

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT, 1874.

The Directors of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute having fulfilled their term of office, in accordance with the usage customary on similar occasions, beg leave to submit for the consideration of the membership the result of their labours for the past financial year, ended the 30th April, 1874.

Amongst the numerous modern agencies calculated to direct and develop the moral and intellectual energies of the industrial classes of society, Mechanics' Institutes hold a prominent position. It is difficult to form an estimate of their influences, and it is the misfortune of those useful institutions that their beneficial results are not placed more prominently before the public. People of all classes—no matter what their reading tastes may be—must be improved by their connection with these associations, for no one can read such books as their libraries contain, or attend the public lectures, without increasing their store of knowledge, and making them better and more useful members of society.

The cause of education progresses daily, and it is impossible that such institutions will not advance with it. Our city is rapidly increasing in wealth and population, and while new societies of educational, literary and scientific character are springing into existence, it is gratifying to your Directors to be able to report that the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, notwithstanding the trials and troubles it has experienced, the want of sympathy from the religious public in consequence of its non-sectarian character, still holds its place and is continually gaining favour.

THE MEMBERSHIP.

During the year just closed there has been an increase in the membership, though the cash receipts from this source show a trifling falling off. Previous to the last annual report, a determined and successful canvas was made by a few of the then Board of Direction among the mercantile classes, which resulted in the addition of some sixty odd members. This year no such canvas has been made, the Directors believing that the time had arrived when the institution should be in a position to recommend itself to everyone without solicitation on their part. Desiring, however, to do the greatest possible good to the greatest possible number, over-

tures were made to banks and other public institutions to give their clerks and employes the advantages of the reading room, library, &c., under the club system. They are pleased to report that their proposal was met in a liberal spirit, and the following have subscribed to the Association on an equitable basis, according to the number of their clerks, viz: the Bank of Montreal, the Royal Canadian Bank, the Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Toronto, and the Quebec Bank, as also the Canada Trust and Loan Company. Negotiations have been entered into with the remaining banks and several other public institutions with every prospect of success, and your Directors would strongly urge upon their successors the desirability of completing these arrangements immediately on taking office.

During the past year your Directors regret to record the removal by death from the membership, of Mr. Thomas Brunskill, who was for many years a life member, and who always manifested the most lively interest in the affairs of the Association. Shortly prior to his death he was associated with many of your present Board, and by his intimate acquaintance with its affairs and by his counsels aided materially in helping to further the welfare of the Institute.

The following is a statement of the membership on the 1st May, 1874:

Like members,	-	-	-	76
Honorary members,	-	-	-	14
Ordinary members,	-	-	-	675
Subscribers,	-	-	-	299
				<hr/> 1,064

The number of members at the date of the last report was	-	1 016
Deduct withdrawals,	-	413
		<hr/> 604
Add new members and subscribers during the past year,		460
		<hr/> 1064

THE FINANCES.

The financial condition of the Institute still continues to improve. The receipts of the year as shown by appendix A, are \$5,162.54; the same being \$862 in excess of the previous year. The expenditure as

shown by the being \$708.71 me mbership notice that the been made f Library and addition to th that derived ments, further in the report additional in coming year, ed in the Re

Special at the past year Library. T say, that the mand of the lady subscri chase more wise have c fair, that if demand lig should be fa that nothing be 'admitt books of vo added to th would sug great addi of the Libr annual out the section present p pleased to the Govern ing to th erals' rep more so These form to the libr after by th munication cieties and it is hoped The Di much ple Gzowski, recent wo It has b past year stealing cause the more care tors regre Number Withdra

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