

13

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE  
LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF  
QUEBEC,  
FOR THE YEAR 1856.

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*Presented 15th Jan., 1857.*

In accordance with established usage, and in conformity with the Bye-Law regulating the duties of the Council, the Annual Report is now laid before the Society at this its most important meeting during the year.

Though the Society, having been in a manner compelled, under peculiar circumstances, to retain for another year occupation of the rooms, in which it sought timely and temporary refuge after the calamitous conflagration of the Parliament Buildings, has not made any decided progress during the year; it has nevertheless maintained a steady position, and may with confidence look forward to brightening prospects, so soon as full scope can be given to its proceedings. There is no doubt that the difficulty of access to the present apartments, especially in the winter months, has not only interfered with the frequency of the usual meetings both of the Society and the Council, but has likewise obstructed and deferred the enrollment of new members. These considerations, in addition to several other reasons of equal importance, fully prove how necessary it is for the Society to procure a building of its own, or to lease apartments more suitably situated, and better adapted for its purposes and for the convenience of its members. Nor can it be doubtful that it would be far more desirable that such a Society should have a building of its own, and that in procuring one, it would secure a firmer basis for its future progress. The very circumstance, of its acquiring property would place its existence in a more conspicuous light, and its claims to support on a more respectable footing in the community. This proposal was advocated even before the calamitous fire, already alluded to, when the Society was in possession