

His Excellency the Administrator of the Province and his Staff, the Commandant of the Garrison, Lieutenant Colonel *Crubbe*, with the Military under his command, and the citizens generally, were, on the first alarm, on the spot, and used every exertion to extinguish the fire; but failing in this, labored effectually in saving a great part of the valuable furniture, and also a large portion of the Books of the Library,—the latter, fortunately, with little comparative injury.

Your Librarian would also specially remark, that the Reverend Gentlemen of the Seminary, and the junior pupils of the same, rendered most valuable and efficient assistance in rescuing the books and furniture from the flames; and it is mainly owing to their active and zealous exertions, that the greater part of the former were saved, and placed, by permission, in the Palace of His Grace the Archbishop of *Quebec*, his Grace's private Chapel, and other buildings connected with his residence.

The difficulty of procuring a suitable place to arrange, enumerate, and classify the collection of books thus saved, was, at first very serious; but, when made known, it was generously and kindly removed by the offer of the Reverend the Principal of the Seminary, of three spacious rooms in that building for its reception; and from the period of the occurrence of the fire to the present time, the whole has been permitted to occupy this commodious situation, every attention paid to its preservation, as well as to the comfort and convenience of the Officers and Servants of Your Honorable House in charge of the same. To this circumstance we are, under Providence, indebted for the preservation of all that remains of the Library from destruction at the *Hospice* of the Sisters of Charity, for had the books, as intended, been removed there, they would in all probability have been consumed in the fire which recently destroyed that fine structure.

With reference to the portion of the Library saved, Your Librarian would, with much satisfaction, observe, that the whole of the works relating to the actual proceedings of the Legislature, consisting of Parliamentary Law, Imperial and Provincial Statutes and Journals, with the History, Customs and Usages of Parliament, were rescued intact; and fortunately, therefore, the Legislature on its assembling will experience no difficulty as respects the books of reference necessary for the ensuing Session.

Adverting to the salvage of this important part of the Library, and the destruction which fell upon so large a portion of the remainder, there is little doubt that if a person cognizant of the different classes and positions of the books had been resident in the building to direct the zealous labour of the numerous assistants, the greater part, if not the whole, of the collection might have been saved; and Your Librarian would most respectfully suggest, that in any future arrangement which may be made for the re-establishment of the Library, a responsible officer connected with this department should reside in the building appropriated for its reception.

In the fall of the past year two cases of Law and Miscellaneous works, intended for the Library, were wrecked in the Brig *Anne*, nine miles below *Quebec*. The whole were submerged, and much damaged, but ultimately recovered and sold for the benefit of the Underwriters. Having been insured for their full value, the Legislature has sustained no loss by this accident.

The Books ordered on the recommendation of Mr. Speaker and the Library Committee of the last Session, have been mostly received,—those lost by the *Anne* replaced—and the others daily expected. The Works purchased in *Paris* have also arrived, and the whole are in a state of good preservation.

A few days previous to the fire that consumed the late Building of the Legislature, an enumeration of the books in the Library was carefully made, and the number found to be 17,000 volumes; of these the number saved was 9,319. In this amount is included the broken sets or odd volumes, comprising 594 volumes, leaving actually useful and serviceable 8,725 volumes.