

READING ROOM.

Your Directors, recognizing the fact that the success of the Institute depends principally upon the completeness of the Reading Room and Library, have given considerable care and attention to these important branches. The undermentioned additions have been made to the supply of newspapers in the Reading Room, viz: *St John's Newfoundland Telegraph*, *Buffalo Courier*, *Philadelphia Ledger*, *Belfast Whig*, *London Graphic*, *London Fun*. The *Dublin Freeman* and the *Illustrated Times* have been discontinued.

The cost and character of the supply of newspapers have been strictly investigated, and the Directors beg to report a saving of \$49 55 per annum in this department. The amount now received for newspapers when removed from the reading room table is \$35 per annum. A few papers still remain for sale.

As many persons were in the habit of availing themselves of the privileges of the Reading Room who were in no wise entitled thereto, your Directors took steps to counteract the practice. It was found that citizens who had long been considered members had not contributed anything further to the Institute than their regular attendance in the Reading Room! The result of the necessary measures taken has been a reduction of fully one-third in the attendance.

It is to be regretted that paragraphs are frequently cut from the newspapers and periodicals, and your Directors earnestly hope for the co-operation of the members to detect and punish the guilty parties.

THE LIBRARY.

The Library has also received due attention, and immediately after the appointment of the present Secretary, an examination was made to ascertain the number of volumes in the Library, when the following report was made, dated August 19th, 1871:

No of volumes in Library at last report..... 7,819  
 No of volumes on examination..... 6,706  
 No of volumes worn out and missing... 1,113

Your Directors are unable to account for the deficiency.

No of volumes in Library at examination..... 6,706  
 No of volumes added since..... 446

Present total..... 7,215

The books in the Library were found to be in a very unsatisfactory condition, and many valuable works were incomplete through the loss of some of the volumes. Your Directors have commenced the systematic restoration of the missing books.

The sum of \$408 86 has been expended for new books, including an importation, on advantageous terms, from England; and \$293 90 has been paid for binding 161 volumes taken from the Reading Room and Library, and repairing and rebinding 513 volumes which needed overhauling.

It is respectfully recommended that the list of works of standard authors be enlarged as early as may be practicable.

The time allowed for the perusal of paper-cover novels has been shortened, and new works are now obtained by a larger number of members within a reasonable period. This change appears to give general satisfaction. The sum of \$81 has been laid out in this department.

A new catalogue is now in course of preparation, and that part which embraces the novels and tales is nearly ready for publication. It has been deemed unnecessary to inconvenience the members by following the usual custom of closing the Library for one week.

In the course of the special examination which has been given to the Library, it was discovered that many of the missing books had been lost to the Institution through being issued to quarterly subscribers whose places of abode could not be found. In some instances it would seem that the parties had given an incorrect address, and that in others the persons had left the city. To remedy the defect alluded to it has been arranged that subscribers who are not personally known shall be required to supply a satisfactory guarantee that the books they obtain shall be returned.

Your Directors tender their sincere thanks to those friends of the Institute who have kindly made donations of books during the past year. See Appendix C. And their acknowledgments are also due to the proprietors and editors of newspapers who have generously forwarded their papers for the use of the Reading Room—a list of these will be found at the end of this report.

THE CLASSES.

The classes have been conducted in the past year with continued success. In consequence of the sale of the building to the Government, a misapprehension arose with

203 in the past year, previous year.

books to the library unced, caused a large and other citizens to and from the interest the evidences of ap- given, your Directors asserting that so soon ding Room are put in ate, a large increase may be confidently

ANCES.

at of receipts and ex- ued by your auditors t quarterly meeting, by the Rev James t of Public Schools, t Act of the Ontario ound in the appendix, ement of the present of the Institute. In embers the means of nt position of the In- ion at the date of the ng statement of assets omitted, in which the al estate is substituted al value. e balance in favour of ate of the last report nce will show an im- 14.

RIL, 1871.

sets.

.....\$36,500 00  
 ..... 7,900 00  
 subscriptions 227 26  
 ..... 94 76  
 ..... 63 52

\$44,785 54

ilities.

.....\$23 400 00  
 ..... 2,609 97  
 ..... 18,775 57

\$44,785 54

\$20,138 71  
 . 18,775 57

\$1,363 14