

recent statistics of these Societies, that there are only seven which exceed ours in the extent of their libraries, and none that has equalled ours in the rapidity of its growth—our Society having been founded Jan. 30, 1849, and having 2,115 volumes, some 3,000 pamphlets, eleven paintings, and a large number of manuscripts, engravings, antiquities and curiosities in its library, and having published one volume of collections, and three annual addresses in pamphlet form.

The value of such collections cannot be too highly estimated. Clinton, Gallatin, Webster, Bancroft, Cass, Everett, Harrison, and many other leading minds of our country, have warmly commended and encouraged the labors of Historical Societies. "The advantages resulting from the study of history and the collection of historical records," as remarked in a former report of the New York Historical Society, and which is equally applicable to ours, "cannot be too strongly urged on the attention of the members of this society. In order that history may be written with truth, authentic materials must be provided. No generation comprises within its own knowledge and experience all that is necessary to secure the integrity of its annals. It must rely upon records, it must examine and compare opinions, it must study the events of the past. It must have the means of investigation and analysis at hand. Collections like this by which we are surrounded, and which are designed to preserve the memories of other days, will be deemed of inestimable value by generations which are to come after us. Such works are a blessing to mankind, since they furnish men with a true standard of character, excite them to a noble emulation, keep alive the stimulus of honorable example and prevent that lapse of national reputation which would be unavoidable without the incitement and influence of great names and noble deeds."

In drawing their report to a close, the Executive Committee would avert to the fact, that they have been cheered in their labors by the encouraging words of those who rank among the most eminent in our country in the walks of history—such as Bancroft, Prescott, Hildreth, Irving, Sparks, Parkman, Adams, Mrs. Wil-