

REPORT.



THE COUNCIL of the LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY on giving up their charge previous to the election of officers for the ensuing year, respectfully beg leave to report :—

That upon assuming the duties of their office, they felt themselves called upon to give their earliest attention to the financial concerns of the Society, and they are now enabled to state that a debt of £132 14 0, with which the Society was burthened at the commencement of the year, was paid off on the 31st May.

That the funds of the Society requiring still a rigid economy in their expenditure, are sufficient to meet all demands which may be preferred for the expenses of the past year.

Among these demands the only item of moment is that incurred by the publishing of the first and second parts of the third volume of the Society's Transactions, with the amount of which the Council have not yet been made acquainted.

The liberal vote of £200, appropriated the year before last by the House of Assembly, for the purpose of aiding

the Society in its research after rare and interesting documents connected with the History of the Canadas, still remains in the Bank, at the disposal of the President and Committee on Historical Documents, with the exception of about £40, which has been placed in the hands of our zealous and faithful corresponding member, Mr. Gould, of London, to meet any incidental expenses which he may be requested to incur in promoting the objects of the Society.

The paralyzing influence of cholera in 1832, and the difficulties which always oppose a correct and expeditious investigation of any subject of moment in a foreign country, through correspondents, have retarded the accomplishment of the objects with which the Historical Committee is charged, and about which so much interest is generally felt.

The Society, however, will be now pleased to learn that the investigations of the Committee have been rapidly advancing for some time past, and it is hoped that Gentlemen possessed of so much ability, as the members of our Committee on Historical Documents, will be enabled to bring their researches to a close, in a manner to justify the confidence of the Legislature, and redound to the credit of the Society.

The accompanying report of the Committee on Historical Documents, will show the measures which have been already taken.

Report of the Committee on Historical Documents.

In the last Session of Parliament, a sum of £50 was granted by the Assembly for the purpose of augmenting the Library and Museum of the Society.

The vote of the Society directing the particular mode of appropriating the amount of this donation of the Legislature, has been carried into effect by the purchase of standard works, in the different departments of science, amounting to £40, and by the purchase of select minerals, to the amount of £10.

Besides the increase to our Library, through the liberal grant of the Legislature, a further augmentation has taken place, by an appropriation of £12 from the funds of the Society for that purpose, and by donations. The total number of volumes amounts to above 400.

Amongst the donations to the Society, the Council have to report the receipt of a set of Mr. Bouchette's valuable Topography and Maps, from the House of Assembly, a work, which, from its minuteness in detail, and excellence in execution, will remain a lasting monument of the ability of the first native Canadian Geographer.

Whilst we are on the subject of donations to the Library, it may not be misplaced to report the receipt of several valuable papers, in a tabular form, of a highly interesting nature, on Meteorology, from that persevering and accurate observer, Mr. Watts; likewise the receipt of a valuable collection of old works from Archibald Campbell, Esquire, and several works from our distinguished corresponding member, Doctor Hossack.

The benefit of these augmentations to the Library has already been felt by several of our members, and it is to be hoped, that at no distant period, this source of improvement, so essential to the advancement of the Society, will be more complete in useful works.

Among the additions made to our Cabinet of Minerals and Museum, we have to report valuable donations,

particularly of Geological and Mineralogical specimens, included in the Curator of the Museum's report, which we now beg to submit :—

Since the 1st of January, 1833, the Museum has been enriched by the following donations, viz :

1st.—4 Specimens of Minerals, and a bottle of Petroleum, from Gaspé.—Presented by Dr. Skey, in the name of His Excellency.

2d.—28 Specimens of Rocks and Minerals, from the North Coast of the St. Lawrence, between Point des Monts and Mingan, with 43 specimens of the Limestone formation, containing organic remains of the Mingan and Esquimaux Islands —Presented by Captain Bayfield.

3d.—28 Specimens of Rocks and Minerals, from the District of Gaspé.—Presented by Lieut. Baddeley, in the name of Capt. Bonnycastle, R. E.

4th.—53 Specimens of Rocks and Minerals from the Coast of Labrador, between Mingan and Cape Whittle, in the Longitude of 60° . 10 W. and Latitude 50° . 10 N. Also a non descript fish, caught in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence.—Presented by Capt. Bayfield.

5th.—A specimen of wood, bearing on its inner surface, in relief, the figure 8.—Presented by our President, W. Sheppard, Esq.

6th.—15 Copper Coins.—Presented by Mr. J. Seaton.

7th.—4 Silver Coins. Also, a specimen of Kyanite, from Perthshire, in the Highlands of Scotland.—Presented by Mr. J. Seaton, of Quebec.

8th.—A mineralogical specimen, from New Liverpool, L. C.—Presented by Mr. Wm. Young, of Quebec.

9th.—Two specimens of Breccia, from the Rock of Gibraltar.—Presented by Capt. Cameron, R. A.

- 10th.—A pair of Eagle's Claws, from the Falls of Niagara.—Presented by Lieut. Baddeley, R. E.
- 11th.—6 Silver Coins.—Presented by Mr. A. Hawkins.
- 12th.—4 Copper Coins.—Presented by Mr. A. Sewell.
- 13th.—A bottle of preserved fish.—Presented by Dr. Kelly.
- 14th.—A Moose Skin.—Presented by G. Ryland, Esq.
- 15th.—9 Copper Coins.—Presented by Mr. J. Seaton.
- 16th.—A model of a Fossil Elephant's Tusk.—Presented by Capt. Alderson.
- 17th.—A Copper Coin of King William III.
- 18th.—A stuffed specimen of the Loon or great northern Diver.—Presented by Mr. R. Symes (Treasurer.)
- 19th.—A specimen of Black Marble, from Mille Roches.—Presented by Mr. J. Cutler.
- 20th.—8 Geological specimens.—Presented by Mr. R. M. McDonald.
- 21st.—28 Geological specimens.—Presented by Dr. Skey.
- 22d.—A specimen of Rock and Sand, containing Garnets found at Mangelard Point, about a mile below the Estuary of the Riviere Noire, upon the right bank of the St. Lawrence.—Presented by Baron de Beler
- 23d.—A *Falco Pensilvanicus* (slate coloured Hawk.)—Presented by Mr. Chs. Sheppard.
- 24th.—A Silver Coin of the Reign of Louis XIV.—Presented by Mr. John Cameron.
- 25th.—A string of Chinese Coins.—Presented by A. Campbell, Esq.
- 26th.—A Copper Coin.—Presented by Mr. A. Sewell.
- 27th.—Two specimens of *Anodon Arcolatee*, found upon the Island of Orleans.—Presented by Mrs. Sheppard, of Woodfield.

28th.—A collection of Organic Remains, from Yorkshire. Presented by R. F. Maitland, Esq.

29th.—A specimen of Limestone, from Misisquoi Bay.—Also, a Brazilian Coin.—Presented by Mr. Seaton.

30th.—Two specimens of Centipedes.—Presented by Master Charles Holt.

Besides the foregoing additions to the Museum, a collection consisting of 111 Mineralogical specimens, chiefly English productions, were purchased from Mr. Kennaird, and are added to it.

F. H. BADDELEY,

Curator of Museum.

These additions to our Cabinet of Minerals have rendered that department in every way complete for the purposes of instruction, an advantage which we chiefly owe to the love for the acquisition, and zeal in the diffusion of knowledge, inherent in our worthy and scientific member, Lieut. Baddeley, as well as the application of the Cabinet to our instruction in a course of Lectures, which he is in progress of reading before the Members of the Society and their friends.

Every person who reflects upon the utility to which Mineralogical knowledge may be applied, will anticipate much future benefit to the Canadas, from the information that will be communicated, and the taste that will be excited by this interesting course of Lectures.

In the early part of the year, the Council were of opinion that it would tend much to the advantage of the Society if some of the Members could be induced to read, from time to time, during the winter season, Lectures on any of the different branches of knowledge. Under this conviction, application had been made to several Members, and the

Council had the gratification of having their application cordially acceded to by the Rev. Mr. Wilkie, who delivered a Lecture on Astronomy, and by Mr. Wicksteed, who Lectured on Pneumatics.

The subject of Lectures engaged the attention of the Council again at an early part of the winter, and it is pleasing to state that the kind disposition of the Gentlemen who have come forward, has been appreciated by every Member of the Society.

The following Gentlemen have subsequently Lectured before the Society, viz :

The Rev. D. WILKIE, on the advantages to be derived from the cultivation of Science, Literature, and the Arts.

Dr. FISHER, on the advantages of a Classical Education.

Lieut. BADDELEY, on Mineralogy.

Dr. LLOYD, on Chemistry.

Dr. LYONS, Physiology.

These are to be followed by Lectures from our worthy President, and from other Members of the Society.

During the by-gone year, a number of papers have been read before the Society, and referred to the Classes, several of which,—the production of profound investigation and original thought,—have been reported, as deserving a place in the Transactions, by the Classes to which they were referred—a recommendation which no doubt, will be attended to whenever the funds at the disposal of the Society shall be sufficient to warrant the expence.

The papers which have been recommended by the Class of Literature, are :

- 1.—Notes of the 1st book of the *Æneid*.
- 2.—On the ancient English and Anglo Saxon language.

3.—Descriptive sketch of St. Paul's Island.

4.—Remarks on some parts of the Magdalen Islands.

5.—That part of Lt. Ingalls's paper on St. John's, Newfoundland, which relates to the aborigines of the Island.

6.—Mr. Stuart's papers on Canadian Etymologies.

The Report from the Class of Arts recommends for publication :—

1stly.—A description of a Rail Way Waggon, by Wm. Sheppard, Esq.

2dly.—The description of a machine for extracting stumps of trees, by John Douglas McConnel, Esq.

It also calls the attention of the Society to a valuable paper on Wooden Rail Roads, by James George, Esq.

The Council takes this opportunity of calling the attention of individuals, of a Mechanical turn of mind, to the model of a Bridge, for connecting Beauport with the North East point of the Lower Town, left for inspection in the Society's Rooms, by the same Gentleman.

A paper on Agriculture by an unknown author, has been referred for the consideration of the Society, and will be taken up, it is to be presumed, at an early opportunity.

In compliance with a By-Law of the Society, copies of the last published Nos. of the 3d vol. of the Transactions have been distributed to each of the Members, and copies of the whole of the Transactions have been forwarded to several learned bodies both in Europe, and on this Continent.

All the remaining copies of the Society's Transactions have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Cary & Co., of Quebec, and Messrs. Cunningham & Co., of Montreal,

for sale; and it is hoped from this source, a considerable sum will be received in aid of our further efforts to publish the valuable documents above-mentioned.

We have to report the removal, during the past year, of 11 persons whose names we had hitherto inserted in our catalogue, under the erroneous impression that they were Members.

We have also to announce, with regret, the death of L. A. Ferrier, Esquire, one of our most efficient and active Members.

We have added, during the year, to our list of Honorary Members, that highly and distinguished scientific character, Dr. Brewster.

We have also to report the election of 13 new Members.

The only change that has taken place in the Office holders, is that of our able Assistant Secretary, Mr. Sewell, who from a desire to settle himself in the Upper Province, was induced to relinquish his office.

The vacancy thus occasioned, has been filled up by Mr. Wilkie, Junior, a Gentleman highly recommended to the Council.

The Council before bringing this Report to a close, feel much pleasure in adding that the proprietors of the Public Journals have, in a most liberal manner, inserted, free of expence, during the year, the various notices from the Society requiring publication.

Another circumstance which must be highly gratifying to add, is that the labours of the Society have attracted the attention of some of the most distinguished scientific bodies both in Europe and on this Continent.

Whilst thus noticed abroad, we likewise have reason to

believe that the utility of the Society has been appreciated by our own population, from the liberal manner in which we hitherto have been supported by the Legislature, and by the additions we are daily making to our Members.

Thus circumstanced, it is not vain to look forward with confidence to the ultimate success of the Society, in lending its aid to the diffusion of knowledge through every grade of the community.

The whole of which is nevertheless humbly submitted.

WILLIAM LYONS, M. D.

Council Secretary.

