

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

HON. CHARLES J. IHRIE,

STATE LIBRARIAN,

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY,

FOR THE YEAR 1863.

TRENTON, N. J.:

PRINTED AT THE "TRUE AMERICAN" OFFICE.

1864.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey :

GENTLEMEN:—Since the annual report of last year, the addition in number to the catalogue of the State Library is :

One hundred and ninety-four volumes of annual laws of the several States, statutes or digests, and judicial reports.

Four hundred and forty-seven volumes of miscellaneous publications.

Two hundred and eighty-seven copies of documents and pamphlets.

Making in the aggregate nine hundred and twenty-eight copies.

I mentioned in my last report, that the registry of books for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two, exhibited four thousand and sixty-one entries, and persons visiting the library, either on business or apparent recreation, exceeded the number of eleven thousand. For the year terminating on the thirty-first of December, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, six thousand one hundred and seventy-four entries were made, which is nearly fifty per cent. greater than the year preceding, and from which, as data, it is fair to conclude that at least fourteen thousand persons visited this department.

Allow me to call your attention to the existing law making provision for an annual distribution of the various publications of the State, as will be found in Nixon's Digest, pages 733 and 820. This depository is the constant recipient of exceeding liberality in common from every State and Territory, founded on the system of interchange, as relates to all their enactment of laws, judicial reports, publications of statutory revision and documentary productions; altogether, an acquisition of much value and importance to this institution, for which and to which no general authority is given fully to sustain the laudable object and purpose of a generous reciprocity. I am not aware that, as a fair, just and generous requital, any of the recent digests of this State have been furnished as an acknowledgment of very manifold favors which this institution does possess, without which considerable embarrassment in researches would be felt by members of the Bar and many individuals seeking the privilege of reference. Fully sensible that these remarks are inappropriate to

the subject-matter of a report, yet I indulge the belief that, as an item for your information, it will meet with an acceptance. Wherefrom, I respectfully do submit, a necessity does exist for a supplementary enactment, as just and proper in the premises; and will add that, from a manifest of liberal views, social and beneficial results will follow.

Gentlemen, for several years past I assumed the position of a memorialist for enlarged accommodations needful for the State Library of New Jersey, which ultimately was generously responded to by an appropriation, on the twenty-fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, from which and at the time, expectation was buoyant that much would be done at an early day, at least for the partial fulfillment of cherished hope.

His excellency the Governor, in his recent message, adverts to this very desirable edifice, and I trust has assigned reasons for its postponement which are clear, convincing and satisfactory.

Allow me, in conclusion, as hitherto, to ask of your honorable body a renewal of an equally liberal consideration as heretofore, and for an appropriation necessary for a structure according to the present design of a skillful architect which is in our possession for your examination. Doing so, an intelligent community will be free in the expression of an undivided approbation. No one does or can doubt the actual necessity of its earliest erection.

So sure as rivers run their course to the ocean, equally true will be the constant increase of publications embracing subject-matter of law and learning, arts and science, works of the historian, the naturalist and philosopher. Consequently, feeling this to be our duty to present this matter to your honorable body, as intelligent men, we look to you for such necessary provision as will serve this indispensable want.

Your servant,

C. J. IHRIE.