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Librarian. WENTWORTH S. BUTLER.

## ANNUAL REPORT

## OF

## THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK SOCEIEY LIBRARY.

Upon the close of the fiscal year, which terminates with the end of the month of March, it is made the duty of the Trustees to submit to the Sbareholders a report of the affairs and condition of the corporation, to be laid before them at their annual meeting.

The state of its finances will appear from the Treasurer's Report, and also from that of the Auditing Committee, who examined the same; both of which form part of this Annual Report. The increase of the Library is shown by the list of books purchased or presented to the Library during the year past; with the exception of those in the Alcove specially appropriated for the reception of the books presented to this Library, designated "The De Peyster Alcove." This particular collection is not for circulation, but is for reference and use only within the Library.

The value of the Real Estate, as estimated by the Auditing Committee, will be found specified in their report, but no estimate is attempted to be made of the value of the "publications," some of which are both rare and unique, and many of which it would be extremely difficult to duplicate. Others would be valued by literary experts according to their peculiar tastes and opinions.

It is a matter of regret that the income of the Society Library does not enable its Library Committee to purchase as largely as they desire, nor to the extent of the demands of the Shareholders, the books which deserve to be placed on their shelves. This is a subject which chalenges the consideration of the Shareholders when this report comes before them, and it is thought that if they will give it the attention it demands, measures may be taken materially to increase the fund to be applied for this purpose. Each Shareholder is a centre in himself or herself, and can, if so inclined, help to accomplish this desirable object. But a combined effort can accomplish more. Such combinations, judiciously formed, with active members, may reach many persons in this large city, who need only to be informed of the merits and advantages of this Library, to become Shareholders themselves. Every share sold helps, not only to increase the annual income, but to add additional friends to the Association, who can, more or less, exert the like influence upon others. The subject is therefore earnestly commended to the considerate judgment of the present Shareholders at the next meeting.

The Trustees have the pleasure of announcing that Gen. J. Watts de Peyster proposes to fill an alcove with books on special subjects, and that a considerable portion of his donation has been already received and placed on the shelves set apart for the purpose-an example worthy of all commendation. A very liberal donation has also been received during the year, from Frederic de Peyster, LL.D., a complete set of the "Indices of Conveyances, Judgments, Suits in Equity and Insolvent Assignments, recorded in the City of New York," consisting of 86 vols., folio. To the late Thomas W. C. Moore, Esq., who took a deep interest in the welfare of this Institution, to the Rev. Marshall B. Smith, the Hon. S. S. Cox, and others, the Library is likewise indebted for many useful, curious and valuable additions.

The debt which man owes to the great minds of former ages, Lord Macaulay affirms, is incalculable. Says he: "They have guided him to truth They have filled his mind with noble and graceful images. They have stood by him in all vicissitudes : comforts in sorrow, nurses in sickness, companions in solitude. Their friendships are exposed to no danger from the occurences by which other attachments are weakened or dissolved ; time glides on; future is inconstant; tempers are soured; bonds which seemed indissoluble are daily sundered by interest, by emulation or by caprice. But no such cause can affect the silent converse which we hold with the highest of human intellect. That placid intercourse is disturbed by no jealousies or resentments. These are the old friends who never are seen with new faces; who are the same in wealth and in poverty, in glory and obscurity. With the dead there is no rivalry. In the dead there is no change."
Bishop Hall, of Norwich, has been styled the Christian Seneca, from his sententious manner of writing, and from the particular resemblance of his "Meditations" to the "Morals" of the Roman author. Upon the Sight of a Great Library, he thus gives vent to his impressions: "What a world of wit is here packed up together! I know not whether this sight doth more dismay or comfort me. It dismays me to think that here is so much that I cannot know; it comforts me to think that this variety yields so good helps to know what I

- should. There is no truer word than that of Solomon-there is no end of making many books. This sight verifies it. There is no end ; indeed, it were pity there should. God hath given to man a busy soul, the agitation whereof cannot but through time and experience work out many hidden truths; to suppress these would be no other than injurious to mankind, whose minds, like unto so many candles, should be kindled by each other: the thoughts of our deliberation are most accurate ; these we vent into our papers. What an happiness is it, that, without all offence of necromancy, I may here call up any of the ancient worthies of learning, whether human or divine, and confer with them of all my doubts ! Neither can I cast my eye casually upon any of these silent masters, but I must learn somewhat; it is a wantonness to complain of choice."

In one of his "Meditations," he refers to fire and water within their own bounds; and when coming in contact. "The little sparks," he observes, "seen in a charcoal fire, spread and enkindle their next brands. Thus both dilate
when brought into neighborhood." This simile may, it is hoped, find an illustration when the subject of the required additional income is brought to the notice of the Shareholders, so that the little sparks first created, may, upon discussion, spread and enkindle a warmth in all, or at least a glow among some, that will enkindle others and be productive of good results.

In conclusion, the Trustees avail themselves of this occasion to notice a memorable event, that occurred in the year just past. On the 9 th of November, in the year of our Lord 1772, in the thirteenth year of the reign of George the Third, when William Tryon was Governor-in-Chief, in and over the province of New York, "The Charter" was granted by which The New York Society Library was incorporated, with the privileges and immunities therein specified. This Charter was confirmed by an act, passed on the 18 th of February, 1789, by the Legislature of the State of New York, in order, as stated in the preamble thereto, "to remove doubts respecting the said corporation."
A century had passed on the 9th of November last, since the original Charter was obtained ; and the Trustees adopted measures to appropriately celebrate on that day its Centennial Anniversary. It was the wish and the intention of the Trustees to celebrate this event in the history of the Institution in its own hall ; but as on examination it was found to be too limited for the purpose, they selected the hall of the New York Historical Society, a kindred association.

Accordingly, on Saturday evening, the 9th of November, A. D. 1872, at 71 o'clock in the evening, a very large and appreciative audience being assembled in the hall, the order of the exercises appointed for the occasion was announced by the Chairman, as follows:

Prayer by the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D.D.
Preliminary Address, on the foundation of the Library in 1700, and its history anterior to the Charter, by Frederic de Peyster, LL.D., Presiding officer.

Centennial Address by Thomas Ward, M.D.
Upon the conclusion of these exercises, resolutions complimentary to the speakers of the evening, and requesting copies of their addresses for publication, were unanimously adopted.

The ladies and gentlemen present were then invited to partake of the refreshments prepared for them, in the Refectory of the Historical Society. At a later hour the company dispersed, with many assurances to the Trustees that the event thus agreeably and profitably celebrated, could not fail hereafter to be considered as a marked feature in the annals of the New York Society Library.

Chairman.

## WILLIAM J. HOPPIN,

March 31, 1873.

## TO THE TRRUSTEES

OF

## THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY.

The Committee appointed to "audit the accounts of this Corporation, and to make an inventory of all its real and personal property," etc., respectfully report:-
That they have examined the accounts of the Treasurer for the year ending March 31, 1873, compared the expenditures with the vouchers, and find the same to be correct.
The balance remaining in the hands of the Treasurer to the credit of the Corporation on the 1st day of April, 1873, is $\$ 609.88$.
The Commutation Fund has been increased by the purchase of one First Mortgage Railroad and Sinking Fund and Land Grant bond of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Co., for $\$ 1000$. The indebtedness of the General Fund to the Commutation Fund, still, however, considerably exceeds the amount of the balance on hand.

The Committee have also examined the securities which constitute the estate, and estimate the value of the property (books excepted) at about

The Commutation Fund now consists of-
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { One U. S. } 10-40 \text { bond . . . . . . . } \\ \text { One U. S. } 5-20 \text { bond } \\ \text { One Cairo \& Fulton R. R. \& Sinking Fund bond. } \\ 1,000 \\ 1,000\end{array}\right\}$

3,00000
Total,
The Insurance on the Library Building is. . . . . . . . . . . $\$ 128,00000$

The statement of the Receipts and Expenditures during the fiscal year just closed, and hereunto annexed, is submitted as the Annual Report of the Treasurer.

> Respectfully submitted, $$
\text { CHARLES R. SWORDS, }
$$ WILLIAM ADAMS, FREDERICK SHELDON.

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## A LIST

OF THE *

## Additions to the Library from March 31, 1872, to March 31, 1873.

Abbey, R. The City of God.
About, Edmond. Rouge et Noir. From the French.
Do. Social Economy
Achard, Amédée. Les Reves de Gilberte.
Adams, John Quincy. Report upon Weights and Measures.
Adams. The Poetry of Flowers.
Aïde, H. Morals and Mysteries.
Aide. Mémoires a l'usage des Officiers d'Artillerie.

12mo. New York. 1872
12mo. Phila. 1873
12mo. London. 1872
16mo. Paris. 1872
8vo. 1821
12mo. Phila. 1866
12mo. Leipzig. 1872
8vo. Paris. 1844
(Gift of George H. Rousseau, Esq.)
Alabama Case. Appendix to the Case of the British Gov'm't. folio. 1872
Do. Counter-Case presented by the British Gov'm't. folio. 1872
(Gift of Prof. John W. Draper, LL. D.)
12mo. ' Boston. 1872
18mo. Gotha. 1873
8vo. N. Y. 1872
Boston. Oct. 1792
(Gift of Arthur Scofield, Esq.)
12 mo . N. Y. 1873
12mo. New York. 1872
8vo. London. 1870-2
8vo. N. Y. 1872
12 mo . Washington. 1873
12 mo . N. Y. 1873
12mo. London. 1873
12 mo . London. 1872
4to. (Gift of Thomas W. C. Moore, Esq.)
8vo. Phila. 1872
12mo. New York. 1873
12mo. Paris. 1870

12mo. London. 1870
12mo. London. 1870
12mo. London. 1849
12 mo . London. 1870
18mo. Paris. 1873
12mo. Paris. 1873
12mo. Paris. 1873
8vo. pph. N. Y. 1872
12mo. London. 1870
12mo. Paris. 1872
12 mo . London. 1659

Bilguer, P. R. Handbuch des Schachpiels.
8vo. Berlin. 1858
Bits of Talk, by H. H.
Black, W. Strange Adventures of a Phæton.
Bliss, W. R. Paradise in the Pacific.
Blackie, J. S. Four Phases of Morals.
Blackmore, R. D. The Maid of Sker.
Blagden, Isa. The Woman I Loved, \&c.
(Gift of Samuel L. Mitchell, Jr., Esq.)
16mo. Boston. 1873
8vo. N. Y. 1873
12mo. N. Y. 1873

Blake, Lady. The Lady of Lyndon.
12mo. New York. 1872
8vo. N. Y. 1872

Ble, Lady. The Lady of Lyndon
12mo. Leipzig. 1872
Blythe, J. S. S. A Lonely Life.
8vo. Boston. 1872

Botta, Vincenzo. Dante, as philosopher, patriot and poet.
12mo. Phila. 1872
12mo. N. Y. . 1867

Brace, C. I. The Dangerous Classes of New York
Braddon, M. E. To the Bitter End.
8vo. N. Y. 1872

Bradford, J. S. Autumn Minds, and other poems.
8vo. N. Y. 1873
12mo. N. Y. 1869
8vo. Phila. 1870
(Gift of the Rev. H. B. Smith, D.D.)
8vo. New York. 1872
12 mo . Paris. 1830
Bresson, J. Les Fonds Publics, Etrangéres et Frangais.
Bingham, Capt. Journal of the Siege of Paris.
12mo. London. 1871
Brightwell, C. S. Memorials of Amelia Opie.
8vo. Norwich. 1854
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British Assoc. for the Advancement of Science. Report.
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Do. The New History of Sandford and Morton.
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Do. Abeokuta and the Cameroon Mts. 2 vols.
Burty, P. Chefs d'Euvres of the Industrial Arts.
Bushnell, H. Sermons on Living Subjects.
Caldwell, J. S. Results of Reading.
Calvert, G. H. Goethe ; bis life and works.
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Caswell, Rev. H. The Western World revisited.
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(Gift of George H. Rousseau, Esq.)
Catalogue of Additions to the Library of Congress in 1871. 8vo. Wash'n. 1872
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4to. pph. 1872
(Gift of J. M. Falconer, Esq.)
Catalogue of the N. Y. State Library. Subject-Index. 8vo. Albany. 1872
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12 mo . Paris. 1751
(Gift of Thomas W. C. Moore, Esq.)
Catalogue (Supplement) of the Y. Men's Assoc. of Buffalo.
Cavour, Count. Thoughts on Ireland.
8vo. Buffalo. 1872
12mo. London. 1868

Census of the U. S., of 1870. Agriculture.
4to. Washington. 1872
Do. do. Population and Statistics.
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Chamber of Commerce of N. Y. Report for 1871-2.
Chaplin, J. Life of President Dunster of Harvard College. 12mo. Boston. 1872
Charges, \&c., against Judges Cardozo, Barnard and McCunn. 4 vols. 8 vo. N. Y. 1872
Charlevoix, F. X. de. History of New France. Vol. VI. 8vo. N. Y. 1872
Chaudet, M. L'Art de l'Essayeur.
8vo. Paris. 1835
Chefs d'Euvres of the Industrial Arts. Illustrated.
Cherbuliez, V. Joseph Noirel's Revenge.
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Chester, Joseph L. Greenwood Cemetery, and other Poems. 12mo. N. Y. 1843
Christ, M. Dictionaire des Monogrammes. 8vo. Paris. 1754
(Gift of Thomas W. C. Moore, Esq.)
Christian Work in New York. 8vo. ppb. N. Y. 1873
Christmas, H. Universal Mythology.
12mo. London. 1838
Chronotype, The. Nos. 1. 2. 3. 4. Vol. I. 8vo. N. Y. 1873
Classical Studies, as information or as training. $\quad 12 \mathrm{mo}$. N. Y. 1872
Cobden Club Essays. 2d series. 8vo. London. 1872
Cobden, Richard. Speeches. 2 vols. 8vo. London. 1870
Colet, Madame Louise. Lui. 12mo. Paris. 1864
Collection of the National Museum, Naples. 4 vols. 4vo.. Naples. 1869
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