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NOTE: The Business Historical Society proposes to offer to its members and to other readers of its Bulletin in a series of articles, descriptions of the large societies and libraries whose purposes are, at least in part, similar to ours. Such sketches will be not only of interest to all members of the Business Historical Society, but also of value to research students in the field of business history.

We are happy to present herewith a description of the Essex Institute of Salem, contributed at our solicitation by Mr. Howard Corning, Secretary of the Institute, who for a number of years was in charge of the Manuscript Division at the Harvard Business School Library, and who was the leading spirit in the assembly of the present large collection of business documents in Baker Library.

The Essex Institute of Salem

By HOWARD CORNING, *Secretary*

As a depository of source material relating to a wide variety of subjects, the Essex Institute holds a unique position. For many years it has been natural to turn to Salem for material on ocean shipping. In decades past, Salem wharves were lined with vessels which Salem merchants had built and manned, and which brought rich products from every civilized and barbaric land. There were Eastern ports where the names of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore were scarcely known, but where Salem was supposed to be the