

Notes and Documents

EDWARD EGGLESTON'S LIBRARY AT TRAVERSE DES SIOUX

Edited by William Randel

Books always meant a great deal to Edward Eggleston. As a boy in Vevay, Indiana, he was often too ill to attend school, but luckily for him his father's library was the best in town. While his brothers and his friends were being subjected to the limited pedagogy of the 1840's, he stayed quietly at home, reading extensively in history and geology, British poets and seventeenth-century French dramatists, philosophers and Methodist divines.

Through the years his love of books continued to be one of his passions. Wherever he traveled, and he was often in Paris and London, he eagerly visited the great libraries and browsed in the bookshops. At Lake George, New York, he built a stone library and lined its walls with thousands of volumes until it was a veritable scholar's dream.

Even when he was a pioneer on the Minnesota frontier, Eggleston was not without books. He had spent part of the summer of 1856 in Cannon City, seeking a cure for a chronic respiratory infection. He had gone home in good health, but the following spring he was again "a candidate for the grave," as he wrote in his journal, and he returned to Minnesota, this time to stay until 1866.¹ At the annual meeting of the Minnesota Methodist conference, held at Winona in July and August, 1857, he was accepted on probation and assigned to St. Peter and Traverse des Sioux. During the conference year he lived with the family of Thomas Megraw, a Traverse brickmaker.²

¹ For an account of Eggleston's Minnesota decade, see John T. Flanagan, "The Hoosier Schoolmaster in Minnesota," *ante*, 18:347-370.

² The manuscript census for Traverse des Sioux, dated October 31, 1857, shows that the household consisted of eight Megraws, Eggleston, "Elisabeth" Snyder, and one other boarder. The Minnesota Historical Society owns the original Minnesota census records for 1857.

Another boarder was Lizzie Snyder, a widow, whom Eggleston married on March 18, 1858. The labor of winning converts to Methodism challenged the man of action in Eggleston, and in addition there were a hundred-odd books to provide diversion for his other self, the scholar, the booklover.

Early in 1858 Eggleston took the trouble of cataloguing his collection in a small notebook that is today in the library of Cornell University.³ No doubt better private libraries existed in Minnesota in the 1850's, but Eggleston's books, listed below, have some bearing on the formative stages of a literary career that produced not only the *Hoosier School-Master*, but also the *Mystery of Metropolisville*, one of the earliest novels about Minnesota. From time to time until 1859 he added other titles to his list; the symbol "(L)" after some of these indicates that he acquired them by marriage. Certain names in pencil may refer to individuals who had formerly owned particular books, or who borrowed them from Eggleston. As these pencilled notations have become so faded with time that some cannot be deciphered, it has seemed inadvisable to include them in the published list, although it is possible to make out the surnames of Sias Bolles, Theophilus Drew, James F. Chaffee, and John Kerns, all of whom were fellow Methodist preachers in Minnesota.

The list is reproduced as Eggleston wrote it, with whatever emendations have been judged necessary for proper identification. A few titles eluded detection.

LIST OF MY BOOKS IN TRAVERSE DES SIOUX MINNESOTA FEBRUARY 1858

I Theological, etc.

No	1	[Richard] Watsons	[Theological] Institutes	Vol 1.
"	2	"	"	Vol 2.
"	3	"	"	Analysis of,
"	4	[James] Townleys	[Illustrations of] Biblical Literature	Vol 1.
"	5	"	"	Vol 2.
"	6	[T. H.] Hornes	Introduction [to Study of the Scriptures]	

³ The Eggleston Papers, deposited by the Eggleston heirs in the Collection of Regional History of Cornell University in 1943, comprise the bulk of Eggleston's manuscripts and letters. The Minnesota Historical Society has a photostatic copy of Eggleston's catalogue of books.

- “ 7 [Alexander] Cruden’s Condensed Concordance [of the Old and New Testaments]
- “ 8 [Joseph] Butler’s Analogy [of Religion]
- “ 9 [Scripture Doctrine of] Christian Perfection [Stated and Defended] ([George] Peck)
- “ 10 The Great Teacher, [John] Harris ⁴
- “ 11 Eclipse of Faith (Rodgers?) [Henry Rogers]
- “ 12 Bible [,] Pocket
- “ 13 [F. G.] Hibbard on Baptism [Its Mode, Obligation, Import, and Relative Order]
- “ 14 Infidelity, Jenyn, Leslie, Watson, &c [*Infidelity: Comprising Jenyn’s Internal Evidence, Leslie’s Method, Lyttelton’s Conversion of Paul, Watson’s Reply to Gibbon and Paine, a Notice of Hume on Miracles, and an Extract from West on the Resurrection*]
- “ 15 Reformed Pastor — [Richard] Baxter
- “ 16 [Osmon Cleander] Baker on the Discipline [*A Guide-Book in the Administration of the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church*]
- “ 17 [William?] Hosmer, Slavery & the Church
- 18 Methodist Discipline [*Discipline and Doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church*] 1849
- 19 “ “ New Ed 1852
- 20 Am[erican] Tr[act] Soc[iety] Bible Text Book
- 21 Resurrection [of the Dead] — Calvin Kingsley
- 22 Methodist Hymn Book
- 75 Bunyan’s Pilgrims Progress (L)
- 76 Dr [Peter] Akers [Introduction to] Biblical Chronology
- 77 (Lillie’s) Royal Oct[avo?] Bible

This list transferred ⁵

II Historical, Biographical and Descriptive

- No 23 [Charles] Rollin’s Ancient History
- “ 24 Plutarchs Lives
- “ 25 Presidents’ Memoirs & Administ[rations?]

⁴ This title is crossed out in the manuscript.

⁵ Eggleston was obliged to continue this part of the list on a subsequent page, since he did not leave sufficient space here for all theological works added later. The same holds true for his list of French books on p. 245.

- " 26 [J. H. Merle] D'Aubigné's History of [the] Reformation
- " 27 Flavius Josephus' Works [*History of the Wars of the Jews*]
- " 28 Kennetts Roman Antiquities
- " 29 The Protector — D'Aubigné
- " 30 [Peter Douglass] Gorrie's History of M. E. Church [*Episcopal Methodism, As It Was and Is*]
- " 31 Tahiti [with the Gospel?]
- " 32 [Samuel] Whelpley's Compend of Hist[ory]
- No 33 Memoir[s and Remains of] S. B. Bangs
- " 34 [A Popular] Catalogue of [the Extraordinary Curiosities in the] Nat[ional] Inst[itute]

III Languages

1 Greek

- No 35 [Peter] Bullions [Principles of] Greek Grammar
- " 36 [Alpheus] Crosby's " " [*A Grammar of the Greek Language*]
- " 37 Bullions Greek Reader
- " 38 Liddell & Scotts Greek Lexicon
- " 39 'H KAINH DIA@HKH The Greek Testament
- " 40 [Herman M.] Johnson's Herodotus [*Herodoti Orientalia Antiquiora*]
- " 41 Xenophontis Anabasis

2 Latin

- No 42 [Robert] Ainsworths Dict[ionary]
- " 43 Bullions [Principles of] Lat[in] Grammar
- " 44 [Charles] Anthon's Lat[in] Prose Comp[osition]
- " 45 Schmitz & Zump[f]t's Virgil
- " 46 Smart's Horace
- " 47 [Emmanuelis] Alvariae Prosidia

3 French

- No 48 [Louis] Fasquelle's French Course
- " 49 Spier[s] et Surene's Dictionary
- " 50 Sainte Bible
- " 51 Les Aventures de Telemaque
- " 52 Chef d'oeuvre de J Racine
- " 53 Nouveau Testament

- “ 73 Oraisons funebres de Bossuet[,], Fletcher et Marcou[x?]
 “ 101 Robertsonian System [of Teaching French]
 “ 102 Noel et Chapsal, Grammaire [Francaise]

This list transferred

IV Scientific

- No 54 Earth and Man [Arnold Henry] Guyot
 “ 55 Footprints of [the] Creator, Hugh Miller
 “ 56 Aspects of Nature, [Alexander von] Humboldt
 “ 57 [Asa] Smith [Illustrated] Astronomy
 “ 58 Prassnity[?] Water Cure Manual
 “ 59 [James] Rush on the Voice [*The Philosophy of the Human Voice*]
 “ 60 [Hubbard] Winslows [Elements of] Intellectual Philosophy
 “ 61 [Levi] Hedge's [Elements of] Logic
 “ 62 [Charles] Davies [ed.] Bourdon's Algebra
 “ 63 “ [ed.] Legendre[']s Geom[etry]
 “ 72 [Thomas] Chalmers Bridgewater Treatise
 “ 74 [Thomas] Dicks Christian Philosopher (L)
 “ 80 [T. S.] Pinneo's Eng[lish] Grammar (L)
 “ 86 Textbook of Knitting (L)
 “ 88 Websters School Dict[ionary]
 “ 92 Alcohol & [the] Const[itution] of Man [Edward Livingston]
 Youmans

V Literary and Miscellaneous English

- No 64 Young's Night Thoughts
 “ 65 Milton's Paradise Lost
 “ 66 Pope's Works
 “ 67 Charles Lambs Comp Works
 “ 68 Bryant's Poems
 “ 69 Seven Ages
 “ 70 Rhet. Guide [*McGuffey's Newly Revised Rhetorical Guide?*]
 “ 71 Handbook of Minnesota ⁶
 “ 95 The Professor by Currer Bell [*Charlotte Brontë*] ⁷

⁶ This book may have been Nathan H. Parker's *Minnesota Handbook, for 1856-7* (New York, 1857). Another possibility is the very popular *Minnesota Year Book* issued by William G. LeDuc in 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1855.

⁷ Eggleston, who had been brought up in the belief that novels are sinful, had slight acquaintance with prose fiction before he wrote his own first novel. This book therefore has a special significance as the only novel he owned.

- “ 96 Bulwer's Translation of Schiller
 “ 97 Campbell's Poems
 “ 98 Meth[odist] Quar[terly] Review (Bound) 1858
 “ 99 “ “ “ “ 1859
 “ 100 Ladies Repository “ 1859 (L)

Theological and Religious continued

- 78 Hymn Book (L)
 79 [Charles] Bucks Religious Anecdotes (L)
 81 Systematic Beneficence by Lawrence
 82 Polymicrian [New] Test[ament] (L)
 83 Eng[lish] Bible (L)
 84 [John W.] Nevin's Biblical Antiq[uieties] (L) }
 85 “ “ “ “ (L) } 2 vols
 87 Closet Companion Pugh's (L)
 89 [Adam] Clark[e] [Commentaries] on New Testament Vol 1 }
 90 “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ } (L)
 91 Temporal Power of the Pope [R. C.] McClintock
 93 Watson's Sermons Vol 1
 94 “ “ “ 2

French continued

- 103 Ma biographie P. J. De Berager [*Béranger*]
 104 Oeuvres complètes “ “

Spanish Books

- 105 Sloane Newman & Barretts Spanish Dictionary
 106 Spanish without a Master



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