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The Librarian of Congress and
the Register of Copyrights.

I went to Washington in 1876, and on May 1st entered the service of the Library of Congress, Mr. Ainsworth Rand Spofford being then librarian. I made my first trip abroad in 1887 from March to September. This absence from the library was agreed upon at the instance of Mr. Charles C. Soule, President of the Boston Book Co. I was to have one month's vacation with my usual salary and six months' absence ^{from the library} without pay. Mr. Soule agreed to meet all travelling expenses together with incidental outlays, and to pay me a salary.

On my return Mr. Soule urged me to leave the library and become permanently associated with the Boston Book Co. I was loth to leave the library ~~permanently~~ and held out for some time. But Mr. Soule was persistent and finally I resigned my library position in 1889 and went to Boston. Mr. Soule left it up to me to suggest the kind of work I should prefer to engage in and it was agreed that in addition to yearly sojourn abroad for from four to six months yearly, buying books for libraries, I should carry out my ^{proposed} plan of collecting sets of such English

Publications

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periodicals as had been indexed in Poole's Index to Periodical Literature. The agreement between us was to be for a ^{first} term of four years at a salary twice that paid me by the library (\$1200. a year) or \$2400.00, plus all expenses when abroad.

W & I went to Boston and I made yearly trips abroad from 1889 to 1892. In that year had a break down in health and we went to the Balearic Islands. In January 1893.

In 1895 I was sufficiently recovered to go to London for 8 months on business for the Boston Book Co. going to Germany, Hungary, Belgium and Holland etc. returning to Valdemosa, Mallorca.

In 1896 we returned to Boston and I resumed my work with the Boston Book Co. But on July 1, 1897, I was appointed to the newly created position of Registrar of Copyrights (being the first official of that title), and I went to Washington in ^{on July 22d} ~~October~~ and took up my new work, the administration of the Copyright Office.

My appointment was made by Mr. John Russell Young, the newly appointed successor to Mr. Spofford as Librarian of Congress, after the reorganization of the Library of Congress in 1896. On 1898 Mr. Young died unexpectedly and there was a scramble for his ^{place} position, some thirty odd

Librarian emeritus.
retained as
Mr. Spofford

Jan. 17,

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various persons ~~app~~ made application for the position, but not including any prominent librarian. With this eager scuffle there developed a grave danger that the librarianship would fall into the hands of the politicians and be awarded to some unsuitable person.

Among the applicants was Mr. Alvord who was appointed by Mr. Young, first as chief clerk and later as Chief of the Division of Fine Arts. They were both newspaper men and were intimates. Mr. Alvord ~~present~~ felt assured of his own appointment, and came to me to boast of his success. In addition to the support of the entire New York Congressional group, he insisted that he had secured a promise from Theodore Roosevelt of the latter's support. He called upon me to salute and congratulate him as the next Librarian of Congress.

Instead of doing so I determined to take active steps to prevent such a catastrophe. The first step was to induce Governor Roosevelt to refrain from distinctly recommending Alvord. It was well-known that one of his intimate friends was Mr. Seth Low, President of Columbia College. ~~My wife had~~

There was a very warm friendship ⁴⁵
between my wife and Mrs William Man-
ning of Brooklyn and the latter was
an intimate ~~friend~~ friend of Presi-
dent Low. Mrs. Manning gave me a
X note of introduction to Mr. Low asking
him to see me and allow me to explain
the Library of Congress situation at Wash-
ington. I went to New York and Mr. Low
gave me a friendly reception and very
patiently listened to my story. I was
decided in expressing my opinion
that only an out-standing, prominent
librarian should be given the li-
~~brarian~~ brarianship of our great nation-
al library and declared my desire to
induce our librarians to take joint
action to secure that result. I said

~~At the conclusion of our interview~~
~~Mr. Low said~~ that the first necessi-
ty was to induce Mr. Roosevelt to
take that position and refuse to give
any support to any other kind of ap-
plicant. At the conclusion of our
interview he expressed his full ^{said}
sympathy with my contention and
that he would talk the matter over
with the Governor of New York. But he
warned me that Mr. Roosevelt would
not readily go back on his word if his

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he had given such a promise to Alvord. But thereafter I never heard Alvord brag of any support of his application by Mr. Roosevelt.

The next step was an approach to the librarians. My program was to call a meeting of the leading librarians in New York. I called upon David Hutcheson, who had been appointed Superintendent of the Reading Room, and Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, who had been called from the John Crerar Library of Chicago to become Chief of the Catalogue Division of the Library of Congress, to join me in this endeavor to secure action by the librarians of the United States to see to it that a trained and suitable librarian should be selected, and not any person whose appointment might be due to political preferment.

Both Mr. Hutcheson and Mr. Hanson were prompt in their promise to join me. We thereupon wrote off to outstanding librarians requesting them to meet us in New York at the Murray Hill Hotel.

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Many librarians responded favorably,
including Mr. William Lane, Librarian of
Harvard University; Mr. Melville Dewey,
State Librarian of New York; Mr. Cutter,
Librarian of ^{etc.}; Dr. Canfield,
Librarian of Columbia University; Mr.

Carr of Scranton (President of the
American Librarians Association) and
others. In addition Mr. R. R. Bowker, ^{a number of}
who was very ^{much interested} ~~active~~ in library matters was
present and was ^a ~~one of the~~ most active
and efficient participants. Mr. Herbert
Putnam, Librarian of the Boston Public
Library excused himself and remained
away.

~~We met in the Murray Hill hotel.~~

It was agreed that as I was the proponent
of the ^{movement} ~~procedure~~ I should be spokesman.
I set out ^{very frankly} ~~succinctly~~ the situation, Mr.
and declared that our purpose was
to induce prompt intervention by the
librarians of the United States, and to
secure their support for the appoint-
ment of a trained librarian.

~~Let someone, Mr. Dewey, I think, asked~~
~~why the choice could not be Mr. Hutcheson?~~
and several librarians expressed approval. ^{three}
~~Our answer was that when we agreed to~~
~~had taken upon our selves~~ ^{we felt it}
to make this joint intervention it was on the
understanding that neither of us should
be proposed for the librarianship.

Some one, Mr. Dewey, I think, asked why the choice could not be Mr. David Hutcheson, who was ^{already} well-known to all librarians for his fine service in the Library of Congress. ~~Our answer to that friendly suggestion was~~

Several other librarians expressed approval of that suggestion; but our reply ~~to~~ was that when we three had taken it upon ourselves to make this aggressive movement, it was on the understanding that neither of us should be given any personal attention or be proposed for the librarianship.

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We were emphatic in our pronouncement that the A. L. A. or the prominent librarians ^{of the United States} and speaking for the library profession ~~should~~ as a body ~~declare~~ should ~~state~~ ~~publish~~ their opinion that ^{the} selection of the next Librarian of Congress the President should name some well-known and prominent man ^{and one} if willing and preferably ^{they} should indicate by name their choice of the person whose appointment to that position should be urged upon the President. The final result was that

having library experience, and

Herbert Putnam was indicate as the choice of the ^{librarians} ~~library profession~~ and he was finally appointed Librarian of Congress on April 5, 1899. It was a regrettable episode that the President ~~had~~ (owing to the dilatory action of the librarians) had already ~~appointed~~ sent the name of Mr. Samuel June Barrows, then a Member of Congress, to the Senate as Librarian of Congress. But Mr. Barrows with fine and liberal feeling withdrew his name.