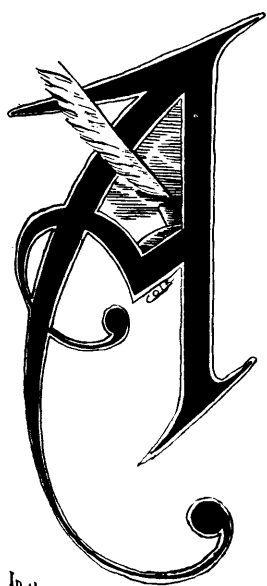


McGILL COLLEGE LIBRARY.

"My library was dukedom large enough."

—SHAKESPEARE.



AMONGST the institutions which call for honourable mention, and of which Montreal may well be proud, there are few more valuable and useful than the library at McGill College; its growth has been steady, and year by year it has been strengthened by donations from various sources.

The first available record of the Library is to be found in the College Calendar for the session of 1858-59, where it is said that "The Library of the Faculty of Arts contains 1,800 volumes of standard works, selected with especial reference to the wants of Professors and Students."

In the Calendar for the following year the number had increased to 2,000; in 1865 it had reached 5,000, and in the Calendar for 1866, 6,000; in 1872, 9,000 is recorded, and through the liberality of many friends the number has gone on increasing until at present the Library numbers 31,000 volumes.

The most munificent donor has been Mr. Peter Redpath, whose first donation of 1,129 volumes may be said to have given the impetus which sent the Library forward by "leaps and bounds." The donations from Mr. Redpath have been continued yearly without intermission, until, without questioning, the "Redpath alcove" is not only the gem of the Library, but it is probably the finest and most valuable collection of historical works in Canada.

There are many other donors whose names should be recorded, who have given generously, and have aided in building up a library of which a well known bibliophile says: "I know no other collection of books with so few weak or unworthy books in it." Amongst these donors may be noted:—

A donation of \$4,000 from the late Mr. William Molson; the valuable collections of the late Mr. Frederick Griffin and Judge Mackay; the generous and valuable gifts of several hundred volumes from Messrs. John H. K. Molson and Charles Alexander; the collection of the late Dr. Robson, of Warrington, Eng.; a complete set of Victor Hugo's works (46 vols.) from the late Mr. Thomas Workman; bequests of \$1,000 from Hon. J. W. Torrance and Mr. R. A. Ramsay; the valuable collection of Shakesperian books, gathered by the late Mr. T. D. King, was secured through the liberality of Sir Donald A. Smith and Mr. W. C. Macdonald, and it may be added that both these gentlemen have, on several other occasions, given generous aid; also gifts from many other individual donors.

In addition to these the Library has been largely strengthened by valuable yearly donations from the McGill College Book Club and the Graduates' Society, until it stands to-day a grand monument of the princely munificence of its host of friends.

We learn that a further gift of several hundred volumes on Engineering and Electricity are about to be added through the generosity of Mr. W. C. Macdonald.

In addition to the before-mentioned, there are upwards of 15,000 volumes in the Library of the Medical Faculty and about 3,250 in that of the Law Faculty; the grand total, therefore, of books possessed by McGill College is little short of 50,000 volumes.

The value of the Library is not fully conveyed in recording the number of volumes, without briefly reciting a few of the very rare and costly books to be found amongst its treasures; the following, taken at random, may be noted:—

Audubon's "Birds of America," 4 vols., the elephant folio edition; Audubon's "Quadrupeds of America," 2 vols.; Lord Kingsborough's "Mexican Antiquities," 9 vols.; the Lord Vernon edition of "Dante," 4 vols.; Eaton's "Ferns

of North America," 2 vols.; Scudder's "Butterflies of the Eastern United States and Canada," 3 vols.; "Fac-Similes of MSS. relating to America," 4 vols.; Wyon's "Great Seals of England;" "The Eikon Basilike of Charles I., 1649;" "Pinkerton's Collection of Voyages," 17 vols. The oldest book in the Library is the "Aurea Legenda," of Vovagine, Basle, 1490. Many first editions are there, as John Selden's "Fleta;" Sidney's "Arcadia," etc., etc., and the original edition of Dickens' "Master Humphrey's Clock," in 3 vols. There are also many complete sets of Societies' publications, e.g.: Hakluyt, Surtees, Early English Text, and English Dialect Society; the Maitland Club, Abbotsford Club, and others.

In books relating to Canada and America, the Library is especially strong, the early historians and others being there, —Ramusio, Jacques Cartier, Champlain (editions 1613 and 1642), Creuxius, La Potherie, Charlevoix, La Hontan, Sagard, Lescarbot, Hennepin, La Salle, Le Clercq and many others.

The present library building, and the William Molson hall above, was erected by the gentleman whose name it bears, in 1861, but the growth of the College has been so

extraordinary that neither the Library nor the Hall are large enough for its present requirements; that some more ample accommodation may be forthcoming is "a consummation devoutly to be wished," indeed it is rumoured that such a desideratum will be furnished at no very distant date.

We give a view of the interior of the Library and the *vera effigies* of the librarian, Mr. Henry Mott, whose uniform courtesy and kindness have done much towards making the students feel at home. Mr. Mott is gifted with a remarkable memory, and he seems to have a nodding acquaintance with his 30,000 companions, and the cheerful willingness with which he replies to the host of queries submitted to him daily, and with an almost unerring certainty finds the "best book" on any subject, is nearly past belief. In the words of Goldsmith:

"Still the wonder grew,
How one small head could carry all he knew."

A New York journalist who has for many years been an editorial writer on a high tariff paper has abandoned leader writing to become a clergyman in the Episcopal Church. "He is as yet," remarks a Chicago paper, "a man of only middle age, and he hopes that if allowed to pursue his priestly duties until the close of a long life he may be able to make amends for the continued career of misrepresentation entailed upon him by the exigencies of his former position."



THE CANADIAN MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE TROPHY.—(See page 315.)