

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

UNTIL the etymology of the word librarian is changed, you will naturally expect to find in a report from such an officer something relating to books. A review of the library work may be tedious, the statistics and acknowledgments dry and uninteresting; yet, placed between learned historical or archæological papers, such a report may, after all, have a very real mission which it should be allowed to fulfil. Your librarian is supposed to be personally interested not only in the interior and exterior of books, but also in trying to make the greatest possible number of people love and care for them. It is expected that he will use such time and such talents as he possesses in making useful to scholars, old and young, the treasures committed to his charge. Some of these students he will be able to carefully lead into new channels of thought and labor, while others whom he cannot closely follow in their special fields he may cheer on in their good work. Many of the children who visit Antiquarian Hall, either alone or accompanied by their teachers, find there many object lessons of value. They are interested not only in the mosaic head of Columbus, made by the Venetian artist, out of the many-colored bits of porcelain, but in the shells brought from near the port of Palos, whence the great navigator sailed on his wonderful voyage of discovery; the statues, portraits, busts, medallions and silhouettes of celebrities, the remains and photographs of the ruined cities of Yucatan, the photographic groups of the Washington Treaty Commissioners—those early friends of the cause of arbitration,—the Mather high chair of 1635, the Hancock clock, the Bay Psalm

Book, the Eliot and Cranmer Bibles and the black-letter volume of 1470; for all help to make the past a reality. It has been for some years the pleasant and profitable custom of the Principal of the Thomas-street Grammar school—situated on land given by our founder—after their annual lesson upon Isaiah Thomas's life and services, to bring the pupils of the two upper grades to the library for further light as to their benefactor and ours. It is a pleasure to certify to their intelligent interest as well as to their good behavior.

The treasurer's report again reminds us of the Tenney fund of five thousand dollars, which was bequeathed to the Society by a loving father solely on account of kindness shown his school-boy son at Antiquarian Hall. While we would not encourage the "Curiosity Shop" view of our Society's collections, we should always be glad in every possible way to aid even the youngest of students.

The advice of Louis and Alexander Agassiz to Natural History Societies, to carefully work their own fields, will apply with equal force to all learned societies. It seems clearly their first, though perhaps as clearly not their whole duty. The application of this principle to our Society would suggest as its special field, the new world; and the same may be said of the American Historical Association. The vigorous Archæological Institute of America has supplied valuable material from both sides of the Atlantic, and appears to have entered upon a career of great usefulness. Its official organ promises the results of researches, oriental, classical, early Christian, mediæval and American. In narrower fields, like some of the older States, both the Historical Societies and State Libraries have grown up alongside, each doing its own work the better on account of the existence of the other. Occasionally, however, the State Historical Society has been under the patronage of the State, being quartered in the State House and taking the place of the State Library, or it might almost be said

being that under another name. Some States have the State library but not the Historical Society, while a few are provided with neither. As a society having members in many of the States, and liable at no distant day to be represented in all of them, it seems our part and duty to use our influence for the establishment of one or both where the field is not already occupied. It is quite encouraging to note, in passing, the energy of the newer Western Societies, and to watch the signs of returning life in a few societies in the Southern States. Where private enterprise is not sufficient to establish or revive these educational helps, let the State be induced to act in the matter, supplying first a live librarian, then quarters, then money. State libraries have been visited in days gone by, from which the incoming party had removed both the librarian and at the same time all probability of healthful library growth. It has been our great privilege to help various State libraries, but perhaps none so much as that of the State of Massachusetts from which we received our act of incorporation. From holding low rank it has, within a comparatively few years, taken a high position among the libraries of the land. The methods of its acting-librarian, Mr. C. B. Tillinghast, may safely be followed by any States, old or young. The opening paragraph of a circular issued "In the service of the Commonwealth," gives the key-note to his administration as follows: "It is desirable that the State library, as it is the property of the State and open free to all its citizens, should contain all publications illustrative in any way of the local, educational, social and industrial history of the towns and cities of the State, of all the institutions of its people, and the contributions of its citizens to social, political and religious history." His persistence in searching out the printed reports of every city and town in the State should be followed at once by every State library or State historical society, as such material is almost universally destroyed. The name of the Custodian of the State library has been

mentioned—though entirely without his knowledge—that he may be enquired of by those wishing further light in the direction of ways and means. One of its trustees¹ has been for thirty years a member of our Council.

That the national character of our Society is not yet sufficiently well-known even in New England is evident from the following appeal of an eminent scholar for our file of the Vermont Gazette from 1783 to 1798. He writes, “These papers, I am quite sure, cannot be very valuable to your collection—perhaps are not referred to for years—but in the town where they were published would be most highly prized and would be extremely useful for historical purposes.”

In order that it may be seen at a glance how far we have “possessed the land,” a table of members arranged by States, has been prepared and is herewith presented. Our By-Laws limit the number of members in the United States to one hundred and forty, and as there are but three vacancies the present membership numbers one hundred and thirty-seven. Following is the list: Maine 1, New Hampshire 3, Vermont 1, Massachusetts 72 (i. e. Boston 16, Cambridge 11, Worcester 27 and other towns 18), Rhode Island 4, Connecticut 9, New York 14, New Jersey 0, Pennsylvania 6, Delaware 0, Maryland 2, District of Columbia 5, Virginia 1, North Carolina 0, South Carolina 0, Georgia 2, Florida 0, Alabama 0, Mississippi 0, Louisiana 1, Texas 0, Arkansas 0, Missouri 1, Kentucky 0, Tennessee 0, Illinois 2, Indiana 0, Ohio 4, Michigan 1, Wisconsin 3, Minnesota 1, Nebraska 0, California 3, West Virginia 0, Oregon 0, Iowa 1, Kansas 0, Colorado 0, Nevada 0, Arizona Territory 0, Utah Territory 0, Wyoming Territory 0, Dakota Territory 0, Idaho Territory 0, New Mexico Territory 0, Montana Territory 0, Washington Territory 0, Alaska Territory 0. The foreign list numbers twenty-eight, as follows: Canada 2, Great Britain 4, South America 1, Argentine Republic

¹ Rev. Edward E. Hale, D.D.

1, German Empire 4, Greece 1, France 2, Spain 2, Mexico 10, Italy 1. While an active New England membership seems more important than ever, we cannot forget that their faithfulness should in no wise absolve the far-away members from responsibility in helping to sustain the good name of our Society. It was a favorite saying of Dr. Haven that faithful service in the Society conduced to long life, and that in his opinion its certificate of membership alone was of more value than a first-class life-insurance policy!

As usual not a little time has been required for the care and distribution of our duplicates. New fields have been opened to us which we have not hesitated to enter. Our United States Government exchange continues, and Mr. Ames says in a recent communication: "You take the lead in the number of volumes supplied." Large numbers of duplicate Massachusetts Railroad Commissioners' reports have been taken by their clerk for re-distribution, and returns have been made to other State departments in the same way for service rendered. Early and late reports of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-Minded have been thankfully received by Superintendent Asbury, and we have called home our own proceedings by sending back from our duplicate room some of those belonging to corresponding societies. We have helped Williamson's Bibliography of Maine by exchanging Maine duplicates with the Historical Society of that State. The Cincinnati Centennial Commissioners, in anticipation of the city's celebration in 1888, have drawn heavily upon our duplicate centennial reports, and another market for directories has been found among the Boards of Overseers of the Poor in New England. Our largest exchange of duplicate newspapers has been with the Kansas Historical Society which has furnished us with a set of Kansas State Documents. It is needless to say that much of the early printed history of Kansas can be found only in the Eastern press. Our collection of duplicate perfect and imperfect Mather tracts was consider-

ably increased by purchases at the last Brinley sale, and by putting the parts together—after carefully collating our own set—some surprising results were obtained. About two hundred dollars have already been realized from their sale. It has been said that good books are among our best friends; but a glance at our shelves will show that they are not always as well dressed or at least in such desirable colors as we would be glad to see them. Our associate, the Harvard Class Poet of 1859, may from love of his *alma mater* put the first edition of his Church Idea into Magenta and the second into Crimson, but he will hardly recognize them as his college colors in the dingy white of to-day. It may seem a small matter, but it is firmly believed, at least by your librarian, that the influence of a learned body like our own, as well as of the library fraternity, may to a certain degree induce publishers to put fast colors as well as strong and tasteful bindings upon our dear friends, the books. And here let me record the death on the third day of November, 1886, of Mr. Joseph S. Wesby, for many years the Society's faithful binder. Less should not, and more need not be said of him and of his good service.

Among library internal improvements may be mentioned the transfer of the individual biographies from the upper half of the Alcove of Biography in the Annex to the same section of the northwest alcove in the main hall. The lower half of the latter alcove can receive the collected biographies when it shall become necessary to place the rest of our United States documents below. The increase of this department is again due not so much to gifts or purchases as to exchanges, and includes English as well as American biography. This fact should remind members and friends that they need not withhold books and pamphlets because they think we already have them, but rather that duplicate material is always useful in the up-building of our library.

The great convenience of the tables originally attached

to the railings in the upper portion of some of the alcoves has induced the Library Committee to place them in the others at the charge of the Salisbury Building Fund. They do not appear to obstruct the light, have been made perfectly secure, and are in constant use.

The accessions for six months, to the 15th instant, have been as follows: By gift, nine hundred and fifty-one books, forty-six hundred and nine pamphlets, one hundred and eighteen volumes of newspapers, one hundred and thirteen maps, seven engravings, four photographs and four manuscripts. By exchange, three hundred and thirty-four books and three hundred and five pamphlets. Making a total of twelve hundred and eighty-five books, forty-eight hundred and fourteen pamphlets, one hundred and eighteen volumes of newspapers, one hundred and thirteen maps, seven engravings, four photographs and three charts. To these should be added various articles for the cabinet. The two hundred and twenty-five donors represent fifty-one members, eighty-nine persons not members and eighty-five societies and institutions. The full list of donors and donations will be found appended to this report, but a few special acknowledgments are here given. President Hoar has added to his usual gift of public documents selections of an historical character from his own library, manuscript material relating to the Fitz-John Porter case, and a list of his own publications to November, 1886. Vice-President Salisbury's contribution, which is large, includes a cabinet photograph of himself; and Hon. Edward L. Davis's the framed engraving of Senator Sumner—our Secretary for Foreign Correspondence from the year 1867 until his death in 1874—and his life-long friend the Poet Longfellow. Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington has presented another large instalment of the pamphlet literature of the Episcopal church. Hon. John D. Washburn, Hon. Henry S. Nourse and Mr. Reuben Colton have answered the request for members' photographs. We have received additional gene-

alogical material from Dr. George Chandler, whose Fund is, and whose "Chandler Family"—the remainder of the edition of which he presented to the Society—should be a constant source of revenue to us. J. Evarts Greene, Esq. has placed in our cabinet a complete reproduction in miniature of a Japanese General of the old régime, in costume and with his implements of warfare. Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis sends us, with other results of his literary labors, his "Canada and Louisiana," it being the first chapter of the fifth volume of the Narrative and Critical History of America, edited by Mr. Justin Winsor, and to which are appended Mr. Winsor's notes. While our membership contributes much to this great work it may be well to add that the Society's portfolios have furnished for reproduction portraits and plans not elsewhere preserved. Hon. Samuel A. Green contributes of his Groton Historical Series numbers sixteen to twenty inclusive, thus completing the first volume. Our record shows that beginning with an exchange—for certain of our founder's almanacs—with Dr. Green of Groton, in 1865, his gifts have been large and continuous. The witnesses to his efforts toward the preservation of the ephemeral literature of America may be found in the leading historical libraries of the country. General Francis A. Walker's History of the Second Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac suggests the special gratitude we always feel for an author's copy duly verified. The words of a recent writer in the American Bookseller that "Binding a book without a thorough index is like building a house and leaving the staircase out," also remind us that the General has not only furnished one but three indexes—or staircases—to his well-filled store-house. Mr. Francis J. Garrison, while sending other material, has not been unmindful of the small gaps in our file of the Liberator, and the Reverend John Gregson supplies us with a complete set of the Star and Crescent, formerly the official organ of the Alpha Delta Phi Society. Mrs. P. L. Canfield's gifts

to us are specially noteworthy. At this time she sends not only works in the departments of art and history, but a copy of "Travels Through North America, during the years 1825 and 1826," by his Highness Bernhard Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. In the latter is the following reference to our Society of sixty years ago: "We arrived at Worcester about 7 o'clock, and alighted at an excellent tavern. * * * On the following morning the Governor (Levi Lincoln, Councillor of this Society from 1817 until his death in 1868) conducted us to a recently established museum which is designed chiefly for the collection of American antiquities. It is yet in its infancy and contains but few interesting specimens; the library also is of small extent; notwithstanding we must render full justice to the inhabitants for their laudable zeal in the cause of national science." The accumulated income of the Isaac Davis Book Fund was expended last December, at the sale of part second of the famous collection made by M. Eugène Boban, which included many of the manuscripts and books formerly owned by M. Brasseur de Bourbourg. Of the forty-seven volumes thus secured many are of great rarity and value.

A brief reference at least should be made to the sale of the Fourth Part of the American Library of the late Mr. George Brinley. It occurred at New York, November 15-18, 1886, and was attended by your librarian, who expended of our balance of \$1,022.45 the sum of \$618.79, leaving to our credit for the final sale \$403.66. We received three hundred and fifty-three books and eight hundred and thirty-four pamphlets which may be classed as follows:—

Almanacs, dating from 1706.....	697 volumes.
Early New England imprints and therefore largely theological.....	158 volumes.
Early New England school books, many of them printed by our founder.....	123 volumes.
Mather tracts, containing not only works of seven different members of the family, but some of the rarest.....	45 volumes.

Chap books	48 volumes.
Dramatic	27 volumes.
Poetry	25 volumes.
Catechisms, Primers, Platforms and kindred works	23 volumes.
Psalmody	22 volumes.
Mormonism	12 volumes.
Biography	11 volumes.
Masonic	9 volumes.
Liturgies	5 volumes.
Slavery	3 volumes.

A list of the Mather tracts secured—which were not previously in the library—has been prepared and will be added to Mr. Paine's pamphlet list of Mather Publications. A few choice books—including the beautiful reprint of Caxton's "Game of Chesse," first printed in 1475, and Keimer's rare folio edition of 1728 of Sewel's "History of the Christian People called Quakers"—were purchased at the Brinley sale for the Haven Alcove.

In your Librarian's report of April, 1884, he referred, by way of illustration, to the libraries of specialties which largely make up the great whole in the Cornell University library. He now wishes to place on record to the honor of our associate, Hon. Andrew D. White, a copy of the following associated press despatch: "The Board of Trustees of Cornell University has received a communication from Ex-President White announcing that he will give to the University his fine historical library. The collection includes thirty thousand volumes, ten thousand pamphlets and many manuscripts, and cost over one hundred thousand dollars. The trustees voted to reorganize the department of history and political economy and call it the President White school of history and political science, and make Ex-President White its dean and lecturer with two new professors. They will also put the new law school on an enlarged basis in view of Mr. White's gift." It is said that the college authorities, in view of the precious gift, will erect a large fire-proof building for its accommodation. Its librarian, Mr. George Lincoln Burr, has already begun

an examination of our library in certain lines, and a special sale or exchange of our duplicates is likely to result from it. Our President's gift of manuscript material relating to the War of the Rebellion, leads me at the risk of being charged with duplication, to call attention to a resolution introduced by Rev. Dr. Hill, at the annual meeting of the Society twenty-one years ago, and seconded by Judge Barton. In their day and generation it did not answer its purpose, but it may speak in louder tones to-day. Following is the resolution: "Whereas a large amount of valuable material for history remains in the hands of families and friends of deceased and living soldiers, and is in danger of being irrevocably lost; therefore, *Resolved*, That the Librarian be directed to solicit the presentation of the originals or copies of such letters, journals and other written documents, from the army engaged in the late Civil War, and from the hospitals, as friends may be willing to furnish; and that application be made for these precious documents as early and as widely as possible." The Society's correspondence during this period, which I have lately examined, contains some interesting war letters, but the number is quite limited.

In accepting an invitation to meet the new Columbia College Library School, it seemed to me best to speak to them of our Society and its work. I have in a previous report called your attention to this novel school as originally proposed. It was opened January 4th, 1887, and has already proved that it has a *raison d'être*. The field to which its graduates will be welcomed is a broad and useful one. To them as to those who have been longer in the way, John Bright's words of encouragement, though they may be too highly colored, should act as a stimulant. He says: "Few trades or professions have made greater progress of late years than the librarian's. They only began to be conscious that they were a distinct craft until the other day, and their conference is yet but a few years old. Yet they have done more for the advancement of their art

in their short organized existence than many older bodies have accomplished in a generation. * * * To facilitate the studies of others is the librarian's business; and so far have many of them now carried their art that a brief chat with the officer in charge will teach the casual reader what he used to learn less perfectly by the tedious study of ponderous and perplexing catalogues."

In completing twenty-one years of service for this Society, I am forcibly reminded of the great changes which have occurred since the month of April, 1866, when I first became associated with our late lamented Librarian, Dr. Haven. Of the seventeen Councillors then living but four remain, viz.: Messrs. Hale, Sargent, Deane and Paine, while Messrs. Salisbury, Jenks, Lincoln, Davis, Shurtleff, Folsom, Barton, Merrick, Bigelow, Haven, Washburn, Thomas and Hill have died. It may be said in brief that during this period your library and your working funds have doubled, the library building has been enlarged, the hours during which the public are served therein have been extended, the Card Catalogue has been well forwarded, and the library correspondence has of course largely increased. By the introduction of steam heat the old-time winter temperature of eighty degrees in the office, forty in the upper and twenty in the lower hall has given place to an even and safe temperature of seventy degrees throughout the building.

In entering upon another year's labors I entertain the hope that our valuable library will be more and more used by both members and the public, and thereby become more and more useful. We have thus far made good progress, but with an increase of your present generous interest and support we may reasonably expect that still greater good will be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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