

appropriated to the library, immediately voted to erect a new building; and Harvard Hall was in a short time fully replaced by another edifice of the same name. A corresponding zeal was manifested by other friends of the institution, to furnish the new hall with a library and philosophical apparatus. The general Court of New Hampshire, which at that time had no college of its own to provide for, granted, at the instance of Governor Wentworth, £300 sterling towards restoring the library. "The Society for Propagating the Gospel in New England and parts adjacent," gave the same sum; and the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts" £100 sterling. Thomas Hollis, Esq., of London, redoubled his generous efforts to assist the College in its distress; and other public spirited and enlightened individuals came forward with their contributions on the occasion, so that a very few years supplied the loss of what had been the accumulation of more than a century. The library increased so rapidly, that in 1790 it consisted of about 12,000 volumes.

Harvard College Library is almost entirely the fruit of individual munificence. Its records exhibit a long list of donors, whose names are indissolubly associated with the establishment. The first and most generous is that of Thomas Hollis. Next to that of the founder of the University, his name stands pre-eminent for its claims to a grateful recollection. Several individuals of that family were benefactors of Harvard College. Two of them displayed a most remarkable degree of generosity. The first was the excellent Thomas Hollis, who founded two professorships,—one of theology and one of mathematics and natural philosophy; and besides various other benefactions, contributed largely to the library and philosophical apparatus.

Two large quarto volumes, compiled by Archdeacon Blackburne, are devoted to an exhibition of the latter Thomas Hollis's "deeds of peace." In one of the tributes to the memory of this extraordinary man, which appeared soon after his decease, and which are preserved in those volumes, it was justly observed, "that in his death, Liberty lost her champion, Humanity her treasurer, and Charity her steward." One of his principal employments was to collect the most valuable books in the various branches of learning, especially such as were intimately connected with the highest interests of man, and to forward them as presents to those places where they were most wanted. This University partook largely of his bounty: it was, indeed, a favourite object of his regard.

When, in 1810, Dr. Kirkland became the head of the College, the interests of the library were among the earliest and the chiefest of his cares. His marvellous personal influence was exerted in every direction in its behalf. His skilful, graceful, but ever-reluctant pen, produced one of the best papers ever written on the proper constitution and functions of an American University, with a large library as its soul.\* Young professors elect (since become celebrated in the republic of letters) were sent to Europe to prepare themselves for their office, and with authority to purchase the books needed for their departments; which resulted in an accession of 1,500 selected volumes. Whole libraries were now poured into Harvard Hall by the munificence of several benefactors. But especially was the presidency of Dr. Kirkland, at its beginning, distinguished by reforms in the administration of the library. This had hitherto, to a great extent, been a sealed fountain. Its treasures were not only secured, but immured.† Now the barriers fell

\* *North American Review*, vol. vii. pp. 270-278; vol. viii. pp. 191-200. "Now a large, well-chosen library is the soul of a university. No other advantages can supply the want of this; and with this, learning may flourish with less of other facilities than were otherwise desirable."—*Ibid*, p. 198.

† In 1790, the library was opened for taking out books on every Friday in term-time, from 9 till 11 o'clock a.m., and "if that be not sufficient," from 3 till 5 o'clock p.m. Three descriptions of persons, namely, resident graduates, seniors, and juniors, might go into the library once in three weeks, but in different weeks respectively, "in their order." "The librarian shall permit the scholars to enter the library three at a time, and as near as may be in their [alphabetical] order;" and "if any other shall attempt to intrude," he shall be "punished" by a fine of five shillings. In 1807, this "punishment" was reduced to "one dollar," Federal currency.

In 1798, the Sophomores also were permitted to cross the sacred threshold once in three weeks, but on a Friday all their own,—the resident graduates and the seniors being now trusted to go in on the same Friday. After President Kirkland's accession, the Freshmen too were allowed to share the privilege on the same day with the Sophomores. They had hitherto never entered the library on their own account, but only as scouts or messengers, detailed in parties of six to serve for the day, and sent out in pairs to summon and to bring notice of the approach of the squadrons of "three" that were expected by the librarian. For this service their reward was, awe within the precincts of the library, and delight in the college-yard at being exempt from one recitation. Up to this time, besides the attendance of the librarian above implied, he was "obliged to wait on any of the gentlemen in the instruction and govern-

ment of the college, whenever they have occasion to go into the library;" and also "to attend on Wednesday in each week, vacations excepted, on such gentlemen as shall obtain leave from the president, professors, and tutors [that is, the Faculty as a body] to study in the library."—See *Laws of Harvard College*, of several dates.

at once. It was proclaimed far and near, through the literary journals of the time, that "by a new regulation, the library was opened during six hours of each day (except the Sabbath),"—"and all conveniences provided for reading and consulting books and making extracts from them. All literary gentlemen are freely admitted."\*

Not long afterwards there appeared, in a journal of great authority and influence, this remark: "While the University so liberally extends the use of what she possesses, we cannot doubt that her liberality will soon be rewarded by an increase of her stores."†

Here was struck a key-note—the strain is still resounding. Then began the practice with grateful authors and publishers, of enriching the library with copies of their new works, which had been made better by the use of its stores. Then scholars, importing books—often costly ones—from Europe, perhaps for a single definite purpose, were willing to bestow them upon the library for the use of other scholars, to whom they would be accessible in common with themselves. During this first century in the history of the present library, the average annual increase has been about 1000 volumes. During the last five years of this period, the annual average has been over 6000 volumes, of which the scattering donations from hundreds of givers of books have amounted to over 2000 volumes a year,—or about one-quarter of the whole. The other three-quarters have been supplied by purchase, in part with the income of funds bearing respectively the honoured names of Hollis, Shapleigh, Haven, Salisbury, Lee, and Ward; but especially with the gift of that most munificent benefactor of the library, who has rounded the history of the century with the pregnant phrase,—"Five thousand dollars a year for five years," which no succeeding century can forget.

In the new Harvard Hall, erected immediately on the site of the old one, the public library was kept till July, 1841, when the books were removed to Gore Hall,—a spacious and imposing edifice built for its exclusive accommodation, by means of funds bequeathed to the college by the Hon. Christopher Gore.

Gore Hall presents a pure and chaste specimen of the Gothic style of the fourteenth century; but the hard Sienite, or Quincy Granite, used in its construction, made it necessary to omit the elaborate ornaments with which this style is usually wrought. It is in the form of a Latin cross—the length of the body being 140 feet, and across the transepts 81½ feet. The main entrances are flanked by octagonal towers, 83 feet high, surmounted by lofty mitred pinnacles, somewhat like those of King's College Chapel at Cambridge, England. The outer walls are of rough stone, laid in regular courses, with haunmered-stone buttresses, towers, pinnacles, and drip-stones. The inner walls and columns are of brick, stuccoed. The main floor is also of brick, resting on brick arches, filled above to a level, and covered with hard pine boards. The roof and gallery are supported by wrought-iron rafters, and the partitions are strengthened by concealed iron columns. The interior of the body of the building forms a beautiful hall, 112 feet long and 35 feet high, with a vaulted and ribbed ceiling springing from two ranges of ribbed columns. The spaces between the columns are divided by partitions into stalls or alcoves for books, having a light gallery above, protected by an ornamented iron balustrade. One of the transepts is used as a reading-room; the other is divided into three apartments for books. This hall, in the construction of which great caution was used to guard against injury by fire, is heated by steam. This is conveyed from a boiler in the basement, through iron pipes, to four stacks of perpendicular copper pipes, arranged like screens at the sides of the central area. An ingenious self-acting contrivance regulates the draft, so as to check or increase the generation of the steam.

The public library of the university, for which alone, as before stated, this hall is designed (the libraries of the theological, medical, law, and scientific schools being kept in separate buildings), contains books in all branches of learning. These are arranged according to subjects, into the four grand divisions of Literature, History, Theology, and Science, with numerous sub-divisions.

The Committee were impressed, as former Committees have been, with the zeal and assiduous efforts of the librarian, in season and out of season, for the preservation and increase of the library, and his earnest pursuit of whatever he conceives to be for its interest. The learned assistant-librarian, Mr. Abbot, ably seconded by Mr.

ment of the college, whenever they have occasion to go into the library;" and also "to attend on Wednesday in each week, vacations excepted, on such gentlemen as shall obtain leave from the president, professors, and tutors [that is, the Faculty as a body] to study in the library."—See *Laws of Harvard College*, of several dates.

\* *General Repository and Review*, Cambridge, vol. ii. p. 391; vol. iv. p. 401.

† *North American Review*, vol. ix. p. 248.