

THE NEW HALL.

Your Board have every reason to believe that we have passed through our severest trials; and although the progress of the Association for many years has been slow and painful, yet a little energetic action now will no doubt place it in a position, by having the command of means, to make it of vast utility and influence in the city, and deserving the esteem of a community who have so generously aided in the erection of the new Hall. The Building Committee appointed by the subscribers to superintend the construction of the new Hall have made such progress, that your Board feel authorized in stating their belief that it will be open to the members of this Association on the first of May next. Subscriptions for the new building continue to be made; and as the future success of the Association in a great measure depends on its being free from debt, and of being able to make annual purchases of new books, the Board would urge on their successors the necessity of leaving nothing undone to secure so desirable a result.

The liberality of the merchants of Montreal, who have so far aided in the construction of the Hall, is a credit and honour to our city; and your Board believe that, when fairly settled in the new building, the Mercantile Library Association will become eminently useful in facilitating mutual intercourse, in extending information upon mercantile and other subjects of general utility, in promoting a spirit of useful enquiry, and in qualifying the young man of business to discharge with dignity the duties of his profession. In no other profession is a greater variety and volume of general knowledge more necessary than in that of the merchant. The relations, geographical, political and commercial, of other countries, as well as of his own country; the principles and the systems of political economy and finance, commercial history and commercial law; the properties of natural products and their manufacture—are all intimately connected with the very details of his business; and the Mercantile Library Association may now aid in this good work with a power which it has not before possessed, in a building specially adapted to our requirements, and where the operations of the Association, in all its branches, can be carried on with a degree of comfort not hitherto enjoyed.