

debts, and it confines the remuneration of its staff, and the purchase of books, strictly within the bounds of its income. A reference to the statements submitted will show, that without further assistance, further purchases of books cannot be made, and the Institution will consequently, be unable to keep pace with the literary progress of the world. It has already received generous donations from its Governors and others, by means of which it has been enabled to purchase within the last two years, over 5,000 volumes of much needed books. The purchase of the best works among those which are being daily issued by the publishers, is a necessity, if the Institution is to be kept up to the standard required in Montreal. And as stated in the last Report, the Board is particularly desirous of increasing the collection of books upon North America, especially Canada. Many books of the best class, have been reduced, by use, to a condition which requires them to be rebound, and efficiently to carry out this object would need a further considerable sum. Any assistance which persons interested in the spread of useful knowledge, may see fit to afford, towards the purchase of books, and towards rebinding those requiring it, will be gratefully received by the Board; and will be carefully applied to the purpose which may be specified by the donor in making the donation.

In this connection the Board desires to remark upon the work on which they are engaged, that the revenue derived from the bequest of the founder, serves to administer in an orderly and efficient manner, the existing collection of books, now comprising about twenty thousand volumes; exclusive of law books, and of the collections of the German Society, and of the Horticultural Society, which together number about four thousand volumes more. There are two large reading rooms, one of which, containing the Mackay collection of pictures, is appropriated to ladies, and these rooms are supplied with the leading Magazines and literary periodicals. Special facilities are provided for Students engaged in literary work, and the rooms are open every day in the week, during lengthy hours, free in every sense, for the use of the public.

These advantages are provided without public aid; or any assistance beyond that derived from a few persons interested in