

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

If this brief report should prove to be of a somewhat fragmentary character, the librarian will offer no apology, as it contains various statements and suggestions which seem to him to be of more or less importance in connection not only with our own library life but also with that of kindred institutions.

The withdrawal of our associate Mr. Reuben Colton from the post of assistant-librarian, after nearly eleven years of faithful service, should here be made a matter of record. On the first day of February Miss Mary Robinson, for eight years our card cataloguer, was promoted to the position of "Assistant to the Librarian," and is filling it with conscientious fidelity. From November 15 to December 21, Miss Elizabeth M. C. Rice was usefully employed in arranging and repairing our portraits, at the charge of the Alden Fund. Since February 5, she has put in order our collection of play-bills and kindred material, and has been of general service about the library. These changes in the executive force have necessarily added to the labors and anxieties of the librarian, but the library committee have been careful to make the burden as light as possible.

In the every-day management of library affairs the question often arises—how can librarians assist each other? One practical answer might be, by an exchange of suggestions in their reports, as well as in the annual conferences of the American Library Association. Certain illustrations in the line of labor-saving helps have appeared from time to time in the reports of the librarian. When it is known that the superintendent of the Buffalo Library is

making a special collection of literary material bearing upon the history of the New York Canal system, we should cheerfully send him any information upon the subject, whether it be a brief reference to foreign or domestic catalogues containing rare pamphlets in that line, or a knowledge of the presence of such material in book-stall or duplicate room. Then in return he may notify us of the whereabouts of volume two of our Transactions, knowing it to be out of print, and, furthermore, will take notice of our printed lists of other important wants.

A word may be said in favor of always repaging reprints. Failure to do this has been noticed even where foot-notes have been added to the paper after its first issue, thus giving them the appearance of oversheets for the duplicate room. This growing custom would hardly seem to be fair treatment of brochures worth reprinting at all.

A plea should be made, especially, in the interest of the card cataloguer, against the growing habit of publishing books and pamphlets, generally excerpts, without title-pages, and latterly in a few instances, even without dates. The blemish may be a slight one, but it should be discountenanced as wholly unnecessary, as by it we may lose at least a portion of their history. We have received the past year town reports bearing no indication whatever of place or period, in fact nothing even suggestive of persons except the name of the signer or signers thereof. Still another labor-saving aid to librarians by correspondents who thoughtfully write "Don't let me give you any undue trouble with the above queries," would be directness of appeal for information. Some of the time which a librarian holds for the benefit of all, would be saved if specific instead of general questions were asked when they would answer the same purpose. Very much the same criticism may be said of some appeals made by word of mouth.

An earnest protest is entered against the modern disposition of private book owners to mutilate books by the cut-

ting or tearing out of autographs, book-plates or other evidences of previous ownership. Nothing is gained by this process, and aside from the injury to the books themselves, interesting facts are forever lost thereby. A knowledge of this habit will lead librarians to guard their treasures more closely than ever. In this connection, I would recommend the securely placing—especially in an author's copy—the letter of gift which so frequently accompanies the book or pamphlet received. It is believed that in a library of reference as well as in a private library this can be safely done. Many of the books purchased of Mr. Samuel G. Drake by Mr. Henry Stevens, and later received by us on exchange account, have the added value of such autograph letters. I wish—as one of the many sufferers—to second the suggestion of the *Princeton Review*, that an appropriate punishment for authors and publishers who issue important books without indexes would be “that they be compelled to spend two or three years at hard labor in a library without a catalogue, looking up references in unindexed books.”

Finally, while we may not agree with my predecessor, Dr. Haven, that a book well trimmed is worth twenty-five per cent. more than one untrimmed, it is after all true that life seems too short for a very extensive library use of the paper-cutter. A slight trimming of the top and a slight sprinkling of gold upon it would be far better for most busy librarians, and quite as well for their patrons. While the foregoing points may appear somewhat trivial in character, it should be remembered that they all tend in the same general direction, namely, toward library economy. Libraries are of various classes which require differences of administration, but the brotherhood of librarians is one body which has many needs in common.

In this day when so many public documents find their way to the junk shop, the librarian feels called upon to move a “stay in the proceedings,” not at this time in the

interest of re-distribution, important as that may be, but chiefly in the interest of the preservation of such valuable material as has seen the light only through government channels, and is never likely to be reprinted. If an illustration be needed, the receipt of the two Dorr Rebellion reports made to the United States House of Representatives, June 1 and 16, 1841, 1st Session, 28th Congress, five thousand copies of which were ordered printed, January 2, 1845—will readily furnish it. The former is a document of 1975 pages, containing not only the report of the Committee—better known as the Burke Report—but evidence produced at various trials, with an abundance of official papers, both public and private. The latter contains 172 pages presenting the government case. As would readily be inferred, their great value, historically, is not so much in the reports of the Committees as in the accompanying documents.

In the librarian's report of April, 1888, your attention was called to the curious interest and value which pertains to the history of some books upon our shelves, using by way of illustration certain works by two of our living members, namely: Sir Daniel Wilson, and Dr. William Fred. Poole. Let me now add to that list one other member's name and work. It shall be in recognition of the quarter Centennial of the publication in the *Atlantic Monthly* of December, 1865, of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale's wonderful story of "The Man without a Country," about which so many contradictory statements have been made, and so many questions as to whether the story is based on fiction or fact, have been asked. Let me contribute from our letter file of the period, a paragraph from a letter to Mr. Haven, October 16, 1863, as follows: "Please read my fiction based on Burr and Wilkinson when you see the December *Atlantic*. It is called The Man without a Country." Also a letter entire which was addressed to Mr. Haven, November 30, 1863, as follows: "I had meant that the authorship of a little sketch in this *Atlantic*

should not have been known, but a blunder at Ticknor & Fields's has revealed it. You are one of the persons who would not have been deceived as to the fact, or the authorship, had you happened to cast your eye on it. I return to you Wilkinson's volumes in which, and perhaps, in your autograph books are its foundations in fact. I am gratified to learn, however, that at the Navy Department at Washington, they remember that there was an officer kept abroad constantly and never permitted to return home. Some of them question, however, whether he was not sent home to die." This much of contemporary history had been gathered, when Messrs. Roberts Brothers's beautiful edition of 1889, illustrated by Mr. Frank T. Merrill, was secured for our collection of the works of members. In it—and the fact should be generally known—there is a most interesting explanatory appendix of four pages, penned by the author, August 21, 1888. Students of "close classification" might find some difficulty in agreeing as to the class to which this work belongs. There could be found easy excuses for locating it in the departments of fiction, travel, biography, or even Spanish America, but its great, though quiet, service during the war of the Rebellion would plead for a place in the alcove of Rebellion and Slavery. It will, however, be found with Dr. Hale's miscellaneous works in binding, already grouped upon our shelves.

From entries in the Book of Accessions, October 15, 1888, to April 15, 1889, the following facts are gleaned. We have received from forty-seven members, ninety-six non-members, and seventy-eight societies and institutions—in all two hundred and twenty-one sources—six hundred and sixty-one books, forty-three hundred and thirty-seven pamphlets, one hundred and eighty-seven volumes of unbound newspapers, four volumes of manuscripts, five charts, four photographs, two framed crayons, two medals, two coins, and one book-rest. By exchange, two hundred books and one hundred and forty-two pamphlets; and from the

bindery, seventy-three volumes of magazines, and forty-three volumes of newspapers; making a total of nine hundred and thirty-four books, forty-five hundred and seventy-nine pamphlets, forty-three bound and one hundred and eighty-seven volumes of unbound newspapers, and the other articles enumerated.

Your attention is called to the usual list of givers and gifts hereto appended, which forms a part of this report. The librarian will not otherwise attempt to thank individually all those who have gratefully and gracefully forwarded to us the results of their studies in part with us and in part by us, nor the many others who have sent the fruit of their labors pursued elsewhere. To each and all we are duly grateful. A few especially noteworthy gifts will, however, be briefly mentioned. Dr. George Chandler has presented two manuscript volumes entitled "Monumental inscriptions of the name of Chandler." The indorsement upon the first follows: "Three Books, Nos. I., II., III., of monumental inscriptions, mostly of those of the descendants of William and Annis Chandler, were collected by George Chandler. Books Nos. I. and II. are placed in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, and book No. III. is designed for the same rooms. For location of burial, see the last pages of the book. The number at the left hand of the name, in red ink, corresponds with like number in the Chandler Family." The Chandler Fund has allowed the purchase of a few of the best genealogies, and orders on its account have encouraged the publication of others. The sale of copies of the "Chandler Family," to some of its members who believe it to be an eminently practical way of paying tribute *ad mortem fidelis*, has within the past six months added materially to the fund. It should be remarked that Dr. Chandler allows the sale of his great work for six dollars, which covers only the expense of printing and binding, and that all orders sent to him are immediately forwarded to us, as he

has retained absolutely no extra copies. William Sumner Barton, Esq., has turned over to the Society what is practically the remainder of the edition of his "Epitaphs from the Cemetery on Worcester Common with occasional Notes, References and an Index." President Salisbury has virtually allowed us to use his Yucatecan reprints as if they were our own; and it will be remembered that we acknowledged to Vice-President Hoar twenty-five copies of the Pierce Genealogy which he purchased for the library. I call your special attention to these methods of doing good to the Society in which we all have an interest, trusting there may be others, both within and without the Society, who will think favorably of such suggestions. The additions to the Davis Spanish-American alcove which have been almost wholly Mexican, include such authorities as Cordoba, Espinoza, Leon y Gama, Lorenzana, Los Rios, Molina, Payno, and Zarate. Nearly all were purchased at the sale of the library of Señor Eufemio Abadiano of Mexico. A foreign order for books relating to this most important department has not been filled in time for the present report. The accessions to the B. F. Thomas alcove of Local History, through the fund given for that purpose, have been of a most satisfactory character and the same remark will apply to the Haven alcove of American History. I again suggest the purchase of book-plates for use in both the above-named alcoves. Hon. James V. Campbell, in addition to valuable historical and biographical material relating to Michigan, sends Zeisberger's rare translation into the Delaware language of "A Collection of Hymns | for the use of the | Christian Indians, | of the Missions | of the United Brethren, | in North America," a 12mo. printed at Philadelphia in 1803 by Henry Sweitzer. In the accompanying note Judge Campbell suggestively writes, "I begin to realize that it is time I put such antiquities where they will be preserved," adding, "I have somewhere a very early copy of Pilpay's

Fables that I intended to send you but it has disappeared." Sir Daniel Wilson, who first contributed to our Proceedings in April, 1863, honors his membership by forwarding several of his more recent archaeological papers. In his letter to the librarian, which accompanies the gift, he writes, "They are but trifles, but the forwarding of them affords me an opportunity of expressing to the Society my grateful sense of the kind liberality which has for so many years admitted me to a share in their literary and archaeological researches, by their kind gift of the Proceedings of the Society. I congratulate you on its growing prosperity." A Book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Confederate States of America, "from the cargo of the Anglo-Rebel Blockade Runner Minna," has been placed in the Rebellion alcove by the librarian. It is a 24mo, which bears the imprint "Richmond, Virginia, J. W. Randolph, MDCCCLXIII." While it contains "A Prayer for the President of the Confederate States and all in Civil Authority," the expression United States does not appear to have been wholly expunged from this Book of Common Prayer. A valuable gift which comes to us through the agency of Rev. Edward E. Hale, D.D., of the Council, is thus referred to by him in his letter, dated Boston, November 27, 1888: "I send you with this what you will think a treasure indeed, in addition to your collections which illustrate the late Civil War. It consists of fifteen volumes of scrap-books, carefully made from day to day by the late Mrs. Caroline C. Freeman of this city. As you will see, the collection begins even before the outbreak of the war, and goes nearly to the end of 1864. It therefore makes almost a complete history, as an intelligent and eager observer watched the progress of events. Mrs. Freeman's daughter, Miss Harriet E. Freeman, now presents this valuable collection to our Society. The time has already come when such collections ought to be open to students of history." In a certain sense the sources of

such an accession are two-fold, the nearer and the more remote, and thus our gratitude extends to both. A wise and timely suggestion is sometimes of the greatest possible value to such a Society as our own. The lessons to be drawn from such an example are of a very practical nature but do not need to be dwelt upon at this time.

Col. Henry E. Smith, Commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, has presented for the Society's acceptance the bronze medal issued in commemoration of their 250th anniversary. It is interesting to connect this gift with the fact which appears in a foot-note to Dr. William Paine's address before the Society, at King's Chapel, Boston, October 23, 1815, on their third anniversary, namely, that "on this day, the Society was honoured by the attendance of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company who led the procession." We have received from Mrs. Charles Wilkinson, of Worcester, in memory of her late husband and with the approval of his family, a war relic from a Newbern library. According to its rubricated title-page bearing place and date as Amsterdam, 1708, it is "A Large Dictionary, English and Dutch, in two Parts: wherein each Language is set forth in its proper form; the various significations being exactly noted, etc.: to which is added a Grammar for both Languages." It is a fitting gift which will be placed in the company of the dictionaries of many lands and of many tongues. Mr. G. Stewart Dickinson who, as a young collector was assisted by the Society, has now transferred to us his valuable collection of stamps. They are beautifully arranged in a copy of Scott's International Postage Stamp Album, 9th Edition, 1888. It might be added that many of the set, including the issues of the highest denominations, are entirely undefaced, having been bought directly from the governments they represent. Some enthusiastic and keen-eyed philatelist, familiar with the genuine and the counterfeit stamp, should now take our mass of such material and arrange it to date. Our cabinet of Coins

and Medals has been enriched by the addition of Mr. Dickinson's small numismatic collection. Mr. William Flynn, for service rendered, has presented not only the "Fire Service of Worcester" but thirteen volumes containing histories of the same service in as many other cities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Hon. Theodore Irwin's gift is one of a hundred copies of his elegant catalogue of his library with a brief list of his engravings and etchings. Mr. Pliny Earle, 2d, recalling a promise made to the librarian a score of years ago, has placed in the library files of his two early amateur papers "The Carrier Pigeon," and "The Heart of the Commonwealth." Mr. Paul Leicester Ford has presented his compilation of a volume of "Pamphlets on the Constitution of the United States, 1787-88," to which our shelves contributed several rarities. A memorial of the Reverend Dr. Joseph Tuckerman which includes a reprint of the Doctor's works taken from the Society's collection, has been received from his son, Mr. Joseph Tuckerman.

If, in reading these special acknowledgments, there should be found mention of gifts of minor importance, your attention is again called to the hints or suggestions of supposed value which may accompany them. The following curious specimen of an easy but inclusive entry is found in the Book of Donations, volume 2: "Presented to the Society by Thomas Walcott of Boston, books, pamphlets and newspapers, which, with the boxes containing them, weighed forty-four hundred and seventy-six pounds!"

A special effort to effect sales, as well as to make exchanges, has been made the past six months, with some degree of success. It should however be stated for our own benefit and for the benefit of others, that our classified title-slips of duplicates are kept up to date, and are always subject to call from any trustworthy quarter. While the classes are not numerous, they include Biography individual and collective, Genealogy, Hymnody, Local History,

Registers, Directories and Almanacs, Slavery and Rebellion, etc. An alphabetical arrangement of all the material in the duplicate room makes it possible to serve promptly both callers and correspondents.

We have recently, by way of exchange, aided very materially in the gathering together of what, for the want of a better name, may be called a Missionary Library. It is intended to illustrate the history, progress and present condition of Christian missions in all lands, not only by the exhaustive works which have been published from time to time by the various Christian bodies, but by their annual reports, monthly or weekly magazines and newspapers, as well as the other literature circulated in connection with their work. Such a collection, patiently and carefully brought together, is not at all likely to be dispersed, but will ultimately find its way to some large library, possibly our own. It is surprising how much of the history of commerce and civilization may thus be brought together.

The librarian has of late had occasion to be more than usually helpful not only to members personally, but also by correspondence. There is a special pleasure, as well as propriety in this course in so far as it is practicable. We have necessarily furnished much manuscript as well as printed material for the new History of Worcester County just issued from the Philadelphia press, and the work therein of our membership can hardly be too highly commended. They, with others, have abundantly proved that a Memorial History of Worcester, printed as well as written by her own citizens, could have been and should have been a leading feature of her bi-centennial celebration of 1884.

The utility of nearly everything within our walls has again been illustrated in the reproducing, with Mr. Salisbury's kind permission, of some of the exquisite needle work of the Mayas.

We have sent to the Paris Exposition of 1889 a partial exhibit of our publications, with the request that at its close it may be presented, with the Society's compliments, and through M. Désiré Pector, President, to *La Société Américaine de France*.

Our Recording Secretary takes with him on his mission to Switzerland, to which we all so cordially commend him, an exchange of gifts from this Society to the universities of Zurich and Berne. It consists not only of suggestive publications with regard to our own life and work, but also those of the other educational institutions by which we are more immediately surrounded.

It may be well to remind members who from time to time have written papers for the Society's publications, that there has been no uniformity in the disposition of their original manuscripts. While they have generally been sent to the writers with the galley proofs, by the Committee of Publication, they have occasionally found their way back to our archives, where they are placed on file for future reference. This much is said in the interest of those who carefully preserve their manuscript productions, and would like to recover them, as well as of those who would gladly find a safe and accessible place of deposit for them. The propriety of calling attention to this matter has been emphasized by a knowledge of the fact that one of the most valuable manuscripts to which I refer was committed to the flames not long since by a careless servant.

In this connection, writers are reminded that the manuscript should always be returned with the proof-sheets, as it is often needed for reference in the reading of the final proofs.

The occasional failure of a member to report fully or promptly remarks made during interesting discussions at our meetings, leads to the suggestion that a society stenographer may become one of the requirements of the

future. While his reports could be submitted to the revision of the speakers, it would always insure what is often all-important, namely: an accurate and connected report.

Let me close with a sentiment and with a statement. The one from the address of Abiel Holmes, D.D., on the Society's second anniversary, October 24, 1814, to the effect that "The knowledge of past times, if not equivalent, is next in value to experience." The other by Samuel Foster Haven, LL.D., who ten years ago said of our Society, "It is entitled to whatever consideration is due to the fact that it is the oldest and most cosmopolitan archaeological institution on the American continent."

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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