

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE CALENDAR YEAR 1883.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1884.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
 Washington, January 30, 1884.

The Librarian has the honor to submit the following annual report of the condition and progress of the Library, and the business of the copyright department, for the calendar year closing December 31, 1883.

The annual enumeration of the Library, completed a few days since, exhibits an aggregate of 513,441 volumes, besides about 170,000 pamphlets. One year ago, the whole Library numbered 480,076 volumes, and 160,000 pamphlets; thus showing an increase during the calendar year 1883, of 33,365 volumes, derived from the following sources:

	Volumes.
From purchase	8,321
From copyright deposits	14,584
From deposit by the Smithsonian Institution	2,165
From exchanges	840
From donations	6,985
From increase of the Toner collection (presented)	470
	33,365

The enumeration shows that the law department of the Library embraces 60,719 volumes, included in the above aggregate, being an increase of 3,486 volumes in the Law Library.

The business of the copyright office again exhibits a considerable increase. The whole number of entries in the office of the Librarian in 1883 was 25,274, as against 22,918 entries in 1882; or an increase of 2,356 entries, while the fees received for copyright aggregate \$20,899, being an increase of \$2,345 over those of the preceding year.

The following statement exhibits by classes, the number of publications entered for copyright in 1883:

NUMBER OF ARTICLES ENTERED IN 1883.	
Books.....	8,622
Periodicals.....	5,489
Dramatic compositions.....	498
Musical compositions.....	6,280
Photographs.....	786
Engravings and chromos.....	1,790
Maps and charts.....	971
Prints.....	132
Designs and drawings.....	409
Paintings.....	97
Total	25,274

The following table exhibits the number of each class of publications deposited in the Library, and the aggregate accessions to the collection through the operation of the copyright law.

NUMBER OF COPYRIGHT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED IN 1883.	
Books.....	14,584
Periodicals.....	11,452
Dramatic compositions.....	229
Musical compositions.....	11,101
Photographs.....	1,497
Engravings and chromos.....	2,781
Maps and charts.....	1,460
Prints.....	106
Designs and drawings.....	228
Total	43,438

Two copies of each publication protected by copyright being required to be deposited, the net addition to the copyright publications during the year embraced 21,719 separate articles, of which 7,292 were books, and 5,726 were periodicals. This statement shows an aggregate increase in the receipts of publications coming in under the copyright law in 1883, of 4,458 articles, over those received in 1882.

The various funds of the Library of Congress exhibit the following unexpended balances on the 1st of January, 1884.

Fund for increase of the Library.....	\$5,041 47
Fund for works of art.....	8,693 22
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	1,322 36
Fund for additional accommodations.....	1,510 72
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in the northwest and on the Mississippi.....	3,160 04

Since my last annual report, the Library has received several large and important accessions from the Department of State and from the War Department, through the necessity of vacating rooms which had

been occupied by books and newspapers, for the accommodation of an enlarged force of pension clerks. There were thus added to the Library over 3,000 volumes of bound newspapers, and nearly 3,000 volumes of Government documents. Many of the latter series will aid in completing the two sets of documents, which, under the provisions of the act of 1859 for the safe-keeping of public documents, are to be deposited in the Library of Congress, "and not to be taken therefrom." The files of newspapers, all of which are bound, include a great variety of American and foreign journals, running through the greater part of the present century, and are of great historical, commercial, and political value. This acquisition, without any expense whatever to the Library funds, adds another to the many cogent reasons presented in the rapid growth of the collection, for such enlargement of its accommodations as will render all its stores at once available to Congress, to the general public, and to those Departments of the Government which are ready to relinquish to it such portions of their accumulations of books and periodicals as are not required for current wants.

THE TONER COLLECTION.

During the year, the Librarian has completed the arrangement of the books constituting the Toner collection, presented to the Government by Joseph M. Toner, M. D., and accepted by act of May 19, 1882. The books have all been stamped and labeled, and the catalogue work is in progress. There have been added to this collection during the year 1883, by the donor, four hundred and seventy volumes of books and 3,755 pamphlets. To render its stores of books, manuscripts, and periodicals increasingly useful, better and more spacious quarters than its present location in a dark crypt of the Capitol are greatly needed. Among the accessions of the year may be named an extensive collection of authentic portraits of American physicians and surgeons, including many of early date, which have been fully indexed for ready reference. The frequent calls upon the Toner collection for information upon points of biography and history, as well as medical science, evince the utility of this addition to the stores of the Library of the Government.

The Librarian has again imposed upon him the unhappy duty of reminding Congress, through this joint committee, what the necessities for greatly enlarged library accommodation have become more pressing than ever, and still remain unprovided for. While a gratifying progress in the growth of this great collection in all its departments is recorded, no progress whatever has been made toward the relief of its overcrowded rooms and piled-up floors. The bill matured in the last Congress for the construction of a fire-proof library building failed to pass, under the rules of the House, though supported by nearly two-thirds of that body. Meanwhile, a small additional space has been secured in the crypt under the rotunda, and the architect of the Capitol has had shelved and prepared for use two remote annexes to the Li-

brary, which, though dark and inconvenient, afford actual storage for the great body of bound newspapers, and for the thousands of maps and charts, in which the Library of the Government is the richest in the country. But this added space is already more than full, although without it, it would have been impossible to receive and accommodate the valuable files of periodicals and documents before referred to as transferred from the State Department and the War Department to the Capitol.

The undersigned will not here repeat the urgent considerations for making early and effective provision for the overflowing Library of Congress, which have formed the burden of his annual reports during each of the last ten years. Suffice it to say that this emergency is growing daily greater, and more difficult to deal with; that the impossibility of properly arranging the constant additions of books leads to great loss of time in the service of them to members of Congress and the public; that the Library, now numbering more than half a million volumes, is provided with shelf room for less than 300,000 in all; that the multitudes of books heaped upon the floors are suffering daily injury; that no relief by colonizing or storing large portions of the collection can be attempted without separating publications which belong together; that the copyright deposits, like the models at the Patent Office, are a trust under the law, which the Government is bound to have always open to the examination of authors and publishers; and that a just regard for the credit of the country, for the current necessities and information of Congress, for public economy, and for the protection of Government property, demands prompt and decisive action on the part of Congress to provide the most ample, safe, and permanent accommodations for the accumulated stores of the nation's literature and art.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.