

needed in order to secure to the public the benefit arising from this collection, and that the character of this building and the ingenious and most successful method of lighting the cases must command the admiration of every competent judge.

The original letters and correspondence produced by Mr. Barnett from foreign institutions and persons of distinction, requesting an exchange of specimens, shew conclusively the estimation in which his museum is held, and also how much the science of Natural History in Canada would be promoted were he in a condition to accede fully to their proposals.

Some of the witnesses have passed a very high eulogium upon the liberality of Mr. Barnett, in the management of his Museum. It is stated that, of the many annual visitors to his exhibition, very many are admitted free of any charge, and others at half-price, and that it is a standing rule to admit teachers and pupils of all schools free, and that they very freely avail themselves of the privilege. Instances are given, also, of Mr. Barnett's humanity and benevolence. Whenever he has been called upon to contribute to any fund for the relief of the destitute he has always most nobly responded to the call by giving the proceeds of admission for a fixed time towards such fund, at the same time publicly advertising such purpose, and calling on the public to assist him. Among these instances, particular mention is made of his contribution to the fund for the relief of the houseless and destitute in the City of Québec, upon the occasion of the calamitous fires by which 1800 buildings were destroyed in 1845; and also, by a similar contribution to the Crimean fund:

We have thus presented to us the case of a gentleman who has by uncommon industry, and at great labor and expense, during twenty-five years, enthusiastically devoted himself to the formation of what may be termed a Canadian Natural History Institution, which is not only a credit to himself, but of which the country in which he lives may well be proud.

The forests of this vast continent are fast disappearing before the progress of the axe and the husbandman, and many kinds of animals that were once plentiful are becoming so scarce as to be considered almost extinct. It is, therefore, of great importance to Canada that there should be a repository of native specimens, in order that they may be therein preserved after the species has ceased to exist. It is most manifest that it would not be creditable to the country were such a laudable object left to the unaided enterprise and means of a single individual.

From the great advantages (in the opinion of the very competent and eminent gentlemen examined as witnesses in this case) to be derived from this institution, in the promotion of the study of Natural History and the general cause of education, your Committee unanimously and respectfully make an appeal to your Honorable House to consider the propriety of recommending to the Government the grant of some aid to Mr. Barnett, to enable him to effect the exchange of specimens solicited by other institutions, and also to facilitate the completion of his new building for the greater accommodation of the public.

Your Comitée deem Mr. Barnett to be fairly entitled to share in the bounty of the Legislature towards all institutions which tend to promote the cause of science and education, and the gratification of the public desire for exhibitions which combine useful knowledge with rational amusement. The aid, whatever it may be, to be given to Mr. Barnett, to be upon such conditions, restrictions, and privileges as the Government may attach to it.

All which is most respectfully submitted,

G. McMICKEN, Chairman.

Committee Room,  
Legislative Assembly, 14th April, 1859.