

contains a complete collection of the insurance maps of the United States. There are more than ten thousand of them—in more than sixty thousand sheets.

An insurance map is compiled for insurance companies placing fire risks. It gives every structure existing at the date in every town where risks are placed; the height and character of each; the materials of which it is built; the fire protection of the town; the prevalent direction of the wind; and other information to the purpose. New editions issued from time to time incorporate the changes and the new structures. In the aggregate, these successive editions will evidently constitute a history of the structural development of each town represented.

They are not usually preserved even by the publishers—still less by the insurance companies which subscribed for them. They are carefully preserved by the National Library. Here alone may that development adequately be traced.

I might point out a multitude of such items, but the space does not permit—nor would mention of non-related items offer an intelligible view of the whole. I shall content myself with a more particular reference to one distinctive section of the collection—the manuscripts.

The Priceless Manuscripts.

IN the second floor of the library, reached through a great hall filled with exhibits, the visitor finds a lofty pavilion fifty feet square, with desks, catalogues, and other special equipment for the consultation of manuscripts. This is the administrative headquarters of the manuscripts division. In a room of equal area above it six repairers are continuously at work cleansing, mending and piecing out documents that require this, and reinforcing with a mask of transparent silk gauze the most valuable of them.

To the rear of the main pavilion stretches the storage room—a hall more than two hundred feet long by nearly forty in width. It is shelved with three tiers of metal cases, the lower of

which is enclosed in glass, tightly set, with locked doors. In the alcoves opposite the wide windows are large steel safes, burglar-proof, with combination locks. There are twenty of these, and others may be added as needed.

In these cases and safes are now housed the manuscript collections which alone would require the student of American history to visit Washington. Among them are the volumes which, until recently transferred to the library, have formed a distinction of the Department of State: the papers of the Continental Congress, —in more than three hundred folio volumes,—the papers of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, among the Presidents; of Hamilton, Franklin, and other statesmen. Continuing the presidential series are the papers of Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, acquired by the library by gift, and of Franklin Pierce,

James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson, acquired by purchase. The papers of Salmon P. Chase and a large collection of papers of Daniel Webster fit in usefully in their appropriate epochs.

Back of these in date, and touching another side of our history, are the papers—including the letter- and log-books—of Commodore Preble, and many of Commodore Barry and Porter. Brilliant earlier passages in the achievements of our navy and the career of the most picturesque of its heroes are evidenced in the twelve volumes of papers of John Paul Jones.

The letter-books and diary of Robert Morris as Superintendent of Finance (1781-84), acquired three years ago, after generations of vicissitude, including the perils of the junk-shop, contain copies of every letter written by him and a minute of every transaction and interview in his office during the four years of his incumbency. They have never till now been accessible to the historian. Without them the final history of the Revolution cannot be written.

What Peter Force Gathered.

FOR the Revolutionary period, indeed, and the period preceding it, the sources in the library are varied and copious. Besides the papers of the Continental Congress already mentioned—a mine of material as yet hardly explored—and the Rochambeau collection,—bought by Congress for twenty thousand dollars, and containing not merely the orderly- and letter-books of the marquis and letters to him, but more than three hundred military maps in manuscript by the French engineers,—there came with the Force collection—bought by Congress for one hundred thousand dollars—all the material gathered by Peter Force during a life of incessant activity in acquisition, when valuable originals were to be had almost for the asking.

It includes not only all the material gathered for his American archives, which was to be a complete official documentary history of the Revolution, and of which only a part was ever published,

Of all its records of the colonial period the most precious came to the library with the library of President Jefferson. It is the records, in two great folios, of the Virginia Company of London from 1619 to 1624, a document of priceless sentimental as well as historical significance. It is to be published in full by the library itself under competent editorship, and accompanied by other documents auxiliary in interest.

But I can cite only a few striking examples of the extent of the collection. I might add others emphasizing its variety: as the papers of Henry Schoolcraft, of Chancellor Kent, and—a contrast!—of Dolly Madison; the collection—seven

thousand items—of bills, accounts, and so forth, formed by Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps to illustrate the history of prices in England from 1632 to 1792; and the entire correspondence, account-books

and other business records of a great firm of importers and exporters who did business in Richmond, Virginia, from 1805 to 1853—forming a perhaps unique record of trade conditions and prices during that period.

Or I might note the Columbus Codex—a fine old manuscript on parchment, containing a transcript of the various grants and charters which were the muniments of title of Columbus as Viceroy and Admiral of the Indies, and supposed to be one of the four copies made by his order for authentication before his fourth voyage.

And no description of the governmental records proper could omit reference to the various documents rescued from the early files of our custom-houses at various ports of entry; or the Spanish archives from New Mexico, from Porto Rico, and even from Guam,—so far as they have survived the white ant,—which in the interest of historical research have been brought to Washington to be classified and made available in the National Library. The archives from San Juan alone filled a hundred packing-cases.

Indeed, the bulk of the manuscript collections

a creditable achievement in architecture, but wonders why a building so huge should be required, and how a building so sumptuous can be justified, may find ample explanation in the extent of the collections which it must house, and sufficient justification in their splendor as history, as memorial, as profound records in science, as exquisite examples in the arts.

Equally, it is to be hoped, will he who questions the need of an organization so elaborate and processes so expensive be satisfied by the proof in due course of a broad, a deep, and also a unique service to the advance of learning and the diffusion of culture.

any statute in that behalf, a contract to sell or a sale may be made in writing (either with or without seal), or by word of mouth, or partly in writing and partly by word of mouth, or may be inferred from the conduct of the parties.

SECTION 4. (1.) A contract to sell or a sale of any goods or choses in action of the value of twenty-five hundred (\$2500.00) dollars or upwards shall not be enforceable by action unless the buyer shall accept part of the goods or choses in action so contracted to be sold or sold and actually receive the same, or give something in earnest to bind the contract, or in part payment, or unless some note or memorandum in writing of the contract or sale be signed by the party to be charged or his agent in that behalf.

(2.) The provisions of this section apply to every such contract or sale, notwithstanding that the goods may be intended to be delivered at some future time, or may not at the time of such contract or sale be actually made,

other state on sales.

of the State of Ohio:

TRACT.

sell goods is a contract to transfer the property in the goods called the price.

agreement whereby the goods are to be sold to the buyer for a

may be absolute or

to sell or a sale be

and sell is regulated by the law to contract, and to

delivered to an infant, or a person of mental incapacity or insanity, he must pay a reasonable

goods suitable to the needs of the person, and to his delivery.

TRACT.

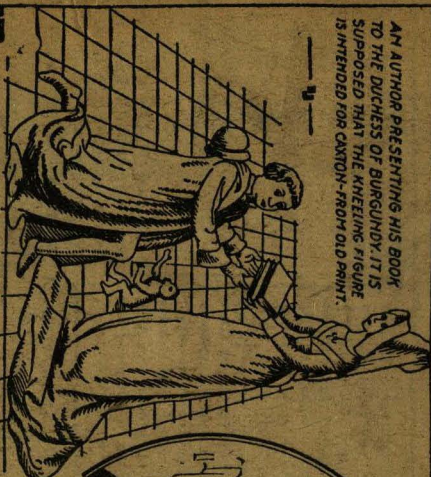
ions of this act and of the law to sell or a sale may be

Formation of the contract.

Necessaries, sale of, to infant or person of unsound mind.

Formalities of the contract.

AN AUTHOR PRESENTING HIS BOOK
TO THE DUCHESS OF BURGUNDY. IT IS
SUPPOSED THAT THE KNEELING FIGURE
IS INTENDED FOR CAXTON-FROM OLD PRINT.



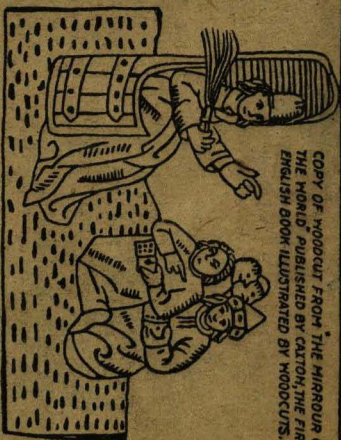
THE FIRST BOOK PUBLISHED IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE WAS THE "RECVYELL OF THE
HISTORIES OF TROYE." IT WAS A TRANS-
LATION OF RAOUL LEFEVRE'S WORK AND
IS GENERALLY SUPPOSED TO HAVE



THE CAXTON PORTRAIT AFTER THE
INVENTION OF BAGEFORD

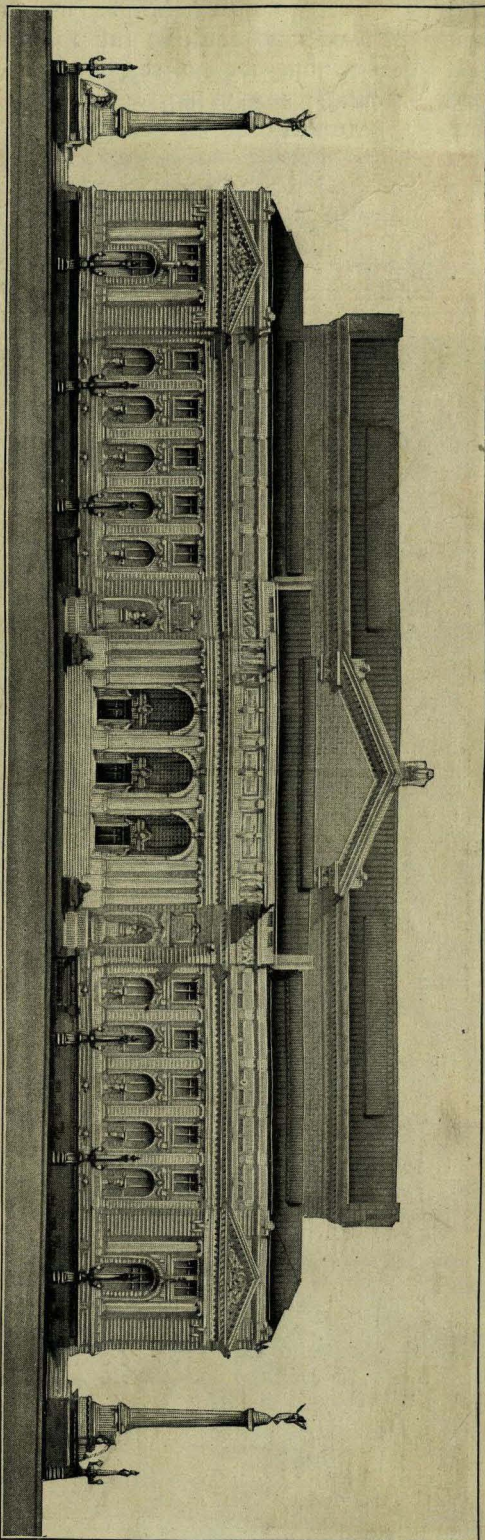


COPY OF WOODCUT FROM "THE MIRROR OF
THE WORLD" PUBLISHED BY CAXTON, THE FIRST
ENGLISH BOOK ILLUSTRATED BY WOODCUTS.



BEEN PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1475.

IT IS ODD THAT THE PORTRAIT OF CAXTON
GENERALLY USED IS NOT A PICTURE OF
CAXTON AT ALL, BUT WAS INVENTED BY
JOHN BAGEFORD, BY ADDING A THICK BEARD
TO A SIXTEENTH CENTURY PORTRAIT OF
THE ITALIAN POET BURCHIELLO.



THE GREAT PUBLIC LIBRARY WHICH IS TO STAND IN BRYANT PARK, NEW YORK CITY, FRONTING UPON FIFTH AVENUE BETWEEN FORTIETH AND FORTY SECOND STREETS.—FRONT ELEVATION OF THE ACCEPTED DESIGN BY CARRERE & HASTINGS.

The late John Russell Young, Librarian of Congress, always maintained a marked respect for his chosen profession, journalism. He was one of the few prominent men of the day who regarded the position of the trusted correspondent as fully equal to that of Senators and Representatives. The establishment of a reading room for the blind in the Congressional Library

will, perhaps, be more permanently associated with Mr. Young's name than any other single act of his short tenure of office as the first custodian of our splendid new National Library. Almost his last act was of a similar nature, the providing of a reading room for children too young to be admitted to the general library.

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WHEN YOU START YOUR LIBRARY

BY LAURA SPENCER PORTOR

Author of "The Greatest Books in the World"

MOST of us, at one time or another, have a desire to have a library of our own; but not all of us carry out the desire. Instead, we acquire perhaps only a very miscellaneous company or collection of odd books very little worthy that time-honored name.



It is inconceivable to me that anyone with any taste whatever for reading—I had almost said with the ability to read—should lack a library. Here are books in plenty and at a price that puts them within reach of everyone. Good books nowadays cost less than good gloves, good veils, and other perishable things. The gloves are destined to wear through at the fingers in no time, but your volume of Shakespeare, of Lamb, of Plutarch, of the Arabian Nights, will last for as many years as you live, and if you are any kind of a book lover will bring you not less but increasing delight as the years go by.

Everyone, no matter how poor, can manage to have a library of some sort. For to be good a collection of books need not necessarily be large. A three-foot library, a shelf, that is, but three feet long and filled with the right books, may be a very good library indeed.

I receive letters all the while from readers of the COMPANION who tell me they want to start a library and who ask me what books to buy. Will I make out a list for them, to the amount, say, of twenty or thirty dollars?

Taste and Individuality

BUT I am afraid this is a poor way and a bad beginning; for a library, like a home, should express the tastes and individuality of the one who lives in it. You may have upholsterers and decorators decorate your home if you have wealth, and you may get very good results; but the homes of people of cultivation and moderate means do not, happily, depend on such ministrations. Little by little the taste and ideals of the people who live in the home are expressed in the intimate possessions and surroundings in the midst of which the people live.

I myself know a wealthy man who ordered his books by the yard for the library of his new and very gorgeous home; so many yards, or feet rather, of red leather bindings, so many of a special shade of blue; so many of deep maroon, tan, brown, and green, to preserve a rich and balanced and varied color scheme.

It is the kind of thing to make a Pharisee of even the most humble of book lovers. Do you think I would exchange my motley books in my beloved bookcases for his? Ah, indeed, no!

I remember taking down from his shelves one of his volumes of Lamb. It was bound in a glaring high-keyed scarlet, with much gilt tooling, and I think I was probably the first person who had opened it. If my host had not been there I am sure I would have put my cheek to that book pityingly: "You poor dear Lamb! Have they put you in such a garb! You who went daily in your shiny, maybe rusty, coat back and forth from your sombered, gentle life to your high, long-legged stool and wearying accounts!" And Johnson, my beloved old Doctor Johnson,

he was in pale blue leather, mind you, that would soil easily. So spick, so span! The covers creaked as you opened them. "Ah, my poor friend," I wanted to say to him, "you who loved your untidy ease and your large loose buckled shoes, and a comfortable, capacious teapot at a smoky tavern!"

No, to buy ribbons by the yard may be all well and good but books should be bought neither by the yard nor by the list—nor from the purse, save just so far as is necessary, but rather from the heart.

Read as You Buy

MANY people bemoan a lack of money in this matter of libraries. If they had more money, if they could but afford more, they might have very fair libraries, they think. But all this is ill-judged, I am sure. It is not the lack of money that will endanger your chance of having a good library. Indeed, I think quite the contrary. For if you have a little money you will first of all buy more carefully and, best of all, nine chances out of ten you will read as you go. Each book bought will be as a new friend, studied and loved and understood, and there is no better foundation than that for a good library.

For those who are beginning a library and have little money to spend I would suggest that there be bought, say, one book each of ten great authors. It does not matter who the authors are so long as they stand high and their books are well known and standard ones. Let us take as an example the following ten, chosen at random from a catalogue of standard writers: Emerson, Eliot, Brontë, Ruskin, Carlyle, Dickens, Thackeray, Lowell, Shakespeare, Keats, and as a selection of ten of the books of these ten writers let us take in the same order Emerson's "Essays," Eliot's "Mill on the Floss," Brontë's "Jane Eyre," Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies," Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship," Dickens's "David Copperfield," Thackeray's "Pendennis," Lowell's essays "Among My Books," a complete volume of Shakespeare or any one of the Shakespeare plays, preferably "Lear" or "Romeo and Juliet," and Keats's "Poems."

Here you have ten books by ten master minds, books widely varied in subject, style, treatment. Let those ten suffice for a time. Read them; get acquainted with them, reading now in one, now in another, until you feel that you know them pretty well. Now purchase another five books *related to those*, but let the subjects and authors in this case be determined entirely by your own tastes. Among the ten books already mentioned which ones have appealed to you most? which five? Let us suppose you like best Emerson's "Essays," "Sesame and Lilies," Keats's "Poems," "Mill on the Floss," and "Jane Eyre." Very good, let the next five books be by the authors of these books or along

similar lines. Purchase another volume of Emerson, something more of Ruskin, another of George Eliot's novels, and another by Brontë, and, let us say, the volume of another poet.

Read these, and you will find that the authors you had at first liked improve on a better acquaintance. In this second choice you are not following

other people's tastes, you see, you are following rather your own taste, and this is of very great value, and of primary importance in starting a library.

When you have read the five you have in this way chosen, each of the five writers will have become, in all probability, a strong individuality to you. You will perhaps, after reading more of their books, feel that you know them a good deal better than you knew them by reading the first books; and because you enjoy them you will wish to know more still, not only more of their writings but

more about the authors themselves personally. This is the time to get for yourself and for your library some good volumes of biography or autobiography. Buy Emerson's "Life and Letters," for instance, and Cross's "Life of George Eliot." Mrs. Gaskell's "Life of Charlotte Brontë," Sidney Colvin's "Life of Keats," John Addington Symonds's "Life of Shelley," etc.

You have now twenty books, and as good a start as anyone need ask and a fine underpinning for a library. When you have read these your taste will have begun to form pretty definitely, and all further choice can safely be left to yourself.

The reading of the second half of the first ten volumes chosen, which are "Heroes and Hero Worship," "David Copperfield," "Pendennis," Lowell's "Essays" and Shakespeare, may now be extended as were the first five.

Meantime, in reading all these books, and very especially the biography or autobiography, you will have come across many references to *other* standard authors and books. Let these lead you. Look them up. Find out what books each author referred to has written, buy and read those that seem to you to promise to be interesting. It is a good plan never to read without a pencil and a notebook; in this jot down all such memoranda. When Emerson, or Eliot, or any of your chosen writers refer to another writer (and they are doing this all the time) jot the names down, and look their books up later.

Reading the "Classics"

BY AND BY, when you have read these first ten books which you have chosen and have found each of the ten authors referring constantly to what they call the "classics," you will begin to have a wholesome curiosity about the "classics" yourself. You begin to think they must be very good, since all these great men have liked them, so you begin to buy one or two of them, and you end by buying a good many more.

I am often asked whether it is advisable to buy sets of books. Yes, if you have the opportunity to do so at a bargain. Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, Emerson, Eliot, Ruskin, Carlyle are always appropriate, but it is to me a depressing thing to see those who have read little sitting in the same room with whole sets of books between which and themselves no real bond of friendship exists. These may be good for a formal library, but I would rather have—at least in my own intimate reading-room—those incomplete and broken sets on my shelves yonder, each volume treasured, each read, every one of them intimate friends, smiling on me as it were and not one to look coldly on me, not recognizing me, nor I it.

And this brings me to the question of a room for reading and a suitable abiding place for one's books. If you want really to start a library which will be a comfort to yourself and others, you must have some place in which you and your books can take your ease and be at home, some room or, if it be but a corner of a room, where there is a comfortable chair or couch, good light, and quiet. We owe them respect, these men and women who have remained in the world from other times to entertain and ennoble us.

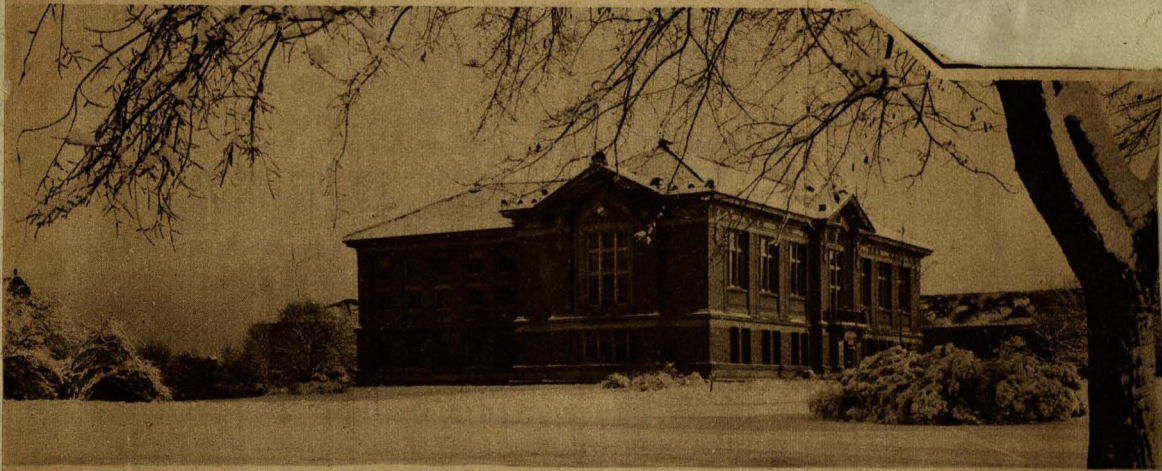
Now as to the question of price and binding. It would be delightful if we could all have well and appropriately bound books; but since this is not possible to all of us my own advice is always to get the cheap editions, *making sure, however, that they are well edited*. This is important, for many editions are much garbled. Editions of classics and well-known books published by reputable publishers may be trusted and are invaluable, also they are very numerous. If one means to read a great deal it is always of real importance to secure editions that have large or medium print. Good print editions of almost all the standard books can be had from thirty-five to seventy-five cents a volume. Some, it is true, run as high as a dollar or a dollar and a quarter, but this is rare.

Book Bargains

PEOPLE who live in big cities may often get very satisfactory bargains at the old book shops. My six volumes of Macaulay's Essays were a find in an old book store and were bought at twenty-five cents a volume, whereas the original price was one dollar and a quarter a volume.

Some of you will wish that I had named more than the books named so far in this article, but again I must remind you it is impossible for anyone to choose wisely for another in this matter of books.

The most I can do is to name over a number of the great authors with some of their most characteristic works. This has been done in a list of more than a hundred books, which will be mailed to any who wish to have it, for four cents in stamps (this includes postage). Any ten books chosen from this list would make a good beginning for a library. Please remember that the list offered is not complete, but merely suggestive.



THE LIBRARY AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY, Lafayette, Ind., has study room accommodations for 250 students. Its storage capacity is approximately the same as that of the University of Cincinnati for 100,000 volumes. The university has an educational building which contains 25 classrooms. The enrollment is 3,914 students.

Largest Library in the World is in Paris

Founded 1367

Which is the largest library in the world, and when was it founded?

The Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, established toward the end of the fourteenth century by Charles V. The date of founding is given as 1367, and the number of volumes as 4,050,000; maps, 500,000; manuscripts, 110,000; prints, over 1,000,000.

Q. Please tell something of the origin of the short story.—S. A.

A. The short story has always existed, though it was not until the 19th century that the art of writing it was consciously practiced. As Sophocles said of Aeschylus, these early authors of short stories did the right thing without knowing why. It was only on rare occasions, however, that these happy accidents occurred. Thus Professor Baldwin, after an exhaustive examination of the hundred tales in Boccaccio's "Decameron," decided that only two of them are short stories in the modern critical sense, while three others approach the totality of impression which is the result of conscious unity in expression. We must go back to the New Testament for a short story which is a structural masterpiece. The parable of the Prodigal Son, which is only 500 words long in the Authorized Version, satisfies the modern definition, securing the greatest emphasis possible with a surprising economy of means. In America, the short story had its beginning in the Sketch Book of Washington Irving.

Q. Please give the quotation from Dr. Van Dyke which begins, "I want the books which help me out of the vacancy and despair of a frivolous life."—F. F. K.

A. It is from "Ideals and Applications" and reads: "I want the books that help me out of the vacancy and despair of a frivolous mind, out of the tangle and confusion of a society that is buried in bric-a-brac, out of the meanness of unfeeling mockery and the heaviness of incessant mirth, into a loftier and serenier region. There, through the clear air of serious thought, I can learn to look soberly and bravely upon the mingled misery and splendor of human existence, and then go down with a more cheerful courage to play a man's part in the life which Christ has forever ennobled by His divine presence."

Q. Who wrote "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight?"—C. W. H.

A. It was written by Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

Short Stories of Ohio

By J. H. GALBRAITH.

THE CARY SISTERS.

Reference was made recently in this column to the fact that the residence of the Carys, near Cincinnati, was the principal reason for the coming of the family of William D. Gallagher, noted editor and author, to Ohio, when they decided to leave their old home in Philadelphia. Though the Gallaghers located at Mt. Healthy, the Carys lived on a farm at College Hill, which is now part of Cincinnati.

When the sisters were born, the family occupied a log house, but later were able to build a frame house of the farm type, which was somewhat pretentious for the time. Before the sisters reached maturity, their mother died, and their father married again,—a woman who had no sympathy whatever with their literary aspirations and sought in every way to discourage them.

"Clover-nook," which they gave to the series of books they published, was a real place on the farm at College Hill,—a place to which they liked to steal away in the summer time to commune with nature, and outline their poems. They made a visit to the East, in their young womanhood and visited many of the noted literary persons then living there,—among them the poet Whittier, who referred to the visit in verse:

"Years since (but names to me before)
Two sisters sought at eve my door;
Two song-birds wandering from their nest,
A gray old farm-house in the West."

Horace Greeley, then editor of the Tribune, took them under his patronage and for 20 years they lived in or near New York. There was but four years difference in their ages, and living always closely together, they died within three months of each other. Colonel W. C. Proctor bought the Clover Nook farm for a site for a school for girls, which is conducted there now.

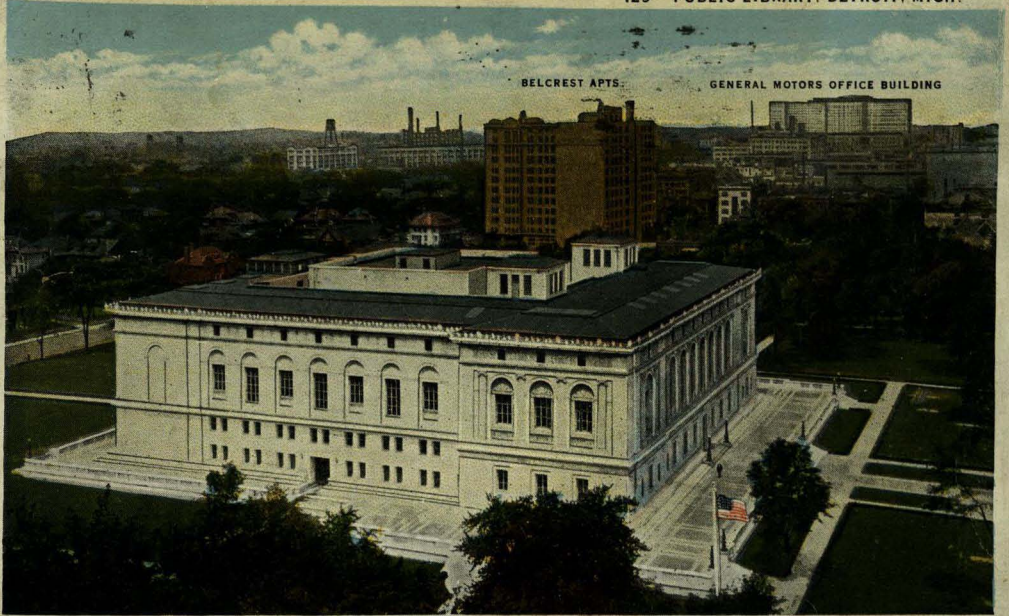
Their verses are still read. Alice is regarded as the writer of a more spirited type of verse, while Phoebe was more spiritual. Her best known poem is a song called, "Nearer Home," but more often referred to by its first line:

"One sweetly solemn thought."

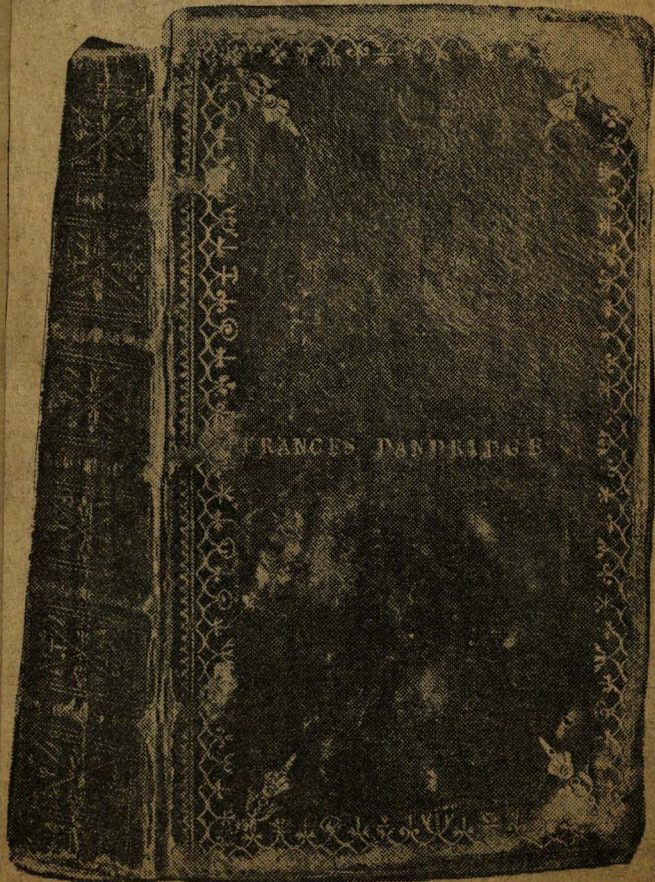
Samuel F. Cary, an early Ohio congressman, and candidate for vice president of the United States at one time, on the "Green-back" ticket, was a cousin of the famous sisters.

Q. Where was the first county library established in the United States?—M. L.

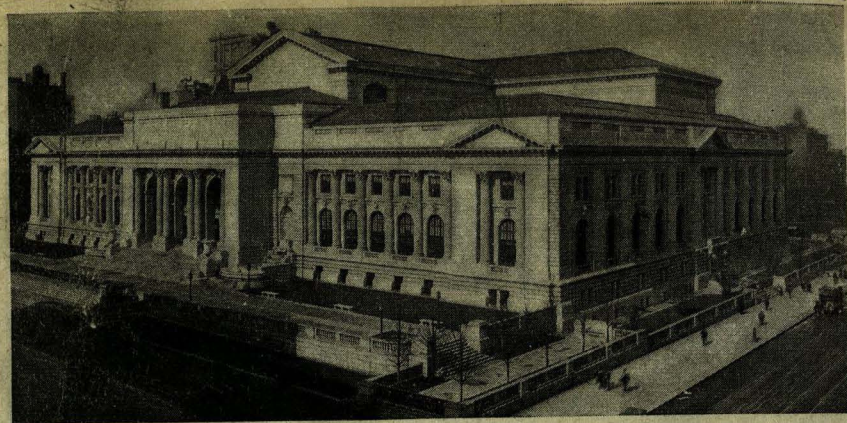
A. The Washington County Free library at Hagerstown, Md., was the first county library established in the United States. It was incorporated by an act of the Maryland legislature, in the fall of 1898, and opened its doors to the public in August, 1901.



116567



Prayer book belonging to Mrs. Frances Jones Dandridge, mother of Martha Washington.



The New Public Library at Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue, New York

New York Public Library

THE New York Public Library is one of the largest libraries, and its home is one of the most magnificent buildings of the kind in the world. The library is the result of the consolidation of the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, and the Tilden Trust, which occurred in 1895. The trustees determined that the institution should not only be for the use of scholars, but of the common people, and that it should be made a positive practical help to all who should care to share its benefits. In searching for a site for the great building, Bryant Park, on Fifth Avenue between Fortieth and Forty-second Streets, the location of the old reservoir, was selected. By an act of the legislature the reservoir was abandoned and leased to the city for the purposes of this great library. The style of the architecture is Renaissance and the building is of white marble. The front is on Fifth Avenue looking east. Although the building was under roof in November, 1906, it is just now completed, and the books are being carried from the other libraries and placed on their shelves in the new building. No architecture could be more beautiful and no appointments could be more complete to the minutest detail in its furnishings. John Jacob Astor gave \$480,000, which founded the Astor Library. Among the officers and trustees named in Mr. Astor's will were Washington Irving and FitzGreen Halleck. These books are now being taken at the rate of 20,000 a day to the new building. New York City is rich in its sky-scraping buildings, in its factories, its stores, its banks, its ships, its railroads; but above all these are the treasures of written truth that shall adorn the shelves of the great literary palace and enrich the minds of the citizens who may thirst for knowledge. Our God is omniscient and good books are the emanation of his mind and the choice treasures of his children's hearts. Paul in his instruction to Timothy recognized the necessity of clothing for the body, and also that of books and documents for the mind and soul, as he said:

The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments. (II. Tim. 4:13.)

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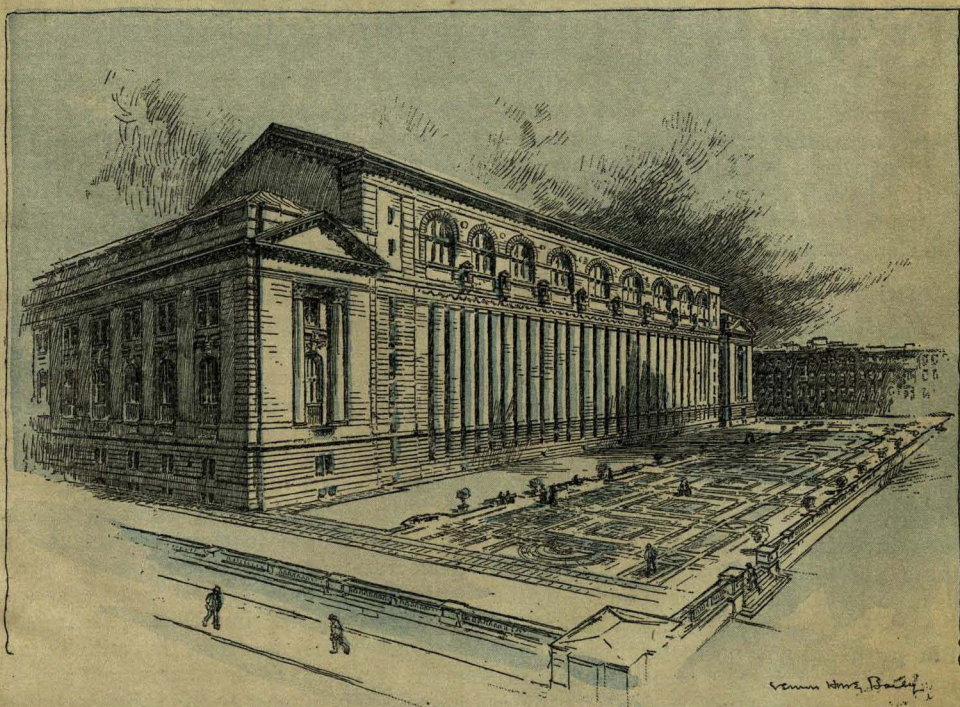
Number V

NEW YORK'S GREAT NEW LIBRARY

BY CLIFFORD SMYTH

A LIBRARY THAT EXCEEDS ALL OTHERS IN ITS RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC—ITS MAGNIFICENT NEW THREE-MILLION-DOLLAR BUILDING, NOW NEARLY COMPLETED

A BUILDING that will rank among the first architectural masterpieces of America, that will contain the largest bookcase in the world stored with volumes of almost incalculable value, and that will have fifty arms reaching out into every district of the metropolis and disseminating its treasures—that, in a sentence, is the New York Public Library, now rapidly nearing completion.



THE NEW BUILDING OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY—REAR VIEW, FROM BRYANT PARK, SHOWING THE LONG, NARROW WINDOWS THAT LIGHT THE BOOK-STACK

It is well to carry just this mental picture of the real visible thing—a central heart enshrined in a majestic temple of learning, with fifty arteries, or branches, radiating from it—when estimating the position and purpose of the new institution in its relation to the city it is destined to serve.

By a curious accident the site of the great library, in Bryant Park, was originally occupied by the distributing reservoir of the city's water supply. The massive pile of Egyptian architecture was long a familiar landmark of New York. Its vine-clad walls, severely simple in outline, were typical of the city of half a century ago; and when its architectural style became obsolete, and its dimensions inadequate to the needs of the rapidly growing metropolis, the old New Yorker was not without his regrets that it must be torn down. It had served him well in its day; every house of the old town had drawn from it; but now a new era had come, when the antiquated reservoir of water must give place to the modern reservoir of books.

To no other great library would the figure of a distributing reservoir be equally appropriate. It is just this feature that gives to the admirable system recently embodied in the New York Public Library its distinctive claim to superiority as a great educational institution—a claim which is easily verified by comparing its actual achievements with those of the four chief libraries of Europe and the Congressional Library at Washington.

THE GREAT LIBRARIES OF EUROPE

The free public library is practically a development of recent times. Of course, there were famous collections of manuscripts in the days of Greek and Roman culture, and even earlier than that; but it was the printing-press that made possible the great popular institutions of to-day. The honor of being the oldest now in existence is claimed by that of the Guildhall, in London, which dates back to 1420, when it was founded by the famous lord mayor, Richard Whittington. But its history is not continuous, for it was destroyed in the great London fire of 1666, and was not revived for more than a hundred years. The magnificent library of the British Museum is compara-

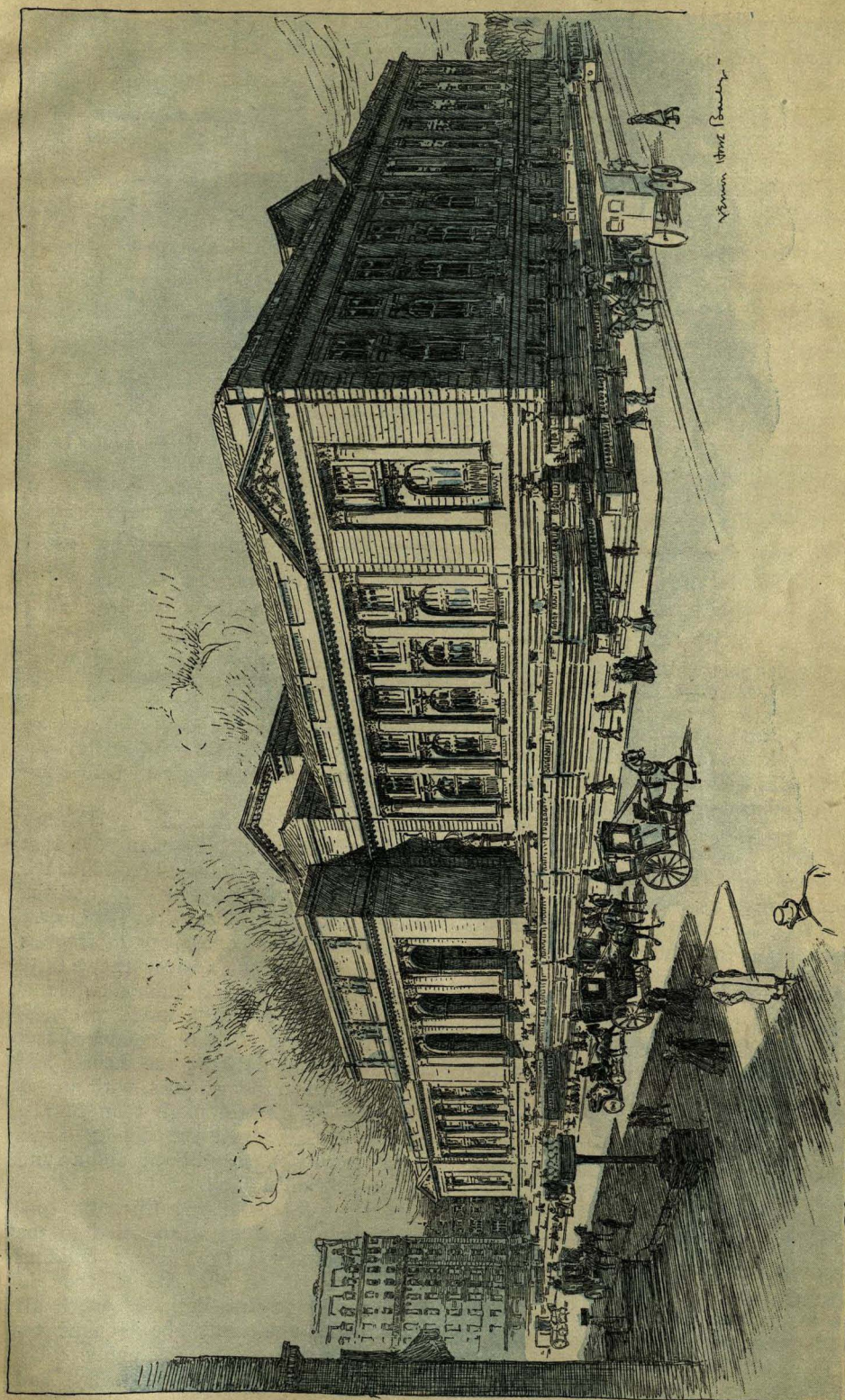
tively modern, having been started in 1753 with a bequest from Sir Hans Sloane, which George II, four years later, supplemented with a gift of books from the royal shelves. The Bodleian, at Oxford, second of the English libraries in point of size, dates from 1602.

In Germany there are town libraries which have been in existence since the fifteenth century—the oldest, it is said, being that of Regensburg, founded in 1430. The Imperial Library of Berlin dates from 1650, when the Electoral Library of Brandenburg was formed out of various monastic collections. It owes its later development to the fostering care of Frederick the Great and other Hohenzollern rulers.

It was royal patronage, too, that made possible the *Bibliothèque Nationale* of France, started by Charles V in 1364 with a private collection of manuscripts in one of the halls of the Louvre. This was carried off by the British after the battle of Agincourt, but the loss was made good by Louis XI, who added the first printed books; and most of the subsequent rulers of France have contributed to its growth. Napoléon took a great interest in it, and was one of its chief benefactors.

The Imperial Library of St. Petersburg, ranking third in size among the public collections of Europe, was the result of the spoliation of Poland, the splendid *Zaluski Library* at Warsaw, numbering two hundred and sixty thousand volumes, being seized by Suvaroff in 1795 and carried to the Russian capital.

These four great European libraries contain inestimable treasures in their books, manuscripts, and rare prints; but a survey of their operations shows that they do not possess the same efficiency, the same power of service to the public, that the New York institution will have. Originating, as they all did, under the active influence of royalty, it may perhaps be that a tendency to exclusiveness is bound to adhere to them, leaving it for democratic America to develop an institution whose wealth shall be of easy access even for the humblest. Their collections, priceless from the antiquarian point of view, are not so arranged and so managed as to meet to the fullest possible extent the needs of the average reader. None of them maintains circulating



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THE NEW BUILDING OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY—A GENERAL VIEW OF THE MAIN FAÇADE, ON FIFTH AVENUE, AND OF THE NORTHERN FRONT, ON WEST FORTY-SECOND STREET