

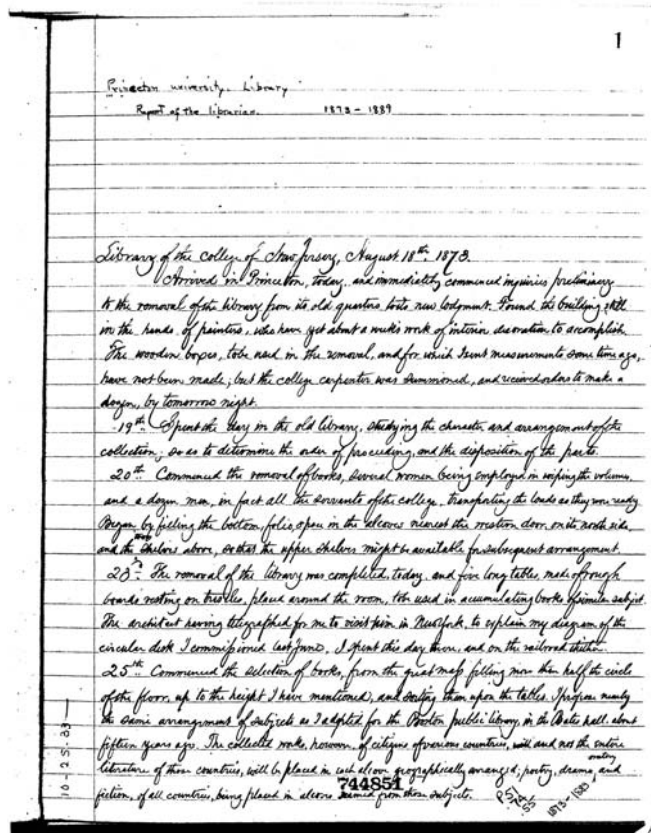
Frederick Vinton (1817-1890)

Memorandum and annual report book, 1873-1890

Original in the Librarian's Records (AC123)
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Olden Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

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as of 28 September 2005

[page 1 of the original]



[page 1]

Princeton university. Library
Report of the librarian. 1873-1889

Library of the college of New Jersey, August 18th 1873.

Arrived in Princeton today and immediately commenced inquiries preliminary to the removal of the library from its old quarters to its new lodgment. Found the building still in the hands of painters, who have yet about a week's work of interior decoration to accomplish. The wooden boxes, to be used in the removal, and for which I sent measurements some time ago, have not been made; but the college carpenter was summoned, and received orders to make a dozen, by tomorrow night.

19th Spent the day in the old library, studying the character and arrangement of the collection; so as to determine the order of proceeding, and the disposition of the parts.

20th Commenced the removal of books, several women being employed in [wiping] the volumes, and a dozen men, in fact all the servants of the college, transporting the loads as they were ready. Began by filling the bottom, folio, space in the alcoves nearest the western door, on its north side, and the shelves above, so that the upper shelves might be available for subsequent arrangement.

23^d The removal of the library was completed today, and five long tables, made of rough boards resting on trestles, placed around the room, to be used in accumulating books of similar subject. The architect having telegraphed for me to visit him in New York, to explain my diagram of the circular desk I commissioned last June. I spent this day there, and on the railroad thither.

25th Commenced the selection of books, from the great mass filling more than half the circle of the floor, up to the height I have mentioned, and sorting them upon the tables. I propose nearly the same arrangement of subjects as I adopted for the Boston public library, in the Bates hall about fifteen years ago. The collected works, however, of citizens of various countries, ~~will~~ and not the entire literature of those countries, will be placed in each alcove geographically arranged; poetry, drama, [^] oratory and fiction, of all countries, being placed in alcoves [formed] from those subjects.

[page 2]

September 18th Completed the arrangement of the library in the alcoves. I am sorry to see that the decimal numbering of the shelves, so advantageous in the Boston public library, cannot be applied to this beautiful room. The shelves being arranged as radii, reaching from the walls towards the centre, (every alternate ~~one~~ radius being shorter than its neighbors, to right and left, and [^] the shelves being but nine in number from the floor upward), the alcoves also, so called, being thirty two in number, corresponding with as many windows, (the radii ~~being made~~ consisting alternately of three and four tiers of shelves), the decimal system would neither fit the lower floor, nor would the like numbers correspond on the floor above. For, the whole number of shelves below is 2016, no allowance being made for the doorways, nor for irregularities occasioned by the stairs. The number of shelves above stairs is 1728: total 3744.* [written as a footnote at the bottom of page 2:] The proper allowances in all respects having been made, the exact number of all the shelves is 3620. Twenty five volumes being supposed to stand on each shelf, the whole [will] number 90.500. Supposing 30 vols to a shelf, its total will be 108.600. [end of insert] Subtracting something for the deficiencies alluded to, and estimating that each shelf will hold 25 vols. the entire library will receive about 90.000 volumes.

September 25th The library was this day opened to the students for the first time, notwithstanding the want of its every kind of its proper furniture, and 123 tickets, representing as many books, were received.

26th The library was again opened, and fifty tickets were received.

October 20th The library was first opened to the students for purposes of study, between 10 and 11 o'clock, A.M. and between 3 and 4 o'clock, in the afternoon.

The Trendelenberg library having been roughly arranged by my son, its examination by myself was commenced today. The immediate objects, however, are merely to enable the treasurer to report on its value, and me to select books for location with the rest of the library, on the lower floor.

December 1st The first examination of the Trendelenberg collection has been completed, the Greek and Roman classics, several hundred in number, separated from the rest, and much of the remainder grouped according to subject. The number of volumes, large and small, seems to be nearly nine thousand, exclusive of pamphlets.

20. The fall term having closed yesterday, the average number of books borrowed during 39 days, proves to be 38. Fines more not imposed during the first half of the term, that the students might have time to become familiar with the rules, which in a printed form were posted in front of the desk. Still, for the remainder the fines were sixty. Ten cents was at first proposed as the penalty for detaining a book unduly; but less was finally exacted. Students were allowed to keep books during vacation, and even to carry them out of town, they being responsible therefor.

[page 3]

First Annual Report made by the librarian of the College of New Jersey to the Trustees of the college.

Gentlemen of the Trustees:

The library of the College of New Jersey consists, by actual count of twenty seven thousand eight hundred forty six volumes (27.846), of which not more than twenty thousand can have belonged to it previously to the purchase of the Trendelenberg collection, last year. That collection has now been carefully examined, and each book (with small exceptions) assigned to its place on the shelves, [^]along with previous possessions on the same subject. Having thus melted into the general mass of the library, it no longer exists as a separate collection. Every volume of it, however, still bears the simple bookplate placed in it by its late possessor, so that it could at any time be reproduced in a separate state. Every volume of it, moreover, excepting pamphlets, has also received a bookplate denoting it as purchased by friends of the "Elizabeth foundation," and so as being the property of the College of New Jersey. Books plates have also been pasted into a great number of the volumes, previously belonging to the library; and it is not intended that any one shall henceforth go into circulation, unaccompanied by evidence that it is college property.

It should be stated here, that in the former register are many entries for books borrowed from this library before my taking office, and still unerased, though dating back in some cases as far as 1870. Many volumes have been brought to me this year as belonging to this library, which I have sometimes discovered to be those charged in that register. In such cases I have cancelled the record in pencil. I have lately reexamined that record, copying from it every charge not yet effaced; and searched in its proper place for the book. When it has been found the registry has been cancelled; and yet there remain sixty seven entries unextinguished. Some of these will probably be removed, since they stand in the name of officers of the college. But at least fifty[^] of these must now be regarded as lost books.

The total number of loans made from the college library during the past year is 3979 amounting to only one seventh of the whole. The total issues from the Public library of the city of Boston, during the year ending January 1874 was 467.855; while the entire contents of that library and its branches ~~is~~ are 247.793 volumes; making the annual use of the books equal to nearly two loans of every volume in it. Thus the annual use of the library is fourteen times as great as ^{of} ours. The borrowers from our library number 364, showing that forty eight of our students made no use of the library at all. One hundred of those who did borrow, took less than five books each during the whole year. Their

entire loan was only 220 volumes. If these be subtracted from the entire number of books taken, ⁽³⁹⁷⁹⁾ it will follow that 264 persons borrowed 3759 volumes, an average of 14; from which it results that each man borrowed but one book and a half each month through the year. The average of borrowers through the year has been twenty six on each library day.

[page 4]

It is worthy of notice that the students of the new scientific school have made very little use of the library. Indeed, the whole of them have taken but twenty one volumes of scientific reading during the year. This fact, along with the general neglect of the library by the college students, must be held to prove that the books they find upon the shelves, are not suited to their stage of proficiency, being either above it, or below it. There is no doubt that the Trendelenberg collection is beyond their reach; for it contains [scarce] a hundred volumes in the English language: and there can be no doubt that the library is grossly deficient in good reading, literary and scientific.

During the past academic year, about four hundred volumes have been added to the library. Of these, fifty nine have been given by friends of the college, the principal gift being the Ante-nicene library of christian fathers, twenty five volumes, octavo, presented by Messrs R.L. & A Stuart, of New York.

The whole number of books bound or repaired by the binder is one hundred and eighteen (118). The resolve to establish in this library a Princeton alcove, for the reception of works written by former members or officers of this college, has been carried out by the selection of the alcove over the doorway leading from the library to the saloon appropriated for the sessions of the trustees, and by placing light doors enclosing a wire netting across the entrance to it. The benefaction of \$1000 bequeathed by the late chancellor Zabriskie, has been applied to the purchase of such books, under the discretion of Dr. Samuel Davies Alexander. One hundred forty three volumes have been forwarded by him; and there, together with similar books previously in the library, have been placed in that alcove. All that needed binding have been handsomely bound, and each has received a special book-plate, bearing the following inscription: "Almae matri Novae Caesareae Collegio, haec ejus alumnorum opera [^]grato animo donavit D [O?] A. Zabriskie, LLD." A copy of S. D. Alexander's "Princeton in the 18th century," [cut] for [easy] insertion, and magnificently mounted in four vols f^o has been presented by H. M. Alexander.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frederic Vinton
librarian Coll. NJ.

Princeton, June 23, 1874

Mr. George W. Childs, of the Philadelphia Legion, having visited Princeton as one of the committee awarding prizes to the candidates for elocutionary distinction from the outgoing Junior class, and also to receive from this college the degree of Master of arts, pledged to the librarian a bound copy of the Nouvelle biographie générale, published by Messrs Didot of Paris in 46 v. 8°.

[page 5]

1874. 75.

December 18th The term which this day closed has been one of unusual peace and good conduct among the students. The average of books borrowed during the ninety days of this term, [^]was thirty per diem. The number of books presented to the library this term has been 161, in addition to 270 presented by Gov. Olden

A great part of the time each day, not consumed by the regular service, and the details attending it, has been devoted to a survey of the library, alcove by alcove, and department by department, with a view to set forth its strength and weakness in every province. The results are recorded on fifty leaves of foolscap paper, the titles of books which we have being given in the left hand column, and those which are to be regarded as desiderata in a column at the right side, both being alphabetically arranged. In determining the proper titles to be entered at the right, the catalogues of the Library of congress [^]and of the Public library of the city of Boston have been carefully examined; while those of the Astor library, Boston Athenaeum, and others have been used. These papers, being confined at the upper edge, form a partial catalogue of this library, and a guide in purchasing during many years. The departments representing the professions, and the classic languages have not been included in the survey; because they are not appropriate to a college library, or because they are already disproportionately filled with books.

At the ~~final~~^{recent} meeting of the trustees, held Dec. 16th, the librarian presented a paper, in which he proposed the adoption of a Constitution for the library, defining the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the librarian. The most important articles in it were these two: "6th The librarian shall be empowered to expend one third of the gross annual revenue of the library in filling chasms known to him to exist in departments of knowledge not properly falling under the care of any professor, and in binding and repairing books which may require it, and in paying for periodicals taken for the

library. 7th He shall expend the remaining two thirds of the revenue under the direction of some one of twelve committees, corresponding to the twelve professorships named in the catalogue, such committees being thus composed: a. The president of the college. b. The professor to whose department any proposed purchase may be properly referred. c. The librarian himself." This paper was referred to a committee, consisting of Chancellor Green, Dr. McCosh, and Dr. Atwater.

The above paper also proposed that seminary students shall hereafter pay for the use of the college library ; and that two college students may hereafter be employed by the librarian as assistants during two hours of each day, relieving him of many details which now absorb his time; they being compensated therefore by an abatement in their term bills.

[page 6]

Olden.

Nov. 5th 1874. Gov. Charles E. Olden having proposed to present a portion of his library to the college, the librarian selected from among his books. Two hundred and ninety volumes, not previously in the library, which were sent by the donor the next day.

Pierson.

Feb. 22, 1875. Mr. John S. Pierson, of New York, an alumnus of this college, class of 1840, having previously interested himself in providing for this library books on the late civil war, this day sent a further gift of four hundred and thirteen volumes (413) on the same subject.

Childs.

Feb. 26. Mr. George W. Childs' second gift, sometime since announced by letter to Dr. McCosh, this day arrived at the library. It consisted of sixty volumes, quarto and octavo, reprints of old English poets and theologians; that is, the Fuller worthies library of poets. thirty volumes, printed on tinted paper. 100 or 106 copies of each and Nichols Divines of the puritan period.

DePeyster.

April 1. Messrs Frederic and J Watts DePeyster, of New York, courteously presented about forty of their own productions, historical addresses and essays; many connected with the recent civil war.

Lenox.

5. 17. James Lenox, LL.D. sent to the library the Historical magazine, 12 vols. unbound, and the complete works of W.H. Prescott, the historian of Spanish America, 16 vols. in a new edition.

Stuart.

May 8th. A lady of New York, to whom I had found [means] to represent the destitution of this library, on occasion of the coming of Rev. J. O. Murray, to [assume] the professorship of rhetoric, to present the value of one hundred ~~volumes~~ ^{dollars} in recent English classics.

Pierson.

Just before leaving this country on a visit to Europe, our magnificent benefactor, Mr. John S. Pierson supplemented [sic] his previous gifts to the library by sending late in April, and in following weeks, 261 volumes, making his entire donation of books on the rebellion, more than a thousand volumes.

Belknap.

Gen. W. W. Belknap, secretary of war, being informed of Mr. Pierson's generosity, has presented, in illustration of them, about seventy war maps executed for his department.

Alumni alcove.

In the month of April, Rev. E.D. Alexander, D.D. sent hither fifty eight volumes intended for the alcove of the alumni; and at the period of commencement, he informed the librarian that he had purchased about as many more, and would soon send them, to be placed in that alcove.

During the spring, at the suggestion of Mr. Pierson, a circular in the name of the librarian, was printed and distributed by mail among the alumni residing in the Southern states, informing them of the collection already made by him; and soliciting contributions from them of printed or manuscript documents, expressing the southern representation of incidents and opinions on that great struggle. Very little, however, was forwarded from that quarter.

[page 7]

Library of the College of New Jersey, Princeton, June 28th. 1875

To the President and the Board of trustees,

At the date of my first annual report as librarian, I stated the number of volumes belonging to this library, as being by actual count 27.846. A considerable number, previously the property of the college, but then retained in the hands of professors, have since been brought in; other have been gleaned from students' rooms, where they had been lying. It is probable, therefore, that these additions would have made the entire number, at the end of the first year, 27.900.

During the year now closing, three hundred and thirty seven (337) have been bought on the nomination of the several professors, at a cost of eleven hundred and thirteen dollars (\$1113.) About a hundred volumes have also been bought at auction, for about seventy five dollars.

Meanwhile fourteen hundred and four volumes have been presented to the library (1404) by its various friends; and sixty volumes have been bought or given for the alcove of the alumni.

It thus appears that about sixteen hundred volumes have been added to the library, during this year; and that the whole number of volumes now belonging to it, is about twenty nine thousand five hundred (29.500).

Among the benefactors deserving particularly to be commemorated, are governor C. E. Olden, of Princeton, who permitted the librarian to look over his books, and select from them two hundred and ninety volumes (290) which he sent to the library; Mr. George W. Childs, who gave the *nouvelle biographie générale*, 46 v. 8^o, and at another time, two costly sets of elegant reprints of Old English poets and theologians, making one hundred and six volumes in all; and a lady of New York, who chooses not to be known, but who took occasion of Dr. Murray's assuming his professorship, to send \$100 worth of recent English literature. But, the largest benefaction of the year came from John S. Pierson, Esq. of New York, an alumnus, of the class of 1840; who at different times has added to his previous gifts of books on the civil war, no less than seven hundred and twenty nine volumes, making his entire gift more than a thousand volumes; and the aggregate, a fuller presentation of that subject than is any where else (that I know of) to be found. He informs me that he has yet about two hundred titles of books, which have thus far eluded his search. These, together with seventy war maps, engraved for the Department of war, presented by Gen. Belknap, secretary of war, will place our collection beyond any American competition.

[page 8]

During the academical year 1873-74, the total number of loans from the college library was 3979. The total of loans during the year now expiring was 5.153 an

aggregate increase of about 1200. The daily average of borrowers, during the former year was twenty six (26) The daily average, this year, has been a fraction less than thirty (30-). Both of these facts are favorable indication of the interest taken by the students in the library. The whole number of borrowers, last year, was 364. The whole number of borrowers, this year was 357; of whom 322 were college students. Thus, while more books are taken, and more by the same persons, the number of different borrowers has diminished. Most of the reading of our books is done by a few, hard-working men, who seek here illustration for their studies. Very often it happens, when debates are in progress in the halls, or, when themes for composition have been given out by the professor of rhetoric, or when he has lectured on a literary celebrity, the library is found to contain little to illustrate the topic. And when historical inquiries are set on foot, it is searched in vain for assistance. Science, in ten departments, represented by as many professorships here, has received an accession of about three hundred volumes; but literature, and history, though favored with munificent gifts, have not enjoyed any large increase by purchase.

One reason for this disparity may be found in the fact that it was wise to buy first, the most necessary books. Another is, that the librarian has purposely refrained from purchasing, where he has not been formally invested with authority. Though, by fair inference, from the fact that he has been placed by your body in his present position, he might have felt justified in expending a proportion of the revenues of the library; yet, so long as that proportion was undetermined, he chose not to exert a disputable power. In December last, he submitted to the trustees a proposition of this sort: That the librarian be empowered to expend two thirds of the gross revenue of the library under the direction of some one of twelve committees, corresponding to the twelve professorships, each committee consisting of three persons: 1st the president of the college. 2^d the professor of the department for which the purchase was to be made. 3^d The librarian: And that he be authorized to spend the remaining third in filling such departments of learning (not less than one third of the circle of knowledge) as do not fall under the supervision of any professor. This proposition was then referred to a committee; but the librarian is not informed that they have reported. He requests that that paper may now be called up for a decision, and that other propositions made in it may also receive attention.

Respectfully submitted.

Frederic Vinton.

[pages 9-10 blank]

[page 11]

To the president and the trustees of the college of New Jersey

June 26th 1876.

Gentlemen:

The total number of books acquired by the library of the College of New Jersey, during the present academic year is eighteen hundred and seventy seven (1877) volumes. The total contents of the library building have thus become 31.500.

The sources from whence these additions have be received are the following: 1st
 a. Purchase , at the nomination of the professors, of six hundred and ten (610) volumes.
 b. do. at auction sales, chiefly in New York, seven hundred and sixty two (762). 2. a. Gift of thirty four different individuals and institutions. b. do. of John S. Pierson, books on the civil war, two hundred fifty (250) vols. The 600 volumes purchased for the professorships, at scientific book stores, cost seventeen hundred and eighty dollars (\$1780.95).

The 702 volumes bought at auction, cost seven hundred nineteen ^{dollars} (719). The alcove of the alumni has gained, out of the numbers reported above about two hundred volumes; so that it now contains more than seven hundred bound volumes. So many of these consist of sermons, speeches, or other pamphlets, that the whole number of titles included must exceed one thousand.

That I might do honor to these gifts of the past, and especially that we might know what we have sent to Philadelphia, to represent this college at the centennial exhibition, I determined to make an accurate catalogue of the alumni books. Having begun to do so, I reflected that the friends of the college, and especially the descendants of these authors, would be gratified by having a printed list of them. I have therefore caused this catalogue to be printed; and copies will be presented to the trustees, before the close of the commencement exercises. The second part, however, an alphabetical list of the topics treated in the books, could not be printed in season.

The resort of students to the library, this year, both for borrowing and for research, has been distinctly greater than in two former years, respecting which I have had the honor to report to you. The average draft of books, per day for the first year (1873-74) was twenty six (26.) During the second year of my administration (1874-75) it was thirty (30). During the past collegiate year, it has been 37.5 a day.

[page 12]

It is, nonetheless, greatly to be regretted, that a considerable number of students, it [may] even said, a larger fraction of the whole, make no use at all of the library. It was to me a ground of humiliation, as well as of pain, to discover [^]last spring that only three hundred and fourteen different appeared upon my register. It resulted therefrom that my office was created, and the duties of it performed, to no end, so far as about one third of the students are concerned. Believing as I do, that ~~the~~ constant resort to a good library, like reference to a good dictionary, is of inestimable benefit to a student, I cannot see, without extreme regret, so many young men neglecting, and not even appearing to know the good they might derive from this library, imperfect as it is. No doubt, the scantiness of the collection, and that fact that so often it disappoints their expectations, account in great part for the fact alluded to. And therefore I look forward with extreme anxiety, for the time when the library shall be greatly enlarged; and when a sufficient supply of well chosen books, shall hold out to every inquirer a reasonable hope of finding the information he seeks, whatever that may be.

A committee of the trustees having directed the contents of our alcove of the alumni to be sent to the centennial exhibition, I thought it necessary to put some of them into a more creditable binding than the tattered dress which had come down through so many years. About seventy of those volumes were therefore rebound; about thirty-five others also needed rebinding and about as many more, have been repaired.

Respectfully submitted.
Frederic Vinton

June 26th 1876.

P.S. A [mature] study of the whole year's work, at the time of the forgoing report was under[way] was impossible, because the students' receipts for books borrowed had not then been numbered, or even alphabetized. That work having now been performed, [^]^{am} enabled me to say that the whole number of books drawn from the library during the last academic year was 7547. These were borrowed by 534 persons, of whom 454 were college students. Of these 176 took less than ten volumes each, during the year. It is very observable that the gentlemen who gained prizes and fellowships, used the library most liberally; and it may be inferred that those in the lower classes who read most, will be the successful competitors on subsequent occasions.

[pages 13-14 blank]

[page 15]

To the President and Trustees of the College of New Jersey
June 20. 1877

Gentlemen,

The year now about to close in the history of our college, will be remembered as one of signal prosperity, in respect to the library. The additions made to it have been more than twice as great and valuable as in any former year. The number of scientific works nominated for purchase by the professors, has indeed been comparatively small. Two hundred and seventy seven ²⁷⁷ volumes only, have in that manner been acquired, at a cost of nine hundred and forty four dollars (\$944) an average price of about three dollars and forty cents a volume (\$3.40). The total expenditure for books has, however, been eight thousand dollars. This has been made possible by the generosity of our friends at Trenton, who have allowed me to avail myself of the extraordinary series of book auctions in New York, which have distinguished this year. From ^{these} ~~which~~ I have brought home about three ³³⁵⁰ thousand three hundred and fifty volumes, the average price being about two dollars a volume. Very many of these have been of high character in science, literature and art, and highly acceptable to both professors and students. Frequently, too, they have been clothed in durable and ^{even} superb bindings. Within these estimates is included the mathematical and astronomical library of professor Alexander, numbering seven hundred and fifty volumes, bought at a cost of seventeen hundred dollars.

The whole library was reported by my, a year ago, as containing thirty one thousand five hundred volumes. The additions made this year by purchase, ^{and} gifts and other means, raise it to ^{nearly} thirty six thousand. For, the gifts made to the library, this year, are one thousand and thirty eight volumes, so that the total possessions of the library at this moment, may be stated at thirty five thousand, eight hundred eight volumes.

The gifts to the library, this year have come from forty eight sources; but far the most conspicuous of these is Mr. John S. Pierson, of the class of 1840, who had already given us so large a collection of books on the civil war. His several additions to that collection, during the present year, amount to seven hundred and fourteen volumes and pamphlets, making the whole about fifteen hundred. A part of this year's contribution, however, consists of the publications of various historical societies in America, obtained by Mr. Peirson in exchange for duplicate volumes on the civil war accumulated during his efforts in our behalf. Nearly a hundred volumes, including several important editions of the classics, have also been given by Mahlon Long, Ph.D.

for many a year, a teacher in Philadelphia, and an alumnus of our own, of the class of 1839.

[page 16]

Such large and valuable accessions ought to stimulate the desire of our students to read, and increase their access recourse to the library. That they have done so is apparent from the fact that the daily loans from the library through this whole year have averaged ⁵⁰ fifty, while for certain portions of the year, it has reached seventy ⁷⁰. The daily average of loans in the first year of my administration, was but twenty six. The total loan during the year was a little short of nine thousand volumes; that of last year was seven thousand five hundred forty seven (7547). The number of borrowers, this year, was ^{against 364 borrowers four years ago} four hundred eight four (484). Of these fifty six were professors or students from the seminary; leaving the whole number of college borrowers, not professors, four hundred twenty eight ⁽⁴²⁸⁾. The entire number of our students, this year, has been four hundred seventy two (472). Thus, it would appear that all but forty four (44) of our students have made some use of the library. I am happy to observe that those who attain the highest rank, and those who gain prizes and fellowships are the largest borrowers; and that several of the professors borrow ^{^ each} more than a hundred volumes in a year.

Dividing the total loan to college students by the whole number of students that borrowed, we have the ~~average~~ loan ^{to for each ^ during the year} less than twenty volumes. The average loan four years ago was only fourteen. But among these borrowers were one hundred forty three who received during the whole year less than ten volumes each, their aggregate loan being but ^{twelve} ~~six~~ hundred ^{twenty one (1221)} ~~eighty eight~~ volumes. If we subtract this number from the entire loan to the college students, we have the number seven thousand seven hundred, seventy nine (7779). Dividing this by two hundred eighty five, the average loan to each man will be twenty seven. On the most favorable view, therefore, the amount of reading drawn from this library by the better part of the students remains painfully small.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Yours,

Princeton, June 20. 1877

Frederic Vinton

[pages 17-18 blank]

[page 19]

To the President and Trustees

of the College of New Jersey. Feb. 14, 1878.

Gentlemen,

During the interval since your last meeting, the whole number of volumes acquired by this library, has been almost exactly eight hundred; (800) all but about twenty (20) having come by purchase.

Of the seven hundred eighty eight (778) volumes bought, the aggregate cost was seventeen hundred eighty three dollars, sixty four cents (\$1783.64) making the average price, per volume, two dollars seventeen cents; (\$2.17) This, it will be perceived, is considerably in excess of the average of prices lately reported by me. The difference is attributed to the fact that a large part of this money has been expended for books bought at the nomination of the professors, and for books belonging to their departments. I may chiefly instance, the department of engineering, (prof. M^cMillan); that of practical astronomy (prof. Young); that of continental literature (prof. Kargé); and that of English literature, (Dr. Murray). I have not, however, thought it wise to buy for several professorships, books not immediately necessary; because it is impossible to find, in this country, many volumes ultimately desirable. Or, if found here, they have already paid duty, while we could import them duty free. In my judgment it is best to buy sparingly in New York bookstores, and go, or send abroad, some time hence.

The whole number of books borrowed from the library since January 3rd, the first day of this term, is two thousand, five hundred and thirty three (2533), making a daily average of seventy (70). The last fortnight has been signalized by the opening of the library for distribution, two hours in the afternoon. During this period, the daily average has risen to eighty five (85). If this continues to be the

[page 20]

daily rate through the rest of this term the entire loan of the term will be six thousand, six hundred seventy three (6673), while the whole loan for 1783-74, was but four thousand (4000). The necessity for more assistants, or the total incompatibility of this pressure with the duty of cataloguing the library, must be apparent.

The number of books this day out of the library is nine hundred fourteen (914), in the hands, probably, of four hundred readers (400).

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton, per C[aroline] W[ithington]

February 14th 1878.

[page 21]

To the president and trustees

of the College of New Jersey, June 1878

Gentlemen,

At the end of five years' administration of the affairs of this library, and on the eve of a larger expenditure for it, it is proper to take a closer survey of its interests, and ask longer attention to its welfare.

The entire addition to the library this year is a little below five thousand (5000), while last year it was six thousand (6000). A year ago I reported the whole number in the library as thirty five thousand eight hundred volumes (35,800). The whole collection [accessions] now consists of forty thousand seven hundred (40,700).

Accessions

The acquisitions by purchase during this year, have somewhat exceeded four thousand four hundred (4,400), and the amount so expended has surpassed ten thousand dollars (10,000). The average cost, therefore, has been two dollars and a quarter (\$2.25)^{2.27}. The average price, last year, was two dollars (\$2.) The difference against us is attributable to two causes (1) A larger proportion of costly scientific works, nominated for purchase by the professors, has been bought this year. (2) There have been no important auction sales of books this year; while last year was exceptionally favorable in that respect. The owners of five valuable libraries, known to me, as intended for public sale, have deferred their dispersion; hoping for more favorable circumstances, when general prosperity shall seem to have returned.

Donations to the library, this year, have been less than five hundred (500) books, and two hundred (200) pamphlets, against 1000 volumes given the year before. The alcove of the alumni now contains eight hundred forty five (845) volumes, and more than a hundred valuable pamphlets. The collection on the civil war, to which Mr. Pierson has just added more than two hundred (200+)

[page 22]

contains now nearly two thousand (2000) volumes.

Loans.

The entire loan for this year is about thirteen thousand (13,000) volumes; against nine thousand (9000) reported a year ago.

The whole number of borrowers has been five hundred eighty one (581), against 484 during the year 1877-78. One hundred seventeen (of these) were seminary students, professors in the college, or others to whom courtesy was due; so that the whole number of college students ^{^ who} have drawn from the library has been four hundred sixty four (464). Last year it was four hundred twenty eight (428).

These 464 students have borrowed, in all, eleven thousand volumes (11,000), an average of nearly 26; but as 118 of these took less than ten volumes each in the whole year, or, an aggregate of little more than 500, we find that the 346, who borrowed 10,500 volumes, averaged nearly thirty volumes each. But, more justice will be done to the better students, when it is stated that a list of forty can be made who took more than fifty each; and that the average loan to these is above sixty seven (67+). To this statement it should be added, that some of them ~~are~~ borrowed also from the seminary.

But, the per contra of this representation is discouraging. I have shown that 118 of our students borrowed less than ten volumes each in the whole year. I have also to say that twenty eight students borrowed none at all. As I read over the college catalogue, now at the end of the year, the conviction is forced upon me that some of the faces corresponding to these names are wholly unknown to me; and that for them my function has been useless. They may have borrowed from the hall libraries, but not from this. This library is not well suited to the mental state of the mass of the students. For some of them it is vain to procure books of science; yet these are the very men for whose good we should make the greatest exertion. They need it most.

[page 23]

Going to school is learning to read – going to college is the same thing, in a higher sense. Forming and stimulating ^{^ and directing} a love of inquiry is the most of education. But it is vain to put the Principia into the hands of children, or lecture on topics too exalted for youths: we must condescend to their taste. In my judgment the library needs a larger proportion of easy reading—books of travel and exploration should be provided; biographies of famous and energetic men should be bought, animated historical narrative should be procured. Natural history should be furnished for those it attracts.

Modern languages should be set before them.

When I came here, I found a total lack of these things; since I came, I have bought what I could, but my power has been small. Shall we now spend seven thousand dollars for science, and little or nothing for those who need to be tempted upward to the region where science lies? It is for her feeble children that ~~the~~ ^a mother does the most. #

[paragraph marker in margin]. If it were in any power, I should think it my duty, to report to you not merely the number of books borrowed, but their quality, and the proportion of attention given to every department of study. This is the ~~only~~^{best} way to show what is really done in a library. But though the means of doing this are in my hands, in the form of cancelled receipts given for books, the time requisite for such an exposé could not possibly be afforded, while I have only two assistants. The figures given in this report represent a week's work, on my part, and on theirs.

The average of loans during the term now expiring is forty two (42). The average for the last term was sixty four (64), and of the preceding, fifty three (53).

Art collection.

The best books illustrative of the fine arts, purchased last year for professor Lindsay's department, have been kept in a separate room, under the eye of an assistant, and have not been exposed to loan. Access to the room has been given by a special ticket, and

[page 24]

two hundred and fifty visits have thus been made.

Guide to the shelves.

The similarity of structure in all parts of the library room has always been found embarrassing to student in search of books on a given subject. Much assistance is afforded by posting the main subject of the books in any alcove, beneath the window which lights it, as well as by the diagram hung upon the desk. Still, it must be admitted that much difficulty remains; and there can be no doubt that diffident youths go away without finding what they want, although it may be there. To obviate this evil, the librarian proposes to prepare ^a pamphlets setting forth the methods of classification here adopted, and containing an engraved plan of the alcoves, marked with figures, corresponding to the topics mentioned in an alphabetized list accompanying. He asks leave to print a thousand copies of this pamphlet, and distribute them to all who apply at the desk. This being examined leisurely at home, will probably enable the student to go nearly to his mark.

Catalogue.

It is a year since I asked to employ two assistants, that I might be ^{enabled} to prepare a catalogue of the books in the library.

One assistant was allowed me, and Miss Shaw began the academic year with us. But so much of her time was still required by matters of routine and detail, that little was left for the catalogue. When at length the committee on the library insisted that it should be open both part of the day, a second assistant was engaged, and the catalogue work was accelerated.

Miss Withington is quick, correct, and reliable, but it was not till April that she came; and of course both assistants had to learn. The whole number of books catalogued thus far, approaches forty five hundred (4.500), every title having been revised by myself. The portion of the library now finished is, perhaps, the most

[page 25]

difficult of all; and greater rapidity may be expected in the future.

[paragraph mark] During this spring and summer, the meetings of the faculty have been held in that apartment of the library known as the "trustees' room." It appears to me undesirable that any part of this building should be used for other than library purposes. It appeared so to yourselves, I suppose, when it was proposed to fit up a faculty room elsewhere.

All of this edifice will sometime be needed for library uses. Meanwhile the periodicals kept on the tables are continually disarranged; that doors and windows ~~often~~ ^{have been} left open ^{at night}; and the beautiful carpet on the floor will soon be defaced, and have to be renewed.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton. per. C. W.

June 17th 1878

[pages 26-28 blank]

[page 29]

Princeton, November 14th 1878.

To the President and Trustees
of the College of New Jersey

Gentlemen;

Your board is aware that about the time of your last meeting, the committee on the library resolved to send me abroad for the purchase of books: in the belief that foreign prices would be found so much below American rates, that more than my expenses would be saved, if considerable purchases were made.

The professors were therefore invited ~~invited~~ to nominate books appropriate to their several departments; and the whole number of titles then furnished was [blank]. These titles represented some ^{several} hundred volumes; of which the estimated cost would be \$6000. The whole sum placed at my disposal was above \$8000.

I sailed from New York a week after the last commencement and ~~arrived in~~ ^{returned} to Princeton the day this term ~~commenced~~ ^{began}. The time intervening between July 6th and August 31st was passed almost wholly in London, a fortnight only having been spent on the continent. In Paris I bought books to the value of 1000 francs; and from Germany a similar value was imported for me by a London bookseller.

The results of this expedition, already received in this building, are ten cases of bound volumes, numbering 1434: the average cost being \$2.50 a volume. One box containing books valued at \$200, from Paris, has not yet arrived.

The whole sum expended, covering also freight, insurance, cost on the [^] custom house dues, and my traveling expenses, is \$4.217; of these last expenses, \$180 having been for ocean passages, and \$225 for every other charge.

[page 30]

Beside these, I bought at my own judgment about 250 volumes at a cost of \$370.30. Every bill representing these books has been paid, except one from London, which has not yet been furnished in items, which amounts to £141.2.9 and two in this country which are not yet adjusted. These last probably amount to \$300. The high character of books named in my lists for purchase, was remarked by London booksellers. One half of these books had arrived in this country before my return, but were detained in the custom house until my arrival. They reached Princeton shortly after, were speedily examined, and placed on the shelves. Those contained in three cases, received a week ago, have been fitted for their places, but not placed on the shelves, as yet. [paragraph mark] The whole number of books borrowed in the half term now expiring, is 2883: and the daily average has been 515. In so pleasant a season of the year, this is less than in some others. The loan to theological students is about one tenth of the whole number borrowed. In my last report I alluded to the character and subjects of books borrowed here, as a sort of information, proper to be reported to you; but I said it was impossible, with the assistance at my disposal, to collect and tabulate the materials. For the half term however, previous to a recent date, I have caused the examinations to be made; the

table is appended to this report. From this it may be learned that the proportion of fiction, which in all public libraries is very large; and which the Boston public library, in respect to its popular department, has at no time for the last ten years, reported as less than seventy per cent, was in our library only twenty p.c. That of literature, including poetry, the drama, criticism, and similar topics, was above thirty two per cent: that of political and social science, eight per cent: and that of mental & moral science six per cent. It is to be observed that in this review, students' reading ^{alone} has been considered.

The catalogue work is in progress, though somewhat interrupted by the receipt of so many books, and by a few temporary circumstances. I must not fail in this connection, to remark on the able, faithful, and zealous assistance by which I am sustained, in every department of library work. I only regret that under the pressure of daily details, it is quite impossible to make the hours for borrowing books run through the whole day. Students often wish to borrow and return books out of the hours appointed for distribution, and it is always painful to refuse them. I am afraid, however, that is useless to suggest, that the employment of another assistant, constantly at the desk, would secure for the students this facility, and also set me free for much catalogue work, and other important business.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton

[page 31]

Appendix

Survey of the reading done by students at Princeton, in the first half of the fall term, 1878

	volumes	Per centage.	
Chemistry and physical science.	30	.016	.02-
Classical authors, and works illustrating them.	135	.071	.07+
Fiction.	432	.203	.20+
Fine arts, including music.	30	.016	.02-
History, ancient and recent	62	.033+	.03+
Language (English and other philology).	57	.030	.03+
Literature (poetry, the drama, criticism, etc.).	600	.326+	.326+
Mathematical science, pure and applied.	35	.019	.02-
Mental and moral science.	104	.056	.06-
2 Recreative reading (biography, travels, etc.)	146	.079	.08-
1 Political and social science.	144	.079	.08-

Theology, ecclesiastical history, etc.	64	.034	.03+
	1839		

P.S. The entire loan from this library during the first term of the present academic year, was (4240) four thousand two hundred forty. The average loan for eighty two days of distribution was 51.7.

[page 32 blank]

[page 33]

To the President and Trustees of the College of New Jersey.

June 1879.

Gentlemen:

The whole expenditure for books in 1878-79, including purchases abroad, already reported, has been a little below thirteen thousand dollars (\$13000-). The whole number of books purchased is about four thousand; those from abroad, eighteen hundred (1816): those bought in this country fifteen hundred twenty-nine (1529).

The entire possessions of the library are now forty four thousand, six hundred (44,600) volumes.

The whole loan during this year is a little above twelve thousand (12,000) volumes; nearly all, or about 11,000 volumes, having been taken by college students. Last year, it was about thirteen thousand (13,000) volumes.

The whole number of borrowers this year has been five hundred and seventy (570), against five hundred and eighty one (581), reported a year ago. Of these, four hundred and eighty five (485) were college students. {against 464.} But of these 485 borrowers, more than two hundred ((205) took less than ten volumes each, during the whole year, i.e. less than one in a month. Their total loan amounted to only nine hundred eighteen (918) volumes. Dividing what is left, after subtracting this from eleven thousand volumes by 280, (the number of students who took more than ten volumes), we have an average of only thirty five (35), or less than a volume a week.

Of the most diligent, only twenty borrowed more than fifty volumes each. Nor do many students read books from their own "halls;" for I am informed by officers of the halls,

[page 34]

that the ordinary loan from each of them does not reach forty volumes, on two days only, of each week.

I set these facts before you with a view to show, (in continuance of what I said last year), that the object of a library of the college, and of education itself, is not here accomplished. That object, I suppose to be, the awakening in a students mind of the love of study, in its various forms. It is not, I submit, merely the acquisition of a certain amount of knowledge, which may be used in getting a living, important to the individual as that is. To the individual, to society, to mankind, is it not more important that young men should go from here, resolved to pursue through life a career of improvement? If the love of study had been inspired, students would use more books.

At present, great numbers study so much only as will ^{enable} them to keep their places in college, and spend the rest of their time in amusements. When they shall leave us, and have no lessons to get, they will not study at all. They will sink into the common mass, who read only novels and newspapers.

This state of things, it seems to me, should be remedied by making the library more attractive, through the purchase of useful books which students will want to read. I mean such as books of travel, of biography, of history, of natural science. The purchases of the past year have been of high scientific and literary character. They are well suited to the use of the professors; but they are above the students' range. Nor is it in my power, to any great extent, to provide such books as will nourish the love of acquisition. The library fund is not large enough, after buying what is needed by the professorships. The money derived from the students is absorbed by library expenses – the care of the building, and the like.

[page 35]

It is obvious, indeed, that a revenue which sufficed ten years ago, must be inadequate to our present wants. The enlargement of instruction here by founding the school of science; and the museum of natural history, puts a strain on our finances which they were not meant to bear. The large expenditure necessary on those accounts is possible only after special gifts, or increased resources. Each of those institutions needs a working library of its own.

With a view to their highest usefulness, accordingly several departments of instruction, have solicited the removal from the college library to their own quarters, of the best books belonging to their special province. In the case of the astronomical observatory, I could not doubt that the Alexander collection and the astronomical portion of my recent purchases, would be most useful there. Several hundred such volumes were committed to the care of professor Young, lists of all being kept at the

college library. A similar request has been made by professor Guyot on account of the geological museum: this appeared equally reasonable, and was conceded. I did not doubt this course would be approved by you, in cases where you had erected a furnished building for special departments. But it is obvious that such a depletion, if carried far, would reduce the college library to insignificance, unless duplicate sets were provided. It is certain that this could not be done out of present resources.

Asa Packer.

The magnificent endowment lately conferred on [^] the library of a neighboring college, by the will of a princely citizen of Pennsylvania, establishes there a means of usefulness surpassing ours. Two New England colleges have long possessed [^] libraries far superior to ours; and their students got forth endowed with superior intelligence.

The theological seminary here depends on our library for its supply of general reading, but neither they, nor our

[page 36]

own students can compete [^] in after life with those from the older centres of culture, unless they are trained amid similar advantages.

I venture, still further to suggest that a fuller efficiency of the library would be promoted, by the employment of more assistance in it. It is not because the librarian is overworked, the hours of daylight being always insufficient for what needs to be done, and vacations as fully occupied with labor as term time. But I urge that one of the present assistants is wholly employed with matters of detail, and one only wholly devoted to the catalogue. Probably one third of that labor is now finished, after two years exertion. But, in proportion as more books are bought, the end of the week is postponed. At present speed, the manuscript is not likely to be completed within five years: another cataloguer might reduce the time to three. But there are other benefits, of which the library stands in need. Students continually seek for information without finding it and the librarian [^] has not time to aid in the search. Especially where a subject has been named for an essay or a debate – the Eastern question – or Chinese immigration, many are hunting at once for information: and an intelligent assistant could not be more usefully employed than in the investigation of such topics, as [^] soon as announced for dis [^] cussion so as to post on a bulletin board, references to books which treat of it, for the benefit of all concerned.

I have the satisfaction of thinking that our library, though small, already possesses, in most departments, some books of the highest character. English literature

is represented in a mass and variety somewhat corresponding to its real richness, and with the wants of the students. A dozen editions

[page 37]

of Milton, as many copies of Dryden, and a score of Shakespeare, are sometimes out at once. A late opportunity has enabled me to buy as good an apparatus for the study of Anglo-Saxon, as exists in America, or perhaps in the world. Works of truly monumental character exhibit the condition of ancient Egypt.

Engineering and natural history may now be studied here in books well suited to guide the ablest constructor-, or reveal to the [^] student the splendor and variety of creation. By continuing to accumulate such books, we shall enable professors to show and not only to tell, what science can do; and elevate young men above the plebeian ideas of their birth.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton. per C[aroline] W[ithington]

Princeton, June 16th 1879.

[page 38 blank]

[page 39]

Princeton, Nov. 12th 1879.

To the President,
and Trustees of the College of New Jersey.

Gentlemen,

So short a period of college work intervenes between commencement and your autumnal session, that the librarian's report rendered at the latter date, may reasonably be short. Nearly at the close of the academic year, the professors were prompted to prepare lists of books to be purchased for their departments. Some of them did so; and their nominations were copied and transmitted to agents here and abroad. Five separate parcels have been imported by New York houses, or dispatched by a London correspondent and four are now in the library. Their aggregate value is \$ [crossed out to illegibility] ^{\$1050.52}

~~The total loan thus far in this year is [blank] volumes~~ (one thousand fifty dollars, fifty two cents). The whole number of volumes thus received is three hundred ninety eight (398); the average price being \$2.62 (two dollars, sixty two cents). The average cost of books bought by me abroad, last year, was two dollars, fifty cents (\$2.50) somewhat

less it will be perceived, than this year, though the average character of last year's importations was decidedly higher. The result of purchasing through agents abroad, (however intelligent and well disposed), is not in various respects, perfectly satisfactory. It is not always possible, in the first place, to judge by mere inspection of a title, the true character of a book so described; and in many recent instances, disappointment has thus occurred. And in the second place, books have been sent, which considering the price demanded, we might have declined to buy. I do not like the necessity of paying for what

[page 40]

I have not seen.

The total loan of books, thus far in this year, is two thousand fifty seven (2,057) volumes. If an expectation were formed from this as to the whole work of the existing academic year, disappointment would follow, in the proportion of eight to twelve thousand. But, during the pleasant weather of autumn, the daily average of books borrowed, is always less than during the winter term, and it has been greater this year than it was last.

The whole number of books absent from the library on a given day, November 11th was found to be nine hundred seventy seven (977); and it is remarkable that nearly as many were in the hands of professors, as in those of College students; 408 having been lent to the former, and 545 to the latter.

Of this second class, 14 respected the subject of education; 14, the higher mathematics; 19, metaphysical philosophy; 20, political science; and 32, were volumes of reviews.

Classical literature was represented in 61 volumes; history in 55 volumes; and the study of Shakespeare, (as presented in Dr. Murray's lectures), in 53 volumes. The aggregate of these numbers is just one half of all the books then in the hands of our students.

Let it be remembered that all these volumes were out at one and the same time: and that they form, perhaps, an average representation of the whole term, or the whole year.

If it be inquired how many novels were out at the same time, the answer is 51 volumes.

Such facts could not have been exhibited some years ago; and they show that the recent acquisitions of the library meet the wants of the students; and that the work of the students follows the track of the instruction given. Respectfully submitted,

Frederic Vinton

per C[aroline] W[ithington]

[page 41]

To the President and Trustees

of the college of New Jersey.

June 1880

Gentlemen,

The whole number of volumes borrowed from the college library during the academic year 1879-80, was 11,427. This number falls short of that reported a year ago, by about six hundred; but this fact will not surprise you on account of the dispersion of the college previous to the first of June.

The number of borrowers in the whole year, was five hundred forty six (546) (It was 570 last year). One hundred and nine of these were seminary students, and others not members of the college; so that the entire number of college borrowers was four hundred thirty seven (437). Of these, one hundred and ninety two (192), took less than ten volumes each in the whole year; and their whole loan was seven hundred ninety three (793); leaving ten thousand six hundred thirty four volumes (10,634), to be divided among the remaining 245 college students, who borrowed more than ten volumes apiece. The average loan for the whole year therefore, of these who borrowed most, is forty five volumes, nearly. This is greater than last year, while the number of frequent borrowers is less; showing apparently that the diligent students grow more diligent.

The library has acquired this year, by purchase, 2383 volumes, at a cost of six thousand, one hundred and

[page 42]

thirty five dollars (\$6,135.43) making the average cost two dollars sixty cents (\$2.60) a volume. This sufficiently indicates that the bulk of additions were of scientific books brought from abroad. The improved financial state of the country has caused a diminution in the number of good libraries sold by auction; and that together with the fact that I have already bought most of the books which appear at sales, shows that henceforth we must depend chiefly on the foreign book market.

Two hundred thirty seven volumes came to us as by [sic] gift; which added to the purchases, made two thousand six hundred twenty (2,620) volumes in all, acquired during the year. Forty four thousand six hundred [word erased?] (44,600) was reported as the whole library, a year ago: forty seven thousand, two hundred twenty (47,220) volumes is therefore the present number in the library.

All libraries suffer a gradual depletion by the wearing out of books, and by accidental losses; and I know of none which does not lose by the dishonesty of those who frequent them. Experienced librarians probably predicted that this library would lose heavily by the policy instituted here, of allowing students free access to the shelves.

For a time I congratulated myself that our losses were inconsiderable, bearing small proportion to the benefit the students gained by access to the shelves. ~~For a time I congratulated myself that our losses were inconsiderable [sic] bearing small proportion to the benefit the students gained by access~~ This year ^{however} I have been startled by more serious abstractions, accomplished, perhaps, in weather when voluminous overcoats were worn; and the number of cases of books absent without

[page 43]

acknowledgement, has made me wish to have the whole under my absolute control. To deny the students access to the shelves, however, while as yet, they have no printed catalogue, was a thing not to be thought of; and I resolved to direct my efforts to the speedy completion of a catalogue which might show the students what we had, and where to find it. I asked therefore, for another assistant; and her coming in January last caused an instant acceleration in that sort of work. Since January 1st 8505 volumes have been catalogued here near a fifth of the whole library. A year ago, I estimated that about a third of the whole has been catalogued. I now think that nearly another third has been completed; and I have represented to the chairman of your committee on the library, that with still further assistance, the whole remainder of the manuscript can be finished during the next academic year, and the printed catalogue presented to you and the students by commencement day, two years hence.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton, per C[aroline] W[ithington]

Princeton, June 21st '80

[page 44 blank]

[page 45]

To the President and Trustees,
of the College of New Jersey. Nov. 1880.

Gentlemen,

At the end of seven years from the first occupation of our library building, it contains twice as many books as it first received. Without referring to the character of much which I then found in it; I may observe that its contents could not have exceeded 25,000, and that it now has nearly 50,000.

The acquisitions since commencement are nearly two thousand volumes. Those lately purchased in Europe exceed 1,600. Seven hundred and thirty of these, are either Transactions of illustrious scientific societies abroad, or scientific journals of the highest character.

It is probably that the library was never before enriched by such a noble acquisition. For, these volumes are filled with the most important discoveries or speculations of European men of science, during a century past. Whatever Germany or France has been able to accomplish in physical science, is now within the reach of our professors. The papers of the royal societies of London, Edinburgh, Paris and Berlin, are now on our shelves.

The average character of the library of congress was never so high, as when that collection was begun with the purchase of Jefferson's library, but the

[page 46]

intellectual zenith of our library is reached today.

Three hundred and ninety volumes have been purchased in this country.

Autumn is the season when least reading is done in college; but, since this term began, 2,400 volumes have been borrowed from this library, an average of forty six a day. The number of student borrowers is three hundred twenty three.

The progress of our catalogue is likely to be watched with most interest by you, during the present year; and I am happy in being able to report a rapid advance, since last commencement. The chairman of your committee on the library authorized me then, to double, temporarily, the number of any assistants. Six persons, therefore, under the guidance of my son, worked in the library through the month of July. Their work has since been carefully revised, and all the books bought in the Europe have been catalogued. As a result, the whole lower floor is now finished, making at least 9000 volumes in four months.

What remains is the series of periodicals, the collected works of English and continental authors, with the astronomical works, at the Observatory, and the palaeontological collection at the museum. I think these may be finished by January.

But, it must not be imagined, because the manuscript is nearly completed, that therefore the catalogue will shortly be issued. The work so far done, is but the collection of materials. A good catalogue contains two alphabets, one of authors,

[page 47]

the other of subjects. Both are read, but they must be edited; and in doing this, things which mean the same, though differently expressed in various writers and languages, must be put together.

All this matter must be anxiously distributed under advantageous heads, and reference be made from each to allied branches of knowledge. In all this I hope to have the assistance of our professors, as the various sciences and subjects pass in review.

The printing itself must be slowly done, to avoid mistake, and because a small town like Princeton cannot give facilities for a work so great.

I am afraid to promise a bound [^] copy of our catalogue within the year now before us.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton, per C[aroline] W[ithington]

Princeton, November 11th 1880.

[page 48 blank]

[page 49]

To the President and Trustees
of the College of New Jersey. June 1881.

Gentlemen,

Our expenditures for books, and the number of volumes added to this library during the closing academic year, have been less than for each of several years before. The cost of books imported from Europe was six thousand dollars; that of books bought here, a little more than three thousand. The increasing prosperity of our country has put an end to the sacrifice of private libraries at auction; and those who attend such sales compete more sharply than some years ago. I attend auctions less; and am often compelled to yield to others the books I want.

Our main reliance must henceforth be, the markets of nations not so prosperous as ourselves.

The number of volumes added to the library this year is a little more than three thousand (3000+) of which about two thirds came from abroad. That I might be able to say with confidence, what are the present possessions of the library. I lately caused the books to be counted; and the report made to me is that

[page 50]

we have 52,889 volumes. To these must be added a considerable number now ready for the binder; making it certain that the total would reach fifty three thousand (53000). The average cost of recent purchases exceeds two dollars a volume; so that the whole value of the library may be stated at a hundred thousand dollars.

The loans during the past year, ten thousand four hundred volumes (10,389) have been less than heretofore—12000 last year, 11,500 the year before. The number of borrowers is greater, by thirty: 599 this year: 570 last year: 546 the year before. The average loan to our students, appears also to be diminishing.

I am told by those whom I have asked, that this is to be attributed to increased devotion to special studies, leaving less time for recreative reading.

In whatever manner these facts are to be interpreted, they stimulate me to the speedy production of a catalogue, in order that the library may become more effectively useful.

In my report made a year ago, I represented that with additional assistants I could finish the manuscript in a year. It has been done; every book, so far as I know, has been catalogued. The manuscript occupies sixty thousand (60,000) cards, and printing will begin with the next college year. But, in order to shorten the time before the catalogue can be issued,

[page 51]

it is proposed to omit the titles of most books on the subjects of the three professions since they form no part of college instruction. Still further to reduce the size of the book, and the delay in printing, I have thought best to defer that alphabetical list of authors names, followed by titles, which used to be called a catalogue; and to present the same matter, in an alphabet of the subjects illustrated in the books. This index will show what the library contains on each individual topic whether filling a book, or part of a book, making a true dictionary to be consulted on any occasion. This, which is far the most difficult part of a librarian's work, remains now to be done; but it is already accomplished, so far as the letter A, is concerned, and it will be pushed forward in vacation.

That I may be understood, in this representation, I have printed eight pages of the catalogue, as a specimen, and experiment; and placed a copy by every chair in this room.

So far as I know, no American college has printed a catalogue of its library, in the last twenty years. The last from Harvard is fifty years old, and that of Yale about the same. Those colleges are preparing elaborate catalogues; but they may be too voluminous to print.

All the old catalogues are mere lists of author's names, followed by titles. Ours will be the first college catalogue constructed by modern methods,

[page 52 blank]

[page 53]

and suited to extensive usefulness, and if it is well done, it will be a guide to others.

In addition to the catalogue work spoken of thus far, a shelf list of all books on the lower floor has been written by one of the assistants, and is bound in four volumes, so that we can now tell when a space is seen vacant on the shelves, what has been taken away; and in that list may be found the proper figures to be printed against every title, to show the place of any book that may be wanted.

The arrangements for heating the library building have never been satisfactory. We have indeed, at length, an apparatus by which a sufficient supply of heat may be generated, but there are days every spring and fall, when it is not thought necessary to make a large fire, though a small one is very desirable. In this year of exceptional temperatures, there have been weeks of dreary weather, after fires had been extinguished, when our thermometers stood below sixty degrees, because a North wind was blowing, or a cold rain was falling, though in May or June. Miss Shaw fell sick, and was warned by her physician not to stay in the library.

Two other of my assistants are too delicate ^{^ in health} to be exposed, sitting, to such a temperature; therefore I sent them home, with some work which could be done there; remaining myself, with the more robust, to take the risk as best we might.

[page 54 blank]

[page 55]

But, I do now strenuously protest against the risk; on my own account, on that of my assistants; and of the students who come here for research.

The library is not quite secure against rain; and at such times we have to stay many hours in a damp atmosphere. If pneumonia had visited many feeble constitutions in consequence of colds taken in the college buildings, this spring, the condemnation of

parents and journals would have been very severe. I wish a small furnace could be placed under the library, for use in storms, and in spring and fall; that we may be independent of a system which involves too many interests, to be satisfactory to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederic Vinton
(per C[aroline] W[ithington])

June 20th 1881.

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[between page 56 and 57, four leaves laid in, marked with accession number AM 0129]

[AM 0129, page 1]

1881

To the President and Trustees.
of the College of New Jersey.

Gentlemen:

Our expenditure for books, and the number of volumes added to this library, during the closing academic year, have been less than for any of several years before. The cost of books imported from Europe was six thousand dollars (\$6.000); that of books bought in this country a little more than three thousand (\$3.000). The increasing prosperity of our country has put an end to the sacrifice of private libraries at auction; and those who attend such sales of books brought from abroad, compete more sharply than some years ago. I attend auctions less; and am often compelled to pay the full value of books, or yield to others what I intended to buy. Our main reliance must henceforth be, the markets of nations less prosperous than ourselves.

The number of volumes added to the library this year, is a little more than three thousand (3.000+) of which two thirds came from abroad. That I might be able to say with confidence, what are the actual possessions of the library, I lately caused the books to be counted; and the enumerator's report is that the shelves contain 52.889 volumes. To these must be added books ready for the binder; the entire number would therefore reach fifty three thousand (53.000). The average cost of recent purchases exceeds

[AM 0129, page 2]

Two dollars a volume; thus the whole value of the library is a hundred thousand dollars (\$100.000). The enumeration did not include pamphlets; though the most important of these are reported in the catalogue.

The loans of the past year (ten thousand four hundred volumes) (10.389) have been less than heretofore – 12.000 last year, 11.500 the year before. The number of borrowers is greater, by thirty, 599 this year – 570 last year, 546 the year before. The average loan to college students, appears to diminish. I am told by those I have asked for the reason, that it should be ascribed to increased devotion to special studies; less time being left for recreative reading.

In whatever manner these facts be interpreted, they stimulate me to the speedy completion of a catalogue, that the library may become more effectively useful. IN my report made a year ago, I represented that, with additional assistants, I could finish the manuscript in a year. It has been done: every books of importance has been catalogued. The manuscript occupies sixty thousand (60.000) cards; and printing will begin with the next college year. But, in order to shorten the time of printing, I propose to omit, for the present, the titles of most books on subjects belonging to the three professions, and the Pierson collection on the civil war, since these form no part of the college instruction. Still further to reduce the size of the first issue, and the delay in printing, I have thought best to defer that alphabetical series of authors' names, followed by titles, which used to be called a catalogue; and to present the same matter, in an alphabet of the subjects illustrated in the books. This index will show what the library

[AM 0129, page 3]

contains on each separate topic, whether filling a book, or part of a book; making a true dictionary, which, in fact, a library is meant to be. This, which is far the most difficult part of a librarian's work, remains now to be done; But it is already accomplished, so far as the letter A is concerned; and it will be pushed forward in the coming vacation. That I may be understood, in this representation, I have printed eight pages of this catalogue, as a specimen, experiment, and model; and placed a copy by every chair in this room.

So far as I know, no American college has printed a catalogue of its library, in the last twenty years. The Harvard catalogue is now fifty years old, and that of Yale can scarcely be less. These colleges are preparing elaborate catalogues; but they may be too voluminous to print. All the old catalogues are mere lists of authors' names, followed by titles, and of course, are useless for research. Ours will be the first ~~authors~~ college

catalogue constructed by modern methods; and if it shall be well executed, it will be a guide to others.

In addition to the catalogue work spoken of above, a shelf list of all books on the lower floor has been written by one of the assistants, and is bound in four volumes. Whenever, hereafter, we see a vacant space upon the shelves this record will show what ought to be there; and in ~~the~~ it may also be found the numbers belonging to any title, when it is to be printed in the catalogue.

[AM 0129, page 4]

The arrangements for heating the library have never been satisfactory. We have, indeed, at length, an apparatus by which a sufficient supply of heat may be generated; but there are days, every spring and fall, when it is not thought necessary to make a large fire, though a small one is very desirable. In this year of exceptional temperatures, there have been weeks of dreary weather, after fires had been extinguished, when [^] the mercury in our thermometers stood below sixty degrees, because the north wind was blowing, or a cold rain was falling, though in May or June. One of the assistants fell sick, and was warned by her physician not to stay in the library. Two others are so delicate that they ought not to be exposed, sitting, to such a temperature. I therefore sent them home, with some work which could be done there; remaining, myself, with the more robust, to take the risk as best we might. But, I do now strenuously protest against the risk, on my own account; on that of my assistants; and that of the students who come here for research. The building has never been made tight against rain; and in storms, we have to stay many hours in damp atmosphere. If pneumonia had seized on feeble constitutions in consequence of colds taken in college buildings, this spring, the outcry of parents and journals would have been severe. I wish a small furnace might be placed under the library, for use in storms, in spring and fall. We should then be independent of a system which involves too many interests, to be satisfactory to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederic Vinton.

June 20. 1881.

[AM 0129, page 4v]

Report of Librarian

June 20, 1881

[page 57]

To the President
and the Trustees of the College of New Jersey

Nov. 1881.

Gentlemen,

At your Autumnal session the librarian commonly feels that he has not much to communicate, because so little of college work can have intervened since commencement. Foremost in his thoughts is likely to be his own movements in supplying books for the wants of the departments.

His latest expedition to Europe was undertaken chiefly in the interest of the instructors in geology and palaeontology. A copious list of authors was prepared by Messrs. Scott and Osborn, consisting mainly of periodicals and transactions reporting the most advanced discoveries. Almost the entire nomination was procured; and the books have already arrived, been catalogued and placed on the shelves. They number nearly one thousand volumes, and cost about five thousand dollars. It is believed that so noble an apparatus for studying the ancient condition of the earth, is not possessed by any other American college.

Beside these, such lists as had been prepared by our other professors were filled, at a cost of near, fifteen hundred dollars. The whole number of books, therefore, recently added to the library

[page 58 blank]

[page 59]

is about fifteen hundred, making the entire number fifty five thousand volumes.

I have before remarked that less reading is done by the students in autumn, than at other seasons of the academic year. The whole number of books borrowed in forty-six days of the present term is two thousand four hundred fifty five, giving a daily average of fifty three and a half.

The average, last November, was but forty six, while in November 1878, it was fifty one. I think, therefore, that the amount of reading increases. The apparent advance cannot be attributed to the enlarged number of students; for the necessity of hard study, at first, prevents much resort to the library.

As it is more important, however to show what sort of books are read, than the aggregate of reading, I subjoin a statement of the number of books on several subjects, read during the present term, thus far:

History, ancient and modern	77 vols.
Biography and travels	68 "
Classical learning	64 "
Essays, including criticism	90 "
Mental and moral science	42 "
Political and social science	36 "
Poetry and the drama	

It is worthy of observation that ten editions of Plato's Theaetetus were absent at once, during several weeks, and thirty five volumes of Shakespearian learning.

[page 60 blank]

[page 61]

I am sorry to be able to report no progress in printing the catalogue. Printers have been applied to in Trenton, Philadelphia, and New York, and have furnished estimates for the work; but no treaty has yet been concluded. This has been so far fortunate that the titles of new purchases made abroad, have now been incorporated in our manuscript. And embarrassed as I have lately been, by the sickness, or resignation of half my assistants, I should have found it difficult to proceed. But I hope speedily to find myself afloat and in full sail of execution. Meanwhile I propose to compensate for the delay, by beginning to print also, the catalogue of authors, as well as of subjects; so that when one is obstructed the other may be pushed on, and completed even in advance of that first attempted.

For a good while I have felt a difficulty in providing suitable lodgment for new books, because the long series of periodicals, literary and scientific, had preoccupied shelves, appropriate to special classes of books. The documents of the United States government; the history of our Civil War, and much of the old library, now become unserviceable, also encumber my shelves without materially assisting the inquiries of the students. And, what is already felt will become a far more pressing inconvenience in the future. It has occurred to me, that when the new chapel shall have been finished, the upper story of the old one might be fitted up for the location of the classes of books I have just spoken of.

[page 62 blank]

[page 63]

Access might be gained, by a bridge thrown across, above; or better, by a passage connecting the cellars. I suggest the measure now, in order to anticipate any adverse project.

Respectfully submitted,
 Frederic Vinton
 per C. W.
 Caroline Withington

Princeton, November 10, 1881.

[page 64 blank]

[page 65]

To the President,
 and the Trustees of the College of New Jersey. June 1882.

Gentlemen;

The entire expenditure for books out of the annual income during the year now closing is four thousand one hundred forty seven dollars (\$4.147) and the number of volumes acquired is 769. Nine tenths of this outlay has been made on account of the professorships. Something like this has occurred in each of several years past. More than one hundred & fifty titles are now in my memorandum book, of books which I cannot buy, though nominated by professors for want of money. During some years, I have not used the power, committed to me, of spending a third of our revenue for books thought valuable to the students, or on subjects of study not represented by any professorship. Even their own money, paid for their use of the library, is not spent for books which they will read. Eminently fitted for purposes of instruction as the library is now becoming, it does not grow more attractive to the body of the students. They borrow less & less each year. In 1879 & in 1880, I loaned twelve thousand volumes each year. Last year, & in '81, ten thousand was the limit attained, and only eighty seven hundred were lent to college students. The loan to members of the Seminary, also, has fallen off one half. Young men do not find here many of the books of travel which the

[page 66 blank]

[page 67]

press produces, and which, as describing distant parts of our own country, or of Europe, or of heathen lands, might be of great interest to them.

Youths who may be missionaries in a few years, ought to be learning the condition of heathendom. Our best students too, wearied with work, may sometimes seek recreation in a novel; but they will not find here many of the fascinating fictions of Cooper, Bulwer, James, Lover, or Collins. Meanwhile the loans from the hall libraries are increasing. Their aim is to buy what we have not. But a great many students do not belong to the halls. There is danger that our students may forsake the college library as not suited to their wants. There is danger that the love of literature (so large a part of the chain which binds men to their alma mater) may be ^{too} much discouraged, & starved out. It is not mainly by the recollection of scientific pursuits that local attachment is sustained. It is rather by the memory of literary enjoyment, the good laugh over a play; the scholarly pleasure of studying a foreign poet; the manly delight of reading history. But history, so far, has not its proper place in our curriculum, though the love of it is imbedded in our nature. The history of no race but our own ~~but our own~~ is tolerably represented in our library; the true study of no history is possible here While we depend on Hume & Robertson & Gibbon and other encyclopedic writers, we cannot be said to know history. We have only looked through their eyes

[page 68 blank]

[page 69]

we believe what they have told us. Only by examining thoroughly some portion by the help of contemporaneous narratives can we have an opinion of our own. Remembering this, the scholars of Europe have moved their governments to reprint the mediaeval historians. Those of France fill a hundred and twenty quartos. Germany, Sardinia and others, have a less number of folios. But of all this wealth we have little or nothing, though we have the monkish historians of England. A serious deficiency exists in another kind of literature. Every great classic, ancient or modern, needs to be accompanied by a cloud of commentaries and illustrative works. Those on Homer, Dante, Milton, Voltaire, amount to hundreds. Only in respect to Shakespeare have we a good apparatus. It seems to me that literature should be planted abreast of science. It appears to me, that the revenue of ten years ago is now insufficient.

If you weary of hearing me say this, I must not tire of repeating it, for the student's need impels me. Never again, after leaving here, will they have so much leisure for reading as college life affords. The golden opportunity of fixing the love of reading passes after graduation. The cares of this life then begin to choke the good seed and make it unfruitful. The main object of a library, I admit, is to serve as a dictionary, to be used when necessity requires. But one object certainly, is to fire the soul with a passion for literature and to that end it is imperfectly adapted.

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[page 71]

A year ago, I reported to your body my readiness to finish a subject catalogue. A satisfactory contract with a printer could not readily be made, and work was not begun till January. It has since proceeded with a slowness almost inseparable from its complication. All such catalogue require years for the printing.

One hundred twenty pages in double columns are now completed. During term time, it is difficult for me to give it close attention. I expect during the long vacation now to begin, to attain a higher rate of speed. Several of my assistants have consented to keep on in spite of the heat. The more slowly such a work is produced, the more perfect of its kind. Once done, it will never need to be done again, so far as these books are concerned. They will remain here for generations, some of them for centuries, and your patience and your munificence will be thankfully remembered.

Respectfully submitted.

Frederic Vinton.

Mc Mullen. [in pencil]

Princeton, June 19th, 1882.

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[page 73]

To the President and Trustees of the College of New Jersey.

June, 1883.

Gentlemen:

The entire acquisition of books for this library, since the last commencement, is two thousand three hundred twenty three (2323) volumes. Nearly a thousand (954) of these came from the estate of your late associate, Dr. Musgrave, and two hundred fifty

(250) from other benefactors; so that the whole purchase during the year is one thousand and sixty one volumes (1061).

The whole loan of books is nine thousand eight hundred sixty six (9.866) volumes. Books lent the professors, and to numbers of the seminary are more than ten per cent of this; leaving eighty five hundred ⁽⁸⁵⁰⁰⁾ as the loan to our own students. Four years ago we lent twelve thousand (12000) a year. ~~so that~~ The ^{diminished} use of the library thus exhibited, corresponds to a falling off in the daily average of borrowers as well as of books.

The printed catalogue of subjects illustrated in this library is now approaching completion. Copy now in the printer's hands will carry it nearly to the 500th page, or through the letter O. The letter P, a very long one, has also been revised. S. and W. are the only formidable ones remaining. If the heat and vacation would permit us to keep on, that work would be nearly done when the students return. They will have it to use, next year.

Near the end of such an enterprise, and of ten years in my office, it is natural for me to look back at what has been accomplished, and compare it with what I hoped when I came. The library has not become so large or good, as the beauty of this building, and other indications of liberality then seemed to promise. The facts that its revenue remains the same as when the college was half as large oppresses me with discouragement and dejection. This vital organ, the heart of the college, does not grow, in proportion to the whole it animates. Atrophy and paralysis are creeping upon us. It is impossible to nourish the frame of an elephant, on the blood which sufficed for the body of a hare. A scientific school, a biological department, a school of mental science, and the professorships have been added, but no new food is provided for their nutrition. It seems strange to appoint new teachers, without furnishing sources from which they themselves may learn. For, Thomas Arnold long ago declared that he is not fit to teach who does not ^{continue to} learn.

[page 74 blank]

[page 75]

None but a charlatan pretends to know a tenth of what he will have to teach. No man is fit to be a professor, who is not humbled by a sense of his deficiencies, and who does not hurry to overtake his own ignorance. But what can he do, unless he finds books ~~on~~ ^{for} his especial need? What will ~~the~~ ^{our} new professor of history find to read? Every professorship needs its own library and a fund for its increase, as well as for the support of its chair.

So much has been done here lately for science, the [lite] literature is now the feeble part. It may be said that we have already all the best English literature. True, but what of foreign literatures? ~~No~~ He who talks only with his own countrymen is a provincial at best. No Man is entitled to pronounce [^] on the [^] absolute merit of an English author, who does not know what other nations can show, of the same sort. We are not authorized to declare Shakespeare or Milton foremost among men, till we have compared them with foreign and ancient poets. But, neither for our students, or our professors, are the means of doing so upon our shelves.

This library has never been systematically enlarged. Till of late, its growth has been accidental. It consists mainly of what has been given in the past, and of what could be lately bought at auction. Such fortuitous gathering, though valuable, could not make up an orderly and ~~sufficient~~ ^{connected} whole. It is time to buy in accordance with a plan. To a library so neglected in the past, it is necessary to devote a generous sum. The library of Cornell university has an annual revenue of fifty thousand dollars (\$50.000). That will make it the most attractive institution ~~in the~~ to many states, both for professors and students. Why should not the middle states have a lighthouse, too?

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton

Princeton, June 18th 1883.

[page 76 blank]

[page 77]

To the president
and trustees of the College of New Jersey

Gentlemen,

The number of volumes added to our library during the year now closing, is somewhat below fifteen hundred (1500-); less than in any year since 1874.

The number borrowed is eight thousand seven hundred eighty three, (8783), out of which the loan to college students, is seven thousand eighty two (7082). This is a less number than ever before, since the first two years of my administration, and less by four thousand than the loan of 1878. The number of undergraduate students was then [^] about the same as now. The daily average of books borrowed was then sixty two (62); it is now but forty three (43). Fifty students have not borrowed at all. I forbear to remark upon such facts, because I have sufficiently done so in former years.

I have the pleasure of announcing to you this the subject catalogue of our library, so long in progress, is now finished, and a bound copy in the hands of your committee on the library. The edition consists of one thousand copies (1000); of which two hundred fifty (250) will be in binding, ready for use, at the opening of next year. The stereotyped plates, and the remainder of the edition, will be sent here, to await your action respecting their safe keeping till needed.

Respectfully submitted.

Frederic Vinton.

June 16th 1884.

[page 78 blank]

[page 79]

To the president and
trustees of the College of New Jersey.

June 1885.

Gentlemen,

The entire acquisition of books by the college library since last commencement is almost exactly eight hundred volumes. Two hundred of these came from Mr. Pierson, and from other friends. For the remaining six hundred, two thousand dollars were paid; giving an average price of three dollars and a third. In 1879, the average price was two dollars and sixty cents, and in 1880, two dollars. This advance in price originates not so much in the state of the market, as in the quality of the books bought, and in the fact that we now send to Europe for books, instead of buying them ^{^ there} upon the spot. The purchases made for the professorships are now of so high a scientific character, that the books have but a narrow circulation, and bear a corresponding price. This, taken in connection with our limited revenue, makes it impossible to buy for the professors all they need, without borrowing from funds intended for the benefit of the students. The consequence is, that in late years few books have been bought, suited to their capacity, and they read less from year to year. The whole loan from the library this year was eight thousand eight-hundred and sixty volumes, the students having borrowed seven thousand two hundred forty eight (7248). The loan of 1878 was thirteen thousand (13000). In 1879, it was 12000. In 1881, '82 '83, about 10,000 each year. The decline during each of the last two years was about 2000 below this. Either the library does not attract our students, or something else does. But, the creation of a thirst for knowledge is ~~the~~ ^a great end of education; and how is this decline to be arrested? By suiting the library to the students, as well as to the professors.

With the issue of a printed catalogue, last year, it might have been thought that my work was done. I feel that to be the starting point of new labors. It is not only in treatises that knowledge is stored. The most pregnant thoughts of men are often found in the form of essays. Multitudes of thinkers have not patience to write a book. In the literary periodicals of our day, more and more, do men give expression to thoughts which other men eagerly read. In scientific periodicals, likewise, especially in the Transactions of great European academics, are communicated the discoveries made in every branch of inquiry. It is to these, more than to books, that alert and curious minds have recourse. Indices to collections of these are intensely coveted, and an index society has been formed abroad. It is to the honor of American librarians that a vast index to the English reviews and other serials of this century,

[page 80]

was offered to the world three years ago. Twenty years since, the cataloguing of the scientific serials of Europe, since 1800, was begun by the Royal society of London, and finished in eight volumes, quarto, full of priceless information. Unfortunately, however, it was arranged under the names of its authors, and not under the subject of each essay. This melancholy error leaves the world of inquirers as far as ever from the knowledge they seek. To remedy this evil, so far as this library is concerned, by making an index of scientific topics in all the transactions we possess, is the task I have set myself and my assistants, during the past year. It will take long to complete it; but the proposal has been hailed by our professors of science. If all other librarians would unite in it, the result of their cooperation would be the most useful book of the century.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton –

Princeton. June 15th 1885.

[page 81]

To the President and Trustees June 21, 1886.
of the College of New Jersey.

Gentlemen,

The thing of chief interest in the concerns of the library is, how much it is used. The present year ^{permits} ~~requires~~ no deviation from the statement I have often made, that this library is much less resorted to than at first. From 13000 in 1878, the yearly circulation has fallen to 8500. I can suggest no other cause for this decline, then the

increased interest in active sports. But, it is cause for congratulation that if our students read fewer books, the character of those they read is continually rising. I confess that my respect for the students increases, as I observe that the percentage of solid study and manly inquiring is so very high. I have made a close examination of a quarter of all the titles of books borrowed this year; and I find that of two thousand (2000) vols. so examined, five per cent were upon subjects of the severest study, that of mathematical and physical enquiry, and nearly ten per cent on the manly themes of political economy and political science. One hundred and fifteen volume, or six per cent, concerned the classical and modern languages. One hundred volumes, or five per cent, were devoted to mental and modern science. Nearly four hundred volumes, or twenty per cent, belonged to history, and the best literature, not including critical essays; while twenty per cent consisted of periodical reviews. If we find twenty five per cent of fiction, we must not forget that seventy five per cent, is the common proportion of reading, in other libraries; and that such exhaustive studies as I have named may fitly be followed by recreative reading. I do not think that better percentages then ours, could any where else be shown. Comparing this table with a similar one, appended to my report for 1878, I find much similarity with such improvement as may be traced to the influence of the scientific school.

The daily average of books borrowed in the fall and winter terms of this year, was 45 volumes. In 1884 it was 43, showing that the exclusion of students from the alcoves has had no ill effect on the amount of reading done. Of course it has much increased the labor of the assistants; but they have most zealously cooperated. In addition to 8.5000 volumes lent, they have presented for examination perhaps half as many more, and received them back again, when not found suitable. I am compelled to praise the patience and good humour, with which the students have submitted to this exclusion

[page 82 blank]

[page 83]

from a privilege so long enjoyed and so highly prized. And I bear my my [sic] willing testimony to their uniform good conduct, through all the years.

The number of volumes purchased this year is 950, and those presented 145, making the whole acquisition about 1100. We bind, each year, more than a hundred volumes of periodicals; so that our gain this year, is more than twelve hundred. The whole library now contains about sixty five thousand volumes.

It has been found by a careful examination of our shelves, that about a thousand volumes have disappeared, which were there when the shelf list was made in 1881, 82. That annual loss of two hundred volumes has ceased, in consequence of the protection afforded by the rail: but a special appropriation ought to be made, to replace what in that manner was lost.

Our subject catalogue has now been two years in the hands of the students. Meanwhile, two thousand volumes have been acquired; which, of course, are not represented in it. But, they are reported in a manuscript catalogue, made on the same principles; and, annual bulletins are printed, of titles ranged in the alphabetical order of authors' names.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederic Vinton.

Princeton, June 21, 1886.

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[page 85]

To the President and Trustees

June 20. 1887

of the College of New Jersey

Gentlemen;

The whole number of books acquired by this library during the academic year now closing is about 1500 (1494), of which two hundred and one (201) came by gift. One hundred fifty volumes of periodicals are annually bound and placed upon the shelves.

The whole loan from the library during the year is eight thousand two hundred volumes (81999). Three quarters of the whole loan, or six thousand one hundred thirty four (6134) were borrowed by college students of all ranks, four hundred thirty three in number (433). The whole number given in the catalogue being five hundred fifty nine (559), it follows that one hundred twenty six (126) borrowed no books from this library this year. Among the four hundred thirty three borrowers, two hundred six persons (206) took less than ten volumes in the whole year, or less than one each month. All the books borrowed by these two hundred six persons amounted to only nine hundred fifty three (953), which subtracted from six thousand one hundred thirty four, the whole college loan, leaves five thousand one hundred eighty one (5181) volumes, to be divided among the two hundred twenty seven (227) students who borrowed more than ten volumes each; giving the average of twenty two volumes borrowed by each in the whole year. This is less than two volumes in a month.

I have said that the whole loan for the year was 8.200.

[page 86 blank]

[page 87]

I mean that so many books were carried from the building, and kept two weeks or more. But, beside these, almost five thousand volumes (4825) were read here, or borrowed only for a night of use. These, added to those carried away, make more than thirteen thousand volumes, used during the academic year. It appears then, that the exclusion of students from the shelves, has not diminished the usefulness of the library. Meanwhile the absolute necessity of the protecting rail is manifest from the loss of books, of which the students would not know the value, and which some collector must have employed some one to steal.

In order to show of what kind is the reading represented by these figures, I have carefully examined two thousand receipts given by the students, being one quarter of the whole. And I now present, in tabular view, the percentages corresponding to the books, read in twelve departments of study or reading.

	Read in one quarter of a year.	
Biography.	176 volumes	9 per cent
Classical study.	95 "	4 "
Dramatic reading.	58 "	3 "
Fiction.	346 "	17 "
History.	228 "	11 "
Literary history.	45 "	2 "
Mathematical and physical science, etc.	95 "	5 "
Mental and moral science.	128 "	6 "
Natural science.	152 "	7 "
Periodicals and other essays.	338 "	17 "
Political science, political economy, etc.	224 "	11 "
Poetry and belles letters.	<u>162</u> "	8 "
	2047	

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton.

Per S[arah]. V[inton].

June 20, 1887.

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[page 89]

June 20th 1888.

To the President

and trustees of the College of New Jersey.

Gentlemen:

The sources from whence the annual increase of our library proceeds, are three, purchase of books, presentation by friends, and the binding of periodicals. From the first, we have derived during the year now closing, twelve hundred seventy three (1273) volumes. From the second, we have received ninety volumes (90). The third source of supply affords us this year 245, so that the total increase this year is about sixteen hundred volumes (1608).

The whole number of volumes in the library at this time is about 64,600. The loan during [^] this year now closing is something over ten thousand five hundred volumes taken from the library, and kept for one to four weeks at a time. Beside these, almost five thousand volumes [^] 4756 have been read in the library or borrowed for one night. Adding these to [^] the preceding we have 15,256 volumes; a greater number than were ever borrowed here in any one year. Of the ten thousand volumes borrowed for home use, almost three thousand were lent to the seminary students, college professors and other persons, leaving 7,696 borrowed by the college students for home use, making their whole use of the library 12,452 volumes.

The whole number of college students of every grade who used the library was 468. The catalogue represents the number of all students as 603, and it follows that 135 of these did not borrow at all. Of those who did resort here, 181 borrowed less than ten volumes each throughout the year, and their whole loan amounted to only 930. It follows that the remaining 333 students borrowed the remaining 9,600 volumes, giving an average of 29 to everyone. Seven students took more than 50 each.

I judge that these representations cannot fail to be gratifying to you.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton S.A.V.

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[page 91]

June 18, 1889.

To the president,
and the trustees of Princeton College:

Gentlemen;

An interesting question respecting any library is how much use is actually made of it? and a more vital one is, What is the character of the books read? Answers to these questions, as applied to our library I will briefly set before you.

The loan from the college library during the academic [^] year 1888-9, was 11,021* volumes borrowed for two weeks' use. The loan of reference books, periodicals, and the like, wanted by several students at once, and therefore loaned for one night only ⁺⁺ was 6,299*. The sum of these two loans was 16,739, ^[should read 17,320] a much larger number than was borrowed here in any preceding year. The corresponding numbers last year are, Loan for weeks, 10,500, for a night, 4,756, or 15,256 volumes in all. The gain in circulation in 1888-9 is therefore, 1,483. This statement seems to me encouraging. Subtracting from the whole number of volumes borrowed during the year 1951* volumes taken by members of the faculty, and by seminary students, the loan to college students becomes 8,545* volumes, for two weeks. The number of college students borrowing from this library, this year, being 506, the average loan to them, is sixteen, say two volumes a month. The number of college student borrowers last year was 418; gain this year, 88. But the aggregate of students of all ranks is 676; and it followed that 170 students made no

[page 91, annotations]

[left margin in Richardson's hand, red ink:] *The original draft from which this is copied had 10,496 which is also the sum of figures given below, and also the figure required by []. The figure was probably changed at the last moment with no time left for correction of the other figures. E.C.R. [note] 1890.

[head of page in Richardson's hand, red ink:] ++ cf Report for last year "read in the library or borrowed for one night" The same was the case for this year as the assts report and as must have been the case.

[head of page in Richardson's hand, red ink:] + Note that the figures here given include all books given out for reading room use whether taken from the building or not. After this year basis for comparison is changed into 1. Books regularly issued, as before; 2. one night books not including books for reading room use as alcoves are open to students and books used without record, while the hours of opening are also extended reducing the need of taking over night. E.C.R. [note] 1890.

[page 92]

use of the library. It seems to me that these are painful facts.

In order to show what sort of books are read by our students, I have carefully examined the receipts given by them for 1000 volumes, and sorted them out into classes, taken without selection, supposing the same proportion to hold in the mass uncounted. I find that the amount of fiction borrowed is one quarter of the whole, 2125. If now, as is probable, the same proportions obtained throughout the whole loan, then the amount of fiction read this year must be about 4200 volumes. The acquisition, this year, have been by purchase 1265 volumes; from gifts 255 volumes; from periodicals 200, total 1720. Such figures are nearly constant, for recent years, and they show a small increase, compared with what is reported from some other colleges. Several such enjoy a princely income, and yearly chronicle large gifts in books. During twenty years, our library has received only one such accession at the death of Dr. Musgrave. The entire possessions of the library are 68,000 volumes, exclusive of periodicals.

Respectfully submitted,
 Frederic Vinton
 [per] S[arah].A.V[inton].

[page 93 blank, mounted on are 2 leaves, stapled upper left, 1r]

June 17th 1889.

To the president

and trustees of the College of New Jersey;

Gentlemen:

An interesting question respecting any library is, how much use is actually made of it? and a more vital one is, What is the character of the books read? The answers to these questions, applied to our library, I will briefly set out before you.

The loan from the college library during the academic year 1888-9, was 11.021 volumes, borrowed for two weeks' use.

The loan of reference books, periodicals, and the like, wanted by several students at once, and therefore lent for one night only, [marginal note] This includes also all books used in Readg Room [remainder illegible; end marginal note] was

6.299

The sum of these two classes, was

16.739

A much larger number than were borrowed here, in any preceding year.

The corresponding numbers, last year were: ~~loan for weeks~~

Loan for weeks 10.500

	“ for a night	<u>4.756</u>	15.265	
The gain in circulation in 1888-9, is therefore			1.483	

This statement seems to me encouraging.

But, from these aggregates, in order to know what use college students have made of our library, must be subtracted the loan to the faculty, and to seminary students. These borrowed 1951 volumes; so that the loan to college students for two weeks, this reduction having been made, becomes 8545

The number of college students borrowing from the library, this year, being 506, [marginal note] a number which ought to be greatly enlarged [end marginal note] the average loan to them, is sixteen; say two volumes a month. The number of college student borrowers, last year, was 418; gain this year, 88. But, the aggregate of students of all ranks is 676; and it follows that one hundred seventy students (170) made no use of this library at all. It seems to me that these are painful facts.

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[page 93 blank, mounted on are 2 leaves, stapled upper left, 2r]

In order to show what sort of books are read by our students, I have carefully examined the receipts given by them, for one thousand (1000) volumes, and sorted them out into classes. [^] supposing the same proportion to hold in the mass uncounted. I find that the amount of fiction borrowed is one quarter of the whole [^] If now, as is probable, the same proportion obtained throughout the whole loan. Then the amount of fiction read this year (taken without selection) [—] ~~four thousand two hundred (4200)~~ [^] 2125 vols. Poetry & drama, and literary make fourteen per cent; Essays on [] topics make twenty per cent ^{3348 vols.}; history of all kinds makes seventeen percent ^{2790 vols.}; Philosophy five percent ^{837 vols.}; and the manly studies of political and social science, with political economy fifteen per cent. (2500 vols.)

The acquisitions this year, have been, by purchase 1265 volumes.

“	from gifts	255	“	
“	from periodicals	<u>200</u>	“	
Total		1720		

Such figures are nearly constant for recent years; and they show a small increase, compared with what is reported from some other colleges. ~~Many~~ ^{Several} such enjoy a princely income, and ^{yearly} chronicle large gifts in books. During twenty years, our library has received only one such accession, at the death of Dr. Musgrave. The entire possessions of the library are 68,000 volumes, without including pamphlets.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic Vinton.

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[page 94 blank]

[page 95 is blank, however mounted on are 4 leaves. Text is on leaves one to three, appearing only on the recto. It is the Librarian's report for June 1890, prepared by assistant Charlotte Martins after Vinton's death (on 1 January 1890) but before arrival of Vinton's successor, E. C. Richardson.]

[page 95 insert 1r]

[note in Richardson's hand] C [Martins] Rep Jun 1890

To the President

And Trustees of the College of N. Jersey

Gentlemen: –

The loan of books this year is larger than ever before. The number taken for two weeks, from Sept 1889, to June 5th 1890 is, 2,333. The number borrowed for consultation or for 1 night is 5,998 making total of 18,331.

The number borrowed by the faculty and others having the use of the library is 12,529, Seminary students 586, making ^(subtracting) 15,216 borrowed by college students for 1 night and more. The number of College students taking books was 627.

The largest number of books taken in one day was 175 (Sat. Ap. 26th) which is more than for any day since the Library was opened. The largest number taken in a week was 478.

[page 95 insert 2r.]

The average per week from Sept. to Dec. was 284; from Jan. to June 378.

The number borrowed borrowed last year for two weeks, was 11,021 making an increase, therefore this year of 1,312. The number of books purchased is 1,091, the number presented 172, Total 1,263, and the usual number of periodicals.

There has been received from fines Jan–June, 1890, \$111.37. Of this \$67.75 has been expended for books; and \$38.24 for the running expenses of the Library, such as postage, expressage etc.

In January the room known as the Alumni room was arranged as a study and reading room for the students, and has been largely used, showing the need there has always been for such a room.

Since April the library has been

[page 95 insert 3r.]

opened immediately after chapel, and students roaming in town have come in to study, thereby saving themselves the walk to there [sic] homes, in the little time allowed before recitations.

Since January, Students have been allowed to renew their books for two weeks, if not asked for by others, and Freshmen and Sophomores have been allowed three books instead of two.

At the request of the Dean, the shelves have all been gone over and when too full, as was very often the case, duplicates and very old books that ^{are} seldom or never borrowed, were placed in a corresponding position in the gallery.

Respectfully submitted,
[unsigned]

[page 95, insert 4r and 4 v blank]

[pages 96-141 blank]

[page 142 unpaginated and blank]

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