

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
OF MONTREAL.

The Report, which it is now the duty of the Directors to lay before the Members of the Association, relates to the proceedings of a period of sixteen months, owing to a change in the date of our Annual Meeting, consequent upon the amendment to our Act of Incorporation, passed in the last session of the Provincial Parliament, at the request of the Board, and in accordance with a resolution of a General Meeting of the Members held on 22nd May last (1866.)

The Directors cordially congratulate the Members on the possession of the handsome and commodious building in which we now meet. For the first time we occupy a building of our own. It is convenient and comfortable in every respect, and is likely to meet the requirements of the Association for many years to come.

The occasion suggests a review of our past history, and the Directors deem it advisable to put upon record in this Report the leading facts, so far as the rather limited materials at their disposal enable them to do so. Some documents were destroyed by fire, and many others have been lost. With some effort, however, copies of twenty-one, out of the previous twenty-five Annual Reports, have been got together, and to them we are chiefly indebted for the statement we are about to make.

The Institution was originated at a meeting held on 27th November, 1840, at which Mr. Young presided. In the following January (1841) a constitution was adopted, and Pro-