

Avec les compléments du Major Latour

REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL

OF THE

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

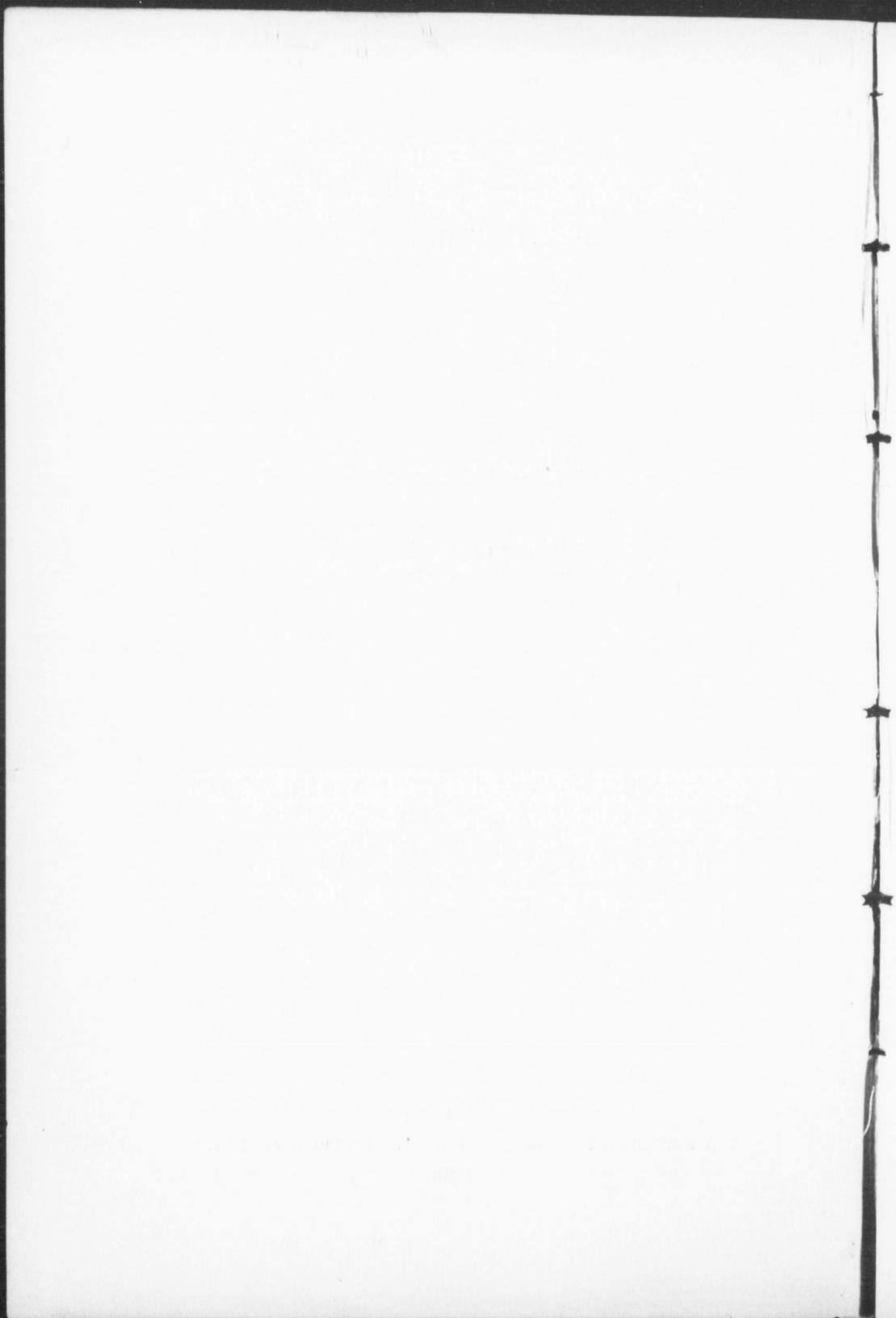
OF MONTREAL,

FOR THE YEAR 1859.

Montreal :

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1859.



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
FOR THE YEAR 1859.

THE revolving year having again brought round the period for the annual meeting of this Society, your Council have, in accordance with custom and constitutional requirements, to report:

That, during the past year, the Building in Little St. James Street, occupied and owned for so many years by the Society, has been sold, and the proceeds applied towards the erection of a more suitable edifice, on ground acquired on advantageous terms from the Governors of McGill College. The new building is situated in the most rapidly increasing part of the city, and contains an extensive *Museum, Lecture room, Library, and Keeper's apartments.*

By the Report of the Curator and Librarian, it will be seen that the specimens and books were removed to the new building in February last, and that, on the 23rd of that month, it was formally opened to the public by a *conversazione*, at which many of our most distinguished citizens were present. The specimens have since been more perfectly arranged, and are now undergoing cleansing and repairing by the Cabinet-keeper, Mr. Hunter. Owing to the increased accommodation which the

Museum affords, your Council recommend that steps be taken for increasing the contributions to it. Similar Societies ought to be communicated with, respecting an interchange of duplicate specimens, of which there is a large number in your collection, and corresponding and ordinary members be advised that donations will be acceptable and publicly acknowledged. Among the additions now being made to the Museum, your Council deem the *Aquarian* and *Microscopic departments* deserving of special notice.

By the Treasurer's Report, it appears that the cost of the new building has been \$10,553.75; and that the debt still due upon it is about \$3,600, of which \$2,400 is secured by mortgage, and the balance, \$1,200, including some accounts not yet settled, exists as a floating debt.

The assistance and countenance afforded to similar institutions by European Governments, led your Council to believe that, in a new country like this, the natural resources of which require to be developed, and the tone and character of its society formed, the Legislature, to whom an application was made, would cheerfully have aided the efforts of your Society in effecting these desirable ends. But such has not been the case, and, therefore, your Council, impressed with the belief that the pursuits of the natural sciences and literature, are not yet fully appreciated here, take this occasion of directing public attention to the pleasure, instruction, and recreation to be derived from them.

Whoever has experienced the harass and fatigue of spirit arising from close application of the mental powers for any lengthened time to one absorbing and anxious object, must have felt the craving of the mind for some new occupation, which, by a healthful change, might relieve the fatigue and weariness of the overwrought and over-exerted mental organs. This relief is not always to be obtained by absolute rest. The mere cessation of exertion does not satisfy to fill the void created by long and tiring labor on an exclusive subject. Again, when from illness, misfortune, or any other cause, the laborious man of business, or the diligent student, is incapacitated for his accustomed pursuits, how depressing is the languor which attends him in his retirement, unless he has some intellectual resources on which to

exercise his otherwise inert and useless powers! Accustomed to other exertions in his ordinary avocations, if he be deprived of these, and no substitute presents itself to take their place, the mind will become wearied and depressed from the very absence of healthy exercise and employment. And if still farther, through success in his avocation, the approach of age finds him retiring from his wonted stirring occupation, and hoping, after a life spent in the exercise of active duties, to enjoy the blessings of a competency in that rest from labor, which to a mind well regulated and stored with intellectual resources, constitutes the height of earthly enjoyment, and a precious auxiliary means of preparation for the great change to which he is hastening; and if there be no store of intellectual treasure—no pursuit in science or literature to occupy the leisure days and years that remain to him, how listless, at the best, and how full of misery is the interval allotted to him between the cessation of his active employment and the end of his earthly career! These considerations show how important it is to provide a rational and intellectual amusement and relaxation in the intervals of business—in the time of illness or misfortune, and in retirement after the ordinary duties and avocations of life are over.

Of the desireableness of such a provision we have unhappily but too many proofs, in the sad and even fatal results of its neglect. The instances are not few, in which persons suddenly deprived of fortune fly to the stimulus of drink to drown their misery, or become the prey of incurable dejection;—nor of those who retire from business with a competency, hoping to enjoy the remainder of their days in comfort and pleasure, but finding themselves disappointed, become equally afflicted with the *tedium vitæ*. On the other hand many examples might be quoted to show how possible it is, without in any way interfering with the ordinary duties of life, to acquire such a knowledge of science or literature as will prove a healthful recreation, not only to the individual but to those around him. Of all the studies calculated to effect that purpose, perhaps that of the natural sciences, and especially of those, usually designated by the term of Natural History, have the highest claim on a community like ours. The animal and

vegetable kingdoms, the rocks and the mountains, are open to the investigation of all. The fields and the forest—the lake and the river, as well as the atmosphere we breathe, teem with myriads of beings, the study of whose beautiful forms, structures, functions, habits, modes of formation and distribution is full of interest and instruction, and clearly indicate the endless design and boundless power of the Creator. The Animalcule, whose dwelling is the leaf of a plant, is as perfect in its organization as the most gigantic monster that ploughs the deep or roams the forest. The historiology of the most tiny plant is equally complicated with that of the aged oak. Of no less interest is the study of the rocks that constitute the crust of our earth. The study of both the organic and inorganic kingdoms is indeed a never failing source of instruction and rational amusement in times of leisure, depression or real sorrow.

The Course of Lectures annually delivered under the auspices of the Society commenced on the 1st day of March and were well attended by the public.

- The Introductory Lecture was delivered by the President,—Principal Dawson.
- 2 Lecture—Tuesday, 8th March—By Rev. Dr. De Sola. Subject: "Scripture Zoology."
- 3 Lecture—Tuesday, 15th March—By W. H. Hingston, M.D. Subject: "Climate of Canada."
- 4 Lecture—Tuesday, 22nd March—By Rev. A. F. Kemp. Subject: "Fresh Water Algae."
- 5 Lecture—Tuesday, 29th March—By Professor S. P. Robins. Subject: "Force."
- 6 Lecture—Tuesday, 5th April—By the Lord Bishop. Subject: "State and prospects of Science and Literature in Montreal."

The Council feel deeply indebted to these gentlemen for their valuable services, and congratulate the Society on the growing interest taken in the lectures by the public, as evinced by the large attendances. They have also much pleasure in referring to the unusually interesting papers which have been read at the ordinary monthly meetings.

The Council have likewise to make special mention of the services of Dr. Fenwick, the Curator and Librarian, in superintending

the removal and arrangement of the Library and Museum, and of the exertions of the Recording Secretary, Mr. John Leeming, and the Treasurer, Mr. James Ferrier, jr., more especially in the erection of the new building.

The Council report with pleasure that, during this session of Parliament, the Society has been able to secure such amendments in its charter of incorporation as have long been desired, and which will enable it to act with freedom and energy in carrying out its legitimate purposes; and the thanks of this Society are due to C. Dunkin, Esq., M.P.P., for his very able and disinterested action in this matter, and in superintending the progress of the Bill through Parliament.

The Council have resolved that the By-Laws, with as correct a list as can be made out of Honorary and Corresponding Members, shall be published with the Annual Report.

Finally, the Council, in resigning their charge, beg to express their sanguine expectations respecting the future progress and usefulness of your Society as a scientific and literary institution. They feel assured, that its utility and position only require to be properly explained to this liberal and enterprising community in order to obtain that support which it really requires and undoubtedly deserves.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

We beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Library and Museum. The Librarian reports, that in the month of August last, he inspected the journals, transactions of societies, and other loose papers, the property of this Society, and on the occasion of the August meeting, submitted for consideration a hastily drawn up report of the many missing numbers of periodicals, and also recommended that all periodicals and papers worth preserving should be bound at the termination of each year.

It is actually necessary that the by-laws regarding the removal of books be strictly enforced. Members have hitherto been in the habit of taking books from the library, and retaining them in their possession for months, if not years, and, as a consequence many works of great value have been lost.

Early in February, the library and museum were removed to this building. During this removal, Mr. D'Urbain, the sub-curator, rendered efficient service, and in the subsequent arrangement of the specimens and library, much assistance was rendered by our President, Principal Dawson, Mr. D'Urbain, and other gentlemen, who gave considerable time towards that desired end.

Since the occupancy of this building, the Society have secured the valuable services of Mr. William Hunter, who has, since his appointment, opened all the cases of birds and animals, thoroughly cleansed the specimens, and re-arranged many of them. He has also set up between 90 and 100 new specimens which have been added to our collection.

The Curator further draws attention to the many duplicate specimens of birds, both American and foreign, fossils, minerals, &c., which, by judicious exchange, would secure many objects which are not in our collection.

The accommodation afforded in the spacious hall of this building is, for the present, more than sufficient, there being room for a much larger collection than we at present possess.

It is to be hoped that members interested in the welfare of this Society will not neglect any opportunity of sending specimens for preservation, so as to render, as far as possible, the collection in the various branches of Natural History complete.

These views would be more fully carried out were the members of this Society to form themselves into sub-branches, each being devoted to some special department of Natural History. This would tend to augment our collection and increase the usefulness of the Society as a whole.

REPORT OF THE EDITING COMMITTEE.

The third volume (1858) of "The Canadian Naturalist; and proceedings of the Natural History Society of Montreal," the editing of which was entrusted to this Committee, has been completed. It has been published in numbers every two month's with much regularity. It contains twenty-five original articles, presented to the Society by its members or correspondents, and prepared expressly for the magazine. These articles, for the most part, per-

tain to scientific affairs within the Province of Canada, and embrace original investigations and discoveries in the departments of Geology, Zoology, and Botany. Thirteen articles on topics of interest to the Science of this country have been selected from the valuable reports of the Geological survey of Canada, and from the Scientific Journals of Britain and the United States. The chief scientific books which have been published during the year have been either reviewed or noticed, and described with discrimination and care. Numerous scientific gleanings and communications have also been published, which, though not ranking as articles, were yet in great part original. The volume is illustrated with two steel engravings and many original wood cuts of much interest and virtue. For the engravings the editors are indebted to the geological survey, and they desire to acknowledge with thanks, the valuable assistance they have ever received from Sir Wm. E. Logan and his staff.

The number of copies published of each issue is eight hundred and fifty. Free copies are sent to most of the Scientific Societies of Europe and America, for which several exchanges are received and will be acknowledged in their proper place. The editors would, however note, that the number of copies published is greater than the number of subscribers, and therefore urge upon the members and friends of the Society to do what they can to extend the circulation of the magazine. It is quite indispensable to the promotion of science in this province, and its discontinuance would be felt as a great loss and discouragement. The Society is much indebted to our excellent publishers, Messrs. B. Dawson & Son, for the uniform liberality with which they have provided for the printing and illustrating of the magazine. The editors are also happy to say that the publishers intimate their present determination to undertake all the risks of publication, so long as the Society will provide the editors and contribute the articles.

The first two numbers of vol. iv. have been issued, and the third number is in course of preparation. The editors cannot conclude this report without thanking the contributors for their past services, and expressing a hope that the interest and excellence of the magazine will be sustained in the year to come, and will meet with

increased encouragement from the educated people of this province.

PARTICULARS OF COST OF NEW BUILDING IN UNIVERSITY STREET.

Carpenter Work,.....	\$4300 00
Stone and Brick Work,.....	2700 00
Bricks,.....	742 70
Plastering,	585 90
Painting,	508 07
Iron Pillars, Castings, and Iron Pipes,.....	519 00
Gas and Water Fixtures,.....	400 00
Excavating,	203 73
Piling,	85 60
Seats,	210 00
Stoves and Fixtures,.....	57 33
Labor, watching, and sundry small accounts,.....	241 42
Superintendent's commission,.....	235 00
Fuel,	208 45

\$10997 20

Montreal, 2nd May, 1859.

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

C.R.

Dr.

RECAPITULATION.

May 2, 1859.			
To cash paid salaries,.....	\$204 20		
“ commissions,.....	30 00		
“ fuel,.....	56 40		
“ gas and water,.....	78 15		
“ interest,.....	616 00		
“ express charges,.....	8 79		
“ advertising and printing,.....	113 83		
“ insurance,.....	58 00		
“ notarial expenses,.....	47 00		
“ incidental “.....	53 73		
“ Mrs. Blythe's mortgage on building in Little St. James Street,.....	1600 00		
“ in erection of new building in University Street, as per statement,.....	10997 20		
	<u>\$13863 30</u>		
		May 2, 1859.	
		By balance in Treasurer's hands,.....	172 87
		“ cash received from L'Institut Canadien Français, on account of building in Little St. James street,.....	2000 00
		“ cash received from William Nivin, sale of mortgage on building in Little St. James street,.....	2400 00
		“ cash received from Trustees Cunyngame, sale of balance of mortgage on building in Little St. James street,.....	3600 00
		“ cash received from Local Committee, American Association, on account,.....	800 00
		“ do. William Nivin, on mortgage of new building in University street,.....	2000 00
		“ cash, life-member subscription, new building,.....	1620 00
		“ cash donations to ditto,.....	60 00
		“ cash subscriptions and diplomas,.....	491 00
		“ balance due Treasurer,.....	719 43
			<u>\$13863 30</u>

11

E. and O. excepted.

Montreal, 2nd May, 1859.

Examined and found correct.

JAMES FERRIER, JR.,
Treasurer.

W. H. A. DAVIES, }
HENRY ROSE, } Committee of Audit.

May 17, 1859.

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM
OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
1858, 1859.

Large Egg; from Mr. Ewing.

Specimen of a Neuropterous Insect; by Charles Sharpley, Esq.

The following from Alex. Bell, of Euphemia, through Edward Little, of Newburg, C. W.:—

1. A Wart taken from the root of a soft-maple tree (*Acer. dasycarpum*) fully 26 feet from the living trunk, the root to which it was attached not exceeding one inch in diameter at its juncture in either end. 1856.
 2. An Arrow nearly one yard in length, one of a full quiver of fifty from Upper California, now in possession of a gentleman who, after being pierced with two of them, despatched the Indian and brought the bow and arrow home. The quiver is made of tanned deerskin, with the hair on. The arrow is made of two different kinds of wood and spliced very neatly; it is also barbed with three feathers. The stone head is remarkably sharp and smartly made.
 3. An Oak Deer-bleat, given to the donor by the Indian Shauriabee in 1846, and stated by him to be his own manufacture.
 4. A Stone Arrow-head $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, found ten feet under ground on Lot 21, Euphemia, C. W., shewing a striking analogy between the Californian and Canadian weapon.
 5. Pn Oval Stone Hatchet about 4 inches long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, well polished and perforated across its breadth, the aperture half an inch in width. The stone is a very jaspersy slate, transversely marked with natural lines. This instrument was obtained in 1854 below the surface of the ground on the margin of the River Sydenham, Lot 12, First Concession, Brooke, C. W.
 6. A Horse's Tooth. For particulars see page 317 of the *Naturalist* for August, 1858.)
 7. A piece of fossiliferous limestone from Newburg, C. W.
A true specimen of *Datura Wrightii Metalloides*; from William Lunn, Esq.
- Snout of a Sword-fish; from Captain Lafontaine.
A Thermometer; from Dr. Gibb, London.
Two portions of Strata from bed of the St. Lawrence; from Captain Dutton.

- Two specimens of *Coronula Diadema* from whales in the Gulf of St Lawrence; from Principal Dawson.
- Twenty-one Chinese Tiles; from Dr. Gibb, London.
- Box of Ores; from — Wilgress, Esq.
- A Box of Specimens from Pompeii; from Dr. W. Jones.
- A Belt-plate of the Royal 60th Regiment; from ditto.
- The Rattle of a Rattlesnake; from ditto.
- Bamboo or Cane-stick, with curious knotted head (from the Mauritius); from ditto.
- Fossil Plants from Devonian Rocks of Gaspé; from Principal Dawson, President of the Society.
- Ancilopt Furcifer*, from the plains of the Saskatchewan; from Geo. Barnston, Esq.
- Tetrao Richardsoni*, male and female, from the Rocky Mountains, lat. 65 degrees N.; from ditto.
- Embryo Salmon; from James Ferrier, Jr., Esq.
- A Concretion from the Caen stone used in the construction of the new English Cathedral; from Mr. Hutchinson, builder,

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

OF THE

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

1858, 1859.

- Translated Report of a recent Meeting of a Philosophical Society in Germany; by Mr. Gordon.
- Description of New Fossils from Coal Measures of Missouri and Kansas; by T. Shumard and G. C. Swallow.
- Pamphlet on Grape Culture in Missouri; by G. C. Swallow, Esq.
- A set of Presidents' Anniversary Addresses, delivered before the Geological Society of London from 1846 to 1857 (the years 1847 and 1851 excepted); from Dr. Gibb, London.
- Proceedings of the Essex (U. S.) Institute, Vol. II., Part I., 1856 to 1857; from the Institute.
- Reply to the Statement of the Trustees of the Dudley University, U. S.; from Benjamin Aythorp Gould, Jr.
- Relations des Jésuits; from the Government of Canada.
- The Journal of Education; The Canada Official Gazette; Journals of Legislative Assembly; Medical Chronicle; The Statutes of Canada.