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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO VISIT AND EXAMINE

THE LIBRARY; THE PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS; THE
MEDICAL, CHEMICAL, AND ANATOMICAL
DEPARTMENTS

OF

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

FOR THE YEAR 1853-4.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON AND SON,

22, SCHOOL STREET.

1854.

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SENATE CHAMBER, Jan. 26, 1854.

IN THE BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE,

Voted, That the Report of the Committee appointed to visit the Library, &c.,
be printed, and distributed to the Members of this Board.

Attest,

GEORGE E. ELLIS,

Secretary.

R E P O R T.

TO THE HONORABLE AND REVEREND THE BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF THE
UNIVERSITY AT CAMBRIDGE, THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THEM TO VISIT
THE LIBRARY, &C., BEG LEAVE TO REPORT:—

THAT, on the 15th of July last, agreeably to arrangements made at the University, they met at Gore Hall, and attended to the duty assigned them.

That, finding so many of their body attending, amounting to the whole number chosen with but two exceptions, they deemed it prudent to organize in a manner more orderly than heretofore; and therefore appointed George Livermore, Esq., Secretary; the subscriber, in the absence of the regular Chairman a member of your honorable Board, to sustain his office *pro tempore*; and the several Sub-Committees necessary to visit the Law Library, the Theological Library, and the Museum; the Philosophical Apparatus, Gallery of Portraits, and Cabinet of Coins and Medals, to be inspected by the whole Committee together; while those gentlemen who were not detailed as above were instructed to examine the Public Library.

At this session, as on former occasions, the Committee were in some degree of doubt, notwithstanding the course pursued in previous examinations and reports of results, as to the extent of the duty assigned in their appointment, and expected of them; whether it were a simple noting of the number and condition of the books and various articles of apparatus, as a check on the official keepers of these material appliances and treasures, or were suggestive also in its character; whether, in fact, they might feel themselves authorized to take into consideration, not only what might meet their view, but also the deficiencies that might be found; in order that, by laying such discoveries before your Honorable Board, they might ultimately, if speaking through the press, reach that portion of the public which would be ready and able to supply what is necessary to the completeness that is desired.

In view of this embarrassment, to obviate which in future your Committee respectfully request for their successors in office some vote of your Honorable Body, or expression of opinion for direction or guidance, it was nevertheless concluded to follow the course commenced in recent years, and pursued in late Reports without animadversion. Therefore, taking counsel of an ardent desire to subserve the interests of the University, and of our community as involved in these, your Committee proceed to state:—

That they received the customary Annual Report

of the condition of what is termed the Public Library from Dr. Harris, the Librarian, which they respectfully request may be considered a part of their own, as follows: —

TO THE REVEREND AND HONORABLE THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL
EXAMINATION OF THE LIBRARY.

Gentlemen, — The additions which have been made to the Library, since the last annual examination, amount to 1,189 volumes and 3,372 pamphlets, exclusive of duplicates and of periodical publications. Of these works, 829 volumes and 3,354 pamphlets were special gifts.

Through the agency of Professor Francis J. Child, and of Dr. Henry W. Wales and Mr. Henry A. Whitney, of Boston, the sum of eleven hundred and five dollars has been raised, by their own contributions and those of other liberal gentlemen, “for the purchase of books necessary to a thorough study of the history of English poetry.” Some of these books have already been received, and others are expected soon to arrive.

Mr. Samuel A. Green, of Groton, a graduate of the class of 1851, who heretofore has contributed many books to the Library, has continued his acceptable donations during the past year.

Mr. Edward R. Andrews, of Boston, a member of the present senior class, has presented 174 volumes and 24 pamphlets, exclusive of many duplicates.

Mr. Charles Sanders, of Cambridge, has given a copy of Silvestre’s “*Palæographie Universelle*,” a magnificent and costly work, in four folio volumes, published by the French Government, — and also Sir Frederick Madden’s English translation of the text, in two volumes. From the same

liberal benefactor we have the promise of the great work of Dr. Lepsius on the Antiquities of Egypt, now in course of publication at Berlin; and I have been authorized to order and import it for the Library at the expense of Mr. Sanders.

Mr. C. Gayton Pickman, from whom many valuable books have been received at other times, presented to the Library, on the occasion of the recent inauguration of President Walker, a copy of the "Bible, in the earliest English versions, by John Wycliffe and his followers;" edited by Forshall & Madden, and printed at Oxford, in four quarto volumes, in the year 1850.

The Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, the Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston, the Legislatures of several States, and other public bodies, continue to send to this Library their several publications.

Thirty-four volumes, in addition to previous losses, are now missing from the Library.

Three hundred and sixty-three volumes have been bound, and thirty-two have been repaired, during the past year.

Nearly all the works that have been added to the Library have been duly catalogued and arranged in their proper places, and are thus rendered available for immediate use.

The want of a permanent fund, to defray the expense of administration and to provide for the increase of the Library, has not yet been supplied, and is becoming more urgent and embarrassing every year. Not only are the Librarian and Assistant taxed to the utmost in the performance of their increasing duties, but it has become apparent to them, that, without additional help and additional funds, it will be impossible to carry on the work satisfactorily, and without falling into arrears in the regular discharge of their duties,

and in the proper increase of the Library in its various departments. It is confidently believed, that there is no Library in the country, which, in proportion to its size, is carried on with such limited means, or which has a greater claim to be provided with ample funds.

The foregoing Report is most respectfully submitted to you, gentlemen, by your obedient servant,

THADDEUS WILLIAM HARRIS,
Librarian.

Your Committee will not entertain a doubt, that while, on hearing this Report of a laborious, intelligent, and faithful officer, the members of your Honorable Board feel grateful for the benefactions which the munificence of individuals still continues to make, and which it feelingly records, they will also sympathize deeply in the honest but not exaggerated complaints it contains. That the labors and services of the Librarian and his respected and devoted Assistant are and have been very great is unquestionable, and deserving the attention of those who have the official supervision, — the Corporation of the University. But your Committee, assuming here the liberty they have been allowed to exercise, consider it their special duty to advert to the remarks respecting a fund sufficient to defray the expenses of a liberal administration of the Library, and to provide effectually for that increase of it which is desirable, and even necessary to its comparative completeness and extended use.

As a Corporation, the University is generally accounted rich. Yet no one can inspect the annual accounts of its Treasurer, without perceiving the fact, that its funds are specifically devoted to certain objects; and that a floating capital, so to speak, if in existence, is of necessity exceedingly small. Hence, whatever be the desire to meet and overcome competition, or to maintain a present ascendancy in the advantages it offers, the means are exceedingly inadequate.

After much and careful deliberation, your Committee, therefore, have concluded to propose, that efforts be made among the friends of the University, — and we cannot but assume that this designation must include the greater part of our highly-favored community, — to raise the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, to form a Library Fund, the proceeds of which shall be expended by the Corporation of Harvard College for the increase of said Library, its due and faithful administration, and the binding and repairs of volumes, as may be necessary.

An ability to avail of sales of private libraries is also exceedingly desirable; since individuals are found in this as in other countries, whose favorite pursuits lead them to amass literary authorities on special subjects with far greater ardor than can be expected in officers of an institution which looks impartially over the whole field of science, literature, and art. Thus have foreign libraries grown, and their treasures

have become inestimable. The labors and expenditures of Archbishop USHER enrich now the collection of Trinity College, Dublin; those of LIGHTFOOT were found in the old Library of our own Harvard College, previous to the disastrous conflagration of 1764; and the British Museum and now Imperial Library of France have swallowed up a large number of private libraries, and have become the resort of men of learning from every quarter. Had our Library a fund to which it might look, collections made by individual scholars would soon be found to enrich it in a similar manner.

That an application for aid, such as has been suggested, is needed, and worthy to be recommended and entered upon, was agreed more than two years ago, when it was suggested to your Honorable Board, in the Annual Report on the Library, &c., preceding the last. The same conviction was impressed on the Library Committee of the last year. But it was not then urged, because an effort was about to be made for the foundation by the several classes of *Scholarships*, so termed; and which was, with many of the Alumni, and that deservedly, a favorite object.

But your Committee deem it capable of demonstration almost, that, in such a community as ours, the two objects will not interfere necessarily. In the Capital of the State, which possesses a taxable property of more than two hundred millions of dollars, and which has never been backward in its contributions

to praiseworthy objects, the effort recently made to establish a similar fund for the Athenæum, of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, has been successful. The same amount for Yale College it has been resolved to ask of the friends of that important and thriving institution in the neighboring State of Connecticut. Bowdoin College, Amherst College, and Dartmouth University, have raised by public contribution fifty thousand dollars each; beside the like exertions made for other literary establishments. All this success is calculated to give encouragement, while it reflects the highest honor on the country.

The Government of the State, moreover, claims its share of interest in this University, and has exercised power in remodelling a portion of its chartered privileges. Can it then be amiss, that its wants in this respect be laid before our State Legislature, and their aid be distinctly asked? Be it that the reply is anticipated, "We have other literary institutions needing legislative patronage, whose wants are more pressing, inasmuch as their endowments are vastly less;" it can be easily rejoined, let them share in the same liberality for which we petition, — Harvard College will be neither envious nor jealous.

With respect to the wants to which your Committee have alluded, they beg leave to say, that, while they are unprepared to define them with statistic accuracy at present, they are, in general, constrained to admit the justice of a description given by an alumnus

recently in a public meeting, who has not hesitated to say, that, "proud as we are of our four or five great libraries, there is not one of them, not even that of Harvard University, my own cherished Alma Mater, that affords the requisite means for the thorough study of any one topic of recondite learning, even if of practical science. Any scholar who tries to investigate any ancient or historical subject* will find, to his regret, that no library in the country has a plummet that can sound its depths. What facilities the noble Astor Library may afford, we can judge better when its merits are known, and its treasures are consolidated."

In this connection, your Committee are desirous to avail themselves of the language used by the present President of the University, and recall it to the recollection of your Honorable Board, as employed at his inauguration. "A college or university," he observes, "aspires to impart, not merely the measure of teaching which is necessary to practical life and good citizenship, but that which is necessary to scholars; in one word, the highest form of the learned culture of the age. And, in order to fulfil this function, that is to say, to do in fact what it aspires to do, it must have an ample public library and scientific apparatus, and also a corps of living teachers, each one of whom is expected to know the last word in his particular department of study."

* Or modern, or literary, it may be added.

In pressing, then, the enlargement of the Library, and urging the necessity of the measure, your Committee would deprecate the idea of either manifesting in themselves, or encouraging in others, a morbid bibliomania; but, sensible of the worth of good learning, especially to a country like ours, and indeed of its absolute indispensableness to the maintenance and honor of our institutions, which memorably and confessedly depend on the intelligence and virtue of our citizens; and of the convenience and feasibility of rendering the Public Library of Harvard College a place of resort for all desirable information, in which should be congregated the literary treasures of science, literature, art, and their respective statistics and history, with all the necessary illustrations and instruments, — they cannot cease to commend the subject to the serious, effective attention of your Honorable Board.

Intimately connected with this subject, if not rather involved in it, is, in the estimation of your Committee, the publication of a new Catalogue, including all the books, pamphlets, and maps, which have accumulated since the last publication. Successive Committees have felt constrained to urge this publication for some years past; but the reply has been, that funds are wanting for the purpose. If, as says the motto on the present Catalogue, “it is no inconsiderable part of erudition to know where to find a thing,” on the other hand, it is a fact, that the publication of this knowledge is highly conducive to the increase of learning.

Scholars at a distance from the University may then know how and where the means of their research may be furnished. Were it only for the publication of this long-desired volume that a subscription were solicited, its production, granting that it might be effected in no other way, would, in the judgment of your Committee, fully justify it. And it hardly need be added, that such Catalogue should appear in not only an alphabetical but in a systematic form also.

Next, in the number of its volumes, is the Law Library; and your Committee beg to refer to the Report on that subject, which has been received from the gentlemen deputed to visit it, and to make it a part of their own, as follows: —

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO VISIT THE LIBRARIES
OF THE UNIVERSITY AT CAMBRIDGE.

The Sub-Committee detached to examine the Library of the Law School beg leave to report as follows: —

The Library was found to be in good condition, and appears to have been taken care of in a manner satisfactory to the Professors.

From the Report of the Librarian, it was ascertained that the number of books purchased during the last year, exclusive of periodicals, is two hundred and nine; and that, besides some pamphlets, nine volumes have been presented to the Library.

Eight volumes have been received from Professor Greenleaf, in exchange for seven volumes of duplicates.

The number of volumes missing since the last examination

is eighteen ; and eleven volumes, noted as missing last year, have been returned.

Although some difficulty has been experienced in procuring promptly the Reports of Decisions from the more distant States, yet the sets of American Reports are nearly complete, and efforts are making to supply the deficiencies.

The sets of English Reports are at present somewhat in arrears ; but an order has been prepared, which is expected to fill them up through the medium of an English publisher.

Having ascertained from Professor Parsons that the officers of the Law School had no suggestions to offer to the Committee in relation to the Library, the above is respectfully submitted.

For the Sub-Committee,

SAML. F. HAVEN, *Chairman.*

Some additional remarks were anticipated from the respected Dane Professor of Law, which had not been communicated at the formation of this Report.

The visitation of the Theological Library resulted in the information, that its whole number of books amounted to 3,711, of which 184 were duplicates ; that 30 volumes were missing, 4 of which were lost the past year ; and that during the year the Library has received the addition of 259 volumes. Some remarks are added in reference to defects in the Report of 1852 ; but it is stated that the above may be regarded as exhibiting the actual condition of the Library.

In the Medical Library, which is now kept in Gore Hall, and connected, therefore, with the Public Library

there, no alteration was found to have been made; and the Committee were left to presume, that whatever additions are effected, as the progress of Medical Science may require, and the munificence of individuals may prompt, are to be found in the Library of the Medical College in Boston, which is not within their purview.

The Anatomical Preparations were not inspected; the very able and attentive Professor, to whose care they are entrusted, being at the time in Europe. This disappointment was regretted the less, as, at the previous examination, the articles had been found in excellent order, and greatly enriched with additions made to the former stock by the industry and skill of Dr. Wyman.

The visit to the Mineralogical Cabinet enabled the Sub-Committee to notice several improvements and many additional specimens. But they were subsequently favored with a letter from Professor Cooke, from which a few extracts are made, that will sufficiently explain themselves, and doubtless be interesting to those who are not only friends of Natural Science, but are concerned in the increase of the wealth and prosperity of our extended country, extended over regions abounding peculiarly in mineral riches. The Professor says:—

“The College Cabinet is at present in a singular condition; since, while it contains, for a collection of its size, an unusually large number of valuable and unique specimens, it is exceedingly deficient in species. Of about 575 known

mineralogical species, there are represented only 250; the greater number of the species which have been discovered during the last twenty years being entirely wanting. Indeed, so great is the deficiency in this respect, that it would be impossible, with the present collection, to illustrate a tolerably complete course of lectures on Mineralogy. It must not, however, be inferred from this, that the number of specimens in the Cabinet is small, or that a very large number would be required to fill up the deficiencies. On the contrary, there are over three thousand good specimens, and an equally large number of indifferent ones. Moreover, as the species represented in the Cabinet are those which are the most abundant in nature, and which have a large number of varieties, they can be illustrated only by a large number of specimens. Those which are wanting, on the other hand, are rare, and have few or no varieties; so that the number of specimens actually required to fill up the deficiency would not exceed five hundred. As already intimated, regarding the value of the specimens, the Cabinet is very rich. There are but few collections in the country which contain so many unique and valuable minerals. I might mention a number of mineral species which are better represented in the Cambridge Cabinet than in any other in the United States; so that, if the deficient species could be supplied, the Cabinet would not only be made useful as a means of instruction, but it would also become an ornament to the University.

“There is but one way,” the Professor adds, “in which the deficiencies of the Cabinet can be supplied, which is, to purchase the wanting minerals. For,” as he remarks afterward, “in Europe, minerals are considered objects of trade as much as any merchandise. There are, in all the large cities, mineral dealers, who, by means of numerous agents, secure all the best specimens, and thus oblige the mineralogists to purchase from them. A thousand dollars would fill

up at least all the important gaps; and, when this is done, the annual appropriation of one hundred dollars by the Corporation would keep the collection up with the times. As so large a sum could not be taken from the funds of the College, without sacrificing more immediately important objects, I can see no way in which the want can be met, except by appealing to private munificence.

“We are just beginning,” he subjoins, “to develop the mineral resources of our country; and mining must soon become one of the most important branches of the national industry. The want of schools for the instruction of mining engineers is already felt, and ought to be supplied by our University as soon as practicable. We have already nearly all the means of giving the instruction required. There are connected with the Scientific School professorships of Civil Engineering, Geology, Chemistry, and Mineralogy; and there is also a large Geological Collection. Were the Mineralogical Cabinet filled out, and a Professor of Mining-Engineering appointed, we should be able to open at once a Mining School. It is with this so desirable an object in view, that I have commenced collecting specimens of mineral veins, and the various metallurgical processes. It is my intention to obtain for every ore a series of specimens, illustrating the character of the veins in which it occurs; then specimens of the ore prepared for smelting; and, finally, specimens of the slags and crude products of each successive smelting process, ending with the pure metal. Here, however, I am also shackled by the want of funds; and, for this reason, have not as yet been able to make much progress in collecting. Could a fund of ten thousand dollars be procured for the College, the income of which should be devoted to the increase of the Cabinet, not only would its present wants be met, but it would also be placed on a permanent foundation for the future.”

Your Committee visited the Gallery of Portraits and Engravings, but observed no increase this year of articles; a remark which is also true of the valuable collection of busts, in marble and plaster, that adorn the hall of the Public Library.

They inspected also the Philosophical Apparatus, and were happy to learn that the wants which in previous years had been felt were agreeably supplied.

They examined likewise the Cabinet of Coins, to which they regretted that no additions had been made since the last annual visit, while the subject is one which gains so much attention abroad; Numismatology is not only a science of practical use in commerce, but coins and medals are often appealed to as the best vouchers of History, and have often assisted greatly in its details. Your Committee, therefore, cannot but renew this representation of the state in which this matter is found, in order to draw toward it the attention of a thriving commercial community, with many of whom it would be an easy thing to increase the collection. Indeed, a gentleman present, who had made the study of coins and medals an object of long attention, and had collected largely, stated that he would be willing to assign his collection to the University, of which he was an alumnus, provided a suitable receptacle were prepared to receive it.

With the mention of one other subject, your Committee will conclude their prolonged Report. It is that of the EBELING Collection of Maps and Charts, of

which a Catalogue was published in 1831, being the third volume of the series. It consists of "ten thousand maps, charts, and views, which," says the laborious editor, then Librarian, "is probably unrivalled by any other collection of a similar kind in the world." But it is to be remembered that the industrious and learned collector of this valuable treasure died in 1817; and that, since that period, the discoveries which have been made, as the result of either public expeditions or private enterprise, are numerous and important. Surveys have been effected with scientific skill and great minuteness and accuracy, the results of which it is very desirable to possess. Already has it been proposed in a neighboring State to apply to the General Government for the formation of a special department for Geography and Hydrography in the Library of Congress. That our own University may ere long be enabled to enrich herself with all the materials necessary to furnish a complete and comprehensive view of the acquisitions and communications which science, art, and literature have made, and then keep pace with the progress of the age, no one of her faithful sons will cease to desire.

All which is respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Committee,

WM. JENKS, *Chairman pro tem.*

DEC. 21, 1853.

