

The statements of this circular were endorsed by many of the leading men of Canada, and it was sent to all the sources from which books could be drawn. There was an immediate and a hearty response. The British government forwarded a list of their publica-

---

the greatest was that of the many valuable libraries and collections of literary and scientific interest which had been gathered during the past century.

This misfortune, great as it is, has been more aggravated by the circumstance that so few individuals of the various learned professions, as well as of the public in general, were able to rescue from the flames their own private libraries of Clerical, Medical, Legal and Philosophical Works, as well as of general literature.

The energy and public spirit that had been so eminently exhibited in rebuilding in the City has not been in any way wanting in the endeavors made to resuscitate the various literary institutions and to refurnish their libraries by all; but it must be apparent that a long time will elapse before many valuable and expensive books can be replaced.

The possession of a Public Library, accessible to all classes of society, is a want which at no time a city, having any claim to enlightenment, should allow to remain unsatisfied; but, under the circumstances in which the City of St. John now finds itself placed, it becomes almost an absolute necessity.

The many pressing and urgent calls that have been made upon the means and time of its citizens must prove some excuse for this important object not having engaged their attention more generally before this; but it is felt that the period has now arrived when some practical steps should be taken for the establishment of a Library.

In the meanwhile, some time must elapse before a suitable building could be provided and the other necessary arrangements carried out, it has been thought that if an appeal was made to our friends outside of St. John to come to our assistance in providing for our intellectual wants, it would meet with the same noble and generous response as was given to the call for aid in our material distress immediately after the fire.

It is therefore suggested that our wants should be made known to the various public libraries, literary and scientific institutions, and to the great publishing houses in Great Britain and Canada, in the hope that they may be induced to present to us copies of their