ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY.

MARCH 31, 1857.

NEW YORK:
JOHN F. TROW, PRINTER,
377 & 379 BROADWAY.
1857.
New York Society Library.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The By-Laws adopted by the Board of Trustees chosen at the Annual Meeting of the shareholders in April, 1855, provide that an "Annual Report of the affairs and condition of the Corporation shall be presented to the members at their annual meeting, together with the Report of the Auditing Committee."

In presenting this their second annual report, the Trustees feel that they have good cause to congratulate the members on the present flourishing condition of the Library.

The new building is now entirely completed and paid for, and in beauty of design and adaptation to the uses for which it was erected, is not surpassed by any similar edifice in the city. When the last report was made, there remained a balance to be provided for on the Building Fund of $8,722 24. It had been confidently expected that this indebtedness would be mostly extinguished by the bond and mortgage of the Messrs. Appleton on the building formerly occupied by the Library, amounting to $5,000, which amount had been withheld by agreement, until the question of arrears of taxes claimed by the city should be decided.

The Special Committee of the Trustees, consisting of Messrs. Chas. E. Strong, J. P. G. Foster, and Otis D. Swan, to which the matter had been referred, made every exertion to accomplish this end, and through their efforts a report favorable to
the Library was introduced into and passed the Board of Councilmen.

The report, however, met with unexpected opposition in the Board of Aldermen, and failed to pass that body. The principal objection urged was, that the Corporation had derived a revenue from the store and lecture room in its building, and that it was not in the strict sense of the term a Public Library; this too, notwithstanding the formal declaration made in the original charter, that it is a Public Library, which charter was afterwards expressly sanctioned by the Legislature of the State in 1789.

Although a large amount had been raised through the personal exertions of the Trustees by the sale of new rights, commutation of dues and otherwise, there seemed no alternative left but to encumber the property with a bond and mortgage.

The Trustees were very unwilling to do this while there remained a possibility of liquidating the debt by an appeal to the liberality of shareholders and the public. Other and similar institutions had in this way been recently and effectually relieved from embarrassment, and it was believed that the claims of the Library properly set forth would also receive favorable consideration.

Pending their deliberations on the subject, a communication was submitted by the Comptroller of the city, offering to compromise the claim on the following basis.

The Messrs. Appleton had been compelled to redeem two sales for taxes, as follows:

April 13, 1854, One for $783 53
June 10 " 716 60

Leaving unpaid of the arrears chargeable to the Library, the sum of $917 04

Which, with the interest accrued at the rates allowed by law, amounted to about $1,600.

The Comptroller offered to accept the original amount of $917 04 remaining due, without the interest, provided that the Library would abandon their efforts to procure a remission of the taxes.
The subject was duly considered by the Trustees, and the compromise accepted, inasmuch as, by the terms of Mr. Appleton's bond, he then had a right to pay the whole amount and charge it to the Library, and had given notice that he would do so. The Treasurer was authorized to execute the necessary papers, and at the next meeting of the Board had the satisfaction to announce that "THE CORPORATION DID NOT OWE A DOLLAR." By this arrangement the question of liability to future taxation is regarded as settled, the Library deriving no income in its new building from the sources complained of heretofore.

The amount realized from the bond and mortgage of the Messrs. Appleton, was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 1854</td>
<td>Amount paid to redeem sale</td>
<td>$783 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10, 1854</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>716 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30, 1856</td>
<td>Residue of taxes</td>
<td>947 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal expenses</td>
<td>50 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balance due and paid to the Library</td>
<td>$2,532 78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gratifying however as this result may be, the Trustees indulge the hope that the friends of the Library will not consider it cause for any relaxation in their efforts to place it upon the most stable foundation. It has but just been relieved from the incubus of a heavy debt which made its best friends despise, and is now for the first time in many years able to sustain itself, and in a condition to enter upon a course of generous rivalry with its (so far as public favor is concerned) more fortunate neighbors. Its dark era is passed, and we trust a bright future is before it. But there still remains very much to be done. The salaries and other expenses, which are regulated with a view to the most rigid economy, absorb most of the income, and the surplus does not admit of that liberality in the purchase of books which the high character and position of the Library demand. All has been done that its limited resources permitted, and it completes another year in its existence richer in its matériel, and we trust more useful in dispensing its benefits to the public.
During the year the Library has received many valuable donations.

The British Government has presented it, through the Hon. George M. Dallas, our minister at the Court of St. James, with a superb copy of "The Architectural Antiquities of the Collegiate Chapel of St. Stephens, Westminster."

From Miss F. D. Harrison, we have received a very liberal donation of 77 volumes, principally in French and Spanish literature.

Mrs. W. H. Bradford has presented a valuable collection of costumes, consisting of 330 plates finely engraved and colored.

To the State, Treasury, and Navy Departments at Washington, the Smithsonian Institution, the Regents of the University, several public institutions, and some thirty individual friends of the Library, we have also been much indebted for donations more or less valuable.

Suitable acknowledgments have been made for these gifts, which it is hoped may prove the stimulus to many similar benefactions on the part of other friends of the Library, who have the taste and ability to promote its usefulness and add to our intellectual stores.

Donations constituted its first wealth, and some of them now form a most attractive portion of its collections. Its first and principal donors have long since passed away, but the good seed thus planted has not failed to yield an abundant harvest.

In general libraries, nothing is too insignificant to be received. It has been well said "that the most insignificant tract, the most trifling essay, a sermon, a newspaper, or a song, may afford an illustration of manners or opinions elucidatory of the past, and throw a faithful though feeble light on the pathway of the future historian."

Will not some of its friends follow these good examples, and make us donations in works of art and illustrated volumes? In European libraries such works have been found to be of great service in advancing the taste for art, not only among the higher classes, but among the artisans themselves, and the same good result would without doubt be attained here. It
has been given in evidence that the causes of excellence and superiority in French designs, were attributable to the works on art in the libraries of Lyons, and their accessibility to the operatives. We have abundant room, and if such works and objects of art were but left on deposit, an advantage would even then accrue, which the Library could never secure from its own resources. The testimony of the librarian goes to show that the few works of this nature we now possess are very frequently inquired for and consulted, not only by members, but by strangers from various parts of the country. The Mercantile Library Association is giving much attention to this Department, and their collection, the munificent gift of its friends, already amounts to several thousand dollars in value.

In its whole history of one hundred and fifty years, our library has received but one legacy—a noble-minded lady bequeathed it the munificent sum of $5,000, and has forever connected the name of "Demit" most honorably with this and other objects of her benevolence. Shall her good example not be emulated by others?

A new feature in the establishment—THE LADIES' READING ROOM—has been found to add much to its attractiveness. The attendance has been constantly increasing, and it has answered the best expectations of the Trustees in awakening a lively interest on the part of those whose aid is ever essential, and whose "Woman's Rights" in this sphere of her duty, they would acknowledge to the fullest extent. It has supplied a desideratum, in opening an agreeable literary resort for such as have the taste and leisure to use its privileges, and when better known and appreciated, must necessarily exert a good influence in creating a taste for reading, and offering a profitable occupation for time not otherwise employed. Every advantage that the Library can offer is promptly and politely given by the librarian and his assistants, and the further development of the plan must depend on those who frequent and use the room.

Since the last report was made, the Trustees and the institution have sustained a severe loss in the death of one of their number—Mr. Robert Kelly. The Library
had no warmer or more efficient friend, and had his valuable life been spared, would have derived great benefit from his highly cultivated taste and great experience. Unassuming in his deportment, and unostentations of his literary attainments, he could only be properly appreciated by such as were brought into intimate association with him, and our own is but one of the many public institutions of the city, literary, educational and benevolent, which received his devoted attention, and have just cause to deplore his loss.

During the winter a series of lectures was delivered by the librarian in the hall of the Library, free to the shareholders and their friends, and was honored with the attendance of an intelligent and appreciating audience.

The system of lecturing has long been a leading feature in the Mercantile Library Association, and while exerting a beneficial moral influence on its members, has also been of great advantage as a profitable source of income to the institution. They have been enabled to remunerate their lecturers with such liberality as to secure talent of the highest order, and thus attract the attention of the public and enlist its sympathies in their Association. It is a question for consideration how far this system might be adopted by us. Supposing it to be equally successful, it would at least be the means of providing a fund for the purchase of books, and so otherwise increase the resources of the Library as to leave room for more liberality in remunerating the services of its employees.

A change has been made in the hours heretofore customary for closing the Library. It was formerly opened at 8 A. M., and closed at sunset. It is now open from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M., from May 1st to November 1st, and from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M., from November 1st to May 1st. This change was deemed necessary for the accommodation of many of the shareholders, and experience has shown its usefulness and wisdom. It has been the means of largely increasing the circulation of the Library, besides affording additional facilities for reference and study.

The Reading-Room has been kept open as usual, and the attendance has been constantly improving. The following
additions have been made to this department during the year:

Bankers' Magazine. N. Y. Democrat.
Horticulturist. Porter's Spirit of the Times.
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine. La Presse.

A complete list of papers, periodicals, &c., now taken, is appended to this report, and it is believed that it will be found to be more comprehensive than that of most similar institutions in the country; offering to the scholar, the merchant, or the man of leisure, abundant and agreeable occupation for the idle hour.

The Treasurer's report and the report of the Committee appointed to audit the same, will be found annexed. The arduous duties of this Officer have been performed with an ability and fidelity worthy of all praise and eminently entitle him to the thanks of the Trustees and shareholders.

The amount received from all sources, to the close of the fiscal year, including the balance on hand at the date of last report, is $31,563.19

Disbursements for the same period, including payments on the building contracts, 31,423.20

Leaving a Balance of cash in bank, $139.90

There has been Expended for the purchase of Books, 1,234.57
" " Newspapers and Magazines, 673.14
" " Binding, Printing, &c., 1,066.89
" " Salaries, 2,357.99

The following items will show the sources of a large portion of the heavy receipts of the year:

Annual dues, 4,324.00
Received for Commutation of Dues, 4,975.00
" New Rights, 2,825.00
" Temporary Subscriptions, 332.50
Donations, 65.75

In connection with this Report, the Trustees desire again to
call attention to the subject of Arrears of Dues. There is now due and unpaid the sum of $2,398 00.

This delinquency of payment has been a source of serious embarrassment to the Treasurer, and has very much impeded the operations of the Library Committee. The amount, though trifling to each individual debtor, makes in the aggregate a sum of vital importance to the interests of the library. It is on the surplus arising from this source that the additions to the library must mainly depend, and its attractiveness be consequently increased. Yet this must be but indifferently done, if the means are withheld or only given long after they become due. The Library Committee are prevented by the By-Laws from incurring a debt, and must restrict their purchases to “the actual balance of cash in the hands of the Treasurer over and above the sum required to meet the other current expenses.” They have in consequence frequently lost opportunities of making highly advantageous additions to the library, and the same thing must occur again and again if the evil be continued. The Trustees feel very unwilling to enforce the penalties provided for the emergency, and trust that this allusion may have the desired effect of inducing an immediate payment by those who still remain indebted, and who, it is hoped, will properly appreciate the necessity of remedying an evil so injurious to the well-being of the library.

The General Condition of the Library may be stated in few words.

The Circulation, as compared with the two previous years, shows a very gratifying increase of over 9,000, being for the three years as follows:

March 31, 1854 to '55, it was . . . . . . 6,328 volumes.
"  " 1855 to '56 " . . . . . . 6,544 "
"  " 1856 to '57 " . . . . . . 15,780 "

The Entire Number of Volumes is about . . . . . . 36,000
There have been added during the year by donation
from various sources, . . . . . . 170 volumes.
During the same period by purchase . . . . . . 710 "
The character of the books purchased is fully up to the standard of former years, embracing all the popular works of merit of the day. More than ordinary attention has been given to the purchase of works in foreign languages, and an additional inducement for becoming shareholders has thus been offered to the cultivated of both our native and foreign population, of which they have largely availed themselves.

Our collection in French literature is now the most extensive in the city, and amounts to over 5,000 volumes, and we have also a very respectable number in German, Italian, and Spanish literature.

We have Room on our shelves for more than 100,000 volumes.

The Present Value of the property, so far as value can be put on property, some of which if destroyed could not be replaced for money, is $140,000.

The Number of New Shares sold during the year is 93.
Temporary Subscribers during the same period, 48.

The Total Number of Shareholders is 1,255; of this number, however, 278 hold shares on which the dues are commuted. This leaves the number of shares liable to pay dues only 977, and these dues constitute the only income save what is received from the sale of new shares and temporary subscriptions.

It will thus be seen that, while the Institution is able to support itself, comparatively but a small surplus remains for the purchase of books. The Trustees would therefore again urge upon the shareholders and friends of the library, the necessity of making renewed exertions to place it in that front rank among similar institutions which its age and character demand. It was the pioneer of all others in the city or state, and has few, if any, in the country surpassing it in antiquity. It has done good service in the past, and well deserves the fostering care of all who feel an interest in the literary character of our city. Let it not be said, while similar institutions are receiving princely endowments, and, in the time of need, a liberal response to their appeals for aid, that this, the most venerable of them all, languishes for the want of a pro-
per interest in its welfare on the part of those whose pride and pleasure it should be to sustain it.

The Public Library is to a certain extent a part of the grand university scheme; the completion of our system of public education. The student when he leaves the academy or college has but crossed the threshold of knowledge. The library now becomes his quiet lecture-room, and self-instruction from its resources must supply the place of the teacher. Hence these resources should be made as comprehensive as possible, and able to meet every requisition of the searcher after knowledge.

In this connection it has been suggested by the able Librarian of the Mercantile Library Association, who has recently had an opportunity of making extensive examinations of the libraries of Europe, and of observing the workings of the systems on which they are conducted, that some plan might be devised whereby an union of interests might be effected in the libraries of the city. No one library, at present, has the means of making its collections perfect in all departments. He proposes, therefore, that each Library should have a speciality in some one department, making such department as perfect as possible; whatever, therefore, the student should fail to find in one, he could procure in the other. By this means a more complete field for the labors of the scholar might be secured than the resources of any one Library could ever hope to offer, and the value and usefulness of all be immeasurably increased. It would also, perhaps, tend to diminish the necessity of providing duplicates, which to a circulating library is always a source of great expense and loss. Some idea of the magnitude of this evil may be derived from the fact that the number of duplicates in the British Museum amounts to over 52,000 volumes, and in our own comparatively very small collection, is more than enough to fill an entire alcove. The suggestion seems worthy of serious consideration.

Public Libraries exert a more important and pervading influence upon the literature of a country than is generally supposed. Even the literature of England has been much indebted to the libraries of the Continent. Roscoe, like Gibbon, was "obliged to collect his own instruments of literary labor,"
while Graham, the historian of North America, removed to Gottingen to avail himself of its "well-stored and freely accessible public library."

How much more sensibly must the evil be felt in our own country. Our historians and scholars have all been compelled to avail themselves of the resources of the European libraries, or in like manner collect their own tools for literary labor. To such a degree has this been necessary, that the libraries of many of them are little better than a collection on one subject or science.

A report was made some years since to the British Parliament by a committee "appointed on the best means of extending the establishment of libraries freely open to the public, especially in large towns," which shewed some singular results regarding the number of books accessible to the public as compared with the population of the several States of Europe. The most favored were found to be the smaller German States, Denmark, Switzerland, and Prussia. The relative number of books publicly accessible was found to be in the German States 450 to every one hundred inhabitants, in Denmark, 412, in Switzerland 350, and in Prussia 200, while in Holland and the British Isles, the lowest in the estimate, it was but 63 to 53.

The very interesting examinations of our private libraries which have been recently made by Dr. Wynne and others, show a result gratifying as regards our own country, but more particularly so to us, as elevating to a higher rank the literary character of our city. We have been accused of being a people entirely given up to the pursuit of wealth. Our System of Public Education, with its noble Free Academy, is a sufficient refutation of the charge; let our libraries also now add their testimony. The total number of volumes in the public libraries is about 348,000, and in our private libraries, so far as known, 270,000, making a total of 618,000 volumes. This would give a ratio of one book to every two persons, publicly accessible, and taking public and private libraries together, of one book to every inhabitant.

While this places us on a very favorable footing as com-
pared with some of the countries of Europe, it leaves us very far behind the most favored, much more so, in fact, than is consistent with our boasted intelligence.

This examination has also shown the very gratifying fact, that while our Public Libraries are comparatively very insignificant as contrasted with the immense libraries of Europe, many of our Private Libraries, both in extent and value, will bear most favorable comparison with any to be found in the possession of the most learned and wealthy of other countries; some of them, too, the property of merchants and persons who make no pretensions whatever to literary distinction.

It was said by one of the warmest friends of our library, that it was once the Literary Heart of the city. There is no just reason why it should not, to a great extent, be so now. The sphere of the Society Library is capable of indefinite expansion; but like the other libraries of the city, it has also its distinctive character.

The Mercantile Library Association, as its name imports, was founded mostly for the use and improvement of such as are connected with commercial life. It is a noble institution and in its peculiar sphere without a parallel. It is managed with great ability, and is an engine of incalculable good to the classes for whom it was more immediately designed.

The Astor Library is a magnificent monument of the liberality of an individual, rich in its collection, and munificently endowed; but it is more especially a library of reference, chiefly useful to the scholar and the man of science.

The Historical Society Library looks more immediately to the labors of the antiquarian and historian, and has a noble mission to accomplish. It has enlisted in its management an energetic and very able Board of Trustees, has long enjoyed the favor of the public, and has very recently, in answer to its appeal, like the Mercantile Library Association, received most substantial aid.

Ours is emphatically the Family Library, sending its treasures to the fireside and the closet. This is more particularly
its sphere; here its genial influence is most exerted. It is truly a literary heart, and its pulsations should be felt in every part of the public body. Let this be the case; let its circulation be healthful and active, and it too will fulfill its mission in sending light and knowledge into every quarter of our widely extended city.

Upon its friends depends the issue, and to them we appeal to aid us in the good work.

By order of the Trustees,

CHAS. R. SWORDS,

Chairman.

WM. J. HOPPIN,

Secretary.

March 31, 1857.
TO THE TRUSTEES

OF

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY.

The Committee appointed under the fifth section of title 1st, chapter first of the By-Laws, "to audit the accounts of the Corporation, to make an inventory of all its real and personal estate, except the books, and to prepare a general statement of its accounts, funds, and affairs."

RESPECTFULLY REPORT:

That they have examined the Treasurer's accounts of cash received and paid during the year ending March 31st, 1857, and find the same to be entirely correct; that proper vouchers have been produced for all disbursements, and satisfactory evidence of the amounts received; and that on that day there remained a balance of one hundred and thirty-nine dollars and ninety cents in the American Exchange Bank, to the credit of this Corporation.

From the Treasurer's accounts they derive the following statement of the receipts and payments during the fiscal year; which is herewith presented as the Annual Report of the Treasurer for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1857:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To paid new books</td>
<td>$1,234.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>newspapers</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magazines and periodicals</td>
<td>273.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>printing</td>
<td>99.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>stationery</td>
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<tr>
<td>binding</td>
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<tr>
<td>covering books</td>
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<tr>
<td>postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>advertising</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>stage fare</td>
<td>26.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freight</td>
<td>14.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,066.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croton water tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>gas</td>
<td>463.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>fuel</td>
<td>733.25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,290.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>rent to American Bible Society</td>
<td>605.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insurance on building</td>
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<tr>
<td>do. on books and furniture</td>
<td>148.85</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>579.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>salaries, librarian</td>
<td>1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. Mr. Butler, (Assistant,)</td>
<td>485.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. Quin, (Janitor,)</td>
<td>412.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. Cowperthwaite, (boy,)</td>
<td>144.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. Roe, (Janitor's Assistant,)</td>
<td>74.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. Labberton</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. Delamater, (boy,)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,357.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extra labor</td>
<td>240.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expenses of moving</td>
<td>301.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>541.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commission on collecting dues</td>
<td>278.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. on rights</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>353.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furniture</td>
<td>1,121.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>repairs</td>
<td>87.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new building, carpenter</td>
<td>8,443.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. mason</td>
<td>8,701.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>do. plumbing</td>
<td>680.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. gas fitting and fixtures</td>
<td>1,072.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. architect and surveyor</td>
<td>760.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. furnaces and grates</td>
<td>1,038.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. marble work and tiling</td>
<td>667.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21,363.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sundries</td>
<td>148.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857, M'ch 31, Balance in the American Exchange Bank</td>
<td>139.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$31,563.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TREASURER'S REPORT.

_in account with Chas. E. Strong, Treasurer._

1856.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. By balance on hand in bank</td>
<td>$4,952 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Received for annual dues</td>
<td>4,324 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. &quot;   &quot; commutation of dues on 72 shares</td>
<td>4,975 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. &quot;   &quot; new rights 93 new members</td>
<td>2,325 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. &quot;   &quot; temporary subscriptions</td>
<td>332 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. &quot;   &quot; donations</td>
<td>65 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. &quot;   &quot; hire of books</td>
<td>10 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. &quot;   &quot; new certificates</td>
<td>5 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. &quot;   &quot; fines</td>
<td>5 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. &quot;   &quot; books lost and damaged</td>
<td>2 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. &quot;   &quot; catalogues sold</td>
<td>25 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. &quot;   &quot; transfer fees</td>
<td>18 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. &quot;   &quot; consultation fees</td>
<td>4 25 70 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. &quot;   &quot; insurance premiums returned</td>
<td>3 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. &quot;   &quot; gas fixtures sold</td>
<td>25 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. &quot;   &quot; special deposit U. S. Trust Co.</td>
<td>11,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. &quot;   &quot; investments paid off</td>
<td>2,532 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. &quot;   &quot; interest on investments</td>
<td>556 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $31,563 19

1857.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. By balance in bank</td>
<td>$139 90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_E & O.E._

March 31st, 1857.

_CHAS. E. STRONG, Treasurer._
The Treasurer exhibited to the Committee the following securities and vouchers, which, together with the furniture, &c., form the complete inventory required by the By-Laws above referred to:

1.—Deed from A. E. Schermerhorn for land in University Place, on which the new building now stands, cost, $18,650.
2.—Building thereon, cost up to the present time, 51,848 83.
3. —Cash in Bank, 139 90.
4. —To which must be added the Furniture, &c., now the property of the Society, and valued at 2,500.

Total inventory of the property, (books excepted) $73,138 73.

Also, eight policies of insurance on the library building, viz.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief Fire</td>
<td></td>
<td>15th June, 1857</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic</td>
<td></td>
<td>12th Oct., 1857</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knickerbocker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firemen's</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total $40,000.

Also, four policies of insurance on the books, viz.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republic Fire</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st June, 1857</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total $20,000.

From the foregoing account of the Treasurer, it appears that the income from usual sources was, $4,727 46.

Salaries paid during the year, 2,357 99.
Insurance, 579 40.
Gas, Croton and Fuel, 1,290 01.

Leaving for books, magazines and incidentals, $500 06.
Total current and usual expenses, 6,481 36.
Deficiency of income to meet expenses, 1,753 90.

Under the circumstances, the Committee call the attention of the Trustees to the propriety of reducing the expenses, and reserving a larger portion of their receipts for the increase of the Library. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Robert Lenox Kennedy,
J. P. Giraud Foster,
William Adams.

New York, 8th April, 1857.
LIST OF
PAPERS, PERIODICALS, ETC.,
TAKEN BY
THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY,
March 31, 1837.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PERIODICALS.

American and Magazine of Natural History,
Annales de Chimie,
Annuaire des Deux Mondes,
Art Journal,
Banker's Magazine,
Barnard's Journal of Education,
Bentley's Miscellany,
Bibliothèque Sacra,
Blackwood's Magazine,
British Quarterly Review,
Brownson's Review,
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal,
Christian Examiner,
Christian Observer,
Christian Remembrancer,
Church Review,
Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal,
Colburn's New Monthly Magazine,
Colburn's United Service Journal,
Comptes Rendus,
Curtis' Botanical Magazine,
De Bow's Review,
Dublin Review,
Dublin University Magazine,
Eclectic Review,
Edinburgh Quarterly Journal of Agriculture,
Edinburgh Review,
Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal,
Fraser's Magazine,
Graham's Magazine,
Gentleman's Magazine,
Harper's New Monthly Magazine,
Horticulturist,
Hunt's Merchants' Magazine,
Journal of the Franklin Institute,
Journal of Sacred Literature,
Knickerbocker,
L'Investigateur,
London Journal of Arts,
London Lancet,
Mechanic's Magazine,
Medico-Chirurgical Journal,
Methodist Quarterly Review,
New England Historical and Genealogical Register,
North American Review,
North British Review,
New York Quarterly,
Notes and Queries,
Philosophical Magazine,
Polytechnisches Journal,
Putnam's Monthly Magazine,
Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science,
Quarterly Review,
Repertory of Patent Inventions,
Revue des Deux Mondes,
Silliman's Amer. Journal of Science,
Southern Literary Messenger,
Southern Quarterly Review,
Sporting Magazine,
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine,
United States Democratic Review,
Westminster Review.
AMERICAN AND FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.

Albany Atlas and Argus,
Albany Evening Journal,
Albion,
Allgemeine Zeitung,
American Agriculturist,
American Publishers' Circular,
Anglo Saxon,
Athenaeum,
Bell's Life in London,
Boston Daily Advertiser,
Builder,
Charleston Courier,
Christian Enquirer,
Christian Spiritualist,
Churchman,
Cincinnati Daily Gazette,
Commercial Advertiser, 3 copies,
Congressional Globe,
Courier Enquirer, 2 copies,
Courier des Etats Unis,
Crayon,
Daily News (New York),
Daily Union (Washington),
Day Book,
Democrat (N. Y.),
Economist,
Episcopal Recorder,
Evangelist,
Examiner,
Express (Morning), 2 copies,
Fliedge Bätter,
Freeman's Journal, N. Y.,
Galignani's Messenger,
Harper's Weekly,
Herald (New York Daily), 3 copies,
Herald (New York Weekly),

Home Journal,
Illustrated London News,
Illustrierte Zeitung,
Independence Belge,
Independent,
Irish News,
Journal of Commerce, 2 copies,
Kladderadatsch,
Leslie's Illustrated Paper,
L'Illustration,
Literary Gazette,
Mirror (The Evening), N. Y.,
Musical World (N. Y.),
National Intelligencer,
National Police Gazette,
New Orleans Picayune,
North American and U. S. Gazette,
Observer (N. Y.),
Porter's Spirit of the Times,
Post (The Evening), 3 copies,
Presbyterian,
Presse (La),
Protestant Churchman,
Punch,
Railroad Journal,
Scientific American,
Spectator,
Spirit of the Times,
Spiritual Telegraph,
Sun, (N. Y.),
Times (London),
Times (N. Y. Daily), 2 copies,
Tribune (N. Y. Daily), 2 copies,
Verdad (N. Y.),
Weekly Chronicle,
Yankee Notions.