

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

New Jersey State Librarian,

FOR THE YEAR 1861.

JERSEY CITY :

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1862.

REPORT.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Assembly of New Jersey :

An annual report, as required by law, of the state librarian, is respectfully submitted herewith, directing your attention to an unusual increase of publications, as follows :

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| Annual laws of the several states, statute law, and law reports | 378 | copies, |
| Books of miscellaneous subjects | 456 | " |
| Pamphlet and documentary matter | 376 | " |

In the aggregate twelve hundred and ten copies, exclusive of the usual and annual collection, which, prior to the unhappy division and distraction of our nationality, added considerably both of importance and value to the yearly accession to our catalogue.

You, gentlemen, representing the present session of the Legislature, had your attention directed, by his excellency the Governor, to the exceeding crowded condition of the library; in this aspect it is a reiteration of an executive view, as may be noticed by the annual messages of several years past, and allow us to impress the consideration that, for the want of a more commodious room, a yearly loss is sustained in the fact that, under the existing necessity of a greater capacity for shelving, our energies are crippled for the greater accession, through the medium of a reciprocal exchange, assured as we are, by a liberal cultivation, the various departments in literature of the several states, with the generous manifestation toward the great depositories in Europe, more and less could be acquired, as would remunerate four-fold the principle of accommodation and mutuality.

With an edifice of greater capacity, we further indulge the declaration; much of importance for the present, and unbounded value for the future, would be acquired at little expense to the department, through the medium of various newspapers of the state, believing the editors would embrace, by gratuity, the privilege of this depository, securing to such publications a perpetuity for reference, the importance of which is measured by an eagerness daily manifest, and applicable to any and every ancient record presented to the notice of an enquiring public.

In like consideration, we feel an essential necessity for more room, enabling the suspension of maps both of county and state, as also the several states, and the continents eastern and western.

That a public library is an important and beneficial branch of a state institution, has long since been admitted, as well and properly considered the great storehouse of knowledge, from which a fund of information and instruction, beyond any other agency, can be derived—a depository of literature and science, which the wisdom and learning of ages have conspired for the benefit of man—an apartment exceeding all other resources, from which historical details pertaining to human welfare and manifold advantages, can be acquired—an apartment in which the innumerable topics of light, liberty and virtue, can be consulted.

With the foregoing reflections, and the assurance that the state library of New Jersey more and more commands the attention of men connected with the various professions—imparts very general usefulness to the community in search for information—free from loss or gross violation of rules, justifies the assertion, that, as a state institution, it has attained to some degree of reputation.

We do therefore respectfully submit the same to the fostering care of legislation. We look to it for maintenance and their generous effort for a more elevated standard.

C. J. IHRIE, *State Librarian.*