

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TORONTO

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

ADOPTED AT A PUBLIC MEETING,

Held at the Society's New Hall,

ON THURSDAY, 12th FEBRUARY,

1846.

Toronto:

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1846.

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ANNUAL MEETING.

Pursuant to Notice, the annual Public Meeting of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute was held on Thursday, the 12th inst., at the Society's new Hall, which is situated near the centre of the Court-House block. It is a most substantial and convenient structure. The Hall was well lighted. At the back of the platform, on which was placed the President's and Vice President's chairs, the Arms of the Institute were emblazoned on blue silk; two large globes were placed, one at each end, in front of the platform, giving an imposing appearance. Several ladies were present, and the room was filled by a large and respectable audience.

On motion of Mr. Sewell, John Ewart, Esq., one of the Vice Presidents, was called to the chair.

A letter was read by the Secretary, from T. G. Ridout, Esq., President, stating his inability, from sickness, to attend the meeting.

The Hon. R. B. Sullivan stated, that he had seen the President during the day, whose ardour for the welfare of the Institute was unabated, and who expressed his regret at his inability to attend the meeting. The Report, and List of Subscribers, (which will be found in another place,) were read. It was thereupon moved by the Hon. R. B. Sullivan, and seconded by the Rev. H. Esson,—

That the Report just read be adopted, and that it be printed, with the List of Subscribers attached, under the direction of the Managing Committee of the Institute, in such number and form, as to them may seem expedient—which was carried unanimously.

The Hon. R. B. Sullivan, in moving the Resolution, in an eloquent address, stated that he came to this City many years ago, when it contained about 800 inhabitants; and such a building as that in which they were now assembled, was not to be found within its precincts; he had seen it rising step by step; he had watched it with anxiety, for he felt all the attachment which he could feel for a native town; and he had no words to express the gratification which he then felt at seeing the noble Hall, which the Mechanics of Toronto could now call their own: he rejoiced that the Mechanics of this City, by their noble and worthy conduct, had won such a testimony of esteem from their fellow-citizens. He trusted that the Mechanics and others, would avail themselves of the advantages which the Institute offered. He could assure them, that the hearts and sympathies of all classes were with them.

The Rev. H. Esson, in seconding the Resolution, said, he rejoiced that the time had passed away, when prejudice was entertained against such institutions. The history of the world was marked by three great eras of the improvement in the social condition of man. By the invention of writing, the Philosopher was enabled to hand down to posterity the noblest triumphs of the human mind; by the invention of Printing, those truths were distributed over the universal world; by the invention of Steam-power, a mighty engine was placed in the hands of man, to carry forward his triumphs of Science and Civilization; future ages alone could tell its achievements. He regarded the union of Science with Art as productive of happiness to the community, as the matrimonial bond was productive of domestic happiness. Institutions guided by practical men of Science and active business habits, must have superlative advantages over those of the more retired speculator; such Institutions were calculated to produce a new era in Society, which will redound to the glory of the rising generation, and prove a blessing to the world, by the creation of a nobler

aristocracy than the world ever saw. He cordially supported the Resolution—was thankful for the patience with which he had been heard ; and he rejoiced in the opportunity thus afforded him of addressing so numerous and respectable a Society

Moved by ^{Mr} W. Atkinson, ~~and~~, and seconded by ^{Mr} Charles Sewell, ~~and~~

That Thomas Gibbs Ridout, Esq., be President of the Institution for the ensuing year.

The mover and seconder to this Resolution, highly eulogised the conduct of Mr. Ridout, as President during the last year. To which the Chairman added his testimony in a short, but neat, Address, previous to putting the Resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

Moved by Mr. Thomas, and Seconded by Mr. Shaw.

That the Hon. Robert Baldwin, and William Botsford Jarvis, Esq., be Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year. Carried unanimously.

W. B. Jarvis returned thanks for himself and colleague.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Stark, and seconded by W. B. Jarvis, Esq.

That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to the retiring Committee, for their unsparing exertions, perseverance and zeal in the discharge of their duties during the past year.

This Resolution was supported in a manner peculiarly gratifying to the retiring Committee, and was carried unanimously.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, and seconded by Mr. Parry,

That His Excellency Lord Cathcart, be respectfully

requested to become Patron of the Institute. Carried unanimously.

Moved by the Hon. R. B. Sullivan, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Cooney,

That an Institution for the diffusion of Literary, Scientific and useful knowledge, guided by practical Mechanics, tends to the advancement of the moral character, skill and ability of the productive classes: and that the erection of the present building for a Mechanics' Hall, will enable the Institute more widely to diffuse its benefits, extend its usefulness, and secure the confidence of the public.

The Hon. and learned Gentleman, Mr. Sullivan, in speaking to this resolution, burst into a strain of eloquence which chained and entranced his hearers, so that time flew by unheeded. He described the difficulties of acquiring knowledge in by-gone days—the scanty number to whom it was entrusted—the hieroglyphics and obscure figures in which it was wrapped, and the oaths of secrecy imposed on those to whom it was imparted, and the contempt with which the vulgar were spurned who attempted to approach the Temple of Science. This he beautifully contrasted with the facilities of acquiring knowledge at the present day, the ramification of schools in every obscure village—our elementary books,—the science and knowledge that are scattered abroad, in every man's reach and every man's power; the value of our Lectures and the riches of our Library. Both wealth or station were shewn to be but of secondary consideration. The true way to distinction consisted in the right use and training of the mind, and the culture of elegance of thought; men so trained constitute the aristocracy of the present day, before whom all other distinction faded away in the distance.

The learned gentleman concluded by a thrilling appeal to the audience, to cherish, support and appreciate the advantages of the Institute.

The Rev. Mr. Cooney supported the resolution in a speech replete with wit and humour, ^{was met with} and much applause.

On the motion of Mr. Sewell, the Chairman left the Chair.

The thanks of the meeting were then proposed for his conduct in the Chair, and the manner in which it was carried must have convinced that gentleman of the high estimation in which he is deservedly held.

After a few frank and warm-hearted sentiments from the Sheriff, the meeting adjourned.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The retiring Committee of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute gladly avail themselves of the provisions of the Constitution, and the usual custom, of laying before a public meeting a report of the proceedings of the past year. This task, usually a pleasing one, has become doubly so on the present occasion, by the generous donations of many public spirited gentlemen, to whom we are indebted for a valuable extension of our Library, and for the possession of the building in which we are now assembled.

In explaining the position of the several departments of the Institute, we shall show that the means of extending its usefulness have been increased—that its permanency has been ensured, and, if in monetary matters a pressure has been felt, and heavy responsibilities incurred, they feel assured, that they need only to be explained to be met by a generous and discerning public.

The Library and Reading Room have been opened two evenings in each week, the former having been augmented by the following handsome donations:—

Encyclopædia Britannicus, gift of the Hon. S. B. Harrison, - - - - -	57 vols.
Reese's Encyclopædia, (folio) per G. W. Allan, Esq. - - - - -	5 "
Canadian Jurist, 1845 and 1846, John H. Cameron, Esq. - - - - -	9 "
Travels in Yucatan and Life of Brant, T. G. Ridout, Esq. - - - - -	4 "
Howe's Greek Revolution, W. Atkinson, Esq.	1 "
By purchase with the funds of the Institute,	125 "
Former Library, - - - - -	800 "

In all about - - - 997 vols.

By the unwearied exertions of Mr. E. B. Palmer, the Librarian, a superior classification of the works has been made, and a new catalogue compiled, which has been published.

During the season the following lectures have been delivered:—

On the study of Natural History, per Rev. M. Starke, - - - - -	1 Lecture.
On Comets, by Mr. A. Dwyer, - - - - -	1 "
On the Lunar Theory, do. - - - - -	1 "
On Ancient Egypt and its Antiquities, by Rev. D. Rintoul, - - - - -	4 "
On Emigration, do. - - - - -	1 "
On the Topography of Palestine, by the Rev. D. Rintoul, - - - - -	1 "
On Phrenology, by Dr. Russell, - - - - -	1 "
On Phonography, by Mr. Wilson, - - - - -	1 "

In all, - - - 11 Lectures.

The Reading Room for the fourth year, has received free copies of the *Montreal Transcript* and the *British*

Whig, and for which the Committee desire to return thanks to their respective Editors. The attendance at these rooms and the interchange of Books (probably in consequence of the Stores being closed earlier than usual,) has been unprecedentedly great, so much so indeed, that it was found necessary to engage an additional assistant.

The Committee (in common with their predecessors), were deeply impressed with the belief that the utility of the Institute was circumscribed, by the want of eligible apartments for their Library, Reading, Class Rooms, and a Hall, for the delivery of Lectures; attempts have at different times been made to obtain this object. In the month of July last, arrangements were made with the Municipal Corporation, who passed a bye-law empowering the Institute to build in connection with the Civil Board of Works, and by virtue of this law the present building has been erected; and a liberal subscription raised for the purpose of defraying the expenses. The account, stands thus:—(See next page.)

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE in Account current with W. ATKINSON, Treasurer,
 March 13th, 1846:—

1845.		1845.		Cr.		d.	
Dr.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
To paid Manning and Petch.424	5	6	By Cash, balance last An. report . . .	11	8	7½
" William Thomas	21	0	0	" Savings Bank Deposit	16	12	5
" Parks & Co.	1	10	0	" Sale of B. A. Ass. Stock 26 5 0	26	5	0
" R. Miller & Co.	0	5	0	" Subscription Bdg. Fund 242 19 6	242	19	6
" Books, 125 vols.	35	0	4½	" Annual Subscription.	44	10	8
" Printing and Binding.	9	6	9	" Balance of Interest	0	1	4
" Stove, Wood, &c.	7	10	0½	" Note Disc'ted Bank U.C. 179 3 6	179	3	6
" Premiums for Assurance	2	9	0				
" Stationary and Candles	1	19	11				
" Cleaning Rooms, &c.	0	5	0				
" Repairing Locks for doors of Library	0	3	9				
" Candlesticks and Snuffers	0	13	6				
" Pstg. Whig and Transcript	0	17	4				
" Collection per centage on £12 10s.	0	12	6				
" 14 months Rent of Rooms	7	0	0				
Balance	8	2	4½	Total	£521	1	0½
Total	£521	1	0½	WILLIAM ATKINSON, Treasurer.			

Assets of the Institute.

Estimated value of Books, - - - -	£325	0	0
" " " Instruments, - - - -	200	0	0
" " " Building, - - - -	550	0	0
Arrears of Subscription, - - - -	£60	5	0
Doubtful, - - - - -	10	0	0
Cash in Treasurer's hands, - - - -	8	2	4½
	<hr/>		
	£1,133	7	4½

Amount of debts due by the Institute.

Bank of Upper Canada, payable, May, - - £179 3 6
 Thus leaving a heavy incumbrance to be provided for by their successors in office.

It has ever been a primary object with the Committee to render access easy and attainable by all within the sphere of the influence of the Institute. In pursuance of those views the present building has been erected, charges for rent will henceforth cease, and from the occasional hiring of the Hall for public purposes, a revenue may fairly be relied upon.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE BUILDING FUND.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
T. G. Ridout, Esq., President,	15	0	0	A. Hagerman, <i>Hon.</i>	2	10	0
Joseph C. Morrison, <i>Esq.</i>	10	0	0	W. B. Jarvis, Sheriff,	2	10	0
John Ewart, Vice President,	10	0	0	Clark Gamble, <i>Esq.</i>	2	10	0
Robt. Baldwin, Hon.	10	0	0	Moffat Murray & Co	2	10	0
W. Atkinson, <i>Esq.</i>	10	0	0	Andrew Mercer, <i>Esq.</i>	2	10	0
The Mayor,	5	0	0	J. Mitchell,	2	10	0
C. J. Robinson, <i>Hon.</i>	5	0	0	James Ryan,	2	10	0
Doctor Boys,	5	0	0	William Allan, Hon.	2	10	0
Petch & Manning, <i>Hon.</i>	5	0	0	Douglas Fraser, <i>Esq.</i>	2	10	0
George Michie,	5	0	0	Henry Sherwood, Hon.	2	10	0
Samuel Shaw,	5	0	0	S. B. Harrison, Hon.	2	10	0
John Leys,	5	0	0	R. G. Anderson,	2	10	0
Thomas D. Harris,	5	0	0	W. D. Stark,	2	10	0
William Thomas, Architect,	5	0	0	James Small, <i>Esq.</i>	2	10	0
Charles Sewell,	5	0	0	James McCutcheon, <i>Esq.</i>	2	10	0
H. Parry,	2	10	0	R. B. Sullivan, Hon.	2	10	0
A. McLean, <i>Hon.</i>	2	10	0	David Paterson,	2	10	0
William Steward,	2	10	0	John Bell, <i>Esq.</i>	2	10	0

Total £521 1 0½

WILLIAM ATKINSON, Treasurer.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
J. R. Armstrong,	2	10	0	W. H. MacMasters,	1	0	0
Hewes, Ewart & Hall,	2	10	0	W. L. Perrin,	1	0	0
Donald Bethune,	2	10	0	John Riddle,	1	0	0
C. C. Small,	2	10	0	John McLean,	1	0	0
W. H. Blake,	2	10	0	John Armstrong,	1	0	0
John Bell, Esq.,	2	10	0	Edward Beckett,	1	0	0
Doctor McCaul,	2	10	0	Charles March,	1	0	0
R. Tinning,	2	10	0	J. H. Medcalf,	1	0	0
Murray, Professor,	2	10	0	John Gibson,	1	0	0
Croft, "	2	10	0	William Mathers,	1	0	0
Bevan, "	2	0	0	Richard Woodsworth,	1	0	0
Barron, M.A.	1	10	0	John J. Harrison,	1	0	0
J. H. Price, M.P.P.	1	5	0	John O Higgins,	1	0	0
Peter Freeland,	1	5	0	Edward Hurd,	1	0	0
John Robertson,	1	5	0	James Strange,	1	0	0
William Proudfoot,	1	5	0	Edward Goldsmith,	1	0	0
George Crookshanks,	1	5	0	Henry Nichols,	1	0	0
Benjamin Torrance,	1	5	0	R. B. & Co.	1	0	0
Oliver Mowatt,	1	5	0	John Harrington,	1	0	0
J. Ketchum, Jun'r.	1	5	0	Crossley,	1	0	0
Francis Thomas,	1	5	0	Charles Stotesbury,	1	0	0
Edwin Bell,	1	5	0	J. W. Muttlebury,	1	0	0
W. H. Howard, Rev.	1	5	0	J. G. Joseph,	1	0	0
Charles Gibb,	1	5	0	H. & W. Rowsell,	1	0	0
John McDonald,	1	5	0	George Cant,	1	0	0
S. Brough,	1	5	0	Angus Morrison,	1	0	0
D. G. Miller,	1	5	0	G. C. Horwood,	1	0	0
H. J. Boulton,	1	5	0	Hugh Miller,	1	0	0
James Leslie,	1	5	0	R. C. Gwatkin,	1	0	0
F. Richardson,	1	5	0	William Smith,	1	0	0
Thomas Paterson,	1	5	0	James Foster,	1	0	0
A. Badenach,	1	5	0	C. Hyde,	1	0	0
Eliza Dunlop,	1	5	0	Joseph Lee, in lime,	1	0	0
Betley & Brown,	1	5	0	Cruthers, 1000 bricks,	1	0	0
Shaw & Turnbull,	1	5	0	Wm. Goodenham, Sen'r,	1	0	0
Walter Macfarlane,	1	5	0	Smith and McDonell,	1	0	0
S. B Campbell,	1	5	0	Charles Berczy,	1	0	0
Workman Brothers & Co., ..	1	5	0	R. Stanton,	1	0	0
P. Maddeh,	1	5	0	Joseph Rogers,	1	0	0
Francis "	1	5	0	A. T. McCord,	1	0	0
David Cleal,	1	5	0	William Edwards,	1	0	0
Hugh Richardson,	1	5	0	Samuel Newson,	1	0	0
Thomas Bell,	1	5	0	Thomas Brunskill,	1	0	0
R. Wightman & Co.,	1	5	0	J. Jackson,	1	0	0
G. W. Allan,	1	5	0	William Hanson,	1	0	0
D. Maitland,	1	5	0	Thomas H. Edmonds,	1	0	0
G. F. Payne,	1	5	0	Rev. H. Scadding,	1	0	0
Rev. J. Roaf,	1	5	0	Rev. Mr. Ripley,	1	0	0
Robert Hay,	1	0	0	W. Gooderham, Jun'r,	1	0	0
John Jacques,	1	0	0	D. Roberts,	1	0	0
Thos. Mills,	1	0	0	M. O'Donohoe,	1	0	0
J. G. Chewitt,	1	0	0	Quigley, 600 bricks,	0	12	0
James Brown,	1	0	0	Dr. Scott,	0	10	0
John Griffiths,	1	0	0	Subscriptions under 20s.	18	7	6
F. & G. Perkins,	1	0	0				