

instance of public assistance, to the same extent, to any similar association in this or any other country.

#### Financial Condition—Binding Fund

The treasurer's report shows the receipts of the year into the general fund, including the small balance of the previous year, to have been \$5,001.87; and the disbursements, \$4,987.62, leaving a balance of \$14.25.

The binding fund has received but two donations during the year—one of forty dollars, to complete the payment of a pledge of fifty dollars, from Hon. G. W. Bradford; and one of twenty dollars from Rev. R. M. Hodges, D. D.,—his fifth annual contribution of that amount; both of these generous friends of the Society, residing beyond our borders, are numbered among our honorary vice-presidents, and have attained the venerable age of four score years. Would that their example might provoke others to similar acts of benevolence.

Duplicate books sold during the year have amounted to \$329.70; accrued interest, \$295.23; annual membership dues, net \$47.05;—thus showing an addition of \$731.98, and making the total present amount of this important fund, \$4,800.41.

The section of land on the western borders of Texas, set apart for this fund by the late Hon. John Catlin, has not yet become marketable; and several years may elapse before its sale can be judiciously effected, owing to the liability of that exposed frontier to raids of plundering parties of Mexicans and Indians. This thoughtful provision on the part of Mr. Catlin, who made the first contribution to this fund, in 1867, will eventually prove quite a creditable addition to this important object. His worthy relict, Mrs. Catlin, manifests an anxious solicitude to carry into effect this long cherished purpose of her departed husband.

This binding fund is a matter of too much importance to the Society, its Library and its thousands of readers, to languish for want of interest. Ten years have elapsed since this fund was commenced, and during all this time we had necessarily to draw upon the general fund for the very scant amount of binding we have been forced to procure. Our twenty-five thousand unbound pamphlets, and large accumulations of unbound manuscripts,