

The following Petition was brought up and laid on the Table :—

By the Honorable Mr. *McInnes* (*Hamilton*),—Of the Canadian Steam Users Association, *Toronto*.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House,—Returns of the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in the District of *Ottawa*, *Kamouraska* and *Joliette*, and in the County of *Gaspé*, for the year 1880.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table, and they are as follow :—

(*Vide Sessional Papers No. .*)

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House, The Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and is as follows.—

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF CANADA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library of Parliament respectfully sheweth :—

That for the reasons stated in the last Annual Report, the sum available for the purchase of books within the past year was but half the ordinary amount. Consequently the additions made to the General Library during that period were comparatively few. In those classes, however, which are chiefly consulted by Members during the sittings of Parliament, the Librarian has endeavored to render the Library as complete as possible.

The collection and binding of the principal newspapers published in the several Provinces of this vast Dominion,—although a work of unquestionable necessity, and of increasing value for future reference,—is nevertheless a heavy item of expense. But, in view of the exceptional nature of such expenditure, application has been made to the Treasury for an addition to the Vote for Library Contingencies, to defray the cost of binding executed in Canada.

The purchase of Canadian Law Reports, for distribution to Exchange Libraries, has likewise borne heavily upon our funds, hitherto. However, at the request of the Joint Library Committee, the Government have agreed to charge the cost of such Reports to the fund out of which it is customary to provide for the purchase of Canadian works, selected or approved by Government for similar distribution.

By these arrangements it is hoped that the Parliamentary grant for the augmentation of the Library will henceforth be relieved of charges which, however indispensable to be incurred, do nevertheless materially reduce the means available for the purchase of books in Europe, and in the United States.

The rapid strides now making by Canada in population, and in the various elements of material prosperity, are naturally imparting an impetus to intellectual activity and literary research amongst our people. To keep pace with this progress, and to foster the development of learning, and of mental improvement, generally, in our midst, it is indispensable that this, the sole public Library in the Dominion, should not fall into arrears. To avoid such an evil, the liberality of Parliament in this direction is earnestly besought. Already the Library is largely resorted to by literary men, and seekers after knowledge, in all parts of the country. Great public advantage has ensued from the opportunities thus afforded to students; but the benefits will be proportionably augmented as the collection attains a greater degree of completeness, in the different branches of science, literature, and art.

The Librarian has observed, with regret and disappointment, that upon the removal of the Supreme Court to more commodious quarters, it was not deemed expedient to restore the rooms thereby vacated to their original destination, and former occupancy, for Library purposes. In the anticipation of this event, he had