

**TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT
OF THE LIBRARIAN OF THE
MAINE STATE LIBRARY FOR
THE YEARS 1895 AND 1896**

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Twenty-Seventh Report of the Librarian of the Maine State Library for the Years 1895 and 1896
by Various

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VARIOUS

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TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN

THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

JUL 31 1972

OF THE

LIBRARY SCIENCE
LIBRARY

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

FOR THE YEARS

1895 and 1896

Transmitted to the Legislature, January, 1897.

AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1897

Library Science

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1895-95

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

HON. E. DUDLEY FREEMAN, *Chairman.*

HON. JOSEPH C. HOLMAN.

HON. WAINWRIGHT CUSHING.

Librarian—LEONARD D. CARVER.

Assistant Librarian—ERNEST W. EMERY.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine:

The laws of our State prescribe that this department shall submit to your distinguished consideration a biennial report, to the end that you may be fully informed of the true condition, wants, and needs of the library, and may thus be enabled through wise legislation and suitable appropriations to provide for its maintenance and further development. In the performance of this legal duty, it is pleasing to note the fact that in no former period of its existence, has the permanent growth of the library been so great and valuable as during the past two years.

Since the last report it has received by purchase, donations, and exchange, four thousand five hundred fifty bound volumes, many of which are of rare literary, historical, and scientific merit,—as a careful inspection of the catalogue lists contained in this report will show.

EXPENDITURES.

The expenditures for books during the past two years have been greater than in former years, but care has been taken to keep within the amount of the appropriations and to expend money only for the most pressing needs of the library. A summary of the amounts paid out each year will be found near the close of this report.

From the constant and persistent demands made upon the library for the use of books not found on its shelves, it has become plainly evident that there must be a considerable outlay of money in the near future, in order to enlarge the scope

of the library sufficiently to meet the reasonable wants of the people, and for the purpose of completing its collections of leading works along the main lines of human knowledge. It also becomes equally evident that law, science, history, literature, art, religion, and sociology are entitled to full and equal representation in any permanent collection of books designed to represent the State library,—while it is manifestly unwise to give to fiction and works of a temporary character, the amount of attention that has hitherto been accorded to them in this department.

In the distribution of books and documents for the benefit and instruction of the people of the State, better methods are now in use than in former times, and this improvement is not confined to Maine alone but prevails quite generally throughout the country. It is now possible to obtain from the United States a public document or report within a few months of the date of its issue. The yearly catalogue of these documents now issued according to the laws of Congress, for the use of the people, is a great advance in the right direction, and will render these publications ten fold more valuable and useful than under the old method, by bringing to light the valuable facts hitherto so carefully and successfully concealed from the public in their pages.

It is to be hoped that the generous encouragement the legislature has given in the past to all publications relating to the history, natural resources, and beautiful scenery of Maine may continue to be offered to all persons engaged in similar work.

Since the last report of the library, several notable publications of great value have been issued by citizens of Maine. Among the most important of these may be mentioned that monument of labor and accurate research, "The Bibliography of Maine," by Hon. Joseph Williamson of Belfast,—The Debates of the Constitutional Convention of Maine, 1819-1820, with Historical Sketches by Capt. Charles E. Nash of Augusta, —The Probate Records of Lincoln county,—and Photographic Views of the Scenery of Maine.

Nearly every state in the Union has completed or now has in progress a geological and topographical survey of its domains, with a view to discover and make known to the capitalists of the country its undeveloped mineral wealth and the inviting fields for the investment of money and the development of new industries, and to afford accurate information to students, tourists, and those seeking pleasant and healthful homes.

The numerous inquiries received by this department relative to the geology, mineralogy, water power, climate, and forests of Maine, cannot fail to impress one with the importance attached to accurate information upon these subjects; but unfortunately such information in reference to our own State is not to be obtained in any convenient form, if indeed it exists in any form.

LAW REPORTS.

It has been the purpose of this department to procure, as rapidly as means would permit, the original reports of the decisions of the leading courts of every English speaking people on the globe. In entering upon this line of policy it became important to secure the reports of the courts of Great Britain in preference to those of the Colonial courts. For this reason a large portion of the special appropriation for the library has been expended in the purchase of the law reports of England. It is estimated that the sum of \$2,000 will be required to purchase the remaining volumes of these reports.

The library now has about one-half of the law reports of the Canadian provinces, but these are comparatively useless without the remaining volumes. The Irish and Scotch reports will be needed in the near future to supplement and make complete the reports of England.

Negotiations have been going on during the past year to obtain exchange with Canada and Australia in this class of books. As a consequence of these efforts, the library is now receiving the reports of the supreme court of the Dominion of Canada in exchange for our own supreme court reports, but there are still several provincial courts whose reports can be