

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA, IN  
PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Report of the Librarian, on the state of the Library of Parliament, respectfully sheweth:—

By the liberality of Parliament, at its last Session, the annual grant for the augmentation of the Library, was considerably increased. This additional provision was voted upon the advice of the Library Committee, who were desirous of seeing our great National Collection enlarged and improved—their main object being to secure the perfecting of the scientific section, and the completion of the classes appertaining to American and Canadian history.

Bearing in mind the impetus that has been given of late, in Canada, to scientific studies, and the consequent necessity for providing students of science in the Dominion with access to the kindred researches of learned societies elsewhere, we have endeavoured to complete our existing series of transactions of scientific associations, and of periodicals devoted to particular branches of knowledge,—adding thereto similar publications, not already on our shelves,—with a view to an adequate representation of all departments of mental inquiry, in the Library of Parliament.

Upon application to our London Agent, I learned that collections of this description, which are seldom reprinted, were now exceedingly scarce, and not easily obtainable in a complete shape at the present time. Every year this difficulty would naturally become more serious, and in some instances insurmountable. I therefore ventured to assume the responsibility of completing most of such Collections without further delay, lest we should be unable to procure these important acquisitions at a later period. This has unavoidably occasioned a large expenditure on this behalf within the past year.

In compliance with the expressed wishes of the Committee, I have likewise bought a number of miscellaneous books, some of which have been on the Order List for two or three years, waiting until an opportunity offered to procure them. In such purchases, special attention has been bestowed upon works in relation to Canada, and other parts of the North American Continent.

Abundant facility for shelving these additions has been afforded through the liberty given by the Board of Works to make use of space in the Reading Room of the House of Commons, where several thousand volumes can be securely stored, under lock and key. Such classes only, are thus placed, as are not in frequent demand, leaving space in the main Library available for current literature.

Authority was given, by Parliament, last Session, for the purchase, from Mr. *Gerald Hart*, of Montreal, of his valuable and unique Collection of Canadian Coins and Medals. This series has accordingly been deposited in the Library. For the purpose of economizing room, these Coins and Medals have been arranged in covered glass receptacles, which do not encroach upon the limited space of the Library apartment, or interfere with present opportunities for the comfort or accommodation of readers. Similarly, provision has been made for the safe custody and exhibition of a complete Collection of Postal Cards and Stamps, which represent the postal apparatus in use throughout the entire British Empire; a collection which will prove of peculiar interest to students of philately. These Stamps are being now prepared for deposit under glass, to range with the Coins and Medals above mentioned.

The various additions to the Library during the past year are included in a Supplementary Catalogue, which is ready for distribution. In the compilation of this Catalogue, some improvement has been attempted, by the separation of additions to the series of Pamphlets from that of the titles of separate Books. Such titles, however, are unavoidably brief, and afford small indication of the contents or value of the works referred to; save only to those who are already conversant with them.