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To the Members

Florida Historical Society
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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TO THE MEMBERS:

The directors, sure of the members' interest in Society affairs, wish to bring the library fund and other matters to their attention.

Many State governments contribute to the expenses of their State historical societies and some bear the entire cost of their publications. As you know, our income is solely your annual dues of two dollars. Most of this is expended in printing and mailing the *Quarterly*. Other activities and services are desirable-especially a fuller use of the Society's library. These can be carried out only if the expenses necessary are met by contributions.

Scholars, students, and the public can now make very limited use of our valuable library. Reorganization and cataloging is necessary and is now being done by Mr. Watt Marchman, our librarian, who is generously giving much of his time to this work. But there are necessary expenses here, and a greater outlay needed for repairing and putting in a permanent state of preservation numerous old manuscripts, some already seriously damaged. Many books, pamphlets, and series of magazines should be bound, with receptacles provided. To make the most of Mr. Marchman's time a student assistant, one working his way through college, is very desirable. The Finance Committee, with Professor A. J. Hanna, chairman, has been raising a library fund for these purposes. An officer of the Society has donated \$100, and seventeen members through Sustaining Memberships have contributed \$185; but the work cannot be carried to completion unless additional funds are secured. To preserve these valuable books and papers, will you not become a Sustaining Member for this year with dues of ten dollars.

Recent sustaining memberships, as contributions to the library fund are: Mrs. Grace K. Babson, Mrs. W. S. Barstow, Mrs. John J. Carty, Mrs. A. B. Chaffee, Sydney O. Chase, William Watson Davis, Mrs. Jane Porteous Murray, Mrs. James Simpson Reese, J. S. Foley, Peter George Ramos, W. W. Kincaid, T. A. Mellon, John F. Miller, Alfred K. Nippert, Giles J. Patterson, Mrs. Edgar V. Seeler, Edwin R. Seligman, W. C. Sherman.

REPORT OF THE

The librarian aided by a reliable student assistant began the cataloguing and reorganization of the Florida Historical Society's library in Jacksonville on June 10. Rapid progress was made in the cataloguing, listing, preserving, measuring, describing, binding and mending the items composing this valuable collection. Most of the books and pamphlets have been catalogued and proper filing index cards made; periodicals, including newspapers and files of exchanges of other state historical society magazines have been listed and entered on file index cards; the Governor John Milton papers, the El Destino plantation records and other documents, pictures, manuscripts, etc., have been carefully mended, measured, described and listed, numbered, catalogued and placed in individual light-proof, flat filing folders in order to insure minimum handling when used by historians, writers or research students. The most valuable letters and documents are being wrapped in special cellophane which will neither shrink nor tear to prevent direct handling.

In listing each item for the proposed catalogue of accessions, a careful description is given, including the size, shape, color, condition and when practicable, a resume of contents.

Rare and valuable old books and pamphlets have been placed under lock and key.