

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Public Documents of Maine:

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

Public Officers *and* Institutions

FOR THE YEAR

❧ 1889 ❧

VOLUME I.

AUGUSTA:

BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1890.

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

Librarian of the Maine State Library,

FOR THE YEARS 1887 AND 1888.

Transmitted to the Legislature, January, 1889.

AUGUSTA:
BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1889.

*To the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of
Representatives :*

In conformity with the requirements of the laws of the State, I have the honor to transmit to the Legislature the twenty-fourth report of the Maine State Library, being for the years 1887-88.

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. HOBBS,

Librarian.

STATE LIBRARY, Augusta, January, 1889.

TRUSTEES OF THE STATE LIBRARY.

THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL, *Ex-Officio* — *For the Years 1887-88.*

HON. JOSEPH R. BODWELL, GOVERNOR, deceased.

“ SEBASTIAN MARBLE, ACTING-GOVERNOR.

HON. TOBIAS LORD,	}	<i>Councillors.</i>
“ A. B. SUMNER,		
“ EBEN RAND,		
“ ELLIOTT WOOD,		
“ WILLIAM H. HUNT,		
“ GEORGE M. WARREN,		
“ SETH M. CARTER,		

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

HON. SETH M. CARTER,	}	<i>Of the Council.</i>
“ GEORGE M. WARREN,		
“ ELLIOTT WOOD,		

The Rules and Regulations

RELATIVE TO THE

MAINE STATE LIBRARY.

I. The State Library shall be under the management and control of the Governor and Council as a board of trustees.

II. The Library shall be kept open every day in the year, Sundays and the usual holidays excepted, during the usual business hours.

III. Books may be taken from the Library by the Governor, Members of the Council and of the Legislature, Judges of the Judicial Courts, Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Adjutant General, Attorney General, Land Agent, Reporter of Decisions, Counsel engaged in argument of causes before the Law Courts in the Middle District, Superintendent of Public Buildings, Superintendent of Common Schools, Superintendent of the Insane Hospital, Chaplains, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Chaplains, Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the House, Secretary and Members of the Board of Agriculture during the session of the Board; provided that this privilege to the members of the Legislature, and those officially connected therewith, shall be limited to the time the Legislature shall be in session.

IV. Any person taking books from the Library shall first give sufficient personal security for their return within twenty days.

V. No person authorized to take books from the Library shall be permitted to have at any one time more than three volumes, nor shall the same be retained more than three weeks, and all shall be returned on or before the first day of January, annually.

VI. The following books shall not be taken from the Library room, except for the use of either House, or of the committees of the Legislature during its session, or for use in the Supreme Judicial Court in term time: All books presented by the United States, or any of the States; all works, books, and documents relating to the laws or legislative proceedings of the United States, or other States or countries; all digests, reports of decisions, and works relating to the science of the law, and Vattemare's exchanges.

VII. Every person shall be answerable for all damage done by him to any book, and in case of the loss of any volume belonging to a set, the person answerable therefor shall procure a new volume or pay in money the value of the set.

VIII. Any member of the Legislature having in his possession any book, map, or other publication belonging to the Library, shall return the same four days before the adjournment of the Legislature.

IX. All such books, maps, and other publications as the Governor and Council shall determine are necessary always to be kept in the Library as books of reference, shall at no time be taken therefrom.

X. All persons wishing to take books, pamphlets, or maps from the State Library, are required to report to the Librarian the title of such books, pamphlets, or maps, before taking the same from the Library rooms.

REPORT.

STATE LIBRARY, }
January, 1889. }

To the Legislature of the State of Maine.

In the performance of the duty imposed by law upon the State Librarian, I have the honor to submit the following report and lists of books added to the State Library during the year 1887 and 1888, and also the amount of money expended.

The amount received from appropriations of the legislature of 1887 was one thousand dollars for each of the years 1887 and 1888. This amount has been expended under the direction of the Governor as required by law. For the year just past 1888, the expenses have slightly exceeded the appropriation. So there is due the Librarian the balance of twenty-five dollars and forty-one cents (\$25.41).

The trustees of the library have examined the books and vouchers and found them correct and the vouchers have been placed on file in the office of the Secretary of State.

ACCESSIONS.

The number of volumes added to the library since the last report is fourteen hundred and nine (1409) bound volumes and four hundred and eighty-seven (487) pamphlets as follows: three hundred and two (302) volumes of law books and two hundred and thirty-eight (238) volumes of miscellaneous books. By exchange with the States and Territories, including books received from the United States, through the

several departments thereof, seven hundred and eighty-eight (788) books and three hundred and eighty (380) pamphlets.

By donations we have received one hundred and eighty-eight (188) volumes and one hundred and seven (107) pamphlets. The above does not include papers and periodicals. These figures, better than any words I can use, illustrate the rapidity of the growth of the library

I take pride and pleasure in calling attention to the list of books purchased, both law and miscellaneous. It will be noticed that they are varied in character, as they must be, to preserve the harmonious and topical growth of the library. In the list are embraced many very valuable books and some very rare ones. In this list will be found such works as the History of Rome and the Roman People, by Victor Duruy, in sixteen volumes, finely illustrated; a critical History of America by Justin Winsor, Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, Johnson's Universal Cyclopædia, in eight volumes. There is also the History of Paraguay by Charles E. Washburn, and the Recollections of a Minister of France by the Hon. E. B. Washburn, India by Louis Rousselet, carefully revised and edited by Lieut. Col. Buckle. This book, a man went to Boston, lately, to examine not knowing it was in this library. Some good local histories have been added, for instance, the Towns of Turner and Norway, Me., Eastport and Passamaquoddy. These histories of towns I consider among the most valuable books that can be added to a library.

EXCHANGES.

The exchanges have been carried on very faithfully and successfully. Forty-four States and Territories have exchanged books with us. There is only one State, Arkansas, which has not sent us books. I have called their attention to the matter, and, no doubt, I shall soon receive books from there. Our books have been forwarded to all the States as they are issued. I have not been able, as yet, to get any exchange of books with Alaska. Am in hopes to do so at

no distant period. Books from Alaska would be interesting I have no doubt. These inter-State exchanges have become invaluable. All the States and Territories seem to appreciate their value. By consulting the laws and documents of the different States, we can learn what matters have been made the subject of judicial and legislative investigation.

MAINE REPORTS.

The State purchases, in order to comply with the laws, six hundred copies of the Maine reports as they are issued. That is not enough to meet the demand. I would recommend that the number be increased by fifty or one hundred. There are more towns to be supplied, and more departments also, more ex-judges and ex-councillors, etc., than there were when the number was fixed at six hundred.

I would again most earnestly call your attention to the importance of providing more and better shelving room for the books. For special recommendation would refer to previous reports from this department.

The longer I stay in the State library, the more am I impressed with the value and importance of this library. Only a short time ago a man from an adjoining town to this took a journey to Washington to examine a work which was here in this library, and which he could have had the use of if he had only called. Such books are of great value.

LOSSES.

I regret to say that books are sometimes lost from the State library. They sometimes disappear in a very mysterious manner. I am missing several very valuable books at the present time. I will not say they are lost, for books sometimes come back almost as mysteriously as they disappear. A book was returned to this library since this session commenced, which had been gone more than twenty years. It was returned by the same man who took it from the library. This book was not taken out surreptitiously but it was kept out outrageously. It is a rare and valuable book. The other

books to which I have referred, I hope will come back. If they do not I shall organize myself into a detective association and begin the search without waiting to be interviewed. I shall do some free advertising for individual benefit.

There is once in a while a man mean enough to commit vandalism in a library by cutting out or tearing out leaves containing something valuable to them. I look upon the larceny of a book as respectable in comparison with this, for a stolen book may be useful to somebody, while this destroys it for all purposes. We have, I am glad to say, but few cases of this kind.

In order to keep the library well replenished in all its departments we shall need for the present year one thousand dollars in addition to the five hundred dollars given by statutes.

There are elementary works in law needed. There are still English Law Reports which it is very desirable to have. I would mention Beavan's Reports for one. There are thirty-six volumes in this set. They are pretty expensive. There are others of the same class, also I desire to purchase the American Reports in sixty volumes. We already have the American Decisions. Have been taking those as published. We now need the American Reports to make the set complete. A set is worth about two hundred and ten dollars. I earnestly hope you will allow the sum of one thousand dollars. This is not a large sum. Most of the State libraries throughout the country have a much larger sum.

Whatever sum you see fit to appropriate, it will be my purpose, under the direction of the Governor, to expend in a careful and prudent manner.

It will be noticed that we have received quite a large number of books and pamphlets by donation. We fully appreciate their value. To all the doners my grateful acknowledgements are hereby tendered for their liberal donations.

My thanks are due to Governor Marble and the Executive Council for many timely suggestions. Mr. Marble has a very high appreciation of books.

Of the late Governor Bodwell, I wish to say, that as Trustee of the library he manifested a very lively interest in its welfare. He was anxious to assist me with his kindly advice. And I gladly give him my tribute of praise. People called him rich, referring to his earthly riches, but he was far richer in heavenly treasures; rich in the love and esteem of all who knew him; rich towards God.

“He was a man to all the country dear.”

He had many noble virtues, let us try to emulate them.

ABOUT BOOKS.

I feel a responsibility upon me in selecting the books for the various departments of the library. To be sure, the Governor and Council as Trustees are always ready with their advice, but still the main responsibility rests upon the librarian.

What books shall we choose? What are the best, the eternal, indispensable books? I sometimes feel a sense of bewilderment as I look out across the “Slough of Despond” of an illimitable and ever-swelling literature. I have become a sadder and I hope a wiser man by dwelling so much among books. I feel sometimes that I am like that “Ancient Mariner” importunate to tell each blithe wedding guest the tale of his shipwreck on the infinite sea of printers’ ink. And sometimes, having so many books around me and so little time to read them, I can cry out as did the “Mariner,” “Water! water everywhere, and not a drop to drink!” Some author, I think it is Frederick Harrison, says “that the choice of books is really the choice of our education, of a moral and intellectual ideal, of the whole duty of man.”

When we speak about books let us avoid the extravagance of expecting too much from books. Some people have the pedant’s habit of extolling books as synonymous with education. Books and the knowledge of books are no more

education than laws are virtue, and just as profligacy is easy within the strict limits of law, so a boundless knowledge of books may be found with a narrow education and little *real knowledge*. A man may be as the poet saith

“Deep versed in books, and shallow in himself.”

We need to know in order that we may feel rightly and act wisely. Of all men, perhaps the book-lover and the book-hunter needs most to be reminded that man's business here is to *know* for the sake of *living*, and not to live for the sake of knowing; just as a man should eat for the sake of living, and not live for the sake of eating.

A healthy mode of reading should follow the lines of a sound education. Our reading and our study should always be symmetrical and balanced, cultivating equally in turn the three intellectual elements—imagination, memory and reflection. I have, therefore, labored to have this library equipped so that I can give to all classes something in law, in poetry, in history, in science and philosophy.

There are some very “literary people” of deep reading, perhaps, but their reading runs wholly into “pockets” and exhausts itself in the literature of one particular subject. Such reading has a tendency to narrow or deform one's mind, and there are those who gather up large libraries of books, not to make them the companions and solace of a lifetime, but using them as the instruments of a sort of refined self-indulgence. But I am entering on a subject which I have not space here to discuss. It is plain that to organize our knowledge, even to systematize our reading, to make a working selection of books for general reading and study implies a complete scheme of education, and this matter of “education” perhaps, more properly comes before another department of the government. But let me say this, I love the books. From them I have been able to learn something of the real meaning of life. That life is not to live merely, but to live well. There are some I have thought, who live as

Seneca says "without any design at all, and only pass in the world like straws on a river; they do not go, they are carried." But let us strive for this to

"Do noble things, not dream them, all day long;
"And so make life, death, and that vast forever
"One grand sweet song."

J. S. HOBBS,
State Librarian.

CATALOGUE.

Books Added to the Library Since the Report of 1885-6.

BY PURCHASE.

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Authors.	Vols.
Bigelow's Overruled Cases, Supplement to, by M. M. Bigelow.....	1
Bigelow on the Law of Fraud, by M. M. Bigelow.....	1
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Burlamaque on Law, Principles of, Vol. 1-2, by J. J. Burlamaque	
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United States Report, Supreme Court, Vols. 118 to 127,	10
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