



THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

Of the world's libraries, the National Library of France is the largest, containing over 2,600,000 bound volumes, and about half that number of pamphlets.

The British Museum has, however, the largest collection of manuscripts in the world, and probably the largest and most valuable collection of Bibles, although the library at Stuttgart has hitherto been supposed to possess that honour. Its Shakespeariana are the most complete in the world, as, too, are its Caxton imprints. Its Chinese books alone number 27,000 volumes. Its great printed catalogue, begun in 1881, is not yet completed.

Our own Library of Congress, or National Library, as it ought more properly to be called, stands *fifth* in the list of the world's libraries in the number of its volumes; but the libraries of the United States contain more books than those of France, Great Britain, and Germany combined. There are here, according to the most recent report (1893), 3304 libraries supported wholly or in part by public moneys. In 1850, the year in which the free public library movement began, the estimated number of such institutions—very few without a subscription fee—was 694, which shows the enormous increase in less than fifty years. The libraries founded by bequest during that time, the Astor,

Lenox, and Tilden, in New York; the Newberry and Crerar institutions at Chicago; the Carnegie Libraries at Pittsburg and Allegheny; and the Enoch Pratt Library at Baltimore, are merely prominent examples from the long catalogue of private munificence. The Boston Public Library, for example, spends an annual income of \$240,000; and other libraries are in receipt of contributions in money and books, the aggregate value of which is enormous. It needs but the merest surface examination to discover what an important feature of our municipal and social life the public library has become.

The father of the subscription library in this country is Benjamin Franklin, to whose suggestion is due the existence of the present Library Company of Philadelphia, numbering 188,000 volumes and some 30,000 pamphlets. Mr. James G. Barnwell, formerly in charge of the library of the University of Pennsylvania, has been at its head since 1887. Mr. Barnwell graduated from a Philadelphia high school in 1850, and for thirteen years taught school in that city. He and Samuel J. Randall were the youngest members who ever sat in the Common Council. His innate love of books is illustrated by the fact that he is the possessor of a valuable private library, and his enthusiasm as a biblio-



MELVIL DEWEY,
Head of Albany Library School.

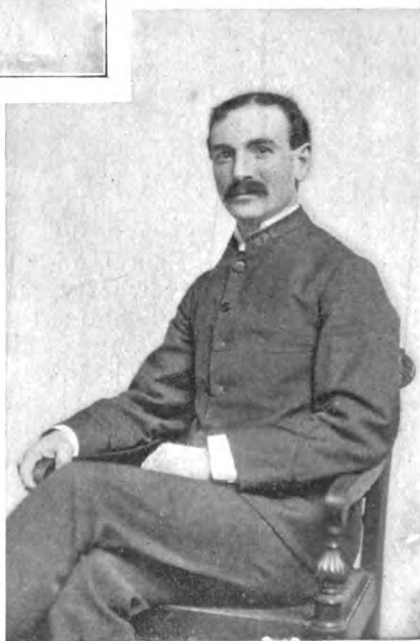
phile may be gathered from his contributions, continued for a long period of years, to that unique English publication, *Notes and Queries*.

This library, sometimes called the Philadelphia Library, is not to be confounded with the Philadelphia Free Public Library, of which John Thompson is librarian, and which has branches in various parts of the city. The latter institution is said to have a larger circulation than any similar library in this country or England. It is the youngest of the great libraries of Philadelphia, having been opened in 1892. Among the popular subscription libraries of Philadelphia is the Mercantile. It is not so old as the Philadelphia Library Company, it having originated in 1821 from a notice inviting the merchants and merchants' clerks, and those friendly to the formation of a Mercantile Library Association, to meet in the Mayor's Court Room; and in January of the following year, the rooms of the second story at 100 Chestnut Street were engaged at a rental of \$150 per year, and a librarian at a salary of \$100 per year, from which it will be seen that the public estimate of the value of a librarian's services has risen somewhat in seventy years, though the highest rewards of the profession are still inferior to those of the best class of French cooks.

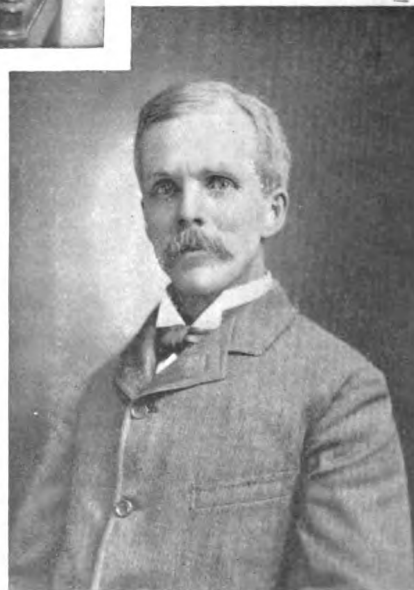
In the year preceding the call for the meeting that resulted in the establishment of the Mercantile Library, its present librarian, John Edmands, was born on a farm in Massachusetts, served an apprenticeship as a house carpenter, and in 1847 graduated from Yale. It was while at Yale that he received his first introduction to library work; and the system of references to subjects in magazines and reviews, which he prepared at that time, was the germ which was afterward developed into Poole's Index, so indispensable a help to writers and students.

Other important Philadelphia libraries are the Apprentices', the Athenæum, the Drexel Institute, and the University of Pennsylvania.

We can speak but briefly of University libraries; oldest and most notable of these, the great library of Harvard, famous for its Americana; of Princeton, soon to possess a magnificent home; of Cornell, with its 159,000 volumes; of Columbia, with its 175,000 volumes, rich in political economy, and remarkable for its rapid accumulation, a collection which, though designed primarily for the use of the University, is open, under certain restric-



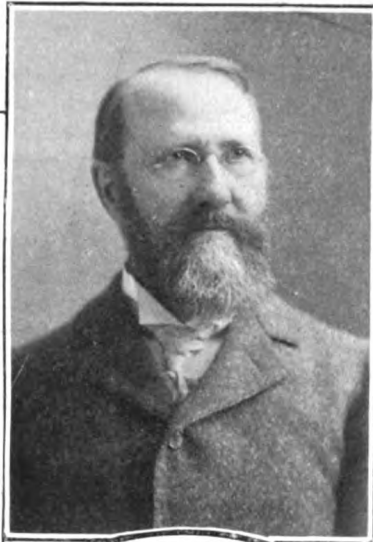
HERBERT PUTNAM,
Librarian Boston Public Library.



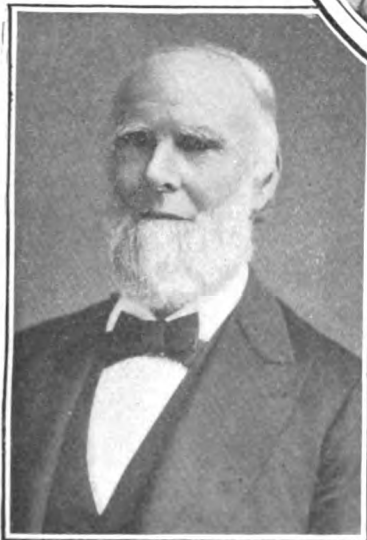
WILLIAM H. BRETT,
President American Library Association and Librarian Cleveland (O.) Public Library.



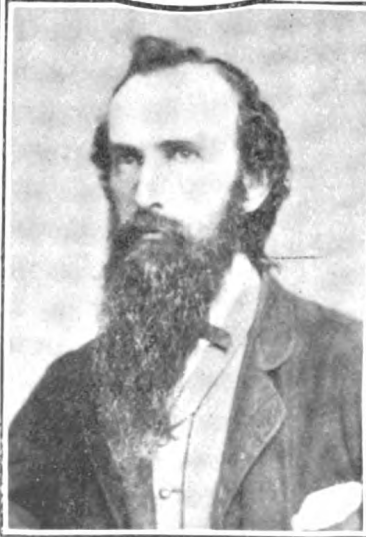
CHARLES K. BOLTON,
Brookline, Mass.



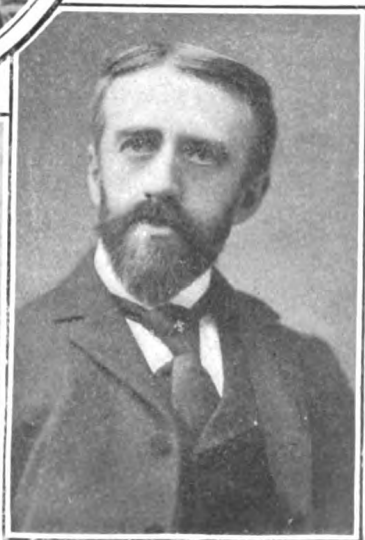
ALFRED S. COLLINS,
Rochester, N. Y.



JOHN EDMANDS,
Mercantile Library, Philadelphia, Pa.



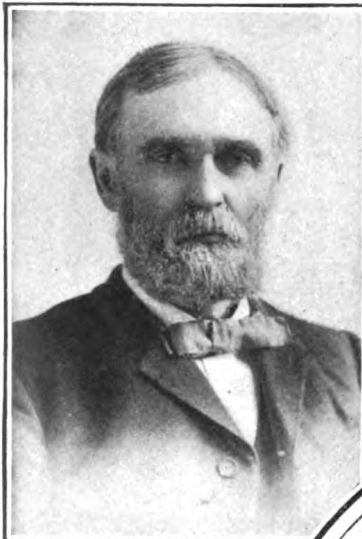
JAMES K. HOSMER,
Minneapolis, Minn.



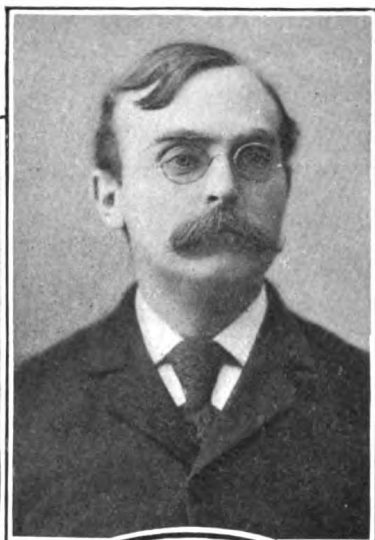
GEORGE F. WINCHESTER,
Paterson, N. J.

JAMES J. BARNWELL,
Philadelphia, Pa.

CAROLINE M. HEWINS,
Hartford, Conn.



E. S. WILCOX,
Peoria, Ill.



WILLIS K. STETSON,
New Haven, Conn.



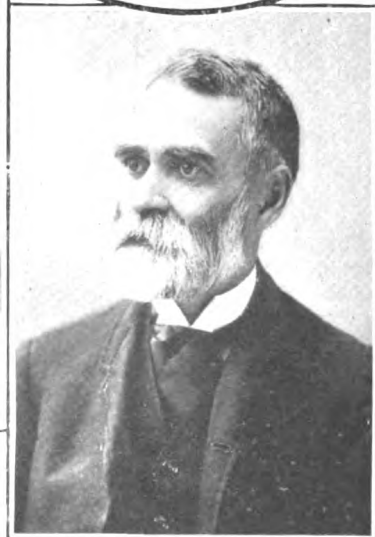
WILLIS A. BARDWELL,
Brooklyn, N. Y.



MRS. AGNES HILLS,
Bridgeport, Conn.



E. H. ANDERSON,
Pittsburg, Pa.



SAMUEL S. GREEN,
Worcester, Mass.



WILLIAM M. STEVENSON,
Allgheny, Pa.

tions, to the public; and the libraries of many other colleges, religious and secular, and which have grown by generous bequests to enormous proportions in the lapse of years. Nor can we allude in detail to State libraries; to the many special governmental collections; to libraries of the Historical, Geographical, Genealogical, and Archæological Societies, many of them of great value.

Among the first of State libraries must be named our own State Library at Albany, with its 314,543 volumes, nearly a quarter of a million manuscripts, and a large pamphlet collection. Established in 1818, it is one of the first State libraries in time, and is easily the first in resources. A feature of this institution is its travelling libraries, a system which enables small localities in the State to receive the benefit for six months of the circulation among its population of a limited number of the best and latest books. Any town may obtain this privilege by a petition bearing the signatures of twenty-five resident taxpayers. Over three hundred of these travelling libraries are now being moved about the State. The director of the first State library in the Union is a man who is generally considered the first of librarians, Mr. Melvil Dewey. It is not easy to exaggerate the importance of the position in library circles which Mr. Dewey occupies. He comes to librarianship from the educational, not the bookish side. Twenty-five years ago he became imbued with the idea that libraries were the necessary complement of the schools in any satisfactory scheme of public education. The realisation of this ideal he chose as his life work, and this accounts for the fact, to which attention has often been called, that for almost a generation he has been the pioneer in nearly all the movements and organisations for promoting general library interests.

First in time and importance is the American Library Association, of which mention will be made hereafter, and which is Mr. Dewey's conception of a national society of those most interested in the modern library idea. For fifteen years he was its secretary and executive officer. When he insisted on retiring he was elected president, and again took the helm for the ten days in-

ternational meeting at Chicago, during the Columbian Exposition.

Of the *Library Journal*, which won and has held its place for twenty years as the leading library periodical of the world, he was editor for the first five years. In June, 1886, he started the cheaper library quarterly, *Library Notes*, of which he has always been editor. January 5th, 1887, he opened the first school for the training of librarians in the world at Columbia, and is still its director, it having been transferred from Columbia University to the State, soon after Mr. Dewey's removal to Albany. In 1892 he drafted the law which was passed by the New York Legislature, and which is considered the most comprehensive and far-reaching library law yet placed upon the statutes of any State or nation, for in it the library is for the first time fully recognised as taking its place beside the public school, as a part of the State's educational system. Mr. Dewey is the author of the famous Dewey system of classification, which has enormously simplified the work of the librarian.

Among public libraries, that of Boston ranks first—the noblest institution of its kind in America, and the largest free circulating library in the world. On its shelves are many volumes of great rarity relating to American colonial and national history, a nearly unequalled collection of works on the fine arts, and many original manuscripts of much value. The total number of its volumes is over 600,000; and under Mr. Herbert Putnam, now its librarian, and formerly librarian of the public library at Minneapolis, is a force of assistant librarians and clerical assistants of over two hundred. The library building ranks next to the library of Congress (so called), the noblest home of books in the country, and in its interior decorations surpasses that of the National Library. The severely classic beauty of its architecture, rising amid the more picturesque and showy, but less impressive structures of Copley Square, is emblematic of the enduring character of that knowledge and learning to the service of which this magnificent temple is dedicated. One cannot but regret the necessity of dismissing with these few lines, the brevity of which is made necessary by a plan that shall comprehend a general survey of

the subject, a library which is inclusive of so much, and which is in a general way, in the character and greatness of its aim and scope, typical of all others.

The ownership of the Boston Athenæum library of 188,000 volumes is vested in 1049 shareholders, who, with their families, have the use of the library and the privilege of sharing its use to a certain extent with friends. Strangers are permitted access to its shelves under certain restrictions. The Athenæum's librarian, Mr. William C. Lane, was assistant librarian of Harvard College from 1887-93, in which year he assumed the position he now fills.

There are a number of highly important public libraries in Massachusetts in the three hundred or more outside of the city of Boston. Massachusetts is, indeed, the banner State. Worcester possesses a library of nearly a hundred thousand volumes, and a librarian, Samuel Swett Green, who is known far and wide for his successful efforts in an important special field. It is generally conceded that the close association of the public library and the public school has been greatly stimulated throughout the country by the action of the Worcester Library. A later development along these lines has been the establishment of classes for the study of subjects by those who wish to avail themselves of such opportunity. Mr. Green was born in 1837, graduated from Harvard in 1858, became a director of the Worcester Library in 1867, and librarian in 1871. He was one of the founders of the American Library Association, and in 1891 was its president.

The citizens of Springfield might object to having the library of Worcester mentioned before theirs, for the former contains 90,000 volumes, and is estimated as ranking *eighth* among the public libraries of the country, and *first* in the number of volumes to population. Its venerable librarian, Dr. William Rice, who died in his seventy-sixth year on August 17th, was an old anti-slavery leader, and in 1853 received the degree of M.A. from the Wesleyan University, and in 1876 the degree of D.D. from the same institution. He had held the position which he occupied at the time of his death since 1861.

Brookline, Mass., said to be the richest community for its size in the United States, has a library, and a librarian

who is among the youngest in the country, being under thirty. But Charles K. Bolton has already won a deservedly high place by his writings on subjects connected with libraries and library management, and by a profound sense of the responsibility of his office. Mr. Bolton, whose mother is the well-known writer, Sarah Knowles Bolton, is himself the author of several books, among which are *The Wooing of Martha Pitkin*, which has passed through three editions, and *The Love Story of Ursula Wolcott*.

Taunton has a public library of about 45,000 volumes. Mr. Joshua E. Crane, formerly in charge of the Y. M. C. A. Library at Albany, the father of all Y. M. C. A. libraries in this State, is its administrator. Mr. Crane was for several years instructor in the Protestant College in Syria, and later instructor in the classics at the Albany Academy.

Several of the cities of Connecticut have large public libraries. New Haven has a free public library, over which Mr. W. K. Stetson has presided since 1887. Hartford has a public library of some prominence, with a woman well known in library circles at its head—Miss Caroline M. Hewins. Miss Hewins is a lecturer on children's literature to the New York State Library School. Her library work was begun at the Boston Athenæum at a time when the famous Dr. W. H. Poole was its librarian, an association the benefit of which no one would admit more eagerly than Miss Hewins. Bridgeport has a library of some 30,000 volumes, of which Miss Agnes Hills is librarian; and Waterbury has a library with a collection considerably larger.

The Providence, R. I., Library of over 75,000 volumes has a famous librarian for its head—William E. Foster.

Among the benefactions of Andrew Carnegie must be named the great library at Pittsburg, and the smaller one at Allegheny. Mr. E. H. Anderson, the librarian of the first named, is a Western man, and was formerly a cataloguer in the Newberry Library at Chicago. The library has but 26,000 volumes, with a shelf capacity of 300,000; it has, however, been opened to the public only a little more than a year, and the popularity of the institution has gone beyond the most sanguine expectations of the founder. The Carnegie Library at Al-

legheny has 29,000 volumes, but is increasing its collection rapidly. Mr. William M. Stevenson, its librarian, when taking charge, had no previous library experience, and was obliged—in common, in fact, with all his assistants—to learn from the beginning the details of library work.

One of the most important events of the near future will be the bringing together in the New York Public Library of the Astor, Lenox, and Tilden foundations. Ever since its beginning the Astor Library has closed its doors at the only hours when it can be used by those to whom public libraries are of the most value. As for the Lenox, that is an institution which recalls the traditions of the time when the books of public libraries were chained to the cases. Of course it will be said that the Lenox is not a library of general reference; that its works are rarities, and often of great value; yet it does seem that its usefulness might be increased by some more liberal opportunities of access. It remains to be said, however, that there has been an improvement in the management of the Lenox in recent years, and that this criticism is happily losing its force. The Astor and the Lenox are too much a part of New York to be spoken of slightly. The Egyptology of the first and the Americana of the second are nearly unrivalled. S. Austin Allibone, the author of the *Dictionary of Authors*, was once a librarian of the second; Frederick Saunders, author of *Salad for the Solitary*, at one time an extremely popular book, and now by no means wholly forgotten, was for thirty-five years at the Astor, and has only the other day, at the age of *eighty-nine*, retired from his librarianship, which he has honoured for so many years. And now that these libraries are to be merged in one, let us cease to think unkindly of their imperfections, and recall only the delightful features of their management which have made them of inestimable value to writers and students.

New York had no free circulating library until what is sometimes called the Bond Street Library—its real name being the New York Free Circulating Library—was born, the Mercantile and Apprentices' being subscription libraries. The Y. M. C. A. Library is not free, the use of its books being conditioned upon the payment of a small an-

nual fee. Its collection of works on architecture and the fine arts would probably surprise those not aware of its value.

The Brooklyn Library has 127,000 volumes. Stephen B. Noyes, whom old Brooklyn book lovers remember with gratitude, was succeeded by Mr. Willis A. Bardwell, the present incumbent. There are few libraries so generally used for reference as this one, its theological and musical collections being especially abundant, and its general works of ample and liberal selection. This library is not free, but its subscription fee is small, and its membership shows a slight yearly increase. Brooklyn, however, has a free circulating library in that of the Pratt Institute, founded by the munificence of Mr. Charles Pratt. It has a collection of 61,000 volumes, and is one of the few libraries, if not the only one, where children too young to read may draw books—which in this case, of course, are picture books. The children, too, have a library and reading room "all their own." This especial consideration for the young is due, perhaps, to the fact that its librarian is a woman, Miss Mary W. Plummer, a graduate and former teacher in the New York State Library School.

A word as to library schools. The calling of a library assistant is an occupation requiring far more technical knowledge and training than is commonly supposed. During the last twenty years library work has been so systematised that a thorough instruction in all its branches necessitates years of laborious preparation. Library schools have therefore arisen in obedience to the need of carefully trained assistants; and courses of library training have been introduced into the curriculum of many of our colleges. The New York State Library School at Albany, the first in time, in requirements for admission and graduation, and in repute, is now drawing pupils from every State in the Union, and to some extent from foreign countries.

It is quite impossible within the limits of a magazine article even to refer to the many libraries which for one reason or another merit extended notice. We have been, therefore, obliged to content ourselves with indicating a few of the more important. We are to remember

that there are over 5000 public libraries in the United States, for they must at least have reached that number since the 1893 report was issued. There has been an enormous increase in the number of these institutions within a generation. This increase, however, is less significant than the enormous increase in the number of volumes in public libraries, an enormously increased circulation, and a very largely increased use of books confined to the reference room, wherever statistics are kept of such use. Every year adds to the importance of "the missions and the missionaries of the book," to adopt a happy phrase of Mr. J. N. Larned, late Superintendent of the Buffalo Public Library. It is calculated that the libraries of New York State possess 4,000,000 books, about one quarter of which are in free libraries. New York County has 997 books to every 1000 persons.

Outside of New York City, one of the most important libraries in the State is perhaps the Reynolds Library, so called from the name of its founder, Mortimer F. Reynolds, at Rochester, of which Alfred S. Collins is librarian.

New Jersey, though facetiously accused of being out of the Union, is very much in it in the matter of comparative library statistics. The public library at Jersey City, under the supervision of Miss E. Burdick, ranks *fourth* in circulation in proportion to population of all the libraries in the country, and has over 50,000 volumes. The Paterson Library was, however, the first free public library in New Jersey, founded under a law passed in 1884, a law which is considered among the best library laws of the various States. It possesses about 27,000 volumes, and is in charge of Mr. G. F. Winchester. Its former librarian, Mr. Frank P. Hill, is now at the head of the Newark Library, he having been called from the Lowell (Mass.) Free Public Library, where he had served as librarian for a number of years. A feature of interest connected with these three flourishing public libraries of New Jersey is their rapid growth in accessions and circulation.

The West, though behind the East in the number and value of its public libraries, is not, when measured by the youth and comparative poverty of its cities, so very far in the rear of the older and wealthier section. Chicago's Public Library is generally held to rank second

only to that of Boston; and as early as 1852 San Francisco had taken the first step toward a municipal library in the formation of a Mercantile Library Association. Other libraries arose at the same time. To-day Oakland and Los Angeles possess public libraries, the fame of which has travelled far beyond those cities.

The Chicago Library is supposed to lead the world in the home circulation of its books, but it will be observed that a similar claim is made for the Philadelphia Free Public Library, and we are at present without data to estimate these conflicting claims. Comparative library statistics of circulation are not always reliable, since some are made to include items which in other estimates are excluded, such as the circulation of periodicals and the use of books in reference and reading room. So, too, the figures of circulation of libraries in cities where there are distributing branches will as a rule, other things being equal, surpass the circulation in cities where no such branches exist. Of the 1,173,586 volumes taken from the Chicago Library for home use, more than half were issued through its thirty-one delivery stations.

Chicago, besides its splendid free public library, has the Newberry, founded in 1882, of which William F. Poole was librarian. The Crerar bequest of \$3,000,000 is another magnificent benefaction destined to add to the intellectual greatness of the metropolis of the West.

The Free Public Library of Peoria, Ill., is the largest public library, relative to population, of any west of New England, with a collection of 58,000 volumes. Its librarian, Mr. E. S. Wilcox, is the author of the Illinois State library law, which has served as a model for several other States.

The Public Library at Minneapolis has about 85,000 volumes, and is remarkable as having one of the largest *per capita* circulations. Herbert Putnam, its librarian in 1892, was succeeded in that year by James K. Hosmer. Mr. Hosmer has made several notable contributions to our historical literature in his "Lives" of Samuel Adams (American Statesmen Series), Sir Henry Vane, and Thomas Hutchinson, the old Tory governor of Colonial Massachusetts, works which are as interesting as romances. Mr. Hosmer was a trustee of

the St. Louis Public Library up to 1892, when he passed, as he cleverly expresses it, "from the grub condition of the trustee into a beautiful librarian butterfly." Two other cities of the West, St. Paul and Milwaukee, have large and important public libraries.

The public library of Cincinnati has 215,596 volumes. Its circulation is very large, even relatively to the great number of its volumes. William F. Poole, who appears to have been associated in an official capacity with almost all the great public libraries at one time or another during his active and useful life, was once its librarian, but it is at present under the charge of A. W. Whelpley. Mr. Whelpley served an apprenticeship in Robert Craighead's printing office, corner of Fulton and Dutch streets, this city, where De Vinne was a fellow-workman. In this office Mr. Whelpley met many of the literary lights of old New York, some of whom posterity has chosen to forget, but a few of whom are still known to book lovers—the Duyckinks, Charles Fenno Hoffman, Tuckerman, Fenimore Cooper. It is interesting to note that the manuscript of *Salad for the Solitary*, Frederick Saunders's well-known book, passed through the young printer's hands on its way to the public "more years ago," says Mr. Whelpley, "than I care to remember."

Another public library of Ohio, of which mention should not be omitted, is that of Cleveland, in charge of Mr. William H. Brett, first president of the State Library Association of Ohio and now president of the American Library Association. Mr. Brett has compiled a catalogue of the Cleveland Library which those qualified to know pronounce one of the best ever issued.

Among Western public libraries, that of Omaha is a not unimportant one. The total number of volumes in this library is 52,000, in charge of Mr. W. H. Barrows. The highly creditable fact is to be remembered that this library, with an active and efficient management keeping pace with the needs of the community, is supported independently of any State library law by a city the population of which was returned in the census of 1890 at 140,000.

The South is behind the West in the number and importance of its public libraries. Yet the Library Society of Charleston, S. C., dates as far back as 1748. The Howard Memorial Library

of New Orleans owes its existence to a gift of \$350,000 from Mrs. Annie F. Howard. It possesses a wholly unique collection of works on Louisiana and many rare treasures. The Howard Library is in charge of Mr. William Beer.

Another Southern library of prominence is the Public Library of St. Louis, with about 100,000 volumes. Mr. F. M. Crunden, a former president of the American Library Association, is its progressive and enlightened head, and is recognised everywhere as one of the ablest librarians of the country. His services to "the higher life" of St. Louis merit more than this passing allusion. Memphis, Tenn., has a large free library, given to the city by the heirs of Frederick H. Cossett. The Enoch Pratt Free Public Library of Baltimore, with its 170,000 volumes, stands high in the list of free libraries of the South. Lewis H. Steiner, its first librarian, was succeeded at his death, in 1892, by his son, Bernard H. Steiner.

A word in conclusion of the American Library Association. Organised in 1876, it has grown year by year in membership and influence. Its first president was the late Justin Winsor, librarian of Harvard College, and associated with him were Lloyd P. Smith, A. R. Spofford, and William F. Poole, as vice-presidents. Mr. Melvil Dewey was its executive officer, and had charge of its offices for fifteen years. He is generally regarded as the real founder of the association. With the present administration of Mr. Brett are associated Mr. George Watson Cole, formerly librarian of the Jersey City Public Library, Hannah P. James, of the Osterhant Public Library, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., and J. C. Dana, of the Denver (Col.) Library, compiler of a well-known *Public Library Handbook*. The secretary of the American Library Association is Rutherford P. Hayes, son of the late ex-President Hayes. Mr. Hayes was for some time trustee of the Birchard Library, at Tremont, O., and in 1889 became a member of the American Library Association. This association has been the means of establishing intimate and cordial relations between the librarians of the country, and has enormously conduced to advance the practical efficiency of "the missions and the missionaries of the book."

Joseph Dana Miller.

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