

"Education begins the gentleman; but reading, good company and reflection
must finish him."—LOCKE.

THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HAMILTON AND GORE

Mercantile Institute

WITH AN

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

ANNUAL MEETING,

31st May, 1878.

HAMILTON:

SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY, MARKET AND MACNAB STREETS.

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

FOR THE YEAR 1878.

President :

JOHN R. HOLDEN, Esq.

Vice-President :

GEORGE SHARP, Esq.

Secretary :

JOSEPH KNEESHAW.

Directors :

JOHN A. BRUCE,
WILLIAM LEITH,
ANGUS SUTHERLAND,
ISAAC B. McQUESTEN,

ANDREW T. WOOD, M. P.,
GEO. E. TUCKETT,
GEORGE ROACH,
K. FITZPATRICK,

W. L. BILLINGS, M. D.

Hall and Finance Committee :

GEORGE ROACH,
GEO. E. TUCKETT,
W. L. BILLINGS, M. D.,

WM. LEITH,
ANGUS SUTHERLAND,
K. FITZPATRICK.

Library and News-Room Committee :

ISAAC B. McQUESTEN,
W. L. BILLINGS, M. D.,

JOHN A. BRUCE,
ANDREW T. WOOD, M. P.

Lecture Committee :

JOHN A. BRUCE,
I. B. McQUESTEN,

K. FITZPATRICK,
GEORGE ROACH.

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute :—

The Agricultural and Arts Act, passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1877, having enacted that the business years of Mechanics' Institutes, claiming a Legislative Grant under that Act, should end on the 1st May in each year, and that the annual meeting should be held during that month, it will be found that the accounts and statements now submitted to the members have been made up to that date, thus covering a period of fifteen months, from the 1st February, 1877, on which day the last annual meeting of the members of this Institute was held.

In what must necessarily be but a brief review of these accounts, the Board have much satisfaction in reporting a steady progress towards an improved condition of matters, so far as the financial interests of the Institute are concerned, than existed at the date of the last report.

In this respect the anticipations of the Directors, then expressed, have been fully verified by facts, as a careful comparison of figures in the last and in the present abstract of receipts and expenditure will fully evidence. The Directors also notice with pleasure the extended and constantly increasing use of the advantages offered both in the reading room and the library, now made by all classes of the public—the number of members having increased from 946 to over 1,006 *bona fide* subscribers, a larger number than is to be found on the roll of any other Institute in Ontario, if not in the Dominion. A full list of papers and periodicals will be found appended to this report, comprising the leading British, American and Canadian papers, and all magazines and periodicals of general interest. The crowded room shows how thoroughly it is appreciated.

LIBRARY.

As usual, this most important branch of the Institute has been a special object of care with the Board. During the past month all the outstanding volumes have been called in and inspected, and of the large number issued during the past fifteen months,—over 33,000,—but a very small proportion have been found to be lost or not restored. This is a favorable result when compared with the experience of other Institutes. The admirable system, probably as perfect as could be devised, under which the issuing and return of books is managed, in a great measure accounts for this, but it also speaks well for the free access to the shelves of the library which is afforded to the members, showing that the privilege is enjoyed without being abused.

Five hundred and twenty-six volumes were added during the past term. With respect to the choice of works, so favorable are the circumstances and temper of the times to the diffusion of knowledge, and so abundant are now the productions of the press, that books written in our own language, upon all subjects whatever, whether of general literature, science, taste or art, are constantly being published and quickly circulated throughout the whole empire.

From amongst these the most deliberate and mature consideration of the Board has been exercised in making a selection, and none have been omitted which were esteemed as likely to add to the standard excellence of the collection. As for novels, as few as possible appear on our lists, and such as were absolutely necessary to maintain this department, they will be found to be of the best character, and generally by the best English authors, to the exclusion of French and German romance. If we take the most superficial survey of circulating libraries, we may observe that the ingenuity of our own authors is sufficiently fertile in these flimsy and short-lived publications, and yet Germany and France contribute their aid to satisfy the craving appetite of the British public with such success, that some of their productions are as popular as our own. Of this latter class of fiction,—filled, as it is, with licentious descriptions, improbable incidents, false sentiments, and such sophistical arguments as serve to justify the most improper actions, excite a romantic sensibility, pervert the judgment of the young and inexperienced, influence the passions and corrupt

the heart,—your Board have been careful to exclude all, excepting those of admitted moral excellence.

Reference to the very prevalent taste for novel reading, especially among the young, was made in the last report, with a few words of earnest advice to parents and guardians of such frequenting the library; but from the fact that of the number of works issued last year over 23,000 were fiction, but little fruit seems to have been borne by the remarks then made. The Board think it their duty to repeat these strictures. The objects of Mechanics' Institutes are of a higher and nobler nature than that of their being converted into mere circulating libraries for the indulgence of a perverted taste, and the Directors conceive that they would fail in their duties and responsibilities, did they not seriously urge upon those having the charge of very young persons, the propriety of, in some measure, guiding and directing their taste in the selection of books.

With regard to the

HALL,

but little has to be said in this Report. During the past year, the old scenery has been repainted, and several new and attractive scenes added; the stage decorations being now fairly acceptable to most companies engaging it. A new system has sprung up of late which seems to be in vogue generally with travelling companies, *i. e.*, instead of renting the Hall for the night, giving a percentage of their receipts. This involves very considerable additional work on the superintendent to make the performance a financial success, and the necessity of additional assistance to that official will probably become a question for the incoming Board, as at present he has been much overworked.

CLASSES.

In this department, another branch of usefulness has been opened to the Institute, and your Board have peculiar satisfaction in finding that their efforts in past years to establish a course of class instruction during the winter season have at length been crowned with complete success.

Classes under efficient teachers in book-keeping, writing and arithmetic, with a large attendance in each branch, were opened early in the winter and have been successfully carried out. In fact the space afforded for the use of the

classes was not sufficient for the accommodation of those desiring to enter, and many had to be dismissed on that account. Now that these classes have been successfully inaugurated, the Board doubt not but that their advantages will be eagerly sought for by the many not able to attend the Public Schools during the day. The prize money offered by the Mechanics' Association was duly paid and the amount divided into nine prizes, given to the successful competitors, the examinations being conducted, at the request of the Directors, by Messrs. Macallum and Dickson.

The Mechanics' Institute Association have presented to this Institute a handsomely bound copy of Ures' Mechanical Dictionary, in 3 vols., with an appropriate inscription; a similar donation having been made to every institute in affiliation with them.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The necessity for increased space in which to carry on the work of the Institute is becoming year by year more apparent, and the question as to how this is to be provided will be a serious one for the incoming Board.

The Superintendent has already availed himself of every possible means to furnish additional room for the library, and the Board take this opportunity of acknowledging his great efficiency and untiring zeal in the discharge of duties which have become many, various and onerous.

The Board of Directors being personally liable for a considerable amount of floating liability, respectfully suggest that the gentlemen who succeed them should relieve them of this liability by assuming it themselves.

All which, together with accompanying statements and accounts, is respectfully submitted.

J. KNEESHAW,

Secretary.

JOHN R. HOLDEN,

President.

Statement of the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute, ending 1st May, 1878.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance cash on hand.....	\$ 501 66
" Hall rent.....	\$4,022 55
" Shop rent.....	1,032 50
" Members' subscriptions.....	5,055 05
" Government grant.....	1,993 50
" Evening classes fees.....	400 00
" Entertainments.....	95 00
" Sales of newspapers.....	247 13
" Extra Books issued.....	40 39
	28 00
" Bills discounted.....	68 39
	300 00

\$8,660 73

EXPENDITURE.

By paid Interest, mortgage.....	\$1,500 00
" " Bank.....	236 29
" Salaries.....	\$1,736 29
" Gas and Fuel.....	1,688 87
" Evening Classes, under Statute	1,325 30
" Book account, under Statute..	189 85
" Reading Room, " " ..	386 17
" Association Mechanics' Insti-	100 00
tute, under Statute.....	20 00
" Book account, Novels.....	696 02
" Newspapers and Magazines...	145 95
" Insurance.....	153 51
" Printing, Binding & Stationery	299 46
" Hall license.....	237 35
" Expense account, cleaning and	263 53
sundries.....	24 00
" Building and repairs.....	207 38
" Balance Cash in Bank.....	1,434 43
	748 10
	<u>\$8,660 73</u>

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BALANCE SHEET.

To Mortgage.....	\$15,000 00
" Bills Payable.....	2,000 00
" Sundries.....	734 34
" Balance	31,013 76

\$48,748 10

By Real Estate and Building.....	\$40,000 00
" Library and Furniture.....	8,000 00
" Cash on hand.....	748 10

\$48,748 10

By Balance, P. and L.....\$31,013 76

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

To the President and Directors of the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute :

GENTLEMEN.—We have the honor to report that we have examined the statements of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Institute for a period of fifteen months ending 30th April, 1878, comparing the same with the Vouchers, and have found the whole correct.

Your Superintendent has afforded us every assistance, and we have much pleasure in testifying to the neatness and accuracy of his accounts.

A. MACALLUM, M. A.

Auditor for the Government.

A. McKEAND, }
JOHN BOWES, } *Auditors.*

HAMILTON, May 20th, 1878.

NEWSPAPERS.

Supplied gratuitously from their respective offices and agents.

Barrie Weekly Examiner.	Hamilton Daily Times.
Berlin " Telegraph.	Paris Transcript.
Caledonia Weekly Sachem.	Paris Weekly Star.
Dundas " Banner.	Peterborough Examiner.
" " Standard.	Woodstock Weekly Sentinel.
Haldimand " Advocate.	" " Times.
Halifax " Nova Scotian.	St. Thomas Journal.
Toronto " New Dominion.	Toronto Daily Globe.
London " Iron.	Orange Sentinel.
Milton " Champion.	Montreal Journal of Commerce.
Manitoba " Free Press.	Cobourg Star.
Hamilton Daily Spectator.	

The Toronto Christian Guardian, presented by John Calvert, Esq.
The Canada Gazette, presented by E. Irving, Esq., M.P.
The Ontario Gazette, " " J. M. Williams, M.P.P.

The following Periodicals are purchased and placed on the table :—

CANADIAN.

Montreal Daily Herald.	Toronto Daily Mail.
" " Gazette.	" " Globe.
" Illustrated News.	Hamilton Daily Times.
Toronto Monetary Times.	" " Spectator.

AMERICAN.

New York Commercial Advertiser.	New York Daily Graphic.
" Daily Tribune.	" Scientific American.
" Shipping List.	" " Supplement.
" Daily Herald.	Chicago Tribune.
" Harper's Illustrated.	Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.
" Leslie's " "	

BRITISH PAPERS.

London Daily Times.	London Saturday Review.
" Weekly Dispatch.	" Army & Navy Gazette.
North Devon Journal.	Glasgow Herald.
Manchester Weekly Courier.	Dublin Warder.
London Field.	London Punch.
" Engineer.	Bell's Life in London.
" Engineering.	Illustrated London News.
" Athenæum.	" " Graphic.
Inverness Courier.	

MAGAZINES.

Atlantic Monthly.	Sunday at Home.
Argosy Magazine.	Harper's Magazine.
American Agriculturalist.	Little's Living Age.
Blackwood's Magazine.	London Society.
Belford's Magazine.	London Lancet.
Canadian Monthly.	Manufacturer and Builder.
Canadian Entomologist.	New Dominion Monthly.
Chamber's Journal.	Edinburgh Review.
Cornhill Magazine.	Westminster Review.
Good Words.	Scribner's Magazine.
Leisure Hour.	Popular Science Monthly.

LIBRARY MEMO.

Number of Books in Library at date of last Report.....	5,881
Added during the year by purchase.....	526
	<u>6,407</u>
From which deduct worn out and lost.....	56
Total Volumes in Library at this date.....	6,351

Number of Volumes issued during the year, 33,034, an average daily issue of over 90 volumes.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS CIRCULATED DURING THE YEAR

History.....	1,521
Voyages and Travels.....	2,069
Biography.....	760
Works of Reference.....	528
Miscellaneous.....	1,642
Essays.....	275
Periodical Literature.....	673
Popular Science.....	943
Mechanics.....	225
Religious.....	203
Poetry.....	344
Fiction.....	23,851

Total..... 33,034

MEMBERSHIP.

The total number of Members returned in last Report.....	946
New Members admitted during the year.....	296
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From which deduct deaths, removals, withdrawals, and in arrear.....	1,242
	234
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Total number on Roll at this date.....	1,006

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

Honorary and Free Members.....	38
Ordinary Members.....	490
Mechanics.....	220
Ladies.....	129
Youths	129
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ANNUAL MEETING

Friday Evening, May 31st, 1878.

The CHAIRMAN having read the annual report concluded by stating that there was a balance of \$1000 more than last year, which was very satisfactory. He moved the adoption of the report.

MR. GEO. SHARP seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

On motion of MR. FITZPATRICK, seconded by MR. CLAYTON, Messrs. C. Donovan and W. F. McMahon were appointed scrutineers in the election of the Board of Directors.

The PRESIDENT announced that he and Mr. Sharp had been re-elected President and Vice-President respectively, there being no opposition.

On a ballot, the following Directors were declared elected: Messrs. John A. Bruce, Wm. Leith, Angus Sutherland, J. B. McQueston, A. T. Wood, M. P., Dr. Billings, G. E. Tuckett, Geo. Roach and K. Fitzpatrick.

Moved by MR. ROACH, seconded by MR. BRUCE, That Mr. A. McKeand and Dr. Bowes be auditors for the ensuing year. Carried.

Moved by DR. BILLINGS, seconded by MR. ROACH, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the Superintendent, Mr. Kneeshaw, for the very efficient manner in which he has

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discharged the various duties of his office during the past year; and further, that this meeting desire to express their deep regret at the recent outrage which was inflicted upon him, and their sympathy with him in his suffering. Carried.

Moved by MR. BRUCE, seconded by MR. ROACH, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the Hamilton press for their gratuitous publication of lists of books added to their library, and other gratuitous services. Carried.

Moved by MR. ROACH, seconded by MR. SHARP, That a vote of thanks be passed to the various publishers who have kindly supplied papers gratis during the past year. Carried.

Moved by MR. SHARP, seconded by MR. FITZPATRICK, That a vote of thanks be tendered to the auditors for their services during the past year. Carried.

Moved by DR. BILLINGS, seconded by MR. ROACH, That the thanks of the meeting be given to the President for his very valuable services during the past year. Carried.

A vote of thanks was also given to the scrutineers, and the meeting adjourned.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Library and Reading Room.

This Institute offers to the citizens of Hamilton a comfortable

Reading-Room,

supplied with upwards of one hundred of the leading Daily and Weekly Papers, Literary and Mechanical Magazines and Periodicals of England, United States, and Canada; also a

Circulating Library

of about six thousand five hundred volumes, consisting of History, Biography, Voyages and Travels, Mechanics, Science, Poetry, Fiction, &c. Also a large number of

Valuable Works of Reference.

All new books added as soon as published.

The Directors can confidently recommend the Institute to the support of all classes of society, assuring them that no endeavors shall be spared on their part to merit their approbation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Members.....	\$3.00 per annum.
Mechanics	2.00 "
Ladies and Youths.....	1.50 "

Subscriptions are received daily.

JOSEPH KNEESHAW,

Secretary.