

THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY.

BY MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON.

I.

This library is one of the most interesting of all the great European repositories for books. Beginning with the union of the four large collections, the Royal, Cottonian, Harleian and Sloanian, it has grown steadily and rapidly, adding during the last century vast numbers of books, until to-day it comprises more than 2,000,000 volumes of choice and rare bibliography and is able to challenge comparison with the oldest and most fortunate of the famous libraries of the world. Its early history is full of thrilling incidents, and reads more like the annals in the life of some great adventurer than the records of a mere disorganized mass of books.

Its History.

We find the first trace of its existence in a few choice volumes in the possession of Henry VII. These still form a part of the library as it stands to-day, a noble series of vellums, bound in royal splendor. This wee collection, at the end of the reign of Henry VIII. had not only been able to stand its ground amid the barbarities of the times and the ravages of war, but had actually managed to grow a little. It then numbered some 320 bound volumes. During the lifetime of Edward VI. the resources of this infant collection were greatly strengthened. A special officer of the court was appointed to have the care of it and to "search the realm for scarce and unusual books to add to its fame." It is something of a disappointment to find no trace of material help to this enterprise during the reigns of Queen Mary and Elizabeth. The most careful and accurate study of the authentic records of those times fails to reveal anything really worthy of either of these queens ever accomplished. During the civil wars which followed, the library was in great peril, being the special object of the fury of the ignorant mobs. At one time it was buried for many months to avoid being torn to pieces by religious fanatics; at another it barely escaped being utterly destroyed in the fire at Westminster, many of its most valuable manuscripts being reduced to mere bundles of curled and charred leaves. As far as was possible, manuscripts that were burned were softened and restored, with great skill and dexterity on the part of the book-binders. All which were utterly beyond their power of restoration, were carefully placed in glass boxes, in the hope that the science of the future might find some means of making them available for study and research. This has been done to an extent far exceeding their most sanguine expectation. Out of the 105 charred remains in cases in 1759, when the British Museum Library was first

opened to the public, 51 have been most successfully restored and are now bound in strong covers and in daily use.

Specimen Treasures.

For the greatest, although perhaps not the most conspicuous gift, the library is indebted to Clayton M. Cracherode, a gentleman of great erudition, who devoted his time, talents, and large fortune to the collection of a choice library of rare manuscripts, prints and printed books. He was pre-eminently not a man to whom "a book was a book," no matter what its edition, binding, or previous condition of servitude. His library, which was the one bright spot in a life of unusual sadness, comprises a collection of books in classical and biblical literature, every volume of which is the best obtainable edition, in the most beautiful of bindings, selected with close attention to the subject matter of the book and in every case a perfect copy, without omissions or defective readings. The room containing this gift is one of the most attractive and charming of the entire British Museum Library. No one can stand in the midst of this exquisite collection—a library of only 4,500 volumes, yet representing more than \$50,000—without forming a very strong impression of the chief characteristics of the man who had collected them. So unmistakably do they bear the impress of the spirit of him whose they were that the visitor feels anew the truth of the old Grecian proverb, "Show me the books the man loves, and I can find the man."

The librarian off for a holiday finds in the manuscript room of this great library a department of intensest interest; an inspiration for many weary hours to come. Here, the reader who is so fortunate as to possess a ticket for special research is able to see specimens of the book-making art, going back to the earliest history when book-lovers filled their shelves with volumes made of brick and tile, on which the inscriptions had been made before they were baked, or covered their tables and desks with long, awkward papyri rolls and dangling waxen tablets. So curious and unfamiliar are both the form and the material of those early books, that we should hardly recognize in such sturdy pioneers the ancestry of the neat and dainty volume that now becomes the choice companion of a leisure hour. Here we see how grey and wrinkled is "book-madness," how the bibliomaniac, long before the invention of printing, had his private *sanctum* and gloated over his "Selten copy" as to-day. The onward march of civilization soon replaced these early books with rolls of manuscript beautifully written and filled with elaborate tracing, miniatures and illuminations. It is to tell you something of these that we write to-day.

Illuminated Manuscripts.

In the early days of library science all

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the chief learning was centered in religious institutions. It is to the monasteries that we owe the gratitude of the civilized world of to-day for the making and preserving of these priceless treasures of literature. Every monastery had its "Scriptorium" as surely and in as much a matter-of-course way, as any town in the United States has its post-office. Here the monks studied and wrote and copied; some spending their lives in the elaborate illumination of some one volume, usually a service book or a copy of the Holy Scriptures. One monastery would borrow a rare manuscript from some other abbey and make for itself as exact a duplicate as could be prepared. We regret to add that in some cases, history states that the copy and not the original was returned to the generous lenders, as was true in the case of Euergetes. He required the Athenians to send him as a pledge,—the sole arrangement by which the Egyptian corn could be sold for the relief of the starving Athenians,—the original writings of Sophocles, Æschylus and Euripedes. The famishing people of Athens, after months of reluctant delay, at length sent the precious manuscripts. Euergetes had the monks carefully copy them, and retaining the originals in the Alexandrian library returned the copies to Athens. It was here in the quiet and seclusion of monastery life that the most lovely and beautiful in art had its birth. The process of illumination first had its rise in the latter period of the Roman empire. But the fall of Rome and the adding of the invention of illuminating with gold and silver as well as with pigment, gave the art a second birth and made way for the Grecian claim of its origination. The most famous pieces of book-art are to be found in the Service Books. These were large volumes containing the church service and prepared especially for use in the pulpit or at the desk. They were usually beautifully bound in vellum and profusely ornamented with hand tooling and filled with beautiful illuminated letter, miniatures of biblical history and borders of rare unique design. A smaller volume of the same book was also in use prepared for members of royalty, wealthy private families and sometimes for a much-loved fellow-monk. To-day many of these books stored in the various libraries have an additional value because of their original owners, like the "Mary Queen of Scots' Missal," the "Isabella Bible" and the "Durham Book."

The "Book of Hours, or Hours with the Blessed Virgin," were books prepared for the use of the common people and were generally small volumes, convenient for pocket use, containing many beautiful miniatures descriptive of scenes in the life of Mary. These with other modified forms are the chief manuscripts of the books of service. It is to the Bible

manuscripts that we must come to see the process of illumination in its perfection. The art of coloring was so highly developed that in spite of faulty perspective and a disregard for the sublime that at times is to us almost irreverence, these pictures are never tiresome. As an example of the realism of these old picture-makers, we notice in many of the Bibles of the sixth and seventh centuries the giving of the manna to the children of Israel in the wilderness is represented by a fine shower of round, nicely browned biscuits, that might well tempt the appetite of an epicure. In New Testaments of the same period we see in the raising of Lazarus the reader's attention is called to the protest made to Jesus, "He hath lain in the grave three days"—by seeing beside the open grave, many by-standers vigorously holding their noses.

"The Purple Gospels."

Among the many exceedingly lovely manuscripts which we have seen and studied in this great collection of 55,000, is one called the "Purple Gospels." It consists of seventy-seven vellum leaves, and is named from the fact that four of these are stained a royal purple, a process very difficult in its day and soon lost. Artists who came later, tried to replace the loss by painting one side of the vellum purple, but the attempt was not a success and soon fell into disuse. The manuscript is the four Gospels according to the version of St. Jerome, written in letters nearly an inch high with eight lines to the page, the inscription throughout being written alternately in gold and silver. The four purple leaves introduce the four Gospels. The second leaf, representing St. Mark, is especially beautiful. He is seated above an alcove holding a partly unrolled manuscript, one end of which remains in the hand of God the Father to denote the inspiration of the holy word. Lest the reader mistake the evangelist, the Lion of St. Mark is placed in miniature at the top of the page. The third purple leaf, prefacing St. Luke's Gospel, has a very charming device. The first words of the book are arranged in illuminated arches. In the center arch is a miniature of the face of the Lord Jesus and beneath it the ox of St. Luke.

The fourth leaf is not perfect, the illumination of the angel Gabriel appearing to Zacharias being nearly destroyed. It is the tradition that originally there were many leaves, but that being rare and unusual, they were one by one secretly removed. This manuscript belonged in the fourteenth century to the Cathedral library at Canterbury. It is now very generally believed to be the second volume of the "Biblia Gregoriana." As many readers of THE STANDARD, may not be familiar with the symbols of evangelists used in manuscript work, it may not be out of place to offer a few words of explanation. In the early attempts to rep-

resent the personages of the gospel narratives great confusion arose in regard to many of them and leaves were inserted in many places. To avoid this certain symbols were agreed upon to be invariably used with certain miniatures; for example, the Trinity was expressed by a three-leaved clover. St. Mark, representing the tribal relations of the Jews, is always marked by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. St. Luke, dealing with the sacrificial aspect of our Lord's life; has with his miniature the ox of the sacrifice, while St. John, whose Gospel breathes forth the love of God, the spiritual side of the gospel story, is thought to be best represented by an eagle, "the bird that in flying soars nearest to heaven," as the poet sings.

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CHICAGO, THURSDAY, AUG. 27, 1891.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

The first of two articles upon the Library of the British Museum, in London, leads the first page, this week. The writer will be recognized as the cultivated lady who has rendered such signal service during the last year as librarian of the seminary at Morgan Park. Readers of her articles, especially those who have themselves visited the great collection of books she describes, will realize what advantage such a visitor must have who comes *prepared* in such a way as to know what features of a great library to search for, where to find them and how to use them. Apart from what concerns the British Museum Library itself, Mrs. Dixon, as readers will notice, furnishes highly interesting information upon the history of books and book-making during many centuries. Her second article will be found no less interesting than this one. Readers will

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II.

The Codex Alexandrinus.

The oldest and most valuable volume in the manuscript room is the "Codex Alexandrinus." It holds the first place among all the biblical manuscripts and far surpasses all others, especially since the "Genesis" manuscript of the Cottonian received its irreparable injury. It is a handsome vellum book of 773 leaves, measures 13x10 inches and is bound in four volumes. It was made in the fifth century and presented to King Charles I. by Cyril, Patriarch of Constantinople. Until quite recently this venerable manuscript was supposed to be the oldest in existence.

The "Durham Book."

Another interesting copy of the Gospels is the "Durham Book," also sometimes called "St. Cuthbert's Gospels," and the "Lindisfarne Gospels." It was made in the early part of the seventh century, when the extravagance of manuscript making was at its height. It is made entirely of the finest quality of vellum, in all 258 leaves. The letters are arranged in double columns, with twenty-four lines to the page. It is very beautifully bound. The covers are inlaid with gold and silver worked into patterns to correspond with the ornamentation in the manuscript, and brilliant with precious stones, rubies, diamonds, emeralds and various other gems. This beautiful and costly binding is a copy of the original, and is the gift of Dr. Edward Maltby, Bishop of Durham, at whose expense this priceless manuscript was rebound in 1853. The ornamentation and illumination, which is of the Irish school, consists in combining into graceful designs and geometrical patterns, birds and animals. The heads, necks, legs and tails are interwoven into the most perfect harmony of detail. The pigments that are used in the ornamentation throughout the manuscript are of the most brilliant character, and are put on so thickly as to resemble enamel, which effect is intensified by filling in all the background with black. Each Gospel is preceded by a full-page illumination representing each evangelist. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are sitting—writing upon their scrolls. John has his roll spread out upon his knees and is expounding the text to the people. The story connected with this book is full of interest. It was made by Eadfrid, Bishop of Lindisfarne, who dedicated it "To the honor of God and St. Cuthbert." The volume remained in his library until the Danish invasion, when for safe-keeping it was carried away, together with the shrine of the saint. In an attempt made to pass over to Ireland, this precious manuscript was washed overboard in a violent storm and lay under the water for a

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long time, until, one day, it was recovered uninjured through the timely intervention of St. Cuthbert. We must pause to state for the benefit of those whose faith is weak, that the "Durham Book" possesses several strong covers, that are put on outside of its gorgeous binding. They were made for it with special reference to this very journey, and in all probability were on it at the time of its shipwreck. If so, they would have been very nearly if not quite a perfectly water-proof covering, so that the Herculean task of preserving it so long under water uninjured, was probably greatly lightened for St. Cuthbert. It might also be added that recently, when we gave our most careful attention and study for two hours to this rare old book, we noticed many of its leaves were badly water-stained.

The shrine and the manuscript, after long years of wandering about, were at length established at Durham. Here the book remained for more than a century. At the end of this time the Bishop took it back to Lindisfarne, at which place it remained until the breaking up of the monasteries. It then disappeared, and all trace of it was lost. For a long time it was believed to have been destroyed by some of the mobs that sacked and burned the monastery libraries. But in the sixteenth century it was found by Sir Robert Cotton in a second-hand book-stall, and purchased by him for his own private library. It had been stripped of its ancient jewels, but otherwise was in good condition. As part of his library it shared the many vicissitudes of his famous collection; but having been burned out, buried and twice shipwrecked, it finally found a quiet resting-place and a safe home in the library of the British Museum, where it occupies the place of honor in the celebrated Cottonian collection.

Palimpsests.

We must take a few moments here to give a very hurried account of an extremely interesting form of manuscript called the "Palimpsest." As the love for reading grew the demand for books for private and public use increased, but as there was a great scarcity of materials out of which to make the new books, a process was invented by which mss. already made into volumes might have the writing erased and the materials used again

in the preparation of a new book. This made-over volume was called a palimpsest manuscript. It became the custom to weed out from the collection extra copies of any work and make them into new volumes. From this it would appear that the librarians of ancient times labored with much the same problems as those which vex the student of modern library science: What shall we do with our duplicates? Alas! that for the overworked librarian of to-day there remains no longer a "palimpsest process!" The ink of the early

centuries was easily removed by means of a wet sponge. At first the wet surface was clean and white and would remain so for several years, but gradually the action of the atmosphere on the vellum brought back faint outlines of the original writing. To this we are indebted for some of the best copies we have of many very rare manuscripts. During the last few years scholars have been busy turning these palimpsest manuscripts back to their original character, by carefully restoring the first book and erasing the second. In some cases where the original writing is too faint to be intelligible, the vellum is covered with a wash of hydrosulphurate of ammonia, which restores the writing in a marvelous way. This has to be used, however, with great skill, as it injures the vellum if the solution is not removed quickly.

This library contains the largest collection of this variety of manuscript to be found anywhere. Some of them have been erased more than once and contain really three books. The most celebrated of these is the Syriac manuscript. A copy of St. John Chrysostom in Syriac, of the ninth century, covers a grammatical treatise on the construction of the Latin language of the sixth century, which in turn replaces a history of the fifth century written by Graecus Licinianus.

The libraries of Europe are all rich in the fortunate possession of many specimens of these early books. But this library is especially a great store-house of manuscripts. It contains over 55,000 of them, beside those in the cases. Of the former over 9,000 are written in early oriental languages.

Vandalism.

In the face of all the enormous mass of manuscripts collected for the use of students and scholars, we pause to estimate in some dim way the number of priceless volumes that dense ignorance and cruel barbarism have destroyed. It has been said that undoubtedly the rarest collection of manuscripts ever placed in any one building was the famous Alexandrian Library. And what became of it? It was used for fuel to warm the baths for the soldiery of the fanatical Omar. When he was taken through the long galleries of the Alexandrian Library and shown the great presses filled with rare and costly volumes, he exclaimed: "If these books of the Greeks agree with the Koran, of what use are they? if they disagree they ought to be destroyed, as they are pernicious." So the building was stripped of its treasures. The inestimable manuscripts were divided into four piles and used to heat the four city baths. So enormous was the number of books thus destroyed that it took six months to consume the precious fuel. When we read how the glove-makers of a little English town, during the destruction of the monasteries, robbed a famous abbey of its library

of 11,000 rolls of costly manuscripts, all hand-written and hand-decorated, and supplied themselves with material enough to carry on their business for ten years; when we learn from the annals of the past how the children of royal parents were allowed to use in their nurseries these priceless books, how costly illuminations and portraitures were torn from their places to add to royal pleasure or cut up to increase their family of paper dolls; when we remember how the soldiers of Henry VIII. in the destruction of the monasteries paved the street with these manuscripts and then rode up and down on them until not one leaf was left intelligible; how the army of Cromwell, when they sacked the abbey, tore up a whole library of these treasures into mere fragments and made a jollification of their shameful deed, by rolling about knee-deep in the scraps; we wonder not that so little is left, but that so much is here still, to delight us with that beauty and grace which breathes in the art and architecture of the same period.

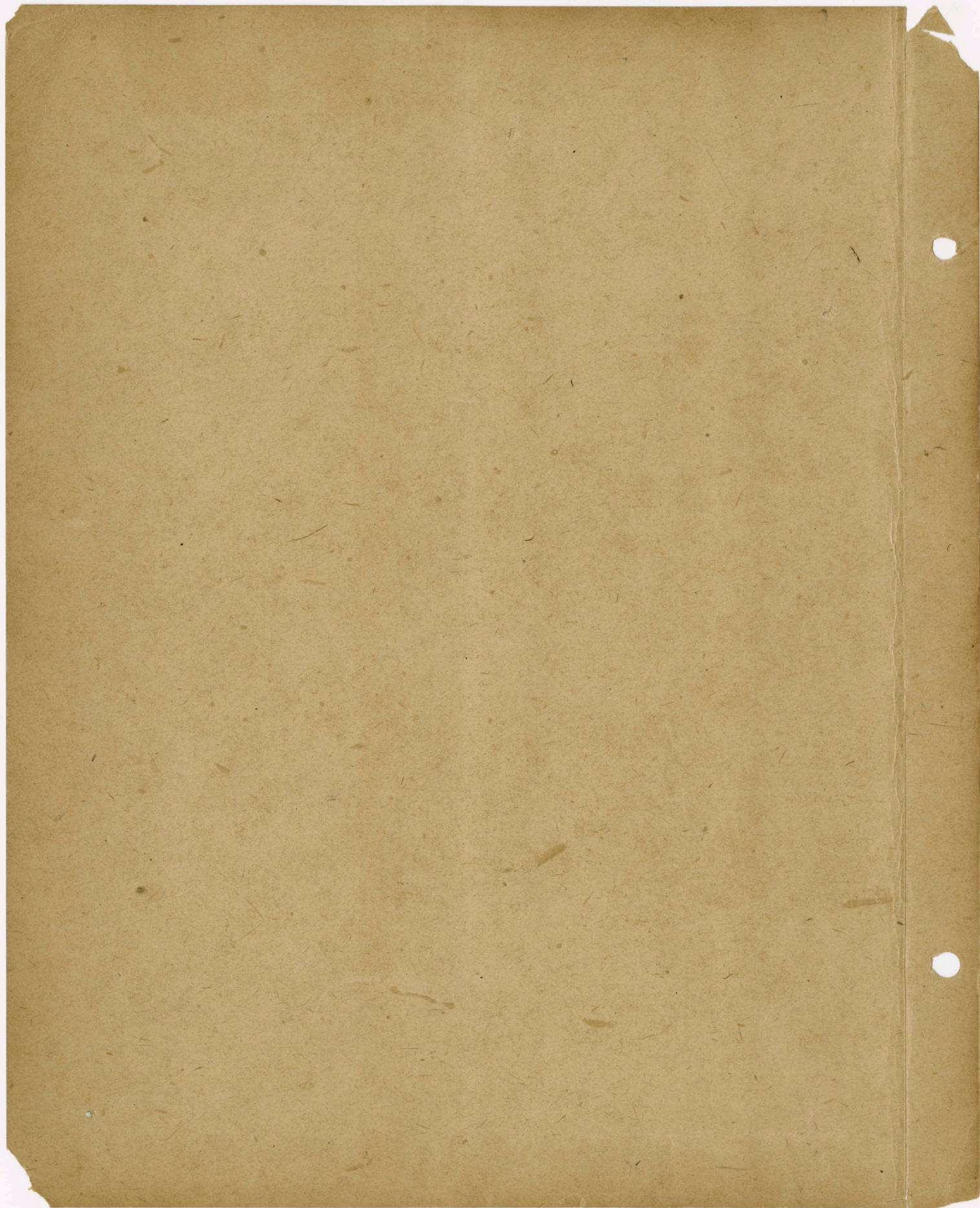
Of the most valuable manuscripts a copy of Homer, only a mere fragment, remains. Left to the care of those who did not understand or appreciate its value it was destroyed. Only some fifty odd pieces remain to show us what it was in the day of its glory. These were cut out for the sake of the pictures, and all of the early text that is in existence is that preserved on the back of these pictures. It is a mistaken notion too common with many that these manuscripts form the bric-a-brac of the profession and are of interest only to the bibliomaniac and curioso collector. They serve not only to teach us the manners and customs, styles of dress and habits of life of the ages which produced them; they also contain many valuable lessons as to the biblical ideas of those times. The earnest Bible student may glean from the careful study of these brilliant pages, all glittering with silver and gold, many a new conception of the progress of interpretation not included in his seminary course on hermeneutics. To the librarian they must ever be the source of all the love and reverence which is the glory of our profession. As one looks on the girlish picture of a mother's face, a face we remember only after it is faded by tears and whose features bear the years' footprints, so these beautiful glittering manuscripts, yellow and faded with age, are to the librarian the early beginnings of that most wonderful thing the world's genius has ever produced—a Book.

London, July 24.

THE STANDARD

CHICAGO, THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 1891.

— Mrs. Dixon's second and closing article leads the first page. It is in no degree less interesting than the former one.



Literary.

THE LIBRARY AS A FACTOR IN
EDUCATION.

The library as a working force is such a different thing to-day from what it was even a few years ago, that unless I preface this article with a little outline of this progress you will have a picture before you entirely different from what I have in mind when I speak of the library. Only those who have kept in the tread of the new library movement are conscious of how radical and how far reaching this change has been. The college library of the past was very little more than a mob of books. It was housed in a building poorly lighted, poorly ventilated, and still more poorly heated; open only once or twice a week, or at most but two or three hours a day, and at times which suited no one's convenience. The room was usually in a state of general disorder; books tumbling over each other in discouraged rows upon the shelves or thrown in piles in the corners of the room and out-of-the-way places. There were no indexes, and the catalogues "were conspicuous chiefly by their absence." The arrangement upon the shelves, when not wholly governed by the relative sizes of the books, seemed to exist in harmony with some hidden memories in the brain of the librarian. The classification at best was so general that when any special material was wanted it was customary to give the librarian a week's notice for the collection on a separate shelf such books as might be of use.

The librarian, however, was the darkest part of this gloomy picture. Selected usually because he had failed in some other occupation, and was therefore amply suited to

be librarian, he spent most of his time in mousing rather for his own gratification than for the benefit of the students. The old librarian was the stern jailor, and saw to it that as few of the unfortunates placed under his charge escaped, as was possible.

The visitor to the Harvard college library is entertained by many of the anecdotes of the early administrations. It is told of the first librarian that he contrived to keep the library almost unfrequented by the crabbed way he waited on the students, never allowing them to visit the shelves themselves. One day the students stole a march on him and broke into the library in a body. He found them deep in original research after a manner that would have delighted the heart of the modern librarian, and turned them out of the building exclaiming, "A library is no place for a pack of boys!"

All that is very different from the library that forms to-day such a large factor in the education of our young people. Situated in the pleasantest part of the campus, furnished like a drawing room, with every comfort and luxury that can add a charm to the "treasured volume and the poem of thy choice;" well lighted, well ventilated and well heated, a quiet resting place where the student can always be sure of finding a warm welcome and such help as he may need from one not only willing but able to tell him what book can best accomplish the work and where to find it.

Whatever may have been the sphere of usefulness for the library of the past, there is to-day no doubt as to what a library is for. More and more the voice from the platform and the appeal from the pulpit are giving way to the printed page, and what is most solid in knowledge and best in experience, is fast being turned into books.

Prof. Windsor said in a recent address, "A stagnant library, musty and dusty, open at hours which suit the convenience of an overworked professor, rather than inviting everybody at all hours, is an anamoly;

but a collection of good books with a soul to it in the shape of a good librarian becomes the most vitalized power among all the impulses by which the world goes on to improvement."

While a student is in college his main business is supposed to be to keep within the limits of his curriculum, and indeed he has little time outside the reference of his specialty for any thing else, but every well educated person must learn in its highest sense *how to read*. Even though he can not read much, every student can learn a little about what it is best to read, and very much about how to find out what to read, which in after years will be a real, practical question. Do you ask how a student is to gain this knowledge? First of all by consulting the librarian, whose business it is to be the "Professor of Books and Catalogues," and who will guide and direct his research. The librarian of the college library stands at the very center of college life; a friend always at leisure to point the student to what he needs most to know, with the interest and ability to increase his knowledge of bibliography and improve his general taste for reading. Second, by using the library and becoming acquainted personally with the collection of books in the general departments. It is impossible to overstate the benefit of this access to the shelves. The student who cultivates the habit of spending his spare moments in the library looking over the books, aimlessly, if you please, only a few hours a week, perhaps, will gain a superficial knowledge of the range of books which will be invaluable to him when the time comes to deepen and complete that knowledge. Lastly and most important, by learning to use the catalogues and indexes provided. I believe in the college library, not so much to find any one book, as to examine the resources of the collection on that subject. The dictionary catalogue so much used in the past and still used in public libraries should give place to a carefully pre-

pared subject catalogue, where the student may see at a glance the range of the field before him. The student who learns to handle with ease these tools of the library and to hunt down a subject like a trained cataloguer, will suddenly become aware of the fact that he has discovered the sixth sense.

Though of ten the last to be remembered in the distribution of the endowments, the usefulness of the library must always be in direct proportion to the equipment furnished it. The alumni are more and more waking up to this fact, and the power which the library wields over the hearts of the student body is shown with increasingly practical results. It is no longer a cause for surprise when the outgoing class leaves its gift to the library. What more fitting memorial can a graduating class leave with its Alma Mater than to fill out the deficiencies of the college library on some subject. Thus, as subject after subject is completed, the library becomes more and more fitted to be a true factor in the educational problem.

No one in these days is entitled to be called college-bred unless he comes out from his college familiar with the library as a great work shop, and able to make his life a more potent force because of this storehouse through which mental faculties otherwise latent shall be called forth and developed. But a man is only half grown intellectually, who thinks of a volume only as a tool, and has no personal experience of the blessed companionship of books as choice and valued friends. There is nothing so broadening as an acquaintance with many books; and nothing, on the other hand, makes one so narrow as to conceive of a book simply as a source from which to gain information.

The old day when "a library was no place for a pack of boys" has passed away, and in its place has dawned that new day when the library is a recognized factor in education. The time is not far distant when the college shall be known and ranked, and students attracted to it more by the skillful and able administration of its library, than by the erudition of its various professors.

ZELLA A. DIXON.

The
Standard.

Jan. 22,
1891.

THE SEMINARY LIBRARY AT MORGAN PARK.

System of Classification.

BY MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON, LIBRARIAN.

Early in the summer the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, realizing the value of the rare and unusual collection of books in their charge, conscious of the fact that the students were not receiving the full benefit of such an educational force because of the inaccessibility of the larger part of the volumes, decided to abandon the time-honored custom of attaching the work of librarian to the chair of some already over-worked professor. They made the library one of the departments of the seminary, appointing a trained librarian, with the full time of a professor, to take charge of it and to devote time and experience to placing it in the front rank of the libraries that are most used and most useful.

When the seminary opened in September the work of arranging and cataloguing commenced in earnest. The Hengstenberg, Ide, Bible Union and Seminary collections were thrown into one. All books at least 150 years old, and all rare and "selten" books were separated from the general working collection and shelved in a smaller room, as the "Treasure Trove" of the library. This is accessible to strangers, visitors and students on application to the librarian, but is not kept generally open as are the other departments of the library. The "Treasure Trove" contains many exceedingly interesting volumes; many beautiful and costly bindings. We earnestly hope in the near future to send to the readers of THE STANDARD a detailed account of some of the most famous. At present we shall only attempt to give some explanation of the system of classifying and cataloguing, in accordance with which the books are being arranged. The system is the one so universally found in our large Eastern libraries; the Decimal, or "Dewey" system, as it is more generally called.

In 1873 Mr. Melvil Dewey invented the system, while librarian of Amherst College (30,000 vols.), intending it for his own use; but the system was so clearly shown to be more helpful to readers than any of the methods then in use, that librarians came to Mr. Dewey from every part of the country to learn the new system. In order to place it within the reach of many librarians too far distant to make the personal visit, Mr. Dewey published his first edition of the Decimal classification. It was offered to the library profession only after many months of scholarly research in hundreds of books and pamphlets, and in over fifty personal visits to the largest and best-managed libraries in the world. In the United States special report on libraries in 1875, a very interesting account is given of this system, its rapid growth and general adoption.

To-day large libraries in England, France, Scotland, Ireland, India, Canada, and many hundred in our own United States, are using it, and it is earnestly believed by many friends of the system, that the day is not far distant when it will be the one system everywhere in use.

It is called the "Decimal" classification, because the fundamental idea is that the library is the unit, and each volume a definite fractional part of it, divided subjectively. The classification consists in consolidating the two kinds of numbers used in the old sys-

tem, so that the one set will answer for both, and the number of a book be made to tell not only what a book is about, but where it can be found. The advantages of this are readily seen. According to the old methods, the numbers were of fixed location, a tier was lettered, then the books received their call number from their fixed position on a given shelf. Thus any change in shelving, any addition of new rooms, or the removal of the books to a new building, necessitated the entire renumbering of all books, accession books, index rerums, catalogues, etc. With the Decimal system it is just the reverse. Since the book is numbered from its subject matter, the number can only change by the book becoming other than itself. Through all the changes of shelving, moving and adding new buildings, the number remains the same. This is a wonderful economy of time and money, requires better work, because more permanent, and enables a new librarian to begin just where the old one left off, and to fully utilize past labor.

Throughout the entire system it is constantly borne in mind that the simplest methods, other things being equal, are always the best. In numbering books only the simplest symbols known to the human mind, such as 1, 2, 3, etc., and a, b, c, etc., are used; their simplicity being aided by simple mnemonics. The classification divides all the books into the following ten classes.

0—General Works. 1—Philosophy. 2—Theology. 3—Sociology. 4—Philology. 5—Science. 6—Useful Arts. 7—Fine Arts. 8—Literature. 9—History.

Each of these ten "classes" is divided ten times, giving us 100 "Divisions," and once more each division ten times to form the 1,000 "Sections." We now have our unit of classification, and in working out closer subject divisions, we use the decimal point, and add a fraction. In this way the shelves never become clogged. There is always a place waiting for each volume, when it becomes part of the library, and the books on either side move to the right and to the left to give it room.

One of the greatest advantages of the system is the valuable and helpful statistics which it records. Take, for example, Greeley's "Conflict," 973.7. Reading the number by analysis, it becomes, 9—History, 97—History of North America, 973—History of the United States, 973.7—History of the Civil War in the United States. Standing on our records it tells through months and years its use and work in our library, as it could not if it were assigned a number constantly changing and meaning nothing beyond its position on a shelf.

When the second term of this year opened at the seminary, the students returning from their Christmas vacation found the card catalogue ready for use. It represents material on all the ten classes and contains at present over 6,000 cards. Only about one third of the English books are catalogued and arranged, but great care has been taken to have this number include as large a proportion as possible of those volumes most needed by the students and professors.

The card catalogue is threefold, consisting of authors, subjects and titles. If a reader desires to find a certain book, whose author and title he knows, he goes to the author catalogue, where he finds a straight dictionary author list, on cards, of all the books catalogued. Should he know only the title

of the book, not being posted as to its author, he finds it just as readily by going to the drawers containing the title catalogue and consulting an alphabetical arrangement of the titles of the books. Many times during the day there come to the busy librarian, applications for material which can not be reached through either of these catalogues without assistance. The student wants information on a certain subject, has no special preference for any author or book—"wants to see what the library has on that subject." It is to meet just this class of readers that our third catalogue is devised. It is a subject catalogue, being in reality the exact copy of the books on the shelves, in their subject arrangement, *plus* the reference to the subject in other books, of which the subject is a digression from the main subject of the book. Thus, the book, Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship," would be placed in 920 biography, but cross reference cards would analyze the contents under 940, History of Europe, 940.7 History of the Reformation, 285.9 Puritanism, 297 Mohammedanism, 291 Comparative Mythology, 293 Northern Mythology, 290 Paganism, etc. Any student seeking the resources of the Library on any special subject, finds first from the "Relative Index of the Decimal Classification" the number of the division in which the subject wanted occurs; this refers him at once to the drawers of the subject catalogue, where he finds all the references in all the books, representing the information in the library on the subject, he makes his selection, finds his book and is ready for work. If the book is not needed for reference it may be taken from the library for two weeks.

The plan for charging books is quick and accurate. In a pocket in the back of each book is a card bearing the author, title, and classification of each book respectively. This card is known as the book-card, and is capable of recording one hundred loans. In the first space of the ruling is placed the date of its first trip, and the initials of the borrower and the date of return. While the book is out this card stands at the loan desk to tell, whenever the information is wanted, where the book is and when it will be returned. There is also kept at the desk a personal card of every one entitled to use the library, on which is kept the double entry of the book-card, showing at a glance the reading of each student, in the same way that the book-card reveals the use made of each volume.

The cataloguing is progressing steadily, and while it is still the work of many months before it will be completed, the work has been so planned that every evening the work accomplished during the day will be placed on the shelves and in the catalogues, ready for immediate use. In this way it is hoped to reduce to the minimum the drawbacks and disadvantages of having the cataloguing done while the books are constantly in use, and that the Seminary Library Catalogue, so long the "substance of things hoped for," shall become at once a grateful reality to the students at Morgan Park.

THE STANDARD

CHICAGO, THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1891.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

Leading our department of literature is an article to which we wish to call particular attention. It will be observed with what absolute clearness, and in what an interesting way, a somewhat complicated system of classification for the books of a great library is set forth. Incidental suggestions occur in course of the article, as will be noticed, as to the remarkable character of the library at Morgan Park. The accomplished lady now in charge has promised to follow this article, in due time, with another in which the more noticeable characteristics will appear of a collection of books whose unique value and interest have not as yet been fully understood, even by many of those who are daily visitors, much less by those who have learned of it only by report.

See also

The Standard

Mar. 19, 1891. p. 2.

*The Seminary Library at
Morgan Park. American
Bible Union Collection.*

The University of Chicago.

T. W. GOODSPEED, Secretary.

OFFICE, 218 LA SALLE ST. ROOM 705.

P. O. ADDRESS, LOCK BOX 490

Chicago, April 13 1891.

Mrs. Lilla A. Dixon.

My Dear Friend,
I am this

morning in receipt of a
letter from Dr. Harper
in which he says. —

"Will you kindly ask Mrs.
Dixon to hold herself
open so far as engagements
are concerned until I may
have had an opportunity
of conversation with her,
which I hope I may be able
to have within two weeks."

May I add to this
the expression of my hope that
you will not commit your-
self to anyone till you hear
from Dr. Harper. I am
personally very anxious

The University of Chicago.

T. W. GOODSPEED, Secretary.

OFFICE, 218 LA SALLE ST. ROOM 705.

P. O. ADDRESS, LOCK BOX 490.

2 Chicago, 1891.

that you should be librarian
of the University. I very much
wish that you could delay
your return to Greenville
for a few days. Dr. Harper
will be here next week.

The matter is so important
that I hope you will consider
this request.

Do not I beg of you suppose that
your friends here have urged
& by their urgency persuaded
on Dr. Harper to offer you the
position of librarian. On the
contrary I have said to him
distinctly. "Do not offer the of-
fices to Mrs. D. because I
ask it. It has been understood
between you & me that no man's
influence is to secure an appointment."

The University of Chicago.

T. W. GOODSPEED, Secretary.

OFFICE, 218 LA SALLE ST. ROOM 705.

P. O. ADDRESS, LOCK BOX 490.

3 Chicago, 1891.

I urged you solely on the ground that you would make the very best librarian that could be found.

I want you therefore to give your friends a chance to gain the end they seek by waiting here a week & giving Dr. Harper the interview he wishes. You can find plenty to do & it will not hinder you to rest a little.

Very truly yours,

T. W. Goodspeed.

The University of Chicago.

T. W. GOODSPEED, Secretary.

1212 Chamber of Commerce

Office, 218 La Salle St. Room 706.

P. O. ADDRESS, LOCK BOX 499.

Chicago, April 22 1891.

Memorandum of Agreement between Mrs. Zella A. Dixon & William R. Harper

It is understood that —

1. Mrs. Dixon will accept, when tendered, the Assistant-Librarianship of the University of Chicago, her services to begin October 1st 1891.
2. The University of Chicago will pay her at the rate of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500⁰⁰) a year until Oct 1st 1892, & after that ^{a year} at the rate of two thousand dollars (\$2000), until further arrangements are made.
3. The Morgan Park Seminary is to be responsible for a portion of the salary during the first year.

Signed William R. Harper Chairman
Mrs. Zella A. Dixon.

Rev. J. W. Todd, D. D.

Tudor Hall Ladies' College

Sydenham

London.

Received 1 April 1891.

My Dear Sir, Todd.

I very much hope that Mr. La-
dy to whom I shall hand this note,
Mrs. J. E. Benson, will have the pleas-
ure of your acquaintance, and
that of Mr. Todd, whose delightful
home and hospitality are among the
cherished recollections of my own
visit abroad in 1869-70. Mrs. Benson
is the Librarian of our Theological
Seminary at Morgan Park, now the
seminary school of the new University
of Chicago. She has made of this
great collection of books almost
a new thing, in her skillful arrange-
ment and cataloguing of it after
the now most approved system, and

Morgan Park, April 19, 91.

My Dear Mr. Fadel.

I very much hope that Mr. Ladd to whom I shall hand this note, Mr. J. E. Benson, will have the pleasure of your acquaintance, and that of Mr. Fadel, whose delightful home and hospitality are among the cherished recollections of my own visit abroad in 1869-70. Mr. Benson is the Librarian of our Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, now the Seminary School of the new University of Chicago. She has made of this great collection of books almost a new thing, in her skillful arrangement and cataloguing of it after the now most approved system, and

is a thorough quality esteemed amongst
us for her literary attainments and
social accomplishments.

We all are very much desirous
that Mrs. Benson's journey abroad
may ~~prove~~ yield her all she has
expected from it, and in that view
I have hoped that she might come
to know "Guthrie Hall College,"
and those who have given that
school its excellent character
and reputation.

Always Yours, most Cordially,
J. H. Smith.

Col. James T. Greffin.

Netherhall Gardens
St. Hampstead, N.W.
London, ~~W.4.~~

Morgan Park, April 29, 1891

Col. James T. Greffin.

My dear Mother,

This note will be
handed you by Mrs. J. E. Benson,
the Librarian of our Theological
Seminary at Morgan Park. She has
won great praise and thanks from
us all for the admirable service
done in making our large col-
lection of books available in a
way they have never yet been;
and being an enthusiast in her
profession, she wishes to see and
study some of the great libraries

of Enoshe.

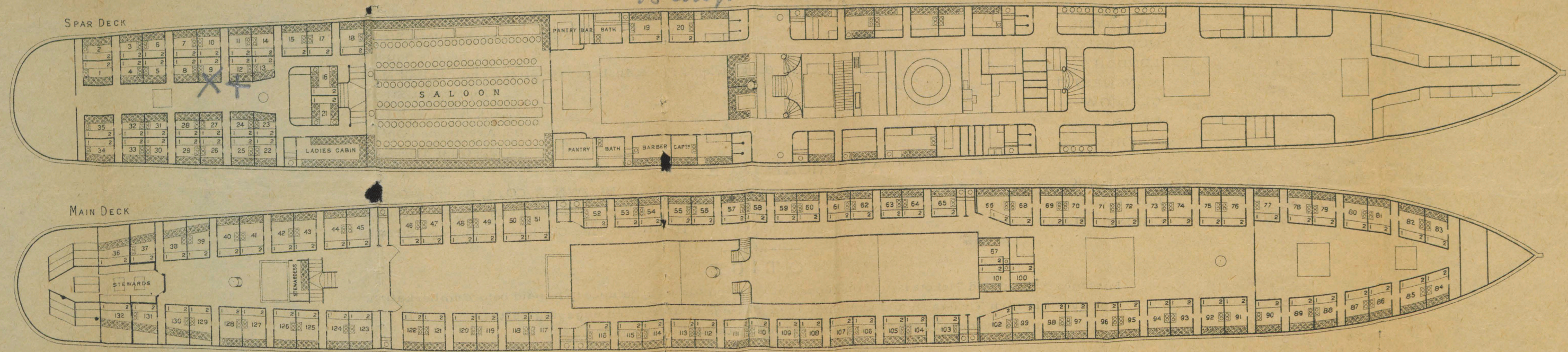
I should much like to have
yourself and Mrs. Buffin make
the acquaintance of Mrs. Benson.
That it will be a pleasure to you to
send her any attentions in your
power I feel sure; as also that
she will greatly appreciate them,
and not less so.

Yours most affectionately
J. B. Smith.

Lower in Room 9 at 15 guineas

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Liverpool, January, 1884.

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Mrs. Best.
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Mrs. M. Carr.
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Mrs. L. A. Dixon.
Mrs. H. Dodne.

Mr. S. Ford.
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Rev. B. C. Lippincott.

Mr. W. Marshall.
Miss Ida Marshall.
Mr. Maynard.
Mrs. Maynard.
Miss McDermott.
Miss McDermott.

Miss O'Brien.
Mr. John T. Olegard.
Mrs. Olegard,
and Child.
Mr. Martin O'Hara.
Mrs. O'Hara.

Mr. A. J. Parker.
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Mr. Peterson.
Mrs. Peterson.

Mr. Read.
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Mr. Charles Segrave.
Mr. W. F. Segrave.
Mr. G. V. F. Scovell.
Mr. P. L. Staunton.
Mrs. Staunton.
Mr. E. M. Stone.
Mrs. Stone.

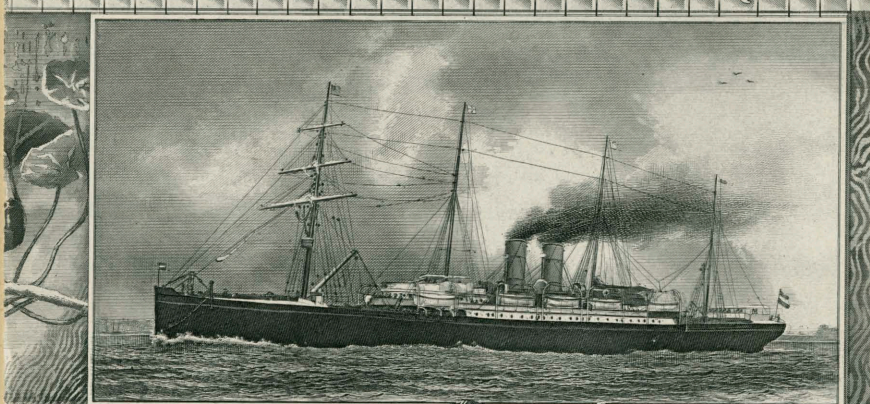
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Miss Annie R. Anthony.	Miss Mary Dreier.	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Hecht.
Mr. S. Adams.	Mr. Frederick de Bary.	Mrs. B. A. Haggin and maid.
Mr. Siegfr. Asch.	Miss Leonie de Bary.	Master Louis Haggin.
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Mr. A. Nedderhut.	Miss Gussie Singer.	Miss Grace Young.
Miss Estelle Nedderhut.	Master Albert Singer.	
Mr. Oswald Ottendorfer and valet.	Mrs. Gladys Stephens.	Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Zeigler.
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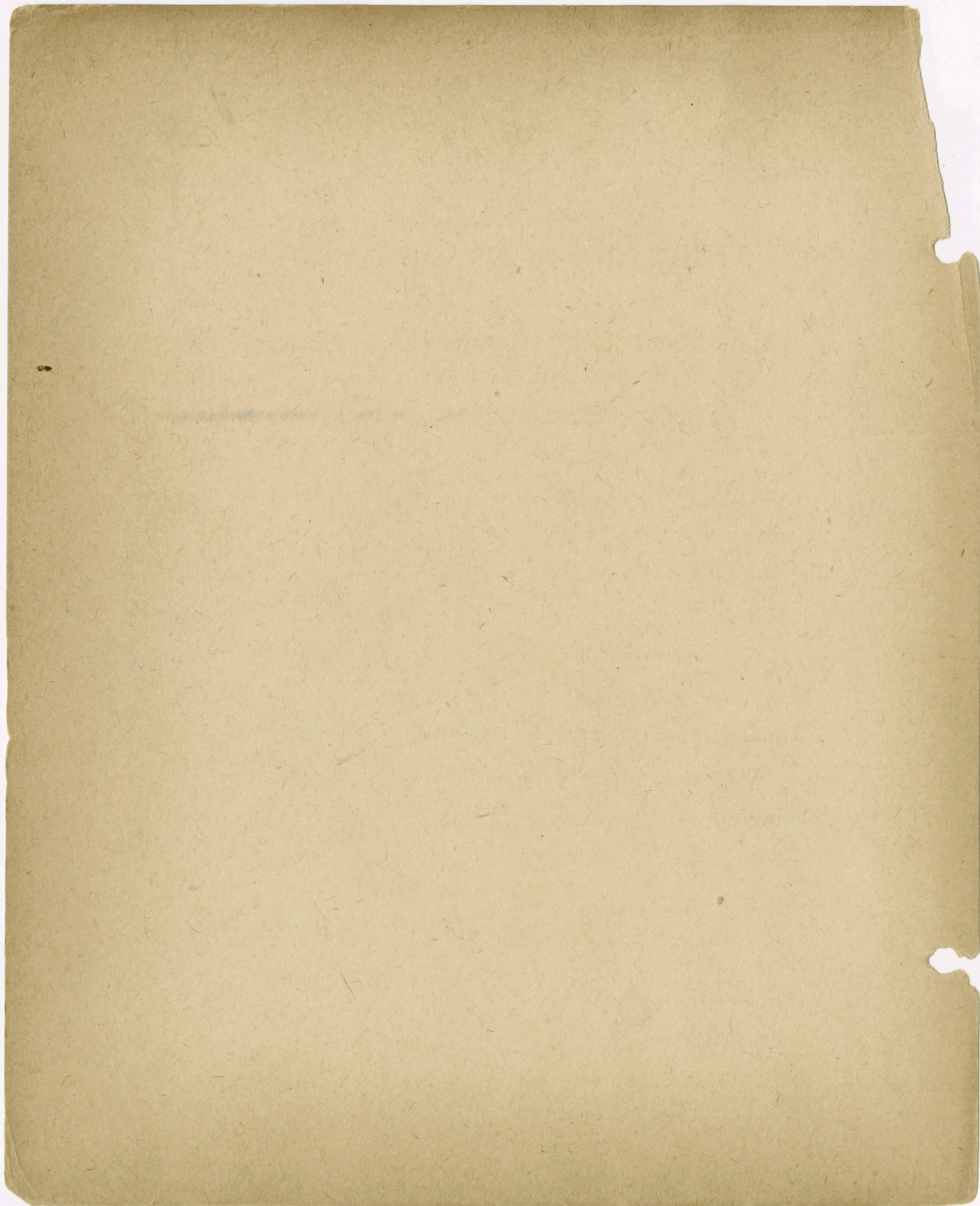
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42 Craven St Strand

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FOR THE TERM OF ~~THREE MONTHS~~.

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available to 17th Aug 91

[T.O.]



ITEMS PERSONAL.

We are gratified in learning that Mrs. J. E. Dixon, of Granville, Ohio, of whom mention was made in THE STANDARD two weeks since as having been elected librarian of the theological seminary at Morgan Park, has accepted the position, and will enter upon service the first of October next.

ARRIVED TODAY.

The Cataloguing of the Public Library Now Begins in Earnest.

Miss J. E. Dixon, the librarian of the Divinity school library of Chicago university, arrived here today and assumed charge of the cataloguing of the library. She will have full charge of the whole library until the cataloguing is completed. She requests all who desire to draw books to call at the library on Friday or Saturday, register their names and receive guarantee cards and copies of the rules. The arrangement of the library for use is now beginning to go forward rapidly. The directors will hold a special meeting for the transaction of necessary business tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Dewey System of Cataloguing to Be Used---Its Advantages.

"The city council did a very commendable act when it appropriated \$12,000 for library purposes," said Judge Ensign, "and it is greatly to its credit that it was an unsolicited act. It greatly encouraged me, for I feel that that the city recognizes the necessity of a public library. We are starting out well. Mrs. Dixon, who is at the head of a large library in Chicago---the divinity school of the Chicago university---is an experienced librarian, and knows just what is necessary. She now has complete charge until the library gets into first-class running order. She is a thorough believer in the Dewey system of cataloguing, and predicts that it will not be long before the Duluth library, under this system, will become the most valuable in the Northwest. And what is the best argument I know of," continued the judge, "Mr. Poole, who is one of the old school and a firm believer in the old way, stated as his chief reason for opposing the Dewey system was, that 'any idiot, who knew his alphabet, could go right into a library so catalogued and find any book he wanted.'"

ON MONDAY, thanks to the energy and ability of one of the brightest and most enthusiastic little ladies Duluth people have ever had the pleasure of meeting, and of two or three capable assistants, headed by Miss Neff, the regular assistant librarian, the Duluth public library will be open for the delivery of books. That Duluth people are glad of the opportunity to get books and happy that a long and dismal delay is over, was evidenced Friday and today by the rush at the rooms for guaranty cards and the number of them issued to intending book takers. The library board held a special meeting Thursday evening, and made a few rules preparatory to opening.

Mrs. J. E. Dixon, librarian of the Chicago Baptist University, and a noted library organizer, came to Duluth Tuesday and in the week has succeeded in doing what has hung fire for months. Mrs. Dixon carries a decimal system of cataloging libraries, the Dewey system, so well in her mind that she loses no time in carrying out its seemingly intricate features, intricate however, but seemingly, as the system is the most simple and perfect that ingenuity can design.

There will be 2500 books to start with, while nearly 1500 more are to be added as fast as the cataloging can be finished. This will make nearly all the books of the first year. As there are \$12,000 available for next year, to be paid in on the March and June apportionments, the board will be able to buy 5000 to 6000 additional books before the close of 1891.

Mrs. J. E. Dixon, who has been working in the Duluth, Minn., Public Library for some weeks, is now at Morgan Park, arranging to begin her new work there.

—On Thursday of last week Mrs. Zella A. Dixon, delivered a most interesting lecture to the students of the Library School at Albany, N. Y., on the subject of "Founding & Government of Libraries." Mrs. Dixon spoke for more than an hour, giving many suggestions from her own experience as a Library expert and dwelling in detail on points to be avoided in the government of the Libraries. Mrs. Dixon sailed on Tuesday on the North German line on the steamer "Spree" for Europe, where she will spend the summer in study.

Mrs. Zella Dixon, librarian of the Seminary at Morgan Park, in a recent address before the Literary Society, gave an interesting account of her visit to celebrated libraries of Europe.

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EDITORIAL

Leading our department of literature is an article to which we wish to call particular attention. It will be observed with what absolute clearness, and in what an interesting way, a somewhat complicated system of classification for the books of a great library is set forth. Incidental suggestions occur in course of the article, as will be noticed, as to the remarkable character of the library at Morgan Park. The accomplished lady now in charge has promised to follow this article, in due time, with another in which the more noticeable characteristics will appear of a collection of books whose unique value and interest have not as yet been fully understood, even by many of those who are daily visitors, much less by those who have learned of it only by report.

THE SEMINARY LIBRARY AT MORGAN PARK.

System of Classification.

BY MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON, LIBRARIAN.

Early in the summer the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, realizing the value of the rare and unusual collection of books in their charge, conscious of the fact that the students were not receiving the full benefit of such an educational force because of the inaccessibility of the larger part of the volumes, decided to abandon the time-honored custom of attaching the work of librarian to the chair of some already over-worked professor. They made the library one of the departments of the seminary, appointing a trained librarian, with the full time of a professor, to take charge of it and to devote time and experience to placing it in the front rank of the libraries that are most used and most useful.

When the seminary opened in September the work of arranging and cataloguing commenced in earnest. The Hengstenberg, Ide, Bible Union and Seminary collections were thrown into one. All books at least 150 years old, and all rare and "selten" books were separated from the general working collection and shelved in a smaller room, as the "Treasure Trove" of the library. This is accessible to strangers, visitors and students on application to the librarian, but is not kept generally open as are the other departments of the library. The "Treasure Trove" contains many exceedingly interesting volumes; many beautiful and costly bindings. We earnestly hope in the near future to send to the readers of THE STANDARD a detailed account of some of the most famous. At present we shall only attempt to give some explanation of the system of classifying and cataloguing, in accordance with which the books are being arranged. The system is the one so universally found in our large Eastern libraries; the Decimal, or "Dewey" system, as it is more generally called.

In 1873 Mr. Melvil Dewey invented the system, while librarian of Amherst College (30,000 vols.), intending it for his own use; but the system was so clearly shown to be more helpful to readers than any of the methods then in use, that librarians came to Mr. Dewey from every part of the country to learn the new system. In order to place it within the reach of many librarians too far distant

to make the personal visit, Mr. Dewey published his first edition of the Decimal classification. It was offered to the library profession only after many months of scholarly research in hundreds of books and pamphlets, and in over fifty personal visits to the largest and best-managed libraries in the world. In the United States special report on libraries in 1875, a very interesting account is given of this system, its rapid growth and general adoption.

To-day large libraries in England, France, Scotland, Ireland, India, Canada, and many hundred in our own United States, are using it, and it is earnestly believed by many friends of the system, that the day is not far distant when it will be the one system everywhere in use.

It is called the "Decimal" classification, because the fundamental idea is that the library is the unit, and each volume a definite fractional part of it, divided subjectively. The classification consists in consolidating the two kinds of numbers used in the old system, so that the one set will answer for both, and the number of a book be made to tell not only what a book is about, but where it can be found. The advantages of this are readily seen. According to the old methods, the numbers were of fixed location, a tier was lettered, then the books received their call number from their fixed position on a given shelf. Thus any change in shelving, any addition of new rooms, or the removal of the books to a new building, necessitated the entire renumbering of all books, accession books, index rerums, catalogues, etc. With the Decimal system it is just the reverse. Since the book is numbered from its subject matter, the number can only change by the book becoming other than itself. Through all the changes of shelving, moving and adding new buildings, the number remains the same. This is a wonderful economy of time and money, requires better work, because more permanent, and enables a new librarian to begin just where the old one left off, and to fully utilize past labor.

Throughout the entire system it is constantly borne in mind that the simplest methods, other things being equal, are always the best. In numbering books only the simplest symbols known to the human mind, such as 1, 2, 3, etc., and a, b, c, etc., are used; their simplicity being aided by simple mnemonics. The classification divides all the books into the following ten classes.

0—General Works. 1—Philosophy. 2—Theology. 3—Sociology. 4—Philology. 5—Science. 6—Useful Arts. 7—Fine Arts. 8—Literature. 9—History.

Each of these ten "classes" is divided ten times, giving us 100 "Divisions," and once more each division ten times to form the 1,000 "Sections." We now have our unit of classification, and in working out closer subject divisions, we use the decimal point, and add a fraction. In this way the shelves never become clogged. There is always a place waiting for each volume, when it becomes part of the library, and the books on either side move to the right and to the left to give it room.

One of the greatest advantages of the system is the valuable and helpful statistics which it records. Take for example, Greeley's "Conflict," 973.7. Reading the number by analysis, it becomes, 9—History, 97—History of North America, 973—History of the United States, 973.7—History

of the Civil War in the United States. Standing on our records it tells through months and years its use and work in our library, as it could not if it were assigned a number constantly changing and meaning nothing beyond its position on a shelf.

When the second term of this year opened at the seminary, the students returning from their Christmas vacation found the card catalogue ready for use. It represents material on all the ten classes and contains at present over 6,000 cards. Only about one third of the English books are catalogued and arranged, but great care has been taken to have this number include as large a proportion as possible of those volumes most needed by the students and professors.

The card catalogue is threefold, consisting of authors, subjects and titles. If a reader desires to find a certain book, whose author and title he knows, he goes to the author catalogue, where he finds a straight dictionary author list, on cards, of all the books catalogued. Should he know only the title of the book, not being posted as to its author, he finds it just as readily by going to the drawers containing the title catalogue and consulting an alphabetical arrangement of the titles of the books. Many times during the day there come to the busy librarian, applications for material which can not be reached through either of these catalogues without assistance. The student wants information on a certain subject, has no special preference for any author or book—"wants to see what the library has on that subject." It is to meet just this class of readers that our third catalogue is devised. It is a subject catalogue, being in reality the exact copy of the books on the shelves, in their subject arrangement, plus the reference to the subject in other books, of which the subject is a digression from the main subject of the book. Thus, the book, Carlyle's "Heroes and Hero Worship," would be placed in 920 biography, but cross reference cards would analyze the contents under 940, History of Europe, 940.7 History of the Reformation, 285.9 Puritanism, 297 Mohammedanism, 291 Comparative Mythology, 293 Northern Mythology, 290 Paganism, etc. Any student seeking the resources of the Library on any special subject, finds first from the "Relative Index of the Decimal Classification" the number of the division in which the subject wanted occurs; this refers him at once to the drawers of the subject catalogue, where he finds all the references in all the books, representing the information in the library on the subject, he makes his selection, finds his book and is ready for work. If the book is not needed for reference it may be taken from the library for two weeks.

The plan for charging books is quick and accurate. In a pocket in the back of each book is a card bearing the author, title, and classification of each book respectively. This card is known as the book-card, and is capable of recording one hundred loans. In the first space of the ruling is placed the date of its first trip, and the initials of the borrower and the date of return. While the book is out this card stands at the loan desk to tell, whenever the information is wanted, where the book is and when it will be returned. There is also kept at the desk a personal card of every one entitled to use the library, on which is kept the double entry of the book-card, showing at a glance the reading of each student, in the same way that the book-card reveals the use made of each volume.

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The cataloguing is progressing steadily, and while it is still the work of many months before it will be completed, the work has been so planned that every evening the work accomplished during the day will be placed on the shelves and in the catalogues, ready for immediate use. In this way it is hoped to reduce to the minimum the drawbacks and disadvantages of having the cataloguing done while the books are constantly in use, and that the Seminary Library Catalogue, so long the "substance of things hoped for," shall become at once a grateful reality to the students at Morgan Park.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

— Mrs. Dixon, whose article upon the Bible Union section of the Seminary library at Morgan Park leads our literary department, promises to follow this one, in due time, with another upon the Hengstenberg portion, and a third upon that which was secured in a purchase some years ago of the library of Dr. Ide. These, with books otherwise secured, make up the 25,000 volumes, more or less, constituting what is one of the most unique collections of books to be found

THE SEMINARY LIBRARY AT MORGAN PARK.

American Bible Union Collection.

BY MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON, LIBRARIAN.

One of the most interesting collections which are included in the seminary library at Morgan Park is the Colwell Library of the American Bible Union, named in recognition of its presentation to the Seminary by Dr. T. M. Colwell, of Lowell, Mass. It comprises nearly 5,000 volumes, collected with catholic liberality, in order to trace the progress of Biblical erudition through successive ages. It combines contributions to theological learning, not only from the various Protestant churches, but also from Roman Catholic and Jewish scholars.

The collection was made under the personal direction of Dr. T. J. Conant at great cost. Representing as it does his "tools" while prosecuting his work of translating the Bible, it naturally contains many rare editions of early Hebrew and Greek classics now wholly out of the book markets of the world. The society had special advantages for obtaining these through its foreign agencies. Some of the most valuable were purchased at the sale of the Van Voorst Library, at Amsterdam, a library representing the best accumulation of two centuries.

Among bibliographical scholars this library of the American Bible Union is considered one of the finest translation collections in existence.

In a collection of several thousand volumes, where every one is rare and valuable for some especial quality and where every book has a history of more than usual interest, it is impossible to give even a hurried notice of each or of even a few hundred of the more scarce. We must, therefore, select from this number only a dozen or so to be the subject of the few scattered thoughts that will form the material of this article, not claiming in any way that the volumes thus

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selected are in any manner more deserving an "honorable mention" than the thousands left unnoticed.

Among our Hebrew Bibles would naturally come first the famous Bomberg Bible. "*Biblia Hebraica Bombergiana, secundo impressa. Venetiis, 1521.*" This is the second edition of a rare and famous series of Hebrew Bibles by Daniel Bomberg. He was a native of Antwerp, but a resident of Venice. He was the foremost of Hebrew printers in the sixteenth century, and so faithfully performed his work that his editions of the Bible occupy a high place in bibliography, and are considered of great intrinsic value. This being the best of all his editions is named in his honor. Dibdin says of this, "The first edition of this work is so scarce that Masch never saw it, but procured his description of it from the edition of 1521, which he understood to be an exact reimpression of it." This edition has many of the books of the Bible introduced by initial words in metal type; the books of Genesis and Joshua have prefixed large initial wood-cuts. This *Biblia* is in good clear type; a perfect copy in the original binding. It was first bound with clasps, but in its fight for existence it has lost one of them; otherwise it is in good condition.

Next oldest of our Hebrew Bibles is "*Hebraica Biblia, Latina planeque nova Sebast. Munsteri tralatione Editio secunda. Bisiliae, 1546.*" Sebastian Munster would seem to have been a veritable "Jack of all trades." His biographer tells us, "He could disport with the most obstruse subjects in Alchemy, Cosmography, and in all mathematical calculations and grapple with the knottiest points in Hebrew, Greek and Latin literature." Tradition states, however, that in editing this *Biblia* he took advantage of the scholarship of a learned Jew, who greatly added to the value of the Hebrew text by collating it with all other manuscripts within his reach. This edition is rare and highly valued, but is considered by scholars inferior to the Bomberg edition, just mentioned, largely, however, on the score of typographical excellence. It is chiefly of interest as showing the Hebrew learning of that age.

Next in order is our "*Biblia Hebraica; editio nova ex accuratissima recensione doctissimi ac celeberrimi Hebraei, Menasseh Ben Israel. Amst. 1634.*" This is sometimes called "The accurate Hebrew Bible," possibly because in the first edition the learned editor in a Latin and Hebrew preface explains much at length that his sole object is truth and accuracy, and after asserting that he has detected and corrected over three hundred mistakes he "convides his grateful labors to the pious."

This second edition was not subjected to the personal supervision of the editor, but is supposed to be largely a re-impression of it. Masch says of it: "The edition of 1634, however free from errors, was received by the learned with great applause on account of its beauty of type, paper and the clearness of its points."

Another *Biblia* closely allied to this one and edited by the same scholar is the "*Biblia Hebraica; curis Josephi Athiae et alior. Curiosior. Judeorum. Amst. 1667.*" Of these two this latter is by far the greater prize. Horne refers to it as "a rare edition of a most beautifully executed Bible." It is of special in-

terest not only on account of the superior typographical beauty and accuracy, but as being the first Hebrew Bible in which the verses are designated by numbers. Both of these Bibles have been collated with the Bomberg edition. Masch claims that this edition of 1667 far exceeds all its predecessors in its accuracy as well as in elegance. So highly did the States General of Holland prize this edition that they presented the publisher and printer, Athias, with a beautiful gold chain and pendant medal as a reward for his labors.

Among the Greek Bibles, the "*Novum D. N. Jesu Christi Test. a Theodoro Beza versum . . . 1560,*" is of special interest as having the honor of guiding King James' revisers in many difficult passages to the correct text and its meaning. Beza was a man of unquestioned learning, with ability decidedly above the average. He understood Greek and Latin but knew nothing of Hebrew. This explains the defects and errors which scholars find in his New Testament. Our Bible Union contains four of the most celebrated of these Beza editions of the New Testament.

Two editions of the Curcellaeus' New Testament, now very rare, are among the treasures of our Greek Bibles. These are especially of interest in tracing the history of the printed text, as they contain passages not cited before. Among others is the passage of 1 John v. 7, 8 [spurious].

One of the finest curiosities of the Reformation is, also, in our Treasure Trove. It is the "*Johannes Draconites. Proverbia Salomonis. . . 1564,*" taken from his *Biblia Pentapla*. The volume is a small folio bound in vellum, consisting of the Hebrew text, with the Chaldee, Greek, Latin and German translations word for word arranged in vertical rows under the Hebrew. In turning over the leaves the attention is arrested and the curiosity aroused to find portions of the work printed in red ink. This is done to mark the Messianic prophecies and enable the scholar quickly to read it out of the connecting passages.

The frontispiece is a portrait plate: Dr. John Draconites in the centre and the usual Reformation symbols filling in the background. To the right is the Sun of Righteousness and below the brazen serpent of the wilderness, while in the left-hand corner is the dove with the olive branch in her mouth, and below man fleeing from the wrath to come.

Among the Latin Bibles are the Froben's Bible, 1491 [a most beautiful and rare copy in perfect condition], and the two Koberger Bibles, the "*Biblia Vulgata, 1520,*" and the "*Joannes Marion.*"

The Latin Bibles are the most beautiful and interesting of all the old and rare Bibles, as they are in fine royal bindings, often exquisitely ornamented with tooling and under edge, as well as profusely illuminated. All the Koberger editions have as a frontispiece a full-page picture representing Jerome's cell, the saint counting his beads before the crucifix and the usual background of the hour-glass, the clock, and the tablets held by cherubs. In the illustrations of the Latin Bibles of this period it is interesting to notice that Moses, after his reception of the tables of the law, is everywhere represented with the full-grown horns of an ox.

Coming to the German Bibles we find some marked differences in styles of binding, in ornamentation and in the greater profusion of illustrations. In the entire collection of the Bible Union there is no volume that elicits so much interest from our visitors as "Die Bibel, im Deutschen. Augs. 1473." This is known in bibliography as the fifth German Bible. It is translated from the Latin Vulgate and is more than half a century earlier than Luther's Bible. It is printed from black type with the earliest forms of wood-cut initials. It is a large folio volume bound in pig's skin. Upon the covers is the most beautiful tooling. The face cover has as a centre-piece the face of the Lord Jesus, with small portraits of the apostles and some of the Old Testament characters grouped around it. Some of the faces are beautifully executed, the features standing out like pieces of carved ivory. Each head is crowned with the radi-

ance which characterizes canon saints. There are evidences that the book once possessed clasp fastenings and was once chained to a book block. It is the general supposition regarding this Bible that it once belonged to some of the large German churches, where it was kept chained to the reading-desk. Although a perfect copy in good condition it bears the marks of usage.

This Bible is full of wood-cuts executed with a roughness and colored with an intensity highly grotesque in their effect. The size of the boils on poor Job, and the malicious expression on the countenance of "Der Teufel," gives one a new and more realizing sense of that trial of faith. It is said of the Madonna painters that "each painted the style of beauty peculiar to his own nationality." So the artist who executed these illustrations has peopled the Bible with unmistakable Germans. There are neither Israelites nor Egyptians, neither Greeks nor barbarians; but round-faced, rosy-cheeked Germans, in little red skirts and black bodices, everywhere abound. The illustrations in the books of prophecy form in themselves not only a commentary, but a full outline in color of the hermeneutics of that age.

This is a very old and rare copy of unlimited resources in study and reflection. The volume shows careful collation; for example, the prayer of Manasseh that should have followed the rubric on page 185, is printed on a slip and inserted, and in 1 Chron. a line is omitted in the wood-type printing, but is supplied with ink.

Three editions of Luther's Bible are among our rare German Bibles. These are all illustrated with rudely-executed wood-cuts, colored by hand. In the edition of 1524 the beast and harlot of the Revelation are seen with papal crowns, in true Lutheran style.

Of the early French and Italian Bibles we have the "Le Nouveau Testament" of 1545, and the "La Bibbia" of 1807, and also the original edition of Diodati's Italian version.

The collection of English Bibles is complete, and is a group of which to be proud, comprising as it does all the early versions in their best and rarest editions. Here is the list: Wycliffe's Bible of the Old and New Testaments, with the Apocryphal Books; Tyndale's New Testament; Coverdale's Holy Scriptures, rare second edition; Coverdale Bible, Zurich edition; Matthew's Bible, 1549 [this is the third English Bible and the foundation of our present version]; Taverner's Bible; Cranmer's Bible, 1549, first edi-

tion; another copy of the same containing Cranmer's Prologue missing in the other. Geneva Bible, 1557; another copy, edition 1560, noted for its choice diction and famous as the source of many of the exquisite gems of phraseology of King James' version; the "Breeches Bible," of 1611, so-called because in Gen. iii. 7 the word now translated "aprons" is in this edition called "breeches." Bishop's Bible, a rare and costly copy, with text entire and in perfect condition; two other editions of the same, but not perfect copies; Rhemish and Douay Bible, 1595, two copies of the same, one being a reprint of 1609; Holy Bible editions of 1611, 1613, 1615, 1624, 1793 and 1841.

Among the curiosities of the English Bibles is a "manufactured edition," a stolen title-page. The title-page of a Geneva Bible, also the i.-iii. chapters of Genesis are appliqued into a discolored copy of the King James' version. It is done neatly and with great skill, and requires the closest scrutiny to detect the fraud. Where the edges lap a border of heavy red pigment hides the connection. This is one of the best of imitations, and would readily deceive a careless buyer.

The history of the translation of the Bible into other languages is fully illustrated by the presence of the Scriptures in the following languages: Sanscrit, Sgau Karen, Burmese [Judson's Bible containing his autograph], Pwo Karen Chinese, Chinese Ningpo, Colloquial Japanese, Loochooan dialect, Bengali, Hindustani, Armenian, Siamese, Telugu, Persian, Arabic, Chippeway, Micmac, Charibbean, Ottawa, Cherokee, Creek, Syriac, Welsh, Irish, Danish, Swedish, German, Dutch, French, Bohemian, Hungarian, Russian, Polish, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Italian, Spanish and English.

The department of Jewish literature contains the famous "Das Buch Ochlal W' Ochlal" [Massarah]. The precious MS. from which this book is taken suddenly disappeared during the early part of the sixteenth century, and all effort to find any trace of it proved unsuccessful. It was at length found in the National Library at Paris, and was brought within reach of the scholar by the efforts of a learned Jew, Dr. S. Frensdaff.

Accustomed as we are to the limited capacity of American libraries, it seems not a little remarkable that a MS. so precious and so rare should have been "lost" in a library so wide-awake and universally used as the Bibliotheca Nationale, but we must remember that it is not only by far the largest collection

in the world, but that it is so large that no one knows just how many books it contains. The volumes have never all been counted, much less indexed. Every one can recall some library where a systematic neglect of fifteen or twenty years had thrown the books into such ideal confusion that it was impossible to have any accurate knowledge of the books it contained. What, then, must be the hidden resources of a library that counts its age, not by decades, but by centuries, a collection that was a "large library" in the days of Charlemagne, that down through the ages has been the popular fad of kings and queens, and the national pride of a great and intelligent people? Since the passage of the "Terror Decree," which requires every one printing a book to furnish free one copy to the library and one to be used by it as a medium of exchange for the publications of foreign authors, the yearly increase alone has

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been great enough to disarrange any system of cataloguing. At present only the recent additions are accessioned, and the accumulation, literally of ages, is left in its time-honored confusion.

—The first of two articles upon the Library of the British Museum, in London, leads the first page, this week. The writer will be recognized as the cultivated lady who has rendered such signal service during the last year as librarian of the seminary at Morgan Park. Readers of her articles, especially those who have themselves visited the great collection of books she describes, will realize what advantage such a visitor must have who comes *prepared* in such a way as to know what features of a great library to search for, where to find them and how to use them. Apart from what concerns the British Museum Library itself, Mrs. Dixon, as readers will notice, furnishes highly interesting information upon the history of books and book-making during many centuries. Her second article will be found no less interesting than this one.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY.

BY MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON.

I.

This library is one of the most interesting of all the great European repositories for books. Beginning with the union of the four large collections, the Royal, Cottonian, Harleian and Sloanian, it has grown steadily and rapidly, adding during the last century vast numbers of books, until to-day it comprises more than 2,000,000 volumes of choice and rare bibliography and is able to challenge comparison with the oldest and most fortunate of the famous libraries of the world. Its early history is full of thrilling incidents, and reads more like the annals in the life of some great adventurer than the records of a mere disorganized mass of books.

Its History.

We find the first trace of its existence in a few choice volumes in the possession of Henry VII. These still form a part of the library as it stands to-day, a noble series of vellums, bound in royal splendor. This wee collection, at the end of the reign of Henry VIII. had not only been able to stand its ground amid the barbarities of the times and the ravages of war, but had actually managed to grow a little. It then numbered some 320 bound volumes. During the lifetime of Edward VI. the resources of this infant collection were greatly strengthened. A special officer of the court was appointed to have the care of it and to "search the realm for scarce and unusual books to add to its fame." It is something of a disappointment to find no trace of material help to this enterprise during the reigns of Queen Mary and

Elizabeth. The most careful and accurate study of the authentic records of those times fails to reveal anything really worthy of either of these queens ever accomplished. During the civil wars which followed, the library was in great peril, being the special object of the fury of the ignorant mobs. At one time it was buried for many months to avoid being torn to pieces by religious fanatics; at another it barely escaped being utterly destroyed in the fire at Westminster, many of its most valuable manuscripts being reduced to mere bundles of curled and charred leaves. As far as was possible, manuscripts that were burned were softened and restored, with great skill and dexterity on the part of the book-binders. All which were utterly beyond their power of restoration, were carefully placed in glass boxes, in the hope that the science of the future might find some means of making them available for study and research. This has been done to an extent far exceeding their most sanguine expectation. Out of the 105 charred remains in cases in 1759, when the British Museum Library was first opened to the public, 51 have been most successfully restored and are now bound in strong covers and in daily use.

Specimen Treasures.

For the greatest, although perhaps not the most conspicuous gift, the library is indebted to Clayton M. Cracherode, a gentleman of great erudition, who devoted his time, talents, and large fortune to the collection of a choice library of rare manuscripts, prints and printed books. He was pre-eminently not a man to whom "a book was a book," no matter what its edition, binding, or previous condition of servitude. His library, which was the one bright spot in a life of unusual sadness, comprises a collection of books in classical and biblical literature, every volume of which is the best obtainable edition, in the most beautiful of bindings, selected with close attention to the subject matter of the book and in every case a perfect copy, without omissions or defective readings. The room containing this gift is one of the most attractive and charming of the entire British Museum Library. No one can stand in the midst of this exquisite collection—a library of only 4,500 volumes, yet representing more than \$50,000—without forming a very strong impression of the chief characteristics of the man who had collected them. So unmistakably do they bear the impress of the spirit of him whose they were that the visitor feels anew the truth of the old Grecian proverb, "Show me the books the man loves, and I can find the man."

The librarian off for a holiday finds in the manuscript room of this great library a department of intensest interest; an inspiration for many weary hours to

come. Here, the reader who is so fortunate as to possess a ticket for special research is able to see specimens of the book-making art, going back to the earliest history when book-lovers filled their shelves with volumes made of brick and tile, on which the inscriptions had been made before they were baked, or covered their tables and desks with long, awkward papyri rolls and dangling waxen tablets. So curious and unfamiliar are both the form and the material of those early books, that we should hardly recognize in such sturdy pioneers the ancestry of the neat and dainty volume that now becomes the choice companion of a leisure hour. Here we see how grey and wrinkled is "book-madness," how the bibliomaniac, long before the invention of printing, had his private *sanctum* and gloated over his "Selten copy" as to-day. The onward march of civilization soon replaced these early books with rolls of manuscript beautifully written and filled with elaborate tracing, miniatures and illuminations. It is to tell you something of these that we write to-day.

Illuminated Manuscripts.

In the early days of library science all the chief learning was centered in religious institutions. It is to the monasteries that we owe the gratitude of the civilized world of to-day for the making and preserving of these priceless treasures of literature. Every monastery had its "Scriptorium" as surely and in as much a matter-of-course way, as any town in the United States has its post-office. Here the monks studied and wrote and copied; some spending their lives in the elaborate illumination of some one volume, usually a service book or a copy of the Holy Scriptures. One monastery would borrow a rare manuscript from some other abbey and make for itself as exact a duplicate as could be prepared. We regret to add that in some cases, history states that the copy and not the original was returned to the generous lenders, as was true in the case of Euergetes. He required the Athenians to send him as a pledge,—the sole arrangement by which the Egyptian corn could be besold for the relief of the starving Athenians,—the original writings of Sophocles, Æschylus and Euripedes. The famishing people of Athens, after months of reluctant delay, at length sent the precious manuscripts. Euergetes had the monks carefully copy them, and retaining the originals in the Alexandrian library returned the copies to Athens. It was here in the quiet and seclusion of monastery life that the most lovely and beautiful in art had its birth. The process of illumination first had its rise in the latter period of the Roman empire. But the fall of Rome and the adding of the invention of illuminating with gold and silver as well as with pigment, gave the art a second birth and

made way for the Grecian claim of its origination. The most famous pieces of book-art are to be found in the Service Books. These were large volumes containing the church service and prepared especially for use in the pulpit or at the desk. They were usually beautifully bound in vellum and profusely ornamented with hand tooling and filled with beautiful illuminated letter, miniatures of biblical history and borders of rare unique design. A smaller volume of the same book was also in use prepared for members of royalty, wealthy private families and sometimes for a much-loved fellow-monk. To-day many of these books stored in the various libraries have an additional value because of their original owners, like the "Mary Queen of Scots' Missal," the "Isabella Bible" and the "Durham Book."

The "Book of Hours, or Hours with the Blessed Virgin," were books prepared for the use of the common people and were generally small volumes, convenient for pocket use, containing many beautiful miniatures descriptive of scenes in the life of Mary. These with other modified forms are the chief manuscripts of the books of service. It is to the Bible manuscripts that we must come to see the process of illumination in its perfection. The art of coloring was so highly developed that in spite of faulty perspective and a disregard for the sublime that at times is to us almost irreverence, these pictures are never tiresome. As an example of the realism of these old picture-makers, we notice in many of the Bibles of the sixth and seventh centuries the giving of the manna to the children of Israel in the wilderness is represented by a fine shower of round, nicely browned biscuits, that might well tempt the appetite of an epicure. In New Testaments of the same period we see in the raising of Lazarus the reader's attention is called to the protest made to Jesus, "He hath lain in the grave three days"—by seeing beside the open grave, many by-standers vigorously holding their noses.

"The Purple Gospels."

Among the many exceedingly lovely manuscripts which we have seen and studied in this great collection of 55,000, is one called the "Purple Gospels." It consists of seventy-seven vellum leaves, and is named from the fact that four of these are stained a royal purple, a process very difficult in its day and soon lost. Artists who came later, tried to replace the loss by painting one side of the vellum purple, but the attempt was not a success and soon fell into disuse. The manuscript is the four Gospels according to the version of St. Jerome, written in letters nearly an inch high with eight lines to the page, the inscription throughout being written alternately in gold and silver. The four purple leaves introduce the four Gospels. The second leaf, representing St. Mark, is especially beautiful.

He is seated above an alcove holding a partly unrolled manuscript, one end of which remains in the hand of God the Father to denote the inspiration of the holy word. Lest the reader mistake the evangelist, the Lion of St. Mark is placed in miniature at the top of the page. The third purple leaf, prefacing St. Luke's Gospel, has a very charming device. The first words of the book are arranged in illuminated arches. In the center arch is a miniature of the face of the Lord Jesus and beneath it the ox of St. Luke.

The fourth leaf is not perfect, the illumination of the angel Gabriel appearing to Zacharias being nearly destroyed. It is the tradition that originally there were many leaves, but that being rare and unusual, they were one by one secretly removed. This manuscript belonged in the fourteenth century to the Cathedral library at Canterbury. It is now very generally believed to be the second volume of the "Biblia Gregoriana." As many readers of *THE STANDARD*, may not be familiar with the symbols of evangelists used in manuscript work, it may not be out of place to offer a few words of explanation. In the early attempts to represent the personages of the gospel narratives great confusion arose in regard to many of them and leaves were inserted in many places. To avoid this certain symbols were agreed upon to be invariably used with certain miniatures; for example, the Trinity was expressed by a three-leaved clover. St. Mark, representing the tribal relations of the Jews, is always marked by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. St. Luke, dealing with the sacrificial aspect of our Lord's life; has with his miniature the ox of the sacrifice, while St. John, whose Gospel breathes forth the love of God, the spiritual side of the gospel story, is thought to be best represented by an eagle, "the bird that in flying soars nearest to heaven," as the poet sings.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY.

BY MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON.

II.

The Codex Alexandrinus.

The oldest and most valuable volume in the manuscript room is the "Codex Alexandrinus." It holds the first place among all the biblical manuscripts and far surpasses all others, especially since the "Genesis" manuscript of the Cottonian received its irreparable injury. It is a handsome vellum book of 773 leaves, measures 13x10 inches and is bound in four volumes. It was made in the fifth century and presented to King Charles I. by Cyril, Patriarch of Constantinople. Until quite recently this venerable manuscript was supposed to be the oldest in existence.

The "Durham Book."

Another interesting copy of the Gospels is the "Durham Book," also sometimes called "St. Cuthbert's Gospels," and the "Lindisfarne Gospels." It was made in the early part of the seventh century, when the extravagance of manuscript making was at its height. It is made entirely of the finest quality of vellum, in all 258 leaves. The letters are arranged in double columns, with twenty-four lines to the page. It is very beautifully bound. The covers are inlaid with gold and silver worked into patterns to correspond with the ornamentation in the manuscript, and brilliant with precious stones, rubies, diamonds, emeralds and various other gems. This beautiful and costly binding is a copy of the original, and is the gift of Dr. Edward Maltby, Bishop of Durham, at whose expense this priceless manuscript was rebound in 1853. The ornamentation and illumination, which is of the Irish school, consists in combining into graceful designs and geometrical patterns, birds and animals. The heads, necks, legs and tails are interwoven into the most perfect harmony of detail. The pigments that are used in the ornamentation throughout the manuscript are of the most brilliant character, and are put on so thickly as to resemble enamel, which effect is intensified by filling in all the background with black. Each Gospel is preceded by a full-page illumination representing each evangelist. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are sitting—writing upon their scrolls. John has his roll spread out upon his knees and is expounding the text to the people. The story connected with this book is full of interest. It was made by Eadfrid, Bishop of Lindisfarne, who dedicated it "To the honor of God and St. Cuthbert." The volume remained in his library until the Danish invasion, when for safe-keeping it was carried away, together with the shrine of the saint. In an attempt made to pass over to Ireland, this precious manuscript was washed overboard in a violent storm and lay under the water for a long time, until, one day, it was recovered uninjured through the timely intervention of St. Cuthbert. We must pause to state for the benefit of those whose faith is weak, that the "Durham Book" possesses several strong covers, that are put on outside of its gorgeous binding. They were made for it with special reference to this very journey, and in all probability were on it at the time of its shipwreck. If so, they would have been very nearly if not quite a perfectly water-proof covering, so that the Herculean task of preserving it so long under water uninjured, was probably greatly lightened for St. Cuthbert. It might also be added that recently, when we gave our most careful attention and study for two hours to this rare old book, we noticed many of its leaves were badly water-stained.

The shrine and the manuscript, after long years of wandering about, were at length established at Durham. Here the book remained for more than a century. At the end of this time the Bishop took it back to Lindisfarne, at which place it remained until the breaking up of the monasteries. It then disappeared, and all trace of it was lost. For a long time it was believed to have been destroyed by some of the mobs that sacked and burned the monastery libraries. But in the sixteenth century it was found by Sir Robert Cotton in a second-hand book-stall, and purchased by him for his own private library. It had been stripped of its ancient jewels, but otherwise was in good condition. As part of his library it shared the many vicissitudes of his famous collection; but having been burned out, buried and twice shipwrecked, it finally found a quiet resting-place and a safe home in the library of the British Museum, where it occupies the place of honor in the celebrated Cottonian collection.

Palimpsests.

We must take a few moments here to give a very hurried account of an extremely interesting form of manuscript called the "Palimpsest." As the love for reading grew the demand for books for private and public use increased, but as there was a great scarcity of materials out of which to make the new books, a process was invented by which mss. already made into volumes might have the writing erased and the materials used again in the preparation of a new book. This made-over volume was called a palimpsest manuscript. It became the custom to weed out from the collection extra copies of any work and make them into new volumes. From this it would appear that the librarians of ancient times labored with much the same problems as those which vex the student of modern library science: What shall we do with our duplicates? Alas! that for the overworked librarian of to-day there remains no longer a "palimpsest process!" The ink of the early centuries was easily removed by means of a wet sponge. At first the wet surface was clean and white and would remain so for several years, but gradually the action of the atmosphere on the vellum brought back faint outlines of the original writing. To this we are indebted for some of the best copies we have of many very rare manuscripts. During the last few years scholars have been busy turning these palimpsest manuscripts back to their original character, by carefully restoring the first book and erasing the second. In some cases where the original writing is too faint to be intelligible, the vellum is covered with a wash of hydrosulphurate of ammonia, which restores the writing in a marvelous way. This has to be used, however, with great skill, as it injures the vellum if the solution is not removed quickly.

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This library contains the largest collection of this variety of manuscript to be found anywhere. Some of them have been erased more than once and contain really three books. The most celebrated of these is the Syriac manuscript. A copy of St. John Chrysostom in Syriac, of the ninth century, covers a grammatical treatise on the construction of the Latin language of the sixth century, which in turn replaces a history of the fifth century written by Graecus Licinianus.

The libraries of Europe are all rich in the fortunate possession of many specimens of these early books. But this library is especially a great store-house of manuscripts. It contains over 55,000 of them, besides those in the cases. Of the former over 9,000 are written in early oriental languages.

Vandalism.

In the face of all the enormous mass of manuscripts collected for the use of students and scholars, we pause to estimate in some dim way the number of priceless volumes that dense ignorance and cruel barbarism have destroyed. It has been said that undoubtedly the rarest collection of manuscripts ever placed in any one building was the famous Alexandrian Library. And what became of it? It was used for fuel to warm the baths for the soldiery of the fanatical Omar. When he was taken through the long galleries of the Alexandrian Library and shown the great presses filled with rare and costly volumes, he exclaimed: "If these books of the Greeks agree with the Koran, of what use are they? if they disagree they ought to be destroyed, as they are pernicious." So the building was stripped of its treasures. The inestimable manuscripts were divided into four piles and used to heat the four city baths. So enormous was the number of books thus destroyed that it took six months to consume the precious fuel. When we read how the glove-makers of a little English town, during the destruction of the monasteries, robbed a famous abbey of its library of 11,000 rolls of costly manuscripts, all hand-written and hand-decorated, and supplied themselves with material enough to carry on their business for ten years; when we learn from the annals of the past how the children of royal parents were allowed to use in their nurseries these priceless books, how costly illuminations and portraiture were torn from their places to add to royal pleasure or cut up to increase their family of paper dolls; when we remember how the soldiers of Henry VIII. in the destruction of the monasteries paved the street with these manuscripts and then rode up and down on them until not one leaf was left intelligible; how the army of Cromwell, when they sacked the abbey, tore up a whole library of these treasures into mere fragments and made a jollification of their shameful deed, by rolling about knee-deep in the scraps; we wonder not that so

little is left, but that so much is here still, to delight us with that beauty and grace which breathes in the art and architecture of the same period.

Of the most valuable manuscripts a copy of Homer, only a mere fragment, remains. Left to the care of those who did not understand or appreciate its value it was destroyed. Only some fifty odd pieces remain to show us what it was in the day of its glory. These were cut out for the sake of the pictures, and all of the early text that is in existence is that preserved on the back of these pictures. It is a mistaken notion too common with many that these manuscripts form the bric-a-brac of the profession and are of interest only to the bibliomaniac and curioso collector. They serve not only to teach us the manners and customs, styles of dress and habits of life of the ages which produced them; they also contain many valuable lessons as to the biblical ideas of those times. The earnest Bible student may glean from the careful study of these brilliant pages, all glittering with silver and gold, many a new conception of the progress of interpretation not included in his seminary course on hermeneutics. To the librarian they must ever be the source of all the love and reverence which is the glory of our profession. As one looks on the girlish picture of a mother's face, a face we remember only after it is faded by tears and whose features bear the years' footprints, so these beautiful glittering manuscripts, yellow and faded with age, are to the librarian the early beginnings of that most wonderful thing the world's genius has ever produced—a Book.

London, July 24.

Mrs. Zella A. Dixon of Chicago, spent the holidays here, returning to Chicago last Saturday. She has held the position of librarian at Morgan Park Theological Seminary for several years, and since the seminary has been attached to the new Chicago University, to be called the Divinity School, President Harper offered her the position of librarian for the university, which she has accepted and has entered upon the duties of that position. Her many friends here will be pleased to learn of her merited promotion and will wish for her success. She enjoys the reputation of being one of the best posted librarians in the country, which distinction is merited and the new Chicago University will be greatly benefitted by hav-

ing such an able librarian to take charge of the large number of very valuable books already owned by it.

On Wednesday, August 28, Dr. James and family bade farewell to Gambier. On Friday, August 30, Mrs. Dixon, having brought her work at Hubbard Hall to a most satisfactory conclusion, left the Hill. It seems to the writer that the system adopted is an excellent one; for a person studying any particular subject can readily find by the Card Catalogue what books upon that subject are in the Library, and can also find the titles of those books in which the matter is treated.

The great libraries of the University, including the Ide, Hengstenberg Bible Union, University, and Calvary collections, are placed under the direction of Denison's former Librarian, Mrs. Zella Dixon. Her great success in her work in Granville during her years of service there, and still more effective labors in the library of the Seminary at Morgan Park during the subsequent years, constitute a sufficient earnest of what her career in the University is to be. Mrs. Dixon brings to the position of Assistant Librarian of the University, besides many other qualifications, the peculiar power of making a library a center of intellectual life. Certainly no other department of the University possesses greater influence or larger possibilities than the one over which she is called to preside. While Mrs. Dixon's duties require her presence in or near Chicago most of the year, she still regards Granville as her home, and turns gladly thither for her summer's rest. Her warm interest in Shepardson as well as Denison, is enthusiastically attested by the many young men and women who have enjoyed her acquaintance and hospitality.

—Mrs. Zella A. Dixon received on Tuesday of this week a notice of her appointment as a member of the Advisory Council of the Woman's Branch of the World's Columbian Exposition. She will serve on the committee on Literature in the Sub. Committee on Libraries. *June 23, 1892.*

VOLUMES RARE IN THE UNIVERSITY.

Although They Number 280,000, and More
Are Coming, a Perfect System Gives
the Reader Satisfaction for
All His Bookish Wants.

The scholastic talent which distinguishes the faculties of the University of Chicago is not more notable than its libraries. They warrant the new seat of learning in boasting the possession of the largest library by nearly a hundred thousand volumes in Chicago, and the richest college library, excepting one, in the country.

The princely collections are confined, however, to plebeian buildings. The low brick temporary library that occupies a corner of the campus looks more plain and common, perhaps, under the shadow of the beautiful structures of stone that are rising by its side. It is interesting to go into the details of the library that, like everything else about the university, has gained greatness at a leap. There are the general and the departmental libraries. The latter, twenty-four in all, are intended simply as a workshop, and have a place near the classrooms of departments in the university. Books gathered in them to the number of six or eight hundred are designed only as a supplement to textbook study.

The general library includes the great masses of books, for which the very plain building is designed as a temporary storehouse. Two great rooms make up the interior. One is the stockroom, honey-combed with shelving; the other is the reading and reference room, in which is also transacted the business of giving and receiving volumes.

The Reading-room.

A sunny, pleasant place is the reading-room. Around the walls are reference books, encyclopedias and atlases. Current literature may be found on the tables. Easy chairs, polished desks, shining stands of drawers and revolving cases crowd the room. Until they are a month old no new purchases find their way to the stockroom. To get a book one meets the librarian at the loan desk in this ante-room. He knows the title and it is quickly found in the catalogue of titles. He may know only its author, but the librarian just as readily discovers its number in a dictionary of authors. He may know neither the name of a book nor its author, although he wants a certain quantity of book information on a certain subject. Suppose he wants something on "Woman." The librarian looks into a dictionary of words expressing human knowledge, and finding the one in quest turns to a high, square case of drawers. Within are rows of cards and in one of the rows is a set that tells the name of the book, or, if not an entire book, the particular chapter bearing on the subject on which he is seeking information. "Early Church History," for instance, is written on the card in blue ink, showing that it contains only a single chapter on the subject and this is, the card tells, "Woman Before Christianity." All in a family there together are the cards of names of books that bear in whole or part to "Woman." The student has before him a feast of all the information available on the subject he is looking up.

The beauty of this system does not lie in this feature of finding more than the terse expression on the decimal plan. One is able to tell at a glance, after learning a simple key, that 809 means a volume which treats of the "history of literature." The decimal system regards the whole library as a unit and divides it into a decimal classification. The primary division is as follows:

0. General works.
1. Philosophy.
2. Religion.
3. Sociology.
4. Philology.
5. Natural sciences.
6. Useful arts.
7. Fine arts.
8. Literature.
9. History.

These are the tenths in the decimal key. Each tenth divided into ten divisions gives the hundredths. Each hundredth divided into ten more divisions gives the thousandths.

Everything in Its Place.

"Bookkeeping," in the mercantile sense, is at the new library the simplest kind of double entry. Whenever a book goes out two entries are made on library cards. One is the student's and is kept at the loan desk. The other is the book's, and when the book is in occupies a pocket on the inside of the cover, and when it is out is kept in a constantly shifting collection at the loan desk.

When at the end of the month a dean or a professor wants to know what kind of work a student is doing outside of routine he has only to call at the library and ask to see the student's library card. Then if he can read the language of decimal numbers he can tell at a glance what the student is reading.

Mrs. Zilla Allen Dixon, who has taken the responsibility of keeping the great collections, has combined its advantages with the Cutter number, which designates the shelf and the number of the book.

The great problem with librarians has been how to get the books out to the applicants fast enough. This will not be the bane of the university libraries. Mrs. Dixon declares that six books a minute is a rate that can be attained.

It reads like a story of magic that tells the magnificence of the collections. The number of books now in possession of the university is 280,000. The core of the accumulations is the entire library of the old Chicago university, which passed intact to its heir and successor, with many valuable treasures of literature. Included in this nucleus is the noted collection of Greek works given by Professor Oleson, numbering 5,000 volumes. Professor Oleson endowed the chair in Greek occupied by Professor Paul Shorey. The library of the theological seminary at Morgan Park is, next to the Calvary purchase, the largest lot of books that came into possession of the new school. Fifty thousand books in the main theological department accompanied the divinity school as part of its marriage portion to the university.

Many Famous Collections.

Among them is the famous collection of 10,000 volumes which belonged to Dr. Hengstenberg of the University of Berlin. No less noted is the "Bible Union" collection of Dr. Conant, containing translations of the bible into every language, with an overwhelming quantity of commentaries. Among the theological collections is the private library of Dr. Ide of Massachusetts. A private collection of Robert Cotton of England, who has added so many valuable literary treasures to the British museum, is perhaps the most valuable, in proportion to its size, in the university libraries. Then there is the great Calvary collection, which Dr. Harper purchased in Berlin, containing more than half the books in the new library, about 150,000. Great purchases of new works have been made for the departmental libraries.

Publications have commenced to come from the government, a fountain of literature for all the future, for arrangements have been made by which the University of Chicago is to become a repository for all bound books and the principal pam-

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phlets that are printed in the government printing-house. Some of those that have already arrived are beautifully illustrated and printed. There are to be complete files of the congressional reports. Nowhere else, except in the congressional

library at Washington, will such a complete governmental collection exist. The printed catalogue of these works numbers 1,400 pages.

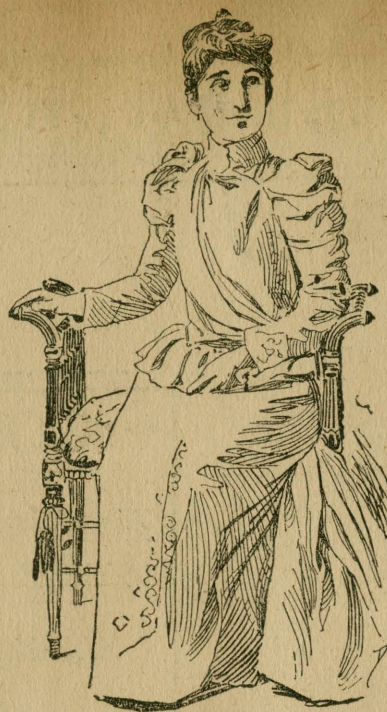
Nor in numbers alone does the new library measure its value. There are rare volumes that, bought outside a great collection, would cost their weight in gold. There are many monkish-penned volumes of parchment bound in calfskin. There is a most beautiful little volume, "The Book of Hours" ("Livre de Heurs"), which is supposed to tell all about the Virgin Mary, and every page is a work of art in penmanship. There is a collection of the autograph letters of famous persons.

An enormous amount of work has been done in this library. Mrs. Dixon and an assistant were engaged a year in cataloguing; now six regular assistants are employed, besides the fellows who are engaged in the departmental libraries, and a number of students work several hours a day in the general library. A new book is stamped, receives the plate of the University of Chicago, is entered into the "accession" book and then in the "accession history"; its subject, author and title find their way to three cards; then on a charging card, for which a pocket must be pasted on the cover; in addition, on as many cards as there are digressions in its subject matter for the card-finding catalogue.

Mrs. Zella Allen Dixon is a woman who is well fitted for her position as curator of the great collections. Last summer she was a student at the British museum. Formerly she was librarian of the Dennison university library, of the library of the theological seminary at Morgan Park, and afterward assistant in the Columbia college library. Recently she has been engaged as a library expert. Among the other officers of the library are Julia M. Angell, of the accession department; William H. Herrick, assistant cataloguer; Minnie Jones, loan desk assistant.

"Epistolæ Alumnae, Class of 1880, Mt. Holyoke (Mass.) College" a thirty page pamphlet edited by Zella A. Dixon, ex-librarian of Denison, has just been issued by the Times Printing Co., Granville, O.

Granville Times



MISS DIXON.

Librarian Zella A. Dixon.

Mrs. Zella A. Dixon, in charge of the university libraries, is equipped with all the new methods of the modern librarian. This work requires to-day a special training in bibliography, technical systems of cataloguing, methods of bringing new books before the public, and the way to stimulate people to read. It requires the study of practical moral questions, also a thoroughly trained mind.

Mrs. Dixon is a graduate of Mount Holyoke. She studied library work at Columbia college, and for a year was assistant librarian there.

Leaving there she worked as a library expert. During two years she catalogued and classified twenty-seven libraries. She was librarian for one year at Denison university and for two years librarian of the Baptist Union Theological seminary.

She spent one year in the British museum, making studies of old manuscripts, also one or two summers in the Canadian libraries, studying the different systems.

The libraries at the university consist of the general library and a reference library for each department of study. As each professor in a particular line of work requires a book for his classes, it is taken from the general collection to the department library and is then immediately duplicated in the general library. Reading-rooms and desks belong with each library. All are under Mrs. Dixon's direction.

She is small and young, with the pleasant-gracious ways among her books and her assistants of a young woman entertaining friends in her own home.

Her chief assistant, Miss Jean Colville, is one of the librarians trained by Mrs. Dixon during her tours as a library expert, and is master of the new systems of cataloguing.

Chicago News-Record.

February 20. 1893.

SKETCH OF MRS. ZELLA A. DIXSON.

Her Connection With the Chicago University Mentioned by the Press.

In a recent issue the *Chicago News Record* printed an article upon the faculty of the Chicago University in which appeared the following notice of the librarian Mrs. Zella A. Dixon, whose summer home is in Granville, together with a cut of that lady.

"Mrs. Zella A. Dixon, in charge of the university libraries, is equipped with all the new methods of the modern librarian. This work requires today a special training in bibliography, technical systems of cataloguing, methods of bringing new books before the public, and the way to stimulate people to read. It requires the study of practical moral questions, also a thoroughly trained mind.

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She is small and young, with the pleasant-gracious ways among her books and her assistants of a young woman entertaining friends in her own home.

Granville Times.

—At the quarterly Convocation of the University of Chicago, held in the Auditorium Monday evening, the following promotions were announced: Clarence Fassett Castle, from assistant-professor to associate-professor of Greek; Zella Allen Dixon, from assistant librarian to associate-librarian; William Bishop Owen, from tutor to instructor in Greek; Francis Wayland Shepardson, from assistant to instructor in history.

Granville Times.

Denison's Part in the University of Chicago.

The great libraries of the University, including the Ide, Hengstenberg Bible Union, University, and Calvary collections, are placed under the direction of Denison's former Librarian, Mrs. Zella Dixon. Her great success in her work in Granville during her years of service there, and still more effective labors in the library of the Seminary at Morgan Park during the subsequent years, constitute a sufficient earnest of what her career in the University is to be. Mrs. Dixon brings to the position of Assistant Librarian of the University, besides many other qualifications, the peculiar power of making a library a center of intellectual life. Certainly no other department of the University possesses greater influence or larger possibilities than the one over which she is called to preside. While Mrs. Dixon's duties require her presence in or near Chicago most of the year, she still regards Granville as her home, and turns gladly thither for her summer's rest. Her warm interest in Shepardson as well as Denison, is enthusiastically attested by the many young men and women who have enjoyed her acquaintance and hospitality.

Granville Times.
June 15th 1892.

Honor to Denison Men.

The *Chicago Graphic* of last week presented several illustrations of the buildings of the New Chicago University, and also of several of the Professors elect. We note, among about a dozen pictures presented, five who have been connected with Denison at sometime, in the capacity of either Professor or student. Those noted, were W. R. Harper Pres., and head Professor in the Dept. of Semitic Languages. C. L. Herrick Professor of Biology, Chas. Chandler, Prof. of Latin, Ira M. Price, Prof. of Semitic Languages and Mrs. Zella A. Dixon assistant Librarian. It is gratifying to note that in a faculty where confessedly only choice men are selected so many who have been connected with our own school are asked to hold responsible chairs. Besides those whose portrait were presented there will be at least two more Denison men viz; F. J. Miller '78, in the Latin Dep't and Prof. E. D. Burton '76 who will have the chair of N. T. interpretation in the Divinity School. 1892.



DENISON UNIVERSITY,
GRANVILLE, OHIO.
D. B. PURINTON, L.L.D., PRESIDENT.

December 22, 1892.

My Dear Mrs. Dixon:-

Your papers on the second part of the work in Philosophy came two days since. They have been examined and found very satisfactory.

Upon recommendation of the President, and by unanimous vote of the Trustees, you are admitted to the Master's Degree in Arts in Shepardson College.

As soon as the holiday vacation is over, a diploma in testimony of this fact will be made out and forwarded to you. If, for any reason, you should not receive it by the third week in January, please notify me at once. You are probably aware that our diploma fee is \$5. This is to cover cost of diploma, lettering and forwarding.

With the kindest greetings of the Christmas time, I am

Very Truly Yours,

D. B. Purinton.

DENISON UNIVERSITY,
GRANVILLE, OHIO.
D. B. PURINTON, L.L.D., PRESIDENT.

Jan. 16, 1893.

My Dear Mrs. Dixon;-

You did right to send the reminder, which was received on Saturday.

I had left directions about filling out your Diploma, some ten days ago, but Mrs. Whissen supposed it was for next June, and so was in no haste about the matter. Your reminder led to an interview whereby the mistake was cleared up and the document duly executed. I send you the diploma by mail, under another cover. Hope this delay has not been the occasion of any anxiety or inconvenience to you.

I remain, as ever,

Very Truly Yours,

D. B. Purinton.

Jesse Allen Dixon. A. M.

Not Things, But Men. ❖



❖ Not Matter, But Mind.

• THE • WORLD'S • CONGRESSES •

OF 1893.

PRESIDENT, CHARLES C. BONNEY.

Upon the nomination of the General Committee on a World's Congress of Librarians, of which Mr. F. H. Hild is Chairman, I have the honor to invite you to attend the World's Congresses in the Department of Literature, to convene in Chicago during the week commencing July 10, 1893, and to request the favor of an early acceptance.

Clarence E. Young.

Secretary,

World's Congress Auxiliary.

World's Congress Headquarters,
Chicago, Ill.

WOMAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON A CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS.

Allan, Jessie, Librarian Public Library, Omaha.
Ambrose, Lodilla, Librarian Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
Angell, M. M., Assistant Librarian Providence Athenæum, Providence.
Bari, Teresa, Biblioteca Nazionale, Torino, Italy.
Bayly, Ada E., Eastbourne, Sussex, Eng.
Bean, Mary A., Librarian Public Library, Brookline, Mass.
Calhoun, Mrs. M. C., State Librarian, Lansing, Mich.
Castellano, Anita, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Firenze, Italy.
Cattell, Sarah A., Librarian Young Women's Christian Association, New York.

Coe, Ellen M., Librarian New York Free Circulating Library, New York.
Coolbrith, Ina D., Oakland, Cal.
Cutler, Mary S., Vice Director State Library, Albany.
Davenport, Mrs. M. F., Librarian Public Library, Council Bluffs.
Denio, Lilian, Librarian New York College for Training of Teachers, New York.
Dewey, Mrs. A., State Library, Albany.
Dixon, Mrs. Z. A., Librarian University of Chicago, Chicago.
Gale, Ellen, Librarian Public Library, Rock Island, Ill.
Godfrey, Lydia B., Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.

WOMAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON A CONGRESS OF LIBRARIANS.

Allan, Jessie, Librarian Public Library, Omaha.	Coe, Ellen M., Librarian New York Free Circulating Library. New York.
Ambrose, Lodilla, Librarian Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.	Coolbrith, Ina D., Oakland, Cal.
Angell, M. M., Assistant Librarian Providence Athenæum, Providence.	Cutler, Mary S., Vice Director State Library, Albany.
Bari, Teresa, Biblioteca Nazionale, Torino, Italy.	Davenport, Mrs. M. F., Librarian Public Library, Council Bluffs.
Bayly, Ada E., Eastbourne, Sussex, Eng.	Denio, Lillian, Librarian New York College for Training of Teachers, New York.
Bean, Mary A., Librarian Public Library, Brookline, Mass.	Dewey, Mrs. A., State Library, Albany.
Calhoun, Mrs. M. C., State Librarian, Lansing, Mich.	Dixson, Mrs. Z. A., Librarian University of Chicago, Chicago.
Castellano, Anita, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Firenze, Italy.	Gale, Ellen, Librarian Public Library, Rock Island, Ill.
Cattell, Sarah A., Librarian Young Women's Christian Association. New York.	Godfrey, Lydia B., Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.

THE WORLD'S CONGRESSES OF 1893.
MEMBERSHIP TICKET.

Notice of Appointment on Advisory Council.

NOT THINGS, BUT MEN.

President, CHARLES C. BONNEY.
Vice-President, THOMAS B. BRYAN.

Treasurer, LYMAN J. GAGE.
Secretary, BENJAMIN BUTTERWORTH.

THE WORLD'S CONGRESS AUXILIARY

OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

NOT MATTER, BUT MIND.

THE WOMAN'S BRANCH OF THE AUXILIARY.

MRS. POTTER PALMER, PRESIDENT.

MRS. CHAS. HENROTIN, VICE-PRESIDENT.

Exposition Headquarters.

CHICAGO U. S. A., 1892.

DEAR MADAM:

I have the honor to inform you that you have been
duly appointed a member of the Advisory Council of the
Woman's Branch of the World's Congress Auxiliary on
the Committee on Literature, Sub-Com. on Libraries.

THE WORLD'S CONGRESSES OF 1893.
MEMBERSHIP TICKET.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PERSON WHOSE
NAME IS SIGNED IN THE MARGIN HAS REGISTERED AND
IS THEREBY CONSTITUTED A MEMBER OF THE
WORLDS CONGRESS AUXILIARY.

Clarence E. Young,
SECRETARY,

Charles C. Bonney,
PRESIDENT.

favorable attention, will explain the nature, objects and
organization of the Auxiliary, and the privileges and
duties of its Advisory Councils.

Cordially requesting your acceptance, and trusting
that the Auxiliary will have the benefit of your influ-
ence, suggestions and co-operation in the work of the
proposed World's Congresses in 1893, I await with
high respect the favor of your reply, and remain very
sincerely,

Your obedient servant,

Ellen M. Huntington

Vice-President Woman's Branch W. C. A.

To Mrs J. E. Dixon
Baptist Union Theol. Seminary
Morgan Park, Ill.

April 12, 13, 14, 1893.

**SOME OF THE ANCESTORS
OF THE MODERN BOOK.**

BY ZELLA ALLEN DIXSON.

Univ. News *April 12 '93*
The history of book making in some form or other, is as old as the human race. With the early dawning of civilization we find the evidences of an effort to preserve knowledge in the form of a book. But lovers of books in the olden days filled their shelves with volumes made of brick, and tile or covered their tables and desks with long, awkward papyri rolls and dangling waxen tablets. So curious and unfamiliar were both the form and the material that we should hardly recognize in these pioneers the ancestry of the neat and dainty volume which now becomes the choice companion of a leisure hour.

Book-madness is very old and wrinkled! Long before the art of printing gave to us our modern book the "Biblio-Maniac" had his private sanctum and gloated over his "Selton Copy," as to-day.

While we have descriptions of these first books, the earliest existing volumes date back to the ancient Assyrians. Their libraries were filled with what would look to us very much like unglazed tile or very thin bricks. While these were unbared the inscriptions were made in the soft clay by means of a sharply pointed stylus. After these queer books were dried in the sun or baked in hot ovens they became quite hard and impervious to any amount of usage. Hundreds of these quaint volumes have been handed down to the present day, and may be seen in any of the large European collections.

Two thousand years before Christ, Sargon, who is the most ancient librarian on the pages of history, had a fine library of these clay books. The Assyrian records also state that he had these books catalogued and numbered. Wheth-

er he struggled with all the problems of modern library science is unknown. However, since all of his books were able to stand alone he must at least have escaped the horrors of the pamphlet pile.

By far the greater number of these brick books were found on the sand plains of Egypt. They treat of history and laws, kept the public records, the enrollment of the armies and the income of the taxes.

It was not long, however, before the inborn desire to surround the object of affection with a luxury which would properly express the love bestowed on it, began to give to the volumes an extremely changed appearance. Closely following the brick books came those having the inscriptions cut in brass, silver and even more precious metals. Some of them began to add to the text borders of scrolling, beautifully designed. In countries where it was possible to obtain a softer and more flexible material the use of such heavy articles was soon abandoned and the bark of trees, dried leaves, and lastly the skins of animals gradually took their place. The early Greeks prepared their books by coating tablets of hard wood with a thin covering of wax, on which the writing was traced with a sharp pencil usually made of silver or brass. Two or more of these tablets would then be fastened together by iron rings, and this constituted a book or codex. Two rare examples of this old and curious book making are to be seen in the treasure-trove room of the British museum library, one of which, a poem, is peculiarly interesting because of its letters, which are very crude and rough. The tablets which have survived the vandalism of the Middle Ages, consist largely of school exercises, lectures, letters, and a few theological

discourses. It is believed that many of the present copies were at one time books which would have been treasures indeed to us, but owing to the scarcity of material and the increasing demand for books were erased by passing a hot iron over the surface of the wax and used for a more modern production.

The use of papyrus for books began in ancient Egypt, but was soon carried into other countries, and was eventually the chief material used. Among the many treasures found during the excavations of Herculaneum was a small library of these volumes written on papyrus. These were crudely bound with strong wraps of skins and tied with leather cords. The papyrus was always used in rolls, while the vellum was cut into leaves as our books are to-day. In reading the roll the student held in each hand one of the rollers upon which the scroll was mounted, and as he read he rolled the papyrus from one roller to the other. The title page followed instead of preceding the work. Where a work was too lengthy to be contained in one roll several were used, and they were fastened together by rings, so each could be detached and used separately and yet all be kept together. This was the earliest form of our modern way of dividing books into volumes.

In the early days when books were carefully written MSS. all libraries were centered in the religious institutions of the age. So it is to the monasteries that we owe the gratitude of the civilized world of to-day for the making and preserving of these priceless treasures of literature. Every monastery had its "scriptorium" as surely and in just as much a matter of course way as any town in the United States has its postoffice. Here the monks studied and wrote and copied, some spending their lives in the elaborate illumination of some one volume, usually a service book or a copy of the Holy

Scriptures. One monastery would borrow a rare manuscript from some other abbey and make for itself as exact a copy as could be prepared. We regret to add that in some cases, history states that the copy, and not the original, was returned to the generous lenders, as was true in the case of Euergetes. He required the Athenians to send him as a pledge—the sole arrangement by which the Egyptian corn could be sold for the relief of the starving Athenians—the original writings of Sophocles, Æschylus and Euripides. The famishing people after months of reluctant delay at length sent the precious manuscripts. Euergetes had the monks carefully copy them.

The University News
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SOME OF THE ANCESTORS OF THE MODERN BOOK.

BY ZELLA ALLEN DIXSON.

Univ. News (Continued.) Apr. 13 '93

It was here in the quiet and seclusion of monastery life that the most lovely and beautiful in art had its birth. The process of illumination had its rise in the latter period of the Roman empire. But the fall of Rome, and the adding of the inventing of illuminating with gold and silver as well as with pigment, gave the art a second birth and made way for the Grecian claim of its origination. The most famous pieces of book art are to be found in the service books. These were large volumes prepared for the cathedrals. They were usually beautifully bound in vellum and profusely ornamented with hand tooling, and filled with beautifully executed letters, miniatures of biblical history and borders of rare and unique design. A smaller volume of the same book was also in use prepared for members of the royal family or some much beloved fellow-monk. To-day many of these books stored in famous libraries have an additional value because of their original owners, like the "Mary Queen of Scots Missal," the "Isabella Bible" and the "Durham Book."

The "Book of Hours" or "Hours with the Blessed Virgin" were volumes prepared for the use of the common people, and were generally small books convenient for pocket use, containing many beautifully executed miniatures of the Virgin. These books with other modified forms are the chief manuscript of the books of service. It is however to the Bible manuscripts that we must come to see the process of illuminating in its perfection. The art of coloring was so highly developed that in spite of faulty perspective, and a disregard for the sublime that at times is, to us, almost irreverence, these pictures are never tiresome.

As an example of the realism of these old pictures, makers, we notice in many of the Bibles of the sixth and seventh centuries, the giving of the manna to the children of Israel in the wilderness is represented by a shower of nicely browned biscuits, that might well tempt the appetite of an epicure.

Among the many exceedingly lovely manuscripts that as a special student in the manuscripts room of the British museum it was my privilege to study, was one, which attracted unusual interest, and perhaps might be said to be the most beautiful of all that great collection of 55,000 MSS. It is called the "Purple Gospels." It consists of seventy-seven vellum leaves, and is named from the fact that many of the leaves are stained a royal purple, a process very difficult in its day, and now wholly lost. Artists who came later tried in vain to replace the loss by painting one side of the vellum purple, but the attempt was not a success and soon fell into disuse. The MSS. is the four Gospels according to the version of St. Jerome, written in letters nearly an inch high, with eight lines to the page, the inscription throughout being written alternately in gold and silver. The purple leaves introduce the four gospels. The second leaf, representing St. Mark, is especially beautiful. He is seated above an alcove holding a partly unrolled MSS., one end of which remains in the hand of God, to denote the divine origin of the Word. Lest the reader mistake the Evangelist, the lion of St. Mark is placed in miniature at the top of the page. The third purple leaf, prefacing St. Luke's Gospel, has also a most charming device. The first words of the book are arranged in illuminated arches. In the center arch is a miniature of the face of our Lord Jesus, and beneath it the ox of St. Luke. The fourth leaf is not perfect, the illumination of the angel Gabriel appearing to Zacharias being nearly destroyed.

It is the tradition that originally there were many more purple leaves, but that, being very rare and unusual, they were one by one secretly removed. This manuscript belonged in the fourteenth century to the cathedral library at Canterbury. It is now very generally believed to be the second volume of the Biblia Gregoriana." In early attempts to represent the personages of the Gospel narrative, great confusion arose in regard to many of them, and leaves were thus inserted in the wrong places. To avoid this, certain symbols were agreed upon to be invariably used with certain miniatures; for example, the Trinity was expressed by a three-leaved clover. St. Mark representing the tribal relations of the Jews is always marked by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. St. Luke, dealing with the sacrificial aspect of our Lord's life, has with his miniature the ox of the sacrifice, while John, whose Gospel breathes forth the love of God, the spiritual side of the Gospel story, is thought to be best represented by an eagle "The bird that in flying soars nearest to heaven," as the poet sings. The "Codex Alexandrinus" holds a very high place among biblical manuscripts. Until quite recently it was held to be the oldest manuscript in existence.

(To be Continued.)

The University News
April 13, 1893.

SOME OF THE ANCESTORS OF THE MODERN BOOK.

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Univ. News. (Continued.) Apr. 14 '93

It was made in the fifth century, and presented to King Charles I by Cyril of Constantinople. In the disastrous fire of 1731 this precious manuscript was rescued by the courage and presence of mind of the keeper of the manuscripts. Many very valuable books were lost at this time. After the ruins were cleared away the charred and blackened remains of many rare manuscripts were carefully placed in glass boxes in the library in the hope that the science of the future might find some way of restoring them. This was the subject of much ridicule at the time, but time has vindicated the wisdom of the librarian. Mr. Forshall and Mr. Madden have learned a new method of extending vellum apparently ruined by fire, and have restored many of these blackened and charred rolls, including one long set of diplomatic correspondence containing letters and papers from every state in Europe from Edward III to James I. Out of 105 charred bundles in glass cases in 1759, when the library was so nearly destroyed, fifty-one are now restored and bound in strong covers. The remainder still wait, like the sleeping beauty of old, for the magical kiss of the fairy Prince.

Another interesting copy of the Gospels is the "Durham Book," also sometimes called "St. Cuthbert's Gospels." It was made in the early part of the seventh century when the extravagance of manuscript making was at its height. It is made entirely of the finest quality of vellum, in all 258 leaves. The letters are arranged in double columns, with twenty-four lines to a page. It is very beautifully bound. The covers are inlaid with gold and silver worked into patterns to correspond with the ornamentation in the manu-

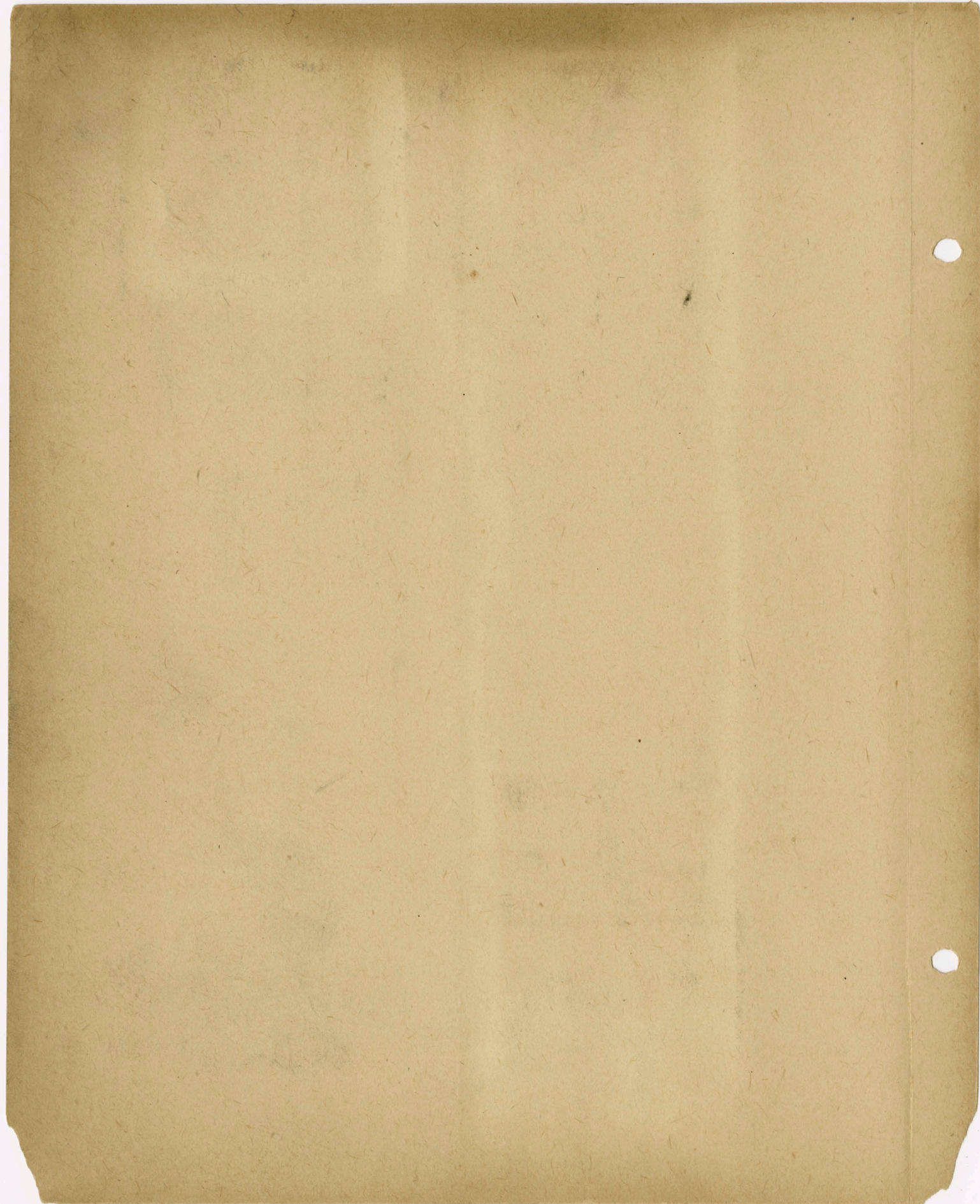
script, and brilliant with precious stones, rubies, diamonds, emeralds and various other gems. This beautiful and costly binding is a copy of the original, and is the gift of Dr. Edward Maltby, bishop of Durham, at whose expense this priceless manuscript was rebound in 1853. The ornamentation and illumination, which is of the Irish school, consists in combining into graceful designs and geometrical patterns, birds and animals. The heads, necks, legs and tails are interwoven into the most perfect harmony of detail. The pigments that are used in the ornamentation throughout the manuscript, are of the most brilliant character, and are put on so thickly as to resemble enamel, which effect is intensified by filling in all the background with black. Each gospel is preceded by a full-page illumination representing each evangelist. Matthew, Mark and Luke are sitting writing upon their scrolls. John has his roll spread out upon his knees, and is expounding the text to the people. The story connected with this book is full of interest. It was made by Eadfrid, bishop of Lindisfarne, who dedicated it "To the honor of God and St. Cuthbert." The volume remained in his library until the Danish invasion, when, for safe keeping, it was carried away, together with the shrine of the saint. In an attempt made to pass over to Ireland this precious manuscript was washed overboard in a violent storm, and lay under the water a long time until one day it was recovered uninjured through the timely intervention of St. Cuthbert. We must pause to state for the benefit of those whose faith is weak, that the "Durham Book," possessed several strong covers that were put on outside the gorgeous binding. They were made for it with special reference to this very journey, and in all probability were on it at the time of its shipwreck. If so they would

have been very nearly if not quite a perfectly waterproof covering, so the difficult task of preserving it so long under water uninjured was probably greatly lightened for St. Cuthbert.

It might also be added that recently, when we gave our most careful attention and study to this rare old manuscript, it was clearly noticeable that many of its leaves were badly water stained.

(To be Continued.)

The University News
April 14, 1893.



Mrs. Zella A. Dixon, ex-librarian of Denison, will deliver a lecture in the chapel of University of Chicago, on the evening of April 6th. Her subject is, "Some of the Ancestors of the Modern Book."

Granville Times.

April. 1893.

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beautifully bound. The covers are inlaid with gold and silver worked into patterns to correspond with the ornamentation in the manuscript, and brilliant with precious stones, rubies, diamonds, emeralds and various other gems. This beautiful and costly binding is a copy of the original, and is the gift of Dr. Edward Maltby, bishop of Durham, at whose expense this priceless manuscript was rebound in 1853. The ornamentation and illumination, which is of the Irish school, consists in combining into graceful designs and geometrical patterns, birds and animals. The heads, necks, legs and tails are interwoven into the most perfect harmony of detail. The pigments that are used in the ornamentation throughout the manuscript, are of the most brilliant character, and are put on so thickly as to resemble enamel, which effect is intensified by filling in all the background with black. Each gospel is preceded by a full-page illumination representing each evangelist. Matthew, Mark and Luke are sitting writing upon their scrolls. John has his roll spread out upon his knees, and is expounding the text to the people. The story connected with this book is full of interest. It was made by Eadfrid, bishop of Lindisfarne, who dedicated it "To the honor of God and St. Cuthbert." The volume remained in his library until the Danish invasion, when, for safe keeping, it was carried away, together with the shrine of the saint. In an attempt made to pass over to Ireland this precious manuscript was washed overboard in a violent storm, and lay under the water a long time until one day it was recovered uninjured through the timely intervention of St. Cuthbert. We must pause to state for the benefit of those whose faith is weak, that the "Durham Book," possessed several strong covers that were put on outside the gorgeous binding. They were made for it with special reference to this very journey, and in all

probability were on it at the time of its shipwreck. If so they would have been very nearly if not quite a perfectly waterproof covering, so the difficult task of preserving it so long under water uninjured was probably greatly lightened for St. Cuthbert.

It might also be added that recently, when we gave our most careful attention and study to this rare old manuscript, it was clearly noticeable that many of its leaves were badly water stained.

The shrine and the book after many years of wandering about were at length established at Durham. Here the book remained for more than a century. At the end of this time the bishop took it back to Lindisfarne, at which place it remained until the breaking up of the monasteries. It then disappeared, and all trace of it was lost. For a long time it was believed to have been destroyed by some of the mobs that sacked and burned the monastery libraries. But in the sixteenth century it was found by Sir Robert Cotton, in a second-hand bookstall, and purchased by him for his own private library. It had been stripped of its ancient jewels, but otherwise was in good condition. As part of his library it has shared the many vicissitudes of his famous collection, but having been burned out, buried and twice shipwrecked, it finally found a quiet resting place and a safe home in the British museum library, where it occupies the place of honor in the celebrated Cottonian collection.

In the face of the enormous mass of manuscripts collected for the use of students and scholars we pause to estimate, in some dim way, the number of priceless volumes that dense ignorance and cruel barbarism have destroyed. It has been said that undoubtedly the rarest collection of manuscripts ever placed in any one building was the famous Alexandrian library.

And what has become of it? It was used for fuel to warm the baths for the soldiery of the fanatical Omar. When he was taken through the long galleries and shown the great presses filled with rare and costly volumes, he exclaimed, "If these books of the Greeks agree with the Koran, of what use are they? If they disagree, they are pernicious and should be destroyed." So the building was stripped of its treasures. The inestimable manuscripts were divided into four piles and used to heat the four city baths. So enormous was the number of books thus destroyed that it took six months to consume the precious fuel. When we read in the history of a small town in southern England where a large glove manufacturer during the destruction of the monasteries, robbed a famous abbey of its library of more than 11,000 costly manuscripts, all hand-written and hand-decorated, and secured for himself enough material to continue making gloves for ten years; when we learn from the annals of the past how the children of royal parents were allowed to use in their nurseries these priceless books; how costly illuminations and portraiture were torn from their places to add to royal pleasure, or cut up to increase a family of paper dolls; when we remember how the soldiers of Henry VIII in the destruction of the English monasteries paved the streets with these works of art and then rode up and down on them until not one leaf was left intelligible; how the army of Cromwell, when they sacked the abbey tore up a whole library into mere fragments and then made a jollification of their shameful deed, by rolling about knee-deep in the scraps; we wonder not so much that so little is left, but that so much is here still to delight us with that beauty and grace which breathes

in the art and architecture of the same period.

Of one of the most valuable manuscripts, a copy of Homer, only a mere fragment remains. Left to the care of those who did not understand or appreciate its value, it was destroyed. Only about fifty pieces remain to show us what it was in the day of its glory. These were cut out, for the sake of the pictures, and all of the early text that is in existence is that preserved on the back of these pictures. It is a mistaken notion too common with many that these MSS. form the bric-a-brac of our profession and are of interest only to the bibliomaniac and "curio" collector. They serve not only to teach us the manners and customs, styles of dress and habits of life of the ages which produced them; they also contain many valuable lessons as to the biblical ideas of those times. The earnest Bible student may glean from the careful study of these brilliant pages, all glittering with silver and gold, many a new conception of the progress of interpretation not included in his seminary course on hermeneutics. To the librarian and to all book lovers they must ever be the source of all the love and reverence for books which is the glory of our profession. As one looks one on the girlish picture of a mother's face, a face we remember only after it is faded by tears and whose features bear the years' footprints, so these beautiful glittering manuscripts, yellow and faded with age, are to the librarian the noble ancestors of that most wonderful thing the world's genius has ever produced, the modern book.

The University News.
April. 12.-15.-1893.

The Chicago Library Club.

The Chicago Library club held an open meeting in the chapel on Thursday evening. Dr. Hoisch made an able address on "The Public Library in its Relation to Education," followed by an interesting paper by Mrs. Dixon on "Some Ancestors of the Modern Book." In addressing the club on the subject of "The Public Library in its Relation to Education," Dr. Hoisch said in part: The adherents of Herbert Spencer's philosophy as set forth in the "Individual v. State" might have some trouble in harmonizing their theory with the conception of a public library supported by taxation; yet the public library has become a factor in our system of self-government. It has a higher function than the mere filling of a want; its highest function is to create a want. With the great mass of the people; reading is simply a form of amusement; hence, in a public library supported by taxation must be found popular works of fiction.

Among the representatives from the various libraries were the following:

Chicago Public Library—W. B. Wickersham, E. F. L. Gauss, Chas. R. Barnes, Fred. H. Hild, E. G. Hirsch, Miss E. A. Young.

Newberry Library.—Dr. W. F. Poole, C. A. Nelson, G. E. Wire, Lydia Dexter, W. S. Merrill, Edith Clark.

Art Institute Library.—Miss J. L. Forrester.

Northwestern University Library.—N. C. Gridley.

Scoville Institute Library.—Martha Buhre.

McCormick Theological Seminary Library.—Kate E. Chapman.

Morgan Park Public Library.—S. E. Mills, Emily Mills.

University of Chicago Library.—The entire library staff.

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April. 8.-1893.

ESTABLISHED 1784

University of the State of New York

Departments

EXECUTIVE
EXAMINATION
STATE LIBRARY
STATE MUSEUM

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, Chancellor
ANSON J. UPSON, Vice-Chancellor,
MELVIL DEWEY, Secretary and Director of State Library
ALBERT B. WATKINS, Assistant Secretary

*Dictated
In reply to yours of*

Regents' office, Albany, N. Y. 9 Feb. '91

Circular Letter of Introduction

As President of the American Library Association it gives me pleasure to introduce to the librarians of Europe Mrs Zella A. Dixon, late librarian of Dennison University, and now librarian of the Morgan Park Theological Seminary, recently made a part of the new University of Chicago. Mrs Dixon was formerly a member of my own library staff at Columbia College and has in the past five years reorganized or started nearly twenty different libraries in our western states. She is an earnest, enthusiastic and successful apostle of the new library movement in this country, and I know of no woman in our profession whom I could more cordially commend to the kind attentions of foreign librarians than Mrs Dixon. She will deserve every privilege and confidence extended to her and will appreciate and utilize all opportunities for becoming acquainted with methods of administration, and especially with rare and choice books which she goes specially to study.

Very truly yours

Melvil Dewey

