

It was then too late to make any material alteration in the fitting up of this Chamber; and under these circumstances he was compelled to alter all his intended arrangements for the classification of the Books, and in respect to the use to which it had been proposed to apply the various Apartments surrounding the Library, and to devote every available foot of space for shelves. This has been successfully accomplished, and not only has sufficient space been obtained for the immediate wants of the Library; but also for its probable increase for some two or three years to come. To effect this, however, it was indispensable to retain the Gallery over the old Library, for the deposit of Books, and to abandon the attempt to set apart a special room for the exhibition and consultation of Maps: a loss which will be increasingly felt until it can be remedied.

Upon a careful review of the case, a plan has occurred to your Librarian, by the adoption of which he believes that the great and unexpected loss of space, through the structural deficiency of the New Building would be fully compensated; and a result attained more in accordance with the actual wants of the Library even than the original design.

He would propose that the suite of apartments formerly occupied by the Library, and now assigned for the occupancy of the Supreme Court, should, as speedily as possible, be restored to the use of the Library; and that all the Books needful for reference in connection with Legislation should be placed therein. In other large Libraries, on this Continent, appertaining to Legislative Bodies,—such as the Congressional Library, at Washington, and the New York State Library, at Albany,—separate provision is made for the Law Library. If, in like manner, our large and valuable collections of works, upon legal and legislative subjects could thus be brought into immediate proximity to the Senate and House of Commons, it would greatly conduce to the comfort and convenience of Members, during Session, as it would secure to them quiet rooms for study and research; whilst the General Library would be available for the use and entertainment of all who should be privileged to have access thereto. Such an arrangement, moreover, would afford ample scope for the increase and improvement of the Library, in all its branches; a result which cannot be attained, under present circumstances.

The last annual grant for the purchase of Books has been carefully expended; with special attention to the augmentation of the Law Library. A Supplementary Catalogue of these accessions has been printed for distribution; and a Classified Catalogue of Law Books is in preparation. A large Invoice of Books on French Law, selected or approved by the Judges of the Supreme Court, has just been received, and the Books will shortly be placed upon the shelves.

Lists of Donations to the Library, and of Works received under the Copyright Act, since last year, are hereunto appended.

The number of Volumes in the Library at the last Report was estimated at 79,486. Since then, about 4,397 volumes have been added, making a total of 83,883 volumes.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ALPHEUS TODD,
Librarian of Parliament.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT,
8th February, 1877.

(For the Appendix to this Report, see Sessional Papers.)

The House then adjourned.

TIMOTHY WARREN ANGLIN,
Speaker.