

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Management.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present herewith my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1896.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 22,665 volumes. The total accessions for the year have been 1,394 volumes, comprising

- (a) 987 new books obtained by purchase.
- (b) 214 volumes of magazines from reading rooms.
- (c) 193 volumes as gifts from various sources.

making a present total of 24,059 volumes.

In addition to the new accessions there were 688 volumes purchased to replace books worn out and condemned. The total number of volumes purchased was 1,675, costing \$1,533.93, an average of 92 cents per volume. The purchases for the year include a new and revised edition of Johnson's Encyclopedia and several other valuable works of reference, as well as a fair assortment of popular books in the various departments of literature.

The Library was open 305 days during the year, being closed on 52 Sundays and 8 holidays. The total recorded use of the books was 221,672 volumes, an average daily use of 726 volumes. Year by year the Library continues to be more largely used by the citizens. The total use of the books in the Library during the seven years it has been open has been 1,290,198 volumes.