

view, but merely desire to lay before the public a matter which should possess very general interest.

A number of citizens have kindly assisted in making up a sum of money which they have placed at the disposal of the Mechanics' Institute, to be given to the writers of the best and second best essays on the history of the City and County of Saint John. The Institute now offers two prizes, one of \$100, to the writer of the best essay, a second of not more than \$50 to the writer of the second best essay on this subject, and have placed the whole matter in the hands of a committee whose names are printed below. Any person desirous of competing is requested to hand his name to the Chairman of this committee by the 1st of September next, and, on reference to any of the members, printed terms and regulations with reference to the competition will be supplied. As the essays need not be handed in before the 1st of November 1871, ample time is afforded to persons who desire to enter the lists, and as the subject of the proposed essays must interest every patriotic student of History in the Province, and as the sources of information are open to all St. John residents, I trust a large number of writers will come forward. In the classic period a wreath of parsley or of laurel was the sole reward of a victorious contestant; in the present instance something tangible is presented, but I trust no one will regard the premium now offered simply in the light of wages for work accomplished, but will also feel that in collecting the scattered archives of this community, he is discharging a public duty, and if that duty is well discharged, he is certain of receiving a full measure of generous, I trust I may say, grateful applause. There is much of interest both to the historian and the poet in the *Acadian annals*, and as *St. John* is one of the oldest settlements of the Province, I believe a compilation of its history will form the best nucleus for a more comprehensive work, while if we possessed more accurate and more extensive information as to the social and financial progress of our commercial metropolis, during past periods, we would be in a far better position to judge of our future prospects. I beg to solicit the co-operation of your readers, and desire that those who can write will hand in their names for competition, and those who can not themselves write, but whose friends possess the proper qualifications, will induce those friends to enter into competition.

And in conclusion I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

I. ALLEN JACK.

*Prize Essay Committee.*—I. Allen Jack; Silas Alward; Edward Willis; Gilbert Murdoch; John McMillan.