

An Opportunity for Assistance

THE Editor of the *Bulletin* feels that it is his privilege to acquaint our membership with those opportunities which appear from time to time to acquire small collections of primary business historical material. The funds at the disposal of the Society for the purchase of this rare old material are not yet sufficient to provide for all the collections that turn up, and rather than lose them, we feel sure that some of our members would, as in the past, appreciate being told of the opportunity to add to the collections of the Society.

Such an opportunity has just presented itself in the shape of a collection of about 135 pamphlets, miscellaneous in character and ranging in date from the middle of the eighteenth century to the close of the nineteenth. Several bound volumes are also included. All are good and some are rare.

There are many mining reports from all parts of the country. These center round the year 1860. There is a mass of material on the developments in Nevada of that period, some of it of that ephemeral type which it is most difficult, as a rule, for the librarian to obtain. Such, for example, is the following interesting note illustrating a phase of mining technique — "Silver Bars — We were shown yesterday by a number of persons a fine lot of silver bars, valued at from \$7 to \$18 which they had made by crushing the rock by hand in iron mortars. This is getting to be carried on to considerable extent, and will continue until we get a sufficient number of mills to crush the quartz on hand."

There are also a number of old railroad reports, particularly valuable items, and, as a rule, hard to obtain in complete sets. Our librarian would be loath to see this little collection pass into other hands, but its cost is \$150.

B. & O. Reports

In response to our enquiry in the last number of the *Bulletin* in regard to Baltimore and Ohio annual reports, one of our members, Mr. George M. Shriver, Senior Vice-President of the line, has very kindly presented us with four of those which were missing from our files. These are the reports for the years ending September 30, 1881, 1882, 1886 and 1887. The Society is very much indebted to Mr. Shriver's prompt generosity.