

amount to 2,306 volumes. The aggregate amount of the books, maps, and apparatus which have been ordered by school authorities and supplied by the Department during the last year, is a little over \$40,000—about twice the amount of any preceding year.

Of the nature of these helps and encouragements in school instruction, too high an estimate can scarcely be made. In a few of the School Sections and Townships the library-books procured are little read or valued; but in the very great majority of Sections and Municipalities which have procured them, they are sought after and read with great eagerness, and are exerting the most salutary influence. In some of the Municipalities, in the first instance, large libraries were ordered, and many of the books selected were standard works of permanent value, but too dry and elaborate for popular reading, though useful to particular individuals, and useful as books of reference. In other cases, a variety of smaller popular reading books was in the first instance selected, which have been increased, from time to time, by the addition of new books, and some works of reference. The latter method appears preferable. The addition of new books to the library every year, adds much to its attraction and usefulness. The selection of books by the Municipal and School authorities from the new catalogue, is greatly facilitated by its division into two parts,—the one containing books for popular reading, and the other books for reference. Copies of this catalogue have been sent out to each School Section, Board of Trustees, and Local Superintendent.

It would afford us pleasure to insert here extracts from the reports of Local Superintendents for 1857, illustrative of the influence of the Public Libraries, and the manner in which the books are sought after and read in many Municipalities; but these will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief Superintendent. The fact that applications have been made from the Municipalities (chiefly rural) for nearly 2,500 volumes per month during the past year, besides applications for school maps and apparatus, and the sending forth of such a continuous stream of enjoyment and instruction to the remotest parts of the Province, is at once an indication of the progress, the spirit, and the prospects of the country, at which every patriotic heart must rejoice.

II. THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BOSTON—SPEECHES AT THE DEDICATION.

ADDRESS OF THE HON. R. C. WINTHROP AND THE HON. E. EVERETT.

The principal address on the dedication was delivered by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, chairman of the building commissioners. He spoke long and eloquently, and concluded in the following terms:—It remains for me, as President of the Board of Commissioners, and in their name, to deliver to you, Mr. Mayor, these keys of the principal doors of the building which we have erected, at once as a symbol that our work is finished, and as an earnest of the delivery of the building itself to the city over which you preside. We do not presume to present it to you as a faultless piece of architecture. But we do present it as a convenient, substantial, spacious structure entirely adapted to its purposes, and carefully arranged for the most economical administration of the institution for which it is intended—capacious enough for two or three hundred thousand volumes, and for as many readers as are ever likely to visit at one and the same time—with no deficiency of light or air—secure, we have full confidence, from the dangers of fire—and which, while it is devoid of any ostentatious ornament without, and while it exhibits no excessive or fanciful embellishment within, is yet in no respect unworthy, either within or without, of the liberal and enlightened community in whose service it has been erected.

We present it to you, indeed, Mr. Mayor, a mere mass of naked walls and columns and arches. But these vacant alcoves will soon be occupied. These empty shelves will soon be filled. Gems and jewels, more precious than any which the mines of either continent can ever yield, will soon find their places in the cases and cabinets which have here been prepared for them;—and living jewels, like those of the Roman matron of old,—even the sons and daughters of our city,—will soon be seen clustered around them.

It was a poetical and beautiful conceit of the great philosopher of our mother land—of Bacon, I mean—the contemporary and fellow countryman of our Pilgrim Fathers,—that “Libraries are the shrines where all the relics of ancient saints, full of true virtue, and that without delusion or imposture, are preserved and reposed.” But Cicero methinks did better justice to the theme. We are told that when that illustrious orator and statesman saw the books which composed his precious private library fairly arranged in the apartment which he had provided for them, in his villa at Antium,—he wrote to his friend Atticus: “Postea vero quam Tyranaio mihi libros disposuit, mens addita videtur meis ædibus.” Now that my books have been put in their places by your learned Greek, Tyranaio, a Soul seems to have been added to my dwelling.”

And our own American Cicero is at this moment at your side, sir

—prepared to receive these keys from your hand, in behalf of the trustees over whom he so fitly presides; and under his auspices, and with the aid of his associates, it is hardly too much to say that a living, breathing, imperishable soul will have been infused into this now merely material structure. Yes, my friends, within these walls shall soon be gathered—not merely the mighty masters of philosophy and rhetoric, of history and poetry whom the Roman Cicero recognised and revered as introducing a soul into his dwelling—but the great lights of all ages, the wise and learned of all climes, and those, especially, who have adorned a civilization, and vindicated a liberty, and illustrated a Christianity which that Cicero never conceived of, shall be congregated around them.

Here soon shall many a waiting heart be kindled into something of the exultation of that good old Bishop of Norwich, when he exclaimed on the sight of a great Library,—“What a happiness is it that without all offence of necromancy, I may here call up any of the ancient worthies of learning, whether human or divine, and confer with them of all my doubts!—that I can at pleasure summon up whole synods of reverend fathers and acute doctors, from all the coasts of the earth, to give their well studied judgments on all points and questions which I may propose!”

And not the reverend fathers and acute doctors only shall answer to our call—but here also the poets of all ages shall ever be ready to sing to us their choicest strains;—the dramatists of all ages to rehearse to us their richest scenes of wit or of woe—the orators of all ages to recite to us the triumphant argument, or the thrilling appeal, which may have shaken empires from their base, or changed the current of the world's affairs. Here, too, the practical inventor and ingenious mechanic shall exhibit to us his specifications, his plans, and his drawings. Here the great Interpreters of Nature shall unfold to us the mechanism of the Heavens, the testimony of the rocks, and the marvels and mysteries of animal and vegetable life. Here the glowing pictures of fiction and fancy shall pass and repass before our visions, beneath the magic wand of a Scott, a Dickens, or a Cooper;—the living portraits of Sages and Patriots, of other lands and of our own land be displayed to us by a Guizot or a Brougham, a Carlyle or a Campbell, a Sparks or an Irving;—and the grander panoramas of History be unrolled for us by a Gibbon or a Grote, a Hume or a Macaulay, a Bancroft, a Prescott, or a Motley.

Let me conclude, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, by thanking you once more, in the name of my associates and in my own name, for the confidence with which you have honored us in the execution of our commission.

May God, in his goodness, grant that increased supplies of wisdom and knowledge and virtue, for us and our posterity, may be its rich and abundant fruits;—that it may be so sanctified by His grace to the highest interests of the whole community, that here, at least, the tree of knowledge may never be disunited from the tree of life;—and that constituting as it will, the complement and the crown of our great republican system of popular education, it may do its full part in bearing up and sustaining, for a thousand generations, a well compacted and imperishable fabric of freedom; of that freedom which rests upon intelligence, and must be regulated by law, and which can only be maintained by piety, philanthropy, and patriotism.

SPEECH OF EDWARD EVERETT.

The Hon. Edward Everett also made an elaborate and eloquent speech, we give a portion of it. He said;—

I am aware that there is still floating about in the community a vague prejudice against what was called book learning. One sometimes hears doubts expressed of the utility of public libraries; opinions that they are rather ornamental, than necessary or useful, and the fact that our time-honored city has subsisted more than two centuries without one, is sufficient proof that, until within a very few years, their importance, has not been practically felt.

There is perhaps even now a disposition to claim some superiority for what is called practical knowledge—knowledge gained by observation and experience (which most certainly the trustees would not disparage), and a kind of satisfaction felt in holding up the example of self-taught men, in supposed contradistinction from those who have got their knowledge from books; and no name, perhaps, is so frequently mentioned in this connection as that of Franklin, who, because he had scarce any school education, and never went to college, has been hastily set down as a brilliant example to show the inutility of book-learning. It has been quoted to me in this way, within three days.

Now, Mr. Mayor, I need not tell you that there never was a greater mistake in point of fact. A thirst for books, which he spared no pains to allay, was the first marked trait disclosed in the character of Franklin; his success throughout the early period of his life, can be directly traced to the use he made of them; and his very first important movement for the benefit of his fellow-men, was to found a public library, which still flourishes;—one of the most considerable in the country. Franklin, not a book-man! whoever labors under that delusion, shows that somebody else is not a book-man, at least so far