

Librarian's Report April 3rd 1879

I respectfully report that under the authority given me last Summer to employ a cataloguer temporarily at \$20. a week I engaged first a Mr. Smith, whose work was not entirely satisfactory, and afterwards Mr. J. G. Barnwell. With the trained and intelligent assistance of the latter the Stock Catalogue of the Library Co., the card catalogue with its cross references, and the duplicate card catalogue for the use of the members, have now all been brought down to date. The work of moving and rearranging books at the Ridgway Branch is now nearly over for the present, and I have accordingly found myself able to dispense with Mr. Barnwell's services. The labor of cataloguing, I may be permitted here to remark, occupies at the Mercantile Library of this city the whole time of four persons, while the Harvard College employs in the same work seven, and the Boston Public Library sixteen to eighteen persons. At this Library, this business, which involves the copying of each title with more or less fulness on an average seven times, has always been done, in the intervals of other work, by the Librarian & his assistants; and, if possible, it will so continue. Some 400 vols. of pamphlets still remain uncatalogued at the Ridgway Branch, together with the entire private library of Dr. Rush, which contains many costly illustrated volumes as