads. The trunks are about an inch in diameter at the ground. I have set all the trees that are now growing about the Hall. I began the planting of them in November, 1832, but the greater part of them were planted in March and April, 1833." And again he writes, "April 19, 1834. Anniversary of the battle of Lexington. I spent the afternoon in planting trees about Antiquarian Hall. I have now planted all I designed to in the beginning. I have set out perhaps five hundred of different kinds. I have dug these up in the woods and have brought them on my back. They will afford a comfortable shade for my successor, if I should not live to enjoy it myself." And here I am reminded of William Lincoln's touching reference to some of these trees when called by the Society the following year to pay the last tribute to his friend Baldwin. He said, "The evergreens selected by the taste and planted by the hand of the late lamented librarian, are the fit symbol of the memory of that excellent officer as cherished by the many who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and particularly of those who from official association intimately, knew his merits and his worth." Mr. Baldwin thus refers to his journey to Boston to attend the Society's spring meeting in 1834, and to interviews with several members: "May 27, 1834. I went to Boston with William Lincoln to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting

of the Society. We left Worcester at 6 in the morning in the mail stage and reached Boston at 12 at noon. Our stage company consisted of the Hon. Benjamin Russell, the famous Editor of the *Boston Centinel*, Gen. Mattoon of Amherst, Col. Edward G. Prescott, etc. Mr. Russell and Gen. Mattoon being Revolutionary soldiers entertained us with their fighting experience. They fought every battle from that of Lexington to the taking of Cornwallis. Both knew General Washington personally and also Dr. Franklin. Russell mentioned several anecdotes of the latter, and one which occurred while he was a printer's boy with Isaiah Thomas at Worcester. Dr. Franklin was on some public business in this part of the country which required his stay at Worcester two or three days. Much of this time was spent in the printing office, and Mr. Russell says that he gave the men some very useful hints about working the press. The press was so constructed that only half of one side of a sheet could be printed at one motion and the Doctor took the apparatus out and in a few minutes arranged it so that the whole side of a sheet could be printed at one instead of two operations. Although he (Russell) is now seventy-six, he looks like a man of sixty, and when he begins to tell an anecdote his manner is so earnest and the circumstances so particular that the hearer has no ground for doubting anything. On Saturday morning I went to visit the Rev. Dr. Jenks. He wished me to give him an account of my labors as librarian and of the condition of the Institution. He particularly commended my plan of increasing the Library by making it a collection of the productions of American authors. He inspired me with so much new zeal and love for my vocation that I shall return to my labors with new pleasure and satisfaction. I met Jared Sparks at Wilkins' Book-store. I spent a half hour with him very pleasantly and he in an especial manner commended me for my care and labor in the collection and preservation of newspapers, saying that in his different pub-

lications he had made great use of them and regretted that so few perfect files of old papers had been spared from destruction. I was in Boston five days. I amuse myself by going among the different book-stores and hunting up American History. I found some hundreds of volumes which I wanted that could be purchased for a mere trifle. I had only fifteen dollars of the Society's money to expend and this I laid out as advantageously as I could." The following reference is to Bentley material received by bequest from Mr. Wm. B. Fowle, and acknowledged in the librarian's report of April, 1866, in which report Dr. Haven says: "It is not known that he had ever intimated an intention to make this disposition of his share of his uncle's books and papers. Indeed, it was understood that he had proposed to prepare the diaries for the press, since the lapse of time had obviated the objections to a publication of the somewhat free and flavored comments upon men and things they are said to contain." However, the good seed which had been so faithfully sown some thirty years before by a predecessor in office, sprang up and bore abundant fruit. The interview which was productive of action is thus recorded: "June 4, 1834. William Bentley Fowle, Esq., of Boston, came to see me today and remained with me two days and a half. He is the nephew of the late Rev. Dr. Bentley of Salem. He promised me that at some convenient time he would present to the Antiquarian Society the manuscripts which belonged to his uncle and also that he would prepare a biographical memoir of him, for the transactions of the Society." The kindly relations which have so long existed between the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Boston Athenæum and our own, are briefly indicated by the following: "January 20, 1835. I brought with me from Boston many books that were given me for our Library. The pamphlets from the Historical Society and Athenæum are in number between three and four thousand." Absence from the library to attend the May Meeting in

1835—the last at which he was present—is referred to as follows: “May 25, 1835. Took the stage this morning for Boston to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Antiquarian Society which is to be held on the 27th. At Westborough, I left the stage and took a seat in one of the cars of the Railroad and reached Boston at 10 A. M. There were about two hundred passengers. May 27, 1835. The Antiquarian Society met at 12 o'clock at the Exchange Coffee House. We were all invited to dine with Mr. Winthrop, President of the Society. The Society always dine with him and he gives a prime entertainment.”

A leading feature of the old hall which is pleasantly remembered by persons now living, is mentioned by William Lincoln, Esq., in his Council Report, May 29, 1839, viz. : “The Cabinet occupies one large room and has been arranged with great neatness. There are old specimens of the arts of Peru and Mexico, a vast number of implements, utensils, weapons and ornaments of the northern Indians, and some most interesting memorials of the planters of New England, and of the patriots of the Revolution.” Of the exterior, he says, in the same report, “Improvements have been made during the spring season on the grounds of the Society. The belt of trees flourishing in the front of the Hall has been extended along the sides and rear, and at no distant period, the library will be embowered in the shade of evergreens, proving walls of perennial verdure to separate the still retreat of the Antiquarian from the busy stir of the world.”

My closing reference to the old home shall be a quotation from our friend Dr. Haven's library report of April 27, 1853, upon entering the new home. He said, “An expression of regret may be permitted at parting with the old accustomed edifice which has so long served so useful a purpose and been the centre of so many pleasant associations. Its very defects are in a degree harmonious with the purpose to which it has been devoted. Its shaded position and

sombre halls, though generating mould and decay, have to common conception a fitness and propriety that almost compensate for their disadvantages."

The years that have passed since these descriptive notes were first penned, have brought to the Society added cares and opportunities, but may we not after all truly say of it not only that "the past at least is secure" but that "the future is full of promise." If our early members were proud of their Antiquarian Hall—the gift of the first President—which Mr. Goodwin in his dedicatory address called "that splendid edifice," so may we of these later days be justly proud of our well located, well lighted, well heated, well drained and, I may add, well filled Antiquarian Hall, largely the gift of our second great benefactor, who was also for so many years our honored President, and whose honored son and namesake now occupies the chair.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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