

over, that *M. le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique et des Cultes*, has sent upwards of 160 volumes, including the very valuable *Documens inédits sur l'histoire de France*, in 65 volumes. From *M. le Ministre de la Marine* has been received about 120 volumes, embracing the accounts of the principal Government exploratory and scientific voyages. From *M. le Ministre de la Guerre*, has been received a copy of the splendid *Carte de France*, large Atlases of different parts of *Europe*, and of the *French* possessions in *Africa*; together with other works of much interest. Other Departments of State have pledged themselves to contribute to the Library, but their donations had not been sent in when I last heard from *Paris*.

I will now advert to that part of my mission which concerned the purchase of books. The sum entrusted to me for this purpose was £9,621 9s. 6d., sterling, which was placed to my credit by the Receiver General of the Province, in the Bank of Messieurs *Glyn, Mills, & Company, London*. By the direction of the Library Committee, one-half of this amount was to be expended upon *English* books, and the remaining moiety upon *French* works, including also, a selection of works upon languages, and in *Foreign* tongues.

The purchases were to be effected under general instructions framed by the Library Committee, specifying the classes of literature to which preference was to be given, while every class should be more or less represented.

With a view to obtain some assistance in the difficult task entrusted to me, of choosing the books required for the Library, while at *New York*, on the way to *England*, I waited upon Dr. *Cogswell*, the learned and indefatigable Superintendent of the *Astor Library*, and by whose labours that admirable collection has been formed. Within a recent period, Dr. *Cogswell* has twice or thrice visited *Europe* on behalf of the Library, and his extensive knowledge of books, and pains-taking activity, enabled him to effect his purchases upon highly favourable terms. I was, therefore, induced to apply to him for information to direct my own endeavours. The learned Doctor readily responded to my request, and communicated to me many valuable hints and suggestions for my future guidance.

In *London*, I was aided by the experience of Mr. *George Rich*, of the firm of *Rich, Brothers, Booksellers*, so long favourably known as Agents for the Library. His services were most useful, and were always cheerfully rendered. From Mr. *Henry G. Bohn*, the well-known *London* publisher, I also derived much valuable aid. He holds the largest stock of books in *London*, and is remarkable for the extent and accuracy of his bibliographical information. The choicest portion of our *English* books, and several of the most valuable *French* works, were selected from his stock, which is noted for completeness in historical collections, and in works illustrative of the Fine Arts.

In *Paris*, I had the benefit of the experience and information of *M. Hector Bossange*, the leading bookseller of that city. Most *Canadians* who have visited *France* at this season have had proof of the urbanity and kindness of *M. Bossange*, who, having formerly resided in *Canada*, has never ceased to take a lively interest in its welfare, and to endeavour, by every means in his power, to render good service to the province; as his exertions on behalf of *Canada*, at the recent *French Exposition*, will testify. To myself, he afforded the most valuable aid. Aware of my deficiencies in a knowledge of the language and literature of *France*, *M. Bossange* spared no pains to supply my defects, and to render the *French* portion of the Library creditable and complete. He obtained for me the friendly assistance of *M. de Puibusque*, a learned Professor, who is well-known and appreciated in *Canada*. Mr. *Taché*, the Provincial Commissioner to the *Paris Exposition*, Mr. *Hunt*, of the Geological Survey, and other gentlemen from *Canada*, also contributed information and advice in the choice of the most suitable works for the *French* portion of the Library.