

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE need of an enlarged library building has been made increasingly apparent during the past year, for we have had constant difficulty in finding sufficient room to shelve the accessions. A tabulation of the figures from the accession book shows the following results:—

Bound volumes	3308
Pamphlets	6183
Engravings, broadsides and maps	1214
Unbound newspapers	652

The total number of bound volumes in the library is now 148,485 and of pamphlets 223,676.

The entire field of American literature and history is covered in the accessions of the year—local history, genealogy, Spanish-Americana, Civil War, early laws, rare examples of American printing, school literature, are but a few of the subjects noted at first glance. Much of the current output of reports, periodicals and pamphlets comes to us from such constant givers as Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Chief Justice Arthur P. Rugg, Hon. Charles G. Washburn, Mr. Henry W. Cunningham, Mr. Grenville H. Norcross and Rev. Herbert E. Lombard. To Mr. Taylor we are especially indebted for his continued efforts in keeping up the collection of American journalism and printing, and there is little of importance currently published and offered by dealers that does not come under his eye, and then is transferred to this Library. Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed is another member who has presented to the Library much material of historical value.

We have been particularly fortunate this year in securing several files of early newspapers. Perhaps the most interesting of these files is the "Green Mountain Patriot" published at Peacham, Vt., from 1798 to 1807, by two young printers, Amos Farley and Samuel Goss. This was a much better paper than that usually issued in a small town, and was well filled with political news, Vermont happenings, marriages and death records, and under the heading of the "Parnassian Rivulet" there was an abundance of poetry, sometimes from exchanges but frequently contributed by Vermont writers. Goss, having given up his partnership with Farley, removed to Montpelier in 1807, published the "Vermont Precursor" there for a few weeks, and then changed its name to the "Watchman." These three papers are nearly complete as far as 1808, and they are all unique files.

Other files of importance for the study of New England local history are the "North Star" of Danville, Vt., from 1808 to 1817; the "Medley" of New Bedford, Mass., from 1793 to 1799; and the "Columbian Courier" of New Bedford from 1802 to 1805. The Society was enabled to purchase the two New Bedford files through the generosity of Mr. Henry W. Cunningham.

A list of the longer files acquired are as follows:

- PORTLAND, INDEPENDENT STATESMAN, 1821-1822.
- PEACHAM, GREEN MOUNTAIN PATRIOT, 1798-1807.
- MONTPELIER, VERMONT PRECURSOR, 1807.
- DANVILLE, NORTH STAR, 1808-1817.
- BOSTON GAZETTE, 1770.
- BOSTON, YANKEE, 1828-1829.
- BOSTON, DAILY AMERICAN EAGLE, 1844-1845.
- BOSTON LEDGER, 1857-1858.
- NEW BEDFORD, MEDLEY, 1793-1799.
- NEW BEDFORD, COLUMBIAN COURIER, 1802-1805.
- NEW BEDFORD MERCURY, 1812-1814.
- WARREN, HERALD OF THE U. S., 1799.
- WARREN TELEGRAPH, 1825-1826.
- WARREN, CLARION, 1823-1824.
- NEWPORT, COMPANION, 1798-1799.

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT GAZETTE, 1784-1787.  
HARTFORD, AMERICAN MERCURY, 1823, 1828, 1831.  
NEW YORK, SHAMROCK, 1817.  
NEW YORK, MUNICIPAL GAZETTE, 1841-1859.  
SALEM, NORTHERN POST, 1805-1806, 1813-1814.  
PHILADELPHIA, TICKLER, 1810-1813.  
PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY EVENING POST, 1824-1826.  
PHILADELPHIA SATURDAY COURIER, 1841-1844.  
BROWNSVILLE TIMES, 1857-1861.  
CARLISLE REPUBLICAN, 1819-1820.  
CLARION DEMOCRAT, 1863-1865.  
LANCASTER JOURNAL, 1818.  
LANCASTER EXAMINER, 1832-1835.  
CHESTERTOWN APOLLO, 1793.

In the large number of early volumes acquired, a few books stand out, either from their scarcity or their historical value. Perhaps the most interesting is the "Narrative of the Life, Adventures, Travels and Sufferings of Henry Tufts, now residing at Lemington, in the District of Maine," printed at Dover, N. H. 1807. This was presented to us by the Worcester Public Library, through the kindly offices of our associate, Mr. Robert K. Shaw, since it was a volume that we had long needed and seemed especially appropriate for our type of collecting. Henry Tufts was born at Newmarket, N. H., in 1748, learned evil ways in his early youth, and became famous from Canada to Virginia as a roving vagabond, rake, horse-thief, freebooter, bounty jumper, passer of counterfeit bills, fortune teller, Indian doctor, bigamist, disciple of free-love, religious enthusiast, and preacher of the New Light gospel. Although with the aid of marvellous disguises and chicanery, he generally escaped arrest, he did receive occasional prison sentences, and in 1793, for a burglary which he claims he did not commit, he was sentenced to be hung. Reprieved at the last moment by Gov. Samuel Adams, his punishment was commuted to life imprisonment, but he soon escaped, joined one of his various wives in Maine, and thereafter lived to a certain extent a reformed life. He wrote his

Memoirs in 1807, and died in 1831, in his eighty-third year.

Writing of Henry Tufts in Harper's Magazine for March 1888, under the title of "A New England Vagabond," Thomas Wentworth Higginson, noted the historical value of the book and showed how the narrative exhibited a wholly distinct and almost undescribed phase of New England Society. Tufts' list of some seventy words of slang and thieves' jargon, for instance, is a real contribution to the study of "Americanisms." The narrative is a long one, consuming nearly four hundred printed pages, and it is remarkable that the book is so scarce. This particular copy, once owned by Mr. Higginson, was the only one which that writer ever saw, although there are records of the sale of several copies in the last thirty years.

Two scarce imprints worthy of noting in the annual report are William Chandler's "Brief Apology in behalf of the People in Dirision call'd Quaker," Philadelphia, Andrew Bradford, 1719; and "Ashton's Memorial. An History of the Strange Adventures, and Signal Deliverances, of Mr. Philip Ashton," by John Barnard, Boston, 1725.

A rare book of psalmody is entitled "A Compilation of the Litanies and Vespers, Hymns and Anthems, as they are sung in the Catholic Church, adapted to the Voice of the Organ," by John Aitken, Philadelphia, 1787. This is a quarto volume of 136 pages, with an engraved title-page, and the entire book of music and text, with the exception of the second page, is engraved. Apparently it is the only known copy, as the book has hitherto been given a title only from newspaper advertisements. Mr. Frank J. Metcalf, of Washington, D. C., who is compiling a Bibliography of Psalmody from 1720 to 1880, states that this is the first copy he has met with. Incidentally the Library feels much indebted to Mr. Metcalf for depositing here a duplicate carbon copy of his Checklist as he has

finished with each installment, and already the work has proved of much bibliographical value.

An early New England tract by Sylvanus Conant has the title "The Art of War the Gift of God. A Discourse delivered at Middleborough, before three Military Companies, April 6, 1759, being the Day of General Muster in the Massachusetts Provinces for the Canada Expedition," Boston 1759. This was presented to the Society by Mr. James B. Wilbur and was the only one of Sylvanus Conant's five printed works that we lacked.

One of the most noteworthy accessions of the year was a copy of the New England Psalm Book, undated in the imprint, but printed at Cambridge, England, for Hezekiah Usher about 1658. This is the issue of 100 pages and is considered the earliest of the three undated Usher editions. Our Isaiah Thomas copy, which was once bound with a 1648 Bible, was imperfect, lacking the title and several leaves at the end. This defect has been remedied by the present copy, where the imperfections were in the middle of the book. The bibliographical problems which are provided by these varying American and English editions of the New England Psalm Book are many and interesting, and it is gratifying to know that Mr. Wilberforce Eames is preparing a monograph on the subject, with much new information, for Mr. William G. Mather, of Cleveland.

The New England Primer is one of the most scarce and sought-for books in the entire field of Americana—scarce because like all children's books comparatively few copies have survived, and sought-for since the fact that it was the rudimentary book of instruction and ranked with the almanac as the most popular book of its day attaches to it a highly sentimental interest. Although our collection of Primers has always been a large one we have never acquired so many new copies as during the past year. Fifteen varying issues, beginning with the Boston

edition of 1779, have been obtained, most of them from Mr. Charles F. Heartman whose bibliography of the New England Primer is well known to all students of the subject. Of the New England Primers listed by Heartman the following is the number of editions in the various libraries: American Antiquarian Society 77, Boston Public Library 54, Pequot Library 51, A. C. Bates 49, Harvard 48, Huntington Library 47, N. Y. Public Library 51, and Library of Congress 39.

As part of the collection of Primers, the Library has also obtained an imperfect edition of the "Protestant Tutor for Children," lacking the title-page and two or three leaves at the end. The dedicatory epistle and the preface are signed by Benjamin Harris, and the printing evidently is of the seventeenth century. Mr. Wilberforce Eames in referring to this copy, says: "It is probably the heretofore lost first edition, printed for Harris about 1685, or shortly before he came to New England . . . With reference to the 1685 edition, which I suppose to be the same as yours, Mr. Ford (in his *New England Primer*, p. 16) says that 'No copy of this first edition is known to be extant'. The close resemblance in the typography of the Catechism on page 100 of your copy with the same page (page 1) in your Boston edition of 168(5?), might almost suggest the possibility of both being American printing, except that one has the Questions or Answers in Black Letter, which is unusual for an American print."

The American edition referred to by Mr. Eames has long been owned by the Society and is that printed by Samuel Green at Boston and generally assigned to the year 1685. The Society also owns the London edition of 1726, presented to the Library by J. Hammond Trumbull in 1885.

Among the broadsides and engravings there are a few which we were exceedingly glad to secure. From Mr. Harold Murdock the library received a broadside the title of which shows its importance and rarity:

"A Particular Account of the most barbarous and Horrid Massacre! Committed in King-Street, Boston, on Monday, March 5, 1770, by the Soldiery quartered in said Town." Another broadside purchase at auction was the "Indian Gazette." Isaiah Thomas, in his *Royal American Magazine* for May 1774, reproduces an engraving entitled "An Indian Gazette" with a page of text opposite explaining the drawings which illustrated an expedition made by a party of American Indians into Canada. It was stated that "This print is engraved from an authentic copy, drawn by a French engineer, from the American original." In 1810 Thomas wrote his "History of Printing in America," and again he reproduced the *Indian Gazette*, using the same plate as before. In his text, vol. 2, p. 184, he said, "Annexed is an engraving of an *Indian Gazette* taken many years since, by a French officer, from the American original, and an explanation of the same. It relates to an expedition of a body of Canadian warriors, who, soon after the settlement of this part of America, took up the hatchet in favor of the French, against a hostile tribe that adhered to the English. It was communicated to me about forty years ago, and soon after I had it engraved for the *Royal American Magazine*. It had previously appeared in several works published in Europe." So far no copy of a European work has been noticed containing this engraving. The broadside secured by us came from a Heartman sale of April 21, 1923. It is a broadside with the engraving of the *Gazette*, with the explanatory text below, and with the imprint "Philadelphia: Printed by John Dunlap, at the Newest Printing-Office, in Market-Street." In this copy it is stated that the *Gazette* is "engraved from an authentic copy, drawn by a French engineer from the original, 1760." The date of the broadside is probably between 1770 and 1774.

Our collection of Revere's engravings, already nearly complete, has been enriched by two additional

items: the bill-head of Joshua Brackett's Cromwell's Head Tavern on School Street, and the only known copy of "The Rescinders," a small caricature of 1768 execrating the seventeen members of the Massachusetts General Court who voted to rescind a patriotic act previously passed. These two engravings came to the Society as a loan from Miss Mary L. Eliot of Cambridge with the provision that they were later to become part of our permanent possessions.

Several issues of eighteenth century almanacs have been secured. The most interesting is entitled "Wing," *Improv'd. An Almanack, for 1764, by W. Wing, Student in Astrology,* New York, printed by Samuel Brown "at the white Corner-House near Potbaker's Hill, between the new Dutch church and Fly Market." In his preface Wing says "This is the third Time of my Publick appearing (in this Manner)." The only Wing almanac hitherto known was that for 1762. We have also received the issues of Leavitt's New Hampshire almanacs for 1800, 1803 and 1805, all of them very rare although there are several collectors of Leavitts. These latter almanacs were presented by Dr. Nichols, and complete our series except for 1797 and 1802.

The bookplate collection has grown but slightly, chiefly because there are but few plates lacking in any offering made to us. One plate, however, has been presented which has turned out to be the foundation plate of the entire collection. Hitherto the earliest authentic American bookplate known was the label of William Brattle dated 1677. This was followed by the book-labels of Joseph Eliot 1678, John Williams 1679, Edward Tompson 1680, Nathaniel Mather 1683, Samuel Tompson 1688, John Hancock 1689, Nicholas Lynde 1690 and Simon Willard 1695. These were the only known dated plates previous to 1700 and all but the Williams owned by Richard Lichtenstein, the Mather owned by the Boston Public Library and the Willard owned by the Harvard



Library, are in the possession of this Society. They are in nearly every case the only specimens located, and curiously were all, with the exception of that of Samuel Tompson, owned by Harvard students prior to their graduation. Other early plates are those of Samuel Sewall about 1698 and Jeremiah Bumstead 1700, owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society; John Emerson about 1689, owned by Frederick J. Libbie; and Hannah Sutton about 1699, owned by this Society.

The plate which has come to us and antedates all of those listed above is that of Rev. John Cotton, and is worded "John Cotton his book Ann. Dom. 1674." It is oblong type label with border ornaments of the press of Samuel Green at Cambridge. It is in one volume of a set of six volumes of Cicero's Orations, printed in Latin, 1606, which set was formerly owned by Mr. J. Wingate Thornton. One of the volumes contains the autograph of John Cotton, who was graduated from Harvard in 1678 and was Librarian from 1681 to 1690, and in another Mr. Thornton has inserted the following note:

"These volumes were the property of Rev. John Cotton, of Boston—then of his son Rev. Seaborne Cotton, then to Seaborne's son Rev. John Cotton & given by John to his son-in-law the Rev. Nathaniel Gookin, who gave it to his son the Rev. Nathaniel Gookin, who left it to his daughter, my Grand father Judge Daniel Gookin's sister from whose hands it went to Rev. Jonathan French who gave it to me—Seaborne & all his descendants lived in Hampton, N. H. 6 Volumes of Cicero"

o J. WINGATE THORNTON

Boston Aug. 15th, 1843.

This valuable set of books, through the kindly suggestion of Mr. William P. Greenlaw of the Genealogical Society, was presented to us by Miss Elizabeth T. Thornton of Lexington, daughter of J. Wingate Thornton.

The portrait gallery has received the most notable gift since the early days of the Society, in fact since the year 1815 when Isaiah Thomas obtained the Mather family portraits. It is curious, too, that this donation should consist of portraits of a branch of the Mather family. In 1908 there came up for sale in Boston a group of five portraits which came from the estate of Hon. Mather Byles Des Brisay, of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. They were purchased by our late fellow member, Mr. Frederick Lewis Gay, of Brookline, and formed one of the leading features of his remarkable collection relating to early New England. Within the past year Mr. Gay's widow, Josephine Spencer Gay, decided to place these portraits in a permanent gallery, and because of her husband's long interest in the Society and our ownership of the Mather collection, presented them to this Library.

The five portraits are those of Cotton Mather (1727) and of Mather Byles (1739) by Pelham; Mather Byles (1767) by Copley; Mather Byles, Jr. (1784) by Mather Brown; and the self portrait of Mather Brown (1812). The earliest picture in the group is that of Rev. Cotton Mather. Since his sister married Rev. Josias Byles, he was the uncle of Rev. Mather Byles, the only son of Josias. Mather Byles was born in 1706, pastor of the Hollis Street Church, famed as a wit and a poet and died in 1788. His son Rev. Mather Byles, Jr. was born in 1735, was minister of the Congregational Church at New London, went to England where he took orders in the Anglican Church, was later rector of Christ Church in Boston, and during the Revolution fled to Canada, where he died in 1814 as rector of the Episcopal Church at St. John, New Brunswick. Mather Brown, born in 1761, was the son of Gawen Brown and Elizabeth Byles, daughter of Mather Byles. This family collection came from the Des Brisay family of Halifax, into which two daughters of Mather Byles, Jr., married.

Mr. Lincoln, in the Report of the Council, has referred to this important gift in describing the portrait collection, and in connection with this meeting Mr. Edmonds, long librarian with Mr. Gay, will give a more extended account of the paintings.

Another gift to the Society's gallery has come from Mr. Clarence W. Bowen, who has always been much interested in colonial art and portraiture. This is a painting of the action between the U. S. Ship "Wasp" and two British War Vessels, painted by Butterworth. It was purchased by Mr. Bowen in London on May 30, 1923, of J. Leger & Son, having been bought by them at Buckeham Tofts, Norfolk, England, a few days previous.

At the annual meeting of the Society a year ago Dr. Nichols in the Council report referred at length to the Mather library and to the interesting nature of our "association" books. This report brought from Mr. Bolton the suggestion that it would be an excellent scheme to list the early autographed volumes, not only in the American Antiquarian Society, but in all the older libraries in Boston, and at Harvard, so that we could form an idea of the literary tastes of our colonial ancestors and perhaps learn something of importance for their biographies. In consequence of this suggestion, Dr. Nichols during the past few weeks has been going over the earlier printed books in this library and already has examined some twenty thousand titles. As a result he has listed on cards over nine hundred books showing the autograph signatures of colonial book owners, in many cases there being several signatures in a volume.

The results have been of interest even beyond expectation. The autographs of famous statesmen and scholars, the annotations showing the writer's opinion of the book he had read, the formal note of presentation and the friendships revealed by gifts of books furnish the material for antiquarian lore and literary anecdote. Sometimes by autographs a volume

will show its ownership through three centuries. Stillingfleet's "Irenicum," for example, printed in 1661, has the successive autographs of "Thos. Shepard; ye Gift of Col. T. Temple, 1661"; "Thomas Brattle's book, 20th May, 1678, Ex dono T. S."; "Ye Gift of Mr. Thomas Robie to Judah Monis, Jan. 15th 1723." Judah Monis' autograph and then that of "P. Whitney, cost £1:10:0, 1768"; "Mrs. Julia Whitney, part of her share in the Rev. P. Whitney's Library"; "Jonas Ball," and finally the American Antiquarian Society. Thus is illustrated the genealogical descent of a book associated with names famous in New England history for a period of 262 years.

Many volumes show an ownership beyond the emigration to America thus revealing ancestries in England, Holland and other European countries. A French-German Dictionary, printed at Frankfort in 1607, has the successive autographs of Henry Beeckman 1607, who was secretary of the city of Hasselden in Holland, his son Gerard Beeckman 1639, and the latter's brother William Beeckman 1642, who came to New York with Peter Stuyvesant in 1647 and was the founder of the Beekman family in America.

Many are the autographs of distinguished men. Franklin's famous book the "Cato Major" printed by him at Philadelphia 1744, has the inscription "Thoma Clap Dono D. Benj. Franklin 1746," this in the handwriting of Clap, then president of Yale. A great folio in Latin written by William Twiss has Samuel Sewall's inscription "Samuel Sewall, ex dono honorandi Praesidis Leonardi Hoar, M. D. 1674." A copy of Thomas Amory's "Daily Devotion" printed at Boston in 1772 was presented by Dr. Charles Chauncey in 1772 to Phillis Wheatley, the negro poetess of Boston, and has her inscription presenting the book to Thomas Wallcutt in 1774. A copy of James Otis' pamphlet "A Vindication of the Conduct of the House of Representatives of

Massachusetts Bay," Boston, 1762, contains the autograph of Isaac Goodwin and then his annotation "To this work, more than to any other publication, Pres. Adams traces the Revolution."

The most interesting discovery made by Dr. Nichols was the finding of five more works, one of seven volumes, making eleven volumes in all, of the Harvard College Library duplicates. These bear the autograph book stamp of Sir John Maynard who presented eight chests of books to the College Library in 1682. As a result of this gift the Corporation voted to dispose of the books which thereby became duplicate and to Noadiah Russell was entrusted the task of selecting what in his Diary he termed the "double books." With less knowledge of the desires of students then we have at the present day, books were set down for disposal which were not duplicate since they were different editions varying often in text as well as date. Cotton Mather obtained most of the duplicates, purchasing 96 works for £44. His list of the books, each marked with the price paid, is preserved among the Mather Manuscripts in the Library of this Society. In 1916 I contributed to the Publications of the Colonial Society, vol. 18, p. 407, an article on the sale of the Harvard College Library Duplicates, but at that time found only one book with the "Sir John Maynard" inscription, Davenant's "Determinations," Cambridge 1634. Now Dr. Nichols has found five more books: the Works of Ambrosius 1567, Irenaeus on Heresies 1596, Photius' Mirobiblon 1611, Josephus' Works 1611, and Gasparus Sanctius' Works in seven volumes 1623. Since the College Library was totally destroyed by fire in 1764, with the saving of but very few books, these volumes are almost the sole heritage of the library owned by the college in the seventeenth century.

A year ago the Reports of the Council and of the Librarian described the collection of presentation books once owned by Alice Morse Earle and given

to the Library by her sister Miss Frances C. Morse. The hope was then expressed that the collection of nineteenth century American literature could be strengthened, especially by the acquisition of autographed and presentation copies. As a direct result of this appeal, Rev. Herbert E. Lombard, who has always been a most generous donor to the Library, gave to us his collection of presentation books, numbering about six hundred volumes. It would be impossible in this report to enumerate all of the interesting items, although this should be done at a future time, after the books have been accessioned and catalogued. The Whittier volumes constitute probably the most valuable feature of the collection, containing several presentation copies with the poet's autograph, and also many scarce editions of his works. The 1837 edition of his *Abolition Poems* has several annotations and corrections in Whittier's hand including at least one changed verse. The copy of "At Sundown," privately printed at Cambridge in 1890 as part of an edition reserved for Whittier's own disposal, bears the autograph of the poet. There are also volumes from the Amesbury Library and two books from the Oak Knoll Library. Among the books associated with Whittier is a copy of the *Selections from the Writings and Speeches of William Lloyd Garrison*, which has the inscription "John G. Whittier. From his old, attached and admiring friend, Wm. Lloyd Garrison. Boston, Dec. 27, 1851."

The gift from Mr. Lombard makes an excellent start for a collection of American first editions. But if we include all the writers of the nineteenth century who were reasonably well known, the field becomes a large one, and would number well toward five thousand volumes. Of this number we have scarcely a thousand, hence we much hope for the acquisition of a comprehensive collection, and then can spend our energies in securing the missing titles. There is every reason why the American Antiquarian Society

should seek to have such a collection. Because we previously have specialized in the earlier period, we have too much neglected the later nineteenth century. Often have we been called upon to supply such books and found ourselves wanting. But as we have often realized in the past, by letting our wants be known we have attained the object of our desire.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

*Librarian.*

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