

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

My last report is presented at the end of a year in which the "forward movement" has been continuous. Made possible by the generous bequest of our benefactor, the late President Salisbury, we have asked for many things which have been promptly supplied.

It was said at our last Annual Meeting that the new President "must practically become the executive head of the Society." Mr. Lincoln has not only filled that position but his daily hours at the Library have had a stimulating effect upon the workers therein.

But one change has been made in the Library staff: Miss Louise Colegrove came to us on April 21, 1908, and on May 31 following Miss Emma F. Waite retired after eight months of intelligent service.

Reference to the seal of the Society in the Librarian's report of October, 1907, leads Mr. Charles A. Chase to add the following as supplementary thereto. He first presents this setting of the motto which President Thomas so wisely selected from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* XV-871:

"Jamque opus exegi quod nec Jovis ira nec ignis
nec poterit ferrum nec edax abolere vetustas;"

and this translation: "Now I have ended a work which the wrath of Jove shall not be able to destroy, nor fire, nor sword, nor consuming time."

At the close of his communication to the Librarian, he adds: "Compare Horace, *Odes* III-30."

"Exegi monumentum aere perennius,
Regalique situ pyramidum altius,
Quod non imber edax, non Aquilo impotens
Possit diruere, aut innumerabilis
Annorum series et fuga temporum.

Non omnis moriar, multaque pars mei
 Vitabit Libitinam: usque ego postera
 Crescam laude recens, dum Capitolium
 Scandet cum tacita virgine pontifex."

The argument of Horace's epilogue, or that portion of it in which we have an especial interest, is translated as follows: "I have built myself a monument which storms shall not destroy, nor Time himself. I shall not die, but live in freshness of fame so long as the world endures." In a report to the Council, on October 23, 1906, on the matter of changing the Society's seal, Mr. Chase recommended the addition to the seal of the date of our foundation, 1812, and it was so ordered.

The repairs upon our portraits and furniture have gone steadily forward although not yet completed, and new light has been thrown upon some of the subjects treated. The portrait of the loyalist Charles Paxton, attributed to Copley, presented many years ago "by a lady," is marked "J. Cornish Pinxit," and the date 1751; while the portrait of Robert B. Thomas, painted shortly before his death, is ascribed to William Talcott. Upon the removal of the imperfect mirrors from the Leverett secretary, the original panels were found in perfect condition.

It is not generally known that our Proceedings for May 31, 1843 appeared as Vol. I., No. 1, and for October 23, 1843 as Vol. I., No. 2, although they were not continuously paged. The latter number was noticed in *The National Ægis* of December 27, 1843, as follows:

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

"We have received a copy of the Address delivered before this society, and of their proceedings at their annual meeting in October.

This association has been incorporated thirty-one years, and stands pre-eminently at the head of all similar institutions in this country. Its library, containing more than 14,000 volumes, many of them very valuable and ancient works, attracts the attention of all strangers visiting Worcester, who have any curiosity as to the inspection of ancient and rare books. But aside from the attractions arising from the antiquity of many of the works preserved there, the scholar and

the author, who weekly and almost daily resort thither, find in its library rich sources of valuable information, from whence to enrich their minds, and to impart an increased value to their works.

The Society is extremely fortunate in having one every way so well fitted to discharge the duties of Librarian, as Samuel F. Haven, Esq. To a love for Antiquarian research which ever prompts him to aid the enquirer, Mr. Haven adds an urbanity and courtesy of manner, which must always favorably impress the many visitors of the Hall of the Society.

The annual address was delivered by Hon. John Davis, Vice-president, in the absence of Hon. Edward Everett, President.

Gov. Davis commences by referring to the origin of the society, and alludes to its founder and its first friends, who have gone to their rest, and then proceeds to speak more particularly of the great loss the society has sustained by the death of William Lincoln, Esq. No man had rendered to this society more valuable or important services than the late Mr. Lincoln. And the address of Gov. Davis, speaking as it does of Mr. Lincoln in the highest terms of praise, renders no more than a just and merited tribute to his memory."

The printing of our Diary of the Reverend William Bentley, D. D., by the Essex Institute—two volumes of which have already appeared—is in progress. It is full of the details of Essex County life and is being carefully edited and indexed. The statement that Dr. Bentley *ordered* the destruction of manuscripts in his own hand is not quite true, for the closing paragraph of his will reads, "*I recommend* to my nephew to destroy all the works of every name in my own hand, and to accept what remains for his services, and I constitute the said William Bentley Fowle my sole executor."

The book of accessions records three hundred and eighty-two sources of gifts; namely, forty-two members, one hundred and twenty-two persons not members, and two hundred and eighteen societies and institutions. We have received from them one thousand and four books, fifty-two hundred and eighty-seven pamphlets, twenty-three bound and twenty-one unbound volumes of newspapers, seventeen photographs, five engravings, five maps, four broadsides, three coins, one medal, and small collections of manuscripts

and Indian stone implements; by purchase, three hundred and ninety-six books, seventeen pamphlets and thirty-nine volumes of bound newspapers; by exchange, nineteen books and twenty pamphlets, and from the bindery, sixty-four books and fifty-seven volumes of newspapers; a total of fourteen hundred and eighty-three books, fifty-three hundred and twenty-four pamphlets, one hundred and nineteen bound and twenty-one volumes of unbound newspapers, etc.

The year has been an eventful one in the expenditure of money for the enrichment of our North and South American specialties.

A few of the free-will offerings of members are here mentioned: Mr. William K. Bixby writes; "I am sending you to-day by express, volume No. 379 of Hamilton's *Itinerarium* which I have had privately printed. This journal was kept by Doctor Andrew Hamilton, who started on a trip from Maryland and travelled through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the New England States in 1744. No part of this has ever before been printed, and no copies will be offered for sale. Please accept with my compliments." The gift of Mr. Andrew McF. Davis includes a very rare Increase Mather tract printed by Franklin, and remainders of several of his important papers contributed to our own and other learned Societies. Such valuable deposits of the remainders of editions were received in the latter part of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries from Isaiah Thomas, and from Christopher C. Baldwin and William Lincoln. Our Founder's 1789 edition of Goldsmith's *History of Goody Two Shoes* and Whitney's *History of Worcester County* (1793) and Lincoln and Baldwin's *Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal* in 1825-26, are pointed illustrations. Mr. Albert Matthews' notes on *Boston Newspapers, 1704-1780*, and on *New England Magazines before 1800*; and the deposit by Mr. Nathaniel Paine of the manuscript documents relating to the *Devens Statue Memorial*, are gratefully received. The annual gifts of Mr. Henry P. Upham have been of a high order. His latest is a set—in thirty-two volumes—of the "*Early Western Travels, 1748-1846*" edited by Dr. Reuben G.

Thwaites. I also call your attention to a few gifts from persons who are not members of this Society: Miss Lucy A. Brainard thoughtfully sends her three-volume edition of the Brainerd-Brainard Genealogy "for courtesies extended to me several years ago, when I spent some time in your library working on the Genealogy in investigation and research." In the parcels of manuscripts, books, pamphlets and newspapers marked for the Society by the late Mrs. Samuel Foster Haven, were found five original issues of the News-Letter of 1713 and 1717 which proved to be duplicates and are now for sale by the Society. The important manuscript contribution from the Estate of Benjamin F. Heywood includes the Orderly Book, March 26—December 31, 1782 of Sergeant Joseph Russell of Captain Heywood's Company [5th] in the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, as well as the Regimental Book of the year 1782. The Olin L. Merriam, Brookfield collection of Indian stone implements, has been placed in our custody by his sister, Miss Nellie J. Merriam.

Mr. J. P. Morgan, at the request of our associate, Mr. Edward L. Davis has presented the Society with a copy in four sumptuous volumes of the catalogue of a portion of his manuscripts and printed books.

Miss Adelaide R. Sawyer, niece of Christopher C. Baldwin, Librarian of this Society, 1827-1835, has generously surrendered to our care the water-color miniature of her uncle, painted from life by Miss Sarah Goodridge. It may be added, as indicating the quality of Miss Goodridge's work, that her miniature portrait of our founder, which was used in the second edition of his History of Printing, was declared by his friend, the Rev. George Allen, to be the best of the numerous portraits of Isaiah Thomas.

The gifts from the Society as well as those to it deserve brief mention: On February 17, 1908, about three hundred bound volumes of novels were delivered to Clark College. In August of the present year the California Genealogical Society acknowledged "a most valuable gift" of the biographical and genealogical reprints from the Society's Proceedings "to assist in a measure to replace those destroyed in the San Francisco fire of April 18-20, 1906."

Our Associate, Charles L. Nichols, M. D., has nearly completed a card catalogue, with notes, of the alphabetically arranged almanacs in the south lobby below stairs. They number about 2500 titles and of these some 800 are of the period previous to the year 1800. The printing of the seventeenth and eighteenth century titles is of the first importance. Dr. Nichols is the author of the admirable "Bibliography of Worcester", published in 1899.

An important transfer is best announced in connection with the following letter:

CAMBRIDGE, April 14, 1908.

Dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge on behalf of the President and Fellows of Harvard College the receipt of your letter of April 13 informing them of the generous action of the Library Committee of the American Antiquarian Society in offering to give the College, without restrictions or conditions, the copper coins of the Eastern Hemisphere, now in the possession of the Society.

This offer is gratefully accepted by the University upon the terms so kindly imposed by the Committee, and I am therefore asking your Librarian to ship them to Dr. Malcolm Storer, our Curator of Coins at the College Library.

Upon arrival of the coins, I shall formally report the fact to the Corporation, in order that suitable acknowledgments may be sent to your Society for their generous gift.

Very truly yours,

JEROME D. GREENE,
Secretary.

WALDO LINCOLN, Esq.

American Antiquarian Society.

On April 28, 1908, the collection was carefully boxed, and shipped to Dr. Storer.

It is thought desirable that the following facts be made a matter of record in the body of this report. They are from the Records of the Council, and are given in chronological order: "April 1, 1840, voted that the Librarian be authorized to deliver to the Secretary of the Commonwealth such manuscripts and papers relating to the War of the Revolution as are in possession of the Society, upon the conditions that the Secretary will cause the same to be arranged in good order, bound into volumes, safely kept

while the same shall remain in his custody, and return the same, whenever thereto requested, to the library, free of expense to the Society. William Lincoln, Secretary *pro tem.*”

The following is in the handwriting of Samuel Foster Haven, Librarian.

“Memorandum.

1840, Tuesday May 12th. Sent by stage to the Secretary of State a box of manuscripts relating to the Military Service of the Revolution in compliance with a vote of the Council of the Antiquarian Society on April 1st.

S. F. H.

Military papers sent to Boston.”

In conclusion, I may be allowed to certify to the conscientious work done by all my assistants; and to express personal as well as official gratitude to them for many years of devoted service to this ancient and honorable Society.

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND M. BARTON,

Librarian.

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