

TWELFTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.



Montreal :

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL, PLACE D'ARMES.

1853.

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PRINTED BY H. J. HARRIS, 100 N. 3rd St., St. Louis, Mo.

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OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1881

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON



# Mercantile Library Association

OF

## MONTREAL.

### PATRON.

The Right Honorable Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,  
Governor General.

### OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1852.

MATTHEW BAXTER.....*President.*  
JOHN MACPHERSON.....*Vice-President.*  
T. W. RITCHIE.....*Corresponding Secretary.*  
ROBERT MORRIS.....*Recording Secretary.*  
JAMES W. CUMMING.....*Treasurer.*

### DIRECTORS.

J. LEWIS.	JAMES CHARLES.
E. G. SMITH.	EWEN M'LENNAN.
WILLIAM RAE.	C. J. KERSHAW.
HENRY ARCHBALD.	P. D. BROWN.
D. A. POE.	PETER GILLESPIE.

### HONORARY DIRECTORS.

HON. JOHN YOUNG.	JOHN LEEMING, Esq.
HON. GEO. MOFFATT.	HON. PETER M'GILL.

### OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1853.

EWEN M'LENNAN.....*President.*  
WILLIAM RAE.....*Vice-President.*  
JOHN PATON .....*Corresponding Secretary.*  
HENRY ARCHBALD.....*Recording Secretary.*  
P. LE SUEUR.....*Treasurer.*

### DIRECTORS.

J. LEWIS.	WILLIAM BUCHANAN.
GEO. TEMPLETON.	J. P. CLEGHORN.
E. G. SMITH.	JAMES M'LEAN.
C. J. KERSHAW.	JOHN MACPHERSON.
J. M. KER.	WALTER BENNY, JR.

### HONORARY DIRECTORS.

HON. JOHN YOUNG.	THEO. LYMAN, Esq.
JOHN LEEMING, Esq.	WILLIAM LUNN, Esq.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal was held in the Rooms of the Association, on Monday evening, the 22nd November, 1852; the President in the Chair.

In the absence of Mr. Smith, Recording Secretary, Mr. Paton read the Twelfth Annual Report of the Board of Directors, and a statement of the Treasurer's operations.

It was moved by Mr. Richard Thomas, seconded by Mr. Robert Morris, and

*Resolved*,—That the Reports now read, be received, adopted, and printed under the direction of the Board.

It was moved by Mr. William Rae, seconded by Mr. J. W. Cumming, and

*Resolved*,—That the thanks of the Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Gentlemen who Lectured before its Members during the past Winter; and also to the several Newspaper Proprietors and others, who presented the Rooms with Papers.

On motion of Mr. R. Morris, seconded by Mr. John M'Pherson, it was

*Resolved*,—That the thanks of the Association be tendered to James Scott, Esq., for his kindness in selling by auction the Papers belonging to the Rooms.

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## ELECTION.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal, for the Election of Office Bearers, was held in the Rooms of the Association, on Monday evening, 6th December, 1852, when the Gentlemen whose names appear on the preceding page, were returned by the Scrutineers as duly elected.

After this business had been attended to, on motion of B. Workman, Esq., seconded by W. P. Cantwell, Esq.:—

That the thanks of this meeting be voted to the last year's Board for their able management of the affairs of the Association.

Mr. R. Thomas then moved, seconded by Mr. M. Baxter:—

That in order to increase the Membership of the Association, some privilege, or other distinction, should be accorded to the Members procuring a certain number of new paying Members during the year.

After prolonged conversation upon the motion, it was deemed better not formally to pass it, but the Board were instructed to take the matter under consideration at their earliest convenience.

The meeting was then adjourned.

**TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.**

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GENTLEMEN,—

The term for which we were elected as a Board to manage the affairs of the Mercantile Library Association having expired, we proceed to furnish you with a Report of the operations of the Institution, and of its present state.

No occurrence of extraordinary importance has marked the year just ending. The Association has continued to fulfil the objects of its founders as effectually as at any former period, and we believe that the orderly manner in which its principal departments have been conducted, has given entire satisfaction to the members and visitors.

**MEMBERSHIP.**

It appears to us, after a careful review of the various professions and pursuits of the members, that the Association is insensibly assuming a character somewhat different from, though not at variance with, the intentions of its original projectors. We find that the classes, upon whose support the Association is presumed chiefly to depend, and for whose especial advantage it was at first organized, are very far from yielding it their zealous co-operation. We now refer to the clerks and students in our mercantile and professional offices, but more particularly to the young men employed

in the retail stores of this city. Of the latter class, although they exceed 400 in number, we have only 49 on our books. On the other hand, we are highly gratified in being able to state that the lack of support from the younger men and subordinates, is almost compensated by the increase of favor from the merchants themselves. The number of members during the past year has been 505, of which 53 are life members, 27 honorary, 133 merchants, 128 senior, and 59 junior clerks. When it is considered that the subscription for juniors is only 10s. per annum, and that, for this very trifling sum, access is afforded to the principal periodicals of this country, and to some of the leading British, American, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia papers, to an extensive and valuable Library, and to a Winter Course of Lectures from the most talented men in the community, it cannot but appear singular that so few should avail themselves of those privileges. Upon this topic, we do not trust ourselves to make further remarks, or to draw obvious inferences, but we are satisfied that a moment's reflection will convince the members that we have cause for an expression of surprise.

With respect to the apparent reduction in the number of members, your Board would remark, that a system has hitherto prevailed of bringing forward their names from year to year, and there can be no doubt that a rigid adherence to the Bye-Laws warrants the practice, for it is incumbent upon persons desirous of discontinuing their subscription to notify the Superintendent, in default of which notice, they are presumed to continue their Membership.

Your Board being desirous of making special efforts to collect a large amount of outstanding subscriptions, in order to liquidate old claims, have found that parties representing subscriptions to the amount of £125 and upwards, have repudiated the connexion, and refused payment.

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## BOARD.

In obedience to the Laws of the Association, which entrust the management to clerks only, the President, Mr. M. Baxter, who had so ably filled the Chair; Mr. Ritchie, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. Morris, Recording Secretary; and Mr. P. D. Brown; who had entered into business as principals, resigned their several places, and for private reasons of his own, Mr. M'Pherson vacated the office of Vice President. The places of the retiring members were immediately supplied by the election of others, and the Board now consists of the following persons:—

EWEN M'LENNAN.....*President.*  
 HENRY ARCHBALD .....*Vice-President.*  
 P. LE SUEUR.....*Corresponding Secretary.*  
 E. G. SMITH.....*Recording Secretary.*  
 JAMES W. CUMMING.....*Treasurer.*

## DIRECTORS.

J. LEWIS.	WILLIAM RAE.
JOHN MACPHERSON.	D. A. POE.
WALTER BENNY, JNR.	PETER GILLESPIE.
C J. KERSHAW.	JOHN PATON.
JAMES CHARLES.	J. ELLIOT.

## HONORARY DIRECTORS.

In the month of December last, the following gentlemen were elected as Honorary Directors:—Hon. John Young, Hon. Geo. Moffatt, Hon. P. M'Gill, and John Leeming, Esq.

## LECTURES.

During the past year, the Board were enabled to offer the members and the public three different series of Lectures. The *Ordinary Course* was delivered under the joint auspices of the Mechanics' Institute and this Association, and it was then hoped that the plan would be found to work well; but as the Lectures on Chemistry involved the expenditure of a considerable sum, as

remuneration to Dr. Howard, the result entailed a loss of £11 3s. 9d. The whole series, which, for the sake of distinction, we have denominated the *Ordinary Course*, was delivered in the following order, and attracted full and attentive audiences :—

Chris. Dunkin, Esq.....	Industrial Exhibition.
Rev. Mr. Hutchinson.....	The Origin and Progress of Language.
Rev. J. Cordner.....	Shoes and Shoe Makers.
Rev. W. Taylor, D.D.....	Was the Original State of Man a State of Barbarism?
John Leeming, Esq.....	National Industry and Society in reign of Queen Elizabeth.
	{ Chemistry, with Experiments, Feb. 3.
	“ “ “ 10.
	“ “ “ 17.
R. P. Howard, M.D....	{ “ “ “ 24.
	“ “ Mar. 2.
	“ “ “ 9.
Fred. Frothingham, Esq...	Thomas Claxton and Slavery, “ 23.
Rev. Henry Wilkes.....	Closing Lecture, “ 30.

The subject of Grand Trunk Railway having occupied much of public attention, the Board availed themselves of the kind offer of P. LeSueur, Esq., to discuss the project during two evenings, and it is only justice to that gentleman to say, that the manner in which he treated his subject, and illustrated it by a very large map, prepared at his own expense, fully entitled him to the thanks of this Association, as well as to the very gratifying acknowledgments tendered him by the audience upon the termination of his second lecture. The *Third Course* was delivered by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Esq., to whose generosity in consenting to speak for the Association at a nominal remuneration, we are indebted for a large item in the receipts of the year. It is not too much to say, that Mr. Emerson's Lectures were eminently successful, no Montreal auditory having, till then, given so unqualified a token of approbation to a public speaker. To Mr. Emerson we therefore acknowledge ourselves deeply indebted, and it is with unfeigned sincerity, that we here record our sense of the obligation. The net profit on this course amounted to £60 7s. 10d.

## DONATIONS.

It is with pleasure that we record donations from the Right Rev. Bishop of Montreal, and John Leeming, Esq., and of the following Books, &c., viz.:—from

- M. H. Gault, Esq.—2 vols. Whitelaw & Walsh's History of Dublin.  
 S. Jones Lyman, Esq.—Commerce of the British North American Colonies.  
 P. D. Brown, Esq.—Gilbart on Banking.  
 A Member.—Henderson's Journal of a Residence in Iceland.  
 Mercantile Library Association, New York.—Catalogue of their Library.  
 Mercantile Library Association, Boston —Thirty-Second Annual Report of their Library.  
 Railroad Committee, Boston.—An Account of the Celebration of the Opening of the Railroad communication between Boston and Canada.  
 Henry Gassett, Esq., Boston.—Catalogue of Anti-Masonic Books; also, a volume of Anti-Masonic Pamphlets.  
 John Dougall, Esq.—3 vols. Successful Merchant.  
 William Birkett, Esq.—George Fox's Journal, in 2 vols.; Captain Ross' last Voyage for the Discovery of a North-west Passage; Friendship's Offering; Life of Pemberton; and 7 numbers of Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.  
 C. Dorwin, Esq.—A large Map of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c. &c.  
 Duncan Grant, Esq.—A Historical and Biographical Chart of the World.

We also beg to remember the kindly interest which Millard L. Felt, Esq., Corresponding Secretary New York Mercantile Library Association, has, on several occasions, taken in the prosperity of this Institution. To him we are indebted for negotiating the arrangement with Mr. Emerson, and for other friendly offices, which entitle him to our thanks.

## THE READING ROOM.

The Register in the Reading Room is kept well written up, and the continued supply of Telegraphic Reports renders it an important and valuable adjunct. The expense of this Telegraphic intelligence has frequently been a source of anxiety to your Board, and as they were not pledged to furnish that privilege, thoughts were from time to time entertained of discon-

tinuing it; but the evident dissatisfaction of many of the members during its temporary suspension, showed the impossibility of its discontinuation without danger. A simple reference to the fact already stated, that the Association is sustained chiefly by Merchants, to whom the earliest information is indispensable, will fully justify the continuation of such intelligence.

During the year, the Reading Room has been visited by no less than 515 strangers (many of them persons of distinction,) including 35 clergymen. At the usual Semi-Annual Meeting in May last, A. B. Stewart, Esq., kindly sold by auction the papers for the ensuing six months, as it was deemed expedient to dispose only of one-half year's papers, and to begin with this Fall to sell for a year in advance. The expectation of a larger audience, with a winter's leisure in prospect, would, it was thought, insure a much more favorable result than a Spring sale, when the opening business promises but little time for reading.

## NEWSPAPERS.

The following are the Newspapers received by the Association:—

Montreal Herald, Pilot, Gazette, Commercial Advertiser, and La Minerve; Quebec Mercury and Gazette; Toronto Colonist and Globe; Hamilton Spectator; Kingston Chronicle and News; Bytown Gazette; New York Commercial Advertiser, Herald, Tribune, Albion, Observer, Independent, Courier des Etats Unis, and Shipping List; Boston Atlas; Buffalo Commercial Advertiser; Cincinnati Gazette; Rouse's Point Advertiser; Halifax Nova Scotian; London Evening Mail; Willmer & Smith's European Times; London Punch, British Banner, Spectator, Illustrated News, Watchman, Record, Economist, Athenæum, and Naval and Military Gazette; Edinburgh Witness; Dublin Warder; Liverpool Mercury; Dublin Freeman's Journal; Glasgow Herald; and Limerick Chronicle.

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## REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

London and Edinburgh Quarterly, North British, Westminster, and DeBow's Reviews; Blackwood's, Hunt's, Knickerbocker, and National Magazines; Chambers' Edinburgh Journal; and Household Words.

## PAPERS FURNISHED GRATIS.

The Board has gratefully to acknowledge the gratuitous presentation of the following:—

Montreal Witness.....	By John Dongall, Esq.
Montreal Transcript.....	" D. M'Donald, Esq.
True Witness.....	" Geo. E. Clerk, Esq.
Temperance Advocate.....	" J. C. Becket, Esq.
Canada Official Gazette.....	" The Publishers.
Moniteur Canadien.....	" J. G. DeMontigny, Esq.
Sherbrooke Gazette.....	" R. M'Donnell, Esq.
Medical Journal.....	" Drs. M'Donnell and David.
L'Avenir.....	" The Publishers.
New York Sun.....	" Messrs. Beach & Co.
Christian Enquirer.....	" L. H. Holton, Esq.
Independent.....	" Theodore Lyman, Esq.
St. John's (C.E.) News.....	" — M'Donell, Esq.
Cornwall Constitutional.....	" John Campbell, Esq.
Cornwall Freeholder.....	" John Macpherson, Esq.
Western Planet.....	" Richard Blackwood, Esq.
LeSemeur Canadien.....	" Edward Roe, Esq.
North British Advertiser.....	" A Friend.
Snow Drop.....	" John Armour, Esq.
Life Boat.....	" F. W. Campbell, Esq.
Agricultural Journal.....	" Publisher.

## THE LIBRARY.

In this department no change has occurred, unless we so characterize its more orderly condition. Much as your Board have desired to make additions of the valuable and popular books issued during the year, the want of means has admonished them to forbear the expenditure. A portion of the proceeds of Mr. Emerson's Lectures had been set apart for this object, but the pressure of old debts, the settlement of which could no longer be postponed, compelled the Treasurer to divert the sum so allotted, to the extinction of these claims—an unavoidable course under the

circumstances. With a view to provide new books, the Library Committee had set aside a considerable number of old, but valuable works, which they proposed selling; but in conformity with the advice of some of the tried friends of the Institution, the plan was relinquished. The number of volumes now owned by the Association is 3,000, among which may be found books of great merit and scarcity.

### MUSEUM.

The Museum remains as reported last year, and from present appearance, it is not likely to secure better attention for the future.

### FINANCES.

Not the least important part of your Board's duties is the management of the Funds of the Association; and if the accounts which they present of the manner in which the trust committed to them has been discharged, is not so minutely correct as they were anxious to render it, the cause is one which was not less unforeseen than beyond possibility of guarding against. In the fire which desolated so large a portion of our city last June, the Books of the Treasurer were consumed, and his Report annexed must be considered rather as approximating to, than as an accurate statement of, our Finances during the past year. Such as it is, however, the Board have no hesitation in presenting it as correct in every essential particular, and they do this with the more satisfaction, from being able to state that the liabilities of the Association are less now than they were when they assumed the management of its affairs. So much so is this the case, that after a careful examination of our income, and of the heavy expenditure necessary to keep up the Institution in its present effective condition, we can confidently anticipate that next year's receipts will more than cover the disbursements. That freedom

from debt is essential to our well being as a Library Association, all will admit; and we cannot resign our trust without congratulating you that so desirable a position may soon be reached.

Claims upon our finances long allowed to remain unprovided for, have, to a large extent, been liquidated, and if to do this we have, with much regret, refrained from adding to our Library shelves, it has been done in the full confidence that such a course would meet your approbation.

We may here state, that at the suggestion of some of the old officers of the Association, we have petitioned the Legislature for a grant, and with good prospect of a favorable result.

Mr. Eden, Superintendent during the first half year, having resigned his situation, the vacancy has been supplied by the election of Mr. Donaldson, whose zealous and efficient discharge of his duties cannot have been unobserved by the Members generally, and has been such as to merit our unqualified commendation.

Such, gentlemen, is our Report, and we would now resign into your hands the trust committed to us, in the hope that our successors may meet with fewer difficulties than we have had to encounter. Under careful management may we not anticipate much prosperity to the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal. That its career may be one, as heretofore, of usefulness and pleasure, and that next year's Report may shew that it occupies a still higher position than ever amongst the institutions of our country is our earnest hope.

EWEN M'LENNAN, *President.*

EWING G. SMITH, *Secretary.*

**CR.**  
**Treasurer.**  
**CR.**

1852.		£3 16 2	3 16 3
	By Balance brought from last Report.....		
	" Donations .....		
	" Subscriptions (Merchants).....£149 15 0 }		
	" " (Senior Clerks)..... 109 5 0 }		235 19 2
	" " (Junior Clerks)..... 26 19 2 }		
	" Admission to Lectures, £10 12s. 6d; our propo-		
	tion, one-half.....	5 6 3	
	" Proceeds of Mr. Emerson's Lectures.....	60 7 10	
	" Sale of Newspapers and Catalogues.....	11 2 11	
	" Rent of Room.....	2 10 0	
	" Money borrowed from E. M'Lennan, £5 15 0 }		35 15 0
	" " " H. Archbold, 30 0 0 }		
	" " "		1 7 4
	" Balance due by Mercantile Library Association....		
			£410 0 11

  

1852.		£37 10 0	15 0 0
	To Cash paid for Rent.....		
	" " Heating Rooms.....	76 10 0	
	" " Magazines, Papers, Printing, &c.....	14 3 5	
	" " Postages .....	23 2 6	
	" " Telegraph.....	2 17 6	
	" " Insurance.....£24 4 0 }		55 13 4
	" " Gas ..... 31 9 4 }		
	" " old account.....	40 0 0	
	" " on account of John Young's Note.....	103 5 0	
	" " Superintendent and Boy.....	41 19 2	
	" " for Sundry Accounts.....		
			£410 0 11

**JAMES W. CUMMING,**  
*Treasurer.*

Montreal, November 22, 1852.