

# ANNUAL REPORT, 1868.

Your Board of Directors at the termination of their year of office, beg to present the thirty-eighth annual report of the condition and prospects of the Institute.

## THE MEMBERSHIP.

While there has been an increase in the number of members, your Board do not feel justified in stating that the Institute in this department presents a satisfactory aspect.—The anticipation expressed in last year's annual report that "the probable increase of population consequent upon the establishment of the local government in Toronto might lead to a large increase of members" has not been realized. In view of the present population and wealth of the city, and the important educational interests promoted by the Institute, your Directors are satisfied that its claims to public support are not fully appreciated. The earnest attention of the members and friends of the Institute is invited to this subject, as offering the safest and most legitimate sphere of effort for advancing its interests and securing its permanent prosperity. The number of members at date of

last report was .....	622
Subscribers .....	303
Honorary Members .....	17
Life Members .....	76
Making a total of .....	1018
From which deduct by deaths, removals and withdrawals .....	349
Leaving .....	678
New Members and Subscribers admitted during the year .....	489
Total .....	1117
Classified thus:—	
Life Members .....	75
Honorary Members .....	17
Members .....	576
Subscribers .....	449
Total .....	1117

## FINANCES.

The financial condition of the Institute, in comparison with its past history, is satisfactory. While some of the sources of its

revenues have not been as productive as in former years, a strict economy in the management of its income has enabled the present Board to close the year with slightly diminished liabilities. Were the Institute released from the heavy mortgage debt which to some extent now weighs upon its energies, its general resources and efficiency would be enlarged; and its revenues for educational purposes increased. The value of such an Institute to the public, in all its departments of usefulness and entertainment, cannot be too highly estimated, and as it has every claim to be regarded as an establishment necessary and important to a mercantile community, the Directors trust that at an early period means may be adopted by which it may be relieved from the difficulties which press upon it, and placed in that prosperous and flourishing condition to which its public importance so justly entitles it. Under the influence of this faith, your Directors felt justified in negotiating and completing the purchase of the property adjoining this building, on Adelaide street, with a view to greatly enlarging the present Music Hall and affording increased accommodation for the various operations of the Institute. This property secured, nothing is now required but the means wherewith to carry out the contemplated improvements, and secure for public meetings, exhibitions, and musical entertainments three times the accommodation of the present Hall, besides increased library space, rooms for classes, and other convenient and lucrative results.

Your Treasurer's statement, as audited and published in appendix B, shows the total receipts for the year, \$6,782.38; expenditure, \$6,760.85; balance in hand, \$21.53.

## LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

The reading room and library are the chief sources of attraction in the institute. The reading room has the advantage of being the only establishment of the kind in the city. In the ample reading resources it presents—resources which embrace the best journals and periodicals of these Provinces, the United States and Great Britain, with a just regard to the views,

opinions  
commu  
order, a  
guish it  
tiveness  
not be  
for ten  
The libr  
interest  
new bo  
permit.  
works  
while it  
cannot  
large so  
nue of t  
plied.  
suggest  
of using  
more so  
ry, both  
in the c  
They h  
supply  
from th  
present  
membe  
attracti  
bers w  
dignity.  
The  
regular  
be foun  
The nu  
at t  
repor  
Added  
Bound  
Total.  
Lost an  
Presen  
Biograp  
History  
Miscell  
Fiction  
Poetry  
Dram  
Period  
eratu  
Science  
Religio  
atur  
Voyage  
Trav  
Illus  
work  
Librar  
eren