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# Canadian Institute.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1855.

The Council of the Canadian Institute have the honour to submit to the Members, the following Report of the operations of the past Session, and of the proceedings adopted by the Council with a view to the still more effective furtherance of the objects for which the Institute has been founded.

The Council have much satisfaction in reporting, that the progress of the Institute, as indicated by the number of its members, continues to furnish gratifying evidence of the increasing hold it is acquiring on the Province. Last year the Council drew attention to the fact that the members—who numbered only 112 at the close of 1851, the first year of incorporation—had increased, in all, to 333, and since then we have to report a further addition of 104 members, which, after deducting eighteen, resigned or deceased, make the present number of members constituting the Canadian Institute, 419, exclusive of those of the Athenæum.

In the last Annual Report, the Council referred to the anticipated amalgamation of the Athenæum with the Canadian Institute. This highly desirable union has since been happily completed. A permissive Act, giving the Athenæum full power to effect a junction with the Institute, was passed during the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, and since then the requisite deeds have been executed, and the valuable Library and Collection of Minerals have been transferred to the Canadian Institute. The importance of the addition thus acquired to the Library can scarcely be too highly estimated, as it consists, in all, of 800 volumes, including the Transactions of various of the leading Scientific and Literary Societies of Great Britain, as well as other works of a strictly scientific character. The Council recommend to their successors the duty of completing and continuing the valuable serial publications thus acquired; and of cultivating that intercourse with the Scientific Societies not only of Britain, but of Europe, which may secure an interchange of a class of publications so beneficial to the Institute.

The Minerals added to the Museum, in consequence of this amalgamation, it is believed will also prove a valuable addition to the collections of the Institute; but the difficulties attendant on their removal, and the very brief period that has elapsed since the completion of the requisite legal deeds for effecting the union with the Athenæum, have prevented a minute examination of them; and the Council would suggest the appointment of a small Committee, to superintend their classification, and to report on their nature and value.

The duty will devolve on the new Council to adopt means for carrying out, in the most liberal spirit, the conditions annexed to the acquisition of the Library of the Athenæum, whereby the Institute becomes bound to afford the public free access to the joint Library, under such restrictions as may be found requisite for its safety. In thus establishing a Library of Reference, specially designed to afford facilities for scientific and literary research, the Council feel assured that the members will hail it as an additional step in furtherance of the objects of the Institute, rather than as a condition detracting in any degree from the value of the increase made to the collections.

The Council avail themselves of this opportunity to record the obligations under which they, as well as all the members of the Institute, are laid to Oliver Mowat, Esq., one of their number, by whom all the requisite legal deeds, for effecting the union of the Athenæum with the Canadian Institute, have been gratuitously prepared and executed.

The additions made to the Library, by purchase, during the past year, include some works of value, among which the Council have been indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Lefroy's good services, for enabling them to acquire seventeen volumes of the Philosophical Transactions, wanted to complete the Library set. But the Council have been induced to curtail their expenditure, in this and other respects, in anticipation of the inevitable outlay attendant on the resumption by the Government of the rooms provided for the use of the Institute in Government House.

The following List comprises the additions which have been made to the Library, by purchase, during the past year:—

### Books Purchased for the Library.

	Vols.
Hand Book of Chemistry, by Leopold Gmelin, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Heidelberg, &c., &c., Vols. 1 to 8 .....	8
Physiological Chemistry, by Prof. C. G. Lehman, translated by George E. Day, M.D., F.R.S., Vols. 1 & 2 .....	2
Life of the Hon. Henry Cavendish, including abstracts of his more important scientific Papers, and a critical inquiry into the claims of all alleged discoveries of the composition of Water; by George Wilson, M.D., F.R.S.E., Lecturer on Chemistry, Edinburgh .....	1
Elements of Chemical and Physical Geology, by Gustav Bischof, Ph. D., Prof. of Chemistry and Technology in the University of Bonn; translated from the manuscript of the author by Benjamin H. Paul, F.C.S., & J. Drummond, M.D., Vcl. 1 .....	1

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Pres. Miss M. Gould