

Some of us have already made a start in this direction in connection with the Harvard Business Library. For instance, we have the complete account and letter books of the old Slater Mills of Rhode Island from 1790 to the present day, and similar data relating to the Hamilton Mills beginning in 1895, and the Boston Manufacturing Company, a textile mill in Waltham, of somewhat earlier date. We have the Charles A. Moore Memorial of 50,000 volumes relating to business, collected under the gift of the two Yale men, C. Arthur Moore, Jr., and Eugene M. Moore and their sister, of which I have written you. We have, besides that, an increasingly valuable collection of business instruments and accounts of all kinds, with other records, ranging from railroad mortgages to those of the wine merchant who supplied Daniel Webster with his brandy.

We have found, literally daily, that really valuable records and data are being either burned or sent to the junk man, because people know not any place where such material will be welcomed, preserved and ultimately made accessible; hence, they gladly give to us when they learn that we provide the first depository of this kind in the world.

Let me give you certain definite illustrations of the need for such an institution as The Business Historical Society: Last year we ran across, in a New York trust company, a collection of railroad mortgages comparable to those made by Princeton University and the Harvard Business Library. The President of the trust company was a Harvard man. He said he did not like to give them directly to Harvard but that, as soon as The Business Historical Society was incorporated, he would gladly