

kingdom to each of which is secured by law a copy of every publication the copyright of which is registered at Stationer's Hall, the other libraries being the Bodleian at Oxford, the public library at Cambridge, the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh, and Trinity College, Dublin. Authors and publishers often feel it a hardship to be compelled to present copies of their books to some or all of the other libraries, but rarely do they grudge the copy which goes to the great national library. For the year 1883 the number of accessions to the library obtained in this way was 10,612 volumes, besides many parts of volumes, pamphlets, music, maps, etc. But this represents but a small portion of the yearly additions to the library. For the same year there were presented 2,692 volumes and purchased 2,350 volumes, these latter being principally publications in foreign countries. The gross total of additions of all sorts for the year was 94,306. Some idea of the extent of the library may be gained from the size of the general catalogue, consisting of over 2,000 volumes, most of which is still in manuscript, although a beginning was made in 1881 with the labor of printing it. The amalgamation of the several catalogues from which it is compiled has taken years to complete. About a fifth of the task was finished when the present reading-room was built, and now, nearly thirty years after, the work is on the eve of being completed.—*Chambers' Journal*

THE EXPLORATION OF HUDSON BAY.—In the month of February last a report was laid before the Parliament of Canada, detailing the results of an expedition despatched by the Government of that country, particularly for the purpose of inquiring into the navigability of Hudson Strait and Bay, and, at the same time, of gathering information concerning the resources of that region, and its availability as a field for settled habitation. This report represents the first properly organized attempt that has ever been made to pierce the secrets of Hudson Bay for the public benefit. It is at first blush not easy to understand why this mighty expanse of water, occupying the peculiarly important position that it does, should remain for so many generations