

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 15, 1879.

The Committee on the Library, having considered the Annual Report of the State Librarian,

REPORT.

That it appears expedient that some legislation should be had, by which the administration of the affairs of the Library may be rendered more satisfactory than can be possible under existing conditions. In the year 1849, when the collection of books composing the State Library embraced only a few hundred or thousand volumes, the Secretary of the Board of Education was made *ex officio* State Librarian, with the power to appoint an assistant, who should also act as clerk of the Board; the duties of such assistant being considered so light as to enable him to act in the latter capacity, and aid the Secretary of the Board in such clerical duties as might be demanded. But from this small beginning the Library has increased to over 40,000 volumes, so as to demand the entire attention of whoever has it in charge. It has been the practice for a number of years to call upon the Assistant Librarian for the performance of services for the Board, and also to require, in great part, the time of the clerks of the Library in the same direction; so that probably one-half of the clerical assistance provided for it, and charged to it in the annual appropriation of \$2,000, is diverted to this purpose.

It appears to your Committee that the time has come for

the severance of this connection, and that the Board of Education, through its Secretary, should be relieved of further responsibility in the management of the Library, and that it should be committed to the care of a competent Librarian to be appointed by the Governor and Council.

They are confident, that, under this system of separate and direct personal supervision, the interests of the department will be better cared for than under the present management; the Board of Education and its Secretary will be left free to give their entire time and energy to the discharge of the duties required by their trust; the needs of the Legislature, and of those who have occasion to use the books of the Library, will be better served; and, at the same time, a more strict, direct, and responsible supervision will be secured for this important branch of the public service.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the accompanying Bill.

STEPHEN OSGOOD.

J. S. OTIS.

LUCIUS R. PAIGE.

WILLIAM REED, JR.

ELISHA CROCKER, JR.

D. SMITH KIMBALL.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-nine.

AN ACT

To provide for the Appointment of a State Librarian, and the Reduction of the Expenses of the State Library.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1 SECTION 1. A state librarian shall be appointed
2 by the governor, with the advice and consent of the
3 council, who shall hold his office for three years,
4 unless sooner removed. His salary shall be fifteen
5 hundred dollars a year ; and an additional sum, not
6 exceeding eight hundred dollars a year, shall be
7 allowed for clerks, who shall be appointed by the
8 librarian.

1 SECT. 2. All acts, and parts of acts, inconsistent
2 herewith, are hereby repealed.

1 SECT. 3. This act shall take effect upon its pas-
2 sage.

