

No. 1.

## Annual Report for 1900.

The Evening Sentinel

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 18, 1901.

### HAMILTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Association in Good Shape and Showing Increased Interest in Historical Matters---Plans for the Immediate Future.

At the meeting of the Hamilton Library Association, Tuesday evening Jan. 15th, 1901, the reports of the executive officers were quite encouraging, and we here give them in full.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

According to a provision of the by-laws the following "statement of the affairs of the association" is made in behalf of the Board of Directors at this the regular annual meeting of the association.

Whilst the work of accumulation of material of local historical interest, begun at the organization of the association, has been continued without intermission, the possibility of rendering the historical collections and library more readily accessible to the public have been matters of earnest consideration by the board. At the last of a series of meetings held to consider plans proposed by a committee appointed for the purpose, at which it was hoped that final action might be taken, the cheering announcement was made that a public library was about to be erected, equipped and endowed. It was deemed wise and proper to defer action of any kind on the part of this association until after

the full development of the plans of such a library. The J. Herman Bosler Memorial Library has more than met all the expectations created by the announcement. This noble gift to the town of a public library of which it may well be proud, and of a character and upon a scale that this association could have had no hope of, in any wise, approximating, may further incidentally benefit the town not only by permitting this association to continue its efforts exclusively along lines upon which it has already accomplished so much, but by encouraging and stimulating it to increased activity as well.

In the absence of any fund for the accumulation and maintenance of a library, the association has been dependent almost entirely upon the generosity of those interested in the work it has attempted. By the unflagging efforts, largely of a few connected with the association, the exceedingly valuable collection has been formed. This consists for the most part of matter of high historical value of great local interest. It includes files of newspapers, principally local, running back to the beginning of the past century, and measurably complete,



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historical monographs, records published by the state, etc., etc. It is proper to state, however, that whilst many of these have been presented to the association, others of great value have only been deposited, by the owners, with the association, for safe keeping, with the privilege of such use, and such precautions, as the association allows of its own collection. There is every reason to believe that these will be allowed to remain as long as they are properly cared for. Such a collection, it is plain, from its very nature can not be made as readily accessible to the public as a library of books, and must be safeguarded by rules and regulations for its use, peculiar to and necessary for its unimpaired preservation. It has however been frequently used under such requirements as have seemed necessary and has been pronounced by experts highly creditable to the borough and county. This work of the systematic collection and preservation of material of local historical interest, comparative-neglected everywhere, a few years ago, is today recognized as of the highest importance in fixing and verifying facts of local history; and it is a matter of congratulation that this association at its very organization recognized in its constitution the value to the community of efforts in this direction, and has thereby secured and preserved much that might otherwise have been destroyed. It is equally a matter of congratulation that the association has a building so well adapted to such purposes and so favorably located. It might be well to inquire in this connection and whilst soliciting further accessions to this portion of the library, whether the present regulations governing its use are as well adapted to its certain preservation as well as to convenience in use as

they ought to be, and also whether some modification of the mode of storing parts if it, might not be advisable for the same reasons, especially if plans for freer access of the public should be adopted.

In addition to the historical collection there is a limited number of books of more general character upon shelves, also obtained by gift. Among these there are doubtless some that might be of general interest if some plan were devised by which they could be rendered more accessible or be put into circulation. But in view of what the association has already done in the direction alluded to, and of what may yet be done by it, and by no other agency at present organized, and with the full provision made by the J. Herman Bosler Memorial library for the general reader, to which it could hope to add nothing, it would seem unwise to adopt any plan for the use of the limited number of books of general character, that would in any way involve relaxation of safeguards necessary for the preservation of the other valuable material already secured or interfere with the further accumulation of such material naturally gravitating to it.

Among the plans suggested for increasing the usefulness of the library may be mentioned at this time:

First. Opening the library to the public one evening of the week, and permission to use the books under suitable regulations. This might be feasible, especially if members of the association would take charge in turn, and it would involve but little expense, and might be of considerable service for reference. It would not, however well carried out, promote the fullest utilization of the resources of the association, or make a just impression of its real work and character. It is,



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however, worth consideration.

Second. One of the most feasible and immediately available means of furnishing the public with some of the results of the work of the association is the public meeting, regularly, or from time to time, at which papers upon topics of local interest might be read and discussed and in suitable cases illustrated. Such public meetings seem to have been contemplated at the organization of the association and they might be made highly instructive and entertaining and would certainly stimulate and encourage wider interest in our local history and direct and systematize historical investigation. There are many members of the association, who could with little trouble make valuable contributions to our local history for such occasions. Such papers would find ready publication and thus accomplish permanent record and wider dissemination of facts frequently of personal knowledge that might otherwise be lost. Ample provision could be made for such meetings in the upper room of the building, and if in some special cases interest should outgrow such room, the subjects could be brought before a larger public in the opera house. An evening in the latter with "Old Carlisle" illustrated, with nominal charge for admission would not only increase the usefulness of the association but bring it into closer touch with the citizens of our ancient borough. There are other directions in which the association may exert itself in the interest of the community and in which it should take the initiative, with the assurance that appreciative financial support will not be wanting for such purposes. The time indeed seems opportune for effective useful work on the part of the association in the community in di-

rections almost altogether its own. The matters that seem to merit early consideration in this connection are in brief:

1. The cataloguing and classification of the library.
2. The rearrangement and modification of the cases, more especially those for storing the files of newspapers, as already authorized by the directors.
3. The careful revision of the rules regulating the use of the library with a view if possible to the greater security of the collection and increased convenience in use.
4. The formulations of details of plan for public meetings, and in that connection for the fitting up of the upper room of the building for that purpose.
5. The thorough repair of the building externally by repainting, etc.
6. The addition to the membership, by election, of persons actively interested in the association.
7. The advisability of a change of name of the association to the "Hamilton Library and Historical Association" as more in accord with the original constitution of the association and more completely expressive of its work.

The accounts of the treasurer show that all the usual bills have been paid that the building is properly insured, that the bills of librarian for books, binding of newspaper files, etc., have been paid and that there is a balance on hand sufficient to meet all immediate demands.

Attention is especially called to the report of the librarian.

Respectfully submitted

CHARLES F. HIMES

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN OF HAMILTON  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

The following is the list of accessions

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to the library by purchase since last report:

The Fatherland (Sachse).

History of Big Spring Church,

History of Pennsylvania (Eggle).

History of Cumberland County (Wing).

Notes and Queries—1898 (Erle).

Pennsylvania Pietists Vols. I and II (Sachse).

Notes and Queries—1899 (Eggle).

History of Middle Spring Church (McSwope).

Costing in the aggregate \$34 40.

Donations have been received from Miss Jennie McPherson, Miss Annie B. Hantch, Albert H. Leonard, J.

Zeamer and Samuel Seltz. Mr. J. Zeamer has supplied the volumes of the American Volunteer for several years past, unbound. I have kept up the files of the Daily Herald and EVENING SENTINEL for a number of years past and all are now bound, except those of 1900, which will be put in the binder's hands in a few days. The expenditure for binding since last report has been \$29 40.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Signed)

C. P. HUMRICH

Several new members were elected, nominations were made for directors to be elected at the meeting of the association in February, the general condition and possibilities of the association were fully discussed, and a committee appointed to prepare a report for the consideration of the Board of Directors, at an early meeting to be called for that purpose.

THE Hamilton Library Association will yet prove a very useful organization under its wise and conservative management. It had little to go on, but has made good use of the small amount of money left it by the late James Hamilton, and seems now to be entering upon a larger field of usefulness.