

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

THE increasing number of scholarly papers offered at our meetings suggests the saving of time and space by allowing the librarian to report only at the Society's annual meeting in October.¹ The precedent for such a step was established in October, 1895, when our treasurer's report became an annual. It may be added that with most of our corresponding societies the library report is a yearly statement, and that with many of them it is largely statistical in character.

Dr. W. H. Holmes, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, in a letter addressed to the librarian, 2 September, 1903, says: "I have pleasure in sending you today by express, the four volumes of manuscripts of the Natick Dictionary, rebound in the original covers, in accordance with the agreement made some years ago. The manuscript has been kept as clean as possible, and I trust it will be found in satisfactory condition."

The Trumbull volumes referred to—which arrived on the fourth day of September—had received the most kindly treatment by editor, proof-reader and printer. By direction of the library committee, the Dictionary has been sent to members who are interested in Indian linguistics or the critical study of the Bible. A few copies are for sale.

As in the case of the Venezuelan Boundary Commission, so in that of the more recent Alaskan Boundary

¹ This suggestion was read to the Council on the evening of October 20, 1903, when it was "Voted that the Librarian be permitted to make his report annually unless he has occasion to send in a special communication."

Tribunal, it has been the privilege of this National Society to furnish important evidence, in the latter case through Mr. W. C. Hodgkins, cartographer to the *Tribunal*.

The following communication was received after the April meeting of this Society:

Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

To the Council of the American Antiquarian Society.

Gentlemen:—

At a recent meeting, the Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter voted to extend to you their thanks for your kind co-operation in granting permission to use the stone upon which the tablet marking the site of the first Worcester schoolhouse is to be placed.

Very sincerely,

ELIZABETH W. WALWORTH,
Corres. Sec.

Apr. 30th, 1903.

The bronze tablet—which is fastened to the east face of the granite post which is the southeast bound of the Society's property—bears this inscription:

In front of this tablet | stood | the first school-house |
in Worcester | where | John Adams | second President of the
United States | Taught 1755-1758 | Placed by | the Colo-
nel Timothy Bigelow Chapter | 19 [here appears the seal
of the Society] 03.

The granite upon which our iron fence rests has been thoroughly straightened and cleansed, and a new post of graceful proportions placed at the west end of the fence on Highland street. Within the Hall additional electric lights have been provided where most needed, greatly to the comfort of the library, force; while without, the roof and woodwork have been repainted.

There may be found upon the eastern wall of the Hall in which we are now gathered—where it has remained for fifty years—the following manuscript record: This edifice was erected by | The | American Antiquarian Society. |

The foundations were commenced | June 7th 1852. | Building Committee: | Levi Lincoln | Isaac Davis | Samuel F. Haven. | Thomas A. Tefft: Architect. | Builders: | Horatio N. Tower | Daniel S. Burgess.

In the report of the Council, 27 October, 1852, we read:

“The library has been gradually increasing in the number of its volumes, and value and amount of its materials; and, with the new facilities and accommodations which will be furnished in the beautiful and commodious Hall now in progress of erection, will become an object of more general interest and attraction even than it has hitherto been. The Council are reasonably assured that the Hall will be completed and ready for use before the recurrence of the next semi-annual meeting of the Society, and that it will be found to meet the expectations of those who planned and designed it. It already presents, in its exterior, a structure which for fitness and severe architectural taste must commend itself to the approbation of the Society. It will, it is believed, sustain the reputation of Mr Tefft, the architect, for skill in his profession, and bear testimony to the fidelity which the committee who have it in charge, have devoted to the duty entrusted to them. The dedication of the Hall to its intended use, when completed, will doubtless furnish an occasion which the Society will consider as fit to be commemorated, in a manner to awaken a renewed interest in the ends and purposes for which the founders and patrons of the institution have labored in its establishment and growth.”

At the semi-annual meeting of the Society, 27 April, 1853, it was “Voted, to instruct the Council to make arrangements for a commemoration of the opening of the new Hall and to take into consideration the subject of changing the day of the anniversary.” In the Council Report of Rev. Edward E. Hale, he says:

“That the hope expressed in their report of October last has been fulfilled, and that the new building is so near completion that the removal of the library to it is begun. . . . The new building which we are at

last enabled to occupy, was described in the report presented last April. It is built in the most substantial manner, of brick and free-stone. It occupies the site presented to the Society by Hon. Stephen Salisbury, on the corner of Highland and Main streets—fronting on Lincoln Square. The style of building is Italian; and in its general expression it resembles some of the smaller simpler buildings erected in Italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries by architects as distinguished as Raphael and Michael Angelo, when the purpose was one which required a severe simplicity. The Council take the liberty of comparing it with such edifices because they hear frequent strictures on its want of external adornment."

There follow a careful description of the Hall, and wise comments upon the subject of library architecture. In the Council report of October, 1853—also prepared by Edward E. Hale—we read:

"That the removal of the collections of the Society to its new building was rapidly and safely completed soon after the semi-annual meeting; and the books are already arranged in the same general order which they held on the shelves of the old library. The library Hall proves very convenient, and the Report of the Librarian to the Council, which we annex to this Report, will show what additions have already been made to its contents, and what advantages its arrangements have offered for setting in more complete order the collections which we had previously made. . . . The Council regret that their efforts to fulfil the plan proposed at the last meeting, for publicly dedicating the new Hall by an address and other appropriate services at this meeting, have not been successful." In the opening paragraph of Mr. Haven's report of October, 1853, he remarks: "The gathering of our books into a single apartment, conveniently arranged and thoroughly lighted, where every volume is within reach of the hand and every title within the range of vision, brings to view at once the merits and deficiencies of our collection."

The contract for the Hall of 1853 is printed here for the first time, as a fragment of the history of our library home life:

HORATIO N. TOWER'S CONTRACT WITH THE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY TO ERECT A BUILDING. MARCH, 1852.

MEMORANDUM of a Contract made & entered into this tenth day of March in the year of Our Lord eighteen hundred & fifty two by & between Horatio N. Tower of Worcester, Gentleman of the one part & The American Antiquarian Society, a Corporation duly established by Law of the other part—Witnesseth

That the said Horatio N. Tower for & in consideration of the Covenants & Agreements on the part of this Society hereinafter mentioned doth covenant & agree to & with said Society that he will erect, construct & finish a Building on their Lot at the Corner of Hyland [*sic*] & Main Streets in Worcester agreeably to & in accordance with the Plans & Specifications made & drawn by Teft of Providence R. I.—that he will furnish All the materials of every name & nature for the purpose of erecting said Building—that he will make all the necessary preparations on the Lot aforesaid to commence, construct & finish said Building—The size, the height, the proportions, the materials, the workmanship of said Building, are all referred to in the plan & specifications with the Architect Mr. Teft who drew the plans & specifications & if there is any difference of opinion between the Building Committee & said Tower about the materials or the workmanship or anything which relates to the Building the same is to be referred to Mr. Teft the Architect, whose decision is to be final & conclusive—Said Tower is to finish & complete said Building in every particular—in a thorough & substantial & workmanlike manner on or before the 20th day of October next—Said Specifications & Plans are marked A by Isaac Davis & are to be considered a part of this contract.

The American Antiquarian Society on their part in consideration of the covenants & agreements on the part of said Tower, hereby covenant & agree to & with said Tower that they will pay said Tower for constructing said Building according to the Plans & Specifications aforesaid & agreeably to his agreement aforesaid—the sum of fifteen Thousand four hundred Dollars to be paid in the following manner,=\$1500—when the foundations are laid & the Building is up & the first tier of windows are set=\$5000—when the Building is ready to receive the roof=\$2000—when the Roof is on &

fully completed=\$2000—when the outside is fully finished & the inside all Plastered=\$1500—when the Building inside & out is ready for painting=& the residue \$3400, when the Building is finished & completed in every particular to the satisfaction of the Committee, who act for the Society & to the acceptance of the architect—

It being distinctly understood & agreed that the Brick & Lumber, which the Society have now on hand, the said Tower is to take of the Society at cost towards the second payment above referred to—the brick which the society have on hand are to be computed at \$15 per thousand—

To the true & faithful performance of the several covenants and agreements the parties aforesaid bind themselves each to the other in the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars .

In witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands the day & year first above written—

HORATIO N. TOWER
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Witness

E. B. STODDARD
STEPHEN P. TWISS

By

LEVI LINCOLN
ISAAC DAVIS
SAML. F. HAVEN

Committee of said Society

P. S. In the language used in the contract that “he will make all the necessary preparation” does not refer to the grading of the Lot or excavation for the furnace—

It has been thought wise to bring together these related facts as in a way supplementing the important papers of Mr. Charles A. Chase on “The American Antiquarian Society’s Land Titles,” to be found in our Proceedings for April and October, 1901.

The sources of gifts for the past six months number two hundred and ninety-three, namely: from forty-one members, one hundred and thirteen persons not members and one hundred and thirty-nine societies and institutions. We have received from them eleven hundred and twenty-nine books, seventy-eight hundred and ninety-one pamphlets, twenty-seven bound and one hundred and nine unbound volumes of newspapers, twenty-six maps, six volumes of bound and six of unbound manuscripts, twelve photographs, one framed and six unframed engravings,

five portraits, an easel, a book-rest, medal, badge and proclamation; by exchange seven books and four pamphlets; and from the bindery, fifty-four volumes of magazines and one volume of newspapers; a total of eleven hundred and ninety books, seventy-eight hundred and ninety-five pamphlets, twenty-eight bound and one hundred and nine unbound volumes of newspapers, *etc.*

An important and timely gift of Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis is his "Confiscation of John Chandler's Estate," which is a mine of documentary information, with notes, regarding this American Loyalist, who was also called the "Honest Refugee."

Dr. Franklin B. Dexter presents the third volume of his "Biographical Sketches of Yale College with Annals," and it has been placed with Sibley's "Harvard Graduates" and kindred works, in our department of college material.

Mr. Henry H. Edes, in his letter of gift, 14 September, 1903, says: "This printed matter is a part of the vast accumulation of more than half a century. The most valuable thing in it is a file of *The Charlestown Chronicle*, which is complete with the exception of a single number. . . . I do not know of any complete file except the one in the Charlestown Public Library. It seems to me, therefore, that Antiquarian Hall is the only proper repository for this file."

Hon. Andrew H. Green¹ has sent us his recent report as President of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. It will be remembered that at our meeting last October, Prof. William D. Lyman furnished a paper on "The Painted Rocks of Lake Chelan" and the importance of saving the inscriptions upon them. It is proper to add that upon reading the article Mr. Green took immediate steps, through our government, to learn the ownership of the property, with a view to its care and control. This active New York State organization was known in 1891 as "Trustees of Scenic and Historic Places and

¹ Died 13 November, 1903.

Objects"; in 1898 as "The Society for the Preservation of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects"; and in 1901 broadened into "The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society." Its field is large and well chosen.

Mr. Waldo Lincoln has presented important correspondence relating to the Anti-Masonic movement, and to the Civil War, with a collection of early deeds. The Duc de Loubat, who is a constant giver to our Spanish-American department, has recently added thereto a reproduction of the *Codex Vaticanus*, No. 1773, with notes by Dr. Seler.

Hon. Henry S. Nourse has given the memorial edition of the "Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson." It is a facsimile of the first edition, with notes by Mr. Nourse, who is the editor.

We have received from the heirs of Miss Harriet P. F. Burnside valuable material belonging to her father, Samuel McGregore Burnside, A.M. Mr. Burnside gave long and varied service to this Society. He was Recording Secretary 1812-1814; Corresponding Secretary 1814-1823; of the Committee of Publication 1819-1829; Librarian 1830-1831; and Councillor from 1823 until his death on July 25, 1850. The Council report of May 29, 1850, was prepared by Mr. Burnside. The printed report does not bear his name, but it was added to our office copy by President Salisbury, the elder.

Mr. Charles H. Davis has enriched our very rare collection of early imprints relating to the Quakers of England and America; and Mr. Henry F. Harris has again remembered the library and his *Alma Mater* by a large addition to our Tufts College publications.

With the gift of Mr. Lucius P. Goddard is a file of *The Saturday Dial*, published at Columbus, Ohio, May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1889, by George P. Goddard, a native of Petersham, Massachusetts, who learned his trade at Worcester. Our special interest in this short-lived periodical is in the fact that numbers 2, 3 and 4 contain Mr. A. A. Graham's

detailed account of "Celoron's March, or the Lead Plate Claim of France to the Valleys of the Ohio"; with the further fact that the Society's imperfect plate is said to be the only one now known to exist. A second plate at one time reported as in West Virginia cannot now be traced. A careful reproduction of our own by the best modern process would be a valuable contribution to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, as well as a guide and an incentive to the historic hunter. It should be added as a further plea for a reproduction, that the inscription which appears with Hon. DeWitt Clinton's interesting paper, in volume two of our *Archæologia Americana*, is not quite accurate.

The gift of Miss Frances A. Hill includes further contributions from the library of her father, Rev. Alonzo Hill, D.D., Recording Secretary of the Society from 1865 to 1871; and that of Mrs. Charles G. Reed a much needed book-rest for our folio works of art, with a black walnut easel.

Ambassador Jusserand, on behalf of the Republic of France, has sent us from Washington the list of "*Les Combattants Français de la Guerre Américaine 1778-1783.*" This carefully prepared work will answer many questions as to our French allies during those eventful years.

The Connecticut Historical Society has added to our printed materials on the early navigation of the Connecticut River. This gift helped us to make a good showing in the bibliography of the subject appended to the exhaustive paper read by Dr. Love at our last meeting.

It has seemed wise from time to time to bring into the librarian's report hidden material relating to the Society and its work. In *The Polyanthos* of August, 1814, published in Boston by Mr. Joseph T. Buckingham, is a short but comprehensive tribute to Isaiah Thomas, doubtless written by Buckingham, who was a fellow printer and editor, as well as his close personal friend. The portrait

by Henry Williams, engraved by J. R. Smith, faces this "appreciation," from which I find no extracts in any other sketches of our founder. It is therefore reproduced in full.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ISAIAH THOMAS, ESQ.

The writer of cotemporary biography labours under disadvantages. What in truth may be but history and deserved praise, is, while the subject be living, construed into mercenary adulation; while, on the other side, the freedom of the press is checked by the fear of personal affronts; and animadversions upon conduct or character are repressed by timid authors, apprehensive of controversy or chastisement. Where truth wears the appearance of panegyric or may be mistaken for malignant satire, a modest biographer feels the peculiar difficulties of his undertaking.

But whatever may be the general discouragements to writing the history of living persons, in the present instance they are easily avoided. That cannot be thought adulatory praise, which is universally acknowledged to be true; and where no faults or follies exist, to refrain from abuse will not be attributed to unmanly fear.

ISAIAH THOMAS, "THE FATHER AND PATRON OF THE ART OF PRINTING IN MASSACHUSETTS,"

descended from a respectable family, and was born in Boston, in January, 1749. His father, Moses Thomas, died when he was young; his mother afterwards lost nearly all her property by investing it in paper money at (as she thought) a great bargain. At six years of age, he was placed as apprentice under Zechariah Fowle, a printer in Boston, with whom he continued eleven years. He then went to Nova Scotia, and worked as a journeyman for one Henry, who published a Gazette at Halifax, which, from Henry's inattention was principally conducted by him. Even in that colony, Thomas discovered by some pungent paragraphs in the Gazette, his strong disapprobation of the Stamp Act, and involved Henry, the publisher

of the paper, in difficulties with the officers of the government:

From Halifax, Thomas removed to New Hampshire, and worked in the printing offices of Daniel Fowle, and Furber and Russell. In 1767 he returned to Boston to the employment of his former master, Mr. Fowle. Afterwards he went to Cape Fear, but did not succeed in establishing himself there; from thence to Charleston, South Carolina, where he remained two years, and lost his health, which induced him to return to Boston in 1770, at which time he entered into co-partnership with Mr. Fowle, and commenced the publication of the MASSACHUSETTS SPY, the oldest paper in the State. In three months he purchased from Fowle his interest in the establishment, and conducted the paper alone. He wished his paper to be impartial, and open to Whigs and Tories, and failed as others have who attempted the project of being neuter between two rival parties. His innate Yankee love of civil liberty discovered itself in spite of his assured neutrality, and the Tories, not being able to seduce him by their promises and their threats, both of which they tried, withdrew their subscriptions, and persecuted the printer. He became the object even of executive hostility; and Governor Hutchinson and his council endeavored to punish him for contempt and indict him for libellous publications. The public spirit was excited; the breach between England and the Colonies widened; and for the safety of his person and press, he removed to Worcester a few days before Lexington battle. On the third of May, 1785,¹ his newspaper first issued from Worcester.

A celebrated writer² has observed that mankind most remembered amid the praises bestowed on LUTHER, that his endeavours had been ineffectual, unassisted by FAUSTUS. May I not then be permitted also to remark, that if the reformation was so much assisted by the art of printing, in enumerating the contributing causes of the American Revolution the labours, the patriotism and the press of ISAIAH THOMAS should not be forgotten? He and his publication gave and received a tone to and from public feeling at the time and in the scenes in which commenced

¹ 1775. ² Dr. Vicesimus Knox.

the struggle, that terminated in the independence of the Country.

After the peace, Mr. Thomas was no less useful to the public. Our Country took its separate and equal station among the nations of the earth, and it was necessary it should have arts, literature and science. No man perhaps has done more to diffuse useful knowledge, wide and unsparingly, than the subject of this memoir; no man has been more extensively celebrated as a printer and bookseller. Such has been his talents and industry in business, that he and his different partners have had at one time fifteen presses in motion; and such his prudence and good management that an enviable opulence has been secured to his family. His ambition too has been of the right kind, not obtrusive, not rapacious for public office or the public money, he has sought only to be useful and honorable. He has continued to live at Worcester, and been selected on several occasions to discharge the duties of public offices under the general and state governments, more important for their utility than their emoluments. He has for fourteen years been in the commission of the peace, and in 1812 was appointed an associate justice of the court of sessions, which office however he never accepted. He has also been connected for many years with benevolent and literary societies; is a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society; an honorary member of the New York Historical Society; and is President of the newly incorporated American Antiquarian Society, to which he has given his library valued at 5,000 dollars. The highest Masonic honors, and offices have also been attained by him.

Mr. Thomas has felt the liberal sentiment, that every man owes something to his profession; and in 1810 published in two octavo volumes his "History of Printing in America with a Biography of Printers and an Account of Newspapers," and prefixed a "concise view of the discovery and progress of the art in other parts of the world." I am not prepared to discuss the merits of this work; nor is it necessary. It is considered as an emporium of curious, useful and highly interesting narratives, anecdotes and observations, which perhaps could be furnished by no other person. This memoir cannot be more appropriately

closed than by an extract from Mr. John Russell's address to the members of the Faustus Association in 1808.

"The next in rank, as distinguished among our brethren, and who, we are happy to observe, yet lives to advance still further the interests of our profession, and the improvement of science, is ISAIAH THOMAS. He began his career about the time FRANKLIN was called from the private studies of his office, to fulfil the duties of a public minister abroad. On his first entrance into business, he was distinguished for enterprise and ingenuity—and possessing an ardent mind, he pursued the natural bent of his enthusiasm in the cause of liberty, by eminently contributing in his private example, and professional ability, as editor of a newspaper, to the progress and consummation of that glorious revolution; which seated the proud empire of America on the throne of independence. These exertions, in times which tried men's souls, were the oblations of duty offered up at the shrine of patriotism; but in the exercise of a profession, which naturally led to the softer blandishments of science and literature, he seized every moment of time which could be snatched from public avocations, in promoting its interests and advancing its glory. His studies were inculcated to his household, and to the circle of his friends. He incited the love of learning by his precepts to all around him—every being within the verge of his influence was benefitted by his example; and at this moment there are more master printers, who have received their professional education under his fostering care, and who have prospered in the world (many of whom we are proud to see seated amid this circle), than can be claimed by any other printer in America. His prosperity has served to increase his usefulness; and numerous individuals, and even the community at large, have experienced his liberality and munificence. This is but a faint but sincere tribute of praise to the man who may be justly considered as the father and patron of our art in Massachusetts."

At the October meeting fifty years ago "George F. Hoar of Worcester" was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society. Twenty-five years ago today he was

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elected a Vice-President, and from 1884 to 1886 inclusive he filled the highest office in the gift of the Society. During all these years his wise and loving service has been constant and unstinted.

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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