

In January, 1854, after the Society had been five years in existence, there were but fifty volumes in the library. At that date an efficient re-organization was effected, and the patronage of the State secured; and the result was, that on the 1st of January, 1855, the library by gifts, purchases and exchanges had increased to 1,050; and now, after the labors of another successful year, we have to report the present number of volumes in the library at 2,115—exhibiting an increase the past year of 1,065 volumes, thus something more than doubling the aggregate in a single year. Of this increase, 192 were by purchase, and 873 by donation and exchange; while the previous year, the number of volumes purchased was 130, and 870 received by donation and exchange; and the 50 volumes which the Society possessed prior to 1854, were all donated. Thus of the present number in the library, 322 volumes were purchased, and 1,793 were received by donation and exchange. During the past year, of the additions to the library, 46 volumes were folios, 53 were quartos, the rest chiefly of octavo size; thus making now in the library 108 folios, and 128 quartos. These works relate almost exclusively to our own country, and may be classified as follows:

Works on history, biography, travels, bound newspaper files, and publications of Historical and Antiquarian Societies,	937 vols.
Congressional publications,	409 “
Agricultural, mechanical and scientific,	155 “
State laws and State legislation,	150 “
Miscellaneous,	364 “
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 2,115 “

The character and value of the works added to the library during the past year, demand a passing notice. The Committee have had constantly in view the paramount object of first obtaining all works relating immediately or remotely to our own State, and then of the West generally. Of this class may be mentioned the works of Lescarbot, Marquette, La Hontan, La Salle, Hennepin, Labat, Lafitau, Crespel, Carver, Henry, Pike, Shea,