

# NEW BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BY CLARENCE WARD.

A preliminary meeting was held at the Mechanics' Institute, on the 29th September, 1874, for the purpose of forming a Historical Society. Messrs. Joseph W. Lawrence, Gilbert Murdoch, William R. M. Burtis, Robert W. Crookshank, George U. Hay, Thomas W. Lee, William P. Dole, Alfred A. Stockton and James Hannay were present. Mr. Joseph W. Lawrence was in the chair and Mr. James Hannay acted as Secretary.

It was then decided that the time had arrived for the formation of a Historical Society for the Province of New Brunswick, by which the documents and publications relating to the early history of the Province should be collected and preserved, and also for carrying out the purposes of such a Society, by collecting and publishing information on matters of interest with regard to historical events in connection with the discovery and settlement of the Province by the French and early settlers from Massachusetts, and also with reference to the coming here of the Loyalists in 1783, some of whose early experiences were amongst the most interesting episodes in the history of New Brunswick.

On the 25th November, 1874, a meeting was held at the same place, at which the Society was duly organized, and called the "New Brunswick Historical Society." The following officers and members were elected:—

*Patron:*

HON. WILLIAM JOHNSTON RITCHIE.

*President:*

JOSEPH W. LAWRENCE.

*Vice-President:*

ALFRED A. STOCKTON.

*Corresponding Secretary:*

WILLIAM P. DOLE.

*Recording Secretary:*

THOMAS W. LEE.

*Treasurer:*

WILLIAM R. M. BURTIS.