Editor's Page

The manuscripts preserved in the Working Men's Institute at New Harmony, Indiana, have been newly and completely arranged and classified by Professor Arthur E. Bestor, Jr., of the University of Illinois, under a grant from the University Research Board of the latter institution. The collection constitutes an invaluable historical source on the New Harmony Community (1825-27), on the activities of Robert Owen in America, on the educational and scientific work of William Maclure, Thomas Say, Charles A. Lesueur, and Owen's sons, Robert Dale, David Dale, and Richard, and on the organizations, business firms, and events in New Harmony from the 1820's to the end of the nineteenth century. The manuscripts, now classified into thirteen series, comprise over 1650 letters before 1870, a large number of diaries and other personal papers, ten volumes of financial records of the New Harmony Community, minutes and other records of at least a score of local organizations, over 130 business ledgers dating back to the late 1820's, and eighteen dockets of local justices of the peace, 1835-1880. The most important parts of the collection are being microfilmed for the Illinois Historical Survey of the University of Illinois, which will supply positive prints to interested libraries, and which will issue in mimeographed form the catalogue of the collection that is being prepared by Professor Bestor and his graduate assistant.