

A deputation of the Board visited Ottawa for the purpose of urging upon the Government the propriety of admitting books for Public Libraries free of duty. We regret that the Government resolved to make no alteration in the Customs' Act during the past session, but it is earnestly hoped that when it is reconsidered, that the desired change may be made, and the reproach wiped away that Canada is the only country in the world where books for libraries are dutiable. The sum of \$911 has been paid for customs duties by the Board during the past year.

At a competitive examination for assistants held on May 1st, sixteen applicants presented themselves, and of this number four were successful in attaining the requisite number of marks.

On September 12th, His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor-General, accompanied by Lady Stanley, and their suite, visited the Library. His Excellency, after replying to a short address giving an account of its origin, progress, and present condition, passed some time among the books, and expressed himself highly pleased with such an "admirable collection."

5,157 books have been added to the Library, which now contains 53,216 volumes. Among the more important of these additions are Gavard's *Galleries de Versailles*, 19 vols., folio; Lord Kingsborough's *Antiquities of Mexico*, 9 vols., folio; Munich Gallery, folio; Wilson's *American Ornithology*, 9 vols., quarto; Robert's *Holy Land and Egypt*, 6 vols., folio; Roscoe's *Monandrian Plants*, 2 vols., folio; *Vetusta Monumenta*, 4 vols., folio; Smithsonian Institute, *Contributions to Knowledge*, 25 vols., quarto; *Mercure François*, 1611-44, 25 vols.; Percy Society Collections, 34 vols.; Shakespeare Society Collections, 48 vols.; Napoleon's *Egypt*, 21 vols., folio; Shakespeare Facsimile quartos, 44 vols.; St. Vallier's *Catechism du diocese de Quebec*, 1702; *Memoire pour François Bigot*, 1763; *Pinetum Britannicum*, 3 vols., folio; McKenney and Hall's *Indian Tribes of North America*, 3 vols., folio.

The sale in London, during the month of July, of the Library of the late Sir David W. Smith, first surveyor-general of Upper Canada, 1794-1804, enabled us to purchase 24 volumes of Manuscripts, which have proved on inspection to be of extreme value. Original applications for land grants from U. E. Loyalists, original plans of towns and villages, minutes of the sessions of the Land Commission, and many hundred

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