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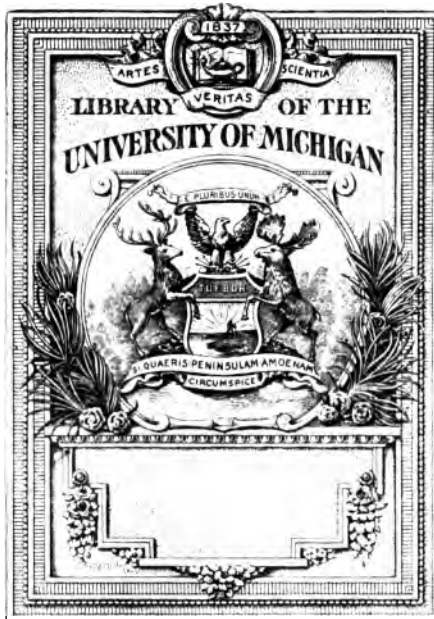
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A PAPER PRESENTED AT A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,
NOVEMBER 9, 1893,

BY
SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN, M.D.



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THE management of large libraries is a science of modern growth, and the details have taken such shape as the needs of different communities demanded. The founders of the Historical Society for their work had a true estimate of the importance of books and other printed matter, and throughout the early records this sense of their appreciation is continually shown. The prime object of the Society, as set forth in the first paragraph of the Constitution, was the preservation of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and records containing historical facts, etc. A secondary object, as announced in the next paragraph, was the collection of specimens in natural history and of curiosities generally. It is worthy of note that all the members, with the exception of Mr. Baylies and Dr. Belknap, at the second meeting of the Society, on April 9, 1791, handed in lists of books, pamphlets, maps, etc., which they purposed to give as a nucleus for a library; and two meetings later Dr. Belknap furnished a similar list, of which a part was to be considered as the payment of his fee for life-membership. Included in Dr. Belknap's gift are several bound volumes of very rare tracts marked in ink on a label pasted on the back "HP," which monogram probably stands for Historical Pamphlets. These several lists include many volumes, which to-day are exceedingly scarce, and some of them almost invaluable; and I am happy to add that with some exceptions they are still in the Library and can easily be identified.

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The first local habitation of the Society was a single room in the Manufactory House, a building owned by the Massachusetts Bank, and situated where Hamilton Place is now ; and for a year it served the purposes of a library and for the meetings. This room was occupied from June 30, 1791, until the next summer, when the books and the museum were taken to new quarters, an attic chamber in the northwest corner of Faneuil Hall. The first meeting was held here on July 31, 1792, at which time the Library contained not far from 225 volumes, and perhaps 500 pamphlets. Of these, as a rough estimate, 75 volumes and many pamphlets have not been identified, and some, doubtless, have been lost. Most of the pamphlets received before July 31, 1792, were bound in 50 volumes, of which now only 40 are known to be in the Library. These volumes were probably added soon after the removal to Faneuil Hall ; and before June 11, 1794, about 225 other volumes were received. Of these 25 contain about 200 pamphlets, which had been given to the Library and bound in the latter part of the year 1792, or early in 1793. Up to June 11, 1794, it is estimated that about 1,000 pamphlets had been received, of which perhaps 700 were bound in 75 volumes, as explained above.

The Society continued to meet in its chamber at Faneuil Hall until June 11, 1794, a period of nearly two years, when it removed to the Tontine Crescent, Franklin Place, where, according to a deed executed on May 1, it had bought the fee of a large room in the upper story, over the archway which passed under the centre of the building. The apartment was forty feet in length and twenty-seven in breadth, and was finished at the Society's expense. At that time the Library is supposed to have had about 500 volumes and 300 pamphlets, for the most part relating to New England history, and for that period it was a very considerable collection of books. The explanation of the decrease in the number of pamphlets for the previous two years lies in the fact that during this period 75 volumes, more or less, had been bound, each volume containing about ten pamphlets. For the first time the members owned their place of meeting, which was their home for thirty-nine years, until June 5, 1833. This period appears to be the natural cycle of the Society, as it occupied the old building on the present site in Tremont Street for the same term.

The growth of the Library during the early years was slow, and, so far as can be learned from the Proceedings and other sources, there were in the year 1800 probably 1,000 volumes and a large number of pamphlets. In 1810, near the time of the preparation of the new catalogue, there may have been as many as 2,000 volumes; and while numerous pamphlets had been received, the number was largely diminished by binding from time to time, each volume containing on an average ten pamphlets. The increase of the Library during the next two decades was not so marked, but at the close of the third, it is estimated by the Librarian, Dr. Harris, that there were: —

Four thousand six hundred volumes of bound books.
 Four hundred and fifty-five large volumes of newspapers.
 Ninety-four folio volumes of manuscripts.
 Seventy-five smaller volumes of manuscripts.
 Twelve large volumes of charts and maps.
 Many single maps.
 Several hundred pamphlets.

Counted Nov. 20, 1839.

In the year 1850 the Library contained probably 6,000 volumes, and several thousand pamphlets; and in 1860, according to the Treasurer's report of that year, there were, not including the Dowse Library, about 8,000 volumes and 13,000 pamphlets. In 1870, according to the Librarian's report, there were then, including the Dowse Library, files of newspapers, and the bound manuscripts, nearly 19,000 volumes and more than 30,000 pamphlets; in 1880, 26,569 volumes and 53,727 pamphlets; and in 1890, there were about 34,600 volumes and 89,739 pamphlets.

It should be borne in mind that the room occupied by the Society at the outset was not kept open constantly, but was accessible to the members by means of the Corresponding Secretary's key; and that each one on taking out a book made his own charge on a slate used for that purpose. Under such conditions it is not surprising that some volumes should be missing now from these lists; and presumably they were lost soon after their receipt, as their titles do not appear in the Library catalogue, which was printed in the year 1796.

In the early days of the Society, books, manuscripts, maps, etc., were not so carefully guarded as they have been subse-

quently, nor were the givers' names and the dates of accession so accurately kept on record.

At the third meeting, on June 30, 1791, it was ordered that the Recording Secretary should procure "four hundred blanks of the following form:—

*This Book is the property
of the
Historical Society,
established in Boston, 1790.*

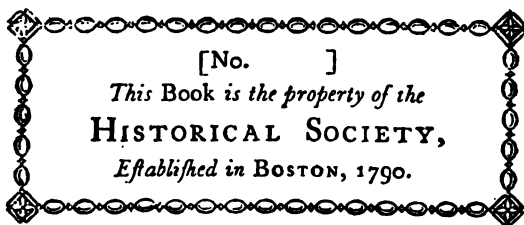
and place them in the books presented to the Library." It will be noticed that the duty of preparing these slips devolved on the Recording Secretary, and not on the Librarian, who now would be the proper officer for such service. The order, as here given, was duly carried out, though a number within brackets was added thus [No.], for the numeration of the volume, which was printed as the first line of the book-plate; but the numbering does not appear ever to have been used. Notwithstanding the date given in the foregoing book-plate, the original members agreed to consider the meeting held on January 24, 1791, as the first; and counting from that date the centennial anniversary was duly celebrated by the Society.

Among the rules for the government of the Library, adopted at the fourth meeting, held on October 11, 1791, was one which required a book-plate—or "printed ticket," as it was then called—to be pasted on the inside of the cover of each volume, showing it to be the property of the Society; and at the same time the rule required that the donor's name should be indicated if the book was given. With some exceptions this rule was not observed in both requirements for more than fifty years, though in many cases the name of the giver was written on a fly-leaf of the book, or across the titlepage, or else in the margin, sometimes up and sometimes down, or perhaps on the cover. About 1840 and for a few subsequent years, however,—in regard to volumes previously presented to the Library,—there are instances where the Librarian, by fits

and starts, has apparently ascertained the date of gift, and duly recorded it on the book-plate; but the practice even at that period was by no means uniform or permanent. It was during the second term of Mr. Felt's librarianship that the custom of writing on book-plates both the name of the giver and the date of the gift became at all general. During the past ten years many hundred book-plates, — perhaps two thousand, — in volumes for a long time in the possession of the Society, have been filled out with the name and date, where this record had been previously omitted. Not included in this number are many similar entries on separate pamphlets received from various sources, but which are now for the most part bound. Much time has been spent, though unsuccessfully, in trying to obtain the same facts in regard to numerous other titles. Since the Annual Meeting of April, 1884, with some exceptions during the first year, they have been indicated on the cover of pamphlets, with a pencil, at the time of gift.

The use of particular book-plates furnishes a good clew as to the time when certain volumes were received in the Library, of which there is no other record. In occasional instances, for reasons not now clear, there are two or three book-plates pasted one over another, or perhaps the third one on a fly-leaf, but none of them written upon. In such cases it is fair to suppose that the earliest one indicates an approximation as to the date of receipt. For that reason I here present a simple statement of their chronological order, so far as it can be ascertained from the records or from their use in the various volumes.

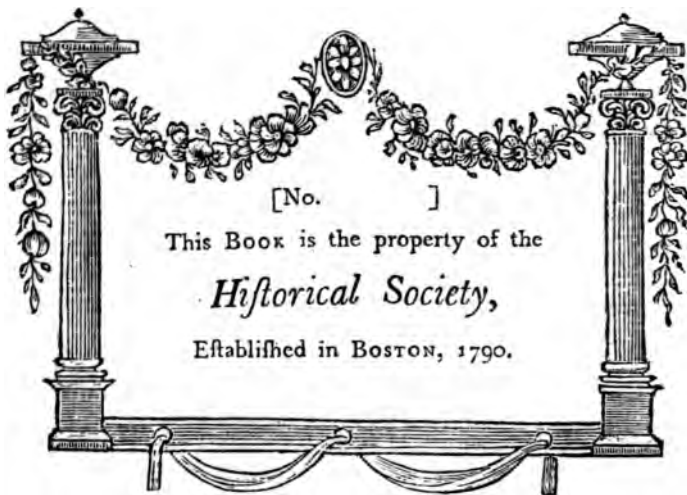
The first book-plate used in the Library was the one ordered on June 30, 1791, which is now found in less than 75 volumes, probably all in which it was ever placed. It follows substantially the form specified in the records; and a reproduction in fac-simile is herewith given: —



Most of these plates, printed probably on separate slips, appear in books received before the summer of 1794, when the Society moved into the Tontine Crescent, though a few — perhaps some that had been left over — were pasted in volumes given as late as January 30, 1798.

The second book-plate was struck off probably in the early summer of 1794, perhaps under the direction of a Committee appointed on April 4, 1794, to draft and report By-Laws and Regulations for the Society. It was a wood-cut with types mortised in the block. Of these plates only about 35 are now found, — doubtless all that were used, — and these are in books received for the most part before June 11, 1794. A very few, however, — perhaps some that were then still on hand, — appear later, and were last used in books reported at the meeting on January 30, 1798.

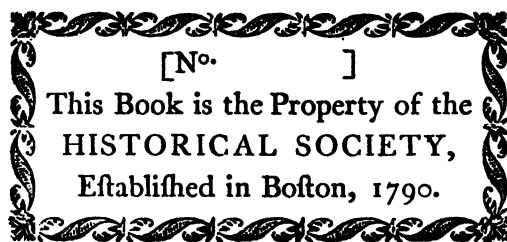
This cut is rather pretentious in appearance ; and the following is a fac-simile : —



It was printed probably by Belknap & Hall, at that time the publishers of "The American Apollo," a weekly periodical, in which had previously appeared a large part of the first volume of Collections ; and they were also the publishers of the first two volumes of Collections. A festoon similar to the one over the top of this book-plate is found in the Apollo. Joseph

Belknap, one of the printers, was a son of Dr. Belknap, the principal founder of the Historical Society.

The third book-plate closely resembles the first one, and was printed probably in the year 1798. It was used in a few of the books reported at the meeting held on January 29, 1799, though some specimens of the plate may be seen in volumes given earlier. Only about 20 of these plates already inserted can now be found, though there are more than 175 still on hand, which have never been used. They were all printed on one slip containing three impressions, and 60 of these slips still remain in the Publication room. Here follows a fac-simile:—



The number on these plates, as given within brackets thus [No.], was probably intended for an accession number, and not to show the case and shelf for the location of the book, which were generally indicated, certainly during the earlier years of the Society, on a small label pasted on the back of the volumes.

A fourth book-plate, differing entirely in shape and wording from the others, was printed probably in the summer of 1809, and contained besides "Extracts from the laws, regulating the Library." These "laws," or rules, had been reported to the Society on May 4, 1809, and adopted at the same meeting. The plates were printed on a small sheet containing three impressions, side by side, and then cut apart as wanted for use, though no specimens of the three together have been saved; and there are some slight typographical variations in each. In Volumes IV., V., and VI. of "The Parliamentary Register" (London, 1776, 1777) may be seen three such plates, which fit together on their borders, showing that they once belonged to the same sheet. A similar instance is found in three bound volumes of miscellaneous pamphlets, marked

on the back "American Tracts." The following are the titles of the first pamphlet in each volume, which I here give in order to identify the collection of Tracts:—

Volume IV. Extracts from the Votes and Proceedings of the American Continental Congress, . . . September, 1774. . . London, reprinted, 1774.

Volume II. The Plea of the Colonies, . . . London, 1776.

Volume III. An Oration in Memory of General Montgomery, . . . February 19th, 1776. . . By William Smith. Second edition. London, reprinted, 1776.

Near the top of the fourth plate is a blank space for the location mark of the book, which, however, was rarely designated. These plates were pasted in the volumes over any of the previous ones that happened to be already inserted; and their use appears to have been discontinued about 1820.

The fifth book-plate was made, probably soon after the Society removed from the Tontine Crescent to the present site in Tremont Street, which was in March, 1833. It was engraved on copper by David Russell, and the impressions were taken on white paper. The plates were of a size similar to those now used in the Library, and essentially the same in appearance and wording. They are found in many of the volumes received at an early period, where they have been pasted over other plates; and they also appear in books given since 1820 or thereabouts, when the use of the preceding plate was discontinued, although they are found like the fourth plate in many volumes given earlier.

Some time after the election of the Reverend Thaddeus M. Harris as Librarian, on October 26, 1837, impressions from the same plate were made on red-faced paper, probably about 1839. These are found in volumes given as late as October 16, 1846, in most cases pasted over the earlier book-plates already in volumes, excepting the fifth one. A new plate on copper, now in the possession of the Library, was probably made within a few weeks of that date; and impressions from it on green-faced paper were printed. These book-plates were used during the remainder of Mr. Felt's librarianship, and until September 16, 1857. On October 24 of that year, the first book-plate of gray paper was used; and on March 15, 1864, five hundred more impressions were struck off from this



copper plate by Nathaniel Dearborn, an engraver, who had re-touched it. The first of these book-plates was pasted in a volume given on April 23, 1864, and probably on that date; and the last was used in October, 1866. Since that time the book-plates have been printed on stone by William H. Forbes & Co., now known as the Forbes Lithograph Manufacturing Company, many copies at one impression, and the sheets cut up afterward. The first of these was used on October 11, 1866, and since then very slight changes have been made from time to time, as new impressions were struck off, certainly in October, 1868, and on October 19, 1885.

Before the year 1799 there was no record of books lent out as required by the By-Laws, adopted on October 11, 1791, that "for the present a slate and pencil shall be hung up in the chamber, and the person taking books shall enter on the slate his name, the titles of the books, and the date; which the librarian, at his next visit to the chamber, shall enter in his book"; but this book, if one was then kept, has not been found. On June 11, 1794, the "Laws and Regulations" were revised; and Article VI. of the portion relating to the Library was so changed that each member was required to "give receipts for the books which he shall take out of the Library, in a receipt-book to be provided for the purpose. For a time these entries were made on separate sheets of folio paper, three of which used between April 25, 1796, and October 19, 1799, are still preserved. On April 30, 1799, the Librarian was instructed to "purchase a book to be left in the Society's room," for members "to give in it a receipt for the books which they shall take out of the Library." In this small volume, bound in vellum and still in the Library, the first entry was antedated August 28, 1798, and, with two trifling exceptions, February 7, 1833, the last on October 29, 1818. According to the amended By-Laws adopted on May 4, 1809, the Librarian began a record of books taken out, and from that date the practice has been continued down to the present day. The volume bought for this purpose has the name of the Society and "1809" stamped in gilt on the front cover, and was used from May 4, 1809, to December 26, 1833. It contains the names of members taking out books arranged for the most part alphabetically, one name to a page, and it also has an index. Since February 11, 1834, when another

book was begun, the titles have been entered chronologically; and during its use, until the time of Dr. Appleton, it was the general custom for each member to sign his own name against the charge.

From a careful collation of the catalogues of the Library, both printed and manuscript made before 1796, with the books on the shelves it is found that certain books were missing even at that early period; and since then losses, particularly those to which special attention has been called, have been noted from time to time in the Proceedings. Of the first gift of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts, received at the second meeting of the Society held on April 9, 1791, many still remain unidentified and are probably lost. On October 25, 1796, a committee was appointed "to sell the useless books belonging to the Society." This may account for some of the missing volumes, while votes at different times to exchange duplicates and triplicates will explain the absence of others. There are instances where volumes have been returned which have been out of the Library for a long period; and the fact has been sometimes noted by the Librarian in the volumes, and occasionally it has been mentioned in the Proceedings.

From the collection furnished by Dr. Belknap, at the fourth meeting of the Society, on October 11, 1791, several volumes were lent out at the time, and only one of these is known to have been returned. This volume contains many rare and valuable tracts published between 1628 and 1732, the first of which is "A Copy of the Kings Majesties Charter for Incorporating the Company of the Massachusetts Bay" . . . Boston, 1689. Another title is "New Englands First Fruits;" . . . London, 1643, which is printed in part in the first volume of the Collections, pages 242-250. It once contained "New England. or a Briefe Enarration" . . . London, 1625, a Latin poem by William Morrell, which has since been taken out and bound separately. This poem with the English translation was also printed in the same volume of Collections, pages 125-139. On the inside of the cover of this book of tracts is written: "Returned to me by Dea. George A. Thatcher of Bangor Me. Sept. 30, 1853. He found it among books which fell to him from B. B. Thatcher, who died, 1840. Joseph B. Felt, Librarian."

Another volume of tracts, stamped on the back "Whitfield,"

and probably borrowed from the Library as early as 1812, contains the earliest and fourth plates. The first title in the volume, which was bound some time in the year 1792, is "Divine Influence the true Spring of the Extraordinary Work at Cambuslang and other Places in the West of Scotland," . . . by Alexander Webster, Boston, reprinted, 1743. The following memorandum in the handwriting of Dr. John Appleton, Assistant Librarian, and signed with his initials, appears on a fly-leaf: "This volume was found in the Library of a deceased clergyman in New Haven, Conn., and returned to the Massachusetts Historical Society, by Franklin B. Dexter, Tutor in Yale College, July 28, 1866. J. A."

On July 5, 1816, two volumes entitled "Bibliotheca Americana," London, 1789, and "Bibliothecae Americanae Primordia," . . . by White Kennett, London, 1713, were taken from the Library by Isaiah Thomas. At a meeting of the Society on April 28, 1831, after the death of Mr. Thomas, which occurred on April 4, the Librarian was requested "to obtain return" of both volumes, which about that time had been given to the American Antiquarian Society. Although the Historical Society's ownership was then questioned, the first volume was returned in the autumn of 1831, and the second in January, 1836. At a meeting held on October 29, 1835, the subject of the return of the Kennett volume was again brought up, and referred to the Librarian and Recording Secretary; and on November 26 of that year, they reported that "they had written fully to the Council of the American Antiquarian Society, and had furnished full and complete evidence of the property of our Society" in this volume; and it was accordingly returned in the following January as above stated. See Proceedings, Volume II., pages 24, 26, and 29.

A short time before Mr. Thomas's death he wrote the following on the inside of the front cover: "This Book was loaned to a member of the Historical Society by Mrs. Crocker to whom it belonged, and was included in the purchase I made of her, of Part of the Mather Library, Decr 1814." According to votes passed by the Society, on December 20, 1794, and April 25, 1822, it appears that at some time a "valuable portion of the Mather Library" had been either given or deposited by Dr. Samuel Mather's executors, and by his daughter Mrs. Hannah Mather Crocker, to this Society;

and certain volumes are found containing the autograph signatures of the Mathers, father, son, and grandson, and occasionally in the same book.

On November 3 and 6, 1790, the library of Mather Byles, consisting of 3,000 volumes and a large collection of pamphlets was sold in Boston, on which occasion many books and pamphlets were bought by Thomas Wallcut, as appears by notes in his handwriting; and these he afterward gave to the Society at different times. Many contain autograph signatures of the Mathers and Dr. Byles.

Among many instances of missing books are the following: "Transactions of the American Philosophical Society," Volume III., No. 2, borrowed by John Davis, October 28, 1830, and returned on October 22, 1864; a volume of "Sermons on Lexington Battle," which contains the following note: "This Book appears never to have been in the new Library, till 1844, when it was returned. J. B. Felt"; and two volumes taken out probably not long after the removal of the Library to its present site, one of which, Cotton Mather's Life of his father, was returned on November 2, 1855, having been found in the library of the Boston Athenæum; and the other, Charles Vallancey's "An Essay on the Primitive Inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland" (Dublin, 1807), which turned up in the library of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts some time in March, 1858.

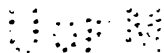
By a vote passed on October 30, 1828, the Librarian was authorized to furnish the Commissioners for settling the boundary line between the United States and New Brunswick with certain maps and other documents belonging to the Society, which were not accessible elsewhere to them. At the request of the Commissioners, the application came from the Governor of the Commonwealth; and in accordance therewith the various works were sent to Washington, though no list was made by the Librarian. It was stipulated that they should be safely returned, though this does not appear to have been done promptly, as they came back at different times, one map as late as June, 1852; but it is not now believed that they all were returned, as no record of the fact is found. With no list kept by the Society, this does not seem surprising.

When Dr. Appleton began, in 1855, to prepare a catalogue of the Library, he kept a small note-book in which he

entered titles and shelf-numbers of "Books missing." Following this is a similar list of 30 pamphlets that "have been stolen from the Volumes in which they were bound." Many references to other lost pamphlets are found noted in various volumes where the tracts are missing. So far as known, wherever a pamphlet is taken out to be bound separately, a memorandum to that effect has been made. Many in the first list are marked as returned, but of the second none apparently has been received. On June 3, 1880, a volume entitled "An Answer to George Keith's Libel against a Catechism," by Francis Makemie (Boston, 1694), was stolen from the Library and has never been returned. The loss was at once detected, and the thief strongly suspected. In my own mind I never had any doubt as to his guilt; and it is a satisfaction to know that he is now undergoing a long term of imprisonment at Charlestown for another crime.

Another instance where a memorandum is found appears in a bound collection of medical tracts of which the first is "Some Reasons and Arguments . . . for the setting up Markets in Boston" (Boston, 1719). This volume contained a rare tract entitled "A Friendly Debate," etc. (Boston, 1722), which was wanted in the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army. As there were two other copies in the Library, and this one was slightly imperfect, the Council voted on January 10, 1876, to give it to the Library at Washington; and accordingly the pamphlet was taken out and sent. The fact was duly noted on a fly-leaf by the Librarian. The Morrell tract mentioned above may be cited as another instance where a pamphlet was removed from a bound volume and a memorandum of the fact made.

The first catalogue of the Library was published in 1796, and contains about a thousand titles, not including "unbound books," pamphlets, newspapers, and manuscripts. The earliest list of any portion of the Library is one indorsed in the handwriting of John Eliot, the first Librarian, "Mss. list of, in the Hist. Cabinet, 1792." Mr. Eliot also kept a rough list of accessions to the Library, which probably served as a catalogue until one was begun by Thomas Wallcut, in 1792, where titles for the first time were arranged alphabetically; although additions to Eliot's catalogue were made as late as 1793. On October 23, 1792, it was voted to print "a number



of copies of the catalogue"; but this seems not then to have been done, as on October 29, 1793, "The Catalogue of the Library being reported," it was voted "That the Librarian procure it to be copied at the expense of the Society." This probably referred to the Wallcut catalogue, which was completed near that time. It is a fold of folio sheets consisting of 83 pages, and, with additions made from time to time, was the working catalogue until 1796.

The "Catalogue of Books," published in that year, as mentioned above, was in use until 1811, and from time to time new titles were added in manuscript. The Library copy has these words written on the top of the titlepage: "The property of the Society. To lie on the Table for the use of the Members, it being the only copy with references to the places of the Books." On September 1, 1803, a reprint of 500 copies was voted, but it is very doubtful whether the order was ever carried out. This catalogue was interleaved and bound near the time when Timothy Alden began his services as Librarian on May 9, 1808; and with new titles added on the blank leaves served for a time as the working catalogue. Before the end of his term of service on October 26, 1809, he had made what seems to be a full catalogue of the Library at that time; and this he carried away when he removed to Newark, New Jersey, and he did not return it until April 25, 1811. It was subsequently bound in leather, and stamped on the back "Catalogue of Historical Library Alden's Manuscript." At the meeting held on the day of its return, it was voted to print 400 copies, which were published in October, 1811, making a pamphlet of 96 pages. It contained about 4,000 titles, two columns to a page; and the appendix is composed of "Lists" of Newspapers, Maps, Manuscripts, Tracts, etc., also of Preachers of Election Sermons, Artillery Election Sermons, Annual Convention Sermons, and Dudleian Lectures, as well as Anniversary Addresses of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, Discourses before the Massachusetts Humane Society, Fifth of March and Fourth of July Orations, Orations and Poems before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, a List of Preachers before the London Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and before the Massachusetts Missionary Society, also Ordination and Installation, Funeral, and Dedication Sermons, and a List of various



Almanacs published in New England and elsewhere. Soon after this catalogue was issued, a working copy was made up by pasting on the ten inside leaves of six folds of folio paper, four columns of the catalogue to a page. On the outside in the hand of Joseph McKean, then Librarian, is written "Catalogue of the Historical Library. (This is not to be removed from the Table.) 1811." In the upper right-hand corner of this page is the following: "c. c. Began this Catal. Monday Aug. 2^d / 13 & finally finished Nov. 12, 1813." This entry related to the shelf-numbers which Mr. Joseph Tilden, at that time Librarian, wrote opposite to the titles; and the two letters "c. c." at the beginning probably referred to the shelf and book-case where it was kept. For a while occasionally some new titles, as well as others which had been omitted, were added below the pasted scraps. A little later a volume was made up in a similar way, probably by James Savage, and bound in leather, containing one column to a page; and many shelf-numbers were marked in. It was probably used during the latter part of his Librarianship and until the removal of the Library in 1833, possibly a year or two later, as it contains some of the new shelf-marks of that period. As before, new titles were added from time to time. Subsequently a similar volume was made up for the same purpose, though but little used.

On August 25, 1835, it was voted that "Joseph B. Felt, a member of the Society, be requested, in concurrence with the Librarian [Nahum Mitchell], to make a catalogue, alphabetical and systematic, of all the books, pamphlets, and manuscripts in the Library of the Society." On May 26, 1836, when they made a report upon the progress of the work, a large portion of the Library had been catalogued. The volume in which the entries were made was like the one prepared by Mr. Savage, only of oblong shape and much larger; and it was the working catalogue for about twenty years, or until the beginning of the new catalogue by Dr. John Appleton, then Assistant Librarian, on April 18, 1855. This last catalogue was published in two volumes, one in 1859 and the second in 1860, a copy of which was interleaved and bound up for use in the Library. The original, from which a copy was made for the printer, consisted of many folio sheets of brown paper on which were pasted the slips containing the

titles arranged alphabetically; and this collection of sheets was the working catalogue for a few years. In the interleaved copy, titles were entered on the blank pages until about 1864, when a system of cataloguing on paper slips of a blue tint was begun, and continued for a time. Soon afterward cards were used, as stated in the Librarian's Report, April, 1869, where it says that "the card system has been adopted some years, and continues to give satisfaction." Some time later the blue slips were either copied or pasted on long cards. These cards were used until about October 1, 1878, when others of regulation size, like those used to-day, were first bought for the purpose. Up to this time the cards were kept in broad pasteboard boxes, two rows to a box, although some of the boxes were used for a few years longer. When the small cards were bought, a case of ninety-two drawers was made in September, 1878, by Azel E. Steele for the purpose of holding them; and it is estimated that there is room for about 250,000 cards. The catalogue of the Library is now in three parts, — the printed titles, those on the blank leaves, and the cards which have now been brought into one alphabetical arrangement. See the note on pages 43 and 44 of the second volume of the Proceedings for another account of the catalogues.

According to some manuscript notes made by Joseph McKean about the year 1811 in a bound copy of the first Catalogue of Books, 1796, there were then in the Library at the Tontine Crescent one mahogany book-case on the west side of the room, a "range," — probably a book-case or section of one, — next to the north window on the east, and three other "ranges" on the same side, and also two on the south side, one near the door and another near the window. These several cases were indicated on the catalogue by capital letters, A, B, C, etc., and the shelves were marked by lower case letters, while the order on the shelf was shown by figures. There were only two book-cases in the Library at the time the Wallcut catalogue, already mentioned, was made; but a third case was soon added. Before 1799 the fourth and fifth book-cases were bought, and before 1811 two more. Down to the time of the appearance of the catalogue in 1811, a system of figures was used to indicate the places of books in the Library, — the first to show the case, the second the shelf, and the third the order on the shelf, thus: 1. 6. 5. The letters and

figures just referred to were used until the removal of the Library in 1833, since which time there have been in the main two numbers only, one to indicate the shelf and the other the place on the shelf.

The early place-marks of volumes were written on small paper labels, many of them diamond-shaped, which were pasted on the back of books; and probably this practice continued with some irregularity until about 1798. From that date until about 1811, the number, if entered at all, is found on the inside of the front cover, in the upper left-hand corner. When the second method of marking volumes came into use, a small red-faced label was printed, like this, as near as type will allow:—

~~~~~  
HIST. SOC.

~~~~~

It was pasted on the back of each volume near the bottom; and in the lower space of the label was written the place-mark of the book, as — E. b. 24. Traces of numbering in this way are found for fifteen years, more or less, until possibly 1830. After the removal of the Library in 1833, and upon its re-arrangement, two new labels were made, one of which was to be used for the Library, and the other for the Cabinet, like the following:—

/////////
HIST. SOC.

Sh. No.

/////////

/////////
HIST. SOC.

Cab. No.

/////////

In most cases, one of these was pasted over the first slip, if on the volume at the time. This method of notation continued until about 1857, when the Dowse Collection was received, and the catalogue of the Library was in process of making, both of which caused great changes in the arrangement of books. During these changes an "Index" volume was prepared by Dr. Appleton, containing the numbers only, both the old and the new, which was used while this catalogue was printing, and perhaps later. Since that time, in a great ma-

majority of cases, the numbers have been written on the inside of the front cover, in the upper left-hand corner, with a black pencil ; although many volumes are found in which blue has been used, especially in such as were then rearranged on the shelves, in order to make room for the Dowse Library.

When the " Rules for the Library and Museum " were first adopted on October 11, 1791, the Librarian was required to present a " catalogue of the books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, and curiosities." The same requirement was made in the By-Laws of June 11, 1794, and with the exception of the " curiosities " was repeated in those of May 4, 1809. This " catalogue " or list was printed, accordingly, in the Proceedings from time to time, and during the year 1792, in a changed form, in " The American Apollo." The Lists from 1798 to 1810 also appeared in several newspapers, one of which was published outside of the State, and all so far as known are mentioned below.

This practice of reporting the titles was kept up for the most part until the end of 1796 ; and during the year 1797 similar references to gifts were omitted. On January 30, 1798, the Librarian reported a long list of titles received since the preceding entries of November 18, 1796 ; and afterward at the January meeting of each year he read a similar list, with the exception of the following instances, when it was presented on October 30, 1804, August 27, 1805, and August 28, 1810 ; although it was omitted in the years 1806 and 1808. At this last date the practice of entering the list in the record of the meetings was discontinued. From October 25, 1809, to October 31, 1816, the titles of books received, with the names of the givers, were entered on some blank pages in the " Loan Book " of 1809 ; and from July, 1815, to July, 1838, an " Acknowledgment of Donations " was printed in the Collections (2d series, II., to 3d series, VII.).

On January 28, 1830, it was voted " That the Librarian procure a suitable book for the purpose of entering the donations, to be kept in the room " ; and since that date, when the first entry was made, this method of recording gifts has been kept up. For further reference to gifts received by the Library, see the Proceedings, Volume I., page 250. With a few exceptions, the following are the dates at which gifts were made, and the places where a list of them may be found :—

PROCEEDINGS.

- 1791, April 9, pp. 6-13, October 11, pp. 18-22, December 21, pp. 26, 27.
 1792, March 30, pp. 30, 31, April 24, pp. 32, 33, June 8, pp. 37, 38,
 July 31, p. 39, August 10, 13, p. 41. Also in *The American
 Apollo*, May 11, p. 210, June 15, p. 274, August 3, p. 351,
 August 24, p. 380.
 1793, January 29, pp. 47, 48, April 30, p. 50, July 30, pp. 51-53,
 October 29, pp. 54, 55, November 26, p. 56.
 1794, January 28, p. 60, April 4, p. 66, June 11, pp. 67, 68, July 29,
 pp. 73, 74, October 28, pp. 75-77, December 20, p. 79.
 1795, January 27, pp. 81, 82, April 28, pp. 83, 84, August 17, pp. 87,
 88, October 27, pp. 88, 89, November 24, p. 91.
 1796, April 26, pp. 97, 98, June 6, p. 99, July 26, pp. 100, 101,
 November 18, pp. 102, 103.
 1798, January 30, pp. 111-116, and the *Columbian Centinel* (Boston),
 February 3.
 1799, January 29, pp. 121-124, and the *Massachusetts Mercury* (Bos-
 ton), March 19.
 1800, January 28, pp. 129-131, and the *Massachusetts Mercury*, April 1.
 1801, January 27, pp. 136-139.
 1802, January 26, pp. 145-147, and the *Mercury and New-England
 Palladium* (Boston), February 23.
 1803, January 25, pp. 151-156, and the *Boston Weekly Magazine*,
 May 14.
 1804, July 5 (*Boston Gazette*), October 30, pp. 166-168.
 1805, July 23 (*The Repertory*, Boston), August 27, pp. 176-179.
 1806, November 15 (*Portsmouth, N. H., Oracle*).
 1807, January 27, pp. 190-192.
 1808, February 19 (*The Repertory*).
 1809, January 31, pp. 200-203, and the *New-England Palladium*,
 August 22.
 1810, August 28, pp. 216-219, and the *Repertory*, September 28.

LOAN BOOK, 1809.

October 26, 1809, to October 31, 1816, with some breaks, and also for
 1812 and 1813, in the *New England Palladium*, February 18, 1814.

COLLECTIONS.

- 1815, to July, 2d series, III., pp. 292-296.
 1816, to August, 2d series, IV., pp. 304-308.
 1818, to April, 2d series, VII., pp. 297-300.
 1819, to April, 2d series, VIII., pp. 329-332.

- 1822, to January, 2d series, IX., pp. 369-372.
 1823, to April, 2d series, X., pp. 188-191.
 1825, to March, 3d series, I., pp. 295-299.
 1830, to January, 3d series, II., pp. 365-368.
 1833, to January, 3d series, III., pp. 404-407.
 1834, to May, 3d series, VI., pp. 294-296.
 1836, to June, 3d series, V., pp. 291-298.
 1837, to June, 3d series, VI., pp. 296-300.
 1838, to July, 3d series, VII., pp. 292-296.

GIFT BOOK.

1830, January 28. Since then regular entries have been made.

The last "Acknowledgment of Donations" in the form of a list of titles was made in Volume VII., 3d series of Collections mentioned above. While the By-Laws of 1833 repeated the requirement that the Librarian at each stated meeting should furnish a "catalogue of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and maps," few references to such a list are found until the last entry of this kind on October 31, 1833; but on February 27, 1834, the practice of presenting the names of those making "donations" was begun, which were printed in the Proceedings of each meeting until March 11, 1869, when it was discontinued. Since then the list has been regularly presented by the Librarian, but the names have appeared at the end of each volume of Proceedings, beginning with Volume XI. (1869-1870), in an alphabetical arrangement under the title "List of Donors to the Library."

Of the large number of pamphlets given to the Library many have been bound up in volumes; and from time to time votes have been passed ordering such work to be done. It was an early practice to tie up the pamphlets in small parcels, and keep them in this way preparatory to binding; and in the course of time several thousand were bound. On April 8, 1858, when the Librarian read his first "Annual Report," under the requirement of the By-Laws adopted on October 8, 1857, there were about 12,000 pamphlets in the Library arranged in cases made for the purpose. It appears by the report of the Standing Committee on April 24, 1856, that at that time 457 cases had been bought, and about 10,000 pamphlets classified and thus arranged. These cases, shaped like

a volume, had the word "Pamphlets" printed on the back. In April, 1862, the number had reached 492, and probably more were added later; and their use continued until about 1878, although a few are still found serviceable for the largest pamphlets. According to the system of classification begun by Dr. Appleton, and fully given in the report of the Librarian, made on April 12, 1866, a paper label of the proper size, bearing the printed name of the division, was pasted on the back of the boxes. About the year 1878 the pamphlets had increased so much that it was found easier and more convenient for use to tie them up in bundles. Later, in October, 1884, these parcels were first carefully guarded from the wear of the string by strips of pressboard. The system of classification now in use, although somewhat changed as to the names of the divisions and other minor particulars, is similar to that begun by Dr. Appleton. These pamphlets are kept in one room, and arranged on the alphabetical plan in the several divisions and subdivisions.

It was the practice of early Librarians to enter, on the fly-leaf of each volume of miscellaneous tracts, the titles contained therein, as well as occasionally other memoranda. One of such volumes, in which the first title is "The Church of Ephesus arraign'd," by Josiah Smith (Charles-Town, S. C., 1768), has on the fly-leaf at the end the following note written by John Eliot: —

There is no persuading Bookbinders to do as you *desire* them. Besides the misplacing of several pamphlets & paying no regard to the date, tho' arranged for him by the Librarian, he must take this *Narrative of the work at C. from the parcell which were collected with great diligence & many months assiduity; & where all the Cambuslang pieces preceeded* the other works of the *Whitefieldian* controversy.

Two books are spoiled to the no small vexation of M^r E. who hath had his patience tried often in this way.

Use — or Caution.

Never send but pamphlets enough to fill one volume — let these be bound in boards only till you have seen them — then may you alter the arrangm^t before the finishing. Otherwise you must stand over the Bookbinder till there is not a bare possibility of his *mistaking*.

Another volume, in which the first title is "The Importance of Righteousness . . . in two Discourses delivered at

Brookfield, July 4, 1774," by Nathan Fiske (Boston, 1774), has a note at the beginning in the same hand as follows:—

Remark — for the benefit of other Societies besides the historical.

A *stupid* book binder will never mind your orders about placing pamphlets.

If *cheapness* is the thing aimed at, you will have none but *stupid fellows* to work for you.

Still another volume of bound tracts, in which the first pamphlet is entitled "Three Choice and Profitable Sermons," by John Norton (Cambridge, 1664), contains the following memorandum:—

These Sermons were given by several Gentlemen [probably not members of the Society] M^r Harris & M^r J. Eliot. Some of them were collected from the Mather Library. They were bound at the expense of M^r _____ who gave 100\$ for this laudable purpose.

Since the year 1868 it has been the rule in the Library to bind up all historical tracts separately; and miscellaneous pamphlets have not been bound in the same volume unless they belonged to a series or were closely connected in their subjects. Reports of various societies and institutions in Massachusetts are bound together in sets, and divided according to their thickness, though frequently by tens or fives, either as to the year or the ordinal number of the report. On the back and near the top of the volumes given during the first twenty years of the Society, there is found a small cross in ink. I am unable to give the meaning of this mark, but perhaps it was meant to show that the work had been catalogued. To indicate the fact in later years a small "c" has been written in ink or with pencil at the beginning of the book or pamphlet in the upper right-hand corner.

In former times the style of binding pamphlets varied somewhat from that now in use, as well as the lettering on the back. Such volumes were generally bound in sheep, which has not proved to be serviceable. The following instances may be mentioned as fair samples of the lettering: "Religious Tracts," "Mixt Tracts," "Mixt Sermons," "Select Pamphlets," etc.; and about 1815 the back titles ran thus: "Tracts. D. F. 1," "Tracts. D. F. 2," with several other combinations of letters and figures, which were intended probably for the place-mark of the books.

In recent years it has been the practice to bind the newspapers in duck, as it is now considered by library experts to be more durable than leather, which in time becomes very tender and fragile. Since June 7, 1889, a handle, or loop, projecting behind, has been firmly riveted to each side of the cover, so that the volume can be more easily taken from the shelf. This has been found to be a convenient contrivance for large or heavy files.

On October 13, 1882, the Society received a bequest of \$3,000 made by a Corresponding Member, William Winthrop, Esq., of Malta, who died on July 3, 1869. According to the terms of the will, the Society was to apply "the whole of the accruing annual interest and profits to the binding, for the better preservation, of the valuable manuscripts and books appertaining to the Society"; and from the income of this fund, known as the "William Winthrop Fund," books were first bound on June 9, 1883. In all the volumes a small slip, first made in 1884, is pasted on the inside of the front cover, in the upper right-hand corner, mentioning the fact and giving the date of binding; and later a similar label, first struck off on June 4, 1890, has been used in all books repaired from the same income. See the Proceedings, Volume XX. (1882-1883), pages 17-20, for references to Mr. Winthrop and the bequest.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society on April 9, 1857, the large and costly collection of books given by Mr. Thomas Dowse, of Cambridgeport, was formally received. It consists of fine editions of miscellaneous works, and all the books are elegantly bound. The following minute written on a sheet of letter paper and pasted on a fly-leaf at the beginning will explain itself:—

CAMBRIDGE, July 30, 1856.

This volume — "Purchas His Pilgrimes" — being numbered 812 in the Catalogue now in the press of Mess. John Wilson & Son, is delivered by me on this thirtieth day of July, 1856, to the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, as an earnest and evidence of my having given the whole of my library to said Massachusetts Historical Society, the books to be preserved forever in a room by themselves, only to be used in said room

THOMAS DOWSE

In presence of
O. W. WATRISS, }
GEORGE LIVERMORE. }

BOSTON, 30 July, 1856.

I received this 1st Volume of "Purchas His Pilgrimes" from Thomas Dowse, Esq., in his own Library in presence of Messrs. Watriss and Livermore, the witnesses to his signature, this Wednesday afternoon, the thirtieth day of July, 1856, and brought it away with me at his request to be presented to the Massachusetts Historical Society at a Special Meeting, which I have caused to be notified for Tuesday next at 10 o'clock, A. M., and in evidence of the gift of his whole collection of books to said Society.

ROBERT C. WINTHROP,
President of the Mass. Hist. Society.

After the receipt of the books at this meeting, Mr. Winthrop paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Dowse, and announced a gift of \$10,000, from his executors, to be known as the "Dowse Fund." For an account of the proceedings and the eulogy by Mr. Everett, delivered in the Music Hall, on December 9, 1858, see the third volume of Proceedings (1855-1858). The collection by actual count consists of 4,665 volumes, which is three less than the number shown by the catalogue printed in 1856, and several hundred less than that which has been mentioned on various occasions before the Society; but according to memoranda made at the time these three by some accident were never received. The numbers and titles of the missing volumes are as follows:—

785. Poems. With Engravings after Westall. By Thomas Gray. London, 1821.

1308. Stories of the Gods and Heroes of Greece. By George Berthold Niebuhr. Translated from the German, and edited by Sarah Austin. London, 1843.

1907. Letters to one of his Friends. By Bishop William Warburton. New York, 1809.

The six bookcases originally received with the collection are still the property of the Society, but are now used for another purpose.

In the autumn of 1871 a book-plate, modelled with some variations after that in the Ticknor Collection at the Boston Public Library, was made and duly inserted. The impressions were struck off from stone, twenty-three copies in one sheet, and afterward cut up; and several of these sheets are still preserved.

The late Mr. Savage, who was Librarian from 1814 to 1818, and afterward President from 1841 to 1855, bequeathed the sum of \$5,000, "of the income whereof no use shall be made except for the increase of said Society's library," — the first bequest ever received for that purpose, and now known as the "Savage Fund." This amount became available in 1873; and soon afterward, in September, 1875, a book-plate, modelled after the one used in the Dowse Collection, was made for all books bought with this income. The plate was engraved on steel, and contains a likeness of Mr. Savage. See the Proceedings (XIV., 153) for October, 1875, where an impression is given. Pamphlets bought in the same way and afterward bound, also receive this plate, as they are then considered books. Since November, 1892, impressions inserted in such volumes have the blank "Bound 189," printed at the bottom so that the date of binding can be entered. A book is kept in which all the accessions from this source, including the various titles and the price, are entered, as well as other memoranda. At each meeting of the Council it is the custom of the Librarian to read a list of such books bought since the previous report.

At a meeting held on December 22, 1813, it was voted that a committee then named "apply to the Trustees of the New England Library, so called, for the deposit of the same in the Historical Room." On October 30, 1817, this committee reported that, "in consultation with the pastor of the Old South Church and Society," and according to a vote of that church, on December 1, 1814, 261 volumes, 12 volumes of manuscripts and numerous pamphlets "most conducive to the design of deposit" had been selected and arranged in ten movable cases, open in front, in the rooms of the Historical Society. It is supposed that this collection was transferred as early as 1815, though there is no record of the fact. See Collections, 2d series, VII., 179-185, for a brief account of the deposit. On May 23, 1815, Moses Gill, of Princeton, gave to the Library the manuscript catalogue of this collection, in the handwriting of Rev. Thomas Prince, entitled "New-English Books & Tracts collected by Thomas Prince of Boston N E." To this volume, before it was bound, several blank leaves were added by Rev. Abiel Holmes, who entered therein the titles of the books selected as well as a brief list of

the manuscripts. This collection remained as a part of the Historical Library until 1859, when the pastors and deacons of the Old South Church, feeling the "need of a convenient and quick access to the whole collection" by the public, in a communication dated July 12, 1859, asked for the "return of the books and papers," agreeably to the terms of the vote whereby they were deposited; and accordingly they were returned to the Prince Library, which was, on July 12, 1866, transferred to the care of the Boston Public Library. In October, 1869, a complete catalogue of the collection was published by the Trustees of that institution, containing an historical introduction.

On various occasions during recent years special book-plates have been printed for particular gifts. Among such instances, as the more important ones, may be mentioned the bequest of a collection of music books by Williams Latham, received on May 22, 1884 (Proc., 2d series, I., 200); the works of Rear-Admiral Preble, on March 20, 1885; the Ticknor collection of books and pamphlets, on May 25, 1885; and the autograph collection given by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander C. Washburn, on April 13, 1893.

On December 23, 1873, the three volumes of "Hutchinson Papers," which had been in the Library for more than fifty years, were delivered by the Librarian to Charles R. Train, Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, according to a decision of the arbitrator, Robert S. Rantoul, Esq., made to the Society on December 6 of that year. The manuscripts relating to the controversy about the ownership of these files were bound in May, 1880, together with the House and Senate Documents relating to the same, and were printed in the Proceedings, Volumes II. (1835-1855) and X.-XIII. (1867-1875). An account of the Papers with the final correspondence may be found on pages 217-232 of Volume XIII.

One of the early objects of the Society first mentioned in a "Plan of an Antiquarian Society, August, 1790," written by Dr. Belknap, was the collection of "specimens of natural and artificial curiosities"; and this was embodied in the Constitution drawn up at the beginning of 1791 and in the early By-Laws. The "best part of the cabinet," according to the By-Laws, contained such articles, and was called the "Museum"; and until the annual election of officers on April

4, 1794, the Librarian had charge, but on that date Mr. Samuel Turell was chosen "Keeper of the Cabinet," and this office then became a permanent one. One of his duties was to present at the stated meetings of the Society a "catalogue of the curiosities." Before April 30, 1793, there is an occasional reference to articles given to the Cabinet; but at the meeting held on that date the first list "For the Cabinet" was appended to that for the Library. These lists were added in the same way until January 31, 1809, and are included in the references to gifts mentioned above, excepting June 6, 1796; while in the records of later meetings allusions will be found to other articles received by the Cabinet. Although "a list of the natural and artificial productions belonging to the Museum" was reported on October 25, 1796, by Samuel Turell, Cabinet-Keeper, a catalogue, as such, was not begun until May, 1800; and this contains entries as late as 1814. About 1811 a catalogue of minerals and plants was made, Joseph McKean then Cabinet-Keeper; and this contained a list of the plants given by Thomas H. Perkins on October 27, 1795. At a meeting held on December 32, William Dandridge Peck, a member, asked the Society to lend him these plants, that he might "put them in order and in a state of preservation," which application was granted. At the end of the catalogue it is recorded that "the Society consented that they should remain with the Professor till further orders." Mr. Peck died on October 3, 1822, and in another portion of the list is the following: "Oct. 27, 1825. After M^r Peck dec^d these Plants were kept in the care of Rev^d D^r Lowell at Cambridge, till further orders." What became of them is not known.

As early as August 24, 1819, an effort was made to dispose of some of the articles belonging to the Museum, when it was voted "That the Librarian and Cabinet-Keeper be authorized to dispose, at their discretion, of any perishable articles in the possession of the Society." Besides other efforts in the same direction, it appears by the record of the meeting held on October 25, 1796, that the Cabinet-Keeper was "authorized to exchange some of the shells belonging to the Society for Governor Hutchinson's picture"; and in return the Society received the portrait painted by Copley. On April 25, 1833, it was voted "to deposit with the Society of Natural History

such articles in the Museum, relating to that subject, as they (the Committee) may think proper." This occurred before the first meeting in the new room, but after the books had been moved; and the articles, including several stuffed animals and 71 minerals, were delivered to that Society on July 20. A box of minerals from the neighborhood of Lynn, given by Alonzo Lewis on January 27, 1831, was not taken by the Natural History Society, perhaps because it was either overlooked or not wanted. At a meeting on January 10, 1867, it was ordered "That such aboriginal relics as Professor Wyman should select . . . be . . . *deposited* with the 'Peabody Museum,' and that a list of every article thus deposited be kept." In accordance with this vote 178 specimens were sent to Cambridge, and a list is preserved. These votes stripped the Society, for the most part, of its collection of articles in natural history and archæology.

According to the Laws adopted by the Society on May 4, 1809, it was the duty of the Librarian "to attend at the Library, or to procure some member to attend in his stead, on the afternoon of each Thursday, at three o'clock P. M., for the accommodation of the members." Until then it does not appear that he was required to be present at any specified time, or that the room was kept open; but afterward the requirement continued in force until the By-Laws of February 10, 1853, were adopted. From that date the Librarian, according to the new regulation, has been present at the Library daily, "in person, or by a substitute . . . at the regular hours appointed for keeping it open," although with much irregularity at first. Before 1853, as is implied in various ways, there may have been times when the rooms were open oftener than once a week for the convenience of members.

Until about 1794 the key of the Library remained in the hands of Dr. Belknap, then the Corresponding Secretary, whose duty it was to deliver it to "no other person but one of the members." The By-Laws, adopted in that year, required the Librarian and Cabinet-Keeper each to keep a key; and this custom continued until 1853, when, as mentioned above, the Librarian was to be present daily. Owing to some difficulty in carrying out the last regulation, a committee was chosen to consider the subject of "keeping the Library open and making provision for a new catalogue." At the meeting on October

12, 1854, Mr. Winthrop, for this committee, made a full report; and in order to carry out the suggestions contained therein, the Librarian was authorized to employ an assistant whose duty should be "to keep the Library open according to the By-Laws of the Society, and to proceed at once to the preparation of a complete and systematic catalogue of the Library, Cabinet, and pictures." Accordingly the services of Dr. Appleton were secured, who entered upon his duties on December 4, 1854, as given below.

In the earlier days of the Society the By-Laws required that all books "be accepted, with thanks," but it does not appear that there was then any formal letter sent to the givers. An acknowledgment, however, was made either in the *American Apollo* or the *Collections*, and occasionally in the newspapers of the period, as mentioned above. On August 24, 1819, a vote was passed ordering a "form of acknowledgment of donations," and at several other subsequent times similar requirements were made, as is noted in the second volume of *Proceedings* (pp. 20, 252, 312). On April 24, 1845, "a suitable plate" was ordered; but there is now no evidence that this was done. According to the By-Laws of 1853, the Librarian acknowledged the gift "by a letter addressed to the person making it"; but in December, 1855, an engraved copper-plate for this purpose was made by Messrs. Morse & Tuttle, which has since then been in use. The "certificate," so called in the regulation of 1857, contains blank spaces for the title of the book, the name of the giver, and for the signatures of the President and Librarian.

By a disastrous fire which burned many buildings and warehouses very early in the morning of November 10, 1825, the Society suffered a serious loss in its publications. At that time the entire edition of volumes VII. and VIII. of the second series of *Collections* was entirely destroyed, and nearly the whole of volumes IV. and V. of the first series, and IX. of the second series, amounting in all to more than 2,000 volumes. Most unfortunately the manuscript copy of the second volume of *Winthrop's Journal* was also burned,—an irreparable loss to historical scholars, although the work had then been recently printed; besides other valuable works belonging to the Society. The fire broke out in the building at No. 10 Court Street, rapidly spreading across the way, and destroying the building num-

bered 7, in which was the office of Mr. Savage, who had taken out for temporary use certain volumes belonging to the Library. The Collections were stored at the time with Messrs. Phelps & Farnham, printers to the Society, who occupied rooms in the next building, which was also burned. For other particulars concerning the Society's losses, see the first volume of Proceedings (1791-1835), pages 392 and 410.

At the third meeting of the Society, on June 30, 1791, it is recorded "That the Treasurer be desired to purchase twelve chairs (Windsor, green, elbow); a plain pine table, painted, with drawer and lock and key; an inkstand, &c." According to Mr. Winthrop, who referred to them in an address when, as President, he received the keys of the Dowse Library on April 9, 1857, they were "believed to be the same which, until within a few months past, have constituted the principal part of the furniture of our rooms." It is interesting to note that the table and chairs are still in use, and show no great sign of wear; and five benches or settees are found which may have been a part of the original furniture of the Library. For further references to Windsor chairs, see the Proceedings, volumes XVII. (p. 218), XVIII. (p. 243), and 2d series, I. (p. 147).

Until August 29, 1815, members of the Society were elected by ballot, but on that date it was voted unanimously that "the law and custom of our forefathers be adopted, as it stands in the Statute of Elections, 1643, *mutatis mutandis*, 'For the yearly choosing of assistants, the freemen shall use Indian corn and beans, the Indian corn to manifest election, and the beans contrary.'" The substance of this vote was embodied in the By-Laws of 1833, and has since continued in force. During recent years the corn used for this purpose has been taken from an ear given by Mr. Winthrop. Attached is a tag on which is written the following:—

The ear of corn held up by Edward Everett as an illustration in his speech on "Vegetable and Mineral Gold" at the dinner of the United States Agricultural Society, 26th October, 1855, and given to me as we drove home together after the dinner. He said he had plucked it himself from the field in Lexington on that or a previous morning. He brought it to the dinner wrapped in paper, uncovering it only at the moment when he alluded to it. See his Orations and Speeches, 3d Vol. p. 387.

R. C. W.

In the summer of 1818, Louis XVIII., King of France, gave to the Library several works in return for a set of the Society's Collections which had been previously sent to him. These works, consisting of eleven volumes in all, taken from the King's own library, were elegantly bound, and bear on the covers the Royal Arms in gilt. One of them entitled "Dictionnaire des Ouvrages Anonymes et Pseudonymes," in four volumes, was for a long time through some mistake in the possession of the Library of Harvard College. After many years they were returned to the Society, with the college book-plates pasted in them.

Among important additions may be mentioned certain books, pamphlets, and manuscripts from the Library of Dr. Belknap, which were given to the Society by his daughter, Miss Elizabeth Belknap, on March 11, 1858. See the third volume of Proceedings (pp. 286-328) for an account of the gift. Another valuable accession was Dr. John Pierce's set of early election sermons given by him, and received by the Society on October 22, 1849, soon after his death; and his collection of Massachusetts Registers, received on September 20, 1851, and also his manuscript diary, from 1803 to 1849, in 18 volumes, on February 25, 1858. Another addition, consisting of works of early American poetry, was received from Mr. Ticknor on December 9, 1858; and this was supplemented by many books and pamphlets given by the family after his death. Still another came through a bequest from Mr. Savage received on June 12, 1873, which included many local histories, genealogies, etc., and his own copy of the Genealogical Dictionary, with manuscript notes and corrections.

On February 11, 1869, a valuable collection of books and pamphlets was given by Mr. Winthrop, at that time President of the Society. Among the works then received there were 78 volumes lettered on the back according to their subjects, and each containing about ten pamphlets. At several times during the years 1863 and 1864, Mr. Winthrop also gave many early broadsides, for the most part relating to New England, which have been placed in two large volumes made for the purpose; and a special book-plate has been inserted, with the dates of the gift.

When I entered on my term of service as Librarian in 1868, I began to form a collection of the different editions of the

