

## The Librarian's Second Annual Report.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to place before you my second annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1896. In comparing the report of last year with this one it should be borne in mind that the former covered a period of 13 months, dating from the beginning of December, 1894, when the Public Library was opened.

### THE LIBRARY.

From this report it will be seen that our Library, on the whole, is increasing in favor with the people of Windsor, and this in spite of the apparent falling off in the number of readers. The number of borrowers' cards sold was 1511, being 202 less than the previous 13 months. During the first year of our existence there were quite a number of names on our books representing only occasional patrons, and some indeed who purchased borrowers' cards and never took out a single book, their object apparently being merely to show their good will towards the new institution. Readers of Fiction, of course, still outnumber all others, although the perusal of works of a more substantial character is evidently on the increase. There is a considerable decrease in the number of readers of Juvenile Literature. This is partly to be explained by the fact that our youthful patrons are soon attracted to swell the ranks of the readers of fiction. Particulars as to the circulation of books will be found in the table appended.

### THE READING ROOM.

The reading room still retains its popularity, as is shown by the record of periodicals (magazines and papers) which have been read or consulted. The patronage bestowed upon the daily and weekly newspapers, of which of course no record is kept, has been even more pronounced. Indeed it often happens that intending readers turn back on entering the room on account of observing that their favorite papers have been pre-engaged. The disposition on the part of a few to forget the rights of others by lingering too long over the papers I have endeavored to check by posting up notices calling attention to number 32 of the Library's Rules.

### GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at present on our shelves is 5943, being 689 volumes more than last year. These comprise 5599 obtained by purchase, and 43 volumes donated by various parties. From this it will be seen that there were added to the Library during last year by purchase 636 volumes at a cost of \$486.99. The attention of the Board is called to the fact that the shelf room originally provided is now almost entirely occupied, and new stacks of shelves will have to be erected.

I may add that during the past year all the pamphlets belonging to the Library, consisting almost entirely of the science publications of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington and Canadian Government reports and blue books, to the number of nearly 1000, have been classified and arranged on the shelves, and a written catalogue of them made, so that they are easily available to any one who may wish to consult them. Many of the back numbers of magazines and periodicals have been bound in volumes and placed on the shelves, and the back numbers of all the papers subscribed for by the Board have been arranged in piles ready for the binder.

The table annexed shows that there has been a decrease in the number of readers of French and German books. This may be partly owing to the fact that no additions have been made during the year to our list of books in those languages. This I think, ought to be remedied.