

## REPORT ON THE LIBRARY.

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For six months ending the 15th instant, the library has received gifts from two hundred and sixteen different sources, representing forty-eight members, one hundred and seven donors not members, and sixty-one societies and institutions. The material received is of average quality and above the average in quantity. The accessions are as follows: Gifts, five hundred and forty-eight books, forty-six hundred and sixty-nine pamphlets, one hundred and twenty-two files of unbound newspapers, thirteen coins, fifteen maps, twenty photographs, six engravings, four manuscripts, a carpet, medal and cane. Exchanges, three hundred and ninety-nine books, and two hundred and twenty-seven pamphlets; and from the binder, one hundred volumes of magazines, and twenty volumes of newspapers. Total, ten hundred and forty-seven books, forty-eight hundred and ninety-six pamphlets, twenty volumes of bound, and one hundred and twenty-two of unbound newspapers. Among the more important contributions from members, the following may be alphabetically mentioned. Hon. John D. Baldwin has completed and supplied us with his promised record of the descendants of George Denison. Governor Charles H. Bell has added to our large collection, a Cotton Mather tract of 1698, entitled "A Good Man Making a Good End." Robert Clarke, Esq., whose name is seldom absent from the list of donors, has presented his fine edition of William H. Smith's Life, Public Services and Papers of Arthur St. Clair. In accordance with Col. Davis's expressed desire, we have added by purchase in Paris, seventeen important Humboldt titles, hoping in time to obtain everything by him which

directly or indirectly relates to the Spanish-American department. The latter result cannot easily be attained, as no uniform edition is known to exist, and many of the books are rare and expensive. In addition to the above, five other select volumes have been purchased for the collection.

Hon. Edward L. Davis has sent a second instalment of miscellanea, and Rev. Dr. Henry M. Dexter has added to his works on our shelves, the True Story of John Smyth the Se-Baptist, as told by himself and his Contemporaries. Mayor Green, of Boston, has not only contributed his two chapters in the early history of Groton, his native town, and his inaugural address, but has also materially aided in completing our sets of Boston municipal reports. But few cities and towns remember us in the distribution of their annual reports, so they must be picked up, if at all, at the printers', the binders', or by careful searching in by-places. A complete set of Dorchester town and city documents, wisely sent to the library from year to year, may be found on the shelves; —a standing suggestion of what could so easily be done by other municipalities. From Rev. Edward H. Hall, who has recently removed from Worcester, we have received a large donation, chiefly historical, biographical and educational, and from our Vice-President, Senator Hoar, three of the edition of fifty copies of his account of the Garfield Ancestry, with his speeches on the Chinese question, and the very elaborate Centennial Map of the United States, procured through his intervention. Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge has forwarded his Life and Letters of George Cabot, and Selections from the Letters of Hon. E. H. Mills, with his introduction thereto. The semi-annual gift of our Treasurer, Mr. Paine, is large, as usual, and includes an English Patent Right on large sheets of parchment, to which is attached the great seal, carefully boxed. We are indebted to Señor A. A. Perez for a continuation of files of Yucatan newspapers contributed by him for some years past. Admiral George A. Preble has placed in the library the remainder of

his manuscript and other notes on longevity, together with Thom's and Gardner's works on the same subject; and his tribute to Rear Admiral Thatcher. Prof. Charles Rau's reprint of his numerous anthropological papers, prepared for the Smithsonian Institution, has been received from the author. Dr. James H. Salisbury has made an interesting collection of Ohio newspapers bearing upon President Garfield's death and burial, and kindly forwarded them for preservation. President Salisbury has remembered the periodical department with two hundred and four English and American magazines, and various files of newspapers. Mr. Stephen Salisbury, Jr., has supplied his privately printed papers, as needed for sale or exchange, and a continuation of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. He has also made valuable additions to his cases of Yucatecan remains. Prof. E. E. Salisbury has presented the rare and beautiful medal issued in honor of President Woolsey. Hon. H. B. Staples and Prof. H. B. Adams have sent extra copies of their papers read at the October meeting; and Prof. C. O. Thompson has contributed largely of educational matter. Of the more than one hundred persons not members, who have favored us with additions, especial attention is called to the following: Rev. Augustine Caldwell, who has presented his "Antiquarian Papers" as issued, is preserving in this illustrated periodical, much material of value relating especially to the town of Ipswich, Mass. Mrs. Caroline H. Dall has placed in the Davis Spanish-American alcove the Waldeck folio volume of colored lithographs of Mexican Antiquities, published in Mexico in 1827. It bears the endorsement "Given to American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.; survivors will see it delivered; November, 1878." Dr. Pliny Earle, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital at Northampton, continues to collect, arrange, bind and send to us American and European Insane Asylum reports. The collection now numbers eighty-two volumes, which, with our own unbound files,

differently arranged, have furnished abundant material for the study of the statistics of insanity. Many duplicates, including the early reports of Drs. Woodward and Chandler of the Worcester Asylum, have by exchange, been widely scattered, but the supply is far from being exhausted. In Dr. James A. Emmerton's material towards a Genealogy of the Emmerton family, which comes to us from the author, a complete list of the authorities used is appended—a rather new and helpful departure. An alcove in the main hall, to be known as the Samuel F. Haven alcove, has been selected, and the legacy for its benefit is in the hands of the treasurer. It may be proper here to call attention to the valuable office desk which was bought by Dr. Haven, with the expressed intention of leaving it for the use of the society. In addition to the new carpet, Mrs. Haven has given the remaining copies of the Haven Memorial, with numerous books, coins and autographs. Messrs. Hubbard Brothers, of Boston, have again favored us with a gift of financial documents, and Señor Desiderio Ancona, files of Yucatan newspapers. Rev. Joseph F. Lovering has gathered for us a set of his own productions which are chiefly historical. The benefit of such gifts was recently tested upon the decease of one of our distinguished citizens. A list of his works was furnished for the morning paper, to which thus far no additions have been made. It may interest some of the members and lead them to make such deposit as is above suggested, to know that the English newspaper custom of "pigeon-holing" biographical memoranda, prevails to some extent in our own country.

Master Stuart Dickinson continues to add to the numerous files of American amateur newspapers and other literature of a like order; Mr. Caleb B. Metcalf to the educational, and Gen. William S. Lincoln to the agricultural departments. Mrs. James S. Rogers has deposited the records of one branch of the People's Club, Worcester, hoping that in time all will reach the same destination.

Mr. Ezra H. Snow has supplied the duplicate room with twenty-one copies of his *Illustrated Guide of Worcester*, in recognition of historical material furnished. Mr. E. H. Spalding, of Nashua, has interested himself in the perfecting of our set of the *New Hampshire Register*, and it is now one of the best in the country. The Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company have sent us more of their wire-fencing literature, in the preparation of which the society's collections have been freely consulted. Hon. John Wentworth, of Chicago, finding that the library was without his *Wentworth Genealogy, English and American*, has presented a copy of the last edition, in three volumes, royal octavo. Our binders, the Messrs. Wesby, have made a generous donation of pamphlets, and Mr. James White has placed in the library a large number of both books and pamphlets of a general character. At the request of the proprietors of the *Memorial of Henry Wolcott* and some of his Descendants, the compiler, Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D.D., of Cleveland, Ohio, has deposited a copy in the library. It is one of an edition of only three hundred copies, upon which neither time nor expense has been spared.

It will be observed that we acknowledge nearly one hundred and fifty files of newspapers, of which not more than fifteen or twenty are duplicates. They come from the Worcester Free Public Library Reading-room, the Worcester County Mechanics Association, publishers, banks, members and others; and so may safely be called representative papers. The problem as to their disposition is somewhat difficult of solution. A rough list of our newspapers has been supplied Mr. S. N. D. North, for his special report on newspapers for the census report of 1880. When it is printed in connection with the other large collections of the country, it is very desirable that the list entire be separately issued for the use of libraries and kindred institutions interested in this form of history. A more minute list of some of the earlier

newspapers—the Boston News-Letter for instance—might be useful.

Aside from the exchanges on a money basis which have been uncommonly satisfactory, cash sales of both the society's publications and duplicate Americana have been quite frequent. A still further demand may be expected when our members, corresponding societies and dealers become better acquainted with the extent and value of the material at our command; a collection of Spanish-American duplicates is especially worthy of mention. It may safely be stated that some of the best books added to our collection within the past twenty years are the result of exchanges, and that they largely outnumber the purchases made within the same period. Cotton Mather's "Ornaments of Zion, or the Character and Happiness of a Virtuous Woman," third edition, 1741, his "Everlasting Gospel," 1700, slightly imperfect, and Michael Wigglesworth's "Day of Doom," fifth edition, enlarged, 1701, have been secured in this way within a few weeks. Of the latter, Dr. Trumbull, in the Brinley Catalogue, first part, says, "neither Mr. J. W. Dean nor Mr. Haven could find a copy of any American edition earlier than the sixth, of 1715." They are all from Principal A. S. Roe, of the Worcester High School. Imperfections in such early pamphlets are not easily remedied. If some dealer would make a specialty of collecting and keeping on sale fragments of rarities, it might prove a profitable investment for all concerned. A few volumes of Minnesota State Documents have recently been sent to the Minnesota Historical Society without charge. For some years past we have failed to send our publications in exchange for those received from foreign societies. Our obligations in this direction should be cancelled at an early day, through the Smithsonian Institution. Rev. Frederick M. Bird, of Lehigh University, whose collection of three thousand hymn books has no rival in America and but one abroad, has, by an exchange, helped the department

of hymnology. Under the head of exchanges may be classed Sabin's Dictionary of Books relating to America, it having been forwarded as issued, for services rendered. This great undertaking merits all the assistance we can possibly give, and its completion will be awaited with interest. It is of especial value in a library like our own. Good progress is being made in the alcove list and card catalogue. In connection with this work Mr. Salisbury, Jr., has charged himself with the preparation of an index to the first seventy-five numbers of the society's Proceedings, known as its first series. While it is not intended that this index shall be an elaborate one, its appearance will be welcomed by members and corresponding societies. Under the rules and regulations lately adopted by the council and the library committee, rules at once liberal and stringent, the possibility of losses will be much reduced and the sense of security greatly heightened. There have been some changes made in the details of daily administration, with a view to the more prompt entry, examination, preparation and distribution of our accessions. The account of receipts and expenditures at the hall is now examined and approved by the auditors, and a semi-annual return made to the treasurer. While one of the principal objects of the society is to make and assist scholars in making new books, we have at the same time been glad to encourage the members of the several literary institutions of Worcester and others, in the free use of its library, under the rules. It should be more generally known that the society is American in name, and international in membership; that the library is open every day, and that the duplicate room contains not only our own publications, but much literature which the market cannot readily supply.

Permission has been granted Mr. H. G. O. Blake, literary executor of Henry D. Thoreau, to deposit in the hall during his absence abroad, all of Thoreau's manuscripts. A fitting case for our valuable collection of coins and medals has been

placed in the main hall, where it can be conveniently examined by those interested in numismatics. Since October, 1860, when Mr. Nathaniel Paine read a paper upon the coins and tokens in the society's cabinet, many additions have been made. Perhaps our busy treasurer will find time to prepare a supplementary report upon them.

More shelf-room is needed in the duplicate room to receive the classified material now accumulating upon the floor. It might be well to shelve the north lobby on the first floor for the United States Public Documents, now crowded into an alcove on the floor above.

The cellar under the Salisbury extension will hardly become available for any purpose until better drained and possibly cemented, but we have no immediate use for it. Among the desired minor internal improvements are the repairing of some of the early portraits, and the careful cleaning of the busts and other statuary.

The foundations of the present library building proper were begun June 7, 1852 — nearly thirty years ago — under the direction of a building committee consisting of Levi Lincoln, Isaac Davis and Samuel F. Haven. Thomas A. Tefft, of Providence, was the architect, and Horatio N. Tower and Daniel S. Burgess, builders. In April following, the removal of the library from the old to the new treasure-house was effected.

Our present hall is at the north end of "Court Hill," on the corner of Main and Highland streets, fronting easterly on Lincoln square. It is protected on all sides from fire by open streets or space-ways, and in place of our automatically regulated furnace, which for twenty-five years gave partial security and comfort, we now have steam heat supplied to all parts of the building by the boiler connected with the new Court-house, nearly two hundred feet away. It is to be hoped that there may never be occasion for placing a boiler under the Salisbury Annex, although provision has been made therefor if needed.



Mrs. Samuel F. Haven's gift of a new Brussels carpet for the office, meets a real want. In connection with this gift, it may be proper to add, that under the direction of the library committee the room has been painted and frescoed, at the charge of the Salisbury Building Fund. The tin roof is now in excellent condition, having been repaired and repainted; and the introduction of the telephone has proved to be a great convenience.

In conclusion, thanks are extended to Messrs. Salisbury, Jr., and Paine, the committee on the library, for their constant and willing service. They have long been familiar with the inner workings of the institution, and have given much time and thought to the furtherance of its objects.

Respectfully submitted,

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Assistant-Librarian.*

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