

**SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE
CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY OF THE CITY
OF NEW YORK (ACCESSIONS,
OCTOBER, 1869, TO APRIL, 1872)**

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MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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MERCANTILE LIBRARY
OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.

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PREFACE.

THE Directors herewith offer to the members of the Mercantile Library Association a second Supplement to the Catalogue. This, it is hoped, will materially facilitate the searcher, who will now have but three alphabetical lists to examine (not including novels), instead of about twenty as heretofore.

No changes of consequence have been made in the plan of cataloguing for this Supplement. The French novels and the German novels have been placed in separate lists in the classified part, for the convenience of our increasing constituency of readers in those languages. The novels have been catalogued in one alphabet instead of two, but each book is catalogued exactly as before, viz. : 1st. Under its author's name, and 2d, by its title ; so that the whole of both the two lists heretofore used are retained. It is believed that this use of one alphabet instead of two will be a convenience.

These alterations, as far as they go, point towards a modification of our system of cataloguing which will probably be thought worthy of adoption whenever a complete new catalogue shall be made. The need of such a complete new catalogue grows daily more obvious. Our cataloguing system has been so shaped during the past few years as to admit of the modification referred to, without any great changes or great expense. It is probable that the best model for such a catalogue would be that recently published by the Philadelphia Mercantile Library. On this plan, at least as it ought to be developed for our own purposes, each book would be entered in three places, viz. : 1st, under the author's name ; 2d, by the title of the book ; 3d, under the name of the subject of the book ; and all these entries would be arranged in a single alphabetical list. This would satisfy a need which is incessantly felt by our subscribers, and by our staff ; for, in the great majority of cases, it is the title of a book which the applicant remembers, or else it is a subject about which he wants some book, without knowing what book. Our present alphabetical catalogue is a respectable list of authors' names. Most of the titles would serve their purpose for the second proposed method as they stand ; and the section heads of our present classification form a good basis for the third method. It is with a view to their ultimate use in this manner that these sections have, from time to time, been sub-divided and increased in number, to be ready, as far as possible, for a transfer bodily to a place in one single alphabeted catalogue.

The collection of books catalogued in this second Supplement well upholds, it is believed, the reputation of our Library. It includes not only a full representation of both the solid and lighter literature of our own country, but an extensive array of the most useful and interesting English publications of all kinds, and a considerable number of valuable French and German works, both in belles lettres and in more weighty departments of knowledge. We are confident that no library in or near this city approaches this in the opportunities it affords its patrons for keeping up with the intellectual activity of the world.

It is due to Mr. A. I. Cothrel that a word should be said here in acknowledgment of the large number of books presented by him, whose titles appear in this Supplement, and which constitute, it is believed, the largest single donation of books ever given to the Library. While many of them have become obsolete, they form collectively a curious and valuable record of the history of business, and of the progress of instruction in modern languages ; and they also include many books of interest and value which could not easily be replaced.

On behalf of the Board of Direction.

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