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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
OF
MONTREAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY, 1861:

WITH

A LIST OF THE OFFICERS, LIFE MEMBERS, AND
ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE

REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

IS ALSO APPENDED,

(IT HAVING PREVIOUSLY APPEARED ONLY IN THE "CANADIAN NATURALIST.")

MONTREAL:
PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.
1861.

Avec les compliments

De L. A. HUGUET-LATOUB, N. P.,

MONTREAL, C. E.

THE
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
OF
MONTREAL.

The annual meeting of the Society was held pursuant to public notice, at the rooms of the Society, on Saturday evening, May 18, 1861, when there were present the following members:—

The President, the Lord Bishop of Montreal; Principal Dawson, Chairman of Council; Dr. DeSola, 1st Vice President; Dr. Hingston, Corresponding Secretary; John Leeming, Recording Secretary; James Ferrier, Jr., Treasurer; Dr. Craik, Curator; Messrs. Davies, Kemp, Murphy, of the Council; and Messrs. Gordon, Gouldie, Weaver, J. C. Becket, Dr. Jones, J. J. Day, Douglas, H. A. Joseph, D. Mackay, Alex. Morris, Gibson, Henry Rose, S. C. Bagg, and other members of the Society.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

His Lordship the President of the Society then delivered the following address:

Gentlemen,—Before we proceed to the more special business for which we are assembled at this the Annual General Meeting of our Society, I will ask your patience while as President of the Natural History Society of Montreal during the past year, I endeavour to lay before you some brief statements of what we have been doing, and what are our claims to support. We have a charter of Incorporation, and we receive support from the

Legislature, upon the plea that we are promoting the study of Natural Science. It is very reasonable that such aid and encouragement should be given in a young country like this, but we can only expect it to be continued upon some good showing that we are accomplishing the work to which we are pledged. This I trust we can justly assert to be the case. But whatever help we may derive from the Legislature, it is rather upon the co-operation of our own members, that we must mainly and eventually rely, if we expect to advance our Institution or extend its usefulness. It is not however reasonable to anticipate any rapid accession of members who will devote themselves systematically to scientific pursuits; but I think there is every reason to believe that the efforts of this Society are really advancing the cause of Science, and that its influence is becoming extended, and its labours more and more appreciated by the public. There are several ways in which the Society seeks to advance its work, and bring its influence to bear upon the public mind. First there is the Museum which occupies all the upper part of this building, and has received some very valuable additions recently, which will be noticed more particularly in the Report. This offers many objects of great interest in various departments, and has been visited by far larger numbers than in any previous year. Then there are the Somerville course of lectures during the Winter free to the public, and which have attracted such immense crowds this year that great numbers of persons have been unable to gain admittance. These Lectures bear in general a popular character; while at the monthly meetings of the Society there have been a number of very able and scientific papers read on various subjects. And lastly in order to give permanence to its labours, and disseminate its usefulness, the Society superintends a bi-monthly periodical, under the title of "The Canadian Naturalist." As to the Lectures delivered during the last year, they were attended by such large audiences, and were so well appreciated at the time, that I will not now delay you by alluding to them in detail. But the monthly meetings of the Society, which are truly the periods of its really scientific work, are not so largely attended, nor I think appreciated, as they deserve. And I should wish to mention some of the many interesting papers which have been read and dis-

cussed by the members on these occasions ; reminding you that these meetings are open to all members of the Society, and to all of their friends, ladies as well as gentlemen, whom they may wish to introduce.

GEOLOGICAL PAPERS.

1. *Poole, on Coal Field of Pictou.*—Giving many valuable new facts on a very important Coal district ; a colossal specimen of the produce of which was exhibited in Montreal last summer at the great Industrial Exhibition.
2. *Honeyman, on new Localities of Fossils in Silurian rocks of Nova Scotia.*—Facts supplementary to, and extending those in Principal Dawson's paper of last year.
3. *Billings, on Fossils from Point Levi.*—This paper contained the discoveries on which the changes in the view entertained of the Quebec group of rocks were mainly based. It marks an era in the Lower Silurian Geology of Canada, and illustrates the pre-eminent value of fossils as guides to the ages of rocks.
4. *Kemp, visit to Acton Copper Mine.*—A good popular exposition of the Geology of this very interesting mining district.
5. *Dawson, on the Earthquake of 17th October, 1860.*—A collection of facts relating to the shock as experienced in Canada ; with notices of the general phenomena of Earthquakes, and of former Earthquakes in this Province.
6. *Billings, on certain theories of the formation of mountains.*—A very good exposition of the prevailing views, with some valuable theoretical deductions.
7. *Bradley, New Trilobite from Potsdam Sandstones.*—Supplementary to Mr. Billings's Paper, No. 3.
8. *Bell, on Freshwater Shells, in the Tertiary deposits of Canada.*—Interesting new facts respecting the fossils of the Pleistocene deposits ; and tending especially to explain the peculiarities of those in Upper Canada, referred to in previous papers in the *Canadian Naturalist*.
9. *Dawson, on the Geology of Murray Bay.*—The local Geology of a very interesting region, showing the characters of several important formations in very good natural exposures.

10. *Logan, on the Lower Silurian Rocks of Lake Superior and Quebec.*—A lucid explanation of the new views entertained by Sir William Logan respecting the age of the Quebec group of rocks, and of the facts in the Silurian Geology of Lakes Huron and Superior, recently obtained by the Survey, with very important general deductions respecting the physical conditions of Eastern America during the Lower Silurian period.

ZOOLOGICAL PAPERS.

1. *Saunders, on Menobranchnus Lateralis.*—Interesting observations on the habits of a most curious Batrachian reptile.
2. *Vennor, on Birds wintering in and around Montreal.*—Some good observations by a very promising young naturalist; and showing a much larger number of winter residents and visitors than most persons are aware of.
3. *Ross, on Fur-bearing animals of the McKenzie River Settlement.*—Full of curious new facts about the habits of North American mammalia.
4. *D'Urban, on the valley of the River Rouge.*—Giving catalogues of the animals of a district but little known.

ETHNOLOGICAL.

Dawson, on aboriginal Antiquities in Montreal.—An interesting paper respecting some Indian remains found in excavating for buildings near Sherbrooke Street, and tending to prove the site of the original Indian Village.

BOTANICAL.

D'Urban, on the Flora of the Counties of Argenteuil and Ottawa.
—A valuable Catalogue of the plants of that part of Canada.

Under this head may also be placed a very interesting memoir and account of the labours of Douglas the great botanical explorer of the West coast of America.—By G. Barnston, Esq.

These papers contain a great deal of most interesting matter on a variety of subjects; and many of them are full of new facts bearing upon Natural History and Geology, and though they may

be read afterwards in the pages of the "Naturalist," where, with many other valuable contributions, they are placed on record, yet to any young persons anxious to acquire any accurate knowledge, it would be far more profitable to attend the monthly meetings, at which they are read, because they might acquire much valuable information by conversation and enquiry, respecting details growing out of these subjects. And it is certain if a student once takes up a particular branch and follows it out systematically in detail, that an immense amount of interest is rapidly created; and by careful observation, without any great expenditure of time, he is soon able to contribute many useful facts for the enlargement or correction of our knowledge of Natural History. One great object of popular lectures, and public collections in Museums, is to excite such a taste for Natural Science, that in some persons at least a real interest may be created, and the study systematically pursued. Kindred Societies elsewhere in Canada are labouring in the same field, and each doing their part; let us rejoice with them in whatever success attends their efforts: such as the Canadian Institute of Toronto, the Historical Society of Quebec, and the Botanical Society of Kingston. And through the pages of the Montreal "Canadian Naturalist," our Society is now becoming known and valued far and wide by those who are well able to appreciate its worth. Many copies of every bi-monthly number are exchanged with other scientific Societies, and its papers have again and again been copied, and most favorably noticed in the scientific publications of this Continent, of Great Britain, and the Continent of Europe. During the visit of the Prince of Wales to this city, we presented His Royal Highness with an address, and a copy of three volumes of *The Canadian Naturalist* already published, and also with a very handsome volume of curious meteorological observations by Dr. Smallwood, one of our members, which were graciously received and acknowledged. I feel that I may thus freely eulogize the labours of our Society, because while I have constantly attended to all its proceedings for some years past, and for the last two years have filled the office of your President, yet I can lay no claim to the honor of having contributed to the scientific work that has been accomplished. I cordially give my help to encourage what others, far

abler in every department of science than myself, have achieved ; and while such men as Sir William Logan, Principal Dawson, the Rev. A. F. Kemp, Mr. Billings, and others, continue to give their time and talents to its support, I am confident that it ought to receive cordial and liberal encouragement from the public of Montreal. It is an Institution which, though still in, what we may consider, an infant state, and with its Museum, as compared with those of the old world collections, only as it were commencing its existence, yet reflects credit upon this city, and I trust will continue to do so more and more. I certainly regret that we have not yet got in Montreal some regular and permanent building for carrying on Astronomical and Meteorological Observations. We are however now arrived at a time, when it is not unreasonable to expect occasional acts of well considered munificence amongst our wealthier citizens to enrich our city with useful Institutions, whether connected with Religion or Charity, Learning or Science ; and I trust that the example recently set by one of them in connection with McGill College may lead to many similar instances. Perhaps amongst them we may some day find the means of establishing an Observatory in connection with this Institution, and carrying on a regular course of scientific observations. But at any rate whatever may be hereafter accomplished in any fresh departments, we must not allow the "Natural History Society of Montreal" to stop in its present onward progress, or to fail in making good its own special work, either for want of talent ready to labour in its cause, or a grateful public ready to support it.

Principal Dawson then read the following :—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The past year has been characterised by steady progress and prosperity in the affairs of the Society. The papers read have been numerous and important, the publication of the *Naturalist* has been maintained with its usual vigour, the annual course of Somerville lectures has been delivered to crowded audiences, considerable additions have been made to the library and museum, the number of members has increased, and the legislative grant

and the increased amount of fees from members have much improved the financial position of the Society. Such details as are necessary under these heads may be stated as follows:—

PAPERS READ.

Since last annual meeting seventeen important papers have been read, all of which have been published in the *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist*, or are now in course of publication, and which have been noticed in detail in the address of the President.

Many other papers not read before the Society, especially a very valuable one by Mr. T. Sterry Hunt, and short notices on various subjects connected with Canadian Natural History, have been published. This Society may thus fairly take the credit of having been the medium through which in the past year many contributions of much importance have been made to Natural History and Geology.

PUBLICATION OF THE NATURALIST.

A very important movement in connection with the *Naturalist* is the employment of a portion of the Provincial grant to the Society in organising a system of exchanges with the leading scientific publications of Britain, America, and the continent of Europe. This will in the ensuing year publish more extensively than heretofore the matter contained in the *Naturalist*. It will afford a wider range of material for comment and selection; and will tend materially to the increase of the Library. It will also much extend the reputation of this Society and of Canadian Science in general; since wherever it is known, the *Naturalist* is now regarded as one of the most important representatives of Natural History on this continent.

While all the members of the Editing Committee have exerted themselves on behalf of the *Naturalist*, it is due to Mr. D. Allan Poe to state, that on him has fallen as heretofore the chief burden of editorial supervision, and that the Society is very much indebted to his exertions in this important part of its work.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

The Reports of the Librarian and Curator and of the Library Committee are herewith submitted. The donations received have been numerous and valuable. The large collection of skins of birds and mammals presented by the Smithsonian Institution is especially deserving of notice, and will at an early meeting of the Society be made the subject of a special report by one of the members of Council. A very important contribution is also the deposit in our rooms through the kindness of Sir W. E. Logan, of a suite of specimens of the invertebrates recently collected by the Geological Survey. These are not a donation to the Society, but are placed in our rooms in order that they may be accessible to students, and that space may be made in the crowded apartments of the Geological Survey for its increasing collections of fossils. This is a gratifying proof of the public utility of the spacious Museum of this Society; and as the collection will be arranged for us by Mr. R. Bell, it will place within reach of the public, means of systematic study not previously enjoyed, in one leading branch of the Natural History of Canada, and will supply perhaps the greatest deficiency previously existing in our Museum.

It is due to Mr. Hunter, the cabinet keeper, to state that he has exerted himself most assiduously in the care of the collection, and also in preparing the numerous specimens presented to the Society.

PUBLIC LECTURES.

In pursuance of the requirement of the bequest of the late Rev. A. Somerville, the annual course of free lectures was opened on Thursday, February 21st, by an address on the objects and prospects of the Society, by the President, the Lord Bishop of Montreal. It consisted of the following lectures:—

1. By Principal Dawson, on the Aboriginal Antiquities of Montreal.
2. By the Rev. Dr. De Sola, on the Arts and Sciences of the Ancient Hebrews.
3. By Wm. H. Hingston, M.D., on the climate of Canada in its relation to life and health.

4. By Ed. Murphy, on the Microscope and Microscopic research.
5. By Alfred Rimmer, on Sea Birds and their habits.
6. By Dr. Wilkes, on Natural Heritage.

GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIETY.

Twenty-eight ordinary members, and six corresponding members have been added to our number during the year.

The usual petition to the Legislature having been prepared, and the Recording Secretary having personally called on members of the Government therewith, the Council have much pleasure in reporting that the sum of \$1,000 has been placed on the estimates as the annual grant to the Society.

The Treasurer's account appended to this report, shows a most gratifying condition of the financial affairs of the Society. The debt on the building has been reduced to an amount not greater than that on the old building of the Society, the liabilities having in the past year been reduced by \$755.19. All the minor accounts have been paid, and there is a prospect that the Society may be able still further to reduce the permanent debt, as well as to carry on its operations with increased vigour.

For the better securing of this last object, the Council would recommend, as necessary to the Society in its present stage of advancement, and as warranted by its financial position, the appointment of some gentleman of scientific tastes and knowledge, as Assistant Secretary and Curator, with a small salary. The great services of Mr. D'Urban in this capacity, are fresh in the memory of the Society, and there are now among our members, several young naturalists of ability and high promise, who could very much benefit the Society and the cause of science, if enabled in this way, to devote a part of their time to its interests. It would be the duty of such an officer to prepare the programme of scientific business for each meeting, to write out the proceedings in a form suitable for publication, to determine and arrange specimens presented to the Society, to take measures for the increase of the collection and library, and generally to work

out all the details of our scientific operations, which are now necessarily conducted in a very desultory manner. The Council would ask authority from the Society, to engage some person of the requisite zeal and scientific and business knowledge, as soon as possible, and at a rate of remuneration such as the resources of the Society could afford.

Signed, J. W. DAWSON,
Pres. Council.

The Treasurer, James Ferrier, then presented the following statement:—

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MONTREAL IN ACCOUNT WITH JAMES FERRIER, JUNR., TREASURER.

1861.		RECAPITULATION.		1861.		RECAPITULATION.	
	Dr.						Cr.
	\$						\$
	cts.						cts.
To balance due the Treasurer, May 1, 1860,	126	28		May 1.—By cash received from annual subscriptions and diplomas,			557
May 1.—" cash for salary to Mr. Hunter,	200	00		" " " received from Dr. Hingston for life membership,			50
" " " C. McCormick, \$30, and G. Appleton, \$30, commissions,	60	00		" " " received from admission fees to museum,			66
" " " city assessment,	150	00		" " " interest returned on loan paid before maturity,			37
" " " gas and water rent,	44	70		" " " annual grant from government,			1000
" " " fuel,	125	97		" " " balance due the Treasurer,			173
" " " advertising and printing,	260	06					
" " " books and binding,	41	46					
" " " repairs and fixtures,	288	70					
" " " interest,	482	50					
" " " insurance,	38	00					
" " " incidental expenses,	66	33					
	<u>\$1884</u>	00					<u>\$1884</u>
To balance due the Treasurer,		173	25				

E. & O. E.

JAMES FERRIER, JR.,
Treasurer, N. H. S.

Henry Rose, Esq., then read the following

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Your committee have held several meetings, throughout the year, and beg to submit the following report:—

Dr. Fenwick, the late Librarian and Curator, stated to the committee regarding certain volumes of the transactions of the Smithsonian Institute which are missing (vols. i. vi. vii. and viii.) that he had written to the Secretary of the Institute, wishing to know if they could be supplied so as to complete the set in our possession, and had been informed that the rules of this Institution did not allow deficiencies of this kind to be supplied.

Since the receipt of this letter Dr. Craik, the present Librarian, has informed the committee that he hopes, through the kindness of a friend, to be able to supply most of the missing volumes.

The following Nos of the *Canadian Journal* are missing, viz: No. 19 for 1859, and Nos. 28 and 29 for 1860, and No. 31 for 1861. It is extremely desirable that means should be taken to get these numbers, as without them a very valuable work is rendered incomplete and comparably useless.

The Society possesses only the first 6 Nos. of the supplement to Audobon's *Birds of America*, published by Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia, and as Mr. Bagg, one of the members of your committee intended visiting Philadelphia this spring he kindly volunteered to ascertain if the continuation of this work could be had and at what cost. On Mr. Bagg's return he kindly furnished the committee with memoranda in regard to this and other works concerning which he made enquiry, as well as a list of donations he had received for the Society, which are submitted herewith.

The committee report that Audobon's splendid plates of the *Quadrupeds of North America* (3 vols.) have been bound in a manner suitable for so valuable a work.

Your committee deem it expedient that some means be adopted to increase the number of vols. in the Library of this Society, and would recommend that all gentlemen presenting valuable books to the Society to the amount of fifty dollars be elected life members. Mr. Ibbotson having presented nine volumes of the

Transactions of the Institute and Academy of Arts and Sciences of Bologne from 1731 to 1747, royal 4to; also the works of Manpertius, 4 vols. 8vo. 1768, a rare work, we recommend in consideration therefor that he be elected a life member of this Society.

Owing to the number of vols. which have disappeared from the Library, and of which no trace can be had, the committee deem it expedient to recommend that the locks of the cases be thoroughly repaired, and that a catalogue of the books be compiled, and the cabinet keeper instructed to see that no books in future be taken out without being entered in the Register kept for that purpose.

The whole respectfully submitted,

STANLEY BAGG, *Chairman.*
HENRY ROSE, *Secretary.*

Memoranda presented by S. C. Bagg, and referred to in Library Committee's report:

Having stated at a meeting of the Library Committee last winter, that I purposed visiting Philadelphia, I was requested to ascertain for the benefit of the Natural History Society, if the following works could be obtained in that city, and at what price. In compliance with which request I ascertained that the remaining four numbers of Capell's supplement to Audubon's Birds of America, can be had of Lippincott & Co., 4th and Commerce Streets, for \$4. Schoolcraft's History and Future Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States, 6 vols., can be had of Hazard, 724 Chestnut Street, for \$55. Owen's Geological Survey of Wisconsin and Iowa, 2 vols., can be had at Henderson & Co's., 528 Arch Street, for \$30. Park's Exploration of Railroad routes from the Mississippi to the Pacific, 8 vols., Henderson & Co., \$96, and at Hazard's a more complete edition, 4 additional vols., \$24 more. Perry's United States Exploring Expedition, 3 vols., of Henderson & Co., for \$24. Making for the whole of the above mentioned works a sum total of two hundred and thirty-eight dollars. But the Vice President of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences was of opinion that if this Society applied by letter to Professor Baird, Smithsonian Institute, Wash-

ington, the United States government would supply us with nearly all these works gratis, and I think the application should be made without delay. While in Philadelphia, the authorities of both the Franklin Institute and Academy of Natural Sciences, expressed their willingness to exchange with this Institution, such duplicates as they may from time to time have. In conclusion, I am glad to have a few donations from Philadelphia friends to this Society, which I have much pleasure in presenting to it. 1st. From John C. Trantwine, civil engineer, a mandarin snuff box, made of nephrite, with cornelian stopper. 2nd. From the same gentleman, Trantwine's exploration for an inter-oceanic canal route by way of the River Atrato and San Juan in New Granada, South America. Also from M. J. Mitcheson, Esq., a corresponding member of this Society, a military map of the United States and Territories, showing the military posts, seceding States, &c.

Montreal, May, 1861.

These reports having been adopted, the following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society for the ensuing year:—

1861.

President, The Lord Bishop of Montreal.

1st Vice-President, Rev. A. De Sola, LL.D.

2nd Vice-President, W. H. A. Davies, Esq.

3rd Vice-President, E. Billings, Esq., F.G.S.

Corresponding Secretary, W. H. Hingston, Esq., M.D.

Recording Secretary, John Leeming, Esq.

Treasurer, James Ferrier, Esq.

Librarian and Curator, Robert Craik, Esq., M.D.

Council.—J. W. Dawson, LL.D., F.G.S., *Principal of McGill College*, *Chairman*; Rev. A. F. Kemp, Ed. Murphy, Esq., Al. Rimmer, Esq., S. C. Bagg, Esq.

Editing Committee of the Canadian Naturalist.—Principal Dawson, Professor T. S. Hunt, F.R.S., E. Billings, Esq., D. Allan Poe, Esq., Rev. A. F. Kemp, Professor Robins, W. H. Hingston, Esq., M.D., John Leeming, Esq.

Library Committee.—Henry Rose, Esq., F. D. Fulford, Esq., J. C. Becket, Esq., Alex. Gordon, Esq., George Fenwick, Esq., M.D.

Janitor resident at the Society's museum and rooms, corner of Cathcart and University streets, Mr. William Hunter.

The following donations to the Society's Museum have been received during the past year, viz.

- Jas. Ferrier, jr., Esq.... Red-breasted Merganser.
 Joseph Martin, Esq..... Male Sebright Bantam.
 Do. do Nest of Mason Wasp.
 A. G. Vennor, Esq..... Three specimens of *Anodon Fluviatilis*.
 Dr. Durkee, of Boston, per
 D. A. Poe, Esq..... Cast of head of flat-headed Indian from Col-
 umbia River.
 Mr. Massey Piece of Mexican gold ore.
 Mr. Hilton Tortoise.
 Mr. Dickson Two live Tortoises.
 Mrs. Thomson Four pieces of petrified wood from Egypt.
 Do. do Spoon from Ceylon.
 G. D. Rolland, Esq..... Specimens of copper ore from Acton mines.
 Do. " " from Lake Superior.
 Do. " silver ore from Lake Superior.
 M. J. Michison, Esq..... A pair of canvas-back ducks.
 Mr. Peter Tait A pair of ducks hatched from one egg.
 Mr. William Hunter Female short-legged pewitt fly-catcher.
 Do. do. Female indigo bird.
 W. Robertson, Esq., M.D.
 per Duncan Robertson. Male and female specimens of a stomapod
 crustacea from Tahiti.
 Do. ... Specimen of native cloth from Tahiti.
 R. T. Fowler, Esq..... Plant growing from the larva of a beetle.
 Do. Rare shells obtained from the stomachs of
 flounders at Portland.
 Geo. Barnston, Esq., Mi-
 chipicotan, L. Superior. A pair black ducks (*Anas obscura*)
 Eared greel (*Podiceps auratus*)
 Marsh Hamer (*Circus cyanus*)
 Wilson's snipe (*Tringa Wilsonii*)
 A falcon (*Falco anatina*)
 Mr. Marler Barred owl.
 Mr. Cunningham..... Specimens of copper ore from Acton.
 Mrs. Blackwell..... Bust of Dr. Buckland.
 A. Gough, Esq..... Water lizard (*Menobanchus*) from Lachine
 Canal.
 Thos. Dryden, Esq..... Female grey squirrel.
 Jas. Ferrier, jr., Esq.... Male Canada grouse.
 Mr. W. Hunter..... Male and female red squirrels.
 Edmond Dorion, Esq ... Two human skeletons and a variety of pottery
 and numerous small articles found near
 Sherbrooke St., Montreal, supposed to be
 remains of the Indian village of Hochelaga
 described by Jacques Cartier, 1603.
 W. S. McFarlane, Esq... Wild turkey (male.)
 James Ferrier, jr., Esq .. " " (female.)
 Samuel James, Esq..... White partridge from Labrador.
 John Bell, Esq., Amherst-
 burgh Six meadow larks.

- J. Bell, Esq., Amherstburgh, One quail.
 One barred owl.
 One blue jay.
 Wm. Hunter..... Hudson Bay titmouse.
 J. J. Day, Esq..... Skin of great ant eater (*Myrmecophoga*)
 from the Brazils.
 John Leeming, Esq..... Male and female pencilled Hamburg fowls.
 A. S. Packard, jr. Bruns-
 wick, Maine A valuable collection of shells from Labrador.
 A valuable collection of specimens of Natural
 History from Great Slave Lake and Fort
 Simpson.
 Bernard R. Ross, per
 Smithsonian Institute.
 Principal Dawson..... Numerous Indian relics.
 John Leeming, Esq..... A large specimen of *Lepidosteus Oxyurus*.
 James Ferrier, Esq..... A smaller ditto.
 J. C. Trantwine..... Curious Snuff Box, used by a Mandarin.

The following donations to the library of the Society have been received during the past year, viz :

- Silas Durkee, Esq Volume of specimens of Algæ.
 Principal Dawson..... A paper on the Silurian and Devonian rocks
 of Nova Scotia.
 Prof. Jas. Hall, Albany Annals of Lyceum of Nat. His. Soc. of New
 Society York.
 Nos. 1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13.
 Henry Poole, Esq Notes on the coal fields of Pictou.
 Rev. D. Honeyman..... New locations of Silurian fossils in Nova
 Scotia.
 W. Spink, Esq. Bombay meteorological register, 1857.
 Geological Reports.
 Statutes of Canada, 1860.
 Historical collection of Essex Institute.
 From the Authors Pub. Natural History of Washington Territory.
 Smithsonian contributions to knowledge.
 British American Journal, No. 8.
 Van Voorst..... The Geologist, No. 217.
 Lady Franklin..... Proceedings of Nat. His. Soc. pp. 288 a 320.
 Meteorological papers published by Board of
 Trade, No. 4.
 Prof. Hind..... Explorations of Red River.
 Appendices to Journals of Legislature, 5 vols.
 Rev. M. A. Curtis, D.D.. Pamphlet on the woody plants of N. Carolina.
 A. A. Currier List of shells.
 Canada Gazette and other periodicals.
 Dr. McAdam, Hon. Sec.. 3 vols. Transactions Philosophical Institute
 of Victoria.
 Canada Gazette, Journal of Education, and a
 number of pamphlets.
 Arthur Ross, Esq Costumes of Aborigines of America.
 H. G. Vennor, Esq..... Travels in Greece.
 M. J. Mitcheson, Esq.... Map of the United States, shewing the Seced-
 ing States.
 J. C. Trantwine, Esq... Exploration for Canal Route in New Granada.

LIST OF,
LIFE AND ORDINARY MEMBERS
OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MONTREAL,
MAY, 1861.

Life Members.

HUGH ALLAN, ESQ.
THOS. E. BLACKWELL, ESQ.
STANLEY C. BAGG, ESQ,
HENRY CHAPMAN, ESQ.
A. H. DAVID, ESQ., M.D.
W. H. A. DAVIES, ESQ.
WM. EDMONSTONE, ESQ.
HON. JAMES FERRIER, M.L.C.
G. H. FROTHINGHAM, ESQ.
WM. FRASER, ESQ., M.D.
IRA GOULD, ESQ.
HON. L. H. HOLTON.
W. H. HINGSTON, ESQ., M.D.
WM. HOBBS, JR., ESQ.
HENRY J. IBBOTSON, ESQ.
J. H. JOSEPH, ESQ.
SIR WILLIAM E. LOGAN.
JOHN LEEMING, ESQ.
WILLIAM LUNN, ESQ.
HENRY LYMAN, ESQ.
BENJAMIN LYMAN, ESQ.
L. A. H. LATOUR, ESQ.
FRED. McCULLOCH, ESQ.
HON. GEO. MOFFATT.
THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP
OF MONTREAL.
WILLIAM MOLSON, ESQ.
ROBERT MUIR, ESQ.

Life Members—Continued.

JAMES MITCHELL, ESQ.
 J. G. MACKENZIE, ESQ.
 WILLIAM NIVIN, ESQ.
 THOMAS PATON, ESQ.
 DUNCAN ROBERTSON, ESQ.
 ALFRED SAVAGE, ESQ.
 N. S. WHITNEY, ESQ.
 J. H. WINN, ESQ.

Ordinary Members.

ALEXANDER, CHAS.	COURT, JAMES.
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- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
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| SHELTON, E. E. | WILLIAMSON, JAS. |

ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OF

MONTREAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY, 1860.

MONTREAL:
PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.
1860.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OF

MONTREAL

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1880

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JOHN LAUREN ET AL. 110, RUE ST. NICOLAS

1881

THE
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
OF
MONTREAL.

In presenting the customary annual Report, the Council have to congratulate the Society on the marked increase in its usefulness and prosperity in the past year, consequent, in part, on the present commodious and well-placed Building, and in part on the increased numbers and activity of its members.

In the past year the internal arrangements, and furniture of the building, have been completed; large additions have been made to the Museum; many important original investigations have been undertaken by members of the Society, and the results have been published in its proceedings. The annual Somerville course of free lectures has been successfully delivered. These lectures, as well as the ordinary meetings, have been even more largely attended than in former years.

The publication of the *Naturalist* has been carried on with its usual success; and the number of members has steadily increased, while the meetings have been occupied much more fully than formerly, by discussions of a scientific character. These successes have not been attained without much labor and expense; but we have the satisfaction of announcing that the Government and Legislature have, at length, adequately acknowledged the claims

and Provincial utility of the Society, by a grant in aid of its funds.

Of the points above briefly noticed, some require a more detailed mention, which may be given under the following heads:—

ORIGINAL PAPERS READ.

Of the different departments in which the Society endeavors to promote the cause of Canadian science this must be regarded as the chief. We do not desire to undervalue the important work of collecting specimens for our Museum; but it is to be regarded as, in some respects, merely amassing the material on which skilled labor must be expended. The popular exposition of scientific principles in our public lectures is also a valuable means of cultivating the love and pursuit of science. The original investigations, carried on by members of the Society and published by it, must, however, give it its standing among other scientific bodies, and it is by these that the value of its operations will be estimated abroad.

In this important department much has been done in the past year, and the Society has now connected with itself a zealous and constantly increasing band of laborers, who are daily extending the limits of our knowledge of Canadian Natural History and allied subjects.

In the department of Ethnology and social statistics, several valuable communications have been presented to the Society. One, by Principal Dawson, had reference to the art of Pottery, as practised by the aborigines of Canada, and evidenced by an ancient Indian vase in the collection of the Society. Another from an anonymous correspondent, is a very interesting notice of the manners and present condition of the Indian tribes of the McKenzie River, and the Arctic coast of America. Another, prepared by a committee of the Society, relates to certain points of interest connected with the Egyptian antiquities, presented by Mr. Ferrier, and especially to the antiquity and mode of preparation of the mummied remains contained in the collection. A fourth, the most important of the whole, is an elaborate investigation of the vital statistics of Canada, by Mr. P. P. Carpenter, a

paper which, it is hoped, will not be merely a contribution to knowledge, but will give a practical stimulus to the sanitary improvement, so much needed for the comfort and health of the laboring classes in our towns.

In Botany, the Society has received a number of catalogues, which must be regarded as important contributions to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of American plants. The principal are, that of the Holmes Herbarium of the University of McGill College, prepared by the late Prof. Barnston, that of Prescott plants, by Mr. B. Billings, that of the plants of the river Rouge, by Mr. D'Urban, and of the Algæ of the St. Lawrence, by the Rev. Mr. Kemp. In addition to these, we have had very interesting papers on the reproductive system of *Vaucheria*, and on the mode of studying the Algæ, by Mr. Kemp; on the genus *Allium*, as found in Canada, by Mr. G. Barnston; and we may properly add here an interesting biographical sketch of the Great Western explorer, Douglas, by the same author.

In Zoology Mr. Bell has given us the most complete list hitherto published of the marine and fresh-water mollusks and radiates of the St. Lawrence, beside a number of other facts, bearing on the Zoology of that region. Mr. D'Urban has done a similar service for the previously unexplored valley of the River Rouge. Both gentlemen, it is proper to state, are protégés of the head of the Canadian Geological Survey, and have done these services to science under his auspices. Dr. Gibb, of London, an old and valued friend of the Society, has contributed some curious notes on the sounds produced by American insects; and Dr. Dawson has presented to us a complete summary of the natural history of the tubicolous marine worms of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the description of a new Canadian fish, the *Gasterosteus gymnetes*.

Geology is a department always likely to take an important place in the labours of this Society, more especially as the officers of the Geological Survey of Canada are among our most valued and active contributors. In this subject we have to notice three papers by Prof. Dawson, one of the microscopic structures of our Canadian limestones, and on the origin of these great sheets of

calcareous matter in the deposition of the comminuted fragments of shells and corals, another in continuation of the Geology of the tertiary deposits of the lower St. Lawrence, and a third which for the first time brings the Silurian rocks of the peninsula of Nova Scotia into comparison with those of other parts of America. To this last paper, Prof. Hall, of Albany, has added descriptions of the new species of fossils, characteristic of these rocks. Mr. Billings is, as usual, one of our most important contributors. His papers on American Trilobites, on new genera of *Brachiopoda*, on the fossils of the Chazy Limestone, and on new species of fossils from the middle and lower Silurian rocks of Canada, are all steps in advance in Canadian palæontology, of which any Society might be proud to be the medium. We have also to thank Mr. Hunt for contributions to chemical Geology, which if not first published by this Society, have at least through its means been more widely made known in Canada. Lastly, the series of original papers for this session has been fitly closed by the very interesting paper read by Sir W. E. Logan, at the April meeting of the Society, on the extraordinary impressions recently found in the Potsdam sandstone at Perth, C. W., constituting with the singular *Protichnites*, previously discovered by the same geologist, some of the oldest and most wonderful traces of life preserved in our Canadian rocks.

In addition to the original contributions above referred to, many abstracts and reviews of papers and other publications important to Canadian science, have been prepared by members of the Society, and published in the *Naturalist*.

It was deemed proper by the Council to present to His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, on the occasion of his presiding at the meeting of the British Association in Aberdeen, a copy of the *Naturalist* from the commencement. This duty was performed by the President; and the volumes bound in the best style by Mr. Lovell, were presented and graciously received. The correspondence on this subject is appended to the Report.

PUBLICATION OF THE NATURALIST.

The editing committee report that since last annual meeting Vol. IV. has been completed. It consists of 504 pages, 8vo.,

being 24 pages larger than Vol. III., and contains twenty-two original articles presented to, or read before the Society, and written expressly for the Magazine, occupying.....	Pages 217
Fourteen selected articles—many of which, though written for other purposes, were first published in its pages; and others of which were revised and amended by the authors—occupying.....	191
Miscellaneous Matter, nearly all original, as Reviews of Books, Correspondence, and the Society's Reports.....	96

 504

Wood engravings have been as usual, freely furnished by the publishers, who still continue with great liberality to publish the Magazine at some loss to themselves. The Editing Committee regret that the proceedings of the Society have not been so regularly reported in the *Naturalist* as is desirable, and recommend that, in future, this duty be assigned to the Committee.

The circulation of the *Naturalist* has not materially increased: nor do the Committee anticipate any great improvement in this respect, until the Society shall be in such a position as to procure a copy for each of its members, and to distribute the work more extensively in Great Britain, and in foreign countries. The *Naturalist* is doing a most important work in Canada, in stimulating the taste for natural science, and in giving the means of publication to observers; but its value as a medium of publication and as a means of extending the knowledge of Canada and of enlarging its scientific reputation, is much diminished by the restricted circulation abroad, necessitated by the narrow pecuniary circumstances of the Society. A vigorous effort should be made to remove this evil in the coming year, and to secure for the *Naturalist*, now by far the most important representative of the state of Natural Science in Canada, the circulation which its merits demand.

In thanking the Editing Committee for its services, the Council regard it as nothing more than an act of justice to make especial mention of the services of Mr. D. Allan Poe, on whom the immediate editorial superintendence of the *Naturalist* has de-

volved, and to whose skill and unwearied attention much of the success of the publication is due.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

The arrangement and improvement of the Society's collection, have been steadily advancing, and the cabinet-keeper, Mr. Hunter, deserves great credit for the zeal which he has displayed in this, as well as in adding to the collection by preparing and setting up numerous specimens of animals presented to the Society. The report of the Curator, Dr. Fenwick, shows that the number of donations has been very large. The most important of the whole is the Ferrier collection of Egyptian antiquities, which is one of the most attractive features of the collection. As at present arranged, the Society's collection of Canadian birds is remarkably complete and available for reference. The collection of Mammals, though containing a number of good specimens, is still very defective. It is much to be desired that members interested in these subjects, would bring up to the same degree of perfection with the birds, the collection of Canadian Invertebrate Animals, Plants, Fossils and Minerals. In all of these departments there is a great amount of material of little comparative value in consequence of the want of modern scientific arrangement. The aquaria, which we owe to the exertions of Mr. Leeming and Mr. Ferrier, now constitute a portion of our Museum of much interest and some scientific value.

The donations to the Library have been comparatively few, and the state of the Society's funds has not permitted the purchase of books. It is hoped, however, that something may ere long be done in this direction, as the library is now much in want of many of the more modern works on Natural History. There is also a prospect that the Committee appointed to organize a system of exchanges for the *Naturalist*, may be able in this way to procure for us some of the scientific periodicals, not now received by the Society.

It would be of much service to the students of Natural Science in Montreal, were there a mutual understanding between the institutions having libraries of reference on science, as, for instance, the McGill College, the Board of Arts and Manufactures, the

Geological Survey, and this Society, that in ordering books the one should endeavor, as far as possible, to supplement the deficiencies of the others. The subject is worthy of the attention of the Library Committee in the coming year.

PUBLIC LECTURES.

The Somerville course for the past year consisted of the following Lectures :—

- 1.—On the uses and advantages of Foreign Travel, by the President, the Lord Bishop of Montreal.
- 2.—On Crystallization as a force in Nature, by Principal Dawson.
- 3.—On the History of Astronomy, by Prof. Johnson.
- 4.—On the Microscope, by T. D. King, Esq.
- 5.—On the Oyster, by J. Leeming, Esq.
- 6.—On Mountains and Volcanoes, by Prof. Hunt.

In addition to the ordinary Course, the exhibition of the Ferrier collection furnished the occasion of two interesting lectures on the present and ancient state of Egypt, for which we have to thank the Rev. Prof. Cornish and Mr. R. W. Ferrier.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Treasurer's accounts for the past year still exhibit the effects of the increased expenditure attendant on the removal of the Society to its new building, on which there also remains a debt, secured by mortgage and note, of £850. The Society is now, however, owing to its improved accommodation, in a position much more efficiently to carry out its objects, to increase its membership, and to merit that support from the public and the Legislature, which there is now good reason to expect.

In the coming year the Legislative aid and members' fees will suffice to meet all the unpaid accounts and interest of the debt, and to provide for the current expenses; and it is hoped that in subsequent years, by economical management, some reduction of the debt may be effected, and means reserved for additions to the Library, and for more extensively promoting the circulation of the proceedings of the Society abroad.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

Toward the close of the last Session two important branches of the operations of the Society were initiated, in the organization of a Microscopical Section, and in the appointment of a Committee on adulterations of articles of food. They have not as yet reported to the Council, but they are warmly commended to the fostering care of our successors.

It is the practice in most Societies similar to this, that an address on the progress of science in connection with the Society should be prepared and delivered by the President at the Annual Meeting. This has usually been done by us in an imperfect manner in the report of the Council; but the operations of the Society are now so important that this can scarcely any longer suffice, and your Council, therefore, recommend that in future it shall be considered as a part of the duty of the retiring President, and, in his absence, of the 1st Vice-President, to prepare an address for the Annual Meeting, including notices of the papers read and of the other operations of the Society. The report of the Council will then be confined to the business affairs of the Society.

The approaching visit of His R. H. the Prince of Wales will demand on the part of our successors an effort to represent as effectually as possible those departments of Canadian science which specially belong to the Province of this Society. This especially merits attention, inasmuch as the Board of Arts and Manufactures has selected for its exhibition building the ground adjoining that occupied by the Society. Our collections will thus be brought under the notice of a much larger number of visitors than usual, and it is possible that some arrangement might be made for rendering our museum still more useful by opening it as a part of the Great Exhibition to be held on that occasion.

PRESENTATION OF THE "NATURALIST" TO H. R. H
PRINCE ALBERT.

SEE HOUSE, *Montreal*, May 6, 1859.

SIR,—At a recent meeting of the Incorporated Montreal Natural History Society, I was requested to forward to you the accompanying volumes of a bi-monthly periodical issued by that Society

entitled the "Canadian Naturalist," which they desire, through you, to be allowed respectfully to offer to H.R.H. the Prince Consort. The different articles in the magazine are written by the members of the Montreal Natural History Society, and the plates are executed and the work printed and bound in this city. It may, therefore, be considered as a specimen of the progress that is making here in Natural Science and in the Arts. And from the interest which His Royal Highness takes in receiving things connected with these matters, and as he is himself to be President at the ensuing meeting of the British Association for the advancement of Science, we are led to believe that these volumes will meet with a favorable reception.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

(Signed,) F. MONTREAL.

Vice-President of the Montreal Natural History Society.

To the Right Hon.

Sir E. BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Toronto, July 23, 1859.

MY LORD,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 6th of May.

I have the honor to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

(Signed,) R. T. PENNEFATHER.

The Right Rev.

The LORD BISHOP of Montreal.

[Copy, Canada, No. 4.]

DOWNING STREET,

27th June, 1859.

SIR,—My predecessor in this Department received from the Bishop of Montreal, as Vice-President of the Natural History Society of Montreal, a letter dated the 6th of May last, accompanied by volumes of a periodical issued by the Society, entitled the "Canadian Naturalist," which they desired to offer to his Royal Highness the Prince Consort.

His Royal Highness has requested that the expression of His Royal Highness's best thanks may be conveyed to the Bishop of Montreal, and to the Society over which he presides, for the valuable work which they have sent to him, and the assurance of the high value which he shall attach to these volumes as the sign of the cultivation of the Sciences and Arts in the important North American Colonies of Her Majesty.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES OF THE NATURAL
HISTORY SOCIETY.

1st May, 1860.

Sundry open accounts,.....	\$ 673 97
Interest due on Mortgages.....	257 50
Balance due Treasurer,.....	126 28
The Society's note due July 11, 1860,.....	1000 00
Mortgage favor of Wm. Watson, Esq.,.....	400 00
Do. do. Wm. Nivin, Esq.,.....	2000 00
	<hr/>
	\$4457 75

JAMES FERRIER, JR.,
Treasurer.

Montreal, 1st May, 1860.

List of Donations to the Library and Museum of the Natural History Society of Montreal, from 1st June, 1859, to 3rd October, 1860.

- Mr. James Milne,..... The Annual of Scientific Discovery for 1851, 1852 and 1853.
- G. D. Watson, Esq.,.... Dictionnaire des Arbitrages des Changes, 2 vols.
- Mrs. Ramsay,..... Papers relating to the Nat. History Society.
- Geo. Molson, Esq.,..... Travels in Upper and L. Egypt, by Tourrens.
- Lady Franklin,..... Fourth number of the Meteorological Papers published by the Board of Trade.
- East India Company,... Bombay Meteorological Register for 1859.
- Essex Institute,..... Series of their Historical Collections.
- Society of Antiquaries, Transactions of the Societé Royale des Antiquaries du Nord.
- Wm. Spink, Esq.,..... Geological Reports.
- Statutes of Canada, 1860.
- Exploration of Red River, by Professor Hind.
- Appendices to the Journals of the Legislature. 5 vols.
- The Authors,..... The Lower Coal Measures as developed in British North America, by Dr. Dawson.
- On the Silurian and Devonian Rocks of Nova Scotia, by Dr. Dawson.
- Description of Canadian Fossils, by Prof. James Hall, Albany.
- Notes on the Coal Fields of Pictou, by Henry Poole.
- New localities of Silurian Fossils in Nova Scotia, by Rev. Dr. Honeyman.
- The Natural History of Washington Territory from the Smithsonian contributions to knowledge.
- Lyceum of Natural History, New York,..... Their Annual Nos. 1, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 13.
- Boston Nat. Hist. Society, Their proceedings.
- The Publisher,..... British American Journal.
- Journal of the Canadian Institute.
- S. Jones Lyman,..... Specimen of Striped Bill-Fish. (*Lepidosteus*.)
- Do. Spider Crab.
- Do. Lepidosteus.
- John Leeming, Esq.,.... Do. the Peleated Woodpecker.
- A live specimen of the Soft-Shelled Turtle. (*Aspidonectes spinifer*.)
- James Ferrier, jr., Esq.,.. A Sebright Bantam.
- A Java Sparrow.
- A Red-breasted Merganser.
- John Leeming, Esq.,.... Two Busts of Scott and Byron.
- Thomas Keefer, Esq.,... Three Silver Coins found in building the Lock and Dam at St. Ours, in 1851.
- A. Wurtele, Esq.,..... Specimen of wood gnawed by Beavers.
- Dr. Dawson,..... Specimens of Lepas and Balanus found in dredging at Portland.

- Duncan Robertson, Esq., Specimens of Native Cloth from Tahiti.
 R. S. Fowler,..... Specimens of Shells from the Stomach of a
 Flounder.
 George Buntin, Esq.,.... A pair of Black Ducks.
 Specimen of the Eared Grebe.
 Do. Wilson's Snipe.
 A young Duck Hawk.
 Mr. Marler,..... A Barred Owl.
 Mr. Cunningham,..... Specimens of Copper Ore from Acton.
 Thos. E. Blackwell, Esq., A large Bust of the late Dr. Buckland.
 Mr. W. Hunter,..... Specimens of the American Gold Fish.
 French Notes and Coins.
 A pair of Golden-crowned Thrushes.
 A young Bittern caught near Lachine.
 Specimen of the Jumping Mouse. *Meriones*
(jaculus) acadicus.
 Specimen of Short Legged Pewitt Fly-Catcher
 (Female.)
 Specimen of the Female Indigo Bird.
 J. A. Perkins, Esq.,.... A large specimen of Mica from the Ottawa.
 Anonymous,..... Three Vials of small Shells.