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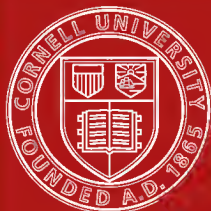
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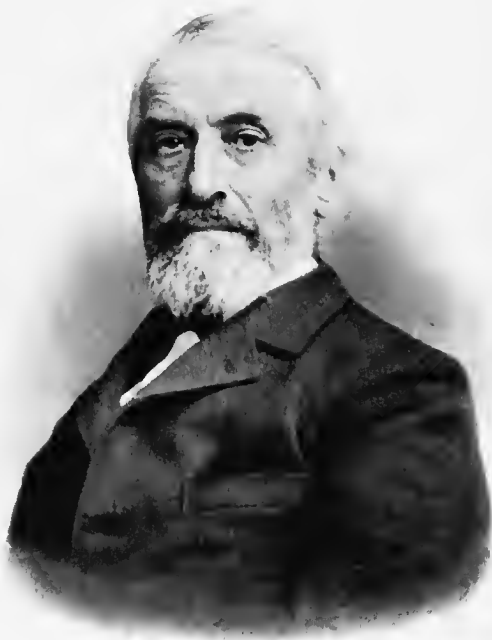
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*A. R. Spofford*







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Ainsworth Rand Spofford

1825-1908

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A MEMORIAL MEETING

AT THE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1908

AT FOUR O'CLOCK

The Librarian of Congress Presiding

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## AINSWORTH RAND SPOFFORD

THE son of Rev. Luke Ainsworth Spofford and Grata Rand. Born at Gilmanton, New Hampshire, September 12, 1825; died at Holderness, New Hampshire, August 11, 1908, in his eighty-third year of age and forty-eighth of government service. Prepared under private tutors and at Williston Seminary, for the course at Amherst College; but prevented from this by threatened weakness of eyes and lungs. (An honorary LL.D. of Amherst in 1882.) Removing at nineteen to Cincinnati, where he spent the succeeding fifteen years (1845-60) as clerk in a bookstore, as bookseller and publisher, and (from 1859) as associate editor of the Cincinnati Commercial. Despatched by this to report the battle of Bull Run, he was in his return through Washington offered, and accepted, a position as first assistant in the Library of Congress. In 1864 appointed (by President Lincoln) librarian-in-chief. In 1897, on the removal of the library to the new building, resigning this to become Chief Assistant Librarian, in which office he continued until his death.

One of the founders of the Literary Society of Cincinnati—an organization still flourishing. A member of the Washington Academy of Sciences, the Anthropological Society, the District of Columbia Library Association, the Columbia Historical Society, the Literary Society of Washington, the Washington Monument Association, the Washington Archaeological Society, the National Society of the Fine Arts, the Bibliographical Society of America, the American Historical Association and the American Library Institute, editor of voluminous reference books and compilations and a constant contributor to encyclopaedias and reviews. At his death and for years preceding, the Dean of American Librarians.





## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

### THE CHAIRMAN

WE are gathered to pay tribute to one who during a long life, concentrated for the most part upon a single interest, touched many men and women having varied interests; and touched us nearly, as professional colleagues, as associates in other relations of service, as beneficiaries, as friends. It was not, in comparison with some others, a life extensive in its own movement or experience. Its geographical compass was indeed very limited—a boyhood passed, as other boyhoods pass, in a small New England town, a brief period of youth in the chief city of New England, a few years of early manhood in a city of the middle West,—and the entire remainder at the National Capital. It was deprived, through ill health, of the maturing influences and the invigorating associations afforded by a college career. It was not, on the other hand, in the ordinary sense, a life of affairs. Its vocation, except for brief trials in business and in journalism, was a single one: the materials of this not men but books, its concern not achievement but the record of achievement, its main purpose not to produce or to express, but to aid others in producing or expressing: for such is the vocation of the librarian.

But such a life is not merely intensive, still less is it narrow or merely local. A life among books is a life of manifold and matchless experiences—though they stop with yesterday. In a sense indeed it is not even geographically limited. “Ah, Master, Master,” says the ex-sailor host in Joseph Andrews, “If you had travelled as far as I have, and con-

versed with the many nations where I have traded"! "Master of mine," retorts the Parson, "perhaps I have travelled a great deal farther than you, without the assistance of a ship. Do you imagine sailing by different cities or countries is travelling?"

'*Coelum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt*'

I can go farther in an afternoon than you in a twelve-month. What, I suppose *you* have seen the Pillars of Hercules, and perhaps the walls of Carthage. Nay, you have heard Scylla, and seen Charybdis. You may have entered the closet where Archimedes was found at the taking of Syracuse. I suppose *you* have sailed among the Cyclades, and passed the famous straits which take their name from the unfortunate Helle; you have passed the very spot, I conceive, where Daedalus fell into that sea—you have traversed the Euxine, I make no doubt; nay, you may have been on the banks of the Caspian, and called at Colchis to see if there is ever another Golden fleece"—

"Not I, truly, Master," answers the host: "I never touched at any of those places." "But I have been at all these," pursues Adams—"Nay, since thou art so dull to misunderstand me still, I will inform thee, the travelling I mean is in books, the only way of travelling by which any knowledge is to be acquired."

So Dr. Spofford, persistent resident of Washington, visiting Europe only once, and for a brief few weeks, until after his seventy-fifth year, was day by day throughout his career a busy and ardent traveller in every quarter of the globe, as he was also an enthusiastic comrade of the choice spirits of all time. On occasions, as in his *Book for all Readers*, he would describe these travels and these majestic intimacies, in terms which in another would have seemed pompous, but in him represented an actual and experienced exultation. To

him the book was the thing; Homer, Dante, Milton and Shakespeare active associates; the past of infinite interest, the dicta of the poets and sages enduringly fresh.

As a journalist he must of course have had to deal with the motives and movements of his time. And the pamphlet, remarkable for his years, which in 1851 he put forth in appeal to the Higher Law against a law of Congress, is evidence of not merely a vigorous but a fiery interest in a burning question of the moment (as it is also of that rotund style, from which he never lapsed even in correspondence). But with his entrance upon librarianship he put away the merely contemporary; and from that moment no one could find him partisan upon a current issue, nor except after insistent effort could discover his opinion upon it.

His indifference to such would have sufficiently accounted for that abstraction of manner which became characteristic and was so often misconstrued,—except that he has himself furnished us a different explanation. It was his recipe against bores. "The bore," he writes, "is commonly one who having little or nothing to do, inflicts himself upon the busy persons of his acquaintance, and especially upon the ones whom he credits with knowing the most,—to wit, the librarians. Receive him courteously, but keep on steadily at the work you are doing when he enters. If you are skilful, you can easily do two things at once; for example, answer your idler friend or your bore, and revise title-cards, or mark a catalogue, or collate a book, or look up a quotation, or write a letter, at the same time. Never lose your good humor, never say that your time is valuable, or that you are very busy; never hint at his going away; but never quit your work, answer questions cheerfully, and keep on, allowing nothing to take your eyes off your business. By and by he will take the hint, if not wholly pachydermatous, and go away of his own accord. By

pursuing this course I have saved infinite time, and got rid of infinite bores, by one and the same process."

According to his own testimony his abstraction of manner was thus on occasions a deliberate and cultivated one. But its habitual cause was absorption elsewhere. As the years advanced this absorption grew. In his latter days it seemed at times to draw him completely from us, while sitting in our midst. We could more than forgive him: he was in better company!

A soul aloof in a world ideal: the world of books. To him it was only "the thoughts and the facts that are garnered up in books [that] are endowed with a life that is perennial. Men may die, and legislators may perish, and librarians are mortal; but libraries and literature are immortal. Even though the ever-gnawing tooth of time should one day undermine this beautiful structure and its granite walls should crumble to decay,—yet through the ever-living power of the magic art of printing, books will survive, and the thoughts of the mind will far outlast towers of granite and monuments of marble."

So, in a latter year, he spoke at Concord. And what he felt of the structure and its contents there he lived here. The physique about him was of small concern,—the mere apparatus of life, even contemptible. *Why* apparatus when the contact could be immediate? *Why* system, when the motive was pure? Hence his complacency—quite incorrigible—in disorder about him; a complacency as delightful to me personally as it was—at times—perplexing officially. He had, in fact, an order always in view; but it was an ultimate and ideal order, not a present and adjacent one. The things about him were merely things,—external, temporal; he was engaged with the truths and beauties that are inner and eternal.

In matters of mere business indifference to (conventional) order entails misfortune, and it did with him. But never to a doubt of his unselfishness, of his honesty of purpose, or of his profound personal integrity.

The press notices concerning him have uniformly dwelt upon the marvels of his memory. In reading them one might be reading the record of a Magliabecchi. It was indeed of all librarians, Magliabecchi whom, in this respect, and some others, he perhaps most nearly resembled,—except that he would not, I think, have been willing to claim the learning that tradition ascribes to the famous Italian. It was the books that he knew, not, except in certain fields, the subject matter. He was not, for instance, a classical scholar,—nor a thorough linguist. He had not, on the other hand, special knowledge of nor interest in any branch of science or the arts. He was, perhaps, reader rather than scholar. But he was a notable proof of what may be accomplished by the mere reader: intent, absorbed, with a definite purpose and an indefinite capacity. Genius may, as claimed, be the habit of infinite pains; with him, in reading, it was the habit of absolute attention. The memory of the thing read followed as of course. So he himself explained it.

The extent and precision of his own were unexampled among American librarians. They were impressive, brilliant, Combining with the wonderfully responsive agility of his mind, the service that they enabled him to render during the half century when but for them the library was a chaos, was an indispensable service which gave life to the collections and ensured their future. It is doubtless by it that the public will chiefly remember him.

It was to it also, combined with his indomitable industry, and his equally indomitable optimism, that the collections signified what they did when they were moved over from the

Capitol. For only those qualities could have enabled him, without complete catalogues, without proper bibliographic apparatus, with an inadequate staff and a but trivial purchasing fund, (which never exceeded \$10,000 a year); only those qualities, I say, could have enabled him to gather into the collections the mass of invaluable material which they then represented.

But to us, his associates, it was not his memory, but certain traits which signified: the former was a phenomenon of curious interest; the latter were qualities personally affecting. To you I need only name them: his ardor, his devotion, his patience, his steady fortitude, his essential sweetness, his fundamental simplicity. The severe trial of these in his latter years left them unimpaired. They continued even through the closing months, when activity must have meant effort, and effort pain. Never once, within my remembrance, did he utter an expression that rendered our recent tasks more difficult; although the purpose of these must have been to him in many respects indifferent, and although they necessarily involved some temporary neglect of considerations (as to the development of the collections) which he held sacred.

To give over to another the accustomed reins of authority is at no time easy; to give them over at the moment when the institution is emerging from a pinched and narrow to a spacious and glorious life—emerging from the life which has been a struggle, to the opportunities for which one has struggled; to give them over then, and with them the prestige and the privilege of the office; such a surrender is hard indeed. The man who, like Dr. Spofford, can make it without a murmur, before or after, is of incredible rarity.

The man of his years, who, having for two generations been chief executive, can not merely subordinate, but *endear* himself to his successor, and never waver in fidelity to the

institution, nor in enthusiasm for its interests,—such a man has achieved a feat beside which mere feats of memory are of trivial moment.

With him, however, this was not a feat, but nature; the ordinary expression of a nature absolutely loyal, consistently unselfish, enduringly childlike. It will be a sad day for any profession when such a nature is referred to as merely "quaint," as if an anachronism. Particularly will it be a sad day for our profession, with its present stress upon system and mechanism. The age indeed—our calculating age—requires these: the masses of material to be dealt with, the number and variety of needs to be met, the demand that they be met with promptness and precision. System and mechanism are now necessary auxiliaries, but they cannot be substitutes. And I, associated with them, under duty to promote them, shall not cease to be grateful for the nine years which have given me near contact with one who signified so much and so deeply without regard to them. To me, indeed, Ainsworth Spofford was more than an individual; he was an institution. And with him the continuity has been broken, an order has passed, for which no "new order," however efficient, can compensate.

His thirty-six years in the old Library were an incessant and arduous struggle of lofty aims against adverse conditions. One may rejoice that the final decade, if it did not bring to himself complete personal compensation, at least brought to these aims just fruition: the building which he had appealed, argued and prayed for, completed, in amplitude and magnificence even beyond his dreams; provision ensured for the development of the collections in accordance with the theory upon which he had ever insisted—that the library was not a merely legislative library, but the National Library of the United States;—and himself, if no longer in

chief control, at least free to devote himself to the increment of them which had been his pride and his passion. That last decade was, I think, to him a period of cheerful contentment, as it was a period of still useful and active service. And if its close involved any struggle it was a struggle with infirmities merely physical. In the "Ars Moriendi" the dying man is harassed by five temptations: "Unbelief, Despair, Impatience under suffering, Vainglory, Avarice. Fashion the *converse* of these and you have the Spirits which, not as assailants but as sustaining attendants, ensured serenity to Dr. Spofford's closing days as they had buoyancy to his entire life.

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It is not the purpose of our program to attempt a systematic survey of Dr. Spofford's life and work: rather to touch on certain periods and phases, or characteristics of it with which we here at Washington have been associated. But through the friendly interest of Mr. Blackwell, who has come here from Boston for the purpose, this is to be prefaced by some reminiscence of his earlier days in Cincinnati. The omission of other details essential to a complete biographical statement will we hope be made good in the printed volume, the biographical contributions to which may include also this list of Dr. Spofford's writings—a list comprising no less than 23 typewritten pages.

Mr. Johnston is to describe to us the conditions and problems which he had to face in the old Library, and his methods of meeting them. His statement will therefore be somewhat professional as well as particular: for he speaks not merely as President of the Library Association of the District, but as historian of the Library of Congress.



Mr. Noyes is to refer to Dr. Spofford's services as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library.

We are then to hear some reminiscences and characterization of him as a contributor to the several Washington societies of which he was an active member: the Literary, the Anthropological, and the Historical.

First, however, we are to revert to the earlier days: from 1845, when he entered Cincinnati as a boy of twenty, to 1861, when he left it finally for Washington.

## DR. SPOFFORD IN CINCINNATI 1845-1860.

HENRY B. BLACKWELL.

**L**AST week I stood on Abel's Hill in the island of Martha's Vineyard, and looked across to the lonely graveyard in which are buried the mother, brother and sister of the man whose noble and useful life we commemorate today. Further to the northward I saw the beautiful but desolate hill whereon his father, a stern old-fashioned Presbyterian divine, built, some 75 years ago, the church and parsonage (now torn down), in which for years he preached Calvinistic theology to the sturdy farmers and fishermen of the ancient town of Chilmark. Below me to the southward stretched the vast expanse of ocean; to the northward were the wide waters of the Vineyard Sound and the Elizabeth islands. In that bleak and secluded spot, Ainsworth Rand Spofford spent several years of his early boyhood, gathering berries to pay for books in summer; wading through snow drifts and howling storms to school in winter. It is difficult now to realize the isolation of Chilmark during the period when it became the home of the studious and aspiring boy. Its inhabitants seldom visited the mainland and there were no public means of reaching it. Even the county roads to the adjoining towns of Tisbury and Gayhead were obstructed by numerous bar-ways. The habits of the people were extremely primitive. They depended wholly on domestic industries. The more enterprising went off on whaling voyages of years in duration. There was little money in circulation. Land was hard of sale and of low valuation. Even when, in 1862, many years later, I accompanied Dr.

Spofford to Chilmark to revisit the scenes of his youth and his father's old parishioners had to write on in advance and engage a sailboat to cross the Sound from New Bedford to Menimsha, and on our arrival we spent ten days at the Gay-head lighthouse for lack of other accommodations. The congregation was poor and scattered. Life was hard. Consumption carried off several of the family and forced the surviving members to seek a milder climate.

To show the positive quality of Dr. Spofford's ancestry, I recall a curious anecdote of his father. The old gentleman, having been greatly troubled with a corn on his little toe, quietly walked to the woodpile and chopped off the offending member, nearly dying in consequence. (His sons, like their father, were never at a loss to cut a Gordian knot, when needful). One brother went to Cincinnati; the other to New Orleans, where each took root and soon made himself a valued and influential citizen. I have often thought that those early years of strenuous contest with hard conditions and uncongenial climate helped to stimulate Dr. Spofford's energy and strengthen his will for success in after life.

Ainsworth's love of books naturally attracted him to bookselling. He became salesman for a wholesale dealer in books and stationery. Upon the death of his employer, he carried on the business for the widow, under the firm name of Truman & Spofford. The bookstore on Main street in Cincinnati soon became an informal literary centre for young men of scholarly taste, many of them lawyers. I first met Mr. Spofford at his store in 1848. He was then 23 years old. Soon afterwards he organized among his friends and acquaintances the Cincinnati Literary Club, of which it was my privilege to become a member. The club still exists. It has had an eventful history. It has numbered among its members many men who afterwards have achieved national

reputations—among others, Salmon P. Chase, afterwards Governor of Ohio, U. S. Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court; Stanley Matthews, an eminent lawyer and judge; Judge J. B. Stallo, author of a standard treatise on Philosophy and Metaphysics; Beard, an eminent artist; Buchanan Read, a poet of genius; Alphonso Taft, afterwards U. S. Attorney-General, and his law partner, Patrick Mallon; Rutherford B. Hayes, afterwards President; and Mr. Rogers, who became his private secretary, and Dr. Menzies, Hayes's wife's brother; Judge Charles James, well known later in this city; Murat Halstead; Gen. Anderson, first Military Governor of Manila; Hon. J. W. Herron, and a generation later Herron's son-in-law, William H. Taft, our President-elect. Were there time, I might name many others. That club was to Dr. Spofford and his fellow members a liberal education. It discussed at its Saturday evening meetings all sorts of questions—anti-slavery, woman's rights, non-intervention, tariff, socialism, non-resistance, even such abstract questions as fate and free-will. With what Ralph Waldo Emerson happily designated as "Mr. Spofford's despotic benevolence," it brought out to conservative Cincinnati radical thinkers never before introduced to a western audience—Emerson, Theodore Parker, Bronson Alcott, Andrew Jackson Davis, Moncure D. Conway, and others; their lectures arranged and audiences secured. Every month we listened to essays and poems of our own composition, and every Fourth of July we had a banquet in a fine grove on the hills overlooking the Little Miami river. Meanwhile, Mr. Spofford and I, being active young business men, spent months together in visiting our customers, country merchants in western Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. There were no railroads in those days in what is now called the "Middle West," and

we travelled in our own conveyance, beguiling our enforced leisure by reading aloud to each other standard authors like Bacon, Shakespeare, Aristotle and Plato. In those early days Mr. Spofford was an omniverous and rapid reader of books. He cared little for newspapers. He preferred political, historical and biographical literature rather than contemporary fiction. He loved to browse among volumes ancient and modern on every conceivable subject. He had a retentive memory and was wont to quote passages which specially impressed him. He delighted in old English and Scottish ballads and in Macaulay's Lays. I remember his often quoting with ringing emphasis a ringing stanza :

Advance! Advance! ye Knights of France!  
Give ear unto my call.  
Lo! here I stand for England,  
And I defy ye all!

Emerson, Parker, Hawthorne, Holmes and Carlyle were favorite authors. But his reading was not limited to any one subject. An ardent lover of liberty, his sympathies were with the advocates of reform, but he always saw both sides, and was not carried away by surface agitation. When Kosuth aroused a popular movement for interference in behalf of oppressed Hungary by pleas of matchless eloquence, he stood firmly for non-intervention. In sympathy with Garrison and Wendell Phillips, he deprecated disunion, and was a voting abolitionist. In our debate he was always positive, but never personal or aggressive.

In 1852 Mr. Spofford and Miss Sarah Partridge married and set up their small housekeeping near my mother's home on Walnut Hills, making between us an additional bond of friendly intercourse. As the anti-slavery conflict thickened, we became radical free-soilers. In 1855-6 Mr. Spofford went as a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention

which nominated John C. Fremont on a platform opposing any further admission of slave states. He there made a speech which was highly commended. Mr. Spofford was, for some years, assistant editor and editorial writer for the Cincinnati Commercial.

During the eight years from 1848 to 1856 Mr. Spofford was the centre and life of the Literary Club. At its semi-centennial celebration in 1898 I accompanied him to Cincinnati, where he received a most enthusiastic welcome, though but few of the original members survived.

In 1861 Mr. Spofford was about to close negotiations for the purchase of the antiquarian bookstore in Boston; but, most fortunately, ere it was completed, Dr. Stephenson, a fellow member of the Club, was appointed Librarian of Congress by President Lincoln, and secured the services of Mr. Spofford as his assistant. Upon Stephenson's resignation, Mr. Spofford was promoted to the position for which he proved so exceptionally well qualified. Since then, his life will be better told by others.

In 1856 our paths separated, I making my home in New York and Boston, he soon after in Washington. But during our summer vacations we have often met, and I have frequently been his guest in his beautiful home in Washington. For sixty years I have seen him change from a vigorous young business man, with strong voice, emphatic expression, genial manners and cordial welcome to all; ripening into a great librarian. Always liberal in thought, conservative in action, he never outlived the ideals of his youth. He was a lifetime believer in the legal and political equality of women, and a consistent friend of equal suffrage for all American citizens, irrespective of sex.

He had the happy faculty of meeting on terms of friendly intimacy and good will men of all parties and opinions.

During the Civil war he and his brother, with equal intensity of conviction, espoused opposite sides, and broke off all intercourse for some years. During the reconstruction era the brother in New Orleans was elected U. S. Senator by the Democratic party of Louisiana, but was prevented from taking his seat by his Republican competitor. Later the brothers became reconciled and fraternized without compromise of views or loss of mutual esteem. Both were alike in taking life seriously and in doing with their might what their hands found to do.

Last summer my daughter and myself had the great privilege and pleasure of entertaining Dr. Spofford and his daughter at our home in Dorchester. Although partially crippled by paralysis, he retained his usual cheerfulness and interest in passing events, enjoyed drives through the pleasant suburbs of Boston, and listened with keen appreciation to his daughter's reading of the daily papers. To the very last he deprecated assistance, and preferred to help himself, even at a disadvantage. The invaluable attentions of his daughter sweetened his life to the last, and he passed away at the age of 83 without a complaint or murmur, with a manly composure worthy of his long and useful career. Dr. Spofford was fortunate in his mastery of circumstances, in his satisfaction in his work, in his choice of a wife, in his beautiful home, and in his faith in a progressive future. I count his friendship as one of the greatest satisfactions of my life.

## DR. SPOFFORD AND THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, 1861-1897.

W. DAWSON JOHNSTON.

**I**N the ancient democratic regime American writers aspired to a position in the public service as French writers aspire to a seat in the Academy. At the time of the establishment of the Smithsonian institution in 1845, Mr. Hawthorne desired an appointment as its librarian. A few years later he wrote to Mr. Stoddard that it might be well for Stoddard also to seek an appointment in the public service. "Apply," said he, "for some place that has a literary fragrance about it—librarian to some department, the office which Lanman held." Mr. Lanman, a writer more interesting than popular, was successively librarian of the War Department, State Department and House of Representatives, and in 1864 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of Librarian of Congress. His successful rival was Mr. Spofford.

When Mr. Spofford came to Washington the only collections of national importance were those made by such cities as Boston, such colleges as Harvard, and such individuals as John Carter Brown; the nation was almost wholly dependent upon these New England collections for its literary wealth. The Government libraries in Washington—nine in number—contained hardly more than 125,000 volumes, few of which were rare and many of which were duplicates. The Library of Congress had nearly 63,000 volumes, or about one-half of the entire number. The most valuable part of this was the library of President Jefferson. The library staff numbered five, with salaries ranging from



\$2,160 for librarian to \$1,440 for messenger, \$9,000 in all. The appropriation for books was \$7,000. At the end of his administration the library numbered something over a million volumes—that is, it had increased in size sixteen times. The staff, however, had increased in size only eight times, the salary roll only seven times, while the appropriation for books was not even doubled. The conditions represented by these figures, the problems arising from them, and Mr. Spofford's methods of solving them, may be stated as follows: First, the problems of collecting and organizing the library, and, second, the problems of administration and use.

#### BOOK COLLECTOR.

Mr. Spofford was primarily a collector of books. His various addresses and writings relative to the library invariably dwell upon its collection and the policy pursued in making them.

The prime function of the national library, it seemed to him, and the one to which attention would chiefly be directed in generations to come, was the collection and preservation of the national literature. He did not mean by this a selection merely, but a collection of the entire product of the press, irrespective of intrinsic value, fully representative of the national life. His reasons for such a policy were set forth in his first article upon the library and were presented in detail during the last year of his administration in a paper on "The function of a national library." They were as follows:

"First, every nation should have, at its capital city, all the books that its authors have produced, in perpetual evidence of its literary history and progress—or retrogression, as the case may be. Secondly, this complete assemblage of our literature in the Library of the Government (that is, of the whole people)

is an inestimable boon to authors and publishers, many of whose books, after years have elapsed, may owe to such a collection their sole chance of preservation. Thirdly, it is a most valuable aid to would-be writers to have access to all the works that have been published in the special field they seek to cultivate. Fourthly, one comprehensive library—inclusive and not exclusive—should exist, because all other libraries must be in a greater or less degree exclusive. Fifthly, all American books should be preserved as models—even if many of them are models to be avoided. One learns as much frequently from the failures of others, as from their successes. Sixthly, it is already provided by law (and very wisely), that all copyright publications of whatever character, shall be deposited in the Library of Congress, and the Nation is as much bound to conserve these things, in evidence of copyright, as to preserve the models in the Patent Office, in evidence of patent right. Seventhly, there is no standard of selection or of exclusion that could be adopted which would stand against the fact of the endlessly varying judgments of different men, or even of the same men at different periods. What is pronounced trash to-day may have an unexpected value hereafter, and the unconsidered trifles of the press of the nineteenth century may prove highly curious and interesting to the twentieth, as examples of what the ancestors of the men of that day wrote and thought about.”

This definition of the object of the collections of Americana was supplemented by further observation as to its scope. It should include, he thought, everything that related to the history of the country and its resources, everything written by American authors, and everything issued from American presses. In his discussion of special classes of literature, however, this comprehensive plan of collection received modification. In the first place, it appeared that it was difficult to collect any considerable proportion of the pamphlets issued throughout the country. They were seldom protected by copyright and there was small chance of securing one a

few months after its publication even in the place where it was published. As to the periodicals published in the country, it was clear that it would not only be difficult to collect, but impossible to preserve all. He, therefore, concluded that the national library should acquire and preserve only the more important, (1) all American reviews and magazines, (2) the daily newspapers of the larger cities of the country, and (3) two, at least, of the most widely circulated journals of each state and territory in the Union, representing each political party. As to manuscripts he was less explicit. The limitations of the collector of these were, perhaps, obvious; such manuscripts as had become the property of other libraries he could not have and the majority of those which remained in private hands he would not have because of their merely local interest; in fact, the field of the national library seemed to be limited to the papers of the presidents and of other public men.

Perhaps it was this consciousness of the necessary limitations of the national library as well as his realization of the importance of local historical collections that led him to urge that it should be a leading object of the principal library in each locality to gather within its walls the fullest representation possible of the literature relating to its own state and neighborhood.

Mr. Spofford's policy regarding the development of the foreign collections in the library is, possibly, even more interesting than that regarding the collections of Americana. He did, indeed, speak of the desirability of making the library one of encyclopedic range, and complete in every department. But he meant by that simply a library comprehensive in scope and representative of the best literature, ancient and modern, of every country. The library should also have, he believed, the leading English and European

reviews and magazines, and the principal newspapers of Europe, South America and Canada, and particular attention should be given to rendering the library complete in history and jurisprudence. So far as I can observe, these were the only classes of foreign literature which he hoped to make complete.

The steps taken by him to carry out his plans for the collection of these classes of literature, and particularly the publications of foreign governments, are of interest. Beginning in 1867, he sought by various acts of Congress to establish a system of exchanges of publications of the Government of the United States for those of foreign governments. These acts made the Smithsonian institution the agency of the library for effecting these exchanges. The result of these efforts was to secure little more than fragmentary sets of laws, reports, journals and miscellaneous publications, the principal value of which to the collection depended upon the completeness of the series.

The effort to carry on this work by means of correspondence having failed, Mr. Spofford determined to secure the establishment of a European agency for the collection of Government documents. Supplied with lists of the publications of the United States Government offered in exchange, and with lists of the wants of the Library of Congress, a representative of the Library of Congress could visit periodically the bureaus of the several European states and secure for the United States many documents of the greatest importance. In 1885 an initial step in this direction was taken by sending to Europe an agent in the employ of the Smithsonian Institution, in charge of its exchange system, one-half of his expenses being paid by the Institution and one-half out of the library funds. In his report for that year (p. 6) and in later reports (1887, p. 6, etc.), Mr. Spofford asked for

an appropriation sufficient to defray the expenses of sending an agent abroad again.

In his definition of the scope of the collections of the library as regards classes of literature his emphasis was laid upon the importance of the collection of Americana and the collection of foreign documents, especially those of an historical or legal character. In his definition of the scope of its collections as related to that of other collections he was similarly far sighted though necessarily less exact. He believed, he said, that the national library should contain all the books which the smaller and more select libraries have neither the room nor the means nor the motive to accumulate.

The policy to be pursued in the collection of books could not, however, be formulated without considering what room there was for the arrangement of the collections and what use was to be made of them. The question of room was the first and most persistent. In the year after Mr. Spofford became librarian, he secured the addition to the library room of two wings, each as large as the central library. These made possible the remarkable expansion of the library which distinguishes the first decade of Mr. Spofford's administration, and they made practicable absorption by the Library of Congress of two out of the three collections in Washington next in size to its own, the Smithsonian collection and the copyright collection, and permitted the acquisition of a third collection of equal importance, the collection made by Peter Force.

The acquisition of the Smithsonian collection in 1866 has a double significance. It involved on the one hand the addition to the library of the largest collection of publications of scientific societies then in existence in this country, and on the other hand it was a step toward the consolidation of the

libraries in the District. With the acquisition of the Force collection in 1867 and the copyright collection in 1870, the collection of Americana in the library became of national importance, and the library began to take its place among the libraries of the world.

In this manner Mr. Spofford within 15 years increased the size of the collections five times, but at the same time he exhausted practically all the space available for their shelving and handling. The development of a comprehensive library at the Capitol, and the further consolidation of the libraries of the Government became impossible. Indeed, the congestion in the Library of Congress and the consequent inaccessibility of books in its collections made more necessary the establishment of comprehensive libraries by the departments, and consequent crowding in the department libraries.

Notwithstanding this, Mr. Spofford continued to believe that if room could be provided for the books they could be made more useful by being brought together in one place, and when the time came for legislative action regarding the new building for the library he urged that the building should be located in some central location, preferably Judiciary Square, and that all the special collections of books belonging to the Government in Washington should be united and housed in the new building, each department or bureau retaining only a few books necessary for its immediate work.

This suggestion excited much discussion. On the one hand there was a feeling that the library should contain, as far as possible, everything that had been published in all departments of literature, science and art, and that the quickest and easiest way to obtain this was to gather all these special libraries into one building.

On the other hand, the bureaus and scientific men generally throughout the country thought that it was better that

these special libraries should remain as they were and be allowed to develop in their own way. Dr. Billings, at that time librarian of the Surgeon-General's Office, was the chief representative of the latter point of view.

A second issue of this controversy was the plan of the proposed building. The conservative were in favor of a central ornate reading room with the stack plan of storage. Others, influenced by Mr. Poole, preferred that the building should be divided into many departments, each one of which should accommodate the works upon a particular subject and the readers interested in that subject.

The controversy of this period was without immediate result. But when the plans for the reorganization of the library were under consideration 15 years later the question as to the relation between the Library of Congress and the other libraries of the Government in Washington presented itself again.

Mr. Spofford did not now recommend the policy of consolidation which had been pursued by him in the earlier part of his administration, and had suggested itself in connection with the plans for the new building, but on the contrary separated collections which had hitherto been united. He decided to leave in the Capitol a parliamentary library. Although this plan was not carried out, he did leave the law library there.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHER.

The problems presented by the organization of the collections involved corresponding problems relative to bibliographical service. By this I mean the classification and cataloguing of the library, the compilation of book lists and indexes, and the reference work.

Library classification, he thought, could not be made an exact science, but was in its nature indefinitely progressive. The aim of the classifier was not the establishment of a logical system, but of a convenient arrangement. Although, therefore, he found the Baconian system of classification adopted in the library in 1816 "a worse than Procrustean bed," to use his own words, he did not abandon it for another of his own devising, but simply modified it. Close classification he shrunk from altogether. It involved, he believed, a too complicated notation. Book numbers he abhorred.

His attitude toward cataloguing was similarly practical, yet scientific. Catalogues, he said, should aim at the greatest convenience of the greatest number of readers. For this reason, while he recognized that the dictionary catalogue did not possess all the advantages of the classed catalogue for educating readers, he preferred it as a finding list or index to the contents of a library; it answered more questions in less time.

In 1876 he had considered the desirability of preparing catalogue cards and printing them for use in other libraries, but had decided that it would not be possible to undertake it at that time because of the limited amount of assistance in the library and the crowded conditions.

He was not, however, altogether satisfied with the card catalogue. It should be supplemented, he thought, by a catalogue in book form, duplicate copies of all titles being mounted alphabetically on sheets, bound in volumes, with blank pages for additions.

He appreciated the value of bibliographies as tools of use both in the library and in the study. In an address before the American Library Association in 1876 he placed next in importance to a new building the publication of a periodi-



cal list of copyright publications. In 1891 he inaugurated such a record, although Congress had made no provision for the extra labor involved. The first duty of the institution as a national library, he believed, was the recording of the nation's literature. One class of literature, in particular, he was bound to collect and describe, that is, Congressional documents. In 1874 he had secured two additional assistants with a view to indexing this literature, but arrangements were finally made to carry the work on under other auspices. His contributions to Poole's Index to periodical literature, one of the six largest which was made, and a manuscript index to American biographical literature, may be mentioned also.

In view of the crowded conditions of the library and the small staff of assistants, it is astonishing how much he was able to accomplish in the classification and cataloguing of the library and the compilation of bibliographies and indexes. But it is a matter of even greater astonishment that he was able to carry on successfully the reference work. As the embarrassment of producing books and information from the accumulated heaps grew his ability to answer inquiries became more marvelous. In 1882 Washington correspondents reported that he was helping members prepare their speeches, and that soon he would write them; that he was a power behind the throne, greater than the throne, and could carry any measure he set his heart upon. There was enough truth in this observation to make it interesting without being invidious. To assist Congressmen in their researches was the first duty of the librarian. As men of affairs they were unfamiliar with the resources of literature on the one hand, and with its poverty on the other. Their questions were, therefore, sometimes very easy to answer; at other times difficult, if not impossible. It was his task to answer all alike with the same

intelligence and courtesy.\* His success in this respect became the subject of many a story regarding the wealth of his learning and the readiness of his wit. To emulate him in his service to the national legislature will be the high ambition of all those who in future years carry on the reference work of this institution.

### LIBRARY BUILDING.

As indicated in what has been already said the main problem of Mr. Spofford's administration was that of securing enlarged accommodations for the library. He was successful in bringing about the construction in 1865 of two wings, with room in each for 75,000 volumes. The shelf room in the library was in consequence more than doubled, but with the accession of the Smithsonian collection, the Force collection and the Copyright collections the room was rapidly filled. In 1871 temporary wooden shelves accommodating about 50,000 more volumes were erected.

The capacity of the enlarged library rooms having been exhausted Mr. Spofford in his report for 1871 suggested the expediency of erecting a separate building for the library. In his report for 1872 he returned to the subject,

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In the "Book for all readers" he says, "I have been asked, almost at the same time, to refer a reader to the origin of Candlemasday, to define the Pragmatic sanction, to give, out of hand, the aggregate wealth of Great Britain, compared with that of half a dozen other nations, to define the limits of neutrality or belligerent rights, to explain what is meant by the Gresham law, to tell what ship has made the quickest voyage to Europe, when she made it, and what the time was, to elucidate the meaning of the Carolina doctrine, to explain the character and objects of the Knights of the Golden Circle, to tell how large are the endowments of the British universities, to give the origin of the custom of egg-rolling, to tell the meaning of the cipher dispatches, to explain who was "Extra Billy Smith," to tell the aggregate number killed on all sides during the Napoleonic wars, to certify who wrote the "Vestiges of creation," or, finally, to give the author of one of those innumerable ancient proverbs, which float about the world without a father."

and presented his ideas as to what the new building should be. As a result Congress, by the act of March 3, 1873, authorized a commission, consisting of the chairman of the Joint committee on the library, the chairman of the Committee on public buildings and grounds on the part of the Senate, and the Librarian of Congress, to select a plan for a new building for the library, and to supervise the location and erection of the building, and appropriated the sum of \$5,000 for the purposes of the act. It was fourteen years, however, before Congress made an appropriation for the erection of the new building and twenty-five years before it was completed.

Many members of Congress were utterly opposed to the erection of a separate building for the library. Of these some favored the conversion of the old House of Representatives to the use of the library, others suggested that the books be shelved within the great inner concave of the Capitol dome; one party favored an extension of the west part of the Capitol, another favored the extension of the east front. Those again who favored the erection of a separate building were divided in opinion, some being for a site near the Capitol, others preferring Judiciary square, or the Botanic Garden, or the Mall. Finally these differences were settled and by the act of April 15, 1886, a separate building, upon a site near the Capitol was decided upon.

In the meantime, however, there had arisen many different plans as to the architecture of the new building. Some thought a plain store house of brick, after the style of the Pension Office building, sufficient. The representatives of the American library association urged the adoption of the Poole plan of building, this provided in effect a series of studies for specialists but no central public reading room.

The majority, however, favored the traditional type of library buildings recommended by Mr. Spofford and the act of 1886 adopted plans of this type.

The plans of 1872 had contemplated a building 340 ft. long by 270 ft. wide and 70 ft. high, and the estimates submitted with the plans varied from \$950,000 to \$2,500,000.

The building as completed in 1897 measured 470 ft. long by 340 ft. wide and 195 ft. high. It had been erected at a cost of \$6,360,000. Mr. Spofford had not waited in vain. The completion of the building was the crowning triumph of his career.

The closing years of Mr. Spofford's administration can be properly described only as years of bondage. He suffered from the confinement of overcrowded rooms, from the lack of assistance, and from the dishonesty of certain assistants that he had. As the new building neared completion, however, he took much pleasure in its great halls and spacious stacks. During these years he sought, also, to remedy the condition of the service. With this in view he urged that the library be brought under the civil service rules. He also established a school of library economy at Columbian College, now George Washington University, and served as the first president of the District of Columbia Library Association.

I cannot close this review of Mr. Spofford's professional career without an expression of admiration for his personal qualities. The life of a librarian requires of the individual the greatest self-sacrifice. He must give up not only the prospect of fame, but even the prospect of the achievements for which one wishes to become famous. He must suffer from a certain condescension in the manner of members of the older professions; he must become a kind of literary Jack of all trades.

This was more difficult for Mr. Spofford than for many others. He was a Spartan by training rather than by temperament. He appreciated as much as any one the pleasures of investigation and speculation, and the joys of dalliance with books, but as the years passed he developed more and more the virtues of a public servant, and in his later years found complete satisfaction in devotion to the common welfare.

As libraries cease to be private institutions of local and limited use and become public institutions of general utility such devotion to the public interest on the part of librarians becomes more and more important. In this respect the influence of Mr. Spofford's example must be the more potent because of the long period of years during which he was our principal librarian.

At the first meeting of the American Library Association in Philadelphia in 1876, at the closing session, Mr. Spofford read a paper on "Copyright in its relation to libraries and literature." In introducing Mr. Spofford, the president of the Conference, Mr. Justin Winsor, said, "Like the children which we are, we have laid aside some of the best for the last. Let us now listen to the official father of us all, the National Keeper of our books, the Librarian of Congress."

We, too, must listen to his counsels as our predecessors did; listen, remember and consider, if we are to understand the problems which he attempted to solve, the problems which he left to us to try and solve in our turn.

## DR. SPOFFORD AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE DISTRICT.

THEODORE W. NOYES.

**T**HE man in honor of whose memory we have assembled to-day was intellectually many-sided. The varying viewpoints of the tributes rendered him on this occasion demonstrate the wide scope of his activities.

He was pre-eminently the man of books—book seller, book publisher, book author, great national librarian; in all the book student, the book lover and the book master.

But he was no mere book-worm, gorged with dry facts, slowly and imperfectly assimilated, useless except for the book-worm's own selfish enjoyment. A library was with him a treasure-house owned by the public, whose riches were to be made fully accessible. Largely through his agency the old Library of Congress—a collection of books inadequately housed in a cramped corner of the Capitol, with volumes piled high in dusty confusion, inaccessible on the floors of dark alcoves, of minimum service even to Congress—has developed into the National Library, the great reference collection of the whole people, admirably housed in this beautiful building, and rendered easily accessible to the people, not merely for a few hours in the middle of the day, but at night as well as by day, and on Sunday as well as on other days. The new national library building and the library itself constitute, it has been well suggested, Dr. Spofford's permanent memorial.

Dr. Spofford dispensed the blessings of books not only by helping to render the national collection conveniently acces-

sible at night as well as by day and on all days, but he multiplied the value of books to readers by his marvelous knowledge of their contents, which he placed at the public's disposal. He helped to enlarge wonderfully the nation's stock of available books, through the copyright law of 1870, and in many other ways; he co-operated to break down the walls which shut out the public from easy, quick and comfortable access to the nation's treasures of literature; and then he became personally the wisest and most effective of guides to the riches hidden in books. To the national legislator seeking material for a speech or report, he was an un-failing resource in time of need. He was thus a prolific anonymous contributor to the Congressional Record. To the youth seeking guidance to the treasure concealed in the labyrinth of books he was, notwithstanding an occasional and superficial abruptness of manner, sympathetic and helpful.

In his capacity as a dispenser of the blessings of books, Dr. Spofford became interested in the movement which resulted in the creation of the institution which I have the honor of representing here to-day. In his wide range of sympathies and activities he was from the beginning, and even before its creation, the warm and effective friend of the Washington Public Library. As librarian of the great reference library of Congress he saw clearly the public need of a circulating supplement to the nation's reference collection. In newspaper interviews and in hearings before Congressional committees he spoke strongly in favor of the creation of the Washington Public Library, a local and national circulating collection, maintained as a supplement of the local educational system, and serving also in effect as a circulating supplement of the Library of Congress. When our library was created by Congress as a result in part of his co-operat-

ing labors he was made, as a trustee of the library, chairman of the first committee on books, and this position he has held to the benefit of the community from the library's organization in 1896 to the day of his death. As chairman of the books committee he laid down the lines on which a special book appropriation of \$40,000 was wisely expended, and practically all purchases of books since the beginning have been revised and approved by him. At every stage of the public library's existence—including the pre-natal period—Dr. Spofford has fostered the close relations between the national reference and the local circulating libraries which are so essential to the highest interests of the book readers of Washington. He laid the foundations of alliance and cooperation between reference and circulating collections upon which Librarian Putnam has built and is building so tactfully, intelligently and successfully, to the benefit of the capital's reading public, both local and national.

In personal characteristics Dr. Spofford is world-famous for his memory of facts, figures, incidents, quotations. But he was not mastered by his memory. It was not allowed to waste itself in curious but valueless feats of mental gymnastics; on the contrary, it was trained to practical uses. It was a formidable weapon in his mental equipment; but not his only weapon. He was a broad brained man, great in memory, notable in reasoning power, in literary style, in capacity of presenting his thoughts. He thought things worth thinking and knew how to express his thoughts vividly, forcibly, effectively, whether as speaker or writer, whether as conversationalist, debater, essayist or author. He was a force in the intellectual and educational life of the national capital; a commanding figure in its literary circles.

On perhaps the last occasion on which I met him before his death he championed Shakespeare against Tolstoi's at-



tacks at a meeting of the Literary Society, in response to Tolstoi's challenge, conveyed through a member of the Literary Society who had visited Tolstoi at the latter's home. He spoke with a power which profoundly impressed all who heard him—a power which would have been noteworthy in any man at any time, and which was remarkable in a man already physically stricken. There was, however, no paralysis of his intellect; he was mentally as aggressive and vigorous and effective as in the prime of life.

The little band of trustees of the public library have labored in close communion in a common interest for many years, and have come to know well their fellow member and loyal, valued friend. They have for him not only the profound admiration and regard which his intellectual qualities demand, but a genuine affection for the man. His familiar figure will be missed in many circles, but nowhere else more seriously than in the board room of the public library and by his fellow trustees, who appreciate deeply his services to the library, and his fine, strong character.

In their name and behalf I add the inadequate tribute of these few, feeble words to the appropriate and deserved appreciation of a good friend and a notable man to which we have listened with hearty approval to-day.

## DR. SPOFFORD AS A MEMBER OF THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

ALICE C. FLETCHER.

THE Literary Society came into being in 1873 and reflected both the period and the locality in which it was born. At that time the country was beginning to recover from the stress of the preceding decade and an impulse was abroad which fostered a desire in the people to draw together and form societies for sympathetic comradeship. Only in Washington could such a grouping have come to pass as was found in the Literary Society. Not only were its members drawn from different sections of the country, but they represented the varied life of the capital city. Within the charm of the drawing-room, officials of the Government, legislators, writers, artists, scientists and private men and women met together, dropping, for the time being, all titles of distinction and becoming simply companions under the Egis of Learning. Vivacity, thoughtfulness and social grace combined to make the meetings of the Literary Society almost ideal in attractiveness. Into its limited membership of forty, Mr . Spofford entered in January, 1880. His courtly geniality, wide reading and broad interests found welcome and congeniality at the fortnightly meetings of the Society.

His first contribution was made on February 21, 1880, when he read extracts from an unpublished manuscript of George Washington covering the period of considerations which led to the selection of the present seat of government. The topic was appropriate to the date, the eve of Washing-

ton's birthday, and its presentation was characteristic of Mr. Spofford, of the generous pleasure he always took in sharing the fruits of his opportunities for historical research.

The next year at the same season (February 26, 1881), he spoke of the number of patriots which Virginia had given to the country, and cited parallels from ancient times where a given locality had been the birthplace of many noted men.

At a following meeting (April 9, 1881), when "The Character and Public Life of Thomas Jefferson" was the topic of discussion, Mr. Spofford took up and dealt with the charge that it was not Thomas Jefferson but Thomas Paine who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and showed the statement to be without foundation of truth.

A month later (May 21, 1881), he brought to the Society and exhibited to the members two autographic letters of La Fayette, which established the assertion that the Marquis had learned our language and showed that he had also acquired a happy style in writing English.

The year 1881 was a memorable one to the Society because of the tragic death of its president, who at the same time was President of the United States. At a meeting held in November (19), 1881, Mr. Spofford read a paper displaying "The literary character of General Garfield."

At the last gathering of the year (December 27, 1881), he spoke to the Society on "The Probable Cause of the Initiation of the Literary Salon."

Early in the following spring (April 29, 1882), his essay on "Parodies" called forth a lively exchange of memories and ideas among the varied membership.

In December, 1883, Mr. Spofford was elected Vice-President, Col. Garrick Mallery being President, and Mr. George Kennan, Secretary. Following the custom of the Society, in 1884 Vice-President Spofford was elected Presi-

dent. At the close of the official term, one year, he chose for his retiring address the subject of "International Copyright." Later (December 13, 1884), he gave an essay on "The Salons of France."

A meeting in 1885 falling on February 1, Mr. Spofford made it the occasion to bring before the Society a valuable bibliographic paper on "The Memorial Literature of Washington."

Early in the next year (January 23, 1886), he spoke on "The Effect of the Occurrence of the Unexpected."

April 30, 1887, the Society held a discussion on "The Prose Writers of the Victorian Period," in which Mr. Spofford took a spirited part. He included American authors in his critical remarks, declaring that "they belonged to the literature of the English language." He made special reference to our novelists, his clear cut characterizations giving zest to the views he set forth.

In the spring of 1888 (April 7) "The Case of Edmund Randolph" was the subject of discussion, and Mr. Spofford brought forward new and striking data from his store of historical reading.

"The Puritan in Literature" was the title of an essay given January 26, 1889. The writer well remembers the honest tribute and humorous appreciation given to the grim but sterling men of that type.

A discussion at a later meeting (March 9, 1889), on "Literature of the Law" brought from Mr. Spofford an appalling amount of statistics, "the volumes," he said, "being increased by the prolixity of legal speech."

A meeting January 25, 1890, is not likely to fade from the memory of any who heard his essay on "Browning as a Dramatic Poet," a discriminating and spirited analysis, closing with a rendition of "How they brought the good

news from Ghent to Aix," that made us thrill at the vivid presentation.

The versatility of Mr. Spofford is shown by the following titles of some of his addresses before the Society: "The Straight Line and the Curve, in amore, in more, in ore et in re" (February 2, 1881); "Phonetic Spelling" (May 3, 1890); "Socialism as a Topic in Literature" (February 10, 1894); "The Effect on Character of Literature as a Profession" (April 18, 1891); "What is Plagiarism?" (January 24, 1891); "The English Dictionary" (February 21, 1891); "The Love of Story" (January 19, 1907); "The Genius and Work of John Ruskin" (May 5, 1900); essays on "Dante" (March 10, 1891); on "Talleyrand" (February 6, 1892); on "Lowell" (April 1, 1892); on "Hazlitt a Literary Paradox" (January 10, 1893), and on "Walter Scott" (April 4, 1893).

When preparations were beginning for the Columbian Exposition, Mr. Spofford read an interesting paper on "Columbus" (March 13, 1886), and when the four hundredth anniversary of his voyage was about to be celebrated in Spain, the Society was favored by a paper on "The Various Lives of Columbus, and their Authors" (May, 1892).

In 1892, at a meeting which occurred near the date of Washington's birthday (February 20), Mr. Spofford spoke of "Washington, Human as well as Heroic," and later (January 12, 1895), presented a valuable paper on "The Literature of the American Revolution."

An essay on "Shakespeare" (December 26, 1891), and a paper on "Shakespeare and other Dramatists" (January 18, 1902), completes the record of the communications prepared and read by Mr. Spofford before the Literary Society up to the present year, but does not include all the thought and reading which he gave to the Society during the many discus-

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sions that followed the reading of papers by different members.

As a member of the Society Mr. Spofford was always ready to do his share, and sometimes more than his share, toward making the meetings a pleasure to the members and their guests. While he was always "up to the mark" himself, he had ever a charitable word for those who were delinquent in any Society matter. Although he was a constant student and an indefatigable reader, never losing or idling a moment, he never allowed his industry to crowd out a kindly answer to the question of one seeking information. He loved people, and made all who were his guests feel his genial humanity. He never turned from a friend, and he received of the generous measure of love and faith he gave to others.

In his writings the ring of belief in a broad humanity ran through his presentation of a subject. He was courageous, and dared to stand for a principle whether that principle was or was not popular or conventionally recognized. His fearless toward truth made him at times a stern critic.

Of all writers, Shakespeare was perhaps his closest companion, and the last paper he ever gave to the Literary Society was read on the first of February of this year (1908). It was a reply to the challenge sent by Tolstoi to the Society, to repel, if they could, his attack on the great Dramatist. The gauntlet thrown down was taken up, and no one present that evening can ever forget the occasion, nor the figure of Mr. Spofford as he stood, looking so frail, holding the manuscript in his only useful hand, emphasizing his words by waving the sheet he was holding, as he refuted the assertions of the Russian, overwhelmed him with facts and statistics and utterly demolished his argument; then with voice and frame pulsating with the glorified elan of his 83 years, closed by saying of "The World's Poet" words which the Society

he loved may now give back to him whom all love and honor—"he abides with us, soaring in the high region of his fancies with his garland and singing robes about him."

## DR. SPOFFORD AS A MEMBER OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

WALTER HOUGH.

**D**OCTOR SPOFFORD loved to work in the learned societies and brought to their service his ripest experience.

It was always a great satisfaction to the President and Committees of the Anthropological Society to know that Dr. Spofford would, when called upon, present a paper, and such an event was looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure, because his offerings were invariably of timely interest, as well as products of an exhaustive study of his subject.

During the fifteen years of his connection with the Society, he produced on the average a paper yearly. At the time of his entrance into the Society, the subject of orthography was occupying the attention of many of the educators of the country, and the meetings of December and January, 1892-3 were principally occupied with discussions of this subject. Dr. Spofford entered with great enthusiasm upon this varied theme and presented remarks on the set topic, "Is simplified spelling feasible as proposed by the English and American Philological Societies?"<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Spofford reviewed the various schemes for simplified spelling by sound which have appeared, from Dr. Franklin's, in 1768, down to Professor Alexander Melville Bell's notable "World English" alphabet, published in 1888; and

<sup>1</sup>Published in *American Anthropologist*, VI, No. 2, April, 1893.



though they number between forty and fifty in America alone, he found none of them desirable. With his most trenchant logic he demolished the arguments that a spelling reform was feasible and accused all attempts at phoneticism of banishing "all the picturesqueness out of language." The symposium, which was taken part in by F. A. March, W. T. Harris, Alexander Melville Bell, John M. Gregory, W. B. Owen, E. T. Peters, Charles P. G. Scott, James C. Pilling, Benjamin E. Smith, W. D. Whitney and J. W. Powell, was closed by Dr. Spofford who, in his final remarks, gathered up "a few threads from this discursive debate by answering some suggestions which have been made from the other side," and was still unconvinced.

In 1893, when the nation was awakened to a consciousness of its powers and of the instrumentalities which should make it or ruin it, Dr. Spofford presented a paper on "On the Distribution of Wealth."

In the following year, as if stimulated by other popular questions which had come to the fore, Dr. Spofford read a paper entitled "Why an Income Tax."

There is here a lapse of several years in Dr. Spofford's communications before the Society, when, on March 27, 1900, "Mountains and Men" was his theme. Dr. Spofford in this paper discussed the supposed relations between a mountain environment and physical, mental, and moral qualities in men stimulated by such environment, gracing his theme with quotations from various writers. President W J McGee, on behalf of the Society, thanked Dr. Spofford for the rare privilege of listening to so eloquent a discourse.

"Rare Books Relating to the American Indians" was the rich feast which he spread before the Society in May, 1901. Dr. Spofford was at his best, of course, in subjects of this kind, and his auditors got an impression of the vast store of

bibliographical knowledge which he possessed. This paper was published in the *American Anthropologist*, N. S. 3.

A quotation may be here permissible:

"We have to regret the lack of any Indian bibliography which is at all comprehensive in its scope or its materials. The vastness of the field, as well as the unremunerative character of such labor, readily accounts for this. Of all the productions of men of letters, that which is most signally useful to the world—I mean the supply of keys to knowledge, or bibliographies—is the least honored with pecuniary reward. The author of a flimsy work of fiction, full of trifling conceits and morbid unrealities, makes thousands of dollars out of books that are forgotten as soon as read; while the careful student, who gives his days and his nights to unlocking the widely scattered stores of learning on any subject, that all men may find what they want without search or delay, finds no publisher for work for which there is no popular demand. Hence the compiler of any bibliography engages in a labor of love, for which his sole reward is the love of the discerning, who profit by his labors, if they ever reach the happy consummation of print."

Possibly stimulated by the picturesque ceremonials which attended on the coronation of Edward VII, Dr. Spofford charmingly discoursed on "Ceremonials, National, International and Social," dealing with religious, political and diplomatic ceremonials, selecting examples from the earliest times down to the present. This was true cloth of gold, broidered with silken fancies of many hues. Dr. Spofford's literary form was the essay, and by means of it he led his delighted hearers around his subject, viewing it from all sides. Instead of forcing conclusions upon one, he insensibly caused one to reach out and seize the truth itself.

A popular branch of anthropology and one which offered exceptional opportunities for as keen a mind as that of Dr. Spofford, is folk-lore. He was especially interested in this

subject, on account of the extent of such material coming under his purview during his omnivorous reading. The topic with which he favored the Society in 1903 was "The Folklore of Popular Sayings," and, in the judgment of the writer, there never was a more thorough presentation of the subject, or one more instructive. Dr. Spofford uniquely was able to order the chaos displayed in such a mass of sentence words as epitomize the wisdom of the folk and to bring out all its humor and whimsicality.

In the following year Dr. Spofford presented the results of his journey to Spain, under the title "The Spanish Race of To-day."<sup>1</sup> The paper is full of historical facts and references to scenery, language, manners and habits of the people; and the Secretary of the Society noted that "the paper had to be heard to be properly appreciated."

The tercentenary of the landfall of John Smith aroused a sentiment of extreme interest in the United States, and reflecting the attention which was given to the favored land where John Smith founded his settlement, Dr. Spofford enriched his hearers with a paper on "The Virginia Aborigines as Seen by the Early Colonists."<sup>2</sup> Here, again, the tremendous store of knowledge which Dr. Spofford had acquired was poured out in lavish profusion. Hamor, Percy, Robert Johnson, Newport, Spelman, Capt. John Smith, and others were the contemporary sources of information utilized by Dr. Spofford, sources of importance, because although the narrators were not inured to modern critical and accurate methods, they had the advantage of being eye-witnesses.

His contribution of 1906 returned to the consideration of his favorite folk-lore topics. Under the title of "Human Il-

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<sup>1</sup>Abstract in *American Anthropologist*, VI, No. 5, p. 763.

<sup>2</sup>Abstract in *American Anthropologist*, n. s., IX, 1907.

lusions,"<sup>3</sup> he discussed and punctured many of the vain beliefs of the present day, and gave a history of such errors in the past. This was a remarkable product of the encyclopedic mind of Dr. Spofford and defied the effort of a most skilled reporter.

The last paper with which Dr. Spofford favored the Anthropological Society before his golden voice was forever stilled, discussed the problem of "Immigration."<sup>4</sup>

The circumstances attending the presentation of this paper will ever live in the memory of the Anthropological Society. With the same indomitable energy which had characterized Professor Mason in a similar case, Dr. Spofford fought off the effects of a lesion which produced a wasting of the tissues of one side of his body. He appeared before the Society a mere wreck of his former self, and as, with halting step, he advanced to the reading stand, a wave of sympathy swept over the room; but when, with exquisitely modulated voice he began the most beautiful exordium that it has ever been my good fortune to hear, all bodily frailty was forgotten, and one listened with interest absorbing to the close, for his address on the tremendous problem involved in the wave of over-sea immigrants breaking on our shores was masterly.

As an anthropologist, Dr. Spofford made no claim to specialization in the more recondite fields of the science;—his aim was rather to contribute by generalization from historical aspects of the study, and it is plain that he had as a practical motive the banishment of erroneous beliefs which have clung in undue measure to the science of man and his activities.

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<sup>3</sup>Abstract in *American Anthropologist*, April-June, 1908, p. 292.

<sup>4</sup>Abstract in *American Anthropologist*, April-June, 1908, p. 388.

I believe that it is the opinion of those who have had the good fortune to hear him that few men excelled him in the ability to clothe his thought in chaste and beautiful language, and, furthermore, that few men could marshal such an array of the living thoughts that burn men's minds.

## DR. SPOFFORD AS A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ALEXANDER B. HAGNER.

AS President of the Columbia Historical Society, I have been invited by the authorities who have arranged these Commemorative services to say something with respect to one phase of the life and work of Dr. Spofford—his connection with the establishment of the Columbia Historical Society. His exceptional relations to that Society seemed to render it peculiarly appropriate that its voice of sympathy should be heard on this occasion; and my long-continued intimacy with him would not allow me to decline the invitation.

In March, 1894, eleven persons met at the Columbian University, at the call of Dr. McGee, one of their number, to take steps toward the organization of an historical society in Washington City. Among the gentlemen present were Dr. James C. Welling, Dr. J. M. Toner, and Dr. Spofford. It is worthy of notice that Miss Kate Field presented herself to take part in the enterprise, and was enrolled as one of the Founders—thus being one of the first of her sex to assume such a position, five centuries after the days when the fair Andrea Novella, as Professor of Law in the University of Bologna, cautiously read her lectures from behind a curtain; for the reason, as Browning gallantly explains:—

“Lest the students  
“Should let their young eyes wander o’er her,  
“And quite forget their jurisprudence.”

Only four of the eleven then assembled are now living.

At a meeting held in the next month the Society was fully organized, and all arrangements made for its incorporation.

At the first election of officers, Dr. Spofford was chosen one of the Vice-Presidents—a position he held continuously until his death. On several occasions he declined to serve as President.

On the 7th day of May, 1894, Dr. Toner, the President, delivered an inaugural address; after which Dr. Spofford read a carefully prepared paper on "The Methods and Aims of Historical Inquiry," which is printed in Volume I, p. 33, of the Records of the Society. It will be difficult to find a more admirable discussion of this theme than that presented in this essay, which will well repay an attentive perusal. It demonstrated the pressing necessity of our endeavoring at once to preserve the varied original historical materials which surround us at the National Capital, and exposed the hitherto glaring and culpable failure of historians to avail themselves of these inestimable treasures while still accessible. The establishment of the Society has afforded the opportunity to several of the prominent writers resident in Washington to place before the public, through its Records, most interesting historical essays, which it is hoped are but the forerunners of many others.

Thirteen years later, at a meeting on the 8th of April, 1908, Dr. Spofford, who from illness was unable to stand, read from his chair the last essay he was able to present to the Society, styled "Virginia Three Hundred Years Ago," which appears in the eleventh volume of the Records, printed in 1908.

Between the presentation of these two papers—the first and the last essays read to his associates—five other addresses by him will be found printed in the intervening volumes of the Records, viz.:

"The Life and Labors of Peter Force," June 8th, 1897. Records, Vol. 2, pp. 219-234.

"Washington City in Literature," February 10th, 1902. Records, Vol. 6, pp. 43-64.

"The Lyric Element in American History," December 19th, 1903. Records, Vol. 7, pp. 211-236.

"The Eloquence of Congress—Historic Notes," November 13th, 1905. Records, Vol. 9, pp. 175-197.

On the 4th of December, 1899, Dr. Spofford presented a paper narrating the historic facts connected with the removal of the public offices to the District of Columbia, the future permanent seat of government. Records, Vol. 3, pp. 349-364.

And on January 8th, 1906, he read before the Society an elaborate report upon a scheme set forth in a letter from Lothrop Withington, of London, urging the establishment of an "United States Historical Commission," with the cooperation of the President of the United States. The report was filed with the Secretary, but has not been printed in the Records.

The sedate nature of Dr. Spofford's official duties and the grave titles of the addresses selected by him, might probably give a misleading idea of the force and vivacity of his happiest style. One who reads them, however, would readily recognize the work of the "full man" of my Lord Bacon, made such by extensive and retentive reading. I may be excused for attempting to justify this opinion by reading a few sentences from a paragraph in his introductory essay, which will be found on page 40 of Volume 1, in which he clothes a wise suggestion in this fine and animated language:

"The absolute importance of close scrutiny of authorities, of distrust of all sources of information except original ones, will become apparent to any one who will carefully trace any



narrative of occurrences in common life from hand to hand, and see how woefully it becomes distorted in the changes it undergoes. Or let anyone compare the conflicting evidence of eye-witnesses of the same fact in any court of justice, where absolutely opposite and irreconcilable statements of the same occurrence are made under oath by persons of apparently equal candor and means of information. And if one would have an instructive object-lesson in the art of how not to write history, let him read *seriatim* all the books that have been written on Mary, the hapless Queen of Scots. There he will find, depicted sometimes in sombre and sometimes in passionate and glowing colors, what a refined and gentle creature, what a coarse and cruel woman, what a devout and pious soul, what an unscrupulous and deceitful wretch, what a pure and angelic saint, what a dissolute and bloody-minded devil, what a wronged and blessed martyr, and what a wicked and abandoned reprobate, one woman could be."

Among the valuable features of the regular meetings of the Society were the responses to the invitations to all present to discuss the subjects presented by the papers just read, and criticise their conclusions, which frequently invoked additional and interesting information as to the matters in hand. In these discussions Dr. Spofford was frequently a participant. For as he was not a member of the idler class, which, having nothing to do, naturally have no time to do anything, but distinctly belonged to the indefatigable family, he always seemed to have time enough, however numerous were his other engagements, to attend to any additional useful matter that appealed to his sense of duty. His presentation of his extensive acquaintance with almost every subject under consideration, delivered in his modest and agreeable manner, free from all taint of pedantry, added a decided zest to the proceedings: "*non tetigit, quod non ornavit.*"

This modesty of demeanor in one so freighted with the acquisitions of learning during almost four-score years, might

remind one of Nature's familiar lesson of diffidence, presented by the well-filled ears of wheat that hang their heads, as in humility, among the upstart blades that only bear the "vacant chaff well meant for grain."

An important point of duty for members and officials alike of which Dr. Spofford was exceptionally mindful, was punctuality in attendance at the regular and business meetings. Where the appointed leaders of such an enterprise appear to undervalue its importance, the associates may well justify their preference for more sensational entertainments by the example of officials who neglect to harken to the advice they seek to impose upon others.

While Dr. Spofford's course of action at such business meetings was to sustain all conservative and beneficial measures, it was equally his practice to refuse to commit the Society as favoring positions of uncertain historical correctness; for a refusal in such matters to support what is incorrect is quite as important a duty as the support of what is good.

On numerous occasions Dr. Spofford was selected to be our representative at joint meetings of affiliated societies, and to serve on committees to memorialize Congress on public affairs, or where our historical associations might well claim a right to be heard.

To the frequent calls made at times from Members of Congress and other officials for information upon subjects then occupying the public attention, it was always a pleasure to him to respond, furnishing promptly, after thorough examination of the extensive treasures under his official charge, all matters supplemental to his already extensive knowledge upon the point involved. He had two marked predecessors in this city, in this important service, in Pishey Thompson and Frank Taylor, intelligent booksellers, who were acquainted with the contents of the books they sold, and whose

offices in former days were the frequent resort of public men in search of information needed in their public duties—like the back shop of Edward Cave, the famous bookseller of London, and the friend and patron of the great Samuel Johnson. May I remind you of an incident illustrative of the value of Cave's services to the public in this respect? He had devised the expedient of reporting the speeches in Parliament under the title of "The Senate of Lilliput"; and it was by his procurement that Johnson was enabled to produce those wonderful orations so faithfully presenting the different style and thought of the great orators of that day. Mr. Croker in his life of the great lexicographer preserves the account of a conversation in Dr. Johnson's presence in which the report of an eloquent speech published years before as having been delivered by Mr. Pitt, was the subject of discussion. Dr. Francis, the eminent translator of Horace, had maintained that speech was the best he had ever read, and that nothing in the orations of Demosthenes, of which he was also the translator, was equal to it. Mr. Croker's note states:

"All present acquiesced in this opinion, and as soon as the warmth of praise subsided, Dr. Johnson said, to the amazement of all the company, 'That speech I wrote in a garret in Exeter Street. I had never been in the gallery of the House of Commons but once. Cave had interests with the doorkeepers. He and the persons employed under him gained admittance. They brought away the subject of discussion, the names of the speakers, the sides they took, and the order in which they rose, together with notes of the arguments advanced in the course of the debate. The whole was afterwards communicated to me; and I composed the speeches in the forms which they now have in the Parliamentary debates.'"

In a similar sense I think it most probable that many of the useful arrows of debate that elicited applause in our legis-

lative halls came out of the quivers of Spofford and his predecessors who I have named.

My acquaintance with Dr. Spofford grew into intimacy after the establishment of the Historical Society, and ripened into friendship, which was unabated during his life. After the serious attack which disabled his left arm and leg, he continued his official and other work, without any apparent diminution of his mental powers. During this time I frequently called to see him, at his house and office, and never found him unemployed. On the last two occasions, in the early part of July, shortly before his death, he was, as usual, seated at his desk with pencil in his now indispensable right hand, busily engaged in annotations and similar work on his catalogues and journals—full of cheerfulness, and with no indication of the approaching end, which, alas! was so near at hand. Faithful to duty to the last, he died at his post, like the sentinels amid the ashes of Vesuvius. During his four-score years and more he had eaten little idle bread, and had rendered back to the world in which he lived and to the Government he served the fullest value for all he had ever received from both.

A. R. S.

1825-1908

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## The Epilogue

He toiled long, well, and with Good Cheer  
In the Service of Others  
Giving his Whole, Asking little  
Enduring patiently, Complaining  
Not at all  
With small Means  
Effecting Much  
\* \*

He had no Strength that was not Useful  
No Weakness that was not Lovable  
No Aim that was not Worthy  
No Motive that was not Pure  
\* \* \*

Ever he Bent  
His Eye upon the Task  
Undone  
Ever he Bent  
His Soul upon the Stars  
His Heart upon  
The Sun  
\* \*

Bravely he Met  
His Test  
Richly he Earned  
His Rest

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# LIST OF THE WRITINGS OF DR. SPOFFORD

(Compiled under the Direction of A. P. C. Griffin)

## I. OFFICIAL

1864. Alphabetical catalogue of the Library of Congress. Authors.  
Washington: Government Printing Office, 1864. 1236  
pp. 4to.  
The first and only general author catalogue published by  
the Library of Congress. A subject catalogue appeared in  
1869, and an author catalog, A-Craigin only, 1878-80.  
About 80,000 vols.  
"In the 'Alphabetical catalogue of the Library of Con-  
gress, published in 1864, the one desideratum of a large  
library, an alphabetical author catalogue, was finally  
secured." This catalogue, the first fruits of the service of  
Mr. Spofford on the staff of the Library, was in 1869 sup-  
plemented by a "Catalogue of the Library of Congress.  
Index of subjects," in two volumes.
1864. Catalogue of additions made to the Library of Congress,  
from December 1, 1863, to December, 1864.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1864. 113  
pp. 8vo.
1865. Catalogue of additions made to the Library of Congress,  
from December 1, 1864, to December 1, 1865.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1865. 210,  
29 pp. 8vo.  
Law books: 29 p. at end.
1866. Catalogue of additions made to the Library of Congress,  
from December 1, 1865, to December 1, 1866.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1866. 178,  
27 pp. 8vo.  
Law books: 27 p. at end.
1866. Report of the Librarian of Congress for the year ending  
December 1, 1866.

- Washington: Government printing office, 1866. 5 pp.  
8vo.  
Cover-title.
1866. Letter from the Librarian of Congress, transmitting his first annual report.  
December 3, 1866. 5 pp. 8vo.  
39th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 6.
1867. Report of the Librarian of Congress for the year ending December 1, 1867.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1867. 5 pp.  
8vo.  
Cover-title.
1867. Report of the Librarian of Congress, showing the condition of the Library during the year ending December 1, 1867.  
December 8, 1867. 4 pp. 8vo.  
40th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 10.
1867. Special report of the Librarian of Congress to the Joint committee on the Library concerning the historical library of Peter Force, Esq.  
Washington, 1867. 8 pp. 8vo.
1868. Catalogue of books added to the Library of Congress, from December 1, 1866, to December 1, 1867.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1868. (8),  
526 pp. 4to.  
Includes a large portion of the Smithsonian and Force collections, both of which were deposited in the library in 1867.
1868. Report of the Librarian of Congress for the year ending December 1, 1868.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1868. 6 pp.  
8vo.
1868. Report of the Librarian of Congress, showing the condition of the library during the year ending December 1, 1868.  
December 21, 1868. 3 pp. 8vo.  
40th Congress, 3d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 19.



1869. Catalogue of books added to the Library of Congress, from December 1, 1867, to December 1, 1868.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1869, (4), 323 pp. 4to.
1869. Catalogue of the Library of Congress. Index of subjects. In two volumes.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1869. 2 vols. 4to.  
Paged continuously; v. 1: iv. p., (2), 976 p.; v. 2: 2 p. 1., 977-1744 p.  
The sections "Law" and "Political economy" were also issued separately in advance. The only alphabetical subject catalogue ever issued by the Library.
1869. Catalogue of law books in the Library of Congress. Arranged by subject-matters.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1869. 305 pp. 4to.  
Advance issue of the sections "Law" and "Law of nations of the general subject catalogue issued the same year.
1869. Catalogue of works relating to political economy, and the science of government, in the Library of Congress. Arranged by subject-matters.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1869. 65 pp. 4to.  
Advance issue of the section "Political economy" of the general subject catalogue published the same year.
1869. Report of the Librarian of Congress, showing the condition of the Library during the year 1869.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1869. 5 pp. 8vo. (U. S. 41st Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 11.)  
Cover-title.
1870. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ending December 1, 1870.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1871. 6 pp. 8vo.

1870. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ending December 1, 1870. January 23, 1871. 4 pp. 8vo.  
41st Congress, 3d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 31.
1870. Catalogue of books added to the Library of Congress, from December 1, 1868, to December 1, 1869.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1870. 415 pp. 4to.
1871. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1871.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1871. 7 pp. 8vo.
1871. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, December 18, 1871. 4 pp. 8vo.  
42d Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 25.
1871. Catalogue of books added to the Library of Congress, from December 1, 1869, to December 1, 1870.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1871. (4), 381 pp. 4to.
1872. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ended December 1, 1872.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1872. 11 pp. 8vo.
1872. Report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ended December 1, 1872. December 16, 1872. 8 pp. 8vo.  
42d Congress, 3d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 13.
1872. Catalogue of books added to the Library of Congress during the year 1871.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1872. (4), 597 pp. 4to.
1873. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ending December 1, 1873.

- Washington: Government printing office, 1873: 6 pp. 8vo.
1873. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ending December 1, 1873. December 16, 1873. 3 pp. 8vo.  
43d Congress, 1st session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 20.
1874. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress exhibiting the progress of the Library during the year ending December 1, 1874.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1874. 9 pp. 8vo.
1874. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year ending December 1, 1874. December 14, 1874. 6 pp. 8vo.  
43d Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 3.
1874. Letter from the Librarian of Congress to the president pro tempore of the Senate, accompanying a memorandum of an index to documents and debates of Congress. June 12, 1874. Ordered to be printed.  
Washington: 1874. 6 pp. 8vo. (43d Cong., 1st sess. Senate. Mis. doc. No. 125).  
Caption title.  
Signed: A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress.
1875. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1875.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1876. 10 pp. 8vo.
1875. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1875. January 10, 1876. 7 pp. 8vo.  
44th Congress, 1st session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 31.
1876. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1876.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1877. 7 pp. 8vo.

1876. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1876. January 10, 1877. 4 pp. 8vo.  
44th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 27.
1876. Catalogue of recently added books, Library of Congress, 1873-75. With index to subjects and titles.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1876. (8), 383 pp. 4to.  
Principal accessions only.
1877. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1877.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1878. 8 pp. 8vo.
1877. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1877. January 25, 1878. 5 pp. 8vo.  
45th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 24.
1878. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1878.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1879. 6 pp. 8vo.
1878. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress for the year 1878. January 9, 1879. 3 pp. 8vo.  
45th Congress, 3d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 30.
- 1878-80. Alphabetical catalogue of the Library of Congress.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1878-80. 2 vols. 4to.  
A-Cragin only. No more published. The only complete general author catalogue of the library was issued in 1864.
1879. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress and condition of the Library during the year 1879.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1880. 5 pp. 8vo.
1879. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress and condition of the Library during the year 1879.  
March 2, 1880. 3 pp. 8vo.

- 46th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 45.
1879. Report of the Librarian of Congress upon the American archives or Documentary history of the American revolution. May 15, 1879. Referred to the Committee on the Library and ordered to be printed.  
[Washington: 1879.] 3 pp. 8vo. (46th Cong., 1st sess. Senate. Mis. doc. no. 34.)  
Caption title.  
"Report of the Librarian of Congress [A. R. Spofford] to the Joint committee on the Library upon the manuscript material collected by the late Peter Force for the documentary history of the American revolution."
1880. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the condition and progress of the library during the year 1880. Washington: Government printing office, 1881. (2), 3 pp. 8vo.
1880. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the condition and progress of the library during the year 1880. March 1, 1881. 3 pp. 8vo.  
46th Congress, 3d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 50.
1881. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the condition and progress of the library during the year 1881. Washington: Government printing office, 1882. 5 pp. 8vo.
1881. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the condition and progress of the library during the calendar year 1881. January 31, 1882. 3 pp. 8vo.  
47th Congress, 1st session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 42.
1882. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the library during the calendar year 1882. Washington: Government printing office, 1883. 6 pp. 8vo.
1882. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the library during the calendar year 1882. Washington: Government printing office, 1883. 6 pp. 8vo. (47th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 28)

1882. Publication and distribution of public documents. Communication from J. G. Ames, Superintendent of Documents; A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, and Spencer F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian institution, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives relative to the publication and distribution of public documents. December 22, 1882. 66 pp. 8vo.  
47th Congress, 2d session. House miscellaneous document No. 12.
1883. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1883.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1884, 6 pp. 8vo.
1883. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1883.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1844, 6 pp. 8vo. (48th Congress, 1st session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 52.)
1884. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1884.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1885. 6 pp. 8vo.
1884. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1884.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1884, 6 pp. 8vo. (48th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 55.)
1885. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1885.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1886. 8 pp. 8vo.
1885. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1885.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1886. 8 pp. 8vo. (49th Congress, 1st session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 89.)
1886. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1886.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1887. 7 pp. 8vo.
1886. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1886.

- Washington: Government printing office, 1887. 7 pp. 8vo. (49th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 78.)
1887. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1887.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1888. 7 pp. 8vo.
1887. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1887.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1888. 7 pp. 8vo. (50th Congress, 1st session, Senate miscellaneous document No. 73.)
1888. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1888.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1889, 5 pp. 8vo.
1888. Annual report of the Librarian of Congress, exhibiting the progress of the Library during the calendar year 1888.  
Washington: Government printing office, 1889. 5 pp. 8vo. (50th Congress, 2d session. Senate miscellaneous document No. 90.)
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“Sets forth facts involved in the growth of the Library from 1864 to 1895, and reports on the reorganization of the Library, both with reference to the arrangement and distribution of books and with reference to the organization of the Library service.

Recommends separating the functions of register of copyrights from those of Librarian of Congress and reorganization of the Copyright office, provision for the care of the new building, and organization of the Library service with departments or divisions as follows:

“(1) Printed books, (2) periodicals, (3) manuscripts, (4) maps and charts, (5) works of art, (6) catalogue department, (7) binding department, (8) copyright office and records, (9) superintendence.”

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