





FOURTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1866.



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1866.



*City Document.—No. 110.*

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# CITY OF BOSTON.

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OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1866.

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*In Board of Aldermen, November 26, 1866.*

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Attest :

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*



CITY OF BOSTON.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY, November 22, 1866.

*His Honor Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr., Mayor of the City of Boston :*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library, prepared in obedience to the fourth section of the Ordinance relative to the Public Library, passed on the 20th of October, 1863.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES C. JEWETT,

*Secretary of the Board of Trustees.*





FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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In obedience to the requisitions of an Ordinance concerning the Public Library, passed October 20, 1863, the Trustees have the honor to submit to the City Council their Fourteenth Annual

R E P O R T .

The year which has passed has witnessed greater industry and more labor in all branches of the library service than during any previous year of its history. The details of this work are fully given in the documents accompanying this Report, which are worthy the careful attention of every friend of the institution. Every fact, which will show the use as well as the abuse of its privileges, deserves thoughtful examination, not only in reference to its present administration, but also in regard to the future good will of the citizens and residents to whom its treasures are intrusted.

The first of these documents, appended to this Report, and marked A, proceeds from the Examining Committee,

appointed under the 6th section of the Ordinance, and consisting of five citizens at large, with a member of the Board of Trustees as Chairman. The Committee for the present year are, James M. Barnard, Esq., Rev. Henry M. Dexter, D. D., Walbridge A. Field, Esq., Loring Lothrop, Esq., Dr. Francis Minot, with George Ticknor, Esq., as Chairman. The fidelity and minuteness with which these gentlemen have pursued their investigations will be best appreciated by those having knowledge of the history, wants, and rapid development of the Library. No committee for many years, if ever, has given so much time and patient consideration to the annual examination.

The second of these documents, marked B, is presented by the officer directly in charge of the institution. It embraces full details of every department, with all the statistics and figures necessary to a full understanding of the present condition of the Library. We think that it will be found to contain more information of importance to the City Council and to the citizens, than is to be found in any previous Report from the same hand. No one can finish its perusal without forming a just estimation of the difficulty of reconciling the largest possible use of the books and periodicals with that degree of safety which the Trustees are bound to provide.

By the third section of the Ordinance under the provisions of which the Library is administered, the Trustees are required to enumerate, for the information of the City Council, certain facts which are always given by

the Examining Committee and by the Superintendent with more fulness of statement than is desirable from the Trustees. "The condition of the Library, the number of books that have been added during the past year, with an account of the receipts and expenditures," will all appear with sufficient distinctness in the documents which form part of this Report, without repetition here. It may be remarked, however, that the library year, so far as the Annual Report is concerned, does not correspond with the fiscal year of the City; and that, therefore, the only correct information as to its real financial position is to be obtained from the Reports of the City Auditor, with whose figures, taken monthly, it is, perhaps, unnecessary to remark, the accounts of the institution must necessarily agree.

By far the most important of the acquisitions of the Library during the past year has been the collection of books, heretofore in charge of the Deacons of the Old South Church, and known as the Prince Library. The agreement under which it was intrusted to our care is printed with the documents accompanying the Report of the Superintendent. Of the collection itself, it is not too much to say, that it forms an invaluable addition to our resources. The original publications relating to early American history have, year by year, become so costly, as to place them almost beyond the reach by purchase of any public institution with limited resources. When this collection has been arranged in proper condition for public inspection, according to the terms of its deposit, it will be found to contain but few volumes which had

previously been upon the shelves of a library already comprising nearly 130,000 volumes — and but few that are contained in other libraries of this vicinity.

The magnificent silver vase presented by public subscription in 1835 to the Hon. Daniel Webster, has been given by a few of our citizens to the City of Boston, to be forever kept in the Public Library. As a testimonial honorable alike to the great statesman, and to the community which had so largely reaped the benefit of his intellectual labors, it is a part of the history of the City, and as such deserves a position of permanent deposit, where it may be seen by future generations. The measures adopted by the City Government to insure its safety will, it is presumed, be entirely sufficient — and such regulations, governing its exhibition, will be made by the Trustees, as will tend to secure the same result.

In considering the circulation of the Library during the past year, it is apparent that the use of the better class of books has increased, although the whole number of books taken out is a few less than in the previous year — the number being 193,197, or 1,430 only less than in 1865. When it is recollected that the novels, which had been filled up to about 6,000 volumes when the Library re-opened in September, and of which a larger use is made than of the other classes of books of the Lower Hall, were necessarily withheld for some time from circulation, in order to prepare suitable Finding Lists, it will readily be seen that this fact alone accounts for the

numerical decrease. Still farther, since the investigations conducted at the time of the annual examination disclosed that, previous to August 1st, but 4,965 of the 7,672 volumes of novels on the Shelf-lists were upon the shelves, and in proper condition for general use, there must necessarily have been an increased circulation of other classes of books. It is in many respects fortunate that the wear and tear of the Library falls mainly upon the class of works of the smallest relative importance among its possessions, and which can generally be so readily replaced when worn out or lost.

The attention of the City Council is respectfully desired to the statement of facts relative to the practical operation of the new systems of delivery, both in the Reading Room and in the Library. It will be seen that while the public have been denied no desirable privilege, the Library has largely gained in order, system, knowledge of its visitors, protection of its property, and in the statistics needed for its careful and efficient administration. It will also be seen, that, while no plan of general circulation can insure the return of every volume loaned, under the present arrangement each book will be definitely traced at the very date when it should be made apparent that it has not been returned by the individual to whom it is charged. The return of the book, or its equivalent in value, is secured from every honest borrower, while the dishonest or unfaithful borrower will be cut off from a further enjoyment of the benefits of the institution. It is perhaps too much to expect, however desirable such a result might be, that among the multitudes enjoying the blessings of the

Library, every one should feel that the books were as much a trust to each and all of the inhabitants of Boston, as they are to the Board of Trustees, to whose care they are specially committed.

Experience alone can determine whether further changes will be needed in the systems at present in successful use. The Library has grown so enormously, and its uses and abuses have sprung up so rapidly, that it is not strange that the difficulties of its proper administration have proportionately increased. That these have been in some degree surmounted is apparent from the fact that the institution was never before doing such good service to the community for whose improvement it was founded. A larger use would undoubtedly be made of the books in the Bates Hall had not an unfounded impression got abroad that they were for consultation and not for circulation. This mistake, however, is gradually correcting itself, as its visitors become more frequent.

In conclusion, the Trustees would renewedly commend the institution to the City Council, with the assurance that it never was in better condition to answer the expectations of the public, and to administer to the intellectual wants of every class of our population.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

WM. W. GREENOUGH,  
GEO. TICKNOR,  
J. P. BIGELOW,  
NATH'L B. SHURTLEFF,  
HENRY I. BOWDITCH,  
JOHN S. TYLER,  
JOSEPH STORY.

[A]

## REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

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The Examining Committee appointed for the year 1866, in obedience to the Ordinance establishing a Public Library, ask leave to

### R E P O R T.

FIRST, *concerning the BOOKS, always the main object and interest of every such institution, whether their acquisition be regarded, or the use that is made of them afterwards.*

The whole number of volumes in the Library, as returned by its officers, exceeds, at this moment, one hundred and thirty thousand. Above twenty-four thousand of them are in the Lower Hall, being the popular books which are oftenest wanted, and which are therefore placed where they will be most easily and pleasantly accessible to all, for the freest use and circulation. The remainder, which are in the Upper or Bates Hall, are equally open to all for reference and consultation; and, although portions of them, like the Bowditch and Prince collections, can, from the conditions on which they were originally given, never be taken out; and although others, from their rarity or costliness, can be taken out only after permission granted in writing; still, it should be borne in mind, that by far the larger part of

this rich and excellent collection of books in the Bates Hall is open to free circulation. The Committee suppose that no library in the world, of equal size, is so trustingly offered to a large population as this one is.

The whole one hundred and thirty thousand volumes are distributed into classes, which, unless in especial cases, like the Bowditch and Parker collections, are so arranged by subjects in the different alcoves, and so entered by their titles in the Shelf-lists and in the Accessions' Catalogue, that it is easy to learn what books in any branch of human knowledge,—as, for instance, Natural History or Political Economy,—can be found in the Library, and even exactly when each one of them was acquired.

Thus, in General Literary History and Bibliography there were in the Library on the 1st of August, 1865,—which was the date of the last examination,—more than twenty-two hundred volumes, to which, in the following twelve months, were added one hundred and thirty-nine. Of Cyclopædias and Dictionaries of General Knowledge there were, August 1, 1865, above twelve hundred volumes, to which were added during the year, thirty-eight. In General History and Geography there were, a year ago last August, above five thousand nine hundred volumes, to which above an hundred have since been added. In American History, general, special, and local, including Biography, Travels, Historical Documents and the cognate branches, but not including Literature, there were in August, 1865, by a somewhat restricted reckoning, above eleven thousand six hundred volumes, to which there were added, during the year, more than seventeen hundred, without counting the Prince collection, which is rich in the earlier history of New England, but which has been too recently acquired to be yet arranged and catalogued. Of the History and Literature of all other countries, ancient and modern, there were, in August, 1865, above twenty-nine thousand seven hundred volumes, to which there have since been added above eight hundred. And, in the Physical and Exact Sciences,



there were, in 1865, more than five thousand and three hundred volumes, to which above an hundred have since been added.

It would be easy in the same way to consider other departments, like the Transactions of Scientific and Learned Societies, and Periodicals bound up for use, which now make above ten thousand volumes; works in the Useful and Fine Arts, which make above four thousand six hundred; and works of Fiction, which make above seven thousand. But it cannot be needful to go further. The preceding account of such large masses and groups of books in the Library will show to any person in the habit of considering similar subjects, both the general character of the collection and its general purpose of being made available for the wants of the community at large, outside of what are called the three professions.

Of the groups already noticed, those which will attract most attention by their large numbers, are probably embraced in the department of History, — and especially of American History, — and of Fiction in all its many forms. But, when the wide and increasing importance of the first is considered, and the great popular demand for the second, we can hardly adjudge the numbers in either to be too large, though we may regret that there is such a strong and preponderating taste everywhere, in our own age, for frivolous forms of fiction.

As a general remark, we would add, that, so far as we were able to examine, — and in several departments our inquiries were somewhat severe, — we think that the selection of books has been judicious, and that the Library is well fitted for its more important popular purposes. Indeed, the extraordinary popular use that has been made of it, and the very wide interest that has been felt in it, seem to leave no reasonable question on this point. We suppose it to be admitted that the Library is a judicious one for its wider and more general purposes, and that it is doing its work well throughout the community.

But of three large departments, somewhat separated from these more popular purposes, it may be needful to speak more specifically. We refer to those of Religion and Ethics, Medicine and Surgery, and Jurisprudence and Law.

The first constitutes the division which includes Theology and Practical Religion, Ecclesiastical History, Morals, Metaphysics, and Social Science. On the 1st of August, 1865, there were embraced in this division more than ten thousand two hundred volumes, and in the next twelve months there were added above twelve hundred. These numbers are large; but they do not seem unreasonably so, when the high claims of the whole division are weighed. It is gratifying to add, both from our own examination and that of our predecessors, that we believe it to be the best and most satisfactory collection of such books to be found in the City, taking all the religious sects together.

The same general facts, we believe, may be stated, after similar investigations, concerning the collection of books in Anatomy, Surgery, Medicine, and whatever else is embraced under the Healing Art. It makes now almost exactly four thousand two hundred volumes, without reckoning a considerable number of books in Natural History and the related branches, which are usually brought into this division. We commend its protection to the Trustees, and especially we ask the purchase of new annotated editions of old medical standard works, and the subscription to one or two important periodicals besides the excellent ones now received, which will keep the Library fully up with the progress of medical science. It is, we suppose, a good collection now, and undoubtedly the best in the City; but it is important that it should be watched, and continued such; for, of all the professional men in our City,—and, indeed, of all men among us whose pursuits are mainly intellectual,—none, it is believed, are so little able to provide themselves with the books they need as our young medical students and our young practising surgeons and physicians. And yet, upon the proper training of

these very men depends, in no small degree, the sanitary condition of our people. From regard to our own welfare, therefore, we should carefully foster this department of our Library.

In Jurisprudence and Law, the case is partly different. The collection is not so large; and, though we believe it to be well selected, we should be glad to see it moderately increased soon. There were, however, more than seventeen hundred volumes embraced in it on the 1st of August, 1865, and above an hundred were added during the following year. But the number of persons using it is much smaller than that of the persons who use many other portions of the Library. The reason is plain. The offices of our lawyers are full of elementary and practical legal works; the ample Law Library in the Court House is easily accessible to such persons in the profession, or even out of it, as may desire to consult any work it contains; and the State Library, which has a collection of books on American legislation and jurisprudence such as we could not hope to gather except by long years of labor, and a wholly disproportionate expenditure of our means, is open to all our citizens alike. While, therefore, we hope that the Public Library may continue to be — as it is now, — strong in whatever relates to Natural Law, to International Law, and to general Jurisprudence, we do not see a sufficient reason why it should enter into competition with the large collections of law books which already exist among us, and which seem to satisfy the general wants of the community as they are understood to do those of the profession.

Among the other departments which are prominent is that of Administration and Public Service, — that of Political Economy, — that of Natural History, which has been very costly, — that relating to Patents in the United States, in Great Britain, and in France, which is very ample and satisfactory, — and that relating to Music, on which Mr. Bates expended a considerable sum out of his second munificent donation of fifty thousand dollars.

The Committee have thus gone over the Library with some care — sufficient to show them that its different parts have been judiciously considered and maintained. They do not, however, intend by this to say, that any one of its departments is as complete or as strong as it is desirable that it should be. On the contrary, the fact, as they are aware, is far otherwise. The Library is everywhere incomplete. But they wish to say, considering the state of knowledge in the world — considering the special wants of our community — and considering the means and resources at the disposition of the Library, that its different departments taken together constitute an important, judicious, and well proportioned whole.

But if it be not such — if books, such as are wanted, are not to be found in any of its various divisions, it is, in no small degree, the fault of the public, and especially of those persons who miss what they inquire for, when they resort to its catalogues and shelves. For, by one of the standing “Rules,” given from the day the Library was opened fourteen years ago, to more than sixty thousand persons, asking for its privileges, each one of them, who does not find any book he may need, when he inquires for it, has been “particularly requested to enter its title on a card which the Librarian will furnish for the purpose.” This request has been urged in every mode of solicitation within the power of the persons having control of the institution. Especially five or six years ago it was repeated and re-enforced by a printed notice, of which a copy was put into every book loaned during a fortnight, thus bringing it afresh and very pointedly home to several thousands of the persons most frequenting the Library, and, therefore, most interested in having it thoroughly supplied with all needful books. But the number of books thus asked for, which had always been small, and, in three successive years had been less than fifty each year, was not materially increased by this urgent appeal. In the Library year 1864 it was only sixty, and in 1865 only fifty-eight. In

the last year ending August 1, 1866, by uncommon exertions and personal application it was raised to three hundred and six, — a number still greatly less than it should be, but which it seems very difficult to increase. The same urgency, however, is continued. The card is always ready at the distributing desks to be filled up with the title of any book that may be desired; and, if no obvious objection to its purchase exists, it is immediately ordered by the Superintendent, and as soon as it arrives notice by post is sent to the person originally desiring its purchase, informing him that it has been received and that it will be retained five days subject to his order alone.

Of the three hundred and six books asked for this year, forty-six were already on the shelves, having been overlooked from carelessness on the part of those asking for them; one hundred and thirty have come to hand; two only have not been ordered; and the rest are expected, so soon as they can be found and despatched by the agents of the Library, chiefly abroad, who have been directed to purchase them. It is, we suppose, difficult to do more in this direction for the increase of the Library without more co-operation on the part of the public.

One principal reason why this co-operation has not been obtained is, we apprehend, that *the real character of the Library and its very wide purposes have never been fully understood*. For it is not, like the British Museum, nor like the great libraries in Paris, nor like the Library of the Vatican, nor, in short, like any of the large and precious collections of books, which in their appropriate ways render constant service to the cause of human improvement in other countries. For these institutions are not open for a free circulation of their treasures. No attempt is made to administer them for the practical benefit of a whole people. They are, in fact, really important to scarcely any persons except scholars, or the few who make careful investigations into particular subjects, and who are able to resort to the reading halls of these institutions during the restricted number

of hours and days when they are open to any body. But our own is a library for an entire community, which, by its free schools and general intelligence, is remarkably well fitted to avail itself of a privilege so great; and we know of no way in which it can be thoroughly and readily enabled to fulfil its important duties except by warning voices and counsels sent from all sides indicating to its officers the books that are most needed. Let all, therefore, ask in due form for such books as they may *really desire to read or use*, but cannot find on its shelves and in its catalogues. It is more important that one good book should be bought which is vouched for as *positively wanted* by some person who will therefore be tolerably sure to use it, than that many equally good books should be bought, which it can only be *hoped* will be wanted, but which, after all, may remain for years on their appropriate shelves untouched, except when they are annually dusted and accounted for.

Nor is there danger by this mode of supplying, in part, the real wants of the public, that the Library will become embarrassed by worthless books, or that its regular increase in the highest departments of knowledge, and by the constant addition of the most important and the rarest works in those departments, will be either restricted or retarded; for the Trustees of the Library, with their Committees and Superintendent, will always decide, not only what amount of their resources can be judiciously expended in any given department, but what individual books shall be bought in each; and they will always be held rigorously responsible that a becoming selection shall be made, and a becoming proportion observed. The difference will be, that, under such a system of practical administration, the Public Library will become every year more and more absolutely adapted and fitted to the real, ascertained, recorded wants of those for whose benefit it was established, whether they are persons of the humblest or the highest culture, whether they need the commonest or the rarest books; and that it will thus

grow to be what no other library in the world has either attempted or desired to become — a powerful and direct means for the intellectual and moral advancement of a whole people, without distinction of class or condition. And this, we believe, can be done easily, wisely, and well. It is, from its very nature practical and effective. It falls in with the habits of our people and with the spirit of our institutions.

But there is one class of books for the purchase of which those in charge of the Library can have little assistance from those outside suggestions which, in all other respects, are so desirable. We refer to new and popular publications which should be obtained as soon after they appear from the press as their fitness can be ascertained, and, therefore, sometimes before there is opportunity for inquiry and suggestions by others.

The task is a difficult and delicate one, but so far as numbers and promptness are concerned it seems to have been performed successfully. By returns made to us, it appears that in the two years ending August 1, 1865, two thousand nine hundred and sixty-two volumes fresh from the press were received at the Library, without reckoning more than one copy of any one work though several copies were often bought; and it appears further, that in the year ending August 1, 1866, there were received seventeen hundred and forty-five. Nine-tenths of these, we believe, were published in the United States, and they were offered, with many others not accepted, by the Boston agent of the Library at two hundred and seventy-three different times, or, upon an average, more than twice a week. The rest were either obtained from the European agents of the Library, who always have small sums in hand to buy important new books as they come out, or were obtained from other booksellers here, or by donations of friends. Most of them were English.

There seems, therefore, no doubt that quite as many books fresh from the press, and especially from the American press, have been bought during the last three years, and quite as

promptly as it was possible to ascertain whether they were worth having or not. If any mistake has been made, it has, we think, been made on the other side, from buying too many new books, and too promptly. At any rate, if there were any delay in procuring even a single new book, it was only necessary to ask for it in the prescribed form and it would at once have been bought, if no moral or other sufficient objection existed against its purchase. But we have heard of no such delay.

In order, however, to facilitate in every way that is in our power the purchase of books for the Library, and to do ourselves, as well as we can, what we ask others to do, we subjoin a list of books, in different departments, which we commend to the consideration of the Trustees. Probably it may not be deemed advisable to buy them all at once, nor may it be possible to obtain them all, as some are old and rare, but we doubt not that what is best and most judicious for the Library will be done.

SECOND, *concerning the CATALOGUES.* *Next in importance to the books themselves are the Catalogues, which alone can make them easily accessible and practically useful to the community for whose benefit the Library has been established.*

But of the Catalogues it is hardly necessary to speak at all. They have been fully described and explained in earlier Reports, and, what is of more consequence, such of them as have been published have proved eminently satisfactory to the multitudes who have used them. They have, in fact, we believe, left nothing to be desired, so far as the Bates Hall is concerned.

In the Lower Hall, they are not now in a state so satisfactory. This is owing to the bad condition into which the whole collection of books in that part of the Library gradually fell during the few years preceding the last examination, in consequence of a great abuse of its privileges by those to whom it was opened; in consequence of the shameful mutilation and defacement of its



books; and in consequence of their disappearance in such numbers that it seemed as if those who borrowed them were, from the imperfection of the record and of the administration, invited to wrong-doing. But new regulations and arrangements have been adopted, which, it is believed, will remedy these great evils either largely or wholly, while at the same time they already facilitate the use of the institution and increase its benefits. To this condition of things the Catalogues and the Shelf-lists of the Lower Hall will, as soon as possible, be accommodated. For the most practical purposes, the work is already completed. For the rest, it is in progress.

One suggestion, however, for making the Library more extensively useful by means of its Catalogues, your Committee will offer to the Trustees for their consideration.

It is founded on a wish often expressed that the titles of such books as are from time to time acquired by the Library, should be earlier and oftener made known to the multitudes interested in them, whether they are books fresh from the press, or works both old and rare. So far as the Lower Hall is concerned, this has been done annually for eight years, and has been followed by a materially increased use of the books. But this is no longer deemed often enough, and in the Bates Hall it will not be done nearly so often — probably, as heretofore, not more frequently than once in five years.

No doubt such an annunciation of the books at short intervals as they arrive, would excite that just and enlightened curiosity for their contents which it is always desirable to excite, and would cause them to be more read. It has, therefore, been proposed to publish their titles occasionally in our newspapers, or to print them on slips, accessible to those who frequent the Library and to whom they should be freely given. But our public journals would hardly, without ample compensation, give them the large space they must occupy, and would not, after all, carry them to precisely the persons by whom they would be

most desired and used; and, on the other hand, the slips would be sure to be in general awkwardly misplaced and oftener neglected.

What may be preferred, therefore, is a *Monthly Bulletin* sent by mail to those persons who shall subscribe and pay for it at a very low rate. This, we think, may be done easily and cheaply, and will send the information to those who most desire to have it. It will demand little labor on the part of the persons employed in the Library, as it will be readily made up from materials that are always on hand for the catalogues from the moment the books have reached their proper shelves. It may dispense with the annual supplements, and it will cost hardly more than the price for paper and printing, which will not be much greater than that of these awkward appendixes to our regular catalogue. Moreover, besides being used for its main purpose, it may become an authorized vehicle for important information respecting the Library, its progress, and its wants from month to month.

That such a publication would materially increase the general interest felt in the institution, and not only promote the use of books that would otherwise be neglected, but that it would directly tend to the advancement of knowledge among us, is, we suppose, all but certain. If, however, this should not prove to be the case, or if the number of persons desirous to receive the information thus offered them should not be so large as to defray, or nearly to defray, its cost, then at the end of a year, or at any other limited period, the publication can be discontinued.

THIRD, concerning the BUILDING, which is the next accustomed subject for inquiry by the Examining Committee, since it is destined not only to protect a great amount of property belonging to the City, but to render that property useful and attractive to very large numbers in the community of both sexes and different ages.

That the Library Building is now in its accustomed good repair we are assured by those who pass their lives in it, and to whom the details of its condition must necessarily be well known. This is a matter for much congratulation always. But in two particulars this important municipal edifice has never been what it ought to be. It has never been well lighted in many of its alcoves and other of its much-used portions, nor well ventilated in its Distributing Room down stairs, or its Reading Room. These last are the two halls to which more persons resort daily than to all the others in the building united; and, if the officers and attendants employed in them suffer much, the public suffer more. The state of the air, therefore, as well as the imperfection of the light in them, has long been complained of; and we are consequently gratified to find that the City Government, at the suggestion of the Trustees and of the municipal Standing Committee on Public Buildings, have taken action in regard to both of the defects in question. We suppose that it is hardly needful for us, under these circumstances, to add our voices to theirs; but as the Library Building is one of the subjects committed to us for inquiry, we beg leave to do it earnestly and confidingly.

FOURTH, *the last subject to be noticed by your Committee, following the course of their predecessors, is that concerning the ADMINISTRATION of the Library, and its adaptation as a public institution to the purposes for which it was established.*

In its more general arrangements, we are informed by its officers, that it has been conducted, during the past year, as it had been earlier; and that, as always heretofore, it has been carried on without trouble or disturbance on the part of those frequenting it in great numbers daily. But, in two respects, changes have been made which we are, of course, expected to notice, premising, however, in relation to both of them, that

they were demanded in all three of the official printed Reports last year—the Reports, we mean, of the Trustees, of the Examining Committee, and of the Superintendent—so that they cannot have been adopted without assigned causes and careful consideration.

The first of these changes regards the Reading Room, and its management and use. This ample and fair hall, with a multitude of periodicals, foreign and domestic, covering its tables, had, until last year, been accessible, substantially, without restriction to all comers, little or no inquiry being made whether any person entering had a right to be there at all. For a long time only slight ill-consequences followed this liberal indulgence. But, in 1864 and 1865, Reviews and Magazines in considerable numbers were stolen, as a few had been earlier; many were mutilated; and still more were abused in various ways, sometimes by gross words written on them, and sometimes by indecent drawings, offensive not only to the many young ladies and matrons daily frequenting the room, but to any person of becoming manners and education. At the same time, the periodicals spread all over the tables were continually so changed from their proper places, and so thrown about by those using them, that it was often difficult for any body to find what he wanted without walking up and down the room in a way inevitably to disturb many others by the noise he made, as well as by his mode of search generally. Frequent complaints, therefore, were made by those who asked for quiet as well as propriety and decency, and demands for a better condition of things were soon heard, and often. Among the rest, as we have said, the official Reports spoke out plainly. At last, about a year ago, the periodicals were withdrawn from the tables, where they had been so much abused; and they have since been given out only when they have been asked for, but always in the simplest, easiest, and readiest manner, an attendant being always present to deliver them with absolute promptness.

By the testimony of *all* the persons having charge of this part of the institution, as well as by the testimony of other persons much frequenting and using it, this change has been found a satisfactory remedy for the evils and irregularities before complained of, and which had become so offensive. The number of persons who resort to the room seems to increase beyond what it was before, as its condition has become quiet and respectable, and the Reviews and other periodicals are neither stolen nor abused as they had been. All the irregularities are not perhaps yet stopped, and perhaps all of them never will be; but that a great amelioration has taken place in the state of things is certified to us in so many ways that we are bound to accept the fact, and do so with much satisfaction.

Similar remarks, we are informed by the officers of the Library, should be made in regard to the change called for by the three Reports last year, complaining in the same way of abuses in relation to books borrowed from the Lower Hall even more gross than the abuses in the Reading Room, as well as more mischievous and injurious.

But one circumstance in relation to this last change is peculiarly fortunate. It is one that relates only to the mode of recording the books borrowed, and therefore does not affect those who frequent the Library, as to their mode of asking for books or their mode of obtaining them. It affects only those officials who make the record, and affects them only as it may, by possibility, but not probably, a very little increase their labors. To the rest,—that is, to all who come as borrowers,—everything is unchanged. A card is presented, announcing the wants of the person asking for a loan just as it was before, and, just as before, the person is despatched with quiet readiness. But, after three months' experience, great advantages, we are informed, are found to have been insured to the Library itself from this new mode of recording a loan when obtained, and a great protection for the books from loss and abuse, which

was not possible under the old mode; for, if the book borrowed is not returned on the very day that it should be, the borrower is at once notified of his delinquency, which was not earlier provided for; and if a book is injured or stolen, new and better means are at hand for following and detecting the offender. These are, no doubt, great benefits and improvements, which break up substantially, if not completely, the worst results of a system which seemed to invite abuse of great privileges, and even to favor crime and its concealment.

But, besides these benefits, important statistical information is collected by the new mode of recording, which was earlier inaccessible. For it is now known from day to day, what classes of books are most asked for, and even what individual books are most popular and most needed, so that the changing and especial wants of the institution can, at any time, be ascertained to a degree that was always desirable, but which was never before practicable. These are plain improvements, which, if carried out—as we trust and believe they will be—in the spirit in which they have been devised, will gradually develop the resources of the Library farther than they have yet been done, as a means of intellectual and moral progress to the community in succeeding generations, even more than in our own time.

We have, therefore, desired the Superintendent to insert in his Report of this year a more detailed account than we have been able here to give, of these two changes, derived, as the present account has been, from the statements of *all* the persons who have been employed in carrying them into effect, and from the statements of persons most frequenting the Library, and of course most interested in having it well administered. Such an account given on authority so unquestionable will, we doubt not, be both instructive and timely.

In conclusion, your Committee would report, that they have each and all given such diligent attention as they have been able,

during the last three months, to the examination of the Library, and that nearly all of them have made frequent visits to its halls and alcoves with pleasure and advantage. The result is, that they believe the institution to be one of the more important in the City, and that its administration and management must heretofore have been watchfully cared for, or it could not, in the short time it has existed, have been brought to its present proportions, usefulness and success. At the same time, they feel bound to add, partly from their own inquiries and observation, but more from the knowledge and statements of the officers who have faithfully served it, and who are necessarily familiar with whatever regards its interests, that, in no respect, has its prosperity been diminished during the past year, and that it is now doing more good than it ever did before.

All which is respectfully submitted,

GEO. TICKNOR,  
JAS. M. BARNARD,  
HENRY M. DEXTER,  
WALBRIDGE A. FIELD,  
LORING LOTHROP,  
FRANCIS MINOT,

*Examining Committee.*

PUBLIC LIBRARY, November 10, 1866.





[B]

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

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*To the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston :*

GENTLEMEN : In obedience to the requirements of the By-Laws relative to the Trustees and Officers of the Public Library, I beg leave to present to you a Report upon the condition and increase of the Library from the 1st of September, 1865, to the 1st of September, 1866.

### INCREASE OF THE COLLECTIONS.

During the year, 7,089 books, not including the Prince Library of 1,899 volumes, 4,008 pamphlets, 112 other articles, consisting of maps, prints, broadsides, and sheet music, have been added to the Library; besides 2,727 separate numbers of newspapers and journals.

Of these, 1,476 books, 3,342 pamphlets, and all the other articles named, excepting 10 maps, engravings, and atlases, were donations from 336 individuals and societies. A list of them is appended to this Report, and marked AA.

These numbers are taken from the Catalogue of Accessions, in which the volumes are counted as they are received into the Library. They are afterwards frequently bound in a different number of volumes. Many also, which are at first ranked as pamphlets, are subsequently bound, and placed on the shelves as books.

As the aggregate number of volumes in the Library, reported at the end of the year, is obtained by counting the volumes upon the Shelf-lists after the changes have been made, it will not, probably, correspond with that produced by adding the accessions of the year to the aggregate reported the preceding year.

Among the donations received during the year, the gift, by J. Ingersoll Bowditch, Esq., of the volumes needful to continue up to the present time, the series of Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences at Turin, formerly belonging to his father, the late Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch, and presented to the Public Library by his sons, is one of the most considerable and costly.

Our thanks are due, as often before, to the Commissioners of Patents of Great Britain, for the continuation of the very valuable series of specifications and drawings of English Patents.

During the year, the Deacons of the Old South Church of this City, acting as Trustees under the will of the Rev. Thomas Prince, former pastor of that church, have deposited in the Public Library, on terms contained in the agreement appended to this Report, and marked BB, the precious collection of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts, bequeathed by him to the Old South Church in the year 1758, and commonly known as the Prince Library.

It consists of eighteen hundred and ninety-nine volumes, as now bound, and is very rich in books and pamphlets relating to the history of New England previous to the date of his death, as well as in the first productions of its press, and in the works of its early authors.

Mr. Prince began to form this collection, as is stated on the label in many of the books, upon his entering Harvard College, July 6, 1703, and diligently enlarged it by purchases in this country and in Europe. No man of his time was more competent for the task, which his enlightened zeal in American history led him to undertake, of forming a New England library. The

vicissitudes of more than a century, and its exposed situation during a part of the revolutionary war, in the tower of the Old South Church, while the building was occupied as a riding school by the British troops, have brought this library down to our day somewhat diminished in numbers; but the value and importance of what remains is enhanced to a degree which it is not easy to estimate. It still includes what may be termed a large collection of American books of extreme rarity. It has the Bay Psalm Book,—the first book printed in the United States, a copy of which has been sold, I believe, for about \$750,—Eliot's Indian Bible, of both editions, and also several volumes and packages of original manuscripts, comprising letters of the principal magistrates and ministers of the first years of New England history, and official State papers of the British and Provincial Governments, some of which have been printed in the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The collection has been so recently received that it is not possible to give here any extended notice of its rarities. The City Council has made an appropriation for putting it into good condition and printing its catalogue. The work is now in progress, and when it is completed, those who are interested in American history will, it is hoped and believed, find much satisfaction in examining and using its hitherto almost hidden treasures.

The superb silver vase presented in 1835 to the Hon. Daniel Webster, having been purchased by several citizens of Boston, was, in March, 1865, presented by them to the City, to be preserved in the Public Library. It is now placed in the room formerly called the Ladies' Reading Room, where arrangements have been made by the Superintendent of Public Buildings for its safe keeping and exhibition. The large historical painting by Copley, the statue of the Arcadian Shepherd Boy, by Story, and the group of the Holy Family, by Troschel, are also placed in the same apartment.

The Instrument of Presentation of the Webster Vase, with the names of the donors attached, is appended to this Report, and marked CC.

EXTENT OF THE COLLECTIONS.

The Library contained, on the 1st of August, 1866, —

In the Bates Hall . . . . .	105,312 volumes.
In the Lower Hall . . . . .	25,366 “
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	130,678 volumes.

All the above are bound volumes; but about 4,500 of them are pamphlets bound up and placed as volumes upon the shelves. But several hundreds of the volumes above enumerated contain each from ten to twenty separate works.

The number in the Bates Hall is thus composed :

Books accessible to the public, August, 1865, . . . . .	91,826
Books located since August 1, 1865 . . . . .	4,983
	<hr/>
Books accessible to the Public, August 1, 1866,	96,809
Books recently received, not located Aug. 1, but	
all located since . . . . .	1,649
Sale duplicates and odd volumes . . . . .	4,955
Prince Library . . . . .	1,899
	<hr/>
	105,312

The number assigned above to the Lower Hall, represents all the books which from the beginning have been placed there. A considerable number of them have been lost or condemned as unfit for further use. Many of these have been replaced, but not all. When the reorganization of this branch of the Library, now in progress, shall be completed, and all the lost and missing books which can be procured replaced, an exact enumeration can again be made.

The present number of duplicates and odd volumes laid aside for exchange or sale is four thousand nine hundred and fifty-five.

During the year, three hundred and thirty-five have been disposed of, and three hundred and six (being mostly donations) have been added to the list. The exchange of about five hundred and fifty more volumes is in progress.

It is impossible to give any proper enumeration of pamphlets belonging to the Library. It can only be stated that since the Library was commenced, 36,566 have come into its possession. Many of them have been bound several in a volume. About four thousand five hundred have been separately bound, and now stand on the shelves as books. Several thousand more have been selected to be bound, and the process of selecting and binding is constantly in operation. But by far the greater part of the large number reported are duplicates or odd numbers of magazines, and legislative documents, or publications of little or no value.

#### USE OF THE LIBRARY.

The number of new cards issued during the year was 5,306, making the whole number of those who have registered their names to secure the use of the books, since Sept. 17, 1858, 45,869.

The number of lendings from the Lower Hall, for	
home use, was . . . . .	183,424
From the Bates Hall, for home use . . . . .	9,763
	<hr/>
	193,187

The number of books used in the Bates Hall, was 10,438, besides the use of the English Patent Specifications by 187 persons, averaging  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours each.

The daily average lendings for home use was, within a fraction, 695.

The number of days during which the Library was open to the public, was 278.

These numbers do not represent the use of the periodicals in the Reading Room, nor of several hundred books placed there,

open to unrestricted use, and constituting an admirable library of reference, nor the use of great numbers of volumes in protracted investigations, for which especial permission has been given.

The circulation, although greater than for any year, before the last, was somewhat below that of the last year, owing to the fact that it became necessary to withhold a part of the books in the Lower Hall temporarily from circulation. Eight years had elapsed since the completion of the Index. During this time, the accessions had been made known to the public by annual Supplements. But many of the books had been worn out, mutilated, or lost, and the Indexes were thus rendered imperfect. It was, besides, inconvenient to use so many Supplements. It had been stated in previous Annual Reports, that it would soon be necessary to combine the Index and Supplements into one alphabet. The completion of the large Supplement for the Bates Hall was the time proposed for beginning the needed work. But it was felt to be extremely desirable not to interrupt the use of the Lower Library, which had become so extensive among all classes of our citizens, so many months as would be required for reorganizing the collection, and preparing and printing a complete new Index. It was decided, therefore, to attempt the task, alcove by alcove, thus retaining from circulation but a small part of the books at a time, and to do as much of the work as possible upon that part of the Library in greatest demand, during the annual recess. In this way, since July last, six alcoves out of twenty have been examined; the books collated; those unfit for further use withdrawn; their places, as well as those of books lost, as far as possible filled by new copies; the catalogues revised; a new Finding List for the whole department of Fiction printed, and another Finding List for the department of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, made nearly ready for the press. This, of course, has to some extent diminished the aggregate circulation, both from the retaining of the

books while the work was in progress, and from the temporary diminution of the number of books by withdrawing those unfit for further use.

I am happy to add (as this Report is not presented till after the circulation of the books which it had been necessary for a time to retain has been resumed) that the daily average of books lent has, for the last two weeks, been greater than ever before at this time of the year, notwithstanding that a large number of the lost and missing books have not yet been replaced. If, however, the work of reorganization of the alcoves and reprinting of the Indexes be continued, as it certainly ought to be, it may of course be expected that there will, in consequence, again be a temporary diminution of the circulation.

It also became necessary, after an uninterrupted use of eight years, to revise the list of persons entitled to the privileges of the institution. The number had reached 45,869. Many of the signers had removed from the City, though their cards were still sometimes used. Others had changed their residences in the City, without giving notice; so that it was difficult or impossible to recover books charged on their accounts. Many other practices, unfair towards the honest frequenters of the Library, had grown up, which it seemed impossible to detect and suppress without a new and more careful registration. But to require every person to enroll his name anew was to be avoided if possible. In order to obviate the necessity of this, it was proposed to change all the cards, and to question the owners as they might present themselves, as to their present residences and their right to use the Library.

The time of introducing a new system of recording loans, rendering some alteration in the form of the card desirable, was selected as the least inconvenient for the proposed change. Every arrangement was made to accomplish this purpose with the least possible trouble to readers. Still it doubtless checked for a time the circulation, both in the Bates Hall and in the

Lower Hall. The greater part of this change was effected in the last of the summer months, when the inconvenience was least felt by the citizens. It has resulted, however, in greater security for the books, and will, it is strongly hoped, prevent the necessity of a new registration. Since the first few weeks, during which it was necessary to keep the former Loan books constantly on the desk, no difficulty has resulted from this source. On the contrary, a great advantage has incidentally accrued. It had previously been necessary to restrict the times of receiving names and issuing cards to hours when the Loan books were not in use; and people were obliged to make a special visit to the Library in order to sign their names and receive cards, at hours when they could not get books. Now, the names can be signed whenever the Library is open. This is a great gain.

I have felt it desirable to explain these matters somewhat at length, in order to make it manifest that these interruptions to the circulation, small as they were, arose from no *permanent* cause, but were merely temporary and inevitable.

It has been said before, that the extent of the circulation is not the sole or the proper measure of the usefulness of the Library. It would be easy to quadruple the circulation, by multiplying copies of popular novels, but with benefits by no means proportioned to the great increase of expense for their first cost, and for the arrangements needful for their circulation. The object of the Trustees has been to get good novels, in such quantities as to supply the demand for them, after their value had been fairly ascertained and it had become known that they were not merely of ephemeral interest, but to avoid filling the building with books which, after a few weeks, would be recognized as the most worthless and neglected trash; to furnish, in short, so far as their resources permitted, everything of tried worth, in as many copies as people would call for.

It should also be here noted that an increase or decrease of circulation may depend upon causes which have nothing to do



with the success or value of the Library. It sometimes may not be easy or possible to account satisfactorily for these variations. In one year of the history of the Library the circulation diminished so much as to suggest the question whether the public interest in the Library had not reached a point at which it could not be permanently sustained. Much investigation was made at the time, and various theories were formed to account for the fact. All of them, however, were at fault; for, the next year,—all the conditions, so far as could be seen, remaining the same,—the circulation reached a point never before attained. We are not perhaps to expect that the circulation will or can go on constantly increasing from year to year.

It is also noticeable that the use of books in the Bates Hall was less than for last year. This arises mostly from the following cause:

It had become very common for visitors to demand the use in the Hall of costly books of engravings, for mere purposes of curiosity, to such an extent and in such a manner as greatly to injure the books themselves, and often to prevent their use by those for whom they were especially provided. This particularly attracted the attention of the Committee of citizens appointed the last year to examine the Library, and led to a recommendation, which was adopted by the Trustees, that these books should not be kept as mere show books, but should only be exhibited to those who should make a written request for them. It was supposed that no persons who could derive from them the benefit which they were intended to confer, would find this degree of formality onerous. I have heard no complaint upon the subject; but it has certainly, for a time, required us to report a diminished use of the books in the Bates Hall.

The following table exhibits a classification of the books lent from the Bates Hall and used therein. Comparing this table with that presented last year, the principal changes of proportion among the classes are, in the department of English History an

increase of five per cent, and in that of Fine and Useful Arts a decrease of eight-and-a-half per cent.

CLASSIFICATION.	PERCENTAGE.
English History and Literature . . . . .	18
Periodicals . . . . .	11
American History and Literature . . . . .	8
Medicine . . . . .	8
Fine and Useful Arts . . . . .	8
Mathematical and Physical Sciences . . . . .	7
French History and Literature . . . . .	6
Transactions of Learned Societies . . . . .	5
Oriental History and Literature . . . . .	4
Theology, Ethics, and Education . . . . .	4
Bibliography . . . . .	3
General History and Literature . . . . .	3
Italian History and Literature . . . . .	3
Greek and Latin Classics . . . . .	3
Natural History . . . . .	3
German History and Literature . . . . .	2
Jurisprudence, Government, and Political Economy	2
Miscellaneous . . . . .	2

In future years a similar table may be given for the Lower Hall. The new mode of recording loans renders it for the first time practicable. Such a statement may be expected to be extremely instructive and useful, though the proportionate circulation of the different classes of books will doubtless surprise many who have given but little attention to the subject. But the wise administration of such an institution requires a knowledge of such facts, heretofore unattainable.

#### LOSSES AND INJURIES.

As the last year has been one of transition, by the adoption of new methods long foreseen to be unavoidable, for using the books, and for guarding them from abuse, it is not possible to

present statistics of losses and injuries which can be properly compared with those reported in former years, or so reliable as those which can hereafter be given. The modes now in use will, it is hoped and believed, render this portion of the Annual Report, in the future, more acceptable than it has been heretofore. The examination of the books in the Bates Hall by the Shelf-lists has been very strict. This year, twenty-seven volumes were missing from their places. Some of those not found at first, have been returned in a way as mysterious as their disappearance. Nearly half of those remaining unaccounted for, are pamphlets which had been placed by themselves to be bound, and are doubtless merely mislaid. Of the nineteen reported missing for the year 1864-65, nine have been found. Of the fifteen reported missing, in all, previous to September, 1864, eight have been returned. So that in all, from the first circulation of the books of the Bates Hall, in 1861, to the present time, forty-three books only are not to be found. A part of these will doubtless be returned. Of nineteen books charged to borrowers previous to September 1, 1865, but not then returned or replaced by them, two have this year been returned. Seven books charged to borrowers during the year 1865-66, have not been returned; but two of the seven borrowers having lost their books promise to replace them.

It is not, perhaps, to be wondered at, that in so large a collection it should be impossible to find everything the moment it is sought. But the measures taken to prevent losses and displacements in this Hall are so stringent and so constantly enforced, that I cannot report any books missing, at the time of the annual scrutiny, without dissatisfaction. I know not, however, of any reasonable method in addition to those already employed to diminish this small evil.

As to mutilations and injuries, the examination has disclosed nothing to be reported in the Bates Hall. The books have been very carefully used, and are in excellent condition.

In the Lower Hall, an accurate collation has been made of the books in six of the twenty alcoves, including the four of the class of Fiction, upon which the abuses have principally fallen. The result is presented in the following table. It will be understood that the statements cover all the accumulated losses and injuries in the alcoves, not repaired since the first opening of the Library.

RESULT OF COLLATION OF BOOKS IN ALCOVES 4, 7, 14, AND 17  
(COMPRISING WORKS OF FICTION).

Whole number of books on the Shelf-lists in Aug., 1866 . . . . .	7,672 volumes.
Number missing on examination by Shelf- lists . . . . .	1,678
Number since condemned as imperfect or odd volumes . . . . .	1,029
	<hr/> 2,707 volumes.
	4,965 “
Number of condemned books supplied, and of missing books returned, up to Sept. 1	<hr/> 940
Number remaining after collation (which has, however, since been considerably increased) . . . . .	5,905 volumes.

IN ALCOVES 1 AND 11 (ARTS AND SCIENCES).

Whole number on Shelf-lists Aug., 1866 . .	3,183 volumes.
Number missing on examination by Shelf-lists	111
Number condemned since, as imperfect . .	8
Number removed to Bates Hall . . . . .	220
	<hr/> 339 volumes.
Number remaining Nov. 1, after examination	2,844 “

The number of missing and condemned books replaced varies from day to day as they are received from the agents, to whom the orders were given to procure them as promptly as possible.

Some of them are out of print, and cannot be obtained without considerable delay. In some cases, several copies of one work have been removed from the shelves. As these may be injured in different parts, it is probable that one complete copy may in some cases be profitably made from two or three imperfect ones.

When these alcoves were reorganized every book was collated, all pencil marks were erased, and all stains removed, so far as they could be. The condition of each book was noted, as well as might be, upon the book itself, and upon the Shelf-list. It had been proposed to examine every book anew each time it should be returned by a borrower, so that every borrower could be held to an immediate and undeniable responsibility for the condition of the book he had received. But it was found that scarcely one hundred books a day could be thus collated and cleaned by one person, and it seemed probable that after this first work had been performed at least three additional attendants would be needed to collate the books as they should be returned. The expense of this would be greatly disproportioned to the value of the books which we might expect would be thus saved from ruin, and the delays incident to the process would be matter for many complaints.

Practically, a certain amount of loss and injury must for the present be borne with. This amount, in the most popular classes of books of a library open so freely to the whole community, must be expected to be large. There is probably no feasible remedy in the power of the Trustees consistent with the wonted freedom of the Library, and it does not seem likely that the evil can be fully stopped unless the Legislature of the State can apply some suitable penalty which can be practically enforced in cases of gross and wanton abuses.

The principle of administration upon which this Library was founded was, at least in the magnitude of its application, quite novel, and, I may say, startling.

It was proposed to place in the reach of all the people of a large city the most ample stores of entertaining and useful reading, with no safeguards or restrictions in the first instance, except such as were, in the apprehension of every one, obviously and absolutely indispensable, and to adopt no restrictions afterwards, except as they became imperative to secure and perpetuate the benefits of this great literary charity.

The result of this unbounded confidence in the honor of the citizens of Boston, and their just appreciation of such a boon, was for a long time matter of just pride and of frequent congratulation. At first, indeed, the success of the experiment seemed well-nigh complete. It was certainly surprising, even to those who at the outset were most sanguine.

Instances of ungenerous, if not of wanton and criminal abuses of this confidence did, however, show themselves, and increase from time to time in such a way as to cause anxiety, and finally alarm. The Trustees faithfully reported these indications from year to year. It was clear that these abuses could be suppressed, but not, it was feared, without in some degree curtailing the freedom of the institution. It was probable that only a comparatively small number of persons were thus regardless of their honor and duty; but all must be affected by any restrictions of privilege. Those to whose charge the Library was committed, studied the whole subject carefully, with the best advice, and with the light of the best experience they could command; and they applied the remedy in such a manner that it is believed the danger may be checked, if not entirely removed, without adopting measures onerous or distasteful to any well-meaning frequenter of the Library. On this subject some misapprehension has been needlessly excited, especially with reference to certain changes, mostly of internal administration, which have been adopted during the last year. These changes were designed to bear, and do bear, only upon those who were to a greater or less degree neglectful or culpable, and are not felt by those who are duly observant of

the course of conduct which the participation in privileges like those here enjoyed would dictate to all right-minded persons.

#### CHANGES IN THE READING ROOM.

The Reading Room for periodicals was the part of the Library most liable to abuse. In this, more than 150 from among the best journals published in the world were at first laid upon the tables, and offered freely to every one who chose to enter and to use or abuse them. They were placed in alphabetical order, and an attendant was charged with the endeavor to keep them so,—a task always difficult, and at last quite impossible. They were removed from their places, turned over, covered up, tossed about, mutilated, and sometimes purloined, till at length, instead of an orderly apartment in a library, it presented sometimes the appearance of a room for refuse pamphlets and waste paper. A person in search of a periodical, not finding it in its place, would often wander about the room, peering over the shoulders of many, disturbing by fruitless questions the pursuits of others, and more or less interrupting all in the room,—finally, perhaps, to fail in his quest because the magazine desired had been stolen or had not been received. This course was not that of one person in a day, but, to a more or less aggravated extent, of very many. Serious readers were annoyed, aggrieved, and sometimes quite disgusted. Complaints were frequent; not, indeed, in public, for they came from thoughtful persons sincerely bent upon making the best of their privileges, and not upon hazarding what remained to them by public denunciations.

It was found, moreover, that the periodicals were so frequently mutilated or stolen, that it was next to impossible to make up complete sets for preservation.

To prevent these evils by a more stringent police for the room seemed impracticable. Several policemen stationed there could not have suppressed effectually such abuses and annoyances.

Their employment would have imposed upon the establishment a heavy burden of expense, and would have been a standing reproach to the good people of our well-behaved City.

The course suggested for the remedy of this evil was one which, in any library not founded upon the principle of no-restriction, would most likely have been adopted at the outset as a necessary precaution.

It is simply that of placing the periodicals behind a desk, under the care of an attendant, who gives them out, as called for, keeping the account of the borrowers. The applicant must say what he wants, and who he is that wants it. Generally, this is done by the borrower writing on a slip of paper his name and residence, and the shelf number of the journal wanted, which he derives from lists always at hand. Persons to whom this is troublesome need not do even so much, but simply whisper the title of the journal, or point to it upon the list, and give their own address to the attendant. It would seem to be an absurd denial of the facility of writing on the part of our citizens, to say that this use of a lead pencil could be considered burdensome, and it is no more complimentary to assume that any one would be ashamed or unwilling to give his name and hold himself responsible for anything he may desire to borrow. At all events, the change has worked like a charm. It has brought order out of confusion. It has saved the loss of property. It has enabled readers to find what they want. It has had a sensible effect upon the quiet of the room. It has attracted back some who had left in disgust. It has excited no serious complaint. It has not diminished the use of the room, which, it is believed, was never before greater than it is at present. It has eliminated groups of idle boys who formerly entered from the distributing room while waiting for books, occupied the chairs, and sometimes scribbled or even drew indecent figures upon the margins of the magazines. In short, it has in no way been injurious to serious readers, while it has been beneficial to all. It



is needless to discuss the question whether a person in a vacant half hour may not enter a reading-room and turn aimlessly over the leaves of one magazine after another and go away having found some sort of profit from the proceeding. It is idle also to assert that such persons would not be embarrassed by not finding the journals lying promiscuously about the tables. But if their case is to be considered, who come in mere listlessness, surely the claim of those who come in seriousness and good faith, with a definite purpose of improvement, knowing what they want and willing to ask for it, is far more respectable; and where one must be postponed to the other, it is not to be doubted which should be preferred.

The needfulness and effect of these changes are so well set forth in letters from the Librarian and from two professional gentlemen who have used the Reading Room, both before and after the change, that I cannot refrain from appending them to this Report. They are marked DD.

It should be stated that, last year, forty-six numbers of different valuable journals were reported as taken away from the room and never returned. Since the new system was adopted, a year ago, not a single number of a magazine given out from the desk has been lost.

The importance of keeping safely every number of a magazine should be considered not solely in its pecuniary and its moral aspects; it should be remembered that if a journal is thus purloined by one person, all others who would be readers of it are deprived of their privileges. If a foreign journal be taken, it cannot probably be replaced for months,—sometimes not at all. We have now in the Library hundreds of volumes thus rendered imperfect, which we have been unable to complete after many attempts to do so.

It may also be mentioned here that the principle of withdrawing the periodicals from the tables was not at first applied to all of them. Thirteen of the most popular and useful journals

were subscribed for in duplicate, and one copy of each was laid upon the table with the intention of keeping them there, if possible. In a few weeks, thieving fingers had dealt with them all.

It is hoped and believed that these evil practices were confined to a small number of persons. But these few culprits contrived to bring discredit upon a law-loving people, reproach upon a noble public charity, and, perhaps, suspicion upon honest frequenters of the Library.

It should here be stated, that what may be termed a library of reference, comprising several hundred volumes of the best and most recent Encyclopædias, Lexicons and Vocabularies of various languages, Gazetteers, Biographical Dictionaries, Directories, Almanacs, Atlases, and Handbooks of various kinds, are arranged around the desk of the attendant, and left still entirely open to the use of every one, without the slightest restriction. These are so immediately under the eye of the attendant, that they are, in general, safe, although some of them have heretofore been mutilated, defiled by obscene words and figures, and sometimes stolen.

A volume of the last edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica was, several years ago, ruined by tearing ruthlessly out of it a very valuable article of more than one hundred pages, and the detective force of the City could not discover the perpetrator of the outrage. Among the books several years ago purloined were a Bible and a Concordance! After two years' absence, the latter was returned mysteriously to the Library.

#### NEW SYSTEM FOR RECORDING LOANS.

Another important change effected during the year, is in the method of recording loans, both in the Bates and Lower Hall. This change is one merely of internal administration. It in no way abridges or changes the privileges of readers. It requires of them no additional labor in borrowing or returning books. It will demand of them no more time. There is nothing in the Lower Hall to inform them of the change, except a difference in

one side of the card, and a stamp made upon it of the date of each loan, and of its return.

As, however, this new system has been misapprehended by some who do not appear to know its purport, it may be well to state here something of the design of its introduction, of the details of its operation, and of its results in securing the safety of the books, and their just and equal distribution among borrowers.

From the early days of the Library, the method of recording loans was that long practised of ledger accounts, abridged in our case by omitting the titles of the books, writing only the shelf and order numbers, and rendered more rapid and easy by an ingenious decimal arrangement of the accounts.

When the use of the Library became large, it was found that such a system of recording loans lacked the most needful means for detecting irregularities and abuses, and that, as an almost necessary consequence, such abuses increased, in an alarming degree, from year to year. The record furnished no certain and reliable proof against delinquents. Books could be lost or mutilated with impunity. This, of course, became generally known. Books were very often kept beyond the proper time, and thus the rights of others who were waiting for them were infringed. It was practically impossible to tell what books on any given day were improperly detained from the Library, and to give notice that they should be returned. When a book was unreasonably detained, and greatly needed by another reader, it was impracticable to ascertain who had the book till the borrower chose to return it. It was out of the power of the administration to secure, or even to facilitate, an equitable distribution of the books. Besides all this, no valuable information could be gleaned from the record as to what class of books were most used, or how frequently such or such a book had been called for; thus, no assistance could be derived from it for making such a selection of books as the public most desired. The numerous ledgers were, moreover, cumbrous and unwieldy.

Still, in spite of all these imperfections, the acquired facility and rapidity of working the system such as it was, the inconvenience of making any alteration, and the difficulty of deciding upon a new system, combined to prevent any change, long after it was seen that one was imperatively necessary for the preservation of the Library from disorder and discredit.

The new system is, in its main features, one, which, I believe, is displacing all others in the great public libraries of Europe and of this country. It consists in making the record of loans upon separate slips of paper of uniform size, upon each of which is stamped the date, after writing with a lead pencil a word or two of the title of the book, the shelf-numbers, and the address of the borrower.

In the Bates Hall the name and residence are written by the borrower. In the Lower Hall, from which books are often sent for by children and servants, the address upon the borrower's card is transferred to the slip by the attendant in the Library.

The date of the loan is also stamped upon the card and upon the book lent. These stamps, in the hands of the borrower, serve to remind him how long he has had the book, and thus prevent his incurring fines, and when the book is returned, they guide the attendant to the record slip.

The slip, as soon as written, is dropped into its proper place in a drawer furnished with a compartment for each alcove of the Library.

From the beginning of the Library, the Rules have allowed a book to be kept out for twelve Library days, have exacted a fine for every day of subsequent detention, and have required that, after six days of such detention, the book should be sent for at the expense of the borrower. None of these regulations has been changed, but facilities have been provided for carrying them into effect. At the close of each day the slips for the day are placed together in exact order in a drawer of the distributing room, divided so as to furnish twelve compartments for books not

kept beyond the time allowed, and six other compartments for the slips of books finable. The first day's gathering is placed in the first division, the second day's in the second, and so on through the twelve. On the thirteenth Library day, the slips remaining in the first division are removed to the first division for finable books, and their place occupied by the slips of books lent the preceding day. When the six divisions of the finable books are filled, those remaining in the first of them, must, under the Rules, be sent for by a special messenger. It should have been stated that on the thirteenth day after the first loans, a notice is sent by mail to the address on each of the uncanceled slips, stating that the book has already been retained the full time allowed, and is now incurring fines, and that, unless returned or renewed within six days from the date of the notice, it must, under the Rules, be sent for at the expense of the borrower.

So well has this part of the system worked, that, during the time it has been in operation, not two and a half books a day on an average have been detained long enough to be sent for by a messenger. The sending for books is rapidly bringing to light abuses which have long existed, and it will, as may be hoped, soon lead to the detection and removal of most of them, thus obviating the apprehended necessity of requiring troublesome guarantees for the loans.

A member of the Soldiers' Messenger Corps has been employed for tracing out delinquencies. He has performed the service faithfully and skilfully, with the following results:

Whole number of delinquents referred to him in thirty-five	
Library days . . . . .	82
The whole number of books lent to the last of the days	
was . . . . .	29,352
From these,—the number of books recovered is . . . . .	40
“ “ not recovered . . . . .	42 — 82
Of the 42 not recovered he has reported—	
Borrowers removed to places unknown . . . . .	13

Borrowers who had recorded their names with wrong residence, but who were found by the Messenger . . .	2
Borrowers who were said to have removed to other places, but who have made no reply to letters sent to them .	3
Borrowers who promised to call at the Library and explain their delinquencies, but have not done so . . . .	6
Borrowers who have removed from the City, and left their cards to others . . . . .	2
Borrowers not accounted for . . . . .	16

One boy sold his father's card for four cents to another boy, who lent it to a third, who lost both book and card; but the three boys came to the Library, and united to pay for the book lost.

When a book is regularly returned, the slip and card are stamped with the date of the return, and the slip is placed in its proper order, according to the shelf-number, among the cancelled slips. Thus, the slips representing the same book come together, and it is easy to ascertain how many times, when, and in what order, each book has been borrowed. Thus, too, the slips for each alcove are brought together, and as the books are divided in the alcove by subjects, it is easy to ascertain how much each class of books has been used. As the books in each day's gathering are kept in the order of their shelf-numbers, it is not difficult to ascertain who has any book which is out,—a matter often of considerable importance.

By means of an ingeniously contrived stamp, each slip is numbered in order from the first to the last, so that it is ascertainable at a glance how many books have been lent since the Library year commenced, and at the end of the year the aggregate circulation is disclosed without any count.

The word or two of the title of the book written upon the slip, serves as a check upon mistakes which might occur in copying the shelf-numbers.

Rapid as was the working of the old system, borrowers will not probably be obliged to wait longer for their books under the new system.

Although the number of operations is increased in the new system, yet the facility for the subdivision of labor by the use of slips is such, that a much greater number of books can be given out by it in a day than by the other system. Indeed, there is scarcely any limit to its capabilities in this respect. All the books in the Lower Hall could be given out and properly charged in one day. Under the ledger system, not more than two persons could work at a time in receiving and charging books without interfering with each other. Under the slip system, as many as could stand by the desk could simultaneously receive and deliver books; and as many as could be accommodated with stamps and table room could be at one and the same time engaged in charging them.

To all this may be added the greater ease, quietness, and regularity of the service, where each operation is performed with almost mechanical precision, and in a regular order, without the necessity of any conversation or conference among the attendants.

It is unnecessary to go into the details for renewing books, transferring them from one account to another, etc. These all take care of themselves silently and effectually under the provisions of the new system.

It is now three working months since the change was made, and I believe that every one who was familiar with the former method, and has been occupied with this, has no longer any hesitation in pronouncing in favor of the change. Nor has any imperfection been yet developed in its working. It is not impossible that modifications may become desirable, or that additions may be required, as further safeguards for the loans, or to make the record more useful. Improvements should always be welcomed. But the motive of the change was the greater convenience of the public and the greater protection of its property; its details imply no trouble to borrowers, and its results are such as to insure the greater popularity and usefulness of the institution.

## THE CATALOGUES.

The Supplement to the Index for the Bates Hall, including the great collection bequeathed by Mr. Parker, has been completed. The printing met with many interruptions beyond our control, and to the last, all books received were recorded in it, if both the main title and the requisite cross references could be inserted; — so that instead of 400 pages, as at first estimated, the work contains 718 pages, besides the list of City Documents prepared by J. M. Bugbee, Esq., which, by permission, is appended to it.

The printed Indexes are now as follows:

1. The Index for the Lower Hall, printed in 1858, of which nearly 10,000 copies have been printed, and but few now remain.

2. Eight Annual Supplements to the same — some of which are now out of print.

3. The Finding List, with very brief titles for the department of Fiction, exhibiting its present state. This was prepared and printed during the last annual recess.

4. The large Index for the Bates Hall, published in 1861, of which a second edition, now nearly exhausted, was printed in 1865. The stereotype plates are in the possession of the Trustees.

5. The Supplement to the same, of which 1,500 copies have been printed.

In a former part of this Report, the condition of the Indexes for the Lower Hall has been described at some length in another connection, and requires but brief mention here. For the convenience of the public, it was felt to be extremely desirable to prepare and publish a new, consolidated, and complete Index for this part of the Library. To avoid retaining from circulation the whole Library long enough to prepare the work for the press, it was proposed to retain one or two alcoves at a time, till the Index so far as pertains to them could be prepared; and, further, to avoid the necessity of waiting for the Index of



each alcove, as revised, till the whole could be printed, it was proposed to print the briefest possible "Finding List" for each alcove, as soon as it could be made ready. These lists would serve a temporary purpose for finding books, and, in some sort, a permanent purpose as a classed catalogue. As already stated, the Finding List of the department of Fiction, embracing about seven thousand volumes, has been printed; and that for the department of Arts and Sciences has been made nearly ready for the press. Here the work has been arrested for want of funds.

The work already done was accomplished during the recess, by employing all of the available regular force of the Library and several extra assistants. While the Library is open to the public, it is impossible to withdraw from their customary duties the assistants in the Library, long enough to do much of this kind of labor.

The work upon the remaining 15,000 volumes will, it is believed, be comparatively much less severe than that upon the 10,000 volumes now nearly completed.

The volumes in the Library are represented by the printed Indexes as follows :

## BATES HALL.

Index of 1861 containing about	.	.	55,000 vols.
Supplement of 1866 about	.	.	33,966 "

## LOWER HALL.

Index of 1858	.	.	.	.	15,000 vols.
Eight Supplements	.	.	.	.	8,366 "

The Finding List contains in it about 7,000 volumes, many of them not represented in the above Indexes.

The remaining books in the Library comprise those received too late for insertion in the Indexes, including the Prince Library, duplicates of those catalogued, and sale duplicates.

The books received too late for the printed Indexes are made known, as far as may be, to the public, by means of interleaved catalogues — a matter of many difficulties, delays, and inconveniences. If the suggestion, made by the Examining Committee, of a Monthly Bulletin for making known the receipts of the Library month by month, should be carried into effect, it will prove of great advantage to those who use the Library, and save the necessity of frequent Supplements.

During the year, the internal affairs of the Library have proceeded with regularity and harmony. The great amount of unusual labor required has been performed with cheerful alacrity by the attendants. The problems to be solved in managing so large and so free a circulation are many of them new, difficult, and perplexing. We cannot be governed by precedents; we must not be too conservative of old ways; we must seek after improvements. Measures must be framed for our special exigencies. One pleasant and promising circumstance connected with the necessary discussion which has arisen respecting details of administration, has been that suggestions of ingenious and original plans for meeting difficulties have been made by persons not connected with the Library, but who have used it largely, and have understood and appreciated its position, its liberal spirit, and its importance as a free public provision for the literary and moral culture of the people. Some of these suggestions may yet prove of great practical benefit, even though it may not be possible to adopt them in full. At any rate, they give cheering evidence of the interest felt by thoughtful men in rendering the Library to the highest degree popularly useful. A person accustomed to literary researches among large collections of books can find his way under almost any discouragements; but, for those who have little acquaintance with books, extraordinary facilities must be provided. It is their necessities which require the most patient consideration, which demand ingenious expedients, which forbid a blind adherence to precedents, and invite

suggestions, even the boldest of which may contain some hints of practical value.

The usual financial statement for the year is appended to this Report, and marked EE.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES C. JEWETT,  
*Superintendent.*

PUBLIC LIBRARY, *Nov.* 13, 1866.

[AA]

LIST OF DONORS.

Bates, Joshua, London, interest on the fund of	.	.	\$50,000
Bigelow, Hon. John P., " " " "	.	.	1,000
Franklin Club, " " " "	.	.	1,000
Lawrence, Hon. Abbott, " " " "	.	.	10,000
Phillips, Hon. Jonathan, " " " "	.	.	30,000
Townsend, Mary P., " " " "	.	.	4,000

The interest of these donations, with the exception of that of the Townsend Fund (which is invested in a mortgage at six per cent), has been paid in gold, at the rate of five per cent per annum.

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Abbott, Ezra, Cambridge,	1	
Albany Young Men's Association,		1
Allen, Joseph H.,	4	
American Baptist Missionary Union,	1	
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,	5	14
American Education Society,		1
American Freedman's Aid Commission,		2
American Peace Society,		2
American Phonic Association,	7	14
American Tract Society,		3
American Unitarian Association,	2	
Ann Arbor. University of Michigan,	1	
Anonymous. A Friend,	1	
Anonymous. A Lawyer,	2	
Anonymous. 6 papers.	9	64

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Atwood, Charles,		1
Baker, N. B., Adjutant General, Des Moines, Iowa,	2	
Balfour, David M.,	3	14
Barnard, James M., Esq.,	10 engravings.	97 234
Barnes, William,	1	
Bates, Samuel P., Harrisburg, Pa.,	1	
Bigelow, Hon. John P.,	37	
Bigelow, The Misses, Malden,	77	38
Black, James, Lancaster, Pa.,	2 broadsides.	17 31
Blatchford, E. S., New York,		1
Bogart, W. H., Albany,	1	
Boole, F. I. A., City Inspector, N. Y.,	1	
Boston, City of,	17	1
Boston. The Webster Vase. See Appendix CC.		
Boston Athenæum,		5
Boston Board of Trade,	1	
Boston Freedman's Aid Society, by J. R. Thayer,	1	9
Boston Gas Light Company,	4	
Boston Mercantile Library Association,		1
Boston Provident Association,		2
Bowditch, H. I., M.D.,	1 paper.	7 124
Bowditch, J. Ingersoll,	20	
Bowen, Henry,	1	
Bradlee, Rev. Caleb Davis,	2 papers, 3 broadsides.	3 8
Brinley, George, Hartford, Ct.,	1	
Brooklyn, Long Island. Historical Society,	1	
Brooklyn Mercantile Library Association,		1
Brown, Francis H., M.D.,		1
Brown, J. Coffin Jones,	6	4
Buffalo Young Men's Association,		1
Bugbee, J. M., Esq.,	2	
Bullock, His Excellency A. H.,		3
Bunker Hill Monument Association,	1	
Burnham, T. O. H. P.,	8	
Burroughs, Rev. Henry, Jr.,	1	142
Butler, Peter,	2	
California. Department of Public Instruction,	1	
California, College of,		1
Cambridge. Harvard College,	1	4
Capen, John,		1
Chaney, Prof. Henry, Detroit, Mich.,	1	1
Chapman, Mary Gray,	1	
Charlestown Public Library,		1
Christern, F. W., New York,	11	14
Cincinnati, Ohio. Mechanics' Institute,		1

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Cincinnati Young Men's Library Association,		1
Clapp, Derastus,	1	
Clark, Henry, Poultney, Vt.,		1
Clinch, Rev. J. H.,	3	
Coolidge, D. H.,		1
Cornell, W. M., M.D., Philadelphia,	1	
Cotting, B. E., M.D., Roxbury,		1
Coxe, Brinton, Philadelphia,	1	
Curtin, Daniel S.,	1	
Curtis, Mrs. C. P.,	33	69
Cutter, Charles A., Cambridge,		1 map.
Cutter, Mrs. Charles A., Cambridge,	1	
Dana, Richard H., Jr.,		1
Dean, John, M.D.,	3	
Dean, J. W.,		1
Delafield, Gen. Richard, U. S. Engineers,	1	
Dennett, Wm. H.,	1	
Derby, Haskett, M.D.,	1	
Divoll, Ira, St. Louis,		1
Dixon, B. Homer, Toronto,	1	
Dorr, E. Ritchie,		1
Eaton, J. B., Executor of Lydia S. Gale,	94	92
Edinburgh. Royal Society,	1	1
Edwards, Henry,	1	
Ellis, Charles M.,		1
Everett, William,	64	
Fay, Hon. Theodore S.,	1	
Field, Rev. C.,		2
Fitchburg. Town Library,		1
Foley, William J.,	5	3
Ford, William E.,		1
Foster, Wm. H., Andover,		1
Francis, James B.,	1	
Garfield, Hon. J. W.,		2
Goldsmith, Seth, Charlestown,		5
Gould, Benjamin A., Cambridge,		1
Gray, Miss Isa,	1	12
Great Britain. Commissioners of Patents,	72	
Great Britain. Royal Observatory,	1	
Green, S. A., M.D.,		16
Greenough, W. W.,	11	11
Hale, Rev. Edward E.,	2	
Hall, Charles B.,		5
Hall, W. W., M.D., New York,	1	
Hartford Young Men's Institute,		1

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Hill, Hamilton A.,		4
Humphrey, Henry B.,	2	
Hunt, Richard M., New York,	1	
Jarves, Deming,	1	
Jarvis, Edward, M.D.,	1	9
Jillson, Prof. William E.,		1
Keep, N. C., M.D.,		1
Kempel, Fritz,	1	
Kimball, H. H.,		28
Kirk, Rev. E. N., D.D.,	2	
Kreissman, August,	1	
Langworthy, Rev. I. P.,	10	6
Lawrence, Abbott,		15
Lee, Henry, Jr.,	1	
Lewis, Winslow, M.D.,		5
Lincoln, His Honor F. W., Jr.,	1	
Lincoln, Henry W.,	1	
London. Royal Astronomical Society,	2	
London. Royal Geographical Society,	3	
London. Royal Society,	1	
London. Peace Society,		3
London Library, by Robert Harrison,	1	
Loring, James S., Brooklyn,	22	25
Lowell, City of,	1	
Lowell City Library,		1
McDougall, Hon. William, Ottawa, Canada,	13	8
Maine Gen'l Conference, E. F. Duren, Rec. Secretary,		1
Manchester, N. H., Free Library,		1
March, Andrew S.,		1
Massachusetts, State of,	78	8
Massachusetts State Library,		1
Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, 184 papers.	138	359
Massachusetts Bible Society,		1
Massachusetts Historical Society,	1	
Massachusetts Horticultural Society,	1	
Massachusetts Temperance Society, by J. S. Warren,	2	
May, Miss Abby W., 15 papers, 8 slips.	3	12
Meigs, M. C., Quarter-Master General U. S. A.,	3	1
Meredith, E. A., by H. J. Morgan,	5	
Merriam, J. W., M.D.,	19	182
Merrill, George,		5
Middlebury College, Vt.,		1
Milwaukee Young Men's Association,	1	
Moore, Charles W.,	2	
Morgan, Albert,	2	

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Morgan, Henry J., Ottawa, Canada,	2	5
Mumford, S. R., Detroit,	7 papers.	6
Munsell, Joel, Albany,	2	4
Napoleon III, Emperor of France,	2	
New Bedford Public Library,		1
New England Loyal Publication Society, 59 broadsides.		
New Haven. Collegiate and Commercial Institute,		2
New Haven. Yale College,	1	1
New York. Chamber of Commerce, J. A. Stevens, Jr., Secretary,	1	4
New York. Columbia College,	1	
New York. Loyal Publication Society,	2	
New York. Mercantile Library Association,	1	1
New York. Union Theological Seminary,		1
New York State Homœopathic Medical Society, Albany,	3	
Nichols, Major W. Jr., M.D., Coll. of "Confederate" hospital blanks, etc.,	1	1
Norton, Charles E.,		1
Nourse & Rand,	2	4
Ohio, State of.	2 broadsides.	
Owen, Hon. Robert Dale,	2	
Parker, Henry Tuke, London, England,	2	5
Parker, Nathan H.,	1	
Patterson, Gen. Robert,	1	
Pease, Rev. Giles,	3	1
Perry, Rev. Wm. S., Litchfield, Conn.,		60
Phelps, Abner, M.D., portfolio of MS.	2	
Philadelphia. American Philosophical Society,		2
Philadelphia. Entomological Society, 1 paper.		
Philadelphia. Library Company,		3
Philadelphia. Mercantile Library Association,	1	
Phillips, H. J., M.D., New York,	1	
Pickston, William, Manchester, Eng., by D. L. Webster,	1	
Pike, J. G. W., M.D.,	1	
Portland, First Parish,	2	
Providence, City of,		1
Providence. Athenæum,		1
Providence. Butler Hospital for the Insane,		1
Punchard, George, 68 papers.	1	429
Quincy, Miss Eliza S.,	1	44
Rand & Avery,		1
Randall, Rt. Rev. Bishop G. M., Colorado,	3	7
Rankin, Rev. J. E., Charlestown,		7
Ranney, Thomas, Newton,	16	134
Ray, Georgiana A.,	1	



DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Redpath, James,	1	
Reynolds, Edward, M.D.,		1
Rhode Island, State of, by Hon. J. R. Bartlett.	47	6
Rice, Hon. Alexander H., M.C.,	13	5
Richardson, James B.,	2	
Robbins, Rev. Chandler, D.D.,	1	9
Rogers, Henry B.,		6
Russell, Hon. C. T.,	2	7
Salem. Essex Institute,	2	5
Salter, Richard H., M.D.,	22	255
San Francisco Mercantile Lib. Assoc., by D. E. Webb,		1
San Francisco Odd Fellows Library Association,		2
Sargent, Rev. John T.,		6
Sargent, L. M.,	7	9
Savage, Edward H.,	2	
Schauffler, Ferdinand S.,	2	
Schouler, Adjutant General William,		1
Sears, Hon. Philip H.,		2
Seward, Hon. William H.,		6
Shaw, Benjamin S., M.D.,		1
Sherwin, Thomas,	1	
Shippen, Edward, Exec'r of Mrs. E. B. Gibson, of Phila.,	1	
Sibley, J. Langdon, Cambridge,	1	
Slack, C. W.,	2	
Smith, Charles C.,		1
Smith Brothers,	1	
Smith, F. W.,		4
Smith, G. P.,		1
Smith, Samuel, Worcester, City Clerk,	2	1
Smith, W. Dexter, Jr.,		22 pages of music.
Snelling, George H.,		3
Snow, Edwin M., M.D., Providence, R.I.,	6	15
South Danvers. Peabody Institute,	2	
Spencer, William V.,	1	
Springfield Library Association,	1	
Stevens, Benjamin S.,		25
Stevenson, Miss M. C., Brookline,		1
Stimpson, F. H.,	2	
Stone, Rev. A. L., D. D.,		3
Stone, General Charles, Cambridge,	1	
Storer, Frank H.,		8
Storer, H. R., M.D.,		2
Sullivan, Dennis,	4	2
Sullivan, Richard,		7
Sumner, Hon. Charles,	63	115

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Sunderland, Dr. La Roy,	3	
Swett, Samuel,		2
Tarbox, Rev. I. N.,		2
Taylor, S. H., LL.D., Andover,	1	
Terwilliger, James, Clerk of the Senate, Albany,	2	
Thayer, Alex. W., Consul at Trieste,	7	2
Ticknor, George, 53 papers.	12	59
Tobey, Hon. E. S.,	1	
Toner, Dr. J. M., Washington, D.C.,		3
Townsend, S. D., M.D., 39 papers.	2	
Tracy, Rev. Joseph,		4
Twining, T., Perryn House, Twickenham, Eng., 1 paper.		14
United States. Bureau of Military Justice,	1	
United States. Bureau of Navigation,	1	
United States. Coast Survey, A. D. Bache, Superintendent, 1 map.		
United States. Congress,	4	
United States. Department of State,	3	1
United States. Department of the Post-Office,	2	30
United States. Engineer Department, 7 maps.		
United States. Library of Congress,	1	
United States. Navy Department, 2 lithographs.	1	
United States. Naval Observatory,	1	
United States. Surgeon General J. K. Barnes,	1	1
United States Christian Commission,	1	
United States Sanitary Commission, Historical Bureau, J. M. Blatchford, Gen. Sec., 14 papers.		73
Upham, Hon. Charles W., Salem,	1	5
Upham, J. Baxter, M.D.,	3	1
Venice. Istituto Veneto,	1	10
Vienna Imperial Geological Institute,	1	
Vinton, Frederic, Washington,	1	
Vose, George L.,	1	
Walther, G. J.,	32	
Ward, Rev. James W.,	1	2
Warner, Edward,	1	
Warren, Rev. Israel P.,		2
Warren, J. Mason, M.D.,	23	3
Warren, J. Sullivan,	2	
Washburn, Hon. Emery,	5	22
Washington. Smithsonian Institution,	1	
Weiss, Rev. John, Watertown,	1	5
Wells, Rev. E. M. P., D.D.,		8
Whipple, Charles K.,		42
Whitney, Rev. Frederick A., Brighton,		3

DONORS.	VOLS.	PAM.
Whitney, Henry Austin,	1	
Wiffen, B. B., near Woburn, Bedfordshire, England, 2 pages and 2 circulars.	3	
Wiggin, J. K.,	1	
Wightman, Hon. Jos. M.,	3	2
Wilder, Burt G.,	1	
Williams, J. D. W., Roxbury,	40	2
Williams, Dr. Lewis,	1	
Wilson, Hon. Henry,	25	1
Winthrop, Hon. Robert C., 1 broadside.	47	156
Wood, Rev. Horatio, Lowell,		1
Wood, Wm., & Co.,		1
Worcester. American Antiquarian Society,	1	2
Worcester Free Library,		1
Worthington & Flanders,	2	
Wright, Elizur,		2
Wyman, Jeffries, M.D., Cambridge,		12

## PERIODICALS.

Abbott, William . . . . .	2 papers.
American Messenger . . . . .	1 paper.
Boston Courier . . . . .	96 papers.
“ Cultivator . . . . .	6 “
“ Daily Advertiser . . . . .	773 “
“ Daily Journal . . . . .	866 “
“ Evening Traveller . . . . .	126 “
“ Herald . . . . .	6 “
“ Investigator . . . . .	1 “
“ Medical Journal . . . . .	The File.
“ Liberator . . . . .	2 papers.
“ Pilot . . . . .	7 “
“ Recorder . . . . .	62 “
Bradford, Geo., Charlestown . . . . .	2 “
Bunker Hill Aurora, W. W. Wheildon . . . . .	2 “
Charlestown Advertiser . . . . .	2 “
Christian Era . . . . .	2 “
“ Inquirer, N. Y., . . . . .	The File.

Christian Register . . . . .	The File and 2 papers.
“ Watchman and Reflector . . . . .	3 “
“ Witness . . . . .	2 “
Commercial Bulletin . . . . .	1 “
Commonwealth . . . . .	The File and 1 paper.
Congregationalist . . . . .	42 papers.
Daily Evening Voice . . . . .	5 “
Evening Commercial . . . . .	The File.
Freemason’s Monthly Magazine . . . . .	The File.
Hawthorne, S. T. . . . .	7 papers.
Herald of Health . . . . .	The File.
Jillson, Prof. Wm. E. . . . .	6 papers.
Masonic Monthly . . . . .	The File.
Massachusetts Plowman . . . . .	10 papers.
Mobile Daily Times . . . . .	File in part.
Musical Times . . . . .	The File.
Nation, N. Y. . . . .	The File.
Nation, Boston . . . . .	1 paper.
New England Farmer . . . . .	54 papers.
New York Social Science Review . . . . .	1 number.
Palmer, F. H., Supt. Merchants’ Ex. News Room . . . . .	172 papers.
Saturday Evening Express . . . . .	The File and 1 paper.
Saturday Evening Gazette . . . . .	4 papers.
Student and Schoolmate, Jos. H. Allen . . . . .	The File.
Sunday Times . . . . .	The File.
Tract Journal . . . . .	1 paper.
Universalist . . . . .	2 papers.
Waverley Magazine, Moses A. Dow . . . . .	2 journals.
Wide World . . . . .	5 papers.
Woonsocket Patriot . . . . .	2 “
World’s Crisis . . . . .	2 “
Zion’s Herald . . . . .	8 “

[BB]

A G R E E M E N T .

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This agreement, made and entered into on the 11th day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, by and between the City of Boston, party of the first part, and the Deacons of the Old South Church in said Boston, for themselves and their successors in office, party of the second part, witnesseth, that it is understood and agreed by and between said party of the first part and said party of the second part as follows, namely :

1. The said Deacons will deposit in the Public Library of said City, all the books, pamphlets, maps, printed papers, and manuscripts now in their possession, which were bequeathed to said Old South Church by Rev. Thomas Prince, by will dated October 2, 1758, and proved Nov. 3, 1758; the same being known as the Prince Library.

2. Said Prince Library shall be kept by the said party of the first part, in the Public Library building of said City, by itself, and no book or paper belonging to it shall be permitted to be taken from said building, except for the purpose of being bound or otherwise repaired.

3. Said party of the first part shall, through the Trustees of said Public Library, put said Prince Library in good order, and

keep it so; and shall cause a separate catalogue of said Prince Library to be prepared and printed, keeping an account of the expenses that may be incurred in putting said Library in order and keeping it so, and in preparing and printing said catalogue.

4. So long as said Prince Library shall remain in said building, it shall be accessible for reference and use in the same way with the other books of said Public Library which are excluded from circulation, and from use, except in the rooms of the Library building.

5. Clergymen and literary men residing out of Boston, known to the Superintendent of said Public Library, or bringing a note of introduction from a pastor or deacon of the Old South Church, shall be permitted to consult said Prince Library, and use the same, in the Public Library building, under the supervision of said Superintendent.

6. Said party of the first part shall return and restore said Prince Library to said party of the second part, whenever duly demanded by said deacons or their successors, acting under the direction of said Old South Church, said deacons or their successors first paying to said City the expenses to be incurred on account of said Library, as in Article 3, before written. But such expenses shall in no case exceed the sum of two thousand dollars. And said deacons shall not be required to pay interest upon the amount of such expenses.

7. Said City shall, by the Trustees of said Public Library, acknowledge to said deacons, in writing, the receipt of said Prince Library, when the same shall have been deposited in the Public Library building.

In witness whereof, the said City of Boston, by Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr., its Mayor, who is duly authorized to execute these presents by the City Council of said City, and the said Deacons

of the Old South Church, have hereto set their hands the day and year first above written.



CHARLES STODDARD, } *Deacons*  
 LORING LOTHROP, } *of the*  
 AVERY PLUMER, } *Old South Church.*



CITY OF BOSTON,

By F. W. LINCOLN, JR., MAYOR.

WITNESS,

GEO. TICKNOR,  
 C. C. JEWETT.

I approve and assent to the above agreement,

CHESTER I. REED,  
*Attorney General of Massachusetts.*

[CC]

BOSTON, 16th March, 1865.

To F. W. LINCOLN, Jr., Esq.,

*Mayor of the City of Boston :*

SIR: In the year 1835, a silver vase was presented to Mr. Webster by the citizens of Boston, who were desirous to offer that great statesman some enduring testimonial of their gratitude for his public services, and especially for the unsurpassed combination of logic and eloquence with which he had recently defended the Constitution against the assaults of nullification.

The value of the offering was enhanced by the fact that it was procured by a subscription limited to one dollar from each person subscribing. It was an expression of the heartfelt gratitude of the people to the great statesman who had so clearly and powerfully expounded the Constitution, and educed from it those principles of government which, by strengthening the bands of the Union, gave a new impulse to the growth and prosperity of the country.

The vase — a beautiful work of art, reflecting the highest credit upon the taste of the designer and the skill of the manufacturer — bears on its front this inscription :

TO  
DANIEL WEBSTER,  
THE  
DEFENDER OF THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES,  
FROM THE CITIZENS OF BOSTON,  
OCTOBER 12, 1835.



The ceremony of presentation took place at the Odeon, in the presence of more than three thousand persons. The late Mr. Francis Calley Gray, a man held in honored remembrance by his friends for his remarkable abilities and his still more remarkable attainments, on the behalf of the subscribers addressed Mr. Webster in a speech worthy of the occasion; and Mr. Webster's reply is one of the happiest and most characteristic efforts of one who was generally more at home on the field of debate than upon the rhetorical parade ground.

#### THE WEBSTER VASE

has become the property of the subscribers, who beg leave to present it to the City of Boston, with a request that it may be kept in the Hall of the Public Library — a place of deposit combining security with the largest opportunity for inspection. We wish that it may forever remain in some spot where it may be freely seen by such of the subscribers to its purchase as are still living, and by the children and grandchildren of those who, like Mr. Webster himself, have passed away from earth. Our satisfaction in making this disposition of the vase would be increased if we could believe that the sight of this

#### TESTIMONIAL OF A PEOPLE'S GRATITUDE

would lead the young men who have come into active life since Mr. Webster's death to a more careful study of his immortal writings, and inspire them with a more earnest purpose to imitate his generous and comprehensive patriotism.

We have only to add that this disposition of the vase is in conformity with the wishes of the late Col. Fletcher Webster, and of his son, Mr. Ashburton Webster, a young gentleman now in the Naval Academy at Newport, upon whom, in default of

such disposition, the vase would have devolved by the provisions of his grandfather's will.

George W. Lyman,  
Nathaniel Thayer,  
Albert Fearing,  
Franklin Haven,  
Josiah Caldwell,  
Francis Bacon,  
William W. Greenough,  
William Thomas,  
F. M. Weld,  
Henry J. Gardner,  
Frederick O. Prince,  
Leverett Saltonstall,  
Thomas W. Pierce,

Francis Skinner,  
Isaac Thacher,  
J. P. Healey,  
William Gray,  
G. S. Hillard,  
Josiah Bardwell,  
Edmund F. Cutter,  
George Eaton,  
H. K. Horton,  
George B. Hyde,  
Samuel Appleton,  
H. W. Paine,  
Peter Harvey,

Joseph S. Fay,  
S. T. Dana,  
George Gardner,  
Benjamin E. Bates,  
George W. Pratt,  
W. Amory,  
E. D. Jordan,  
Theophilus W. Walker,  
George Bond Jones,  
H. D. Parker,  
A. Tucker,  
P. Adams Ames,  
Peter Butler.

[DD]

GEORGE TICKNOR, ESQ.,

*Chairman of the Examining Committee.*

DEAR SIR: I deemed it right to make a short statement in the *Daily Advertiser* of my views upon the subject of keeping the periodicals of the Reading Room, each in an assigned place, accessible to the public only on due application. I learn that the Examining Committee may have the subject before them, and should like to restate my views, for such consideration as the Committee may choose to bestow on them.

My strongest wish in this matter is to secure the public good, but this makes no demand inconsistent with the good of the Library. Quiet demeanor should be claimed from all visitors, in a public reading-room, and its papers and periodicals should be always at hand, in good condition. Here I rest my conviction in favor of the present arrangement of periodicals. Spreading the periodicals upon the tables, I say with emphasis, was the cause of much disquiet. An alphabetical arrangement was attempted, but every new comer broke into this, and of necessity, any one in quest of a particular paper walked up and down the room to find it. If it was barricaded by readers, he must disturb them; if hidden, stolen, mutilated in any essential part, or not received, his noisy search, no less his time misspent, he must leave the room dissatisfied, perhaps in ill humor.

On the present system, in silence, he writes the number of the paper, receives it without delay if in, or information concerning it if it is not in, and quietly seats himself to read, or selects other

numbers, until all his wishes are met. Moreover, a file of back numbers, forming an incomplete volume, is equally accessible, a clear gain in favor of the present system, for he is saved an annoying, and perhaps fruitless delay, while the attendant *leaves the room* to find it. Spreading the periodicals on the tables invited from the delivery room a floating crowd, having anything but a quiet bearing, many of whom the rules fairly excluded from the room; and this caused no less annoyance in the circulating department, for the parties thus trespassing were neglecting the business for which they came, heedless of the repeated calls of the attendant, and subjecting the Library to the chance of losing a book, which, under such circumstances, could easily be appropriated by others. Thus, I hold, the old system subjected the reader to various inconveniences, such as disquiet, disorder in the arrangements, annoying and fruitless search, delay, &c., which the present system entirely obviates, and the question presented for consideration is simply one of administration, and the present method is shown to accord with the fitness of things.

In addition to this, stealing, mutilating, unnecessary wear and tear, rendering current volumes of periodicals unfit to bind, were almost exclusively incidental to the system abandoned, and give force to the argument in favor of the new; but if the facts above stated were different. if the old system secured quiet demeanor and good arrangement, I would not abandon it merely on account of incidental defects, from whatever cause, in the periodicals, and, for this reason, I do not dwell upon the subject of theft, mutilation, and defect, even though it be of grave moment.

If I am right, it would seem very strange if, in numbers to attract notice, the public ceased to be drawn to the Reading Room. But I assure you, sir, this is not the case. Attendance in the Reading Room varies with seasons of the year and hours of the day. Allow me to select these, and I will agree to make out a stronger statement against the administration than any yet presented in the public prints. On such manifestly unjust selec-

tion only can their criticism be sustained. It is not in conformity with the fact. Day by day, periodical with periodical, the Reading Room was never more than now a popular place of resort by those who appreciate its treasures and make a good and noble use of them; for the idler, the lounge, and the man without a purpose, it may have been. So far as my observation goes, men do not deny themselves a great good and great enjoyment from unwillingness to take the trouble of asking for it.

I may properly add that the expense of administering the Reading Room on the present system is the same as under the old. One attendant only is required day and night; while the gain incidental to safe keeping and preservation is quite large.

Moreover, I am strengthened in my position by inquiries made of persons of good judgment, who constantly resort to the Room for the benefit it confers. The uniform answer is in favor of the present method. They regard it as a public convenience, and are earnest in their wish to have it retained.

With much respect,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD CAPEN.

PUBLIC LIBRARY READING ROOM,  
BOSTON, Oct. 15th, 1866.

MR. CUSTODIAN:

You only ask if I will note down my views as to the new arrangement here. I do so cheerfully; and they *will be my* views, I having read or heard no other.

Upon my experience in occasional visits here for a somewhat wide though special research, both before and since the change, I can say, that now I quickly find what I want, or else why it

cannot be had, whether as not yet arrived from the publishers, or already in the hands of another reader. In order to do this, one need not, as heretofore, expeditionize about the room and tables, to the annoyance of many readers and one's self, besides being, after all, perhaps, left in doubt. But now one, upon entering, finds everywhere the full lists and directions, with pencils and slips of paper always ready; he on a slip notes from among the hundreds of various periodicals named in the lists, simply the list number opposite the one he wants, with the briefest hint of the particular issue that he wants, by its number or date, marks his own name, street and number, then pushes forward upon the counter the so inscribed paper, without saying a word (unless, as in case of a much called for work, he chooses, before writing *merely* his "name and residence," to whisper, for example, the "*Atlantic for October*"), when forthwith is given to him either the exact thing he wants, or the exact reason why it cannot be had. This is done by the ever ready attendant dispensing from within what I may call the cornucopia beneath the sublime presence of Columbus *discovering* a new world.

Since each borrower, by leaving his name, is so inspired with a responsible care in using the periodicals, I have not found, as I before did repeatedly, that they were badly soiled, defaced, or torn, and sometimes actually spoilt or wholly missing. And I think this better condition of the whole is owing to the better usage, and not to less perusal; the attendance of readers (my observation occurring mostly of evenings) being, if I mistake not, larger than before the change, and more entirely a studious company. Whether this latter is due to there being now less methods for mere idlers, or to the fact of a central directory quickly and quietly informing and doing for all comers everything but the reading itself, others can judge; but to me it appears that both idling and mischief have, in far the largest proportion, or, indeed, I might almost say entirely, disappeared upon the change, in addition to the important fact that now,

instead of all being obliged to ramble and rummage, none are.

I also think that under the new arrangement, these numerous works, containing, as they do, a current history of the age in its freshly recorded thought and discoveries in all principal departments, even after the full perusal in the Reading Room, are still in good condition for binding and preservation in the Library for future reference and coming times.

I might add, without discommending any, that among the long established and best reading rooms in Boston to which I have had access, containing like works illustrating the progress of science, etc., I usually prefer this of the city, as the best lighted, most spacious and conveniently ordered, and abounding in books of reference at hand; and I think I may now fairly add, as quiet as any, although by very far the most numerously attended.

Upon the whole, so far as I know and am able to judge, the present arrangement and rules go far towards securing the best of management, on all hands, for a truly public and free reading room, in reference not only to safety, but to the utmost practicable usefulness, harmony, and convenience for all concerned.

Very respectfully, etc.,

S. F. PLYMPTON.

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MR. CAPEN :

*My Dear Sir,*—I concur with Mr. Plympton in every opinion expressed in his letter. And I will add that I had become so dissatisfied with the *soiled*, mutilated, and "*be-scribbled*" state of the magazines, for more than a year preceding the change, that I

very seldom visited the room, but I now regard the use of it as a privilege and pleasure to be enjoyed as often as possible.

I can only express my surprise at hearing that any *reader* has found fault with the change.

Yours, with true esteem,

CHARLES ATWOOD.

*October 15, 1866.*



[EE]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

EXPENDITURES,

*From October 1, 1865, to September 30, 1866.*

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Binding . . . . .	\$2,741 18
Books . . . . .	10,681 88
Catalogues . . . . .	5,381 75
Expense . . . . .	1,773 30
Fuel . . . . .	1,423 50
Furniture . . . . .	1,546 67
Gas . . . . .	1,530 50
Periodicals . . . . .	1,261 08
Printing . . . . .	855 77
Salaries . . . . .	15,586 90
Stationery . . . . .	1,208 18
Transportation . . . . .	214 41
	<hr/>
	\$44,205 12









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