



OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF STATE LIBRARY.

COLUMBUS, JANUARY 2, 1856.

HON. WM. MEDILL,

Governor of Ohio :

The undersigned respectfully submit the following report upon the condition of the State Library, in pursuance of section eleven of an "Act for the reorganization of the State Library, and to provide for the appointment of Librarian," passed January 27, 1853.

The State Library contains 17,094 volumes, according to the register, but this enumeration includes the Law and Miscellaneous Departments. There is a large quantity of Laws, Journals, and Documents of the General Assembly which are duplicates : and unbound pamphlets have usually been entered on the register; The latter are now mostly bound into volumes, which in turn have been numbered, but without keeping up the full aggregate of volumes.

Since May 13, 1854, when the present Librarian assumed the charge of the State Library, the number of volumes has increased from 14,983 to 17,094, an addition of 2,106 volumes. These may be classified as follows :

1. Exchanges and Donations, mostly the Laws, Journals, Legislative Documents, and Supreme Court Reports of the United States, and the different States.....	320 vols.
2. Law Books, purchased.....	195 do
3. Newspapers, Pamphlets, Magazines, etc., bound in pursuance of a resolution of the General Assembly, passed April 7, 1854.....	266 do
4. Manuscript volumes of the census of 1850.....	61 do
5. Miscellaneous Books.....	1,364 do
Total.....	2,106 do

The fourth item may require some explanation. The Librarian found the manuscript returns of the Deputy Marshals employed to take the census of 1850, unavoidably exposed to loss and confusion. Every examination, however casual,

In the purchase of books for the State Library, it has been a leading object of the commissioners, so far as the funds provided would admit, besides those of the law department, to make selections principally from the standard works of literature, and very few from the ephemeral productions of the day. Since the last report, exclusive of books purchased in exchange for Ohio Reports, there have been added to the library about two thousand three hundred and sixty volumes, of which, about 1,260 volumes appropriately belong to the literary department, and about 1,100 volumes to that of Jurisprudence.

The additions to the literary department for the last two years, have been made, almost exclusively of the standard and permanent works of American History, general and local, Foreign History, Voyages and Travel, Theology and Biography, a portion of which are of ancient date, and not easily obtained, besides some of the other branches of literary science.

In the additions to the department of Jurisprudence, are included the law and chancery reports of the United States, and of the several States, English law and Chancery Reports, American treatises of law and chancery, of miscellaneous legal subjects and works on practice; the Laws, Journals and Public Documents of the United States and of the several States, and some of the proceedings of the British Parliament. A small portion of these volumes have been received from the United States and the several States, in exchange for the Laws, Journals, Public Documents and Legal Reports of this State.

WM. TREVITT, *Secretary of State*,
ELIJAH HAYWARD, *Librarian*.

COLUMBUS, April 15, 1854.



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was sure to disarrange them. His first care was to arrange the sheets by townships, towns and counties: but he at length concluded to bind them securely as a contribution to the statistics of the State, which every successive year will render more valuable. Fifty years hence many questions of succession to property may depend for adjustment materially upon a contemporaneous record of the name, age, birthplace, family relation, etc. of every man, woman, and child in Ohio in 1849-50, aside from any other value which such a domestic Day-Book may possess. It is recommended that the National census of future decimal periods should be preserved in the same manner.

Among the volumes of rebound documents are included the collated reports, etc. of the different State Departments from 1836 to 1851, when the size and style of those documents were changed. Their arrangement was difficult, and some omissions may have occurred, but it was believed that even the partial execution of the design would tend to public convenience. Five volumes are occupied with the Auditor's Reports and Communications during the period in question; four by those of the Board of Public Works; two with Governor's Messages; two with Agricultural Reports, besides many single volumes.

An interesting donation was made by Charles Hosmer, Esq., of Hartford, Connecticut, of complete files of the Connecticut Mirror, published by that gentleman at Hartford, and edited by Theodore Dwight, from 1809 to 1822, a valuable addition to the historical materials of the Library. There are no volumes which are consulted more frequently or eagerly than bound newspapers, especially of early dates. The Librarian is solicitous to obtain copies of all newspapers, even if the files are imperfect, which were published in Ohio prior to 1830; and the members of the General Assembly are respectfully invited to furnish any information which will aid him in making such a collection.

Measures have also been taken to preserve every pamphlet printed in the State, no matter what the topic thereof may be. Every such publication, which has been found, is gathered into a series of volumes styled "Ohio Pamphlets." The collection is as yet limited, however, and publishers are urged to send whatever may be issued by them in this fugitive form for preservation in the State Library.

The appropriation by the General Assembly for the purchase of books and periodicals for the State Library during the years 1854 and 1855 was \$2,000 per annum.----- \$4,000 00

The expenditures for books, etc., as appears from the Auditor's Detailed Statement of Disbursements, (pages 120 and 209) have amounted to----- \$2,070 58

There has been paid under the resolution of April 25, 1854, directing all newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets, etc., to be bound and paid from Library appropriation----- 440 83

2,511 41

1,489 41

Leaving a balance unexpended-----

For the present, it is thought advisable to devote the bulk of this balance to the purchase of Law Books, or works relating to statistics and political science. Special exertion has been made, during the year past, to complete the series of American Reports, many of which are out of print, and are seldom found in private libraries. These recent purchases have been found very acceptable to the legal profession, and the Supreme Court; and seem to fulfil the purpose of a public library at the seat of government.

The Miscellaneous Department of the Library, when removed to a place of security, will warrant very considerable extension. Its divisions of History, Biography, Travels, and even Theology, are superior to those relating to Natural or

Political Science, Commerce, etc. The present condition of the State seems to suggest that whatever works may in any degree contribute to the development of our physical resources should now be accumulated for general reference at Columbus.

Not directly connected with the State Library, except as a deposit, are purchases of Swan's and Curwen's Statutes, numerous copies of Legislative Documents, and Constitutional Debates, editions, more or less extensive, of Ohio Reports, etc. The latter are authorized to be sold, and the proceeds applied to the "increase and preservation of the State Library." The sales of Ohio Reports from May 13, 1854, to January 1, 1856 have amounted to \$1,082 30, of which \$402 49 have been applied as above, leaving a balance \$679 81 on hand. Exchanges have also been effected with law booksellers, usually volume for volume, of 397 copies of Ohio Reports.

The State Librarian, having been appointed by the Commissioners under the eighth section of the law of January 27, 1853, to control the sales and exchanges of the Reports, etc., will soon submit to the General Assembly a further report in relation to the volumes of all kinds deposited in the State Library, but forming no part of its catalogue.

The publication of a Catalogue is frequently suggested by the visitors of the library, (the last edition having appeared in 1849,) but until the occupation of the room in the State House, it is probably advisable to require the Librarian to furnish the information which such a publication would afford. A convenient catalogue, arranged with satisfactory references to subject and author, and giving titles to books and dates of publication, would require much labor to compile, and a considerable sum for printing. The library, in the first instance, should not only be enlarged wherein it needs addition, but a careful and systematic arrangement of the volumes should be carried out.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Commissioners of the Library.

JAMES W. TAYLOR,
Librarian.