

## ANNUAL REPORT, 1880-81.

---

*To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute of St. John:*

THE experience of the past year is sufficiently gratifying to induce the Directorate to assert with confidence that the future of the Institute may be contemplated with as much hopefulness as its past history may be regarded with satisfaction.

While kindred Societies, formed for the accomplishment of similar objects to those of the Institute, have come into being since its commencement, and have received a large proportion of popular favor and patronage, the Mechanics' Institute has survived them all and, surmounting opposing obstacles, and preserving its vitality amidst depressions, sometimes, as of late, of more than a temporary character, still continues its useful work in the community, and seems with age to acquire fresh vigor.

So far from the roll of members decreasing, as might have been expected during the past season, the sum of \$1,542.00 from the sale of tickets and certificates, shows an increase over the returns from the same sources for the previous season of \$55.00.

The receipts for rental of the Hall show a like gratifying result, being \$1,798.00 for 1880-81 against the returns of \$1,452.00 from the same source for the previous twelve months.

Unfortunately the exigencies of the Board of School Trustees for the City necessitated the exercise of strict economy by that Body, and the general downward ten-