

## No. 62.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, HOUSE OF COMMONS.

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OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1881.

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## PRAYERS.

Four Petitions were brought up, and laid on the Table.

The Petition of the Toronto District Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, was read and received ; praying that the Bill now before Parliament, to amend the Canada Temperance Act, and to permit the sale, under the said Act, of liquors containing less than *ten per cent* of Alcohol, may not become law.

Mr. Colby, from the Select Committee appointed, to assist Mr. Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament, so far as the interests of this House are concerned, and to act as Members of a Joint Committee on the Library, presented a Report of the said Committee, which is as follows :—

That the accounts of the Librarian of the expenditure of the Parliamentary Grant for the augmentation of the Library during the past year, have been examined and approved : the Report of the Sub-Committee of audit is herewith submitted.

Amongst the payments heretofore made out of this Grant, the Committee observe accounts for the purchase of a limited number of Law Reports, of the Supreme Court, and of the Superior Courts in Lower and Upper Canada, for presentation to foreign Libraries, by way of exchange. The Committee are of opinion that these payments ought not to be charged to the Library Grant, but that they should be liquidated by the Government, from the fund available for similar purchases of Books, for the purpose of distribution to the Library Exchanges.

Several Petitions have been made to the Committee, by Canadian authors, for pecuniary encouragement to their respective publications ; but the Committee have agreed that they have no jurisdiction to consider such applications. They have resolved to adhere to the decision already made, on two or three occasions since Confederation, that it is the province of the Executive Government to determine, by Order in Council, what Books may be deserving of special encouragement, by the purchase, out of the public funds, of copies to be distributed to Institutions at home or abroad. In arriving at this conclusion, the Committee desire to repeat the hope, expressed in a former Report, which was presented on the 12th April, 1871, that the Government would place in the hands of the Librarian, for distribution to Public Libraries abroad, in return for valuable donations received from them, "a sufficient number of copies of all Canadian works of general utility or special value.