

The following Petition was brought up, and laid on the Table:—

By the Honorable Mr. *Flint*,—Of the President, Directors and Company of the *Grafton Harbor Company*.

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House,—A List of the Shareholders of the *Quebec Bank* as on the 31st December, 1882.

And also,—A List of the Shareholders of *La Banque d'Hochelaga* as on the 31st December, 1882.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table and they are as follow:—

(*Vide Sessional Papers, No. 19.*)

The Honorable the Speaker presented to the House the Report of the Librarian. The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE OF CANADA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Report of the Librarian of Parliament respectfully sheweth:—

Since last Session, the Library Staff have been busily engaged—in addition to their ordinary duties—in a careful comparison of the books on the shelves with the titles entered in the Catalogues; a work which is necessary, every few years, in order to ascertain existing deficiencies, attributable either to the gradual, but unavoidable destruction, through long continued use, of books in frequent circulation; or to the occasional loss of books, for which no account can be given. The result of this investigation has proved very satisfactory. The number of volumes missing and unaccounted for, is but small. At the same time, it has been deemed advisable, for the greater security of the collection, to exercise an increasing vigilance in restraining the access of the general public to the galleries surrounding the Library.

The increase in the number of books within the past year was above the average. For although the balance of the ordinary grant for purchases (after deducting sufficient to defray accounts accumulated before its receipt), was inconsiderable; yet, through the liberality of Government, a sum of about fifteen hundred dollars, standing to the credit of our contingencies—was permitted to be used to purchase certain valuable books, unexpectedly offered for sale by auction at *New York*, in December last. These books belonged to the late Dr. *E. B. O'Callaghan*, the well-known historian, formerly a leading member of the Lower *Canada* Parliament, whose accumulations upon early Canadian history were of peculiar interest and value. Mr. *L. P. Sylvain* was deputed from this office to attend the sale, and though the competition was keen, and prices generally ruled high, he succeeded in buying a number of books which will form a noteworthy addition to our collection of works on the history and literature of this country.

And here I cannot refrain from adverting to the loss sustained by the Dominion in the death, last summer, of Mr. *Antoine Guin-Lajoie*, who was the principal Assistant in this Library from 1856 to 1880, when he was compelled to retire from the service, through failing health. Mr. *Lajoie* was highly esteemed and widely appreciated in *Canada*, not merely because of the exemplary discharge of his official duties, and for his private worth, but especially for his literary ability, which had secured him a place in the front rank of French Canadian authors. Of late years, he had been chiefly addicted to historical studies, and had amassed a large store of useful knowledge on the history of *Canada*, which, had his life been spared, he purposed to embody in some connected treatise. Meanwhile, he was always ready to render intelligent assistance to all who sought his aid, upon topics of enquiry on which he was known to be familiar, and all frequenters of this Library have reason to regret the loss of his extended information, and of his readiness in turning it to immediate practical account.