

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute :—

The Agricultural and Arts Act, passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1877, having enacted that the business years of Mechanics' Institutes, claiming a Legislative Grant under that Act, should end on the 1st May in each year, and that the annual meeting should be held during that month, it will be found that the accounts and statements now submitted to the members have been made up to that date, thus covering a period of fifteen months, from the 1st February, 1877, on which day the last annual meeting of the members of this Institute was held.

In what must necessarily be but a brief review of these accounts, the Board have much satisfaction in reporting a steady progress towards an improved condition of matters, so far as the financial interests of the Institute are concerned, than existed at the date of the last report.

In this respect the anticipations of the Directors, then expressed, have been fully verified by facts, as a careful comparison of figures in the last and in the present abstract of receipts and expenditure will fully evidence. The Directors also notice with pleasure the extended and constantly increasing use of the advantages offered both in the reading room and the library, now made by all classes of the public—the number of members having increased from 946 to over 1,006 *bona fide* subscribers, a larger number than is to be found on the roll of any other Institute in Ontario, if not in the Dominion. A full list of papers and periodicals will be found appended to this report, comprising the leading British, American and Canadian papers, and all magazines and periodicals of general interest. The crowded room shows how thoroughly it is appreciated.