

able. The building is imposing without and within; and although situated in one of the busiest quarters of the city, where horse-cars and vehicles of every description pass and repass continually, and thousands of pedestrians hurry along intent on work or pleasure, the rooms are filled with the spirit of repose, and by their very aspect seem to invite thoughtful contemplation, or silent fellowship with those gifted minds or soaring souls, the record of whose best hours or noblest efforts rise shelf above shelf from floor to ceiling.

"It seems scarcely credible that only twenty-six years have elapsed since the movement was started whose already attained proportions are so colossal; scarcely credible that in 1852 the first book was deposited in this collection so vast and valuable, which has been followed by 347,244 companions, varying in size and value, of course, but nearly all worthy of the places they occupy and the consideration they have received. One would think that he was beholding what it had cost centuries of labour and millions of treasure to collect; and that this library had been established by some opulent, powerful, and cultivated nation long before the present generation appeared."

The Boston Free Library receives its support from the interest derived from the donations of its original founders, and subsequent gifts, and also from an annual appropriation of funds by the city government.

Now we submit the question to the people of Canada, and to the citizens of the city of Montreal in particular, whether it is not time that free libraries, like free education, should form a portion of the institutions of the country? If cities in the United States of far less population, importance and wealth than Montreal, can afford to support these valuable institutions, why should not we? In these literary institutions certainly there are no distinctions of religion, country or class; they are institutions in which all may meet in amity for the culture of the mind, culture which goes far to remove national and religious prejudices.

The Government of this country has done much of late years to give almost free education to the people, and it is but just to that Government which represents the people that cities through their corporate bodies, aided by the generosity of wealthy men, and by contributions and donations from the people themselves, should now do something to raise up institutions to improve and perfect the education of their children after leaving school or college. Is it not time that some move should be made in this direction? We think so. We feel certain that if this question was taken up by such men as Professor Dawson and other eminent literary men of the country, it would be nobly responded to in every city and town; only let the *right class of men* be selected to carry out the work, and success will surely follow. Let the first step towards it be initiated—a small commencement made in every city or town to form a nucleus, donations would soon be drawn towards it, and increase in size from year to year. There is not a town in the Dominion in which a supply of books is not greatly needed for study and reference by students in law, medicine, theology, art and science, and especially in mechanics and manufactures, for we always uphold that to her manufactures Canada must look for future wealth and power. A judicious selection of works which shall attract, instruct and improve at the same time, would be an invaluable acquisition in every town in the Dominion.

Now who among us in a position so to do, will step forward and give an impetus to this suggestion? In Montreal we have the means of creating a valuable free library, if only those in existence were all united, and an annual grant made by the city towards its support. We feel certain that if a general appeal were made to

the men of wealth in this city of every denomination, that it would be well responded to, and the boon to the city from such an institution could not be over estimated by her citizens.

The following United States Patents were granted to Canadians during the months of May and June last:

- T. Northy, of Hamilton, Ont., May 14, 1878, No. 203,553, "Stuffing Box."
 T. Boardman, of Charlottetown, P.E.I., May 21, 1878, No. 203,882, "Machine for Inserting Rivets."
 J. Goodwin, of Montreal, Que., May 21, 1878, No. 204,026, "Invalid Bed."
 J. B. and G. R. Eliote, of Moncton, N.B., May 28, 1878, No. 204,143, "Well Drilling Apparatus."
 F. G. Hunter, of Moncton, N.B., May 28, 1878, No. 204,226, "Seal Lock."
 J. S. Kemp, of Magog, Que., May 28, 1878, (re-issue), No. 8,254, "Manure Spreader."
 J. Amess, of Rosemount, Ont., June 4, 1878, No. 204,478, "Fire Escape."
 J. A. Mumford, of Avondale, N.S., June 4, 1878, No. 204,499, "Sawing Shingles."
 H. Atkinson, of Etchemin, Que., June 11, 1878, No. 204,781, "Planing Machine."
 H. Atkinson, of Etchemin, Que., June 11, 1878, No. 204,782, "Saw Mill."
 C. Boeckh, of Toronto, Ont., June 11, 1878, No. 204,655, "Brush Bridle."
 E. H. Bronson, of Ottawa, Ont., June 11, 1878, No. 204,711, "Railway Switch."
 G. H. B. Hooper, of Toronto, Ont., June 11, 1878, No. 204,970, "Cartridge Extractor."
 S. Maneer, of Craigvale, Ont., June 11, 1878, No. 204,744, "Vehicle Pole Tip."
 L. Anderson, of Corseley, Ont., June 18, 1878, No. 204,876, "Musical Transposing Instrument."
 J. Campbell, of Almonte, Ont., June 18, 1878, (re-issue), No. 8,293, "Churn."
 C. Cole, of Ottawa, Ont., June 18, 1878, No. 205,055, "Converting Motion."
 G. Blatchford, of Mitchell, Ont., June 25, 1878, No. 205,841, "Reed Organ."
 A. Brault, of Montreal, Que., June 25, 1878, No. 205,846, "Artificial Marble."
 J. Kieffer, of Montreal, Que., June 25, 1878, No. 205,191, "Moulding Shoe Counters."
 J. E. Stong, Newtonbrook, Ont., June 25, 1878, No. 205,438, "Farm Gate."

ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY.—Some stir was lately produced by the discovery, in the Lyons library, of a globe of 1701, in which the Zaire Congo was represented as flowing from a large lake westward to the Atlantic, much in the direction shown by Stanley. M. Costambert remarks in a recent number of *La Nature*, that not only in this case, but in all old documents from the fifteenth century such representations occur. The knowledge acquired was doubtless due to the Portuguese, who from the fifteenth century, repeatedly crossed the African continent, both from west to east and from east to west. They went rather as merchants than explorers, and were often, no doubt, ill-informed; yet they were able to give pretty precise information about the center of Africa. In most of those old maps the Congo is shown as flowing in a nearly direct line from Lake Zaire or Zambra to the Atlantic. On one Spanish globe, however, probably dating about 1530-1540, the river appears as rising from a lake, flowing northward, describing a large curve north of the equator, then turning west-south-west toward the Atlantic, more nearly as Stanley represents. Some of these maps are reproduced in *La Nature*, May 4th, and are well worth examination.