

obscure, mysterious history of our Indian races. Every treatise, tract and fragment on the subject will then be called in requisition. In this age of culture and science, similar investigations will be made in every department of human inquiry—hence the necessity, so far as our ability will permit, that our Society should keep pace with these steadily increasing demands for light and knowledge.

It is only within the past thirty years that American libraries fairly entered upon a career of earnest endeavor to provide adequate means to meet the growing wants and literary tastes of the country. Millions of dollars have been expended in this direction—largely from the bounty of enlightened and generous benefactors. Hitherto the East has furnished the Astors, the Lenoxes, and others, who have founded and endowed noble libraries, worthy alike of the age and the givers. Such examples should not be lost upon the West. We begin to see, in a small way, some of the fruits. Mr. James McMillen, of Detroit, recently gave the Michigan University Library \$6,500 for the purchase of a Shakespeare collection of 2,500 volumes; while another gentleman, too modest to allow his name to be associated with his generosity, contributed \$4,000 to the same library for the procurement of books on history and political science. Would that such rare examples might be multiplied a hundred fold, and our Society share liberally in their distribution.

#### Financial Condition—General Fund

The receipts of the year into the general fund, including the small balance on hand as shown by the treasurer's report of Jan. 3, 1883, have been \$5,008.21; and the expenditures the same.

#### The Binding Fund

The binding fund has been augmented from the usual sources—accrued interest, \$590.52; sale of duplicate books \$261.33; annual membership dues, \$126; Hon. Alexander Mitchell, donation, \$100; Samuel Marshall, donation, \$50; rent of Texas land, \$6.40—aggregating from all these sources, \$1,134.25, and making the present amount of the fund \$11,414.21.