

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

In making my fifth annual report to the Society, I shall give but a brief resumé of the accessions of the year and an outline of the progress accomplished. The total number of additions has been as follows:

Bound volumes	2,719
Pamphlets,	1,941
Unbound early newspapers,	6,342
Maps, broadsides and manuscripts,	204
	11,206

The larger part of this material has come by purchase, acquired through the perusal of numerous catalogues and book-lists. The books which we lack and are eager to obtain in order to fill in gaps in our special collections are not usually the books which are to be found in private libraries or which would come to us in the form of a gift from either members or friends of the Society.

The most appreciated gifts which we receive from members are the historical books and publications of the present day. In some cases these have been written by members and duly presented to the Society. In this way we have received from Rev. Joseph Anderson his *President's Address before the Mattatuck Historical Society*; from President James B. Angell his *Selected Addresses* and his *Reminiscences*; from T. Willing Balch his edition of his father's *International Courts of Arbitration*; from Hubert Howe Bancroft his *Retrospection Political and Personal*; from Hiram Bingham his *Monroe Doctrine* and several pamphlets illustrating the work of the Yale Peruvian Expedition; from William K. Bixby his facsimile issue of the *Swinburne Manuscript*; from

Clarence M. Burton his edition of the *Journal of Pontiac's Conspiracy*; from Franklin B. Dexter the sixth volume of his *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*; from Charles Evans the seventh volume of his *American Bibliography*; from Max Farrand his edition of *A Journey to Ohio in 1810*; from Carl Russell Fish his *Civil Service and the Patronage*; from Frederick L. Gay the list of his *Collection of Transcripts relative to New England*; from Samuel Swett Green his *Public Library Movement in the United States*; from Archer B. Hulbert his *Message of the Mound Builders* and two pamphlets on Rufus Putnam; from Clarence B. Moore his two monographs, *Some Aboriginal Sites on Red River* and *Some Aboriginal Sites in Louisiana and Arkansas*; from William Nelson his *Discovery and Early History of New Jersey*; from the Rev. Henry A. Parker his pamphlet entitled *Before Swine*; from Ezra S. Stearns his contribution on *Old Clocks of Fitchburg*; from the Rev. Calvin Stebbins his volume on Henry Hill Goodell; and from Edward L. Stevenson his *Maps reproduced as Glass Transparencies*. Several other members have sent us reprints or have published material which has been issued by various historical societies and has come to us by way of exchange.

Other members supply us regularly with current historical and political periodicals, enabling us to divert income which would be spent for such publications to the purchase of books along the line of our early specialties.

One of the most interesting gifts of the year is the large reproduction of Christian Remick's water-color view of Boston Harbor, engraved by Sidney L. Smith, in 1904. This came to us from the Club of Odd Volumes through the kindly offices of Mr. Henry W. Cunningham.

The most important purchase of the year has been the acquisition of the *Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission* of Great Britain, in eighty volumes, a set which has been long needed in the library.

The collection of early American imprints has grown considerably during the year, 1064 titles having been

added. This is a slightly smaller number than the average for the past four years, partly because there has been no large auction sale such as the Pennypacker sale, and partly because our list of *desiderata* is gradually becoming smaller. Most of the imprints have been acquired from lists submitted by bookdealers, and we generally have about three-fourths of the early titles submitted on any lists. This proportion would not hold, if we took into account the whole number of titles known to have been published. If that were the basis, the library may now be said to contain over forty per cent. of the known titles printed in the United States before 1820. Recently we checked the titles entered in Evans' *American Bibliography* for the year 1789, and the result shows that the library has 297 out of 674 titles, or forty-four per cent. If we exclude the titles which Evans never located but only found evidence of having been published through newspaper advertisements, the proportion in favor of the library would be fifty per cent.

Among the more interesting titles acquired during the year is a hitherto unrecorded pamphlet *Some Observations upon the French Tongue*, Boston, printed by B. Green, 1724. Although the name of the author does not appear on the titlepage, the preface is signed by A. L. M., and Mr. Albert Matthews, to whom the pamphlet was submitted, conjectures that the initials were those of Andrew LeMercier, the pastor of the French Protestant Church in Boston. Next to Thomas Blair's pamphlet on the *True Pronunciation of the French Language*, Boston, 1720, it is the earliest American work on the subject.

Three other early New England pamphlets not noticed in Sabin or Evans are *Dives and Lazarus, or rather Devilish Dives*, by R. J., *An Awakening Call from the Eternal God*, by Samuel Corbin, and *A New Years Gift for Fainting Souls*, by Richard Standfast. These are all printed at Boston in 1702 by T. Green for Nicholas Buttolph at his shop at the corner of Gutteridge's Coffee-

house. An interesting book is the *Heidelbergh Catechism*, printed at New York by John Holt in 1764, and another, the gift of Henry W. Cunningham, is Daniel Bayley's *New and Complete Introduction to the Grounds and Rules of Music*, 1764. This was printed for Daniel Bayley of Newburyport and has twenty-eight pages of music engraved by J. W. Gilman. A rare volume purchased is Richard Snowden's *American Revolution*, printed at Clinton, Ohio, by Smith & M'Ardle at the Office of the *Ohio Register*, 1815, including at the end his *Columbiad, or Poems on the American War*. This is an early Ohio imprint and was quite a pretentious volume to have been issued by so small a press.

Only one volume has appeared for sale during the year which could be added to the Mather collection, Increase Mather's *Diatriba de signo Filii Hominis*, Amsterdam, 1682. The collection of type-specimen books has received a valuable addition in a copy of *A Specimen of Printing Types*, by William Caslon, London, 1766. The list of our type-specimen books, published in *Printing Art* for August, 1910, shows that this new acquisition is next to the earliest English production of the kind in our collection.

The almanac collection has been enlarged to the extent of 403 issues before 1850. Among the more important accessions were a series of Webster's Albany almanacs from 1786 to 1799 and some two hundred Philadelphia almanacs of the first half of the nineteenth century. One of the most famous of early New England almanac makers was John Tulley, who published an almanac at Boston from 1687 to 1702. The Society possessed a complete set of these rare issues with the exception of the years 1694 and 1701. It has recently acquired the issue of 1701, thus making its file complete except for the issue of 1694. It was John Tulley who in his almanac for 1687 restored January to the first place in the calendar months, according to the custom of the English calendars. His almanac for 1698 was the first to contain the list of roads and distances from Boston to other

towns, an innovation which was an important feature of the usefulness of these books.

The Society acquired at the same time four of the almanacs by Daniel Travis, the issues for 1707, 1710, 1711 and 1713. Travis published his series from 1707 to 1723, and the Society's set is now complete except for the years 1708, 1709, 1714 and 1716.

At the end of the 1711 Travis Almanac is bound a four-page pamphlet without a titlepage or imprint but headed "Books Printed for, and are to be Sold by Nicholas Boone, at the Sign of the Bible in Cornhill, Boston." It contains a list of books printed at Boston between 1708 and 1710, including some that are new to bibliographers.

The newspaper collection has received many valuable additions during the year, among them several long nineteenth century files covering from forty to over a hundred years. It is in the period of the first half of the nineteenth century that we have recently been obtaining most of our files. Seldom in auction or dealers' catalogues are journals of the eighteenth century offered that we lack. There are many which we do want, but they are mostly uncommon papers published in the smaller towns and rarely turn up for sale. Apparently Isaiah Thomas preserved and bound many files of papers until about the year 1801, when he relinquished the publishing of the *Massachusetts Spy* to his son. Except for a few important files, there was thenceforth little effort to preserve currently issued papers until about 1845 when files of several New York and Boston papers were taken and preserved. During the first half of the nineteenth century, therefore, our files are deficient, and not nearly so complete as for the period either before or since. During the past few years this deficiency has to some extent been remedied, and the Society especially solicits files of early nineteenth century papers.

The number of early papers acquired during the past year totals to 435 bound volumes and 6,342 unbound issues. A list of the more important files follows:—

CONNECTICUT

Windham Herald, 1792-1805.
New Haven Register, 1863-1872.

DELAWARE

Free Press, 1832-1833.

GEORGIA

Cherokee Phoenix, 1832-1834.

KENTUCKY

Louisville Courier Journal, 1845-1852.
Argus of Western America, 1808.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans Picayune, 1848-1854.
New Orleans Observer, 1835.
True Delta, 1853-1855.
Concordia Intelligencer, 1844-1854.

MAINE

Portland Tribune, 1843-1844.
Maine Democrat, 1843-1863.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Bee, 1842-1843.
Boston Mercantile Journal, 1837-1838.
Boston Transcript, 1833-1836.
Olive Branch, 1837-1840.
Russell's Gazette, 1800.
Hingham Patriot, 1847-1848.

MISSISSIPPI

Free Trader, 1846-1854.
Natchez Ariel, 1826-1828.
Natchez Weekly Courier, 1849-1854.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Concord Herald, 1790-1791.
Concord Register, 1824-1826.
Patriot, 1821-1822.

NEW YORK

Albany Argus, 1841-1842.
Long Island Star, 1812-1814.
New Yorker Criminal Zeitung, 1852-1866.

OHIO

Cincinnati Gazette, 1844-1877.
Cincinnati Commercial, 1860-1873.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia Mirror, 1836-1837.
Philadelphia Recorder, 1827-1830.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston Courier, 1839-1852.
Cheraw Intelligencer, 1823-1826.

VIRGINIA

Alexandria Gazette, 1800-1910.

WISCONSIN

Argus, 1844-1852.

State Journal, 1852-1898.

Among these files there are several of considerable interest. The *Windham Herald* from 1792 to 1805 nearly completed our early file of this Connecticut paper and enabled us, from the duplicates, to add to the file owned by a Connecticut library. The *Cherokee Phoenix* from 1832 to 1834 fitted peculiarly into the file which we previously owned, and gave us an almost continuous run of this remarkable paper from its beginning in 1828 to 1834. The Louisiana and Mississippi files provided the library with papers for a section of the country about which we have had frequent inquiry and in which we were not especially well represented. The file of the *Cheraw Intelligencer and Southern Register* dates from the first to the last number, June 5, 1823 to March 10, 1826. It is the file which belonged to the editor, James F. Conover, in which he entered the names of the writers of the editorials and original contributions.

Two especially long files which will prove useful to those studying the development of the Middle West are the *Cincinnati Gazette* from 1844 to 1877, and the *Wisconsin Argus*, and the *State Journal*, from 1844 to 1898.

The file of the *Alexandria Gazette*, from its commencement in 1800 to the year 1910, is one of the most remarkable files of newspapers that has been preserved in this country. There are few American journals which have existed for a continuous period of well over a century, and scarcely any which have survived in such perfect condition. Since it is the only complete file, it seems opportune to give a detailed description of it in this report.

The *Alexandria Gazette* was one of the earliest dailies in the country, established in Alexandria, Va., by Samuel Snowden in the year 1800. It was at first named the *Alexandria Advertiser and Commercial Intelligencer*,

which was shortened to the *Alexandria Daily Advertiser*, September 19, 1803. On July 11, 1808, the name was changed to the *Alexandria Daily Gazette*. The paper was strongly Federal, and because of its proximity to Washington, chronicled much of the congressional proceedings at considerable length. The accounts of the War of 1812 are especially full, not only in the narration of events near Washington, but also in the extracts from the American journals. Alexandria was occupied by the British in August 1814, and the paper, in consequence, was suspended from August 22 to September 8.

Minor changes in its name were as follows: "Daily" omitted from name, September 21, 1812; *Alexandria Gazette & Daily Advertiser*, May 14, 1817; *Alexandria Gazette*, April 2, 1822; *Alexandria Gazette & Advertiser*, June 11, 1822; *Phenix Alexandria Gazette*, January 1, 1825; *Alexandria Gazette*, January 1, 1834; by which name it was thereafter known.

Throughout all the middle part of the century, under the conservative editorship of its proprietor, Edgar Snowden, the *Gazette* took high place as a State journal and even made its influence felt throughout the southern section of the country. At the outbreak of the Civil War, its daily circulation ran close to four thousand, largely because it was in a position to obtain and publish all the press dispatches and present the latest military news before it could be obtained by other papers.

During the War, the *Gazette* had a hazardous existence. On May 24, 1861, Alexandria was captured by the Federal troops, and on the following day, the *Gazette* announced the fact and suspended publication. A little single sheet, called *Local News* was issued, merely to fill a temporary want, from October 7, 1861 to February 10, 1862, upon which latter date, the paper was discontinued by the Federal troops, and its office burned. Fortunately the early file of the paper had been removed to the residence of the editor. The *Gazette* resumed publication on May 13, 1862 and ran until October 31, 1864, when the editor announced that he had been

arrested by the military authorities and that the paper would be suspended. It again resumed publication on January 3, 1865 and thereafter ran continuously.

For over a century, the paper was conducted by the members of one family—a remarkable record. Samuel Snowden was its founder and editor until his death, July 14, 1831. He was succeeded by his son, Edgar Snowden, who remained in charge until his death, September 24, 1875. He was followed by his son, Edgar Snowden, who was senior editor until December 16, 1889, and was succeeded by his younger brothers. The paper remained in the proprietorship of the family until 1911, when it was sold and passed out of their possession after a period of 111 years.

The acquisition of this valuable file gives the Society a long run of a southern newspaper, something which it has hitherto lacked. Of eighteenth century Alexandria papers, the library has an excellent collection, such as the *Virginia Journal & Alexandria Advertiser*, 1786-1787, the *Virginia Gazette and Alexandria Advertiser* 1789-1792, the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette*, 1792-1800, and the *Times and Alexandria Advertiser*, 1797-1799. There is no question that northern students of southern history will in the future derive much assistance from this newly acquired file, which so far as is known is the only comprehensive file of a Southern newspaper covering the 19th century which exists in New England.

The report of the Council has referred at length to the files of West Indian newspapers obtained by the President last winter and presented by him to the Society. As a matter of record a list is appended. Some of the years listed are only partially covered, but most of them are practically complete:—

ANTIGUA

Weekly Register, May 1, 1827, to April 14, 1829.

BARBADOS

Agricultural Reporter, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885.

Globe, 1868, 1869, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885.
Herald, 1882, 1883.

Times, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1882, 1883, 1884.

GRENADA

Free Press, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1838, 1839, 1843.

Chronicle and Gazette, 1790, 1791, 1798, 1799, 1801, 1810, 1815, 1819,
 1826, 1827, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1840.

NEVIS

Guardian, 1871.

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Advertiser, 1822, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1829, 1856, 1858, 1859, 1860,
 1861, 1862, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1869.

Gazette, 1822, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1829, 1856, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861,
 1862, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1869.

ST. LUCIA

Gazette, 1834, 1835.

Palladium and Public Gazette, 1844, 1847, 1848.

Palladium and Free Press, 1838, 1839, 1842, 1843, 1844.

In addition to the above, the following West Indian newspapers have recently been presented to the Society by Mrs. Francis H. Lee:

ANTIGUA

Antigua Gazette, 1798-1799.

Antigua Journal, 1798-1799.

Antigua Weekly Register, 1849-1857, 1862-1864.

Antigua Herald and Gazette, 1849-1852.

Antigua Weekly Times, 1851-1853.

Antigua Observer, 1846-1850, 1859-1862.

DOMINICA

Dominica Colonist, 1846-1847.

The income from the various funds, the Isaac and Edward L. Davis Fund, the John and Eliza Davis Fund, the Francis H. Dewey Fund, the George Chandler Fund, the Benjamin F. Thomas Fund, and the Frances W. Haven Fund, have all been used to purchase books in accordance with the expressed provisions of each fund.

The process of rearranging the uncatalogued material has been nearly finished. The reports and publications of societies, a large collection of many thousand pamphlets which includes all institutional literature excepting the reports of learned societies, has been entirely rearranged on a geographical basis. These reports, which

are frequently consulted, are now readily accessible and have an added value since they are occasionally of use to those studying local history.

The great mass of United States Government Documents in the possession of the Society has been arranged in conformity with the classification adopted in the recently issued Check-list of Public Documents. The rearrangement has brought out the fact that not only is the collection large and comprehensive, but that in the early period it possesses many titles not in the Government list. Since the Society was made the recipient of all documents by a special act of Congress in 1814, and since the effort was made to fill in its early files over eighty years ago, it is needless to say that the documents of the first fifteen congresses are well represented. There is a large collection of the printed documents noted in Greeley's *Public Documents of the First Fourteen Congresses*, dating between 1789 and 1817 and numbering about 1,500 pieces. There are also many titles not entered in Greeley's list, and several broadside publications which seem quite scarce.

The only serious gap in the whole series of government documents is between 1906, when the library was omitted from the distribution list by the Superintendent of Documents then in charge, and 1911, when it was returned to the list. With the assistance of the present Superintendent of Documents, the effort is now being made to remedy this defect. Numerically, the collection contains about 9,000 volumes and 20,000 pamphlets.

During the past few days, an exhibit of early American school-books has been installed in the cases on the second floor. It has been the intention to show a representative selection of the school-books of American interest before 1800, whether those printed in the colonies or those produced by American authors, also including a few titles after 1800 which seemed worthy of particular consideration. From our collection of 8,000 school-books, it was no easy task to select the seventy specimens that go to make up this exhibit. There was too

great an abundance of riches. Some characteristic in a certain book which to one person might seem worthy of display to another would seem commonplace. The effort, therefore, has been to show primarily the school-books which were first printed in the colonies and those which were first produced by American authors. Yet, even in this latter field, there is often chance for doubt. Authors, with laudable patriotism, have frequently claimed that their productions were the first creations of native genius on this or that subject. But we of the present day, with our opportunity of access to far greater libraries than they enjoyed, find that their claims are sometimes antedated by years, or even by many decades. Nicholas Pike's famous Arithmetic of 1788 has generally been accredited to be the first native production on the subject, presumably because the author states in his preface that "this work is the first of the kind composed in America." And yet, down at Norwich, Connecticut, Alexander M'Donald, a young school-teacher at the town academy, published a *Plain Easy and Comprehensive Guide to Practical Arithmetic* three years earlier, in 1785, a book which was prefaced with the printed approval of Joel Barlow, Nathan Daboll and other Connecticut scholars. And six years earlier, in 1782, at Portsmouth, N. H., Benjamin Dearborn had issued his *Rules in Arithmetic*; and many years before, in 1729, Isaac Greenwood had issued at Boston his *Arithmetick, Vulgar and Decimal*. It is always difficult to make positive claims regarding the priority of this or that book, for the number of books published is legion, and no one eye is all-seeing.

In this exhibit specimens are shown of arithmetics, dictionaries, geographies, English grammars, the study of French, Greek, Hebrew and Latin, readers, speakers, spellers, and shorthand and writing-books. A list of the titles exhibited is appended:

ARITHMETIC.

Daniel Adams, "Scholars Arithmetic," Leominster, 1801. (A popular arithmetic for many years in New England.)

Nathan Daboll, "Daboll's Schoolmaster's Assistant," 3rd edition, New London. (The first edition printed in 1799. This work, which was more practical than its predecessors, achieved great popularity. The library has 29 editions to the year 1843.)

Thomas Dilworth, "The Schoolmasters Assistant," 17 edition, Phila., 1773. (The most popular arithmetic of the colonial period and one which lasted well into the 19th century. The library has 26 editions to the year 1825.)

"Federal or New Ready Reckoner," Chestnut Hill, 1793. (Published to show the value of the new Federal Money established by the authority of the United States, which, however, did not come into common use until several years later.)

Alexander M'Donald, "The Youth's Assistant, . . . Guide to Practical Arithmetic," Norwich, 1785. (One of the earliest arithmetics produced in America. Dedicated to the "Venerable and Worthy Instructors of Youth, in the United States of America," and vouched for in the preface by Joel Barlow, Nathan Daboll and others, as preferable to any arithmetic hitherto used in the common schools.)

Nicholas Pike, "New and Complete System of Arithmetic," Newbury port, 1788. (The author states that "this work is the first of the kind composed in America," but this claim would disregard at least three earlier arithmetics printed in the colonies. The first comprehensive work, however, including algebra, geometry and trigonometry.)

Thomas Sarjeant, "Elementary Principles of Arithmetic," Phila., 1788. (The third arithmetic by an American author. Copper-plate engraving on title-page.)

C. and J. Sterry, "The American Youth. . . a course of Introductory Mathematics," vol. I, Providence, 1790. (An early American production of merit, which, however, never reached its second volume.)

BOOKKEEPING.

Thomas Dilworth, "The Young Bookkeeper's Assistant," Phila., 1794. (One of the earliest works on bookkeeping to be reprinted in America.)

William Mitchell, "New and Complete System of Book-keeping," Phila., 1796. (Presumably the first work on book-keeping by an American author.)

DICTIONARIES.

Caleb Alexander, "Columbian Dictionary of the English Language," Boston, 1800. (The first English dictionary by an American author.)

William Perry, "Royal Standard English Dictionary," Worcester, 1788. (The first English dictionary printed in America. This book was very popular and went through nearly a dozen editions before 1820.)

Thomas Sheridan, "Complete Dictionary of the English Language," Phila., 1789. (The second English dictionary to be reprinted in America. A 16 mo. edition also issued this year.)

Noah Webster, "Compendious Dictionary of the English Language," New Haven, 1806. (The first edition of the most famous of American dictionaries.)

FRENCH.

"Some Observations upon the French Tongue," Boston, 1724. (Written by A. L. M., evidently Andrew Le Mercier, the pastor of the French Protestant Church in Boston. The second earliest work on the French language in the colonies.)

GEOGRAPHY.

"Atlas to Adams' Geography, for the use of Schools and Academies," Boston, 1814. (One of the earliest school atlases. Titlepage and maps engraved by Wightman. Between 1814 and 1830 Daniel Adams' Geography was issued in more than a dozen editions.)

Caleb Bingham, "An Astronomical and Geographical Catechism," Boston, 1795. (The first edition of a little book, the sales of which eventually reached over one hundred thousand copies. The Society has several editions, as far as the thirteenth in 1813.)

Victorinus Clark, "A Rhyming Geography, or, a Poetic Description of the U. S. A." Hartford, 1819. (The poetic description of "Religion and Morals" in Rhode Island would not have induced a large sale of the book in that State.)

"Geography Epitomized." Printed for Chapman Whitcomb. (This rare book attempts to describe the world in verse, in order "to smooth one of the paths of Science, and render it inviting to the Sons and Daughters of America." It was printed at Leominster, Mass., about 1796. An earlier edition, credited to Robert Davidson, was printed at Philadelphia in 1784.)

"Geography of the United States—upon a new plan." By a Professor of geography. 3d edition, New York, 1833. (A large chart upon which geographical and statistical facts are entered in tabular form. The author admits regarding his system that "All that might be said in its praise would be superfluous.")

S. G. Goodrich, "A System of School Geography," Hartford, 1830. (The first edition of this work, illustrated with wood-cuts by Tisdale. Cuts shown represent a coal mine and a Philadelphia street-scene.)

Jedidiah Morse, "The American Geography," Elizabethtown, 1789. (The first comprehensive geographical account of the United States.)

Jedidiah Morse, "Geography Made Easy," New Haven, 1784. (The first geography by an American author.)

"A Synopsis of Geography. . . intended for the Benefit of Youth, especially that of the Students in the Public Grammar School in Wilmington." Wilmington, 1785. (The second school-book on geography by an American author. In his preface, the author says that he has "crowded a great deal of geographical knowledge within the compass of a few pages," and that his performance "is at once the shortest and the completest extant.")

W. C. Woodbridge, "Rudiments of Geography," 5th edition, Hartford, 1825. (This work, first issued in 1821, was one of the first to use illustrations in the text.)

J. E. Worcester, "Elements of Geography," Boston, 1824. (The earliest edition of this work, first printed in 1819, to use illustrations.)

Benjamin Workman, "Elements of Geography," 3d edition, Phila., 1790. (The first edition of this work, one of the earliest American productions, appeared in 1789. Three editions were published in a few months and sixteen editions by 1816.)

GRAMMAR.

Caleb Alexander, "Grammatical System of the English Language," Boston, 1792. (An early grammar by an American author. Over a dozen editions were issued by 1820.)

Caleb Bingham, "Young Lady's Accidence," Boston, 1785. (English grammar by an American author which became very popular. By 1815 the "Accidence" had passed through twenty editions.)

Thomas Dilworth, "New Guide to the English Tongue," Boston, 1764. (A reprint of an English grammar, speller and reader largely used before the Revolution. First printed in this country at Phila., 1747. Crude wood-cuts.)

J. Mennye, "English Grammar," New York, 1785. (Next to Webster's book, the earliest English grammar by an American author.)

Lindley Murray, "English Grammar," Boston, 1800. (Although by an English author, this work displaced Webster, and became the most popular grammar of the period. Including also his "Abridgement" and his "Exercises," the Library has 125 editions of Murray's Grammars published between 1800 and 1838.)

Noah Webster, "Grammatical Institute of the English Language," Hartford, 1784. (The first edition of the first English grammar by an American author. The "Grammatical Institute" was issued in three parts, part I the Speller, part II the Grammar, and part III the Reader.)

GREEK.

Caleb Alexander, "Grammatical System of the Grecian Language," Worcester, 1796. (The first Greek grammar composed by an American writer.)

Edward Wettenhal, "Graecae Grammaticae," Phila., 1776. (The earliest Greek grammar to be printed in this country.)

HEBREW.

Judah Monis, "Grammar of the Hebrew Tongue," Boston, 1735. (The first Hebrew grammar printed in this country, and composed by an Italian Jew, who was instructor in Hebrew at Harvard University.)

LATIN.

Caleb Alexander, "New Introduction to Latin Language," Worcester, 1795. (In his preface, he says that the work is "the first of the kind that

has been written and published in the United States." Several, however, had been published by American authors before this date.)

Comenius, "Orbis Sensualium Pictus," translated by Charles Hoole, 1st American edition, New York, 1810. (Wood-cut illustrations, showing arts and crafts of the period. The first edition of Comenius' work was published at Nuremberg in 1657.)

Leonard Culman, "Sententiae Pueriles," translated by Charles Hoole, Boston, 1723. (One of the earliest Latin books printed in the colonies.)

James Greenwood, "Philadelphia Vocabulary," Phila., 1787. (Curious cuts illustrating the various words, after the style of Comenius.)

"Nomenclatura Brevis Anglo-Latino," by F. G., Boston, 1735. (An early Latin-English vocabulary, ascribed to Francis Gregory.)

James Otis, "Rudiments of Latin Prosody," Boston, 1760. (This volume, although published anonymously, was written by James Otis, who later became famous as the defender of the rights of the colonies.)

John Read, "Latin Grammar," Boston, 1736. (The second earliest Latin school-book by an American author.)

"Short Introduction to Latin Grammar, for the use of the University and Academy of Pennsylvania," Phila., 1781. (The first edition of a book which became very popular throughout the middle states.)

PENMANSHIP.

John Jenkins, "Art of Writing," Boston, 1791. (An elaborate work on penmanship, illustrated with copper-plates by Joel Allen.)

"Writing Scholar's Assistant," Worcester, 1785. (An interesting and early example of an American writing-book.)

READING.

Bildad Barney, "Introduction to the Art of Reading," Hudson, 1796. (An early American reader by a Brown University graduate of the class of 1792. The original owner's poetic address to a possible borrower is of interest.)

Caleb Bingham, "American Preceptor," 2d edition, Boston, 1795. (First published in 1794, by 1832 more than 640,000 copies of this work are said to have been issued. The library has 30 different editions.)

T. H. Gallaudet, "Child's Picture Defining Reading Book," Hartford, 1830. (Illustrations in the text. Preface states that "this little volume, although originally prepared for the Deaf and Dumb, will be found to be equally adapted to the instruction of other children.")

"Miscellanies, moral and instructive, in Prose and Verse," Phila., 1787. (Compiled by a Philadelphia woman, who preferred to remain anonymous. Preface includes a letter of approbation from Benjamin Franklin.)

Lindley Murray, "English Reader," Phila., 1800. (By an English author, but one of the most popular of early readers. The library has over fifty editions of this work.)

"The Protestant Tutor for Children," Boston. Printed by Samuel Green, 1685. (Authorship credited to Benjamin Harris. The pre-

decessor of the New England Primer. Although mutilated, this is the only known copy.)

Noah Webster, "Grammatical Institute of the English Language," part III, Hartford, 1785. (The first edition of Webster's Reader, the earliest school reader by an American author. The title was soon changed to the "American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking." The library has 31 editions up to the year 1810.)

Noah Webster, "Little Reader's Assistant," 2d edition, Hartford, 1791. (Contains crude wood-cuts, for the instruction of children. Picture showing General Putnam killing the wolf in the cave.)

SHORTHAND.

Thomas Sarjeant, "Easy and Compendious System of Shorthand," Phila., 1789. (One of the earliest American shorthand-books, based on Gurney's system.)

SPEAKERS.

"The Art of Speaking," Fourth Edition, Phila., 1775. (One of the early reprints of an English book of elocution. No American selections included.)

Caleb Bingham, "Columbian Orator," 2d edition, Boston, 1799. (First edition published in 1797. Includes many American selections.)

William Scott, "Lessons in Elocution," Phila., 1794. (Contains engravings illustrating the elements of gestures. Although a reprint of an English author and containing no American selections, it was a most frequently published book. The library contains 33 editions printed in this country between 1788 and 1820.)

SPELLING.

Caleb Alexander, "Spelling Book," Worcester, 1799. (Illustrated with cuts. Curious frontispiece.)

"Exercises in Orthography," by Peter P. Goode, Providence, 1826. (This most peculiar book, which appears to be a specimen of modern simplified spelling, is based on the principle that the scholar should rectify the false orthography, and hence learn to spell correctly.)

Abner Kneeland, "Brief Sketch of a New System of Orthography," Walpole, 1807. (The earliest printed plea for simplified spelling.)

W. Perry, "Only Sure Guide to the English Tongue," 8th edition, Worcester, 1785. (A reprint from an English author and one of the most commonly used spellers after the Revolution. The Library has 24 editions up to 1823. Isaiah Thomas, in 1804, stated that he had then sold more than 300,000 copies of the book.)

Robert Ross, "New American Spelling Book," New Haven, [1796]. (One of the earliest spellers by an American author.)

Isaiah Thomas, "New American Spelling Book," Worcester, 1785. (One of the earliest spelling-books by an American author. Thomas abandoned publishing this work, however, in favor of Perry's Speller.)

Noah Webster, "American Spelling Book," Boston, 1789. (The revised name of Webster's earlier book, as published by Thomas & Andrews, who purchased the copyright for Mass., N. H. and R. I.)

Noah Webster, "Grammatical Institute of the English Language," Part I, Hartford, [1783]. (This part, which is the speller, is the first edition of Webster's famous spelling book, which was destined to be sold to the extent of many million copies. The Library has more than 40 editions of this work.)

"The Youth's Instructor," Boston, 1757. (Henry Dixon's speller, frequently reprinted in America during the colonial period.)

TRIGONOMETRY.

Thomas Abel, "Subtensial Plain Trigonometry," Phila., 1761. (The earliest American book on trigonometry.)

One of the most valuable gifts ever received by the Society has recently come into its possession through the generosity of Mrs. Emma DeForest Morse who has presented to it her noted collection of American historical china. It is particularly appropriate that the Society, which already possesses such a fine collection of American prints and engravings, should now acquire this remarkable series of early views preserved in old Staffordshire ware. Some of the century-old pictures of American cities are known only through the medium of this blue ware and hence are eagerly sought by collectors. As Mr. R. T. H. Halsey has pointed out in the preface to his book on Staffordshire pottery, it is chiefly because of its value as Americana that this ware is so largely collected and brings such extraordinary prices.

The best estimate of the value of Mrs. Morse's collection is given in the article by Alexander M. Hudnut in "American Homes and Gardens." He says: "One of the most energetic and successful collectors of the past decade is Mrs. Emma DeF. Morse, of Worcester, Mass. She has accomplished the almost impossible task of getting together 280 varieties of dark blue historical ware. She is the fortunate possessor of an 'Albany Theater' view and I do not know of anyone else who has it. She also has the little 'Hurl Gate, East River' plate and the six-inch 'Park Theater' plate—both of them exceedingly rare pieces. The old 'Capitol at

Albany, is without doubt one of the most valuable specimens of this superb collection. There are only about ten pieces scattered among the different collections of the country which Mrs. Morse needs to make her collection complete. I do not hesitate to say that, within my knowledge, this is the finest collection of dark blue Staffordshire in America."

In addition to these pieces, Mrs. Morse has also presented about forty other pieces of American interest, such as ware containing medallion heads of Washington, Adams and Lafayette. It is to be hoped that in some way the few pieces lacking in the collection may be obtained, and a complete and comprehensive check-list of all the pieces be issued.

The collection has been installed in one of the exhibition rooms on the second floor, where steel cases, designed by R. Clipston Sturgis of Boston, one of the architects of the building, have been erected. Here, with a guarantee of safe-keeping, this remarkable collection of early American views will not only be an artistic delight to the cursory visitor and to the student, but will also forever serve as a memorial to the name of the generous donor.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

Librarian.

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