BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORCESTER. A LIST OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSPAPERS AND BROADSIDES, PRINTED IN THE TOWN OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, FROM 1775 TO 1848. WITH HISTORICAL AND EXPLANATORY NOTES Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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CHARLES LEMUEL NICHOLS

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SECOND EDITION.



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1918 Casa 8

TO THE

BOOK-LOVERS OF WORCESTER

IS DEDICATED

THIS TREASURE-HOUSE OF HER PAST.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

Since this Bibliography was printed in 1899, many of the books have been obtained the titles of which had been found only in sale catalogues or newspaper advertisements.

Examination of these books has shown that some of the titles recorded were imperfect in their previous descriptions, and some contained errors in the date of imprint. In addition to these a number of books have been seen whose titles were not known when the earlier edition was printed. It has seemed important, therefore, to record these new titles, and to correct such notices as have been found incomplete or imperfect.

Notes regarding the illustrations in these books, and other information of interest to the reader, have been incorporated in this edition.

One hundred and seventy-four numbers have been added, one hundred and thirty of which are new titles or editions. Thirty of these only were printed before the year 1800, the remainder being largely society notices, town reports, and similar evidences of the enlarging activities and the centralizing influences of the town of Worcester.

These corrections and additions have been gathered together in the Addenda in place of revising the body of this work, and an examination of the Index will disclose references to the location of both the original titles and the corrections which have been found necessary.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1918.



A RENEWED interest is awakening in local history. Many of our towns and cities have had chroniclers whose duties have been performed with greater or less success according to their ability or the facilities at their command.

But the chronicle stage in historical writing has passed in this country, and we have reached the period which demands a fresh investigation of the facts recorded. The historical method, so universally applied to all questions at the present time, demands a minute search for facts and the conditions bearing upon them, and extreme accuracy in their statement. Indeed, wherever we turn, personal research is found to be the method now employed whether in literature, science or the arts.

It is the discovery of the inaccuracies of the past, in consequence of this tendency to investigate, which is responsible for the awakening of interest in historical study, and in local history in particular, which is conceded to be the foundation of general history.

In this reaching after accuracy, no means is too trivial, no source too humble to be neglected. Newspapers are scanned, play-bills and advertisements are studied; sermons, addresses and reports give up their treasures to the student in the search for the truth of date, fact and opinion.

Local bibliography therefore becomes a distinct aid in this method of research, and, while it has not yet taken its true place, the time is now approaching when it will be estimated at its real value. No argument is required to show the importance of a permanent and accessible form for town records and for the early documents of settlement in this new country. Great pains is now being taken to the end of preserving these, and placing them within easy reach of the future historian. But in addition to these statements of the official life and growth of a town there are many occurrences which fail of notice in such records.

Broadsides, almanaes, addresses and sermons reflect the opinions of the times, and are as important witnesses of progress as the more formal town record and municipal and court document. Indeed, these precede the more claborate record and document, and are of great value in consequence, as showing the earlier steps in the formation of public opinion and the beginnings of public movements. It is here that the bibliography of our principal towns may be of great value. Not only do we find reflected in its pages all national, state and local crises, as well as the less serious occasions of interest, but the religious, educational, literary and social growth of the town are represented by the titles, and may be studied within the pages of the books recorded in such collections. Dates of all occurrences, so important for historical accuracy, are settled beyond peradventure by reference to the titles or contents