

Annual Report

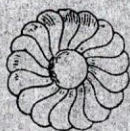
of the Town Officers

— OF THE TOWN OF —

Berlin, Mass.

• For the Year Ending March 1,

— 1894. —



Report of Trustees of the Free Public Library.

"Knowledge is power," and a free public library is a storage-battery of this power, from which, whosoever will, may draw for his own benefit.

It is true that at first sight the chief use made of a public library appears to be merely the entertainment of an idle hour with light and pleasing fiction, rather than an earnest seeking after knowledge and self-improvement. Better that it be so, however, than that the idle hour should be filled with low and degrading thoughts.

Reading as an idle indulgence can be safely condemned, only when temptation to worse forms of indulgence is entirely banished. This should be considered by those who are inclined to question whether reading for amusement may not become, in the language of F. W. Robertson, "an excuse for the mind to lie dormant, whilst thought is poured in, and runs through, a clear stream, over unproductive gravel, on which not even mosses grow?"

If the many read for innocent pleasure only, we must not forget that a few do read for improvement. And the immense influence in forwarding civilization, which the library exerts through these few, is shown by the following quotation. Thomas Greenwood, of London, England, writing in "Science," (Vol. XXII, No. 561, Nov. 3, 1893,) says: "It is only those who come closely in contact with the more intelligent of the working classes, who know the nobility of character and the earnest reaching out toward higher things to be found among them, who can be familiar with the in-

tense longing to have within their reach institutions such as Museums, Art Galleries, and Free Libraries, to which they can have easy access. That such as these are the institutions which already exist, is most amply and conclusively proved by the ocular demonstration of those who have visited the Museums in any large towns of the country. The nation should never forget that some of its greatest benefactors have belonged to this class of intelligent working men, James Watt, the stone-mason geologist, Stephenson, the collier-railway projector, Arkwright, the weaver-inventor, and scores of others who could be named. Where, indeed, should we have stood as a nation had it not been for the sturdy common sense of the intelligent and thrifty working classes?"

Those who have been led by recent events to read the life of Columbus, must have remarked how much his faith in a land beyond the western ocean was confirmed, if not created, by the books he consulted.

And Ben Franklin still relates in his own words to our school-children how much he owed to the influence of a single book.

Indeed, what truly great man and public benefactor could give an adequate account of himself without acknowledging his debt to books?

Where would be the high level of the general intelligence and morality in our land, which exists to-day, but for books?

What a prophecy of marvellous progress in the future is to be seen in the multiplication of free libraries!

What a grand uplift of intelligence and prosperity will be seen when her sister states of the Union imitate the example of Massachusetts in this respect!

During the past year we are glad to note a gradual increase in the number of books taken from our library, beginning with 116 in March, and reaching as high as 167 in December.

It has been suggested that if the library were open on Wednesday evenings, especially on Grange nights, a larger number of books would be borrowed.

Your trustees are considering the advisability of such a change, at least for a time, and as an experiment.

We hope, also, to be able to open the library on some afternoon, for the especial benefit of those living at a distance.

As soon as it can be compiled a new catalogue will be issued, for which one cent a copy will be charged to defray expense of printing.

An excellent list of new books is now in preparation and will soon be purchased.

Encyclopædias may hereafter be taken home like other books.

To Prof. F. W. Morse, of New Hampshire State Agricultural College, our acknowledgments are here made for a subscription to "Science," presented by him.

The library shared with the whole community in the great and sudden loss by death of Miss Sarah I. Hastings. In the responsible post of librarian she exhibited administrative talents of a high order. She will be remembered long as a noble example of lady-like self-reliance, energy, ability, fidelity and extraordinary usefulness.

Miss Mamie M. Babcock, who had occasionally assisted Miss Hastings in the library, was selected as her successor. Miss Babcock entered upon her duties November 18, 1893. She has now been in charge of the library for fifteen weeks, proving herself well fitted for the position. Her report is herewith subjoined, together with the trustees' financial statement.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Number of books last reported,	793
" " " worn out,	3
" " " remaining,	790
" " " added,	13
" " " now on shelves,	803
Largest monthly circulation (December),	167
Smallest " " " (August),	109
Average, " " " "	137
Total number of books taken out,	1,644
Fines have been reduced from five cents to two cents a week.	
Amount collected from fines,	\$4.55

The library has been open every Saturday evening during the year.

MAMIE M. BABCOCK, *Librarian.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIVED.

Balance on hand, Feb. 18, 1893,	\$47 76	
Received from Union Library,	5 55	
" " Fines,	4 55	
Total,		\$57 86

EXPENDED.

Paid Mr. Isaac Holbrook, on previous year's account,	\$10 00
Estes & Lauriat, for books,	10 83
For other books,	4 10
For express,	15

For postage,	10	
Salary of Miss S. I. Hastings,	11 40	
“ Miss M. M. Babcock,	4 88	
	<hr/>	
Total,		\$41 46
Balance on hand Feb. 20, 1894,		16 40
		<hr/>
		\$57 86

Respectfully submitted,

G. F. PRATT,
WILLIAM BASSETT,
F. H. CROSSMAN,

Trustees.

Berlin, Feb. 20, 1894.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER,
Selectmen and Overseers of Poor,
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
— OF THE —
TOWN OF BERLIN,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1895.

HUDSON, MASS.:
THE ENTERPRISE PRINTING COMPANY.
1895.

Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library.

The Free Public Library has experienced an uneventful year, silently adding to the knowledge of those wise enough to improve their opportunities, and furnishing innocent enjoyment for those who read for recreation.

A comparison with the previous year shows that there has been a large increase in the number of books taken out to be read. The largest monthly circulation up to this year was 195. This year the largest circulation for any one month has been 240, a very handsome gain. The total number of times books were borrowed during the preceding year was 1644. For the year just closed, books have been taken out no less than 1869 times. The average monthly circulation has increased from 137 to 170.

There are many living within our borders who find it extremely difficult to reach the Library at the hours when it is open. For their benefit it is proposed to open the Library upon some afternoon of the week. Those interested are cordially invited to suggest to the Trustees what afternoon would be most convenient for them.

A reading room is very much needed in connection with the Library. The books themselves will soon require more space for their accommodation. When in the near future the town hall shall be enlarged to accommodate the growing needs which develop, not so much with increase of population as with progress in civilization, we are confident a good sized Library and Reading Room will be provided. As it is, the possibilities of our Library have not been fully tested.

From the librarian of the Quincy Public Library we have

learned how to handle magazines, and very shortly we intend to place in our Library some of the more popular monthly magazines.

With a judicious selection of solid books on the burning questions of American life, such as taxation, finance, labor and capital, and the principles of popular government, material can be supplied for essays and discussions in Grange meetings, or for private study, such as would be of great educational value to the community.

Pupils of the public schools have drawn upon the Library for material for writing compositions, and for this purpose we intend to make more ample provisions at an early day.

It has been impracticable for us to get out the new catalogue promised in our last report. All things favoring, however, we hope to issue it in the course of the current year.

The Library has been fortunate in having the services of a librarian who has proved intelligent, popular, and attentive to her duties to a meritorious degree.

Her report, together with our financial statement, is herewith subjoined.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Number of books last reported,	803
“ “ added,	55
“ “ now on shelves,	858
Largest monthly circulation, (March)	240
Smallest “ “ (November)	124
Average “ “	170
Total number of times books were borrowed,	1869
Amount collected from fines,	\$5 67

The Library has been open every Saturday evening during the year, also every Grange evening since March 14, 1894.

MARY M. BABCOCK, Librarian.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER,
SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF BERLIN, MASS.,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1896.

HUDSON, MASS.
THE ENTERPRISE PRINTING CO.,
1896.

Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIVED.

Balance on hand, Feb. 1, '95,	\$21 28	
Appropriation from dog tax,	50 00	
Appropriation from interest on Hunt fund,	20 00	
Fines,	5 53	
Total,		\$96 81

EXPENDED.

Postage,	\$ 10	
Express,	1 25	
Record book,	60	
Magazines,	7 25	
Librarian's wages,	24 75	
New books,	62 86	
Total,		\$96 81

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Number of books last reported,	858
" added,	31
" now on shelves,	889
Largest monthly circulation (Nov.),	170
Smallest monthly circulation (May),	87
Average monthly circulation,	125
Total number of times books were borrowed,	1,503

The library has been opened every Saturday and Grange evening during the year, and also every Saturday afternoon, one hour, since May 18th, 1895.

MARY M. BABCOCK,

Librarian.

In addition to the number of new books given in the above report, there are forty more volumes not yet labeled and ready for the shelves. A new feature is the introduction of magazines, which will be loaned the same as other books. We shall make a

beginning with the "Popular Science Monthly" and the "Review of Reviews."

For the coming year, your Trustees would recommend an appropriation of the same amount as for previous years; viz, fifty dollars from the dog tax and twenty dollars from the interest on the Hunt fund.

Respectfully submitted,

G. F. PRATT,

WILLIAM BASSETT,

F. H. CROSSMAN,

Trustees.

Berlin, Feb. 2, 1896.

Auditor's Report.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor and Treasurer, and find them correct.

PLINY B. SOUTHWICK,

Auditor.

Berlin, Feb. 15, 1896.

J. S. Tyler

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER,
Selectmen, Overseers of Poor
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF BERLIN,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1,
1897.

HUDSON, MASS.:
THE ENTERPRISE PRINTING COMPANY.
1897.

Smallest monthly circulation, (November),	89
Average monthly circulation,	124
Total number of times books were borrowed,	1,493
Fines collected and paid into Town treasury,	\$6 44

The Library has been opened every Saturday afternoon and evening except May 30 and July 4; also every Grange evening.

MARY BABCOCK,

Librarian.

Appleton's Popular Science Monthly Magazine and The Reviews of Reviews were put upon our shelves the past year, to be loaned like other books. The coming year The Forum and other magazines not yet selected will be added to our list.

BERLIN TOWN HISTORY.

By vote of the Town, 500 copies of the History of Berlin were ordered to be printed. Of these, 300 were to be bound at once and disposed of in accordance with a vote giving particular directions for their distribution. The remaining 200 unbound copies were committed to the care of the Library Trustees and Librarian, who were authorized to fix the selling price, and to order more copies bound from time to time as called for under the vote regulating their disposition and sale.

Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIVED.

Appropriation from dog tax,	\$50 00	
Interest on Hunt fund,	20 00	
Total,		\$70 00

EXPENDED.

Postage,	\$ 30	
P. O. orders,	35	
Express,	35	
Photo-mounter paste,	15	
500 gummed labels,	1 50	
Literary World, magazine,	2 00	
Books,	16 80	
Work,	1 00	
Book cases,	21 00	
Librarian's wages,	26 55	
Total,		\$70 00

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Number of books last reported,	889
Number of books added,	40
Number of books now in library,	929
Largest monthly circulation, (March),	171

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER,
Selectmen, Overseers of Poor
School Committee and Other Committees,
OF THE
TOWN OF BERLIN,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1,
1898.

MARLBORO, MASS.:
ESTABROOK, THE PRINTER.
1898.

Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIVED.

Income of Priest fund,	\$31 20
Appropriation from dog tax,	50 00
“ “ general charges,	18 80
Total,	<hr/> \$100 00

EXPENDED.

Books,	\$62 98
Librarian's wages,	26 40
Magazines,	8 00
2 charging books	1 00
Index book,	10
Record book for Trustees,	25
Postage,	64
Money Orders,	13
Express,	50
Total,	<hr/> \$100 00

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Number of books last reported,	933
“ “ lost,	1
	<hr/> 932

Number of books replaced	1
	<hr/>
" " added,	933
	80
	<hr/>
" " now on shelves,	1013
Largest monthly circulation (Oct.)	154
Smallest " " (Apr.)	84
Average " "	117
Total number of times books were loaned,	1,407
Amount collected from fines and turned into Town Treasury,	\$5.51

The Library has been opened, excepting Christmas, every Saturday afternoon and evening, and also on Grange evenings.

MARY M. BABCOCK,

Librarian.

TOWN HISTORY.

On hand, Feb. 1, 1897,	9
Defective copies repaired,	3
Ordered from binders,	53
	<hr/>
Total bound histories,	65
Sold	10
Given to residents and soldiers,	11
Exchanged for history of Troy, N. H.,	1
	<hr/>
	22
Balance in hands of Trustees,	43
	<hr/>
	65
Unbound copies at bindery,	97

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER,
Selectmen, Overseers of Poor
School Committee and Other Committees,
OF THE
TOWN OF BERLIN,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1,
1899.

MARLBOROUGH, MASS.:
PRESS OF F. B. ESTABROOK, ROOMS 1 & 2 FRYE BLOCK,
1899.

ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Trustees of the Free Public
Library.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Received Appropriation from dog tax,	\$50 00	
Income of Priest fund,	31 20	
Appropriation from general charges,	18 80	
Received from fines,	3 72	
		<hr/>
Total,		\$103 72
Expended, Books,	\$44 52	
Printing catalogue and cards,	28 70	
Librarian's wages,	27 00	
Literary World, magazine,	2 00	
Express,	1 15	
Postage and P. O. Orders,	35	
		<hr/>
Total,		\$103 72

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To Trustees of Berlin Free Public Library :

Number of books last reported,	1013
“ “ “ “ added,	59
Now on shelves,	1072
Have on shelves, Century, 1886-1894.	
“ “ “ “ Scribners, (1878-79) (1881).	
Largest monthly circulation, (Dec.)	180
Smallest “ “ (May)	86
Average “ “	140
Total number of times books were loaned,	680
Amount collected from fines,	\$3 72

Library has been opened, excepting Christmas Eve, every Saturday afternoon and evening, also, Grange evenings.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY M. BABCOCK,

Librarian.

February 1, 1899.

TOWN HISTORY.

On hand Feb. 1, 1898,	43
Sold,	4
Given to residents and soldiers,	10
Exchanged for history of Westminster	1
Berlin Free Public Library,	1
Total,	16
Balance in hands of Trustees,	27
	—
Unbound copies at bindery,	43
	97