

REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE FOR 1890.

It is a source of gratification to your Committee that in presenting this, another Annual Report, they are able to report a continued increase in the number using the Library, as well as in the number of books acquired and used during the year. With this Report is presented a comparative statement of the numbers of those using the Library during the quarter ending January 20th of each year, from 1888 to 1891, inclusive, from which it will be seen that there has been an increase of 150 per cent. Of course, this growth is, in part, due to the increased number of students in attendance in the several Faculties; and whilst it is gratifying, it is not without its embarrassments, not the least of which is the growing want of accommodation for both readers and books. The Library-Assistant again calls attention to this, adding that the unavoidable overflow of the students into the alcoves makes it impossible for him to keep the shelves as orderly as they should be. He further states that the daily routine of work keeps him so fully occupied that he is unable to devote any portion of his time, during Library-hours, to cataloguing; and thus there is the risk of work in this department falling into arrears. To obviate this, Mr. Mott proposes to stay an hour or two every afternoon, after the Library is closed when he will be able to work without interruption.

With this is connected another important fact, to which your Committee has adverted in former Reports, viz., that the Library is fast outgrowing its catalogue, and that the time is not far distant when a full and proper catalogue will become an absolute necessity. In their last Annual Report, your Committee suggested that a beginning of this important work might be made by cataloguing the books relating especially to the History of Canada and the American Colonies; and during the vacation, Mr. Mott had a considerable part of this well under way, but was compelled to lay it aside by the transference and cataloguing of the books placed in the Library of the Law Faculty.

The most important additions to the Library have been:—(1) A further donation for the Redpath Collection of 225 vols. from Mr. Peter Redpath, of the value of £228 16s. 6d., and comprising books of great scarcity and interest to the specialist as well as to the general reader. This collection is becoming unique in character and in value, and its munificent donor is conferring a benefit not upon the University only, but upon all lovers of literature and learning throughout the land. (2) In the month of April, the valuable library, rich especially in works on Canada, of Mr. Gerald E. Hart, of this city, was offered for sale, in Boston. The Board of Gover-