

ELEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.



Montreal :

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL, PLACE D'ARMES.

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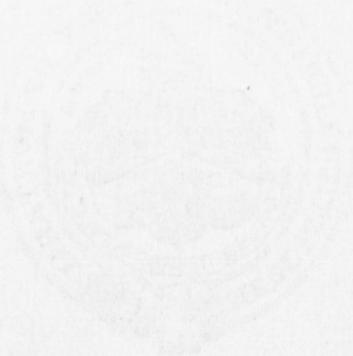
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

THE FACULTY OF THE

MONTANA



1901

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Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.

PATRON.

The Right Honorable Earl of Elgin and Kincardine.

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SAMUEL BURLAND.....*Vice-President.*
JOHN MACPHERSON.....*Corresponding Secretary.*
W. P. CANTWELL.....*Recording Secretary.*
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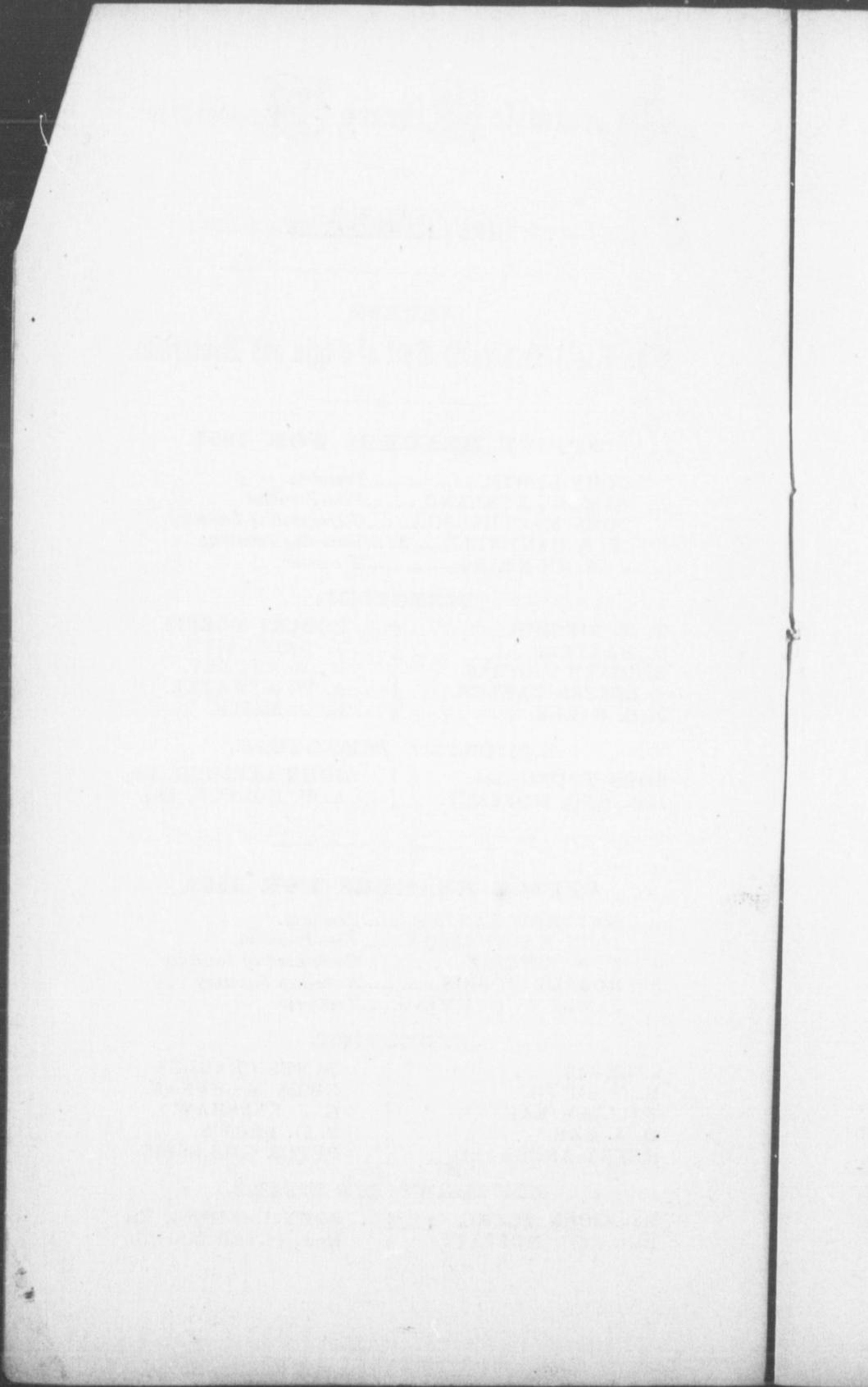
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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
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MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

At the close of another year, the Board of Direction of the Mercantile Library Association has the pleasing duty of presenting the Members with a Report of its proceedings during the past year.

It must be gratifying to every Member of the Association, to perceive the steady progress which the Association continues to make.

That the prosperity of the Association is altogether attributable to the zeal and assiduity with which your Board has prosecuted its various duties, its Members can hardly flatter themselves. It is rather owing to the harmony and good feeling which has existed among the Members of the Association, and their general desire to promote its interests.

The removal of the Rooms of the Association to the present central situation, has in no small degree tended to increase the number of subscribers,—a step which your Board feels persuaded has met with the hearty concurrence and approbation of all.

An economical mode of rendering the temperature of the Rooms more agreeable than by stoves, combined with much greater convenience to the Superintendent, has been introduced. This arrangement will, no doubt, during the winter months, add materially to the comfort of subscribers, as well as tend to make the Rooms a more desirable place of public resort.

Your Board being desirous of diminishing as much as possible the current expenses of the Association, have discontinued the order to Messrs. Wilmer & Smith to supply the Rooms with the several English Reviews and Periodicals, hitherto furnished by them; and have made arrangements for a regular supply of the American re-prints of the same, which are now obtained at less than half the former cost.

Telegraphic intelligence has been furnished to the Rooms, and the expenses defrayed by special subscription. Thus the Members have been supplied with an advantage, which has not previously been enjoyed. At the usual semi-annual meeting, Mr. Benning was kind enough to dispose, by Auction, of the various newspapers, not fyled.—No other business of importance was transacted.

In the month of May, a Soirée was held in connexion with the Association, at the "Hays' House." This being a season when the majority of the Members were unavoidably prevented from attending, some explanation may be deemed necessary, why arrangements at an earlier period were not made. A month previous to the date on which the Soiree was held, a suitable room was procured, and all preliminary arrangements completed, when at the eleventh hour, your Board was informed that circumstances prevented its obtaining the use of the Room in question. At this advanced stage, several tickets had been disposed of, and consequently it became impossible for the Board to take a retrograde step; and it therefore engaged another Room at the earliest possible date thereafter.

Your Board did not lose sight of the desire expressed by several Members of the Association, that the services of able lecturers from the United States should be obtained. Its efforts have not been so successful as was anticipated. The Board did not feel justified, upon its own responsibility, in engaging the services of a Professional Lecturer, as the expenses attending such an

engagement would be much greater than existing circumstances would warrant.

The Room in which we now meet, has been furnished with the view of hereafter being a Lecture Room for the Association, thereby rendering it no longer necessary to incur the expense hitherto so much felt, and thus placing the Association in this respect, in a better pecuniary position than heretofore.

By the Treasurer's Report, it will be seen, that at no period in the history of the Association, has it presented so encouraging a prospect, notwithstanding the fact, that in no previous year has the Association been called upon to meet so many demands of several years standing.

Your Board cannot close these preliminary remarks, without observing,—that, had the Association not sustained a heavy loss in consequence of the want of public interest in the Lectures delivered during the last season, and the withdrawal of a few of its Members—your Treasurer would be able to present a still more favorable report; and your Board cannot but avail itself of the present opportunity of suggesting to its successors, that the most rigid economy should be observed in the Printing and Advertising Departments, as it may be seen, by your present, as well as your former Treasurer's accounts, that these two items form no inconsiderable portion of the expenses heretofore incurred by the Association.

In drawing your attention more particularly to the several Departments of the Association, your Board would first notice

THE READING ROOM.

The interest felt, in this Department, is rapidly increasing. No efforts, consistent with due economy, have been wanting to make the Reading Room all that the Members could desire. Some papers have been discontinued, but in all instances, others deemed more desirable, have been substituted. In the Reviews and

Magazines Department, but slight changes have been introduced. The following lists will at once show the changes in both, as compared with last year.

NEWSPAPERS.

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

REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

Edinburgh Quarterly, North British, and Westminster Reviews; Blackwood's Magazine; Hunt's Merchant's Magazine; Literary Garland; Chambers' Edinburgh Journal; Household Words; Montreal Medical and Physical Journal; Journal of Agriculture.

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

Montreal Witness.....	By John Dougall, Esq.
Montreal Transcript.....	“ D. M'Donald, Esq.
True Witness.....	“ Geo. E. Clarke, Esq.
Temperance Advocate.....	“ J. C. Becket, Esq.
Canada Official Gazette.....	“ The Publishers.
Moniteur Canadien.....	“ J. G. DeMontigny, Esq.
Sherbrooke Gazette.....	“ R. M'Donell, Esq.
Medical Journal.....	“ Dr. Hall.

Glasgow Farmer's Gazette.....	By J. Aitken, Esq.
L'Avenir	" The Publishers.
New York Sun	" Messrs. Beach & Co.
Christian Enquirer.....	" L. H. Holton, Esq.
Independent	" Theodore Lyman, Esq.
Toronto Examiner	" Rev. Dr. Davies.
St Johns (C.E.) News.....	" — M'Donnell, Esq.
Cornwall Constitutional.....	" John Campbell, Esq.
Cornwall Freeholder.....	" Mr. John Macpherson.
Western Planet.....	" Richard Blackwood, Esq.
LeSemeur Canadien	" Edward Roe, Esq.
North British Advertiser.....	" A Friend.

THE LIBRARY.

By the last Report, the number of books then in the Library is stated to have been 3866. Your Board regrets that in consequence of the numerous demands upon the Treasurer, it has not been practicable to make any additions thereto, as it was deemed more prudent to extricate the Association from its embarrassments.

The number of Volumes issued during the past year amounts to 1942, and of readers to 203.

The following donations of Books have been made to the Association during the past year:—4 volumes of Hildreth's History of the United States, by F. Frothingham, Esq.; London Post Office Directory, by H. E. Montgomerie, Esq., and 2 volumes of Nesbitt's Heraldry, by a Friend of the Association.

To the liberality of these gentlemen the Association must feel much indebted.

LECTURES.

Although in the other departments of the Institution there is no discouraging feature, it is the duty of the Board to record the apparent indifference with which this mode of communicating knowledge is regarded.

The thanks of the Association are due to the following gentlemen who lectured before the Association during last season.

The following is the order in which these Lectures were delivered:—

Discoveries during the Past Year...	S. C. Sewell, Esq., M.D.
Modern Civilization	Christopher Dunkin, Esq.
History of Switzerland.....	Rev. John Cordner.
Natural History.....	G. D. Gibb, Esq, M.D.
True Liberty.....	E. G. Penny, Esq.
Popular Superstitions as affected by	
Civilization.....	W. G. Mack, Esq.
The Legal Relations of Insanity....	B. Chamberlain, Esq., B.C.S.
French Mind.....	W. P. Cantwell, Esq.
Liberty of the Press	Rev. J. M. Cramp, D.D.
English Language and its Dialects...	J. Leeming, Esq.
Commercial Policy of Nations.....	W. Bristow, Esq.
The Classics.....	Rev. F. H. Marling.
Phantasms	W. Wright, Esq., M.D.
Ancient Hebrews, as promoters of	
the Arts and Sciences.....	Rev. A. DeSola.

CLASSES.

At the organization of this Institution, it was thought that the formation of classes, for the study of the French Language, Mathematics, and other useful and scientific subjects, should be formed. From time to time attempts have been made to form these classes, but it cannot be discovered that at any period of the history of the Association, they were attended with success; yet the Board believes, that should a vigorous attempt be again made, it is extremely probable, from the central position of the Rooms, it would meet with success.

MUSEUM.

On this department your Board has no remarks to make. No additions have been made to it for some years; and no doubt if a greater interest in it is not taken by some of the Members, it will soon cease to be a department of the Association.

The Members of the Association are as follows :

Life Members	53
Honorary	27
Merchants	170
Senior Clerks	121
Junior Clerks	84

Total..... 455

The duties of the Superintendent have been performed to the satisfaction of the Board; and he is entitled to your commendation for the care taken by him of the property of the Association.

In bringing its Report to a close, your Board can review the progress of the Association during the past year with much satisfaction. It is true that the accession of members has not been so great as might reasonably have been expected; yet, taking into consideration the various difficulties with which in former years the Association has had to contend, and contrasting its present position with its past, your Board has no hesitation in saying, that with ordinary economy and proper management, the course of the Institution will be onward and upward, so that, ere long, we shall have the satisfaction of assembling in our own Rooms, where still greater advantages may be enjoyed.

Your Board now resigns the trust committed to its charge into your hands, and ventures to hope that its efforts to promote the interests of the Association, although not by any means so great as it could have wished, have met with your approbation.

JOHN LEWIS, *President.*

W. P. CANTWELL, *Secretary.*

Montreal, November 24, 1851.

Dr. Mercantile Library Association in account with James W. Cumming, Treasurer. Cr.

1851.		1851.	
To Cash paid for Rent	£45 2 0	By Balance brought from last Report.....	£5 18 9
“ “ “ Magazines, Papers, Printing, &c... ..	110 14 2½	“ Donations	26 5 0
“ “ “ Postages	14 15 3	“ Subscriptions (Merchants).....	189 17 8½
“ “ “ Superintendent and Boy	105 0 0	“ “ (Senior Clerks).....	126 15 0
“ “ “ for Fuel.....	2 3 5½	“ “ (Junior Clerks).....	33 6 8
“ “ “ Gas.....	32 11 1	“ Admissions to Lectures.....	6 8 6½
“ “ “ Insurance.....	3 10 0	“ Sale of Catalogues.....	1 1 0
“ “ “ on account of John Young's Note.....	13 19 3	“ Newspapers Sold	9 3 8
“ “ “ for Sundry Accounts.....	69 16 9	“ Rent of Room.....	0 10 0
“ Balance due Mercantile Library Association.....	3 16 2	“ Library Railing Sold.....	2 0 0
	<hr/>	“ Proceeds from Soiree	0 1 10
	£401 8 2		<hr/>
			£401 8 2
		By Balance due Mercantile Library Association.....	£3 16 2

JAMES W. CUMMING, Treasurer.

Montreal, November 24, 1851.