

I had the honor to be appointed Librarian by the Committee, immediately after its formation and the adoption of the rules above referred to, copies of which are printed, and occupy a prominent place in the Library.

I have endeavored, to the best of my ability, to carry out these regulations; and in doing so, I am happy to say that I have experienced but little difficulty, visitors in general obeying them of their own accord. Notwithstanding that a large number of persons have visited the library during the year, and availed themselves of its benefits, there have not been any losses, and the books which have been used, are, with trifling exceptions, nearly as good as when first deposited.

In consequence of the limited amount of funds at disposal, the additions, by purchase, to the Library, have not been large. Two very important works, viz.: the "Annual Register," and the "Parliamentary History of England," both of which had been rendered comparatively valueless by the loss of several volumes of each, have been made complete by importing from London the missing numbers. They constitute at present a very valuable portion of the Library. The former begins with the year 1758, and continues down to the present time. The latter begins with the Norman Conquest, 1066, and extends to the close of the year 1803; from that date to the present they are continued under the title of "Hansard's Debates," a few of the latter numbers of which only are required to complete this important work, to obtain which arrangements are being made.

During the latter part of 1862, tenders were taken for binding a large number of the London Patent Office Reports, which had been lying in the upper part of this Building for some time.

The number of volumes could not be calculated with certainty, but they will probably amount to nearly one thousand. A part of them are already finished, and in the Library, and in a very short time the remainder will be ready for the shelves.

The Library has been enriched during the year with a present from the Colony of Victoria, consisting of fifteen volumes of the Laws and Journals of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly of that Province, embracing the period from 1858 to 1861 inclusive. There have also been placed in the Library by Thomas B. Aikins, Esq., Record Commissioner, one hundred and fifty-six handsomely bound volumes of manuscript documents relating chiefly to the history of this Province.

The Smithsonian Institute at Washington has continued its yearly contribution, and sent us last year five volumes of miscellaneous collections, connected mostly with scientific subjects.

The total number of volumes in the Library at present is five thousand and sixty, and when those in the bookbinders hands are all returned, that number will be largely increased. It is proper, however, to add that the above number includes a great many duplicates, some of which are of considerable value.

An alphabetical catalogue of the whole is prepared (omitting the duplicates), by means of which access may readily be had to any book in the Library.

There are yet a great many valuable, though costly, works of reference, which are indispensable to a public library, and which it is very desirable to have placed upon the shelves.

The total amount granted by the Legislature last year in aid was four hundred dollars, of which there has been paid for books, advertising, and incidental expenses, two hundred and thirty-three dollars and twenty-two cents, leaving a balance of one hundred and sixty-six dollars and seventy-eight cents; the bookbinder's contract for nearly one thousand volumes you will readily perceive, will quite exhaust, if not over-run, the above balance.

Appended hereto I submit an account current, as part of my report.

JAMES VENABLES, Librarian.