

## REPORT ON THE LIBRARY.

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SINCE the Spring meeting, the library has been increased by the addition of gifts: three hundred and seventy-eight books, thirty-eight hundred and sixteen pamphlets, one hundred and eight files of unbound newspapers, one plaster cast, fifteen engravings, thirteen maps, three autographs, three coins, one medal, and one photograph. Exchanges: one hundred and forty books, eight hundred and ninety-one pamphlets; and from the binder, ninety volumes of newspapers and eleven volumes of magazines. Total: five hundred and twenty-nine books, fifty-two hundred and sixty-five pamphlets, ninety volumes of bound, and one hundred and eight of unbound newspapers, and various articles for the Cabinet. Among the sources of these supplies are the following:—

Prof. Heinrich Fischer of Freiburg, Henry Stevens, Esq., of London, and Señor Eligio Ancona of Yucatan, have favored the Society with reminders of their connection with it, as foreign members. From Wisconsin, Prof. James D. Butler sends his *Observations on Mediæval German Schools*, and Rev. Stephen D. Peet his *American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal*. Ohio contributes, through Robert Clarke, Esq., *Reemlin's Critical Review of American Politics*, and the *Doings of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland at its Thirteenth Reunion*; Col. Charles Whittlesey, six of his historical and other Monographs; Dr. James H. Salisbury, his *Original Investigations in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever*; and Hon. Isaac Smucker, six volumes relating to the State. Bishop William Stevens Perry, of Iowa, John Fletcher Williams, Esq.,

of Minnesota, and Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis, of California, have not forgotten the Society into which they have recently been elected; and Dr. William F. Poole, of Illinois, presents his paper on the Progress of Library Architecture. Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr., forwards his semi-annual gift of Southern material, including his address before the Augusta Confederate Survivors' Association. Prof. Herbert B. Adams, of Maryland, provides a companion for his Tithingmen, in an interesting paper of like character upon Constables; Dr. Charles Rau, of the District of Columbia, his paper on some of the treasures in the National Museum; and Robert A. Brock, Esq., of Virginia, a copy of his reprint of Grantham's "Historical Account of Some Memorable Actions, particularly in Virginia." From Señor Andres A. Perez, now residing in New York, we have a Geographical, Historical and Statistical Review of the State of Yucatan, with an abridgment of Ancona's History of the same country.

The New England members who have contributed, are Ellis Ames, Esq., Holmes Ammidown, Esq., Mr. Edmund M. Barton, Charles A. Chase, Esq., Hon. Francis H. Dewey, Prof. Franklin B. Dexter, Rev. George E. Ellis, D.D., Hon. Samuel A. Green, Samuel S. Green, Esq., Clarendon Harris, Esq., Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Prof. Edward Hitchcock, Hon. George F. Hoar, Rev. William R. Huntington, D.D., Henry Cabot Lodge, Esq., Hon. Thomas L. Nelson, Nathaniel Paine, Esq., Admiral George H. Preble, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Esq., Mr. Charles C. Smith, William A. Smith, Esq., Dr. Charles O. Thompson, Col. John D. Washburn, Rev. Robert C. Waterston, and Henry Wheatland, M.D.

The gifts of some of these require further mention. Mr. Chase has given eighteen bound volumes on American and European Agriculture; Rev. Dr. Ellis, his large and valuable work on the Red Man and the White Man in North America from its first Discovery to the Present Time; and

Mr. Lodge, his *Life of Hamilton*, and his *Short History of the English Colonies*. Senator Hoar's gift is large, and includes the Boston edition of his *Tribute to Garfield*, the first volume of the *History of Woman Suffrage*, and the *War Records of the Rebellion* so far as they have been published. Rev. Dr. Huntington, whose position as one of the Joint Prayer-Book Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, has led him to present his *Views upon the Revision of the American Common Prayer*, has followed it with a practical illustration of the enrichment proposed, in his "*Materia Ritualis*," it being an appendix to his Paper. These, together with his *Tribute to John Cotton Smith*, he has placed in the library. President Salisbury's donation includes copies of his *Troy and Homer*, his *Endecott*, and *Antiquarian Papers*, Sibley's *Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Harvard University*, Vol. II., Kennedy's *Longfellow*, a framed crayon photograph of Emory Washburn—for thirty-eight years a beloved officer of the Society—and more than a thousand pamphlets. Mr. Salisbury, Jr., besides his daily contributions of money and time towards the important work of card cataloguing, has relieved the Society of the expense of keeping up its extra set of the *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, by placing his own upon our shelves. He has also deposited a choice selection of the authorities used by him in his *Central American studies*. Judge Staples has again shown his interest in art, as well as history, by placing upon our walls a bronzed plaster copy of Morel Ladeuil's *Milton shield*, successfully reproduced by Joseph Nicoletti and Son, of Providence. The original, which is of steel and silver, ornamented with gold, was manufactured for the *International Exhibition of Paris*, in 1867, and purchased by the *English Government* for fifteen thousand dollars. Prof. Thompson, now of *Indiana*, has left a large deposit of educational material, both in the way of gift and exchange, which we are assured will not be the last. Among the

rarities found, are two copies of the Society's Transactions, Vol. II., and rare numbers of the early Proceedings. It is to be hoped that the library will continue to be the depository for Worcester Free Institute remainders. Dr. Thompson has been allowed by the Council, temporarily to withdraw, for use in establishing the Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, Indiana, the sets of Technical School Reports he had so patiently gathered for our shelves. Few members have a better knowledge of the Society's work, and we may reasonably expect a large return for the loan thus made.

Col. Washburn has presented insurance literature, and ten copies of his Decoration Day Oration, happily entitled "One and Twenty Years from Sumter;" and Dr. Wheatland a score of Salem locals, and the Peabody Press, in continuation.

The book of donations also records, among others, the following names of friends outside the Society, who are worthy of special notice: Mr. Alfred S. Roe is making an effort to complete our set of the Methodist Magazine and Quarterly Review; General William S. Stryker sends his Reception of Washington by the People of New Jersey in 1789, and his New Jersey Continental Line in the Virginia Campaign of '81; and Mr. Henry J. Parker, the result of some of his labors in the somewhat obscure field of Masonic history. Rev. Augustine Caldwell has placed in the alcove of Genealogy a copy of his Caldwell Records, with manuscript additions; and Edward H. Elwell, Esq., one of the active, local historians of Maine, has supplied his Sketch of Portland and Vicinity. Mrs. Samuel F. Haven has again made the Society her debtor, by presenting a collection of law and other books, bearing the honored names of Fiske and Merrick, with several manuscript volumes, about five hundred pamphlets, and a heliotype portrait of Dr. Haven. Messrs. William S. Pingry and William W. Johnson have given their family histories, and Messrs. John D. Caldwell

and D. B. Brunner, their accounts respectively of Early Cincinnati and the Indians of Berks County, Pennsylvania. J. Evarts Greene, Esq., has made a contribution to the Rebellion alcove, which is growing less rapidly than is to be desired. The United States Government is putting in print important original papers, which will help to make and unmake the history of our late war, but we have hoped to be able to preserve many of the impressions of the officers and men of the line, on the march and in the field. Our efforts to secure soldiers' letters began soon after the close of the war and have been continued ever since, with very limited success. When we remember that these letters are the very groundwork of some of our best regimental histories, we shall appreciate their real value. The plan adopted by a Massachusetts soldier who has had considerable assistance from the library, might largely be adopted in all sections of our country. From eight of his war correspondents, he has secured the letters he addressed to them during his term of service in the Eastern and Western Armies. His intention is to arrange them chronologically, adding illustrations from the pictorial and other magazines of the period, the whole to be suitably bound and eventually placed in some public institution for preservation.

Among the Haven manuscripts, are a few which may properly be added to the Fifteenth Massachusetts Regimental papers now in the Society's possession. They were preserved by Surgeon Samuel Foster Haven, Jr., and relate, as do most of the others, to the medical and surgical history of the regiment. Mrs. P. S. Canfield, daughter of our former Vice-President, Levi Lincoln, has shown her continued interest in the Society, by her gift of some of the latest and best English and American books, with various coins and autographs. Her daughter, Miss P. W. Canfield, has added the *American Art Review* and the *Magazine of Art* to date, together with Clarence Cook's

“House Beautiful.” Dr. Pliny Earle has favored us with a large collection of books and pamphlets, which relate chiefly to the philanthropic, educational and reformatory movements of the world; and Mrs. Anne H. Southwick, horticultural literature. Among the additions to the Medal and Coin case—which has already begun its suggestive mission—is the silver medal awarded Mr. David Lee Child, by the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association in 1839, for the first beet sugar in America. It was presented by Mrs. Sarah M. Parsons, to whom it had descended, and preserves in most positive form, a fact known to but few, at least of this generation. Mr. Franklin P. Rice has brought us the Worcester Town Records 1753–1783, which, with the Earlier Records, from 1722 to 1753, and the Proprietors’ Records from 1667 to 1788, have been edited and printed by him, under the auspices, and as Volumes of the Transactions of the Worcester Society of Antiquity. The city is indeed fortunate in thus having its records preserved from possible loss by fire or decay. We are indebted to our associate, Col. T. W. Higginson, for steps taken towards the identification of the portrait of Rev. Francis Higginson, the first minister of Salem, long unnamed, upon our walls; and to Waldo Higginson, Esq., of Boston, for its perfect restoration, after the canvas had apparently been damaged beyond repair. The success in this case, indicates what can be done when the tooth of time shall have made too many marks upon our other valued portraits. Among books of value received from the War Department, is volume three of Surgeon Billings’s Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General’s office. It is proper to record the fact, that before this great work was begun, our duplicate room was successfully ransacked for the benefit of this national collection. Mr. James F. Hunnewell has made additions and corrections to the Society’s List of Ante-Revolutionary publications, with especial reference to Charlestown imprints. Our circle of exchange

correspondents is widening, and the effort to place our specialties where they will serve us and others most effectively, is meeting with gratifying success. For instance, our duplicate Young Men's Christian Association reports and magazines have been sent to Mr. Jacob T. Bowne, Y. M. C. A. General Secretary, at Newburgh, N. Y., to assist in building what is already by far the finest collection in the country. This material will not only serve him as historiographer—by appointment of the Y. M. C. A. International Committee—but also in his unique training school for young men who are to undertake the kind of work in which he is engaged. Aside from a return in the same class of literature, valuable Americana have been received, including the rare "Pocket Commentary of the First Settling of New Jersey by the Europeans, and an account of Fair Detail of the Original Elizabeth-Town Grant; and other Rights of the like Tenure in East New-Jersey." New York: Printed by Samuel Parker, 1759. An incidental advantage of exchanges may be here mentioned. In presenting to the Society a family copy of the second compilation of the Laws, known as the "Acts of Assembly passed in the Province of New York, from May 1691 to 1725," Mr. Bowne says, "the several little favors you have done for me at different times, have drawn me toward the Institution, and I think I shall find other things of interest to you." A copy of this rare Bradford folio of 1726 brought \$67.50 at the Brinley sale, while the first compilation, printed by Bradford in 1693-94, was sold to the New York State Library for \$1600.

For many years, some of our best books were obtained in trade from the late Mr. Joel Munsell, the veteran author and printer of history. It is pleasant to be able to report a renewal of the old custom with his sons, who succeed to his business. The latest edition of the People's Encyclopædia has just been added, by exchange, to our open alcove. While it will find among the earlier kindred

authorities, some of the best, many of the later will be conspicuous by their absence. A few books belonging to the library of the Mather's—the bulk of which were presented to the Society in 1814, by Dr. Isaiah Thomas and Mrs. Hannah Mather Crocker—have been obtained by purchase, and there has been an occasional addition by gift. They generally contain the Mather autographs and should all be brought together in the Mather alcove. The opportunity offered, by the sale of Judge Wilkinson's library, to bid for early Massachusetts Laws, was improved, but without result. However, we do not despair of increasing our collection, since among our members who are students in this dry but interesting department, are Dr. George H. Moore, Ellis Ames, Esq., Hon. P. Emory Aldrich, and William S. Barton, Esq. The reprints prepared by the State Commissioners, and to which our set of originals contributed, make absolute completeness less important, though still desirable. In the year 1839, the Society issued circulars to the Governors, asking for State documents, and as a result a fair foundation was laid for such a collection. Of late years scarcely half a dozen States have continued their annual gifts, and since the exchange of documents by the States has been made general, the failure is not to be so greatly lamented. No department of the library has been more freely consulted than that of Newspapers, though the searching for facts in these unindexed folios, requires much time and patience. In the year 1839, when the library numbered but fourteen thousand, and the collection of newspapers but twelve hundred and fifty-one volumes, the newspaper series, from 1704 to 1774, was referred to, as “probably more full and perfect than any other in the United States.” To-day, the National Library, including as it does, the Peter Force collection, outnumbered ours, but in the possible future of libraries of specialties, our Ante-Revolutionary series will most likely be the basis of the newspaper structure. There has been

the usual call for the Society's publications, but after supplying members and corresponding societies, the rest of the edition is so small, that it has not been thought advisable to put them upon the market by allowing a discount to dealers. Reprints serve a good purpose, not only in supplementing the short supply, but in advertising the original issues; and when such editions are small, as in the case of Senator Hoar's Garfield tribute, the effect is evident. The new rules and regulations continue to work well. Instead of discouraging the use of the library, they plainly indicate that the privilege is well worth the asking. The right to alcove entrance has added dignity and value to membership. The rule of fifty years ago—see By-Laws of 1831—was as follows: "Visitors may be admitted on the personal introduction, or on producing a ticket of a member of the Society." Eight years later, Mr. Lincoln, in his Council report says: "Free access to the collection has been permitted to visitors. During one hour of each day the halls have been open to every citizen, whether attracted by curiosity or pursuit of information; during all hours they have been accessible to every student of history or of literature who sought the use of the library." The library has been open a greater number of days, and has averaged more hours each day than ever before. There has been no change in the working force of the library. It may not be out of place to add that harmony, industry, and a quiet enthusiasm have prevailed. Referring to the growth of the library, it may be stated that though not rapid, it is steady. Mr. Lincoln says in his report of 1839, already quoted: "It cannot be hoped that it will ever be able to bear honorable comparison in the amount of literature or science, with the depositaries of the works of the learned, founded in the cities, or at the Universities, or sustained by the patronage of the Federal and State Governments. In some departments, however, the Society may

be considered already rich." These statements may, to a considerable extent, be applicable to the condition of the library in 1882.

Respectfully submitted.

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