

noticed amongst those present, Reverends J. F. Stevenson and G. H. Wells, Mayor Beaudry, Aldermen McCord and E. K. Greene, Rev. L'Abbé Verreau, Judge Loranger, Professor Fenwick, Messrs. Hugh McLennan, James Ferrier, Peter Redpath, J. R. Dougall, Richard White, Cyrille Tessier, (Quebec,) U. Baudry, &c. &c., and the officers of the *Numismatic and Antiquarian Society*.

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The Chairman delivered the following address:—

What was Caxton? and what his mission in the world and its relation to us? He was not an inventor. The elements which underlie the art of printing were of very old date, and Gutenberg, the reputed inventor of the art, died a little before Caxton introduced it into England. Alphabetic writing we now know dates from a very early period in the history of the East. Printing and stamping with seals and blocks have been known from primitive times, and have been practised by the rudest races. The happy thought which gave birth to printing was that of placing the separate letters on moveable types which could be put together, and taken apart. This thought was not Caxton's, but, to him belongs the credit of being one of those who saw the vast importance of this, then infant art, and of devoting his life to its application and extension. Such men are sometimes as useful as inventors, for without them inventions might be still-born or perish in infancy. We now, living 400 years after Caxton, know that he did not over-rate the importance of his art, and we see extensions of it that he could scarcely have anticipated. The immense and rapid dissemination of thought, the extension of education, the giving to men who have power over their fellow-men audiences of millions instead of hundreds, the bringing together into one state of the learning and information of the whole world—these are results of this simple yet wonderful art. If we compare these results with the best that could be done by the hands of amanuenses in