

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HON. CHARLES J. IHRIE,

STATE LIBRARIAN,

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY,

FOR THE YEAR 1862.

TRENTON, N. J.:

PRINTED BY DAVID NAAR, "TRUE AMERICAN OFFICE."
1863.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Senate and General Assembly of New Jersey:

GENTLEMEN—In the transmission of my annual report as State Librarian, I ask leave to direct your attention to the practical operation of the Library during the past year.

The aggregate increase of the various publications is nine hundred and seventy-six copies, as follows:

Annual laws of the several states, statute laws, and judicial reports,	277	copies.
Miscellaneous reading,	327	"
Pamphlets and documents,	372	"

Being two hundred and thirty-four copies less than the receipts of the preceding year; the probable reasons therefor being the existing interruption of mail facilities consequent upon the present rebellion, thereby cutting off the interchange with several of the States, some of which have hitherto extended the courtesies of reciprocity in a liberal manner. I believe that as soon as the existing difficulties are settled there will be a return to the civilities of exchange, and this institution realise manifold favors of importance and value.

I will mention, as an evidence of the growing interest felt for the progressive welfare of this institution, that the number of visitors during the year past exceeded eleven thousand, and also that the registry of books used for promiscuous reading, and others for reference in the several courts of the State, number four thousand one hundred and sixty-one copies, seven times greater than the year 1854.

The distribution of Gifford's Index by order and concurrent resolution of the Legislature for the year 1862, is sixty-seven copies, still leaving a surplus for a similar distribution by the present Legislature.

In several of my preceding annual reports, the attention of the Legislature of New Jersey has been directed to the necessity of greater room for the purposes of a State Library, and which is imperiously demanded by the crowded condition of the present library room of eighteen feet by forty-four feet. Duty compels me to renew this application as a fit subject for your consideration; and for your encouragement, I call your attention to the annual message of the late Governor, Hon. William A. Newell, bearing date January 10,

1860. He says:—"The crowded condition of the State Library demands your serious attention. The steady and necessary accumulation of books has in a great measure exhausted the ingenuity of the Librarian to provide for their reception and suitable exhibition.—Many valuable and handsome volumes are now confined to obscure recesses, and the constant accession only tends to increase the evil. I claim for the subject your early consideration."

Governor Olden, in his message dated January 8, 1861, says:—"Your attention is asked to the exposed and crowded condition of the State Library, which should be placed in a fire proof building without delay, as its destruction would be an irreparable loss." And also in his message of date January 14, 1862, he says:—"The demand for enlarged accommodation for the State Library is so urgent, that notwithstanding the attention of the Legislature was called to it by my immediate predecessor, and in my last annual message, I venture again to remind you of the pressing necessity."

Gentlemen—as the servant of the State, entrusted with the care, custody and keeping of this depository for several years past, and which is becoming more and more involved with an important trust in the collection of judicial and miscellaneous publications of much value, embracing documents and statistics of states and territories, I cannot resist the expression of hope that the Legislature of this session will do much to promote the important object for which this institution has been established.

A room for the better accommodation of the Library is indispensable. The present crowded condition leads to increased and increasing difficulties in the proper arrangement and classification of books. And also, we cannot repress an apprehension that the present structure is too frail for the support of much greater weight than it now has to bear.

Thus again, I do most respectfully and urgently invoke your favor for an appropriation to enable us more adequately to meet the requirements of a rapidly expanding institution; and when accomplished, through a judicious liberality, none will doubt the expression of an enlightened community, that the investment is beyond appreciation when measured by the advantages it will confer.

At present the unavoidable arrangement in changing books renders any plan of classification exceedingly complicated, and having no relief we can anticipate nothing but increasing difficulties beyond any possible effort to improve or remedy the same.

Gentlemen—allow me, in conclusion, to invite the further consideration for enlarged accommodations, that the great liberality of European institutions, in return for the general civilities of exchange, will admit an additional incentive to promote and elevate the character and standing of this department.

Very respectfully submitted,

C. J. IHRIE.