

Since the opening of the Library in this building, the number who have availed themselves of the privilege of taking out books has far exceeded the expectations of its warmest advocates,—over 800 books having been issued to borrowers in one day—an undoubted evidence of the public appreciation of the institution.

During the past year a very large amount of work has been done by the Librarian and his assistants in classifying, entering, labelling, numbering and preparing the books for issue ; and also in the preparation of the printed catalogue, and of the catalogue for the Reference Department. The Board were most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Lancefield as Librarian, his extensive knowledge of books having proved of great value and advantage ; and it affords me much pleasure to add, also, that his assistants have discharged their duties during the past year satisfactorily and efficiently.

I would respectfully urge upon the Board the propriety of furnishing the Ladies' Department with a greater number of magazines and more reading material ; which might be done, to some extent, by transferring some of the magazines and newspapers from the General Reading Room to the Ladies' Department, and exchanging them from time to time for others.

I think I may fairly congratulate the Board upon the present condition and working of the Library ; it is well patronized, and appears to be in fair running order.

We are much indebted to the Hon. Mr. McInnes, the Hon. Mr. Sanford and other citizens, for handsome donations to the Library, all of which have been suitably acknowledged. I trust that the example set by these patriotic gentlemen may stimulate others to emulate their generosity.

I desire, gentlemen, to thank you for the kind consideration which you have extended to me as chairman during the past year, and which has made my duties easy and pleasant to discharge, and I am sure you will join with me in the sentiment expressed in the language of our first visitor,

“Floreat Bibliotheca Hamiltonensis.”

J. EDWIN O'REILLY,

HAMILTON, Feb. 5th, 1891.

*Chairman.*