

REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF MUSEUM.

QUEBEC, 11th January, 1854.

The undersigned, Curator of Museum of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, has the honor to report:—

That during the past year the general appearance of your Museum has been much improved by a methodical arrangement of the cases containing the collections of Minerals, Shells, and Coins, and by the addition of between six and seven hundred specimens of Birds, and a number of Animals purchased at a large cost, by your Council, from Mrs. Martyn, of this City.

At a very considerable expense your Council procured the services of Mr. May, an experienced Taxidermist and Naturalist, who had recently arrived from England, to mount, arrange, and classify, according to their natural families and orders, the whole of the Birds, Animals, Fishes, and Reptiles, now in your Museum, and to affix to each individual specimen a label with its Latin and English name.

The faithfulness with which Mr. May performed his difficult undertaking can easily be ascertained by a visit to the Museum, which, as regards the very valuable collection of Birds and Animals belonging to your Society, now exhibits a marked contrast to its former unsightly mass of confusion and decay, and I may add that, distinguished strangers who have visited the Museum in its present improved condition, and who, from their scientific attainments, were competent judges, pronounced the collection of Birds to be the finest on this Continent. Mr. May estimated their value at a thousand pounds.

Mr. May also drew up a Catalogue of the Birds, Animals Fishes, and Reptiles in the Museum, with short, instructive ones upon each family and order, which your Curator of Museum would strongly recommend the Society to print.

On the other departments in your Museum your Curator has nothing to report.

The whole respectfully submitted.

R. H. RUSSELL, M. D.,
Curator of Museum