

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

OF THE THURLOW CIRCULATING LIBRARY TO ITS MEMBERS.

ART. 1ST.—That this Society shall consist of a President, Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, and Six Committee men, to be elected annually, who shall form a Board for the management of the Institution. Five of whom shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 2ND.—All persons appointed by the Board, may become members on the payment of Five Shillings annually; payable on the first of March.

ART. 3RD.—That no member be allowed to participate in the benefits of the Institution whose subscription shall be in arrear one month.

ART. 4TH.—That the Board shall meet Quarterly, on the first Tuesday in March, June, September, and December, for the transaction of business; and that they be empowered to purchase all books, collect subscriptions, pass By-Laws, and do anything which they may consider necessary for the welfare of the Institution.

ART. 5TH.—That there shall be an Annual Meeting of the Society on the second Tuesday in January, by which time the Board shall have prepared a Report which shall contain an account of the progress and prospects of the Society, together with the Treasurer's accounts for the past year. And that at every such meeting 2 persons shall be appointed as Auditors to examine the same.

ART. 6TH.—That it shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board and also at the annual meeting of the Society, provided that in the event of his absence, any person may occupy his place, who may be chosen by the majority there assembled.

ART. 7TH.—That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect from the Officers of the Society all the Subscriptions and donations which they may have procured, and furnish the Librarian by the first of April, with a List of all subscribers to the Library for the current year, and further to deliver his accounts to the Board at the last Quarterly Meeting, shewing the receipts and expenditures for the past year.

ART. 8TH.—That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an account of the transactions of the Society and send the same at the Annual Meeting, and to give due notice of all meetings.

ART. 9TH.—That it shall be the duty of the Librarian to prepare a list of Books, and have them numbered to correspond, to allow none but members to peruse the books, to inform the Board what books want binding, &c.; and pay all fines that may have collected over to the Treasurer, and strictly to enforce the By-Laws.

ART. 10TH.—That it shall be the duty of the Committee to procure with promptitude a list of Subscribers, and to have the amount of their subscriptions collected, in time to pay the same over to the Treasurer by the 20th day of March, and to give receipts for all monies that they may collect, which receipt shall be a security for the Librarian, in order to prevent any but members procuring books from him.

ART. 11TH.—That none of the above laws can be altered otherwise than at the Annual Meeting of the Society or at a special one called by the Board for that purpose.

BY-LAWS.

No. 1.—No member can have the privilege of procuring more than One Book at a time from the Library.

No. 2.—All books of a medium size shall be returnable within six weeks, and those of a larger size within two months under a penalty of 3d. a week.

No. 3.—Any member commencing with the first Vol. of a set shall be entitled to have the remainder kept in reserve for him, and in case Two or more members shall be perusing the same series, the rotation to be observed in the order they began.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1848 AND REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1847:

SAMUEL ROBINSON, Esq., President.
DAVID CLAPP, Esq., Treasurer.
Mr. ELIAS CLAPP, Librarian.
W. R. BIGG, Secretary.

Committee.—RICHARD BEDELL, JOHN GRIER, SAMUEL FARLEY, WM. BLANCHARD, ELIJAH BENNETT, WM. HUFFMAN.

Report of the Board of management of the Thurlow Circulating Library to its Members.

GENTLEMEN.—The period having arrived according to the Constitution of our Society, when the task of drawing up the First Annual Report devolves upon us, we confess that we encounter the task with a diffidence in our abilities, but with confidence and zeal as having been the humble instruments by which one of the greatest boons ever conferred upon this section of the Township has been effected. At the commencement of the undertaking to establish our Library, but few of the inhabitants seemed willing to render any assistance, and had they been content to rest there, it would have called forth no comments from us, but they were not;—assistance to a double object was not only withheld but the motives of the organizers were called in question and attributed to the meanest and most sordid spirit that can actuate the most depraved and worthless of Society; but a full consciousness of the rectitude of our intentions enabled us to pass by with scorn all such insinuations assured as we were that they were merely measuring us by their own standard. Commencing therefore under these unfavorable auspices we have an increased satisfaction in announcing that the most complete success has attended our efforts, far exceeding even our most sanguine expectations. With the assistance of our Belleville friends, joined with your own subscriptions and donations the Library at the present time numbers 120 volumes besides a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £1 1s. 3d. Since the first formation of our Society the number of members has nearly doubled, and we think that next year's list of Subscribers will increase in the same ratio; assuming this to be the case, deeming it not unlikely that that other donations will yet be made, and coupling this with the balance before alluded to, we think that we are warranted in concluding that ere another year rolls round our Library will number 200 volumes.

EXPENDITURES:

To Mr. Harrison, for Books,	£6 7 6
To Mr. Wilson, do.	0 5 0
Dr. Holden by E. Clapp,	0 5 0

Total, £6 17 6

JOHN GRIER, Auditor.
SAMUEL FARLEY, do.

RECEIPTS:

Amount of Subscriptions,	£4 13 9
do. Donations,	3 5 0

Total, £7 18 9

Expenditure, 6 17 6

Balance in hand, £1 1 3

We are under great obligations to those Gentlemen in Belleville who have so kindly afforded us assistance and encouragement; it would therefore be a want of respect and courtesy in us not to avail ourselves of this opportunity to return our sincere and heartfelt thanks to those distinguished philanthropists, who are always found foremost in advocating and encouraging every endeavour having for its object, the amelioration of the mental condition, the welfare and general improvement of their fellow-beings. In order that you may know to whom you are so deeply indebted, we think it right to publish their names with the amount of their donations:

Edmund Murney Esq., £2 10; Francis MacAnnamy Esq., 10s.; J. W. D. Moodie Esq., 5s.; Wm. Smart Esq., 5 vols.; B. Dougall Esq., 16 vols.; Jno. Ross Esq., 8 vols.; Geo. Henderson Esq., 8 vols.; Chas. O. Benson Esq., 4 vols.; Dr. Holden, 5 vols.; B. F. Davy Esq., 5 vols.; Alexr. Judd Esq., 2 vols.; Smith Wilkin Esq., 5 vols.; Mr. Wilson, 2 vols.; Mr. J. F. Davis, 1 vol.; Dr. Barker 1 vol.

We also consider it a duty which we owe to this neighbourhood, to endeavour to impress on its inhabitants the great value

of mental improvement: fifty years ago this section of the country was nothing but a howling wilderness, the habitation of savages and wild beasts,—now every part around us bears the impress of civilization and presents a most favorable contrast. While every thing around us is improving, shall we only remain stationary? You are doubtless well aware that scientific improvement judiciously applied to Agriculture, causes the land to yield more, the quality of the crops to be superior, and enhances their value in the market: so it is with mental improvement; but if the spring put forth no blossoms, in Summer there will be no beauty and in Autumn no fruit; so if youth be trifled away without improvement, manhood will probably be contemptible, and old age miserable." "It is a consideration of no small weight that reading furnishes materials for interesting and useful conversation, those who are ignorant of books must of course have their thoughts confined to very narrow limits; what occurs in their immediate neighbourhood, the state of the market, the idle report, the tale of scandal, the foolish story; these make up the circle of their knowledge, and furnish the topics of their conversation; they have nothing to say of importance, because they know nothing of importance. But give them an acquaintance with books, enlarge the circle of their knowledge, extend their intellectual views, and the conversation to which they are now addicted would appear to them as idle prattle of children; and they would drop it for mere shame. All men love to converse, and a small part of the enjoyment of life is derived from conversation. How important then, that we should be able to converse intelligently, to take an interest and bear a part in conversation that is fitted to enlighten the mind, improve the heart, and adorn the character with knowledge and virtue! But to do this we must have an acquaintance with books. No man that has a fondness for reading, is in much danger of becoming vicious; he is secured from a thousand temptations to which he would otherwise be exposed, for he has no inducement to squander away his time in vain amusements, in the haunts of dissipation, or in the corrupting intercourse of bad company." "Every tree is known by its fruits; a good tree does not bring forth evil fruit, neither does a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." "What is that mainly distinguishes a man from a brute, that makes the vast difference there is between savage and civilized nations, and forms the principal distinction between men as they appear in the same society? Knowledge." What raised Franklin from the humble station of a Printer's boy to the first honors of his country, and took Sherman from his Shoemaker's bench, and gave him a seat in Congress? Knowledge. What raised Simpson from the Weaver's loom, to a place among the first of Mathematicians; and Herschel from being a poor Faber's boy in the army, to a station among the first of Astronomers? Knowledge. "Knowledge is power." It is the Philosopher's stone, it touches into gold. It is the sceptre that gives us our dominion over nations; the key that unlocks the storehouse of creation, and opens to us the treasures of the universe. Can any expect to maintain a respectable standing in society, if, while others are rising around them, they neglect the means to rise with them?

In conclusion we consider that the almost insignificant amount of the yearly subscription will be a strong inducement for many more to enrol themselves as members. "But if any please thus to neglect their opportunities for acquiring knowledge, they can have their choice; but let them at the same time, make up their minds to exist as mere cyphers in society; to be hewers of wood and drawers of water; to float down as leaves upon the bosom of the stream, unknown, unregarded, soon to be forgotten, as if they never had been."

By order of the Board,

W. R. BIGG,
Secretary.

Thurlow, January 4, 1848