

A. Yes.

Q. By the last Annual Report of the Mercantile Library, please state the number of shareholders, subscribers, bound volumes, pamphlets, greatest number of volumes circulated in one day, smallest number in one day, the average daily circulation, the greatest number of borrowers in one day, number of newspapers and reviews taken by the Library during the year 1871?

A. No. of shareholders was	11,574
“ subscribers,	212
Making a total of	11,786
Bound volumes,	63,874
Pamphlets,	3,000
Greatest number of vols. in one day. . . .	1,671
Smallest number,	178
Average daily circulation, 298 days,	638
Greatest number of borrowers in one day,	1,472
Newspapers, in this country and abroad,	241
American reviews and magazines,	85
Foreign “ “	64

I take these figures from the Annual List, which I have every reason to believe correct. I think we have one of the finest, if not the finest, reading-rooms in the United States, very largely patronized by our own subscribers.

Q. Have you any means of knowing how many of your Stockholders and their friends visit the Library daily for the mere purpose of reading the reviews, newspapers, &c., as distinguished from those who take out books?

A. I know of no system yet adopted by which we could arrive at that with any certainty, but it is very largely in excess of those that borrow books. We have 24 chess-boards, open all day, and they are very freely used.

OLIVER EVANS.

Affirmed and subscribed before me,

RICHARD S. HUNTER, *Examiner*.

