

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

AN examination of the list of Donors and Donations hereto annexed shows an increased activity in this department, for which we have reason to be thankful. Forty-seven members, sixty-six societies and institutions, and ninety-seven persons not members of the Society have given twenty-six hundred and forty-two books, thirty-one hundred and twenty-six pamphlets, one hundred and nine files of newspapers, one hundred and two prints, fifty-one engravings, thirty-one maps, thirty photographs, sixteen manuscripts, one Japanese chair, a collection of shells, and various broadsides. We have bought one hundred and seventy-nine books and thirty-seven pamphlets; have received by exchange fifty-eight books and fifty-three pamphlets; and from the binder one hundred and twenty-three volumes. Thus it will be seen that from two hundred and ten sources we acknowledge three thousand and two books, thirty-two hundred and sixteen pamphlets, and one hundred and nine files of newspapers; a semi-annual accession which has not been surpassed either in quantity or quality since the days of Isaiah Thomas.

The newspapers sent by Ellis Ames, Esq., and Dr. Samuel A. Green, with their other contributions, contain important historical material which might be cut out, put into book form and bound. As this is necessarily a destructive process, and we are gatherers of newspaper literature, we continue our custom of placing them entire in their local habitations ready for binding. Many of these articles are worthy of entry in our Card Catalogue, and through the courtesy of some of our painstaking collectors will doubtless find place upon our shelves. Dr. Green's gift supplies us with the works of William Warren

Tucker, and Book Second of Suffolk Deeds. In November, 1872, after many years of laborious research Dr. George Chandler published his Genealogical Dictionary of the Chandler Family and its ramifications. In the same month of that year, the edition, with the exception of forty-one copies given to sundry public institutions—including our own—was destroyed in the great Boston Fire. In the spirit of the passage of Ovid from which the motto of our seal is taken (*nec ignis*, etc.), Dr. Chandler with his quiet energy has prepared and published an enlarged and corrected edition of the work for the use of the family, and has presented a copy for our Library. He has also given some manuscript material partly printed in the book, and Bowen's History of the Connecticut Boundary Disputes. Admiral George H. Preble sends his exhaustive History of Steam Navigation and several of his minor works. He has also contributed to the Publishing Fund by the purchase of sundry proceedings of the Society. Our associate, Mr. Samuel S. Green, has had bound and placed upon our shelves a collection of his own publications. Dr. Charles O. Thompson has furnished us with his inaugural address and other material relating to the Rose Polytechnic School, and a photograph of the Columbus portrait discovered last year by Señor Martinez Eubells, and now in the museum at Madrid. This portrait, as is well known, is quite unlike the half-dozen others already upon our walls. A cash order for duplicate books and pamphlets accompanied Professor Thompson's donation. Drs. Otto Keller and Heinrich Fischer, of our German membership, have increased the collection of their learned papers already in our possession. Robert Clarke, Esq., has not only sent us contributions of his historical publications, but his first large order for books relating to America. The call was timely, as our duplicate shelves were overflowing. Without intending to advertise our own treasures, we may be justified in saying that his

next catalogue of Americana will indicate to members and others some of the treasures which may be gathered from our duplicate room. Fortunately for both buyer and seller, our Council and Library Committee do not object to the sale or exchange of duplicates. Lyman C. Draper, LL.D., sends his "King's Mountain Heroes" as a small expression of his "gratitude to your grand old Society for favors and honors." J. Fletcher Williams, Esq., who was recently elected to membership in the Society from Minnesota, has gathered material relating to that State which he desires the Society to accept as a "thank offering" for the honor conferred. Both gift and example are noteworthy and valuable. Mrs. Samuel F. Haven, executrix, has sent a second instalment of books, about one hundred in number, to be placed in the Haven Alcove. The privilege of substituting for duplicates, books of a like or greater value would seem here to be entirely proper, though in the case of a library carefully gathered by a specialist such action might be of doubtful expediency. The purchase of book plates for use in both the Haven and Thomas alcoves may be worthy of consideration. Messrs. James A. Leete and Robert O. McCrillis have deposited in the alcove of Genealogy the histories of their respective families; and Mr. Alfred S. Roe has made further progress in supplying us with Methodist magazines, Hymnology and Books of Discipline. A report recently received from Mr. Silas Farmer, historiographer of the city of Detroit, suggests what might be accomplished if such an office were not only created but well filled in every city and town of our land. In this connection it may be worthy of note that in one of the smaller New England towns, at the beginning of the late war, a committee was appointed to preserve in detail material for a War History. This work was so well done that each man of the town's quota was accounted for and facts thereby furnished for a full and accurate military record. Z. B. Adams, M.D., of Fram-

ingham, Mass., in forwarding the Taylor Papers relating to Worcester County, says: "I am authorized to make what disposition I choose of these papers and have chosen your Society as the proper custodian of them." Our thanks are due to Elliott H. Peabody, Esq., at the Court House near the Library, for many years willing service as Notary Public. We shall not be obliged to call upon him so frequently hereafter, since a vigorous appeal to the Collector of Customs at New York has brought us authority to file our Act of Incorporation as a certificate of right under the law to receive books and other literary material duty free. For the information of foreign members and correspondents we give a copy of the order. "Your institution having filed at this office the proof required on free entry of books by mail, I have now to suggest that you cause all books intended for the *sole use* of the 'American Antiquarian Society,' of Worcester, Mass., to be *addressed to said Society, or in care of its proper officers*; thereby avoiding the assessment of duty on, or delay in the free delivery of such books." Capt. George Albert Raikes, of London, presents his valuable history of the Honourable Artillery Company and his history of the First Militia Regiment. Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith forwards by our Treasurer a manuscript sermon in the Mohawk language, preached by one of the French Canadian Fathers; and William Heywood, Esq., sends by our First Vice-President the account book kept from 1761 to 1785, by his ancestor and namesake, William Heywood, of Charlestown, N. H., while a surveyor in the region of the "Wentworth Grant." We have received from the Virginia Historical Society volume III. of the new series of their Collections, being volume I. of the Dinwiddie Papers. It appears that these scattered records, covering the years 1752 to 1757 inclusive, were brought together by Mr. Henry Stevens, of whom they were bought by William W. Corcoran, Esq., who not only presents them to the Virginia Society but

contributes towards the cost of their publication. From the Library of the United States Surgeon-General's Office we have volume IV. of its Index. It is highly creditable to Surgeon John S. Billings, the officer in charge, and to the Government which has undertaken a work at once so great and so useful.

The largest donation of the past six months is that of the family of our late senior Councillor, Hon. Isaac Davis, now represented in the Society by his son Hon. Edward L. Davis and his son-in-law Hon. Elijah B. Stoddard. The gift includes about fourteen hundred books and over nine hundred pamphlets, with portraits, engravings, photographs and maps. While special classes have been assigned to their respective alcoves the miscellaneous books have been temporarily placed in the lower half of the Davis alcove. A material increase in our duplicate supply has resulted from this thoughtful and generous contribution.

At the sale of the second part of the library of the late Joseph J. Cooke, October 1 to 6 inclusive, your Librarian bid off three hundred lots containing seven hundred volumes, for eleven hundred and eighty-eight dollars and ninety-seven cents. They may be classed as follows :

Biography	172 volumes.
English and French Literature	165 volumes.
Voyages and Travels.....	117 volumes.
History.....	84 volumes.
Theology	41 volumes.
Poetry	24 volumes.
Bibles and Prayer Books.....	15 volumes.
Periodicals	14 volumes.
Antiquities.....	13 volumes.
Cyclopædias.....	12 volumes.
Fine Arts.....	11 volumes.
Ornithology	10 volumes.
Bibliography	8 volumes.
Local History	6 volumes.
Genealogy.....	2 volumes.
Slavery.....	2 volumes.
Trials	2 volumes.
Spiritualism	2 volumes.

To these should be added a portfolio containing sixty-seven colored prints, fourteen engravings and ten photographs. The collection comprises not only useful books of the period, but also books that serve to illustrate the early History of Printing in Italy, Germany, Belgium, France and England. Our copy of Herodotus, printed in the house of Peter de Maximis, Rome, 1475 — for many years the oldest printed book in the Library — has now for companions a Petrarch *circa* 1471, his *De Vita Solitaria*, Strashurg, 1472, a superb copy of Eusebius's *Præparatio Evangelica*, printed by Adam de Ambergau in 1473; a Justinus of Venice, 1477; *Hortulus Animæ*, Nuremburg, 1518; Claudi Ptolemari *Geographica*, etc., 1525; an Aldus of 1551; a Wynkyn de Worde, printed just after the death of his partner, William Caxton; the first folio edition of Spenser's *Faerie Queene* and a reprint of the first folio edition of Shakespeare; with specimens from the famous Lee Priory, Longman, Pickering, Whittingham and other presses of later times. The following deserve special mention: Arber's *English Reprints of Old English Literature*, thirty-three parts; *History of Colchester in Essex*, two volumes; *Historic Gallery of Portraits and Paintings*, seven volumes; Jackson and Chatto on *Wood Engraving*; Layard's *Nineveh*, three volumes; Saunders's *Portraits and Memoirs of Living Political Reformers*, folio; *Scotch Penny Chap Books*; Owen Jones's *Victoria Psalter*; Walpole's *Catalogue of the Royal and Noble Authors of England, Scotland and Ireland*, five volumes; Winkle's *Cathedral Churches of England and Wales*; Buffon's *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux*, ten volumes, folio; and Shaw's *Handbook of the Art of Illuminating during the Middle Ages*. A few volumes were purchased containing notes or autographs of distinguished persons, notably those of George and Bushrod Washington, Walter Scott, Horace Walpole and William Wilberforce. Our thanks are due not only to Gen. George Lewis

Cooke, one of the Executors of the estate of his brother Joseph J., but to our associate, Hon. John R. Bartlett, who has been his chief assistant in carrying out the wishes of the testator, and to Mr. Nathaniel Paine of the Library Committee, for suggestive checking of the catalogue. At the sale of the first part of this library four hundred and forty-two volumes were obtained, and at the second sale, as already stated, seven hundred volumes. The third and last part—wholly Americana—will be sold early next winter, and for it the Society has a credit of about twenty-nine hundred dollars. To make room for these special gifts and the regular increase of the Library, it is again suggested that the north lobby below be shelved to receive the United States Public Documents now in alcove R. More room could be obtained by constructing a second gallery in the main hall, thereby giving access to a third tier of shelves, and further provision might be made by alcovng or stacking the lower hall. In our Library as in many others there is constant demand for more space, money and service.

Your attention is called to the importance of continuing the Pickering Dodge Scrap Book of the War of Secession, adding such material as our Treasurer, Mr. Paine, and others have presented. It was begun in Baltimore and Philadelphia in 1861. Mr. Dodge, who died in December, 1863, prepared and put into substantial binding fourteen volumes, covering the period from November, 1860, to April, 1861, and left a large mass of material more or less carefully arranged. The bound volumes have printed title-pages with manuscript tables of contents and lists of newspapers used in their preparation. While this series is made up wholly of newspaper clippings, that arranged and presented by our associate Dr. John G. Metcalf, and complete in sixty-six volumes, also includes letters, maps and relics of "the Great Rebellion."

Before printing the new mailing list of members, an

effort was made to verify all names, titles and post-office addresses, but in a few cases it was impossible to do so. Members not correspondents of the Librarian would confer a favor by sending a postal card acknowledgment on receipt of this number of the Proceedings.

Mr. Salisbury, Jr.'s, Partial Index to the First Series of the Society's Proceedings, with Mr. Paine's List of the Publications, has been distributed to all subscribers to the Publishing Fund, to foreign corresponding societies and to domestic societies from which we are in receipt of valuable material. To all others it is offered in sheets for binding at one dollar for each copy, to defray the cost of publication. As it has been freely advertised by the liberal distribution of a cheap edition of the Priced List, a fair demand for it might reasonably be expected. Orders, which are respectfully solicited from members, societies and others, will be promptly filled by the Librarian. The change in the market value of some of our publications is quite noticeable. In September, 1859, volume two of the Transactions was sold for two dollars and twenty-five cents per copy, forty-five per cent. off to dealers, while the present list price is fifteen dollars net. The last number of the Proceedings was distributed nearly two months ago, thanks to an efficient Committee of Publication as well as to the contributors who so promptly forwarded their manuscripts. Great care has been taken in mailing, especially to points outside of New England, all parcels being wrapped and fastened with twine. Any failure to receive in good order should be reported. By direction of the Library Committee nearly a score of societies and libraries which have made no return in kind, have been dropped from our exchange list. Our course in this matter has been necessitated by the limited edition of the Proceedings. As indexers we bespeak the assistance that can be rendered only by those who supply the material to be indexed. Chief among these helps will be authorities

carefully given, and names—particularly obscure ones—fully and truly stated. In this nineteenth century no book which needs an index should be copyrighted until an index is provided. For the benefit of our sometimes confused card cataloguers, we enter a protest against the printing of the same work at various periods under different titles; against the publishing of stereotyped books under the same title but with the year changed from time to time; and against the reprinting of rare books and pamphlets without a suggestion that they were originally published thirty, fifty or one hundred years before. We have received an occasional volume from the author or publisher whose tardy notice that the book was sent for examination or sale did not reach us until acknowledgment and entry were made, and the Society stamp affixed.

In the absence of a complete Card Catalogue, a work upon which Miss Robinson is still engaged, the alcove lists prepared by Messrs. Colton and Riordan are found of considerable service in checking sale catalogues as well as in giving other helpful information. It should not be forgotten by those who “wonder that so much can be done with so little,” that two of the above named are on the pay-roll of Mr. Stephen Salisbury, Jr. In quite an extended correspondence with reference to an attempt to complete our set of the National Anti-Slavery Standard, a letter was received from Mr. Oliver Johnson, in which he writes as follows: “I have a file of the National Anti-Slavery Standard which at my death, if not before, will go to some public institution. I will remember your application in behalf of the American Antiquarian Society, for which I have a high regard.”

Rev. George W. Phillips, a friend of the Society, recently discovered in an Edinburgh book-stall an English orderly book used in Cornwallis's army from the 28th of June, 1781, until his defeat at Yorktown the 19th of October. He kindly gave us immediate notice, but it was

thought best not to bid against the British Museum for this rare bit of American history. It has since been offered to the Society for twenty-five pounds sterling.

The privilege of record deposits, granted to such bodies for instance as the Worcester Association and the Worcester Fire Society is well bestowed, for it is one way of preserving history. In the case of individuals, however, it has not always proved so satisfactory. A deposit of coins and tokens of no special value, made some twenty-eight years ago by a cosmopolite who took no receipt, has just been identified and withdrawn by the owner, who writes that he has "married, bought a farm and settled down for life and would like to get them to keep."

Galley-proofs of the rough list of our collection of United States newspapers have been received from Mr. S. N. D. North, to whom the list was furnished for his special report to the Superintendent of Census. If such work can be undertaken decennially by the Census Bureau, why should not the "Circulars of Information," frequently issued by the Bureau of Education, contain lists of and even indexes to special subjects, if not to literature in general? Education which is to-day, more than ever, the talismanic word which opens private purses, should not be disregarded at the door of the Public Treasury. Coöperation has done much for the good cause, and libraries have taken an honorable part, but much remains to be done. To the American Library Association—a brotherhood in which our membership is strongly represented—much is due in this direction. At their very successful meeting held in Buffalo last August, our associates, Messrs. Winsor, Poole, Guild and Green were leading spirits as they were at its inception. The Society was also represented by your Librarian who joined the Association at its first meeting, and who desires to express his indebtedness to those who, sometimes by successive experiments, have found the better way and reported it. Our old-fashioned subject

alcoves, alphabetically arranged, still hold an honorable place among the approved modern methods. Although ours is practically a close corporation and the Library to a certain extent private, it would seem to be our mission safely to administer it not only for the benefit of members and other scholars, but for the public good. So far the use of the Library has kept pace with its increase, and it is a gratifying fact to report that the usual summer falling off of visitors was not apparent the past season.

We have to-day the rare privilege of listening to a Council report chiefly prepared by one who has been a distinguished member of this Society since October, 1838, the year preceding the death of his honored father, one of its Founders. Of the son we may not speak, nor of the young volunteer Bancroft who carried a musket on Bunker's Hill. Of the Rev. 'Aaron Bancroft, D.D., when he had become a well-trying soldier of the cross and a promoter of all good works, let the Council of 1843—into which body our beloved President for thirty years past had just been elected—lend a tribute for the present occasion :—

“Associated with Dr. Thomas from the beginning, as a friend, as an efficient, learned co-laborer and as an officer of this corporation, who shared largely in its labors and councils, was the late Dr. Bancroft, a gentleman distinguished alike for clear comprehension and accurate views of subjects. His learning, zeal and wisdom all contributed to sustain the institution and to reflect credit upon its character and transactions when it had little to rely upon except the promise of future usefulness. His steady and constant support entitles his memory to be cherished with the veneration and respect due to one whose purity of life, wisdom and exemplary deportment left his honored name without reproach.”

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.