

**CATALOGUE OF THE
LIBRARY OF
LAWRENCE ACADEMY,
GROTON, MASS. 1850**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649414024

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LAWRENCE ACADEMY,

GROTON, MASS. 1850.

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

LOWELL:

PRINTED BY S. J. VARNEY, 82 CENTRAL STREET,
1850.

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Lawrence

LAWRENCE ACADEMY.

From the Records of the Trustees of Lawrence Academy, it appears, that in 1827 Mr. ELIZUR WRIGHT, the Preceptor, recommended the formation of a LIBRARY for the Pupils. A committee was appointed, with authority to expend a certain sum of money in carrying into execution the recommendations of his memorial. At the annual meeting in August, 1828, this Committee report "that they have attended to the duties of their appointment, so far as circumstances would allow. They have selected a Library of about ninety volumes [86], all new books, and most of them strongly and handsomely bound. These were procured at the bookstore of one of the Trustees of this Academy, who, very obligingly, made unusual discounts in favor of the Academy. The whole expense of the Library was \$115 27. The Committee are happy to learn from the Preceptor and from the examining committee, that the Library has been eagerly read by the students, and that it has already had a very beneficial effect on the prospects and interests of the Seminary."

This was the commencement of the present handsome Library. For ten years, these eighty-six volumes, without any addition, were used by the students. They were the only ones ever purchased by the Corporation.

In 1838 Mr. AMOS LAWRENCE, of Boston, made a donation of 185 volumes. This was soon succeeded by another similar gift; and up to the present time, the same gentleman has continued to enlarge the collection by valuable additions. The present number of books is 2,650. Of these, the 86 volumes above-mentioned were purchased by the Trustees; 60 volumes were presented by the American Tract Society; 63 volumes were the relics of a library, which had belonged to a Literary Society in the school, called the "Social Fraternity"; 4 volumes were a gift from the Corporation of Harvard College, through the kindness of Pres. Sparks; a few were received from members of Congress; five or six volumes were given by as many different gentlemen, one from each; and the remainder, comprising 2400 volumes, were from Mr. Lawrence.

This Catalogue presents an alphabetical list of the books under the names of their authors severally, or under some prominent word in the title, or under both; also a classified list, where each book is recorded under some head which comprises its nature or main scope. Numerous repetitions have been allowed, that the pupils may the more readily find the volumes they seek. Numerous imperfections also, must find their apology in the fact that several times after the book was nearly ready for the press, a large install-

ment of books from Mr. Lawrence was received. This occurrence, grateful in every other aspect, made the manuscript crowded and obscure, and at last required an entire new copy of the whole before it could be given to the printer.

It is deemed proper to say, that this Library is valuable for the nature of its collection. It is well selected, free from all corrupting and trashy literature and adapted to form a taste for useful and solid reading. It is truly an auxiliary of great value in improving and refining the minds of the pupils who attend here. The constant use of it is affectionately commended to them. This method of occupying their leisure hours, cannot fail to make them more wise and useful. It will more than compensate for the pleasures derived from many of the sports and recreations of youth. A well-read man, to use a common phrase, is always respectable, whether he be a farmer, mechanic, merchant, or professional man; whether he be rich or poor. Knowledge always commands a price. If there be any exception to this remark, it is when a bad character and vicious tastes nullify or pervert the influence of knowledge. But a well stored mind is a measurable safeguard against vice. It has other and better resources within itself. Our advice, then, to the members of the school is—Read. But read with care. Select your books judiciously and read them judiciously. This Library may be more valuable to a pupil than all the instructions given by the Teachers. Eight out of ten will enter no learned profession, and proceeding no farther with their education than the Academy carries them, they will rarely fall under any decidedly literary influences after their school days are over. But if while here they have formed a love for reading, they will carry the means of a sympathetic alliance with the world of letters, wherever they may be situated. Their associates, their families, and particularly their descendants, will feel the influence of this Library. And who can place any limit to such an influence? With the hope that such results may not unfrequently be wrought out here, this Catalogue is offered for the use of the pupils of Lawrence Academy. And they are reminded that such results will be the best return for the benevolence, which places these opportunities within their reach.

Lawrence Academy, }
Feb'y, 1850. }

JAMES MEANS.

RULES AND EXPLANATIONS.

The Library is open on Wednesday to the male pupils, and on Saturday to the females. No book may be carried away till it is charged on the Librarian's Record; nor is any book deemed returned till it is discharged from the Record. Each volume must be carefully returned to its place on the shelf. Two volumes may be borrowed by each pupil, and retained a fortnight. After that period, a daily fine is affixed. Books lost or damaged, are to be replaced by those to whom they stand charged.

The numbers in the margin of this Catalogue, guide to the place of each volume. The first figure tells the Division, counting from left to right. The second shows the shelf, counting from the floor upward. The third points out the place of the book. Thus, 4. 5. 16. Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry, stands in the 16th place on the 5th shelf of the 4th Division. Or if one wish to find Young's Chronicles of Mass., 6. 5. 2., he looks in the 6th Division, on the 5th shelf, and number 2 is the book he seeks.

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