

historical institution and to carry out more fully the object of its charter by the adoption of measures for the preservation of the valuable maps, plans and journals, relating to the history of Canada, which had been accumulating for the last twenty years in its archives. The society, it is evident, from its earliest times has spent large sums in printing and publishing memoirs, siege narrations and records bearing on Canadian annals as well as in acquiring complete fyles, when practicable, of the pioneer news sheets and leading journals published in this city, such as the *Quebec Gazette* dating from 1764, the *Quebec Herald* from 1789, the *Quebec Mercury* from 1705, the *Morning Chronicle* from 1847. The e invaluable sources of reference for students of history as well as business men—some costly purchases—others prized gifts by well-wishers to the society—through lack of space in the library, had been relegated to a dusty and dark corner of the museum, neglected, difficult of access, from want of covers, obliterated or torn titles; they have been brought to light, and their bindings and titles repaired and restored. Classified by order of date, they are now of daily and of easy reference, in a small room adjoining the library; the maps and plans, railway surveys, and other valuable documents donated by outsiders or by our members are also stored in this room and preserved in drawers for reference when needed. Our many benefactors will see therein a proof, that their gifts are duly appreciated and preserved.

In connection with donations to this department, it is pleasant to notice an important and new gift from Messrs. Dawson & Co., of eighteen bound volumes of the *Quebec Gazette* from 1856 to 1874, which will go far to complete the fyles of the *Gazette*, covering 110 years of our history. The society has also to thank among others an old friend of the institution, the Hon. John Fraser, now at Charleston, for a most valuable gift of coins, medals, Indian and other curiosities, &c. The siege narratives, memoirs and journals and diaries kept by the late James Thompson, a volunteer under