

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House a Return of the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the District of Rimouski for the year 1876.
Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table, and it is as follows:—

(*Vide Sessional Papers, No. 13.*)

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House the Report of the Librarian on the state of the Library.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF CANADA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Report of the Librarian of Parliament respectfully sheweth,—

That during the past year continued efforts have been made to render the Law division of the Library complete in all its branches; especially in view of the requirements of the Supreme Court, now in active operation, as well as for the use and behoof of members of the Legislature. Large purchases have been made since last Session in French jurisprudence; and comparatively little now remains to be done to place this important section of the Library upon a proper footing.

In order to facilitate reference to the Law Books, and to exhibit the full extent of this valuable collection, a Classified Catalogue thereof has been prepared, with an Alphabetical Index of authors and subjects. This is now in the press, and will be ready for distribution in a few days.

This work will be followed, as soon as possible, by the issue of a similar Catalogue of the Books on Political and Social Science, and Political Economy, which, together with the Law Books, will embrace all the works in more immediate demand by those who are engaged in the business of legislation.

Considerable additions have likewise been made to all other sections of the Library; particularly in the French department. Some dissatisfaction was expressed last Session by French Canadian Members at the serious deficiencies which were apparent in this portion of the Library. Accordingly, strenuous efforts have been made to remedy this defect; and a larger sum of money has been expended for French Books during the past year than has been customary of late, but not so as to exceed, in the aggregate, the limit of one-third of the Parliamentary grant for the purchase of Books for the two past years, which amount has been approved by the Joint Library Committee as a suitable and necessary proportion of expenditure for French Books.

A Supplementary Catalogue of the additions of the Library within the year has been printed, but this does not include the numerous works on Law and Legislation, which are entered in the Classified Law Catalogue above mentioned.

The usual Lists of Works deposited under the Copyright Act, and of Donations received within the year, are hereunto appended.

Amongst these Donations there are some which are deserving of a special mention:

(1.) The original Photographic Picture of the Fancy Dress Ball that took place at Government House in February, 1876, which has been generously presented to the Library by His Excellency the Governor General. This is a beautiful memento of a memorable event in Canadian social life, and an historical record of permanent interest, not only of the individuals who took part therein, but of the characters they severally assumed.

In making this costly and beautiful gift, Lord Dufferin has expressed a hope that it may "prove the precursor of many another artistic donation to the Art "Treasures of the Dominion," and a first step towards the establishment of a "National Portrait Gallery." Your Librarian would venture to re-echo this desire,