

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,
EXHIBITING
THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY
DURING THE
CALENDAR YEAR 1884.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1885.

Number of articles entered in 1884.

Books	9,555
Periodicals	5,570
Dramatic compositions	587
Musical compositions	6,241
Photographs	836
Engravings and chromos	1,868
Maps and charts	1,622
Prints	42
Designs and drawings	436
Paintings	136
Total	26,893

The following statement exhibits the number of each class of publications deposited in the Library, and the additions thus made to the collection by the copyright law:

Number of copyright publications received in 1884.

Books	15,145
Periodicals	12,118
Dramatic compositions	196
Musical compositions	11,247
Photographs	1,509
Engravings and chromos	2,726
Maps and charts	2,452
Prints	85
Designs and drawings	129
Paintings	3
Total	45,610

As the law requires the deposit of two copies of each publication to be deposited in order to perfect the copyright, the net addition to the collections during the year embraced 22,805 separate articles, of which 7,573 were books and 6,059 were periodicals. The aggregate increase in the receipts of copyright publications in 1884 over those of 1883 was 2,172.

The various funds appropriated for the Library exhibit unexpended balances as follows on the 1st of January, 1885:

Fund for increase of the Library	\$10,205 50
Fund for works of art	8,470 72
Fund for contingent expenses of Library	1,348 16
Fund for additional accommodations	2 90
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in America	3,160 64

Since the beginning of the year several important accessions of miscellaneous books and pamphlets have been received from the Department of State, including many duplicates from the library of that Department, as well as volumes not needed for the uses of that collection, but which help to fill gaps in the Library of far wider range at the Capitol. The continuations of newspaper serials deposited in the Library

of Congress by the Department of State have also been received, bound, and made available for immediate reference. The growing importance of periodical literature, both American and foreign, and the great and increasing demands upon public libraries for the freshest material for use and reference, render these acquisitions of special value. The same is to be said of the very considerable body of periodicals and serial reports, commercial, industrial, and financial, which have been deposited in this Library during the past year (as well as in previous years) by the Bureau of Statistics, which has inadequate room for rapidly-growing files of periodicals. These accessions, likely to be widely extended hereafter from various Departments and Bureaus of the Government which have room only for a carefully-selected working library of reference, while they are temporarily accommodated with storage in the rooms recently provided beneath the Library, add increased force to the urgent demand for a new building.

THE TONER COLLECTION.

The valuable collection of books, periodicals, and pamphlets presented to the Government in 1882 by Joseph M. Toner, M. D., has been further increased during the year just closed by the addition of 416 volumes of books, besides 2,284 pamphlets, purchased and presented by the original donor of the library; which, added to the original gift and annual additions, makes a total of books and pamphlets in this collection of 28,116 volumes of books, besides about 18,000 pamphlets. This collection, thus fostered and cared for, needs wider and more accessible space for its arrangement and preservation, and its acceptance by Congress, executed as it was in view of what was deemed the immediate prospect of the erection of a new and commodious National Library building, adds another to the many cogent arguments for the consummation of that object.

THE LIBRARY BUILDING QUESTION.

At the last session of Congress a bill was passed by the Senate, with practical unanimity, providing for the erection of an ample fire-proof building for the accommodation of the Congressional Library, on grounds immediately east of the Capitol, and separated therefrom by the eastern park and by the line of First street. This bill, unfortunately for the interests of the Library and the protection of the Government property, has not yet reached a consideration in the House of Representatives. It is quite unnecessary for the undersigned to add here any further statements to the suggestions urged in many former reports as to the pressing necessity for a permanent and adequate provision for the Library of the nation. There is no public want which has been more universally recognized, nor is there any object of expenditure which could be more unanswerably defended upon grounds

of public expediency, or which would receive a more hearty and general sanction at the hands of the people. It is earnestly hoped that the present Congress will give effect to the general desire by providing for this great collection the accommodation so indispensable and so long delayed.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

HON. JOHN SHEERMAN,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.