

and the one by which it was replaced by the fire of 1824, so that when the two libraries of Upper and Lower Canada were united in 1841 there appears to have been little left of the early fugitive literature of the Province. At the end of the past year the legislative libraries of the Dominion numbered nine, and contained 48,834 pamphlets and 309,395 volumes. By far the most important of these is the Library of the House at Ottawa. Originally established on the union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, it was successively removed with the seat of Government from Kingston to Montreal, to Quebec, to Toronto, again to Quebec, and finally to Ottawa, a wandering life, which effectually prevented its attaining large proportions.

The unfortunate fires in Montreal and Quebec still further injured it, robbing it of much that was very valuable, and which could not be replaced. On the federation of the different Provinces in 1865, the library of the two Provinces only passed into the hands of the Federal Government. The beautiful building in which it is placed, behind the House of Parliament, presents a prominent feature in the magnificent pile of buildings which crown the heights overlooking the Ottawa River, and from the windows the spectator gazes across the rocky gorge and the Chaudiere Falls, towards the Laurentide Hills, forming one of the most picturesque scenes on the continent. In the eyes of the librarian, the library has only one serious defect, it is complete; no arrangement has been made for extension.

On the confederation in 1867 of the Provinces which now form the Dominion, the union which existed between the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was dissolved and, as we have seen, the library passed into the hands of the Federal Government.

Each of these Provinces, now known as Ontario and Quebec, established new libraries in Toronto and Quebec City.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES.

The 62 colleges and universities of the Dominion are provided with libraries containing 627,626 volumes and 24,894 pamphlets, an average of 10,123 volumes and 402 pamphlets. It is scarcely fair, however, to depend on an average of the whole number, as some half dozen universities possess, at least, half of the whole number.

The senior of these, Laval University, Quebec, is famous as being, after Harvard, the oldest on the continent, being founded by Bishop Laval in 1663. During the dark days which witnessed the long struggle, first with the Iroquois and afterwards with the English and Americans, little progress was made in the collection of books, and it was not until it was converted into a university in 1852 that it commenced to increase rapidly. On the suppression of the Jesuit order and seminary these books were transferred to it. Its numbers considerably over 100,000 volumes, and is unrivalled for the extent and character of its French collection and its many scarce books in early French-Canadian literature and history. Their collection of the relations of the early Jesuit missionaries is only surpassed by the Lenox Library, New York. Our own Province of Ontario was for long the only one which attempted to grapple with the question of public libraries. Miss Carnochan, of Niagara, has given an interesting account in the Transactions of this Institute for 1895 of the formation and history of the first circulating library in Upper Canada, 1800-1820. Established by some enterprising citizens of the town of Niagara, for the supply of their own immediate wants and of those who could pay the small annual fee, it was