

fortunate in many respects, we have been most fortunate in this. Richard T. Lancefield has, I think I may safely say, exceeded our most sanguine expectations. His extensive knowledge of the technicalities of the book trade, and kindred matters, as well as his many other qualifications, have proved his worth on many occasions. That he will prove himself to be, in all respects, a most efficient officer is now beyond all doubt. Great care was taken in selecting Assistant Librarians and also a Janitor. They have been most assiduous in the performance of their duties in their respective spheres, and I have no doubt they will prove themselves worthy of the position they occupy.

We have received many valuable donations, and hope to receive more. It will be seen on examination, that in making the choice of books for the library the manifold wants of the numerous classes of readers have been carefully studied, and that the tastes of a wide range of individuals have been respected.

As the Librarian's report will contain the usual statistics in regard to the expenditure of money and the purchase of books, I need not here refer to those subjects.

This report would be imperfect, indeed, were I to close without a reference to the good feeling happily existing between our Board and the Toronto Board. To Mr. John Hallam, particularly, we are deeply indebted for a vast amount of valuable information. Inconvenience to himself was no obstacle in the way to bestowing upon us the benefit of his large experience. Indeed, not only he, but also Mr. Pearson, the Chairman, and the whole Toronto Board, with Mr. Bain, their Chief-Librarian, are entitled to our most sincere thanks. Long may these evidences of good will and all pleasant associations continue to exist between the two boards.

All of which I have the honor to submit.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN MUIR,

Hamilton, Feb. 4th, 1890.

*Chairman Public Library Board.*