

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

THERE has been no undue excitement in the library life of the past six months, although an unusual amount of important work has been done. A distinguishing feature has been the large number of givers to and receivers from our collections; new avenues having been opened in both directions. As samples of the latter it may be said that the Centennial Celebration of Washington's Inauguration proved to be an opportunity for showing our wealth of contemporary newspaper material, and that various rare Indian title and other pages have been photographed for the use of Mr. James C. Pilling in his great government work in the department of linguistics. It may be added that our small but valuable collection of manuscripts written in the Oriental languages or connected with their study—the cream of which Dr. Edward E. Salisbury described nearly forty years ago in Volume two of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*—has been carefully examined by Professor George F. Moore, of Andover, one of a committee appointed by the American Oriental Society to lay the foundation for a comprehensive catalogue of such as exist in America. A new use for our College and Medical School Catalogues has been found by the Montana Medical Examining Board in their efforts to raise the standard of their profession in that State. It has happened that where careful lists of graduates had not been printed, we were able in some cases to refer the Board to the manuscript records. Thus, in a small way, rare newspapers, rare books, rare manuscripts and even college catalogues, though things of the past, have their real mission to-day. Even

to these treasures Colonel Washburn's words apply, for he said, you will remember, "They must not be left to rust unburnished but made to shine in use."

The following internal improvements should be reported. The book cases for the south side of the lower main hall, which were made ready for use early in June, have been nearly filled with our collection of United States government reports in cloth as issued by the several departments. The lower half of alcove R in the upper hall has thus been made free for our department of collective biography, the upper half having already been occupied by our individual biographies. We have moved Dr. Pliny Earle's noble collection of reports and other material bearing upon insanity—so fittingly referred to in the Council Report of last October—into the lower half of alcove L in the Salisbury annex, thus leaving the Haven alcove free for the remainder of the Haven library and the additions thereto provided by his fund. The preparation for these changes has necessarily entailed a great deal of preliminary work. For instance, a large part of the odds and ends of newspapers collected the past twenty years have been arranged for binding, and some satisfactory sales of duplicates effected. It seemed also a very desirable time to extend the system of re-distribution in which this Society has taken so prominent and it would seem so creditable a part. Exchanges with our government continue as usual. An acknowledgment from the State Librarian of Massachusetts, dated May 9, 1889, suggests the principle of exchange on which such returns are made. He says, "The box of documents received, and we are putting them in order with our other supply. They will help to fill many gaps in widely separated libraries. We shall be glad to serve you to the extent of our ability." The chief executive of Boston writes, "What you have sent has been reverently shared by the Public Library, the Mayor and the City Auditor. Command us all in return." Further service in this direction

has again been rendered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, the Worcester City Hospital, and other institutions; and our associate, Dr. Samuel A. Green, has once more cheerfully acted as our distributing agent of the duplicate benevolent society reports of Boston and vicinity. Reference should also be made to a large collection of municipal documents forwarded in exchange to Columbia College for special and immediate use in their department of political science.

The cases in the lower hall marked "Clippings of the War of Secession from Pickering Dodge," which had not been disturbed since they were boxed twenty-five years ago, have been carefully examined by the librarian. The clippings proper which are chronologically arranged, have been placed along-side the fourteen volumes so perfectly prepared and so beautifully bound, already in our alcove of Rebellion and Slavery. We may, however, congratulate ourselves that the great mass of this war newspaper material proves to be unclipped, and of the period from 1861 to 1864. It includes those of Boston, Providence, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and a few from south of "Mason and Dixon's line." Thus our collection of war newspapers has been greatly strengthened, especially in New York journals. It is hoped that the duplicates which have been sent to the Boston Athenæum by way of exchange, will there produce a like result. Dr. Haven's references to Mr. Dodge and his valued gift will be found in his librarian's reports of October, 1862, October, 1863, and April, 1864. Following is a paragraph from his report of October, 1863, referring to the above mentioned collection; "Mr. Dodge has also deposited his assorted material for the continuation of that work, to remain in case the state of his health prevents him from prosecuting the work he has thus far so ably and effectively performed."

In the recent reproduction by the City of Boston of the

rare edition of 1660 of the Massachusetts Laws, Mr. William H. Whitmore, the Record Commissioner, was allowed to use our Secretary Rawson copy. This appears, on the whole, to be the most complete copy extant, though it should be added that some of the missing supplements have been supplied, in the reprint, from the Judge Story copy now in the Law Library of Harvard College. The edition of 1672 was photo-electrotyped two years ago under the direction of the same Commission, and we may hope that in time a copy of the first edition will come to light for similar treatment. Attached to our Rawson volume of 1660 is the following description of it in the handwriting of Dr. Haven, which it seems well at this time to preserve in print: "This is supposed to be the oldest edition extant. A previous edition was printed in 1649 but none of the copies are now known to be in existence. Bound with this are several Laws and Orders made at several General Courts in the years 1661, 1662 and 1663, printed and published by order of the General Court held at Boston 20th October, 1663. Also several Laws and Orders made etc. in 1661, 1662 and 1664. Also those made at Courts of May 3, August 1, and October 11, 1665. Also those made etc. May 25, and October 11, 1666. Also those made etc. April 29, 1668, and those made October 14, 1668, the last imperfect. These additions are paged separately." Our Society has a wide-spread duty as well as interest in the duplication of such material, though it is not at all likely to induce many cities to reproduce Colonial Laws as Boston has so liberally done.

And just here a word may well be added in favor of the preservation in print of early town and county records. This subject has been intelligently treated by John T. Haslam, Esq., Chairman of a committee of the Council of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, in a report made January 2, 1889, entitled "The Public Records.

The dangers to which they are exposed and the proper methods of preserving them." This report was accompanied by a circular addressed January 23, 1889, by Francis H. Brown, M.D., Corresponding Secretary of the Society, to the Clerk of every city and town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the leading societies in interest. Attention is also called to the list of missing records of existing and extinct churches recently published—and it is to be hoped widely circulated—by Mr. Robert P. Swan, Commissioner on Public Records of parishes, towns and counties of Massachusetts. This list, which is doubtless submitted for additions and corrections could, like Clara Barton's war "rolls of missing men," be posted in town-house, or post-office at least in all the cities and towns named therein, and to it attention should be directed by the public press. If this first effort to secure the many estrays is wisely encouraged, good results and like action by other States, are quite sure to follow. Let me add under existing churches, the fact that early records of the First Church (Old South), Worcester have long been absent from their archives, and under the same head state that Freeman in his *Annals of Sandwich* mentions the loss of the church records to the date of the ordination of Rev. Roland Cotton, November 28, 1694. A correction is evidently called for under extinct churches, in Sandwich. That ancient town has had many churches, some of which have been curiously denominated, but I am quite sure our associate Rev. Dr. Dexter will agree with me that on the list a two-line entry should replace the one-line entry of Puritan Protestant Episcopal!

A slight decrease in the total of gifts is fully compensated for by the fact that the number of givers is larger than ever. This evidence of a growing habit among our members is most encouraging. The usual statistics and a few special acknowledgments follow. The sources of accession to the 15th instant, have been two hundred and forty-seven:

namely, from thirty-eight members, one hundred and seventeen persons not members, and ninety-two societies and institutions, and the receipts eight hundred and nine books, twenty-eight hundred and forty-one pamphlets, one hundred and twenty-seven bound and ninety-seven unbound volumes of newspapers, eight volumes of manuscripts, two hundred and twenty-one autograph letters, fifty-eight engraved portraits, six photographs, five war coins, one steel plate, one map and a specimen of continental money. Of these; seven hundred and thirteen books, twenty-eight hundred and thirty-two pamphlets, three volumes of bound and ninety-seven of unbound newspapers, with the manuscripts and other articles enumerated, are gifts; ninety-six books, one hundred and ninety-one pamphlets, and one bound volume of newspapers are exchanges; and one hundred and twenty-three volumes of newspapers are from the bindery.

Our President's gift includes not only Spanish-American material, and the doings of learned societies, but local histories ordered so that the worthy scholar might be encouraged in his effort to preserve in print the vanishing records of places and persons. Vice-President Hoar adds to his usual gift of government publications a volume of the great work on Roman architecture, etc., by Giovanni Battista Piranesi, and a very interesting cabinet photograph album containing the war governors. It should also be stated that we are indebted to him for the first stenographic report of a meeting of this Society. Dr. George Chandler has placed volume three of his monumental inscriptions of the Chandler family, with volumes one and two already in our manuscript room. The beneficent work of his Chandler fund is of course constant and far-reaching. In acknowledging from Dr. Lyman C. Draper a copy of his autographic collections of the signers of the Declaration and the Constitution, the fact that he includes that of our Treasurer, Mr. Paine, may well be noted. The receipt of

his interesting brochure on the Public Libraries of Worcester from our councillor, Mr. Samuel S. Green, suggests the desirability of reprinting that portion which relates to this Society. It would be a useful companion pamphlet to those of our Treasurer, published in 1873, 1876 and 1889. Mr. James F. Hunnewell sets an excellent example by forwarding for preservation and future use manuscript biographical memoranda relating to himself. Mr. Nathaniel Paine's semi-annual gift provides us with extra copies of his Drama in Worcester and his Societies, Associations and Clubs of Worcester. His account of our Society with Mr. Green's paper on the library, already referred to, both of which were published this year in the History of Worcester County—would make a most complete historical tract for our distribution. Rev. Grindall Reynolds adds to our alcove of collective biography, "Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle in Concord, second series, from 1795 to 1840." Mr. Reynolds, who was the author of ten of these sketches, has also secured for us through the Hon. George M. Brooks, the rare first series, to which Mr. Reynolds was also a contributor. Too high a value can hardly be placed upon such works, for they are most carefully prepared and are not often found in the market. A copy of the Diaries of Reverend Timothy Walker, the first and only minister of Concord, N. H., from his ordination, November 18, 1780, to September, 1782, which have been edited and annotated by our associate, Hon. Joseph B. Walker, have by him been added to our collection of such constantly useful material. Dr. Justin Winsor has furnished our portfolios with many Spanish-American maps, charts and other wood cuts. He has also informed us of three important letters relating to our library and its interests found by him in the Adams Archives at Quincy. They were addressed to John Quincy Adams, by librarian C. C. Baldwin, December 10, 1833, December 24, 1833 and February 1, 1835. Mrs. Penelope Lincoln Canfield,

whose gifts to the Society have been frequent and valuable, has recently given thirty-five volumes, chiefly new works of the highest order, to the departments of art, literature and travel. A file of the *W T I* from Mr. W. Frank Cole, being duplicate with us, has enabled us to complete the set of the Worcester Free Public Library; and a nearly complete set of the *Voice* has been presented by Messrs. Funk and Wagnalls, the publishers. Mr. A. P. C. Griffin's invaluable index of American Local History in the Boston Public Library, received from the author, must rank with Poole and Durrie in constant and increasing usefulness. We are grateful to the Rev. Samuel D. Hosmer for volumes of the *Congregationalist* needed to continue our file; and to the editor, Mr. Marshall N. Rich, for the *Portland Board of Trade Journal*, containing as it does so much of local history and biography. With a large collection of engraved portraits, Mr. Benjamin W. Kinney has sent us an interesting photograph—side view—of his father's marble bust of the founder of this Society. General William S. Lincoln, whose interest in the Society has been long continued, has made a large and valuable addition to our Lincoln papers, including therein manuscript material relating to the "Massachusetts Claims," with autographs of peculiar interest and value. Charles S. Merrick, Ph.D., of the Worcester High School, has as a labor of love and with the approval of the library committee, put in order our collection of stamps and kindred material. Messrs. Sanford & Davis have placed upon our shelves their edition of Knowlton and Wheelock's Worcester local classic, "Carl's Tour in Main street," now for the first time published in book form, though thrice printed in the *Worcester Palladium*. It is to be regretted that the careful editor, Mr. Franklin P. Rice, did not give us more of his valuable foot-notes and an index to the whole work. Hon. Eli Thayer, "in acknowledgment of many favors," has presented his "History of the Kansas Crusade, its Friends

and its Foes; with an introduction by Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D.," and it has been placed in the alcove of slavery and rebellion. The Hampden County Musical Association begins the good work of preserving a printed record of its music festivals by sending its first report to the leading historical and antiquarian societies. We welcome first contributions from the Historical Society of Southern California, the Minisink Valley Historical Society, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland.

Mr. Benjamin F. Stevens, of London, having the past year failed to receive the appropriation asked of our government for the producing fac-similes of the manuscripts relating to America from 1763 to 1783, in the Archives of England, France, Holland and Spain, now offers them to subscribers as a purely business venture. President Salisbury, Vice-President Hoar and Councillor Davis have kindly directed the librarian to order the first five volumes at their charge, thus placing the Society on the list of First Subscribers. It may be well to add that the members of the National Library Committee at Washington were so favorably impressed with the importance of this enterprise, that they reported a joint resolution to Congress, authorizing the purchase of the proposed catalogue at an expense not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

A short list of wants was printed in the body of my report of last October to which the following list is supplementary: *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, all before July 15, 1847; May 25, 1848; May 31, June 7, July 26, September 13, 20, 1849; November 21, 1850; January 16, 23, July 10, September 25, 1851; January 29, February 12, April 22, November 25, 1852; June 11, August 13, September 3, October 29, November 5, 1853; May 13, 27, July 1, 22, August 26, September 9, 1854; January 6, 1855; January 31, September 26, 1857; March 2, October 26, 1861; May 10, September 27, 1862;

September 12, December 26, 1863; February 27, May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 25, July, all, August 6, 13, September 17, 24, October 22, 29, November 12, 1864; February 18, March, all, April 1, 8, 15, 29, May 6, July 15, 1865; April 14, 1866; April 6, 1867; April 17, 24, 1869. Our Governor Lincoln set of the *North American Review* needs, to complete it for the market, numbers 2 to 21, inclusive, 22, 25 and 32. Our library set was years ago completed by a member whose imperfect file was made only the more imperfect by the transfer. It is possible we may again be as fortunate. Our western members will kindly note the gaps in our *Magazine of Western History*, namely: volume I., numbers 2-4, II., 1-3, 5, 6, IV., 6, V. 1, 2, 6, VI., 1, 6, VII., 3-5, VIII., and all thereafter. We lack volume VI., No. 4, of the *Library Journal*. Under the head of needs may also properly be included a new List of Members. Since the last was published in the Proceedings of April 1885, five foreign and twenty-one domestic members have died. I would therefore recommend the early printing of a revised list.

The death of Dr. S. Austin Allibone at Luzerne, Switzerland, September 2, 1889, should remind, at least, the library fraternity, of their debt of gratitude to him for his great Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors. It is well to recall the fact that in this work, which was begun as early as 1852, Dr. Allibone was greatly encouraged by our associate Mr. George W. Childs, whose house published the first volume. It is intimated that the Lippincott Company who printed volumes two and three have on hand the material for a fourth volume.

On the 5th of December, 1822, Mr. John Farmer, a faithful member of this Society, then of Concord, New Hampshire, addressed a letter to President Thomas from which I quote the following paragraphs: "A few days before the late annual meeting of the Society, I sent to

you through the Rev. Dr. Holmes a communication from my friend Mr. Moore, respecting an Indian fortification in Sanbornton in this State, accompanied with a plan of it and a view of the river, etc., on which the fortification is situated. I thought it might be a suitable paper for the second volume of the Transactions. If, however, it is not of sufficient importance to be inserted in that work we purpose giving it in our collections * * * * I will thank you just to mention in your next what disposition will be made of the communication referred to, as, if you intend it for publication in the Transactions, it will be improper to insert it in our collections until after it shall have appeared in the Transactions." The interesting document was from Mr. Jacob B. Moore, Mr. Farmer's partner, who in the brief note to the President accompanying it—which was written at Concord, N. H., October 16, 1822—says: "Your fondness for inquiries into the history and antiquities of our country, and my own obligations to contribute the little I am enabled to, in return for the distinguished honor of becoming a member of the Antiquarian Society, induce me to present you the following with my best wishes for your personal welfare and the success of the institution over which you preside." The plan was never printed in the Proceedings, but it was referred to by Mr. Haven in his *Archæology of the United States*, p. 42, and also in his report as Librarian in the Proceedings of October 23, 1849. He contributed both the account and plan to Mr. Squier for his "*Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New York*," and they are given in Vol. II. of *Smithsonian Contributions*, p. 87. A similar plan and a description agreeing with ours in its general features are given in the *History of Sanbornton* by Runnels, Vol. I., p. 22.

I need hardly remind you that the printing-house of Farmer and Moore, like the earlier one of Isaiah Thomas,

represented a house of authors as well as publishers, and that they were—as our shelves and correspondence abundantly prove—laborers together for the good of this Society. I will merely add to what has already been said of the fortification at Sanbornton—now East Tilton—a statement of the fact that upon a superficial examination made by the librarian September 3, 1889, no traces were found of the great work herein referred to. A letter before me, written September 2, 1822, by John Farmer, that “chief of New Hampshire Antiquaries,” as Prof. Franklin B. Dexter of the Council has justly styled him—contains the following suggestive paragraphs: “I wish, Sir, I could procure the catalogue of your library, or if it has not been published, the various lists of donations which have been published. I should think that these have not been sufficiently circulated among the members of the Society, particularly those who reside out of the State. In this town there is what is called an Athenæum or Reading Society, in which, by depositing the various pamphlets relating to the Antiquarian Society, the objects and views of that institution will be more generally known, and may induce persons to send in their contributions. If you should have a surplus of such pamphlets as relate to the Society and will send a copy of each to me, I will endeavor to circulate them and have people understand what is intended to be accomplished by this national institution. There are in this country many ancient books scattered here and there, which were brought from England by the first settlers. Some of them are obsolete and but little value is placed upon them, and time is making ravages in lessening their numbers. These if collected would in the aggregate be a valuable acquisition, and to collect them it would be well that those who hold them should know there is a place for their deposit provided. * * * Will you be so good as to favor me with a list of the members of the Antiquarian Society belonging

to this State?" These extracts convey their own lesson. It is a curious coincidence that while writing this paper, a duplicate copy of Farmer's Genealogical Register loaned some thirty-seven years ago to one of the contractors for the erection of Antiquarian Hall, should have been returned by his widow with an expression of regret that it had so long been kept out of the library!

Three-quarters of a century ago to-morrow, *i. e.*, October 24, 1814, President Thomas in his communication to the members said: "Our Society is in its infancy, but it has a legal existence and by proper exertions will become useful to our country. * * Our library now consists of nearly three thousand volumes." He adds—and it might well be our text for the day—that "A Society cannot become extensively useful unless the objects for which it is instituted are pursued with some degree of energy." He further suggests, "That we may make the institution better comport with the name it bears, *American Antiquarian Society*, and more readily effect the purposes intended, it will be expedient to have a suitable number of respectable and useful members in all the principal cities and towns in the United States. * * To appoint some member in every capital or chief town in the United States and other parts of the continent, and wherever it may be thought by the Council necessary, to receive articles presented to the Society or purchased for them, and to take the charge of them until they can be forwarded to the library or cabinet." At the same meeting the first steps were taken looking toward the publication of a catalogue, for it was "voted that a catalogue of the Society's library be printed and a copy presented to each member." This action did not bear fruit, however, until 1837, when the first catalogue and for that matter the last catalogue, was issued.

If it be true, as has recently been said, that "A library is becoming a temple comprehensive of all knowledge,

which must furnish a key to unlock every door, an answer to every conundrum, and must use every method that can supply any information at any time that it is wanted," then is our mission truly comprehensive. And finally, whether it be true or not that the library is the "People's University," let us note the fact that to the founder of the University and to the founder of the Library as well, attaches the peculiarly deep and abiding gratitude of mankind.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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