

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

THE first librarian's report in the New Series of the Society's Proceedings was prepared for the annual meeting of October, 1880, by Samuel Foster Haven, LL.D., beloved both as scholar and librarian. It was followed in April and October, 1881, and April and October, 1882, by my own as assistant librarian. From April, 1883, to October, 1903, inclusive, I have submitted a *semi-annual* report for your consideration. This is the first annual report under the vote of the Council, October 20, 1903, "That the librarian be permitted to make his report annually unless he has occasion to send in a special communication."

Your attention has been called from time to time to the weak and the strong departments in our storehouse of American history. It is desired that in this report these facts may be grouped as they appear in the light of today. A brief statement under each of the book funds is therefore offered. Two funds existed when the present librarian entered your service, April 1, 1866: The Librarian's and General Fund, to be used for the purchase of books as well as for the purposes suggested by its name; and the Collection and Research Fund, to be used primarily as its title indicates, but also for the increase of the library and cabinet.

The Isaac and Edward L. Davis Fund was established by Colonel Davis of our Council in January, 1868, and increased by his son, Councillor Edward L. Davis, in April, 1891. It was originally designed to secure printed matter relating to North America south of the United States; but Colonel Davis, at the request of the assistant libra-

rian, extended the field by allowing the word North to be stricken out. While thus far Spanish North America has been given the preference, much South American history in English, French and Spanish has been added to the Davis Spanish-American alcove. The large amount now available need not be expended hastily, but a special effort should be made in home and foreign markets to supply our needs in Cuban, Hawaiian, Panamaian, Philippine and Porto Rican history.

The Benjamin F. Thomas Local History Fund was not established until February, 1879; but Judge Thomas had been interested in this department of history for many years and had added thereto material of marked value. His special purpose, which was to strengthen our collection of the local histories of New England, was fostered by occasionally supplying him with lists of those needs. This fund, which bears the name of a Vice-President of the Society, who was a grandson of its founder, should be liberally increased as a memorial to one of the Society's brightest and best friends.

The Haven Fund, established by one of the great librarians of America, has been used for the purchase of the best contributions to the history of our country. Works of this class—many of them author's copies—have been transferred to the Haven alcove by the widow of Dr. Haven, who kindly holds the remainder of his library subject to the pleasure of the Society.

The Chandler Fund though small has added for twenty years to the alcove of family history many books which are now out of the market and therefore very difficult to secure. By the sale of copies of the second edition of Dr. Chandler's history of the Chandler Family, a limited amount has been added to the fund. There remain ninety-four copies of this volume, which should yield about one thousand dollars. We need a large fund to keep up this popular department of the library, to which additions

can be made to the best advantage, generally, when fresh from the press. For instance, the Kellogg Genealogy, recently ordered, was published at \$12.00. The price soon advanced to \$15.00, and it is now held at \$20.00.

For the past fifteen years the unique Francis H. Dewey Fund has added to the alcove of biography, the lives of leading judges and other lawyers, with specimens of their productions. This broad and interesting field would bear further cultivation.

The income of the George E. Ellis Fund has secured for us the past year much-needed genealogies as well as American history in its larger forms. This fund is in its provisions "a movable feast."

The creation of the John and Eliza Davis Fund, for the purchase of books relating to the Civil War of 1861-1865, was both a filial and a timely act. We still need a book-plate, with the portraits of the Governor and Senator and his esteemed wife, to place in all books which have been or which may be bought with this fund.

As our treasurer is also a member of the committee on the library, all lists of books desired have been submitted to him by the librarian, and orders have been sent through him. The arrangement has proved satisfactory to both officers.

The desire to have as few separate funds as possible is natural, but the arguments in their favor are not far to seek. The special book-plate is an object lesson with a suggestive mission to all library users. In this connection I recommend the establishment of funds for the enrichment of our collection of newspapers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and for the purchase of encyclopedic literature.

The inclusive nature of our ingatherings thus far has been one of our strong points, bringing to us expressions of gratitude from many sources. And so your librarian ventures the hope that it may not be necessary to close

any avenue of approach to the various departments of our treasure-house. When our collector-librarian Christopher C. Baldwin, early in the nineteenth century, secured every page possible of matter printed in or relating to America, he built better than he knew. And while he did not live to prepare his intended list of such publications, he made it necessary for Sabin, Eames, Evans, Nichols and many another bibliographer to visit our Mecca for information not elsewhere to be found. The careful historian or student of history has given us the spirit of the times by here examining early contemporary authorities before drawing his conclusions. Our name will always suggest the wide field we are called upon to cover.

The Society's delightful home for the past fifty years is rapidly becoming too small for the proper care and classification of the current accessions. We look forward with confidence to a new fire-proof home, with ample grounds, well lighted, well heated, well ventilated, not necessarily ornate nor in the heart of the city. Meanwhile, as no further outer enlargement of Antiquarian Hall seems possible, what interior improvements in the way of space-giving may be considered? I submit briefly: *first* a second gallery in the main hall, the iron and woodwork to conform to what is already there, thus carrying out the original plan of Thomas A. Tefft, the distinguished architect; *second* the enlarging of the present stack by carrying it to the ceiling; and *third* the stacking of the attic hall for classes of books and newspapers for which at present there is little demand. This upper hall rests firmly upon four substantial brick walls and is otherwise supported.

A limited amount of shelf-room has been secured in the main hall by the presentation of about two hundred volumes to the Worcester County Law Library, our next-door neighbor on Court Hill. The transfer to this library, so rich in legal lore, was made 19 May, 1904, after a check

list of some five hundred titles had been examined by deputy librarian George E. Wire for text-books needed. The library cards representing this valuable gift have been retained for ready reference. The stack room has been relieved of a large collection of duplicate, illustrated magazines by a gift to the Worcester Woman's Club for use in their summer schools. Later this literature was prepared by the children for use in the city hospitals. The disposition of the remainder of the second edition of Dr. Pliny Earle's "Curability of Insanity"—three hundred copies of which were left us for wise distribution—has given added shelving in the newspaper room. Correspondence with the Librarian of the United States Surgeon-General's office and with the Secretary of the Association of Medical Librarians, has revealed the best outlet for this notable work, as will appear by the following letter.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., September 6, 1904.

EDMUND M. BARTON,
Librarian American Antiquarian Society,
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Sir:—

In behalf of the Executive Committee I beg to convey to you the thanks of the Association for your kind offer to send by freight to this office the remainder of the edition of Dr. Pliny Earle's book. We shall be very glad to receive the same and distribute among our members and such others as may seem desirable in accordance with your wishes.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT S. HUNTINGTON,
Secretary.

In answer to the above, the shipment was made 17 September, 1904, and the receipt duly acknowledged.

In a personal letter of the same date Secretary Huntington—who is also Librarian of the Medical Society of the County of Kings—writes: "Thank you for your post-script to your letter in regard to the distribution by the Association of Medical Librarians of Dr. Pliny Earle's book, in which you give me some interesting notes about Dr. Earle and the disposition of his library and estate.

If you ever get crowded for room and wish to dispose of the neurological journals and asylum reports which he gave to your Society, just let me know!"

In the Treasurer's report of 10 October, 1902, is the following: "By a vote of the Council the sum of \$1,000 was appropriated from the Lincoln Legacy Fund, to be expended at the discretion of the Committee of Publication for the purpose of the production of a comprehensive guide to the material for American history in the public repositories in London, especially to the manuscript material. This work was begun under the direction of our associate Prof. J. F. Jameson of Chicago, and the sum of \$278.50 has been used from the appropriation." Further light upon this work appears in the following letter from Dr. Andrew C. McLaughlin, Director of the Bureau of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution:

February 13, 1904.

My dear Sir:—

Mr. Dexter has, I believe, written you suggesting that the slips prepared by Miss Kimball and showing the American historical material from British archives that is accessible in print should be turned over to me as director of the bureau of historical research of the Carnegie Institution. Senator Hoar, whom I have seen, sees no objection to such disposition. It is my purpose to use these slips in connection with a *Guide to American Material in British Archives* which is now preparing in London under our direction. Of course proper credit and recognition and thanks would be given the American Antiquarian Society in the book which we hope to get out.

If you will be so good as to send the material to me I shall be glad to arrange it and utilize it soon.

With thanks for your interest and attention, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A. C. McLAUGHLIN.

Mr. BARTON.

By direction of the Library Committee and for the purpose above declared, the slips were shipped 16 February, 1904, to the Carnegie Institution at Washington, D. C. On 19 February, 1904, Dr. McLaughlin acknowledged their receipt with many thanks and the hope that a very helpful report would be the result of the transfer.

On the third of last February, a blank form for the personal record of members, for permanent preservation,

was sent to all members foreign and domestic. It is also mailed with the roll of members to each newly elected associate. About one-half of the total membership has already responded; namely seventy-five of the one hundred and thirty-nine members in the United States and eight of the twenty-six foreign members: eighty-three in all. It will facilitate the preparation of the new roll of members and insure its accuracy, if the other eighty-two associates will make answer at an early day. It is the desire of the Committee of Publication and of the librarian to keep in touch with every individual member; but several communications mailed to foreign members have been returned, suggesting possible death or removal.

An historical society rich in material and wise in administration has recently issued the following suggestive appeal:

DO NOT DESTROY BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, MAGAZINES, OR
NEWSPAPER FILES.

The Wisconsin State Historical Library, at Madison, can utilize them all. Its collections are already large, and quite likely some of these articles now in your possession may be in the Society's library; but that fact need not deter you from sending them in—all duplicates can readily be used, either in exchange with other large libraries or as gifts to the smaller libraries throughout the State. Nothing of value is ever wasted; the Society, co-operating with the State Free Library Commission, acts as a library clearing house for Wisconsin. *Telephone or write to the Secretary*, if you can spare any printed matter in your possession—if in Madison, a package-delivery man will be sent for the articles; if out of Madison, send by freight or express, according to the size of package, at the Society's charge for transportation.

Our experience approves the inclusive call, especially for newly organized bodies and those having plenty of space available for such deposits.

Rev. Dr. Hale has kindly called our attention to a notice of Rev. Dr. William Bentley's library, on page 212 of *The Weekly Messenger* (Boston), in the volume for 1819-20.

I recommend that when the order is given for added cases for our card catalogue, one may be secured for the manuscript room in anticipation of the card catalogu-

ing of our material relating to the War of the American Revolution.

The placing of double windows on the north and east sides of the Hall, added greatly to the comfort of our guests and the library force during the severe winter of 1903-4.

The sources of gifts for the year ending October 15, number four hundred and nineteen, namely: from forty members, one hundred and seventy-seven persons not members, and two hundred and two societies and institutions. We have received from them twenty-four hundred and eleven books, ten thousand and fifty-one pamphlets, two bound and one hundred and forty-three volumes of unbound newspapers, eighteen engravings, sixteen portraits, sixteen maps, sixteen broadsides, eight photographs, four coins, two medals, one bust and a collection of manuscripts; by exchange two hundred and thirty-five books and twenty-four pamphlets; and from the bindery one hundred and forty-seven volumes of magazines,—a total of twenty-seven hundred and ninety-two books, ten thousand and seventy-six pamphlets, two bound and one hundred and forty-three volumes of unbound newspapers, *etc.*

The gifts of Mr. Charles P. Bowditch bear internal evidence of his continued aid in the preparation and publication of valuable linguistic and archæological literature.

The value of many of the gifts of our beloved Vice-President, George F. Hoar, was enhanced by the letters accompanying them. Following is his last:

WORCESTER, MASS., May 6, 1904.

My dear Mr. BARTON:—

I send you for the Society, first, an engraving of the portrait of John Bellows which his neighbors in Gloucestershire have had painted and placed in the Tolsey, or City Hall, of Gloucester.

Second. I send a very curious and interesting figure of a friar made with his own hands by José Rizal, the Filipino patriot who was executed by the Spanish shortly before our late Spanish War. The figure represents a friar with a gross sensual countenance, with a bottle in his hand, and a picture of a woman and some other accompaniments, intending to represent his sensual character. This bust was given me

by an eminent Filipino whose name I cannot now recall, but who was Rizal's friend from youth and who studied with him in Spain.

Third. I send a portrait of Rizal which was given me, I think, by Sexto Lopez. But of that I cannot be sure. It was given me by some one of the eminent Filipinos. On the back of this photograph is a translation of the beautiful poem written by Rizal, in Spanish, the night before his execution, when, as he knew well, his early and cruel death was at hand. Perhaps you may think it worth while to have a copy made of this poem, as it is not accessible now, to be kept with the other things.

I am, with high regard, faithfully yours,

GEORGE F. HOAR.

EDMUND M. BARTON, Esq.,
Librarian, American Antiquarian Society,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

The various book funds established by our members have been drawn upon more freely than for many years, but the returns have been very satisfactory.

Hon. George M. Curtis has presented an important letter from Daniel Webster, with autographs of the period of our Civil War.

We have received from the Estate of Dr. Pliny Earle a collection of books and pamphlets, with twenty-three volumes of his note books or diaries, covering from 1863 to 1891, and a volume of his letters written from Europe, Cuba and Washington, from 1837 to 1845 inclusive. Much of the correspondence connected with his Earle Genealogy, and many of his diplomas and commissions, are included in this important gift.

The gift of Mr. Lucius P. Goddard includes a file of *The Saturday Dial*, a royal quarto published by his relative, Mr. G. P. Goddard at Columbus, Ohio, on May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1887. The last three issues contain the important papers of Mr. A. A. Graham on "Céleron's March, or the Lead Plate Claim of France to the Valleys of the Ohio." The only one of these plates which has been traced is now in the cabinet of this Society; a second—which was for a time in West Virginia—having disappeared. In our *Archæologia Americana*, volume 2, article 3, is a "Description of a Leaden Plate or Medal, found near the mouth of the Muskingum, in the State of Ohio, by

DeWitt Clinton, LL.D." Following an introductory note, by the Publishing Committee, is a partially successful effort to show in type what remains of the inscription upon our mutilated plate. Governor Clinton's "Description," &c., which is dated Albany, 24 October, 1827, and is addressed to The President and Members of the American Antiquarian Society, includes a letter from Caleb Atwater, Esq., Circleville, Ohio, May 15, 1821. The character and number of the Céleron plates will best appear in a paragraph or two from Mr. Graham's first paper: "The expedition was provided by Gallisoniere with a number of lead plates, each about three inches long, seven and one-half inches wide, and one-eighth inch thick. On each was an inscription in French, engraved or stamped in capital letters; blanks being left for the insertion of the name of the rivers at the confluence of which with the Ohio, they were to be placed, and the dates of their deposit. On the reverse of each plate was the name of the artist or engraver, Paul de Brosse. Six of these plates are mentioned in Céleron's journal; one was stolen by the Indians and taken to Governor Clinton of New York. Whether there were more than the seven thus mentioned cannot be decided."

We have received from Mr. Charles Henry Hart his "Paul Revere's Portrait of Washington," reprinted from the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, December, 1903. Referring to the Abraham Weatherwise Almanack of 1781, in which the supposed Revere's Washington is found, he says: "The title-page of the almanac mentions 'a large and beautiful copperplate [frontispiece] representing a picturesque view of Great Britain' as an embellishment. I have been able to find but five copies of the Weatherwise Almanack for 1781, and unfortunately not one of them has the beautiful copperplate, an inspection of which might show the name of Paul Revere as its engraver, which fact would be strong persuasive proof that the type-metal portrait of Washington in the almanac

was by the same hand." A foot note states that the five copies are "in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, first and second editions; in the Public Library of Boston, and in the collection of Mr. E. B. Holden of New York; the latter the one photographed." A copy of this rare almanac containing the rarer copperplate "A Picturesque View of the State of Great Britain for 1780" is in the library of this Society; but a careful examination under the glass fails to reveal the name of the engraver. However, the last line has been cut from the explanatory text and possibly with it the desired identification.

The information contained in the following letters is thought worthy of preservation in print. The restored portrait to which reference is made, hangs at the head of the main hall stairway.

Colonel Higginson writes:

29 Buckingham St., CAMBRIDGE,
January 12, 1904.

Dear Mr. BARTON:—

I find among my papers this letter from the elder Stephen Salisbury, which you may like to preserve, as fixing the time and circumstances of the arrival of the picture of Francis Higginson (or supposed to be such), at your library. My brother was the genealogist of our family and was a very natural medium for the transmission of the picture, which is, you are perhaps aware, one of three copies, the others being in Salem and Boston. Mr. Haven, as you may remember, always maintained it to be a portrait of F. H., although many regarded it as too old in appearance. I am not sure whether the faded *date* upon the State House copy had then been discovered; but I have always thought it more probable that somebody added the questionable date than that there should have been no correct tradition on the subject preserved in Salem; or that Dr. Bentley (from whom I think your copy came to you), should have made such a blunder. Perhaps it will never be quite cleared up.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON.

And President Salisbury's letter which is so kindly presented reads:

WORCESTER, July 24, 1882.

Dear Sir:—

According to your favor of 7th inst. the "Portrait," which can only be intended for the revered Francis Higginson, was safely received at the Hall of the American Antiquarian Society, and the Society will feel their obligation to you and other descendants, who

have generously taken care that their ancestor should appear well to posterity in his person as well as in his transmitted qualities.

It will be interesting and important if you will inform us when and where such portraits as those of Higginson, Endicott and other similar ones were made.

I am much obliged and sincerely yours,

STEPHEN SALISBURY.

WALDO HIGGINSON, Esq.,
Cohasset, Mass.

I note that the number of the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for December 29, 1903, recently received, contains tributes to Isaiah Thomas, their Past Grand Master and our founder.

On April 26, 1854—fifty years ago—Rev. James Davie Butler, LL.D., then of Cincinnati, Ohio, but now and for many years of Madison, Wisconsin, began his service as a faithful member of this Society. The anniversary recalls a suggestive remark of Dr. Samuel Foster Haven, that membership in the American Antiquarian Society is a sufficient life insurance!

In the Society's set of *The American Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*—the first number of which was issued in July, 1834, by the Boston Bewick Company—is the following entry: "For the Library of the American Antiquarian Society from John Langdon Sibley, Editor, from page 289 of vol. 3d. Among the earlier editors were Alden Bradford, the historian and the Secretary of State of Massachusetts and Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of 'Twice Told Tales.' Rev. Horatio Alger contributed several articles of the 3d volume." On page 129 of the number for November, 1834, is a wood cut of the "Hall of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass," and its surroundings as they appeared in the days of William Lincoln and Christopher C. Baldwin. The article which accompanies the illustration was probably from the pen of the historian Bradford, who was doubtless familiar

with the Hall and its treasures. Following is the statement:

"This building is pleasantly situated in the village of Worcester, Mass. The central part was erected in 1819 and '20, and dedicated on the 24th of August of the latter year. The wings were added in 1821. The whole building is of brick and is the liberal donation of the late ISAAH THOMAS, LL.D. to the Society.

"The Society was organized in 1812, and held its first meeting at the Exchange Coffee House, in Boston, November the 19th of that year. Its officers are annually elected on the 23d of October, that being the day on which Columbus discovered America. The first anniversary meeting of the Society was held at Boston, October 23d, 1813, when an address was delivered in King's Chapel by the Rev. William Jenks, D.D. There are now two meetings of the Society in each year; the first on the 23d of October and the second on the last Wednesday of May. The objects of the institution are the collection and preservation of American Antiquities. It was the intention of its founder and munificent patron, Mr. Thomas, that its library should embrace as perfect a collection of American literature as possible. No institution has proposed the accomplishment of a similar object, and the general preference given in our libraries to European over American books had prevented in a great measure the collecting of them, only to a limited extent. It seemed very desirable that a remedy for an evil of this description should be provided. So little care had been taken for the preservation of the productions of our early American authors, that many of them were found with extreme difficulty, while others were irrecoverably lost. By the establishment of an institution of this character, a convenient receptacle would be provided for the early as well as for modern literature of the country, and when its objects should be generally known, individuals possessing books, pamphlets, maps or manuscripts might have a convenient place to deposit them, where they might be useful to the public. Interesting materials of the history of the country are profusely scattered in every town, which have never yet found a place in any of our public libraries. It is among the principal objects of this institution to collect

and preserve these as well as all the productions of American authors.

“Besides providing the Society with a spacious building for the accommodation of its library and cabinet, Mr. Thomas also gave it between four and five thousand volumes of books, illustrating the history of the country, as well as many rare and interesting specimens of early printing. He also provided the Society with a fund for the permanent support of a librarian, and otherwise richly endowed the institution with the means of making annual purchases of books, and for needed incidental expenses.

“The library of the Society now contains between ten and twelve thousand volumes, and is more rapidly increasing than at any former period. Visitors can have easy access to it, and it is always open to such as have occasion to use books. As it is not local in its objects, but general or national, and from the means it possesses of making itself useful to the public, it must in a few years, rank among the largest as well as the most interesting public libraries of the country.”

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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