

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

It would, perhaps, remind us of the ripe age to which our American Antiquarian Society has arrived, if your Librarian were to follow the almost universal custom and refer to the present as the seventy-third annual or the one hundred and forty-sixth semi-annual report upon its library. He will not, however, allow a statement of the length of time which has elapsed since the incorporation, October twenty-fourth, A. D., 1812, to suggest the possible trial of your patience by a too long report.

As we take some of our best lessons from the past, and often do not think to acknowledge them, your Librarian would at this time, just fifty years from the death of our third librarian, Christopher Columbus Baldwin, make grateful mention of the many helpful evidences of our indebtedness to his scholarship, industry and good sense. Serving from 1827, when he was elected both a member of the Society and its Librarian, until 1830, when he withdrew for a short period; he again took the position just after President Thomas's death in 1831, and faithfully held it until his sudden death at Norwich, Ohio, August 20, 1835, at the early age of thirty-five. He was the son of Eden Baldwin, of Templeton, Mass., and was born August 1, 1800. Both the picture by Chester Harding, which adorns these walls, and the pen-portrait by his devoted friend and co-worker, William Lincoln, which appears in a memorial address read at the Society's annual meeting, October 23, 1835, are pronounced true to the life by the few early friends who survive him. Mr. Baldwin's reports appear to have been generally spread upon the records,

but not to have been printed, except possibly in the newspapers of the time. A fragment of his last report — for April, 1835 — we have recently found in a box of his papers. As it was written but three months before his death, is not recorded, and contains wise counsel for us to-day, I shall ask that he may thus speak to us. He says :

“The Librarian, at the annual meeting on the 23rd October, last (1834), indulged the belief that he should be able to complete the catalogue of the library before the semi-annual meeting in May; in this, however, he has been disappointed. Since the meeting in October he has been engaged in transcribing and preparing it for publication. Between this and the meeting in October, he expects to be able to complete the transcript and to compare each publication described on the catalogue with each publication in the library. It was one of the objects of the liberal founder of the institution that its library should contain a complete collection of the productions of American authors. In pursuance of this plan, the Librarian has bestowed as much time as could be spared from other duties in collecting publications of American origin. It is believed that no institution in the country has proposed the accomplishment of a similar object. The materials of history are found originally in pamphlets, newspapers and publications of this description. These exist in great abundance in every part of the community, and are permitted to perish from the impression that no use can be made of them. They are, however, indispensably necessary to the successful accomplishment of the labors of the historian. It is feared that a great number of those published in the early settlement of the country are irrevocably lost. Until within a few years past no place had been provided for their reception and preservation. Individuals had, in some instances, attempted to make collections and succeeded to a certain extent, but the result of their industry in this respect has availed little, from the fact that at their decease their collections have been distributed among heirs like other property. This was the case with the voluminous collections of the Mathers, and those of Thomas Prince which he began when he was in college, have

shared a fate but little better. It is believed that the collections now in the Historical Society, derived from the industry of this indefatigable collector, comprise only a fragment of the whole which he left at his death. A large quantity of his manuscripts and books were sold at auction about 1800, in the County of Worcester, and are now so scattered as to forbid all hope of their recovery. This was, undoubtedly, the largest collection that had been made in the country at that time and the destruction of so great a portion of it is now much to be lamented."

We have lately been obliged to decline, with regret, on account of the lack of funds which could be devoted to that purpose, unusual opportunities for procuring both Northern and Southern periodicals relating to the War of the Rebellion. Within a month a war file of the New York Herald, in binding, has been offered to us for one hundred dollars, and within a week we have been asked by one of our members, who was a colonel in the Confederate service, to secure the Richmond Daily Sentinel complete, *i. e.*, from March 11, 1863, to April 1, 1865, and the Despatch, Enquirer, Examiner, and Whig—all of Richmond—for the months of May, June and July, 1864. These we can have "at such prices as the purchaser may deem reasonable." What if we could put along-side our New York Tribune story of the war, that of the Herald and World, adding to them files of Richmond and Charleston newspapers of the same period! How grateful the future Bancroft, McMaster or Fiske would be to us as a society, or to the founder of a society fund the use of which should preserve to them and to remote posterity, the history of American Slavery and of the Great Rebellion upon which it was based. As for some unexplained reason our newspaper files from 1830 to 1840 are not what they should be, so the same may be said of the war period from 1861 to 1865. Our alcove of rebellion and slavery literature is almost wholly indebted to exchanges and gifts for its present flourishing condition. Is it not possible

that among our American members there is some one who is to endow it so handsomely that his name shall be placed over it in letters of gold? May the name and the means soon be ours to acknowledge!

The importance of our collection of public documents has been well tested during the past few months by George S. Taft, Esq., in his preparation of a Digest of Senate Contested Election Cases, under the direction of Senator Hoar. Some of the smaller gaps which have been brought to light have been promptly filled through Senator Hoar and Congressman Rice. It is high time that a regular and wise system for the distribution of such government material was adopted, and then faithfully and patiently carried out. When that is done, not only the recent call of the United States Department of the Interior for duplicate Congressional Globes and Records will everywhere be honored, but a further call which should be made for all extra copies of all United States public documents, to be distributed to needy libraries—first filling the small gaps in some of the larger ones—would also be answered. Little is hazarded in saying that our own duplicate room would afford rare material which could not easily be found, either in the libraries of Washington or elsewhere. We have sent, by way of exchange, to the Maine Historical Society all our duplicate Maine newspapers; to the Town Library of Lancaster, Mass., the remainder of our Lancaster Gazettes, and to the Boston Athenæum all surplus copies of their publications. It was a pleasure to be credited by the librarian of the Athenæum with sending one of their exhibition catalogues which had disappeared from their collections. Having undertaken, at the request of the editor, the care of an interleaved copy of the Harvard Quinquennial Catalogue of 1885, we shall be most happy to receive and carefully enter additions, corrections and suggestions, especially from the graduates of Harvard.

The appearance of the Index to the last volume of

the Society's Proceedings again reminds us of the great amount of time and patience which might be saved, if writers would give the full names of persons cited as authorities.

It should be noted as a matter of record, that among the minor improvements which, in the interest of security and comfort, our Library Committee has provided since the last meeting, are an iron gate of graceful proportions for the protection of the Highland Street entrance to the Hall, and a cement floor for the boiler and coal room.

Before giving the usual statistical summary, it may be well to say that if at any time a donor fails to receive a prompt acknowledgment of his mailed gift, it is generally safe to infer, either that it has gone astray or that both the donor's name and the government post-mark—the latter required by law—are wanting, leaving us entirely ignorant as to the name and address of the person to whom we are indebted. We are always glad to preserve the autograph wrapper address with the gift, but prefer a presentation entry upon the fly-leaf or title-page.

The record of donations furnishes the following as to the growth of the library since the last report. By gifts nine hundred and fifty-nine books, four thousand and twelve pamphlets, two bound and one hundred and thirty-two unbound volumes of newspapers, one hundred photographs, seventeen engravings, fifteen manuscripts, one broadside pedigree, and a fragment of the stockade of Andersonville prison; and by exchange thirty-six books and one hundred and forty-six pamphlets, making a total of nine hundred and ninety-five books, forty-one hundred and fifty-eight pamphlets, one hundred and thirty-four files of newspapers, etc. Of the two hundred and fourteen donors, fifty are members, eighty-five friends who are not members, and seventy-nine public institutions.

One of the latest, and by far the most valuable acquisition is that from the Hon. James Carson Brevoort, LL.D.,

for nearly twenty years a valued member of this society. In his letter of presentation, he says, "I send you as a gift a number of the early books on Japan, which I have been collecting for more than twenty-five years, thinking that your library is the fittest depository for the nucleus of such a collection." Instead of calling your especial attention to the rarest of these rare books, it has been thought best to leave them all upon the table for your inspection and to make but a brief general reference to them in this report. Beginning with the Venetian titles of 1558, and ending with those of Paris in 1859, we find one hundred and three books printed on thirty-five of the leading presses of the world,—including the Cramoisy and the Elzevir—in six different languages; namely, English, French, German, Italian, Latin and Spanish. Of these issues of the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there are represented forty-three, forty-three, ten and seven titles, respectively. Two copies of Pagés's *Bibliographie Japonaise, ou, ouvrages relatifs au Japon qui ont été publiés depuis le Cinquième Siècle jusqua nos jours*, 4to, Paris, 1859, containing Mr. Brevoort's valuable notes, accompany and make a part of this most important donation. We may well be even more grateful for his noble and timely example than for the gift itself.

The first purchase for the Haven Alcove is the Rev. Dr. Baird's long-expected History of the Huguenot Emigration to America, and the second includes Peter Martyr's "Decades of the Newe Worlde," a black-letter of London, 1555, bound by Aitkin, and Eden's "History of Trauayle," black-letter, London, 1557, bound by Pratt, they being practically two editions of the same work. In addition to six volumes received at the charge of the Haven Fund, we acknowledge nine from the Chandler, fourteen from the Davis, and four from the Thomas Fund. The gifts of President Hoar and Vice-President Salisbury are, as usual, large and important. Professor Dexter has earned the

gratitude of all American scholars, and more especially of the alumni of his *alma mater*, by the publication of his Yale Biographies and Annals, 1701-1745. The bibliographical notes, and above all, the list of authorities at the close of each sketch, will make it a book of reference to the brotherhood of librarians, of whom Mr. Dexter is an honored member. For this, as well as for his paper upon the History of Connecticut as Illustrated by the Names of her Towns, which, like Dr. Trumbull's Indian Names in Connecticut, will help the busy librarian to answer many questions, we desire to make due acknowledgment. Judge Aldrich's gift of his volume of Equity Pleadings and Practice in the Courts of Massachusetts, and of his Tribute to Chief Justice Shaw, again suggests the statement, that whatever may be the subject treated, the works of our members are always welcome. Professor McMaster has promptly sent us the second volume of his History of the American People, delayed for a year by the loss of his manuscript; and Dr. Guild has sent his Diary of Chaplain Smith, the title-page of which does not at all prepare one for the mine of Revolutionary War material within. Mr. J. Fletcher Williams has generously offered to transfer from his own library to ours any needed material relating to his own State — Minnesota — or the State of Michigan, his not far-away neighbor. The Rev. George S. Paine is making additions to an interesting collection of colored theatrical handbills, portraits, etc., begun by his father. He has also presented a framed photograph of his grandfather, William Paine, M.D., one of the founders and the first Vice-President of this Society, who was born in Worcester June 5, 1750, and died there April 19, 1833.

From Bishop Wm. Stevens Perry, Historiographer of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, we have received his History of the American Episcopal Church, 1587-1883, in the preparation of which we were able to render some assistance. As is not infrequently the

case, during such examinations, an occasional broadside or pamphlet of great rarity was brought to light. The late Dr. Charles O. Thompson, before leaving Worcester for his new home in Terre Haute, Indiana, gave us much material, especially such as relates to technical education. That his interest in this Society still continued will appear from the following articles in a codicil to his will, bearing date, April 24, 1883 :

“*Second.* All catalogues of institutions and all books and pamphlets bearing upon the history of education, I give and bequeath to the American Antiquarian Society, having its seat in the City of Worcester and State of Massachusetts ; my wife, Maria G., to decide what books, pamphlets, &c., given by this item, shall go to said Society, after consultation with Edmund M. Barton, Librarian of the same.

“*Fourth.* If my estate shall exceed the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars at the time of my decease, then and in that case I give and bequeath to said Antiquarian Society the sum of One Thousand Dollars to found and furnish in the library of said Society an Alcove of Education, the income of said sum to be expended in the purchase of books and pamphlets bearing on the history of education, and the principal sum to be kept unimpaired.”

The large collection of books and pamphlets devised, has been received, after consultation with Mrs. Thompson. That the provisions of article four cannot be carried out is a great disappointment to the widow, sons and daughter of our late associate.

The following pungent paragraph, written the past month by Hon. Edward J. Phelps, may serve to emphasize Minister Everett's remark quoted in your Librarian's last report. It is suggested by the receipt of an extended and expensive report upon the estate of Sir Andrew Chadwick, with his life, illustrated with plans, views, coat of arms, etc., presented by the “Chartered Accountant” in charge of the supposed property interests of the Chadwicks of England and America. As a doctor learned in the law,

now our representative at the Court of St. James, Mr. Phelps may well be supposed to speak with authority, when he says "The pretended prosecution of the pretended American claims to English property is carried on with such persistence and ingenuity, by the men engaged in it, that I despair of being able to make their credulous victims understand what an utter imposture and delusion the whole business is." If such words are unheeded, librarians need not be surprised if their warnings go for nought.

Mr. Lucius P. Goddard has brought us a bound copy of the rare Goddard Genealogy of 1833, to which he has added some manuscript notes and a prospectus for a new edition. Upon a critical examination of a diary received many years since from the late Mr. Parley Goddard, of Worcester, and marked by Dr. Haven "autobiography," Mr. Lucius P. Goddard has found it to be in the handwriting of the Hon. Edward Goddard, of Framingham, who was born at Watertown, Mass., March 24, 1675, and was a member of his Majesty's Council for the Province of Massachusetts Bay. It is to be regretted, not that the worthy Councillor has given us so much of the results of his introspection, but that he has recorded so little as the result of his outlook upon the surroundings of that early and interesting period of our history. In acknowledging the gift of a fine specimen of Continental currency from Mrs. C. A. B. Lilley, of Montpelier, Vt., we shall be pardoned for quoting a paragraph or two from her letter of presentation, as it not only states facts and shows the spirit in which deposits are sometimes made, but also suggests the especial care with which such gifts should be preserved. She says: "I wish to present it to the American Antiquarian Society in memory of my mother, Mrs. Hannah Bliss, it being preserved through her care. She was eight and my father twelve years old when the war of the Revolution commenced. Four of my father's brothers

entered the army, two of whom died in the service. The other two served through the war and drew pensions in their old age. My parents, Frederic and Hannah Bliss, with their three children, went from Rehoboth, Mass., in the winter of 1793 and 1794, to settle in Washington County, Vermont, where ten more children were born to them, of whom I was the youngest, except one, and the last survivor." Mr. S. N. Dexter North sends a separately printed copy of his special report on the newspaper and periodical press, made for the tenth United States Census. Appendix D gives a "List of the Bound Files of the American Newspapers in the Possession of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.," furnished by us. It is all the more conspicuous since it stands alone, where a complete catalogue of the other important newspaper collections of America should appear. An early and persistent effort to obtain extra copies of this list for the use of scholars has thus far been unsuccessful. Mr. James C. Pilling has supplied us with one of the hundred copies of the proof-sheets of his *Bibliography of American Linguistics*, of eleven hundred and thirty-five large quarto pages. We are indebted to John T. Hassam, Esq., for Part I. of the reprint of the *Genealogical Gleanings in England* by Mr. Henry F. Waters. While this Society in its corporate capacity has not subscribed to the fund for carrying on these researches, it should be said that the individual interest is manifest in the fact that its President, Vice-Presidents and a score of members are contributors to it. We are indebted to Professor George L. Vose, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for an effort to collect for us all printed matter bearing in any manner upon that important institution; and to Messrs. Drew, Allis and Company for a gift, thrice repeated within a few years, of a quantity of their Rochester, N. Y., Directories. The United States War Department sends the sixth volume of Dr. Billings's *Index-Catalogue of the Library of*

the United States Surgeon-General's Office, a work which already has a world-wide reputation. In acknowledging numbers of the New Series of the Iowa Historical Society's Record we note for the information of our North-Western correspondents, the fact that we lack of the First Series, known as the Annals of Iowa, those of January, July and October, 1873, and January, 1874. The receipt of the beginning of a New Series of the Bulletin of the California Academy of Sciences, also suggests that we want of the First Series, volume one and all after volume seven, part one, with title-pages for volumes three and five. The Maine, Maryland and New Jersey Historical Societies and the State of New Hampshire send evidence of a continuation of the good work of the preservation of history. Our wide-spread membership should encourage such undertakings in their States as a means of saving valuable historical material. The consideration of such gifts and givers encourages us to believe that a Society of the character, breadth and usefulness of our own, has not only a past and a present, but a future.

In the valuable brochure upon Public Libraries and Schools, received at the hands of its author, Mr. Samuel S. Green, the following brief but pertinent description of a good librarian is especially noteworthy. He says: "The things he really needs are interest in the work, knowledge of books, a good education, good manners and good sense." The second qualification named, that of a knowledge of books, impressed itself forcibly upon my mind while recently preparing, for the seventh general meeting of the American Library Association, a paper on the best use of duplicates. This knowledge must necessarily be both internal and external, and for the latter a careful study of the broad field of catalogues of all classes, languages and times may be found useful. Certainly the light and shade thrown by to-day's comparison of a New York or Leipsic Catalogue with a Quaritch or Trübner of London, or a

Dufossé or a Champion of Paris, would furnish food for reflection. While Willard's *Body of Divinity*, a folio which only a divinity school library with plenty of shelf-room would greatly desire, and of which we have several extra copies, is priced at ten pounds ten shillings; and the first edition of our founder's *History of Printing* at six pounds six; the first two volumes of our *Archæologia Americana*, which we sell for nearly four pounds, are called home for one pound ten. It is thought that in this connection, two early Harvard College book-sale catalogues which have lately been examined, and which remind one by their rarity of the Harvard broadside triennial catalogues, will be found to contain suggestions of interest. The latest of these, "A Catalogue of Duplicates in the Library of Harvard College for sale," a duplicate copy of which has, by special request, been sent to the Astor Library, bears no date, but was presented by our first President in 1825, probably soon after it was printed. Upon its title-page Dr. Thomas has written, as was his custom, "Value 10 cts." and throughout the list appear his single, double and triple checks of preference. Early English folios and quartos seem to have commanded the highest prices, as witness the following: "Baxter Rd. Christian Directory, or Summary of Practical Theologie and Cases of Conscience, fol., London, 1673, \$3.50." "Doddridge Philip. Family Expositor, or a Paraphrase and Version of the New Testament, &c., 6 vols., 4to. London, 1760." \$3.50 each. "Justinus Martyr. *Apologiae duae et Dialogus Cum Triphone Judæo, Cum Notis et emendationibus Styani Thirlbii*, fol. Londini, 1722." \$8.00. "Josephus Flavius. Works Translated by Whiston, fol., London, 1737." \$10.00. Comparison of the above with the low figures attached to the following samples, many of which are rare New England imprints, will astonish buyers of early Americana, and lead us to hope that President Thomas's purchases were as numerous as

his checks would seem to indicate: "Mather Cotton. Christian Philosopher. A Collection of the Best Discoveries in Nature, with Religious Improvements. 8vo. London, 1721." \$1.00. "Mayhew Experience. Indian Converts, or Some Account of the Lives and Dying Speeches of a Considerable Number of the Christianized Indians of Martha's Vineyard. 8vo. London, 1727." \$1.00. "Protestant Religion Maintained &c., against one George Heath [Keith]. 12mo. Boston, 1690 (5 copies)." 25 cents. "Results of Three Synods of the Churches of Massachusetts. 12mo. Boston, 1725." 25 cents. "Scripture Bishop Vindicated. By Eleutherius. Also Eusebius Inermatus. By Phileleuth. Bangor. 12mo. Boston, 1733 (3 copies)." 50 cents. "Alden Timothy. Collection of American Epitaphs with occasional notes, 5 vols. 18mo. N. Y., 1814." 50 cents each. "Eliot John. Up-Biblum God (Indian Bible). 4to. Cambridge, 1663." \$24.00. "Joutel. Journal du dernier Voyage que feu M. de la Sale fit dans le Golfe de Mexique pour trouver l'Embouchure et le Cours de la Rivière de Missicipi. 12mo. Paris, 1713." \$1.00. "Lopez de Gomara. Historia de Mexico. 18mo. Anvers, 1554." \$3.50. "Winthrop, John. Journal of the Transactions and Occurrences in the Settlement of Massachusetts from 1630 to 1644. 8vo. Hartford, 1790." \$2.50. "Mather Sam. Life of Cotton. 12mo. Boston, 1729." 50 cents. If your patience is not exhausted by this bibliographical tour, let us look back one step farther, but still within our nineteenth century, at another and even rarer Harvard Catalogue, presented by Rev. Dr. William Bentley, a duplicate of which, priced from our own copy, we recently placed in Harvard College Library where strangely enough it had escaped preservation. The title is "Catalogue of Books to be sold by Public Auction at Francis Amory's Auction Room, Boston, immediately after the sale advertised to commence December 20, 1813. The following books being

surplus copies of Works from the Library of Harvard University." Some of the more startling prices obtained are added to a few titles in the order in which they appear. "Cartesii Principia Philosophiæ. 4to. 1672, *Elzevir Edition.*" 60 cents. "The Bible in the Indian Language, Eliot's Translation." \$1.10. "Sir Walter Raleigh's Historie of the World. fol. 1614." \$1.80. "The Bishops Bible, fol., Black-Letter, wants the title-page and some leaves at the end." \$1.70. "The Protestant religion maintained and the churches of New England defended against the calumnies of one George Keith, a Quaker. By the Ministry of Boston. 24mo. 1690." 15 cents. It will be remembered that five copies of this defence against Keith were offered in the catalogue of ten years later for the sum of twenty-five cents each. "New England's Duty and Interest; an election sermon May 25, 1698. By Nich. Noyes, Minister of Salem." 15 cents. "Dissenting Gentleman's Letters to Mr. White. 12mo. Boston, 1768." 20 cents. "Second Volume of Hakluyt's Voyages. fol. Black-Letter." \$1.00. "Cluverii Introductio in Universam Geographiam. 12mo. 1651, printed by Elzevir." 10 cents. The present worth of these books I need not state in this presence. By the following extract from his will, we are reminded of the narrow escape of these catalogues containing Dr. Bentley's notes. His bequest to this Society of "all my German books, New England printed books, manuscripts not of my own hand and cabinet with all it contains and all my paintings and engravings," was followed by a recommendation "to my nephew to destroy all the writings of every name in my own hand and to accept what remains for his services, and I constitute W. B. Fowle Sole Executor." We may well be grateful to the sole executor, a worthy member of this Society until his death in 1865, who not only failed to carry out his uncle's recommendations, but bequeathed to us what he had retained of this singularly valuable collection.

It would be interesting to know what prices were attached to that first English catalogue, printed in 1595, by John Wendel for Andrew Maunsell of London. In his quaint dedication he says "I have thought good in my poor estate to undertake this most tiresome businesse, hoping the Lord will send a blessing upon my labours taken in my vocation: thinking it as necessarie for the bookseller (considering the number and value of them) to have a catalogue of our English bookes, as the Apothecarie his dispensatorium or the Schoolmaster his dictionary."

In closing, two paragraphs are quoted from the pen of Hon. John Davis in his report for the Council April 30, 1851, as they may indicate, to a certain extent, the steady but, possibly, too quiet and contented spirit which pervades our beloved Society to-day. Governor Davis said: "Its affairs have at all times been quietly, nay, almost silently conducted. No temporary expedients, no artificial stimulants have been employed to give it a factitious importance.

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Nor has prosperity been sought through any means except that voluntary support which is yielded from a conviction that we are engaged in a meritorious work deserving encouragement."

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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