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LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC.

HALIFAX LIBRARY.—Committee, Samuel Head, Esq.
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Archibald Scott. Librarian.—Hours 10 to 2 o'clock.

HALIFAX MECHANICS' LIBRARY.—This Society was
constituted, October 17, 1831. Before its formation, it was a
difficult matter for any one to obtain the use of Books, except
those who could afford to purchase for themselves. Nearly all
Libraries then in existence were private property; and the great
want of the community was prevented from access to their shelves.
The Library commenced on a small scale; but the rapidity of its
progress, soon astonished its most sanguine friends. The number
of members at the commencement was, 31;—it now numbers
besides a great many persons who fall under the denomina
tion of Subscribers, and who pay 2s. 6d. quarterly for the use of
Books, but who have no voice in the management of the So
ciety's affairs. The members pay 10s. entrance money and 1s. 3d.
per year afterward. [At the Annual Meeting, October, 1833,
the price of Shares was raised to 20s.]

The number of Books in October, 1831, was little more than
one hundred; there are now upwards of 1150 on hand; and all the money
collected from every source is devoted to the purchase of
Books, except what is absolutely necessary to defray the contingent
expenses of the establishment. Thus by the payment of a very
moderate sum, and which is within the means of every industrious
man, he may have the use of a large collection of valuable

books. The weekly circulation of books on an average is 130 vols.
The Officers of the Society at its organization were J. S.
Tremain, President; John Naylor, Secretary; Joseph Whytal,
Treasurer; and a Committee consisting of John Lindsay, Joseph
B. Dawson, W. B. Wellner and J. S. Cunnebell.
The present Officers are J. L. Starr, Esq. President; J. Slayter,
Treasurer; John Naylor, Secretary; J. Morrow, Esq. Joseph
S. Thompson, R. Garland, and J. Whytal, Committee.
The Library is kept in the lower part of the premises, occupied
formerly as a Boarding house, in Hollis Street. It is open