

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT, 1873.

The Directors, in resigning to the members of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute the trust to which they were elected at the last annual meeting, beg to present their report for the year ended the 1st May, 1873, being the forty-third year of the existence of the Institute.

Your Directors have sincere pleasure in being able to state that the past year has been a period of marked prosperity in the several departments of the Institute. Our predecessors foreshadowed very accurately the position of your Directors when, in last year's report, they stated that "with freedom from pecuniary embarrassments and the other cares consequent upon the management of a large building heavily burdened with debt, their successors would be enabled to give their undivided attention to the immediate and actual business of the Institute." In the year which has just closed it has been the duty and privilege of your Directors to carry into effect the well-defined policy of their predecessors, as they were convinced that it was, in the main, the best course that could be devised to foster and improve the several interests of the Institute, and to regain the confidence of its members and of the general public. It has been the aim of your Directors to place the Institute, through the improvement of its Library, Reading-room, and Evening Classes, and as opportunity afforded, by the addition of lectures on popular scientific and other subjects, upon such a basis as to render it one of the most important adjuncts in this city to the noble work of self-culture amongst the mechanics and other classes of the community.

In the carrying out of the duties to which they have applied themselves during the past year, your Directors have received the most encouraging proofs of the growing interest which has been awakened amongst the members and many of our leading citizens, in the well-being of the Institute; and they are enabled to state that, with reasonable effort on the part of the Directors and members, the Institute may speedily reach a position of usefulness and prosperity which has rarely been the privilege of any similar institution in this country to enjoy.

THE MEMBERSHIP.

In the past year there has been a very satisfactory increase in the membership of the Institute, more especially in the

additions to the list of members proper, in which the gain during the year has been equal to nearly fifty per cent. This fact is especially cheering, as it gives greater permanency to the annual receipts than would be afforded by a similar increase in the number of subscribers. The membership at present embraces many of the leading gentlemen of the city engaged in manufacturing, mercantile, professional, and other pursuits.

The following is a statement of the membership on the 1st May, 1873, viz.,—

Life members	73
Honorary members	14
Ordinary members	611
Subscribers	318
Total	1,016
Number of members at the date of the last report was	761
Deduct withdrawals	357
	404
Add new members and subscribers during the past year	612
Present number	1,016

THE FINANCES.

There will be found in the appendix a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditure for the past year, together with a statement of assets and liabilities, which have been duly examined by the auditors appointed at the last quarterly meeting.

On looking over the reports of previous years it would appear that the largest number of members and subscribers returned was 1,169, which occurred in the year 1870. In the same year the subscriptions received amounted to \$2,096. Although the membership at the close of the past year is less than it was in 1870, the sum paid as subscriptions is in excess of that year.

During the early part of the year your Directors were satisfied that they were being charged for a larger quantity of gas than had been consumed, and although the Gas Company was required to make a minute examination, the discrepancy could not be detected or explained. Subsequently, whilst the roof of the building was being repaired, an escape of gas in the wall above the Music Hall was accidentally discovered. It is probable that this waste

has been going on it has been a loss of \$1,450.

A comparison of the Institute report, with the improvement of year just ended.

READING

These important institute have received of your Directors labours in this will meet with

The Weekly Canadian Mechanic's to the previous papers and ma Reading-room.

During the past has been expended gazettes; but it some extent the continues. It final proceeding offender who

A new description by your first adopted for the found to serve serving the men placed the Institute of \$39.

The books placed in a daily issue no

The number report was Withdrawn, Lost, and paid

Added during

Total

The cost of zines has been for re-binding

Your Directors thanks to the have kindly ing the past to the proper papers, who their papers room,—a list of the end of