

## APPENDIX A. THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The first definite public step taken for founding a Free Public Library was that of the Ottawa women in the early part of 1895.

In all great public undertakings it is essential that the people be thoroughly informed on the subject to be submitted to them for approval and ratification. To attain this end, the Committee of the Ottawa women who interested themselves in the Library movement, obtained not only the co-operation of the *Evening Journal*, but the proprietor generously placed the paper for a "Women's Issue" wholly at the disposal of and in the hands of the women, including all revenues for advertisements, besides sale of paper. The following were the principal officers of the staff :

Editor.....	Annie Howells Fréchette.
Managing Editor.....	Mary McKay Scott.
News Editor.....	Ellie Cronin.
City Editor.....	Roberta E. Tilton.
Sporting Editor.....	Laura K. Masson.
Editor Home Department ..	Elizabeth Brymner.

The leading article that on "A Public Library" was contributed by Marie W. Klotz.

The paper was issued on Saturday April 13th, 1895, and was a great success in every respect. The women realized some five hundred dollars (\$500); and this was to be the nucleus from which was to grow private and municipal assistance, until the necessary funds were secured to found a Public Library. Much encouragement was given in many quarters to the belief that the realization of fond hopes would not be very long delayed. But it was not then to be, as subsequent events proved. To secure municipal assistance, the assent of the freeholders was necessary; that is, a by-law had to be submitted to the properly qualified electors. To save the expense of a special vote, the Council deferred the submission of the by-law until the general annual municipal election in January, 1896.

Some weeks before that election, the women again bestirred themselves, and this time for an election campaign. A room—65 Sparks Street—was secured, and daily meetings were held. A circular letter—both in English and French—was prepared and sent to every ratepayer in the city. This meant considerable labor, and 65 Sparks Street was a busy place for some days. The following is a copy of the letter issued :