

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

---

YOUR Librarian has little of an exciting nature to record in his semi-annual report. His daily session from nine until five has been filled more fully than ever with pleasant duties. The noon hours, for so many years not available to students, are fast becoming the busiest of the day. That much referred to but rather mythical librarian who is said to keep close watch over his treasures to see that no one makes use of them, would have found himself in uncongenial company with librarians Jennison, Lincoln, Baldwin, Burnside, Fisher and Haven. We remember gratefully that many of the oldest members of our profession are the youngest in their methods and spirit.

In Dr. William Paine's address of October 23, 1815, he calls this Society "the first and only incorporated Antiquarian Society on the continent." Its corporate name was then as it is now the American Antiquarian Society, though the original newspaper call for a meeting to organize was headed, in Dr. Thomas's *Massachusetts Spy*, American Society of Antiquaries. Since the young and vigorous Worcester Society of Antiquity has taken such wise possession of the local field it seems more important than ever that our name, and especially the American part of it, should be distinctively emphasized. It cannot be doubted that a live and intelligent membership is important to the continued prosperity of this Society. The fact that our number is limited by its constitution to one hundred and forty in the United States adds greatly to the responsibility of each of the members. Being one of the oldest of the societies

interested in the preservation and extension of a knowledge of American history, our correspondents include those who call for information as to our beginning, progress and present success. Thus age gives us not only dignity but opportunity, and we shall be wise if we fulfil this mission with the earnestness and enthusiasm shown by our junior Councillor in aiding the upbuilding of free public libraries. Let us encourage that spirit of helpfulness which shall abundantly prove that in an institution like ours power, not feebleness, comes with age.

The pagination of the Proceedings to form volumes with indexes continues to meet with favor and will doubtless lead to their more general preservation. It, however, makes the printing of extra copies more important than ever, as no number is now complete in itself. A few copies of these very limited editions may generally be obtained by early application to the Librarian. It appears that the importance of a new series of Proceedings was considered more than forty years ago, for in May, 1843, we have volume one, number one, and in October of the same year volume one, number two, though the paging was not continuous and the effort ended with their issue.

The following letter needs no comment. It is submitted for record, with the suggestion that both the national character of this Society and the excellence of its collection of government documents would seem to plead against the wisdom of the course indicated therein :—

“DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, *April 8, 1884.*

*The American Antiquarian Society,*

*Worcester, Mass.*

SIR:—In the readjustment of the list of institutions to which complete sets of congressional documents are sent by this office, made necessary by the increase of the number of representatives in Congress, it is found necessary to drop from said list the name of the American Antiquarian

Society, as provision is made for the supply from this office of only one depository of public documents in each congressional district and two at large in each state, the entire quota for Massachusetts being required for supplying the depositories named by senators and representatives. It is probable that these publications may all, or nearly all, be secured from the representative of the district in which the Society is located, or from one of the senators of the state.

Very respectfully,

W. L. JOSLYN,

*Acting Secretary."*

For the purpose of comparison it seems well to classify the donors mentioned in the accompanying list. We find that forty-six members, one hundred and four persons not members and sixty-three societies have given ten hundred and eighteen books, five thousand and twenty-nine pamphlets, thirteen volumes of bound and one hundred and forty-five volumes of unbound newspapers, two card catalogue cases, seven framed and six unframed engravings, ten photographs, seventeen pieces of continental and confederate currency, three maps, one medallion, and various historic manuscripts and relics. Add to these one hundred and twenty-nine books, one hundred and forty-four pamphlets and twelve engravings received by exchange, and thirty-seven volumes of newspapers from the binder, and we have eleven hundred and forty-seven books, fifty-one hundred and seventy-three pamphlets, and fifty volumes of bound and one hundred and forty-five volumes of unbound newspapers as the grand total of receipts for the six months last past. Both as an expression of gratitude and as a convenient record, special mention is made of the following gifts in the order of entry :

President Salisbury's books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers suggest a source whence such supplies may be drawn in any emergency. Admiral George H. Preble

sends more of his notes on shipping and longevity, and Hon. Samuel A. Green additional Groton history with the usual quantity of miscellanea. Mr. Stephen Salisbury, Jr., has had made to order for our card catalogue two large substantial ebonized cases with handsome trimmings. He has added copies of his translation of Dr. Valentini's Mexican Copper Tools, Ober's Mexico, Chandler's Shirley and files of Yucatan newspapers. Rev. Edward G. Porter presents various war relics from Castine, Maine, and lithographic copies of early pictures representing the fights at Concord and Lexington; while from Hon. George F. Hoar we have his filial memoir of Hon. Samuel Hoar and a continuation of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion. Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington provides the library with a large paper copy in elegant binding of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Book of Common Prayer, which was printed under his direction as secretary of the committee. Edward Jarvis, M.D., has tried to make complete our set of his own publications, and Hon. Horatio Gates Jones has begun the same good work. Hon. Edward L. Davis has given with a miscellaneous collection of books and pamphlets a framed photograph of Trinity Church, Boston; and William S. Barton, Esq., a war file of the United States Record in seven bound volumes. Dr. George Chandler's gift of five hundred dollars and two hundred copies of the second edition of his Chandler Family history is elsewhere alluded to in this report. Mr. James F. Hunnewell's contribution of his Historical Monuments of France, not only supplies us with a much needed illustrated handbook, but with a very full and carefully prepared list of works to be found in that interesting country. Our collection of confederate bills and bonds, which had naturally been confided to the care of the Society's Treasurer, Nathaniel Paine, Esq., has by him been tastefully arranged in a book provided for that purpose. He has heretofore prepared our

continental and United States fractional currency in a similar manner.

Having received from his honored mother the war letters and accounts of Captains Charles Henry and George Edward Barton, your Librarian has placed with them the letters which they received while in the Eastern and Western armies and presents them all for safe keeping. This collection of both field and home material will have an increasing value and should have many companions of a like character. Before referring more particularly to the Americana received from the third and last of the John J. Cooke library sales, it may be well to recapitulate. The Society received from the

First sale.....	442 vols. for.....	\$ 947 30
Second sale .....	700 " " .....	1,188 97
Third sale .....	525 " " .....	2,780 98
Total.....		1,667 " " .....
Leaving an unused balance of.....		82 75
Of the bequest of.....		\$5,000 00

Ninety-one works of art for our portfolios were received from the second, and two hundred and forty educational pamphlets from the last sale. The books relating to America were sold December 3 to 8 inclusive, 1883, and the sale was faithfully attended, after careful preparation, by Mr. Reuben Colton, the Assistant-Librarian. The books secured are represented by the following classes :

American History .....	207 volumes.
Voyages and Travels .....	80 volumes.
Biography .....	57 volumes.
State Histories .....	38 volumes.
Washingtoniana .....	31 volumes.
Spanish America.....	29 volumes.
Local History .....	19 volumes.
Learned Societies .....	16 volumes.
Theology .....	14 volumes.
Public Documents.....	9 volumes.
Slavery.....	5 volumes.

Indian Languages.....	4 volumes.
Mathers .....	4 volumes.
Genealogy .....	3 volumes.
Bibliography .....	3 volumes.
Periodicals .....	3 volumes.
Atlases.....	2 volumes.
Trials .....	1 volume.

These productions of the past three hundred years are from America, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico and Spain, and include fine specimens from the Almon, Baskerville, Bradford, Bradstreet, Cramoisy and Franklin presses. Many of them, after expensive extending by illustrations and otherwise, have been sumptuously bound by Bedford, Blennerhassett, Mansell, Pawson and Nicholson, Pratt, Smith and Zaehnsdorf. Our benefactor evidently believed that, to a certain extent, a pamphlet worth keeping at all was worth preserving not only by itself but in substantial binding; and in this he has some worthy, and it should be added, necessarily wealthy, followers. A few specimens of the rarer books are here noted. D'Acugna's *Voyages and Discoveries in South America*, 4to, London, 1698; Esquemeling's *Bucaniers of America*, 4to, London, 1684; Foxe's *Northwest Fox, or Fox from the Northwest Passage*, 4to, London, 1635; Groom's *Glass for the People of New England*, 4to, 1676; McKinney's *History of the Indian Tribes of North America*, 3 vols., fol., Philadelphia, 1836; Pagan's *Historical and Geographical Description of the Great Country and River of the Amazonas in America*, 12mo, London, 1661; Philoponus's *Nova Typis Transacta Navigatio*, fol., 1621; Smith's *Generall Historie of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles*, fol., London, 1632; Thevet's *Singularitez de la France Antarctique*, 12mo, Anvers, 1558; Villagutierre's *Historia de la Conquista de Guatimala y Yucatan*, fol., Madrid, 1701; Roger Williams's *Bloudy Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience discussed*, 4to, London, 1644; *Remarks on the Trial of*

John Peter Zenger, 4to, London, 1738; Apian's *Cosmographia*, etc., fol., Anvers, 1575; Astley's *General Collection of Voyages and Travels*, 4 vols., 4to, London, 1745; DeBry's *Grandes Voyages*, 4 vols., fol., 1591-94; Clinton and Cornwallis *Correspondence*, 8vo, New York, 1781; Coggleshall's *Voyages*, 2 vols., 8vo, New York, 1853; Cotton's *True Constitution of a particular visible Church proved by Scripture*, 4to, London, 1642; and his *Singing Psalms a Gospel Ordinance*, 4to, London, 1647. Three of the rare tracts relating to the Scots Settlement at Darien, including the *Defence*, the *Inquiry*, and the *Vindication*, Glasgow, 1699, 1700; Drake's *Voyages*, 12mo, London, 1683; Gomara's *Historie Generale des Indes Occidentales*, etc., 8vo, London, 1577; Hacke's *Voyages*, 8vo, London, 1699; Hennepin's *Nouvelle Découverte d'un tres grand Pays situé dans l'Amerique entre le Nouveau Mexique et le Mer Glaciale*, 18mo, Amsterdam, 1698; Herrera's *General History of the Vast Continent and Islands of America*, 6 vols., 8vo, London, 1725; four of the controversial pamphlets with regard to Lord William Howe's services in America, 8vo, London, 1779-1781; Lorenzana's *Historia de Nueva España*, fol., Mexico, 1770; Cotton Mather's *Life of John Eliot*, 8vo, London, 1694; Nathaniel Mather's *Righteousness of God*, second edition, London, 1718; Morgan's *Anti-Poedo-Baptism Defended*, 12mo, Philadelphia, 1750; Palmer's *Travels in the United States and Lower Canada*, 8vo, London, 1818; Paredes's *Catechismo Mexicano*, 12mo, Mexico, 1758; Parson's *Life and Times of Aaron Burr*, with Burr's autograph, a lock of his hair duly authenticated and twenty-five extra illustrations; Smith's *Brief View of the Conduct of Pennsylvania*, with autograph letter of Franklin relating thereto, 8vo, London, 1756; *Brief View of the Province of Pennsylvania*, 8vo, London, 1755; *True and Impartial State of the Province of Pennsylvania*, 8vo, Philadelphia, 1759; Vancouver's *Voyage to the North Pacific Ocean*, etc., 6 vols., 8vo, 1801; Max-

well's Virginia Historical Register and Literary Advertiser, 6 vols., 8vo, Richmond, 1848-1853. This was for a time the organ of the Virginia Historical Society. As already reported in the classified list, thirty-one numbers of the rare collection of Washingtoniana were bid off for our shelves. Of these, many are the less common lives of Washington and they have been added to the good collection already in the alcove of biography. Whitfield's Three Letters, etc., 8vo, Philadelphia, 1740; Edward Winslow's Glorious Progress of the Gospel among the Indians of New England, etc., 4to, London, 1649; Wyatt's Memoirs of the Generals, Commodores and other Commanders of the Wars of the Revolution and 1812, 8vo, Philadelphia, 1848.

Rev. George L. Walker of Hartford, and Curtiss C. Gardiner, Esq., of Saint Louis, contribute genealogical and historical material for service rendered. The latter copied from the Lechford Note Book, now passing through the press, a deed of considerable importance. Mrs. Henry P. Sturgis, granddaughter of William Paine, M.D., the loyalist, while attending the loyalist celebration at Saint John, N. B., gathered for us valuable historical books and pamphlets relating to the maritime provinces. From the author, Mr. C. R. Jack, we have received his Prize Essay on the City and County of St. John, New Brunswick. Mrs. Alexander H. Bullock deposits a copy of addresses delivered on several occasions by Alexander Hamilton Bullock. Perhaps no paper in this fine collection is more noteworthy than his Centennial of the Massachusetts Constitution, read before this Society in April, 1881, a few months before his death. The memoir which precedes the addresses is from the truthful and graceful pen of our First Vice-President, Senator Hoar. Mr. William D. Comins, of the Boston Daily Advertiser, has forwarded for preservation, with Dr. Thomas's Blaew press of about 1680, the stereotype plates from which an 1884 edition of the Advertiser was printed and the matrix from which the



plates were made. William H. Raymenton, M.D., the energetic President of the Worcester Natural History Society, provides us with the Flora of Worcester County, a foretaste of what we may expect from the Society's Publication Committee. Hon. William W. Rice has made a large donation of public documents, and from Mr. Benjamin H. Kinney we have received his medallion of Mrs. John Davis, as a companion to that of her honored husband. Our binders, the Messrs. Wesby, have again given a large collection of town documents of recent date. These reports, which contain important facts in local history, might be obtained in greater number by a circular application to the various printers and binders, as well as to the city and town authorities. Hon. George L. Davis has forwarded a copy of his Davis Genealogy by the hand of the editor, Mr. George F. Daniels; and Mr. George D. Scull a second edition of his Dorothea Scott of Egerton House, Kent, 1611-1680, following the first edition received last year. The departments of women's rights, slavery and witchcraft have been enriched by Miss Sarah E. Wall, George W. Brown, M.D., and Abner C. Goodell, Esq., the latter on the History of Witchcraft in Massachusetts, in reply to Dr. George H. Moore's notes read before the Society in October, 1883. Mr. Francis M. Boutwell adds another of his Groton pamphlets, being gleanings from the field so carefully harvested by our active associate, Dr. Samuel A. Green. Daniel Waldo Salisbury, Esq., has placed upon our walls five beautiful framed views of the surface of Beacon Hill in 1811; and David S. Messinger has deposited a cane made of wood taken from the Hancock house, Boston. We have received from the Marquis de Leuville, through James H. Salisbury, M.D., the first nine volumes of the Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, London. Thanks are due the State Mutual Life Assurance Company for a large collection of insurance periodicals; the Worcester Free Public Library and Worcester County

Mechanics Association for their semi-annual contributions of newspaper files, and the Chicago Historical Society for evidence of renewed life in volumes of their Transactions. We have added to the Davis Spanish-American Alcove nineteen volumes, including the Library of Aboriginal Literature, edited and published by our associate, Dr. Daniel G. Brinton; and five volumes to the Benjamin F. Thomas Alcove of Local History.

Mrs. Minna V. Fitch has presented an admirable photographic portrait, handsomely framed, of Dr. John Green, who from 1831 to 1855 was a faithful councillor of this Society. He is remembered, not only as the beloved physician, but as a public benefactor in the endowment of the Green Library, it being the department of reference in the Worcester Free Public Library. In this connection it may be proper to allude to the fortunate appointment of his nephew, Mr. Samuel S. Green, to the care of the Library referred to and also to his recent election to the Council of this Society. As suggestive of the interest of this Society, as well as of its President, Hon. Stephen Salisbury, as early as the year 1852, in the establishment of a Free Public Library in the City of Worcester, the accompanying documents, which have not before been made public, are submitted. It will be observed that both Mr. Salisbury and Dr. Green were at that time members of our Council:—

“WORCESTER, *Jan'y 21, 1852.*”

*To the Council of the American Antiquarian Society:*

GENTLEMEN:—As the approved plan of the new hall for the American Antiquarian Society offers in the second story accommodations considered sufficient for more than double the number of the volumes now in the library, I have thought that the Society may be disposed to give permission that the larger part of the lower story may be occupied for a limited period of years for a use approved by the Society, and under proper regulations in considera-

tion of such an addition to the funds for the erection of the building as shall avoid the danger of incurring debt or of abstracting from funds originally set apart for other purposes. The accommodation of a public library seems to me to be a use, not only appropriate to the Antiquarian Hall, but well calculated to add grace to the character of this venerable Society. The establishment of such a library is, at this time, regarded with much favor by our citizens, and it would probably be accomplished with readiness and on a liberal and useful scheme if suitable apartments were offered. In the hope that these suggestions will be approved by you, I offer to make to the American Antiquarian Society a donation of five thousand dollars to be used in defraying the cost of the erection of the new hall of the Society on condition that the Society will grant without rent and under such regulations as may be necessary for the safety and convenience of the Society, until the first day of January, 1875, for a Public Library for the citizens of Worcester, the use of the large hall in the lower story of the proposed building, with suitable finish and shelves for books and a sufficient room on the same floor for the office of the librarian. And I ask leave to reserve to myself the right of designating the Public Library which shall have the proposed accommodation.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

STEPHEN SALISBURY."

The action of the Council appears in the following, prepared by Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas :

"*Resolved*, that the Council of the American Antiquarian Society have a grateful sense of the kindness, liberality and public spirit shown by the Honorable Stephen Salisbury, as well in the gift of a valuable site for the new hall, as in the generous offer of the sum of five thousand dollars to aid in its construction; that accepting in behalf of the Society the offer so made they readily consent to the use of the lower room for a library for the period indicated in his communication of January 21st, by such persons and under such regulations as upon a conference with Mr. Salisbury may be thought consistent with the convenience of the Society and safety of its collections.

*Resolved*, that the Secretary communicate a copy of this vote to Mr. Salisbury."

It does not appear that any further action was taken with reference to the subject matter of the resolves.

While no general code of rules would suit all libraries, it is to be hoped that a closer agreement in some matters of detail may be entered into. For instance, our experience suggests that in this day of the stylographic pen and the aniline pencil the use of the inkstand and ordinary pen in the consultation room of a library is of doubtful necessity, while the damage to book or manuscript attributable thereto is often irreparable. Following the precedent established by the gift to the Chicago Historical Society, after their loss by the great fire, the Library Committee has authorized in a similar case a donation of books and pamphlets, largely theological, to Drury College, through President Morrison.

Scholars and orators whose essays or addresses find their way into print, cannot be too careful in the selection of a printer. Upon the decease of one of our most eminent members it was found that he had not preserved the volume containing one of his noblest orations. The explanation was clear when our copy was borrowed for the purpose of having the same reprinted. It appeared upon examination that there were two pages of errata covering about two-thirds of the volume. Upon the page following those corrected by the tired proof-reader appears the expression "any *fiend* of the administration who watched the appearances," etc.

I venture to call attention to a gap in the otherwise perfect collection of the portraits of our presidents. We have Greenwood's Thomas, Sully's Winthrop, Billings's Davis, and Huntington's Salisbury, but of Edward Everett, our fourth President, only Wright Smith's engraving of Wight's spirited full-length portrait of 1858, and Bufford's fine lithograph of 1865. A three-quarter length portrait in oil was offered for sale to the Society some years ago, but it was not considered satisfactory. Photographs of members are carefully preserved in albums, and it is very desirable that

the collection be made as nearly complete as possible. The identification of the beautiful marble bust deposited by Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Esq., and referred to in the Librarian's report of October, 1881, remains as unfinished business. It has been thought by many members and visitors to represent Mrs. Lydia Huntley Sigourney, but the wife of one of our members who was a frequent visitor at Mrs. Sigourney's home, and to whom we were referred by the daughter, Mrs. Rev. Francis T. Russell, does not encourage this view of the case. A heliotype of the marble, distributed with our Proceedings, might possibly lead to the establishing of the apparently lost identity of this interesting subject, and thus a fact be added to the department of personal history.

A word of special commendation is due to those of our literary friends who forward their handiwork in binding. "It is only a pamphlet" has consigned much American history to the waste basket, and some valuable brochures of but a few pages are sometimes as badly damaged by being sent flat as by the rolling or folding process. It should be remembered that small parcels may be sent by mail with as much safety, cleanliness and speed as by express, and that our post-office box is large enough to receive them. Diligent search for missing titles has rewarded your Librarian with more or less success during each of the eighteen years past. The returns since the October meeting have been especially valuable. For instance, we have received the Platform of the Synod of Cambridge, 1649, 4to, Cambridge, 1671; Propositions of Baptism by the Synod of 1662, 4to, Cambridge, 1662; Life of Richard Mather of Dorchester, 4to, Cambridge, 1670; the Boston Directory of 1798; Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections, volume three; and a volume of Minot's Massachusetts, all of which have been absent from the library for more than twenty years. Under the present rules and regulations such disappearances will be well-nigh impossible. How-

ever, an enlightened public as well as private conscience, with a more vigorous enforcement of the laws relating to libraries, are much needed, and in the interest of both its moral and legal bearings we bespeak your constant and hearty support. A possible increase of our general fund might follow from the printing in our Proceedings an experimental list of some of our rarer duplicate books and pamphlets and a statement of what is needed to fill important breaks might be helpful. As far back as the year 1815, Dr. Thomas adds to his "Communication," "wanted for the Society The Massachusetts Register, printed by J. Fleming, in Boston, for the years 1770, 1771, 1772, and 1773." Our exchanges though not large have been of more than usual importance. We have sent material where it was most needed and have received satisfactory returns. From the United States Museum we have in return for the exsiccated Kentucky Indian two hundred and eighty-two archaeological specimens. Of these one hundred and three are from California, and include a mortar, pestle, arrow and spear-heads, hammer-stone, pierced stones, shell ornaments, etc. From eighteen other States, namely, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin one hundred and forty-eight specimens were received, including grooved axes, pestles, hammer-stones, chipped and polished celts, scrapers, etc. In addition to these originals, are thirty casts and there is a carefully prepared list of the whole collection. Dr. Spencer F. Baird and Prof. Charles Rau have had a double interest in making this return, both being members of the Society. It is to be hoped that more of our perishable material may be speedily disposed of as satisfactorily. We have recently begun an exchange with Cornell University for the benefit of its May slavery and anti-slavery collections, one of the finest in America. The library, of which this is one section,

is made up largely of the collections of specialists. The Anthon Classical, the Bopp Oriental, the Goldwin Smith Historical, the White Architectural, the Kelly Mathematical, the Cornell Agricultural, the Great Britain Patent Office, the Jared Sparks and the Samuel J. May before referred to. It is pleasant to note that any gaps there may be in these separate libraries, for such they are, may be filled by drawing upon the McGraw Library Fund, given by Mrs. Fiske and now amounting to over seven hundred thousand dollars. There is a strange fascination about the companionship of such well selected libraries, especially where there are funds to revise and improve them. In fact, specialists are wisely looked up to in other departments than that of literature. We are again reminded by the death of a friend, whose collection had been enriched from our duplicate room, that "to him that hath shall be given." In the case referred to, the gentleman made careful search for the best known collection of church music, then quietly bequeathed his own to be incorporated therewith. It is a matter of regret that such a valuable working library as that of the late Hon. Henry C. Murphy, which was scattered by the recent auction sale in New York, could not have been kept intact by some leading university or other library corporation rich enough to build upon its foundation. In connection with the establishing of the Dr. George Chandler Genealogical Fund this day announced, it should be said that the Society's disposition to make speedy and good use of its duplicate material has been one inducement which has led him to present two hundred copies, practically the remainder of the edition, of his Chandler Family. In his absence your Librarian desires to say, that while Dr. Chandler has perhaps drawn more largely than any other member from our stores of local and family history, he has not only taken little of our time, but has given much of his own in guiding both visiting novice and expert into or out of the labyrinth of genealogy. His gift

is timely and his example worthy of imitation. The departments of biography, slavery and rebellion are in special need of such a helper. We have never attempted an auction sale of duplicates, either under the Society's name or otherwise, but the experiment may be worth trying. It has been our habit for many years to examine all catalogue lists of desiderata, and occasional sales have been made thereby. We have sometimes been able to serve our own membership with much needed rare books and it may be profitable for them to remember that our classification of duplicates is such that prompt replies can be made to enquiries respecting them. It is sometimes suggested that the Society should not give storage to so much apparently useless material, but what student of American history would advise us to be less inclusive? Shall we decline to receive insurance material? One of the finest collections in America has for a money consideration been helped towards completion by the addition to it of some of our duplicate pamphlets common in their day and so almost universally destroyed. Shall we refuse the books and sheets of type specimens issued in such large quantities by founders to advertise their business? Within the past month the eighteenth century collection, preserved by Dr. Thomas, has answered difficult questions as to the history of one of the oldest and best type founderies in England. The authorities desired were not found at the British Museum or elsewhere in Great Britain. Shall we throw out the catalogues, circulars and programmes of the academies and schools? If so, their centennial addresses will lack the enlivening flavor which comes with the historic knowledge of details. The bank bills must remain, for they have already furnished data for a history of their introduction into our country, and may again be needed; while the show bills may be called for by our industrious Treasurer to illustrate the curious history of a second Cardiff giant or some kindred work. But surely railroad reports



may be safely declined? Not so long as we are able to report as now a cash sale of fifty dollars worth of duplicates. You cannot be burdened with more than a single copy of the numberless college pamphlets? To which we make answer that four extra copies of Emerson's address before the senior class of 1827, in Harvard College, recently netted our treasury twelve dollars. But you can make no use of obsolete law books? We reply that twenty dollars' worth have just been forwarded in trade to a southern correspondent. Shall we stop the ingathering of newspapers or at least the binding of them? To this pertinent question a gentleman, who could not possibly have prepared his "Worcester Book" without them, answered, but a few days since, "What shall we do without them, and who will gather them if you do not?" Our collection is fast becoming a great burden, as it most surely is a great blessing and our stronghold. When both the daily and weekly of the same paper come to us it would seem wise to keep both, but to bind only the daily, though important articles would be found in the fifty-two weekly numbers, and thus do away with the examination of over three hundred numbers of the daily. That the cords of duplicates may sometime be called for is quite possible—a check for twelve dollars has lately been received for certain years of the *Liberator*—but that we may at any time realize their value as paper-waste and with the money buy the necessities of library life is absolutely certain. This latter remark will also apply as well to any other duplicate material which is likely to continue to be otherwise useless. Our honored President after such noble provision for our past, as well as our present, needs, may well submit the question of further extension to those who are to come after. Let us, however, so trust the future that we shall refuse nothing which is brought to the treasure-house, while at the same time we reserve the absolute right of the Council to sell, exchange, perpetually deposit or give as their

wise judgment may determine. Let us listen attentively to the words of our fellow-member, President Winsor of the American Library Association, spoken at the opening of the library building of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, December 12, 1883: "The most costly nuggets of English libraries to-day, are the little six-penny play-books of Elizabeth's time, whose countless thousands perished with the reading and whose survivors are the chance waifs which have run the gauntlet of all sorts of vicissitudes. The purifiers and collectors of our English texts have taught us their value. Perhaps no one more than Macaulay has made manifest the wealth of historic illustrations existing in the ephemera of all ages. Mr. Edward Edwards, the chief English authority on library history and economy, has said the trash of one generation becomes the highly prized treasure of another. It is, to-day, the rule of the Bodleian, the British Museum and the other great libraries of Europe to reject nothing, having long ago learned the folly of discrimination, and I am glad to say that our chief American libraries follow the same rule."

Respectfully submitted.

EDMUND M. BARTON,

*Librarian.*

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.