

ART ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

For the year ending December, 1883.

The Council have the honor to report their proceedings for the year 1883.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

At the last Annual Meeting it was, on motion of Mr. White, resolved: "That the incoming Council be recommended to "continue their efforts with the Government for the remission of "duties on works of art of acknowledged merit, and also of the "duties on books." Shortly after this date some members of Council, being duly authorized, proceeded to Ottawa, and there organized a deputation consisting of Hon. Mr. Ryan, Hon. Mr. Abbott, Mr. White, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Steele and Mr. Watt, who waited by appointment on the Minister of Finance, and had a long discussion with him on tariff ameliorations. The deputation urged that sculptures, drawings, prints and manuscripts, should be restored to the free-list; that the duties on art metal-work and books should be assessed by the pound-weight, and on painted-glass by the square foot, instead of *ad valorem* as at present; and that examples of ancient industrial art should be classed as "antiquities," and thereby made duty-free. The deputation was able to assure the Minister that such changes would meet with the approval of artists and importers, as well as of the workers in marble, stained-glass and metals, resident in Montreal.

When the tariff was introduced it was found that manuscripts had been added to the free-list, and that books, which, at the date of importation, had been printed more than seven years, or which