

READING ROOM.

The Reading Room has been very much used this year, and enjoyed by the men, as through the kindness of many friends the tables are well filled with good reading, secular and religious, illustrated and daily papers, books, magazines &c.. also games.

Every vessel going to sea receives a bundle of reading matter; nothing is wasted, — what is old reading to one is new to others. (Since Oct. last 224 bundles have been given.)

APPEAL.

What is most wanted now is a New Bethel, Reading Room, and Refuge, in a more central part of the city, (Water Street.) The great mass of men are north of the Ordinance, and every Sabbath day there are hundreds of seamen who never hear Gods' word preached, the place now used being too far south, and too small. The conviction must be forced upon the mind of every right thinking man in our midst, of the claim those men have upon every merchant in this city and Province, and public generally. If it is necessary to look after and make provision for the body, how much more the souls of them who for most part of the year have to battle with the waves, and are cut off from all means of grace! Years have rolled away since Halifax became a seaport for British seamen, and thousands of men who have passed into eternity, never had offered to them after their voyage a home they might call their own, where the hours that have been spent in dissipation might have been spent in a Recreation Room, where they would have been benefited, if not spiritually, at least morally and intellectually. Have the years to come to be like those that have passed? Montreal, the United States, and nearly every seaport in England and Scotland have their Bethels and Reading Rooms. In Montreal every inducement is offered to the seamen.

The following is an extract from the Report of the Montreal Sailor's Institute for 1876, which also shows that \$1292.50 was subscribed in one year, although the Rooms were only open from 8th May to 1st November, (6 months).

"The total expense of maintaining the Institute for the year 1876, has been \$1,077.44, of which \$450 was for rent,