

necessitating the greatest skill and care to prevent utter chaos.

With the powers that were, went the books and well earned the title of "A Travelling Library." The wear and tear upon them was more than noticeable, and, unfortunately, a large number of the collection met with a fate most undeserved.

In 1849, the Library was in Montreal. It consisted of 8,232 volumes. That year, in the month of May, a disastrous fire broke out in the building where the books were kept and destroyed all but two hundred. The loss was estimated to have been over \$100,000.00.

Hopes and plans were dashed to the ground, but with stout hearts the book-lovers prepared to reconstruct their almost totally destroyed collection. Their efforts were soon rewarded.

England, the United States and France came to the rescue, as also a number of private individuals, and in two years Canada had in her possession one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine volumes.

Four years passed away, and then Doctor Winder was pensioned off to be succeeded by Mr. Todd. A wiser promotion had never been made by the government. Mr. Todd was a quiet, unassuming man of the old school. He said little but did much. Earnest, conscientious and a brilliant scholar, he made his mark from the start as a successful librarian and a writer of the first order.

Mr. Todd had received his promotion but a short time when he was sent to England and Paris, to expend over nine thousand pounds upon books. The additions he brought back gave new evidence of his skill and taste. A large number of his purchases are still often used, many of them being very valuable.

The history of the Library from now on is that of a steady increase. In 1859 all the books were in Quebec City. Their number was forty-five thousand.

Six years later the final move was made when the Library was transferred to Ottawa to remain there permanently. Transportation took a full month, and it must have been a remarkable spectacle to have seen the numerous barges laden with all sorts of literature moving slowly along the St. Lawrence and up the Ottawa rivers.

When the first United Parliament sat, a Library was in readiness for the members, the present reading and newspaper room being used for that purpose.

The Library itself was completed in 1876, and here to-day some five hundred thousand volumes of the world's rarest and best literature have been gathered together through patience, courage and foresight.

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The second article of the Library series will appear in a subsequent number of *The Civilian*, entitled "The Library Itself."

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### NEW INVENTIONS.

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