

## Librarian's Report on the Picture Gallery

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As the statistical details relative to the increase of the library proper during the past year, are more appropriately embodied in the report of the Executive Committee, the librarian begs to submit the following report on the rise and progress of the Picture Gallery, together with some remarks on the merits of the several pictures, and their respective artists:

The design of the Historical Society is to preserve all mementoes of the past that yet remain to us, buried though they may be underneath the dust and rubbish of ages; records of the Aboriginal inhabitants of the country, as well as those which have forever passed away, leaving behind them only apocryphal mounds, to puzzle the learned antiquary, as those who yet mingle among us. But we must not lose sight of the great fact, that the present will soon be past, and the incidents that we hardly notice today, will ere long form a portion of our history; and the knowledge that we now scarcely think worth retaining, will one day be earnestly and laboriously sought after by the curious antiquarian.

History, proper, is a record of deeds, but a valuable aid, and a choice relic of the past, are true and reliable portraits of those whose acts formed the history of their day. Deeds will live in tradition or in the more lasting forms of books and writings, but the form and features are doomed to a more ephemeral existence. Consequently, a great part of the labor of an Historical Society, in the realm of the present, is to secure reliable portraits of those who