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NIAGÀRA LIBRARY, 1800–1820.

By Janet Carnochan. .

(Read 6th January, 1894.)

It says much for the members of any community when we find them providing reading of a high literary order, and especially would this be the case, at the beginning of this century, among a band of refugees just emerged from a great struggle, with the forest around them and everything speaking of a new country and all that is implied in this.

When by the merest chance, some months ago, I laid my hand upon an old, brown, leather-covered Record Book, I had no idea of the rich treat it was to prove. To my astonishment, by dint of much patient study of its thick, yellow pages covered with writing, though large yet very difficult to read, it was shown that in this old town of Niagara in those early days there was a most valuable public library well supported, the accounts showing regular payments and much interest, as evidenced by the money contributed and the regular records. To the boast made by Niagarians that here was held the first parliament for Upper Canada, that here was published the first newspaper, that it contains almost the oldest church records in Ontario, must now be added the honour of having had the first public library, and the first agricultural society. The varied information to be gleaned from this book may be thus classified: 1st, a list of proprietors through the years from 1800 to 1820; 2nd, list of their payments and those of non-subscribers; 3rd, catalogue of library with prices of books; 4th, money expended; 5th, rules and regulations; 6th, account of annual meetings, contingent meetings, etc.; 7th, list of books taken out and date of return; 8th, alphabetical list of subscribers with separate page for entries for each during these years. When we think of the vicissitudes of the years 1812, 1813, 1814, and of the stirring events which took place here, military occupation by friend and foe, of fire and sword alternately doing their cruel work, we wonder how this library was preserved, for preserved in part at least it was, for the issue of books goes on, a new catalogue with spaces left perhaps for books missing, and in the accounts sums are paid to replace particular books. It is interesting to follow up the period of the war and in all these divisions note the latest entry, and then following an interval of two years without the break of a line even left as space

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between such deeds as the glorious death of the Hero of Upper Canada, the rattle of guns and roar of cannons, the flight over frozen plains, watching the smoking ruins of once happy homes, still go on in the same handwriting, the payment of money, the purchase of books, the annual meetings, etc. It may be doubted if in this day of boasted enlightenment we are willing to pay so much for our reading. One thing at least is certain, against the proprietors of this library cannot be made the charge of light reading now brought so justly against the frequenters of modern libraries. Nothing light or trashy can be found Theology, history, travel, biography, agriculture, a little poetry, and later, a small amount of fiction. We in these days can almost envy the people of that time for the delight they must have experienced when "Guy Mannering" and "Waverly" appeared, for they knew that the Great Magician of the North was still alive and was sending out regularly those delightful stories, while we can never again hope for such pleasure as the first reading of these books evoked.

In glancing over the list of subscribers we meet with names of many who played no insignificant part—the church, the army, the civil service, the yeomanry, are all represented. We find several names from Fort Niagara, U. S., and also several names of women. Were there nothing in this book but the list of names, this alone would be valuable. It seems strange to think that after all these years we can now take the name of a noted man of those days and follow it up through these pages, tell what style of reading he preferred, when a particular book was taken out, when returned, how he paid his fees, when he attended the meetings of managers, and many other particulars. How little did they think that they were thus providing for us a very interesting page of history now!

The first entry is: "Niagara Library, 8th June, 1800. Sensible how much we are at a loss in this new and remote country for every kind of useful knowledge, and convinced that nothing would be of more use to diffuse knowledge amongst us and our offspring than a library, supported by subscription in this town, we whose names are hereunto subscribed hereby associate ourselves together for that purpose, and promise to pay annually a sum not exceeding four dollars to be laid out on books as agreed upon by a majority of votes at a yearly meeting to be held by us at this town on the 15th August annually, when everything respecting the library will be regulated by the majority of votes.

Andrew Heron.
John Kemp.
John Boyd.
John Young.

Wm. Musgrove. Silvester Tiffany. Burgoyne Kemp. John Harrold. G. Drake.Wm. Hodgkinson.John Jones.Alex. Stuart.

John Chisholm. Peter Ten Brouk. John McClellan. John Burtch. John Hardy. Transferred to J. T. B. J. McFarland. Hugh McLaren. John Reilley. Wm. Dorman. Ebenezer Cavers. John Hill, jr. Martin McLellan. Peter Thomson. Robert Addison. Thomas Kerr. John Willson. Benjamin Pawling. Peter McMicking. Robert Nelles. John Young. Arch. Thomson. George Keefer. Daniel Servos. George Young. John Decow. Thos. Otway Page. Wm. Drake. John Smith. J. Murray.

.41 subscribers at 24s. each £49 4s., carried to account current page B. 15 August, 1801."

Of the original forty-one the names of only four can now be found in the vicinity, though descendants of several others may be found under other names.

The first on the list, Andrew Heron, was the secretary and treasurer of nearly all the period of twenty years. Robert Addison was the first minister of St. Mark's. Silvester Tiffany was the printer of the "Constellation," which followed the "Upper Canada Gazette." Then follows another list, continued down to 1820, of thirty-four names, making altogether seventy-five, in which we recognize other names.

George Forsyth. John Powell. John McNabb. Robert Kerr. Robert Weir. John Robertson. John Wales. R. Hamilton. George Read. Wm. Dickson, A.C. Charles Selick. Robert Mathews. Colin McNabb. Dr. West. James Muirhead, A.C. Wm. Ward. Thomas Powis. J. P. Clement. T. Butler. Thomas Butler, A.C. James Secord. Wm. McClellan. Isaac Swayzie. Wm. Musgrove. Alex. McKie. John Symington, A.C. R. C. Cockrell. Wm. Mann. Israel Burtch. Tubal Parr. George Havens. John Ten Brouk. Ensign Barnard. John Silverthorn. John McEwan. Wm. Claus.

In this list we find the familiar names of Butler, Claus, Dickson, McNabb. That of Swayzie has been made familiar in the name of a delicious russet apple only found in this vicinity and probably first grown on the farm of this patron of our library. Dr. West was from Fort Niagara, and ten names on this list are quite familiar to us yet.

Now follows the account of the first annual meeting held on 15th August, 1800, when it was

"Resolved, that Andrew Heron and Martin McClellan be made commissioners to arrange the business of the society till the annual meeting to collect the subscriptions and lay it out in books to the best advantage, and that they act by the following rules:

RULE L

To receive from every subscriber three dollars and no more..

RULE II.

As soon as thirty dollars is collected to lay it out on books, none of which shall be irreligious or immoral.

RULE III.

Every subscriber may, if he chooses, when he pays his subscription, make the choice of a book not exceeding his subscription, which shall be procured for him with all convenient speed, provided nothing irreligious or immoral is contained in the same.

RULE IV-

As soon as a number of books can be procured, not less than fifty volumes, everysubscriber shall be entitled to receive any book that remains in the library that he chooses, which he shall return in one month in good order.

RULE V.

No book shall be allowed to any of the subscribers unless they have first paid their subscription."

Here follows a catalogue of books received into the library 2nd March, 1801, No. 1 to 80.

It is remarkable that the first thirty volumes are all of a religious nature, volumes 1, 2 and 3 being Blair's Sermons, and 4 and 5 Walker's Sermons, 9 and 10 Fordyce's Sermons to Young Women; the names of Watts, Bunyan, Boston, Newton, Doddridge, Wilberforce, Watson, Owen and Willison are seen. An attempt is even made to give proper guidance to young people in an important crisis of life—as No. 28 on the list is Religious Courtship. It is not till we reach No. 34 that we see any history, travel or poetry. This first purchase of eighty volumes, costing £31 17s., furnished the young people in these forty homes in poetry only Ossian, Cowper's Task, Campbell's Pleasures of Hope, but they might revel in the Citizen of the World and the Rambler, Bruce's Travels, or Robertson's History of Charles V., and if Religious Courtship pleased them not as No. 28, No. 70 is simply Letters on Courtship. The only work of a less specific gravity is No. 73, The Story Teller, which no doubt was popular with the children of those households. catalogue goes on during the years, up to 937, and contains many expensive works; then follows a list of payments for books, and money received for dues, and several pages are then occupied with the account of the annual, always spelled Annuall, meetings. These always took place on the 15th August, and the record goes on without any break, except the year 1813, when the town was in the hands of the Americans, and 1814, when heaps of ruins replaced happy homes; also 1819 no meeting was held. The question as to how many of the books were preserved and how they were saved is yet to me an unsolved problem. Of course a large number were in circulation in the houses of the town and township; while some would be burnt, others would be saved; but it is certain that a great many of the books in the library were not burnt, as afterwards from the issue of books, from the numbers given as taken out and returned day after day, it may be seen what books were not destroyed. That many were destroyed or lost is certain, as in the accounts for next year the names of many books are given as to replace those lost. There is a new catalogue with spaces left.

To resume the account of meetings.

"Niagara Library Annuall Meeting, No. 2, held this 15th day of August, 1801. Resolved, that in addition to the two trustees who have acted last year two others shall be chosen, to act jointly with them for the year ensuing, and in the next annuall meeting two others shall be chosen to act with these four, and afterwards yearly two fresh ones shall be chosen, and the two oldest shall go out in such a manner as to have always six acting trustees, and at all meetings for transacting business the trustee present who shall be oldest on the list shall take the chair."

Rev. R. Addison and Mr. John Young were the additional trustees this year. "Old members to pay \$2, and new members \$4." Members who lived out of town were allowed to take two books at once, the time of returning to be extended to six weeks to those in the township, and to those out of the township two months. "Members neglecting to return a book at the proper time to pay a fine of sixpence currency for every week of detention, also if any book be lost, the member to whom it was given shall pay for it at the original cost, if it belongs to a set the whole set to be paid for by the member who lost it, he being entitled to the remaining volumes.

"Resolved, that all members who shall not pay the two dollars above mentioned within six months from this day shall be suspended. Resolved, that every member who shall withdraw from the Society shall have a power of giving his right to any other/person approved of by the trustees. Resolved, that the trustees shall meet quarterly, viz., on the second day of every Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and contingent meetings shall be called by the chairman at the request of any two of the trustees."

"Quarterly meeting held at Niagara, 14th October, 1801. Present, Martin McLellan, Rev. R. Addison, Jno. Young. Adjourned till the

next quarterly meeting held at Niagara, 13th January, 1802. Present, Andrew Heron, Martin McLellan, Rev. R. Addison, Jno. Young. Books in catalogue from 118 to 150 received at prices annexed, and that George Young shall make a case for the books, for which he shall be paid a reasonable price." This we find in the accounts to be £5 2s.

At the quarterly meeting, April 14th, 1802, "Ordered, that Mr. Tiffany print the laws of the Society, and be allowed three dollars for the same, and deliver not less than seventy copies to the trustees, one to be given to each subscriber, and that Mr. Murray be allowed one dollar more for Robertson's History of Charles V."

At the annual meeting, August 14th, 1802, No 3, "Robt. Kerr, Esq., and Mr. Ino. Hill, trustees added." A stringent law is passed that "that part of the fifth resolution of the second meeting of the Society which directs that every member who shall neglect to return the books shall pay into the hands of some one of the trustees sixpence currency for every week he continues to hold the same after the time limited is expired, be enforced by the librarian, he not being at liberty to let him have another book until that sum is paid, and that that be extended to every person, whether member or not."

New members were this year to pay \$5, and next year this was raised to \$6. In 1804 comes the first payment to the librarian and this is certainly a modest allowance. This library seems to have solved the difficulty of keeping down the expenses, as through all these years there is no outlay for firewood, for rent, for light—the allowance to the librarian being a percentage on money paid by what are called non-subscribers. The original members are called sometimes proprietors and sometimes subscribers.

"Resolved, that Andrew Heron be librarian for the ensuing year, and be allowed 12½ per cent. of all the moneys collected for the last twelve months from non-subscribers, and the same for the year to come, and shall be obliged to make good all the books that may be lost by non-subscribers."

This seems very hard on the librarian, but he must have been a book-lover, for through all these years he remained faithful to his trust—the emolument sometimes being £1 7s. 6d., sometimes £2 12s. 6d. For the year 1817 it was only 5s. 7d., and the largest amount was £6, which for those days must have been munificent. In 1804, books admitted from 316 to 344, and in January, 1805, quite an addition was made to the library as well as to the members of the society, which item fells us what

we had seen mentioned elsewhere of the existence of an Agricultural Society with a number of valuable books.

"Resolved, that the books mentioned in the catalogue from 348 to 397 be received from the Agricultural Society at the annexed prices, and that in lieu of them the arrears of Robert Kerr, Robert Addison, George Forsyth, Colin McNabb and Robert Hamilton be remitted to them, and that a share in the library be given to Wm. Dickson, James Muirhead, Thomas Butler, John Symington and Joseph Edwards at £2 8s. each, all these sums amounting to £16 8s."

In 1805, the trustees are John Kemp, Martin McLellan, John Young, John Waterhouse, Alex. McKie, Wm. Mann, and evidently it is found difficult to enforce the rules, for it is "Resolved, that each and every of the laws and regulations made at the last annual meeting shall continue for the year ensuing the same as they were made." At a contingent meeting, 12th November, 1805, "John McNabb be admitted as member as one of the Agricultural Gentlemen, and Ralph Clench."

At annual meeting, No. 7, August 15th, 1806, Geo. Reid and John Grier, the two new trustees; each proprietor to pay \$1 a year; a share, always spelled shear, to be sold at \$6.50. "Resolved, that Jacob A. Ball and Lewis Clement be admitted to a share in right of their fathers as members of the Agricultural Society, those gentlemen already having purchased shares, and that Jane Crooks, eldest daughter of the late Francis Crooks, be admitted to a share in right of her father as a member of the Agricultural Society."

Thus history repeats itself. As the daughters of Zelophehad demanded that the inheritance of their father should pass to them, Miss Crooks, over three thousand years afterwards, makes the same claim, and is as successful in obtaining her share of current literature as they in obtaining, their share of land. This is not the only woman's name on the list, as we find in 1815 list the name of Miss Hill in place of her father. Also in list of payments the names of Mrs, Sluny, Fort Niagara, N.Y., 6s., Mrs. Stuart, one year, 15s.

Members in town were now allowed to take out two books at once, 500 tickets were to be procured with all convenient speed to continue the number to be pasted on each book as entered.

"At annual meeting, No. 8, 1007, shares to be sold at \$7.00 each. Resolved, that one hundred copies of the catalogue be printed, and one copy to be given to each proprietor, and also one hundred copies of an abridgment of the laws, if it can be got done on reasonable terms."

"A contingent meeting, 24th Oct., 1807. Present, Alex. McKie, Wm. Mann, Robert Kerr, Jas. Muirhead, Geo. Reid, John Grier. Ralfe

Clench, Esq., offers to take charge of the library on being allowed his proportion of the annual payment. Resolved, that his proposal be accepted if he keep the library open from 10 to 12 o'clock every day, Sundays excepted. Ordered, that Mr. Jas. Turlin's proposal to make a book case, the same as we have, for \$12 be accepted. The first book case was £5 2s., so that prices must have decreased.

"A contingent meeting, August 1st, 1808. Andrew Heron having prepared a room for the library and offers to perform the duties of librarian, and be answerable for the books that may be missing as usual, Ordered, that his offer be cheerfully accepted. N.B.—Mr. Clench refusing to give up a kay to the library, A. Heron will not become responsible for the books that may be missing."

From October, 1807, the entries of books are in an entirely different hand, but Mr. Heron still visited the loved books, for the name frequently occurs, and the next year the entries go on in the same large hand. The little difficulty of the key must have been settled. In the catalogue, books 568 to 611 are entered in a different hand, which is the period of Mr. Clench being in office.

Annual meeting, No. 9, August 15th, 1808. The new trustees are Hon. Robt. Hamilton and Mr. Jno. Symington. Members out of town to be entitled to three books at a time. "Resolved, that Andrew Heron be libralian and treasurer."

Annual meeting, No. 10, August 15th, 1809. Rev. Jno. Burns, minister of St. Andrew's, and John Powell to be the two new trustees, and in place of Hon. R Hamilton, deceased, John Wagstaff. Shares to be sold at eight dollars. Whether from the liberality of Mr. Heron in providing a room, or from his length of service, or some other reason not known, at this meeting it was "Resolved, that the librarian be entitled to receive 25% of all the money collected from non-subscribers and fines"; the additional title of clerk is now also given, thus, "A. Heron to be librarian, treasurer and clerk."

Annual meeting, No. 11, August 15th, 1810. "Resolved, that attendance on the library be required only one hour, from eleven to twelve on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in every week."

Annual meeting, 15th August, 1811. The trustees this year are James Crooks, George Reid, Rev. John Burns, John Powell, James Muirhead and Martin McLellan. Shares are sold at \$9—\$1 to be paid by each proprietor and \$3 by others, or \$1 a quarter.

Annual meeting, No. 13, August/15th, 1812. Proprietors to pay \$2 each. Books admitted at a contingent meeting 15th November, 1812, shortly after burial of Brock; books admitted, 781 to 827.

The next entry is 15th August, 1815. What a different state of affairs from that of 1812, when war had been declared and Brock was marching to Detroit; or from 1813, when an enemy held the town; or 1814, when the rubbish of bricks was being taken to build Fort Mississagua! But with intrepid courage our trustees meet and make arrangements for the work of the library going on as usual. The trustees were John Symington, George Young, James Crooks, John Burns, George Reid, Andrew Heron. Notwithstanding all the losses incurred by the townspeople, the charges are made somewhat higher, each proprietor to pay \$2.50. Shares to be sold at \$9, and non-proprietors \$4 a year, or \$1.50 a quarter, or \$1 a month. At a meeting, 22nd January, 1816, books admitted, 882 to 90

Annual meeting, No. 15, August 15th, 1816. "Resolved that John. Wray be librarian and clerk."

Quarterly meeting, 9th October, 1816. Books admitted, 901 to 909.

Annual meeting, No. 16, August 15th, 1817. "Resolved, that the meeting being thin that no new trustees shall be chosen, and shall remain to act as last year. Shares to be sold at \$10." There seems to have been some difficulty about books circulating too much, as witness the next: "Resolved, that any proprietor or other person who receives books out of the library and allows any person to take them out of his house shall for every offence pay to the librarian £1 currency."

Annual meeting, No. 17, August 15, 1818. "Resolved, that the meeting being thinly attended no new trustees shall be chosen. All regulations remain as last year."

At a meeting of the trustees, held on 1st March, 1820, present John Burns, George Young, James Crooks and And. Heron, "Resolved, that whereas Andrew Heron offered to take charge of the books belonging to the library, that the books shall be transmitted to his house with all convenient speed, and shall there be inspected by Andrew Heron and James Crooks as soon as can be conveniently done."

Here is the record of the last meeting of the trustees of this library. "Whereas the Niagara library has been greatly wasted, first by being plundered by the army of the United States, and has since been greatly neglected, very few of the proprietors having paid their quota to support the same, we, whose names are hereunto subscribed, hereby relinquish our claims on the same to Andrew Heron (who has now opened a library of his own for the use of the public) in consideration of his allowing us the use of his library for three years; this he engages to do to all those who have paid up their yearly contributions to the year 1817 inclusive; to those who have not paid to that period he will allow according to

their deficiency in those payments. We consider those propositions as quite fair, and do thereto assent."

JAS. CROOKS,
J. MUIRHEAD,
JNO. SYMINGTON,
JNO. WAGSTAFF,
JOHN POWELL.
JNO. MCEWAN,
J. BUTLER,
GEO. YOUNG,
JNO. GRIER,

In turning now to the account of money expended and received, it tells something of the love of books in those days that, from the year 1801 to 1818, there was expended on books for this library about £500, the first outlay being £46 175. on August 15th, 1800. The record book itself cost £1, and Mr. Tiffany received for printing £1 45. In reading the rather monotonous account of money paid yearly, monthly, or quarterly, we sometimes meet with a pleasing variety, as books sold by vendue, spelled vandue, fine for detain of books, money to replace a book lost, books and tracts presented, a book of sermons sold to some sermon reader. The list, scattered over many pages, of money expended for books is interesting.

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.≇ s. d.	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID. £ s. d.
1801 ·	1801—41 subscribers49 4 0
180227 4 6	1806— 58. from 35 subscribers 8 15 0
1803-492 ps 6	1807— 5s. " 41 proprietors10 5 0
180534 8 1	1808—10s. " 44 "22 0 0
180636 8 0	1809—10s. " 42 "21 0 0
180720 19 3	1810—108, " 44 "22 0 0
1808-920 14. 3	1811—10s. "45
1810 31 12.6	1812— 58. " 4210 10 0
181143 4 3	1815—\$2 " 2512.10 0
1812 * 21 16 6	1816—12s. 6d. " 13 8 2 6
1815	1817—128.6d, " 15 9 7 6
1816 15 5 6	1818—12s. 6d. " 8 5 00
181743 67	
181817 26	•
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This sum of £500 does not give all the outlay for books, as many single books are entered alone and not in this way. The modest emolument of the librarian may be seen in the following list, culled from many pages, he receiving a per centage on all sums paid by non-subscribers and fines, the sum varying from 5s.7d one year to £6, but generally less than £2, the whole payment to librarian during these twenty years being £24, so that his must indeed have been a labour of love.

	•		•	£	s. £	s. d.
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,1805 `` "⁄	**	**		I	= I	76
1806 "	66 -	66	********	Q	= I	26

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1809 ''		"	
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. 1812	"	"	10 10=2 12 6
1815 "	"	"	24 o=6 o o
1817—121/2	• •	"	
1818—25	66		13 15=3 89

It would be interesting to us to know how so many books were saved. It is known where Mr. Heron lived in the time of the war. The story is told that his wife, with infant, was carried out on the street from a house in the centre of the town. It is likely, as there were forty subscribers and perhaps as many more non-subscribers, and each person might have out three books, there might be two hundred books in circulation, many of which might come back. Then as many articles of furniture were saved, being carried out to the street, many of the books might be saved from the library. The new catalogue gives a list of two hundred with spaces The spaces I at first thought represented books missing, but I have now concluded that the numbers given represent books bought to replace the old ones burnt or lost, as very often the prices are different from the first catalogue, and that the spaces represent books either in the library or if lost not replaced, as in the list of issues of books after the war many numbers occur representing books in these spaces.

It may be worth recording, as forming another link in the history of our library, a strange coincidence which occurred while writing this paper, by which one of the books was heard from. So far I had not met a single person who had even heard of the existence of the library, but calling on an old lady a resident of the town, to inquire about it, a postal card was produced received that day from Ancaster, with this question, "Can you tell me anything of a public library in Niagara when the town was burnt, as I have a book which was the only one saved from the fire." I have since then seen the book. It is number 51 in the catalogue, Blossoms of Morality, or Blossom on Morality, and is remembered by the owner as charred with fire; but these burnt leaves are now torn away, and on an inner page is written, "This book was saved by my father, who was an officer in the British army when the town was burnt, December, 1813. The only book saved from the library. Thomas Taylor." As a matter of fact it is the only book in existence of which we know anything, but it might be worth inquiry if other books can be found belonging to the library, or what became of the library

The transfer was the state of t

after it came into the hands of Mr. Heron. We know that he kept a bookstore and published the Gleaner newspaper, bound copies of which for the year 1818 are in homes in the town. Also a copy of Mavor's spelling-book printed by him, with catechism of Church of England at the end, second edition date not plain, but some time after 1800. On another sheet of the record book, headed subscription paper number two, the exact words of the first page of book are copied and the names John Wagstaff, Richard Cockrell, James Hyslop, William Musgrove, Lewis Clement, Wm. Ball, Wm. Forsyth, Wm. Robertson, Alex. Rogers, Andrew Brady, Jas. Patterson, 16th August, 1815: to these are added afterwards A. Heron, T. Symington, P. Ball, W. Hodgkins, T. Jones, J. Muirhead, George Young, W. Burtch, John Robinson, George Reid, Geo. Havens, J. McEwan, Miss Hill. In 1816, names added are, Thos. Butler, Jas. Heron—3 sadly diminished list of twenty-seven.

. It is intensely interesting to follow all the different divisions of contents through so many years. There was no meeting in 1813, 1814, 1819. Books were taken out up to May 24th, three days before the town was taken. John Dodd paid 5s. and Capt. Roxborough 5s. There' are few records while in possession of U.S. troops, but some money was paid and a few books taken out. "June 18th, 1813, Capt. Dorman, U. S., made a payment, three months, 55." (there is a Wm. Dorman in first list of proprietors). In 1814, March J. Rea, Ensign, 100th Regt., 10s., and the names of John Valentine, 100th Regt., and Jno. Gibson, Field Train Department. Then in 1815, different payments from officers, as Col. Preddy, Col. Harvey, W. E. Athinleck, Hospital Asst. Then Dep. Asst. Com. Gen. Lane, Capt. McQueen, Maj. Montgomery, Major Campbell, Lieut. Vigoreux, Col. St. George, Thos. Cummins, Sergt. 41st Regt., Capt. Claus, Capt. Lyons, Lieut. Vanderventer, Ensign Winder, Capt. Saunders, Capt. Reid, of Fort Niagara, Sergt. Jenkins, Fort Niagara, Dr. West, Fort Niagara, had a share in 1806. Many strange In the course of my reading the other day occurred the names occur. name of Jedediah Prendergast, and singularly enough from the thick, yellow pages of this record stands out conspicuously this identical name, Jedediah Prendergast. But in list of money paid we find Dr. Prendergast, also the names of John Easterbrook, Benj. Wintermute, Louis Dufresne. It is singular that the accounts are kept partly in Halifax currency, partly in York currency, and partly in dollars and cents. In the pages carefully ruled for proprietors, different years, the yearly payment is given as 10s. or 5s., as the case may be, while in the other list these are entered 16s. and 8s. In many cases the right of proprietorship is transferred to another. In 1815, several books are bought to replace those. missing, such as Spectator, Burns' works, Don Quixote, and in 1816,

Joseph Andrews, Robertson's America, Watt's Improvement, Humphrey Clinker, Children of the Abbey, Josephus, Walker's Sermons, but Porteous' Sermons sold for 10s. In 1816, "by amount of books sold at vandue, £27 12s. 2d., N.Y. cy., £17 5s. 1d.". In 1817, "received for damage done to Life of Wellington, 17s 6d., Blackstone's commentaries, old copy, paid for being lost, £1 19s." These seem high prices for injury to books. "December 17th, 1804, received from Pte. Nicklon a fine for keeping a book eighteen weeks at 6d. sterling, 14s. 4d." Poor private, the law said 6d. currency, but from his scanty pay he is compelled to disburse this heavy tax.

One entry defeated every effort to decipher it till a happy guess makes it read, "November 12th, 1815. To a Gownd to Mrs. Nulin for taking care of books 15s. 6d." Happy Mrs. Nulin, were she fond of reading, for not only might she gratify her inclination, but she also, receives a Gownd as a reward. There seems in the last years to be a deficit, expressed as balance due A. Heron £11 gs. gd. in 1818, showing our treasurer to have been a man of means, as shown also in the record book of St. Andrew's church, of which he was treasurer, when there was a balance due of £176. The last entries are, "By cash received from Mr. Smith for detain of books over the limited time, April 19th, 1819, 7s. 6d. Aug. 18th, By cash, Mr. Crysler, for detain of books over the limited time, 5s." There are frequent entries of books presented, also tracts. In the catalogue, No. 444 is Abelard and Heloise, presented by Mr. Alexander Cameron, student-at-law. There are altogether 102 names of proprietors, the largest at any time being 45, in 1811, and the smallest eight, in 1818. Among the books in the catalogue are, in poetry, Pope's works, 10 volumes, £2 10s.; Shakespeare's, eight volumes, £2 12s.; Milton, Johnson, Dryden, Virgil, Thomson, Spenser, Ramsey, Burns, Scott. Fifty volumes on Agriculture, many of them very expensive works, came in 348-398 from Agricultural Society, although in report for 1892 Hon. John Dryden said the first Agricultural Society was formed in 1825.

Hume's History of England, continued by Smollett, 21 volumes, £7 4s.; Bruce's Travels, eight volumes, £7 4s., also Cook's and Ansons' Voyages. The library was especially rich in works of travel and in magazines; regularly every year are catalogued, European Magazine, Edinburgh Magazine, Edinburgh Review, Scot's Magazine, Lady's Magazine, British Critic, Annual Register. The British Theatre, 25 volumes, £11, might cause some of our book committees to hesitate in these days, though it staggered not our brave proprietors of those early times. Altogether we think we have much reason to congratulate these pioneers of civilization in this peninsula that such a taste was shown for reading

of such a high order, and express the hope that the libraries of the future may be as well selected, that the public may make as great sacrifices and support as liberally these aids to culture, and that many such secretaries and treasurers may be found willing to give time and faithful service to secure good literature, not only for the present, but to hand down to those to come.

A few words may be pardoned in relation to other libraries in the town. A most interesting and valuable collection of books is to be found in the rectory of St. Mark's church, consisting of about a thousand volumes, with many folio editions quite rare. These were formerly the property of Rev. Robert Addison, sent out by S. P. G. Days—nay, months—might be pleasantly spent in loving examination of these rare editions from Leyden, Oxford, Geneva. Well was it that they were not in any house in town in December, 1813, but being at Lake Lodge (about three miles out in a log house, part of which may yet be seen) they were saved. They were lately in possession of Dr. Stevenson, but by the zeal of the Venerable Archdeacon McMurray they were procured and placed in the rectory. Every book has placed in it this inscription: "Presented to St. Mark's church by the heirs of the Rev. Robert Addison, to be the property of that church in perpetuity." There are altogether fifty-three folio volumes, many of them being specially interesting. One of these, the complete works of George Buchanan, 1715, poems, Latin works, History of Scotland, a Satyr on Laird of Lydington, printed 1570, all in one volume. Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity, 1598. One folio has been well or rather much used; it is Historical, Geographical and Poetical Dictionary, 1694. No doubt many came, allowed by the kind old man, to consult its pages. On the first leaf, these words show that there were in those days restrictions on the publication of books (these were not removed till the time of William III.): "Whitehall, 28th January, 1691/2. I do allow this work to be printed. Sydney." Jeremy Taylor, Polemical and Moral Discourses, 1657; Burneton, 39 articles, 1700; Machiavelli's Works, 1680; Spottiswood's History of Scotland, 1666; Fuller's Holy State, 1642; Montague's Essays, 1632; Fiddes' Life of Cardinal Wolsey, 1724, with copper plates, one being View of Kitchen of Cardinal's Cottage, Christ Church. Another volume is Historical Collection, Rushworth, 1659, with strange picture of James I., and the awe-inspiring legend "Touch not mine anointed" bringing up thoughts of the length to which this doctrine was carried by that unhappy race. A prayer book, Breeches Bible, 1599, in black letter, and Psalms, version of Sternhold and John Hopkins, all bound together. In the prayer book is the prayer offered "That it may please thee to bless and preserve our Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Mary, Prince Charles, and the rest of the Royal Progenie." This book has been rebound in vellum.

Other works are Xenophon's Cyrus, 1713; Virgil, 1576; Quintillion, Oxford, 1692; Tillotson, 1675; Poli. Synopsis London (Poole's), 1669; five volumes, folio, Matthew's Commentaries, Plutarch's Morals, 1603; Xenophon's Cyrus, Cicero's works in Latin. A few others at random—Shakespeare, 1771; Spectator, 1726; Jonathan Edwards, 1699; Cicero's Orations, 1590; Lord Clarendon's, 1676; Latin Funeral Orations, 1611; Greek Grammar, 1683; Pope's Iliad, 1721; Erasmus, Rotterdam, 1526; New Testament (French), Geneva, 1577; Pliny's Epistles, 1640; Stillingfleet, 1681; Jeremy Taylor, 1676; Virgil, 1613; Plutarch's Morals, 1603; St. Augustus' City of God, 1610.

Another library, that of St. Andrew's church, singularly enough also numbering about 1,000 volumes as the two already referred to, came into existence Aug. 26th, 1833, and here we see the name of Andrew Heron in the issue of books. There is an index with reference to pages, 214 names, from 1833 to 1869, up to folio 274. Up to 1836 there are 120 names, showing that a large number of families attended St. Andrew's church. There was a catalogue costing 7 ½ d. in 1835, and memorandum of copies sold up to 1843. The catalogue numbers 019 books. The only names on the list now attending the church are McFarland, Elliot, Davidson, Blake, Wynn, Carnochan. The first name is, as in Niagara Public Library, Andrew Heron. In 1836 occurs the name of one who afterwards became one of the Fathers of Confederation, He attended the Niagara District Grammar Archibald McKellar. School, was married by Rèv. Dr. McGill: there are only two books marked against his name.

Many memories of the past are brought up by the names Barr, Lockhart, Crooks, Stocking, Whitelaw, Eagleson, Wagstaff, Miller, Malcolmson, McMicking. Many books were presented by friends in Scotland, but there are only a few old or rare books. The Harper's Library Series seem to have been well read. It may be recorded as worthy of notice that in the old record book of St. Andrew's church, dating from 1794, many of the names of the supporters are also found in the list of proprietors of the Niagara Library, 1800, showing the love of reading always remarked of the nationality most found in the Presbyterian church.

The successor to these libraries is the Niagara Mechanics' Institute, having been in existence since October '24th, 1848, as a copy of the constitution and by-laws, printed by F. M. Whitelaw, with names of members, one hundred and one, shows; Pres., W.H. Dickson M.P.P.; Vice-President, E. C. Campbell; Secretary, Dr. Melville; Treasurer and Libra-

rian, W. F. G. Downs. Among the committee are Thos. Ecdson, John Simpson, Jas. Boulton, J. D. Latouche, B.A, Sam. Risley, Jno. Whitelaw. There is also a catalogue printed by Wm. Kerby in 1861, then numbering about 1,000 volumes. The library has gone through many vicissitudes; being closed for some time, it was greatly revived through the exertions of Dr. Withrow while a resident of Niagara, and has always owed much to the great interest shown in it by Wm. Kirby, F.R.C.S. It now numbers 4,000 volumes and has received much praise for its judicious selection of books.

When we think of the influence in any community of a good library, of the pleasure and profit derived, we think of the words of Ruskin. "We may have in our bookcases the company of the good, the noble, the wise. Here is an entrée to the best society. Do you ask to be the companions of nobles, make yourself noble; you must rise to the level of their thoughts, to enter this court with its society, wide as the world, multitudinous as its days, the chosen and the mighty of every place and time, here you may always enter. Into this select company no wealth will bribe, no name overawe; you must fit yourself by labour and merit to understand the thoughts of these great minds. You must love them and become like them." Judge, then, how much the people of this vicinity owe to the proprietors of the Niagara Public Library, furnishing to the young people of so many households reading of so high an order, fitting them to fight manfully the great battle of life.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS.

Received into Library 2nd March, 1801-1 to 80.

1, 2, 3—Blair's Sermons. 4, 5-Walker's Sermons. 6, 7, 8-Divine Œconomy. 9, 10-Fordyce's Sermons. 11-Newton's Prophecy. 12-Smith's Prophecy. 13-Watt on Son of God. Improvement of Mind. 14-Memoirs. 15--Holy War. 17-1)yer's -18-Willison on the Sabbath. 10-Boston's Character. Regeneration. 21—Anderson on Psalmody. 22-Cloud of Witnesses. 23-Scott's Essays.

24—Wilberforce's View. 25-Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul. 26-Watson's Apology for Bible. Christianity. 28-Religious Courtship. 29-Owen on Trinity. 30-Brown's Christian Journal. 31-Burton's Feeling. 32-Muirhead's Differentiation. 33-Brown's Oracles. -Robertson's History of South America, £1 12s. 35, 36-Robertson's History of South · America. 37-Stanton's Embassy to China.

38, 39-Residence in France.

40, 41—Morse's Geography.
42—Bruce's Travels.

43, 44—Citizen of the World.

45, 46—Ossian's Poems.

47-Campbell's Narration.

48, 49—Croker on —---.

50-Caroline Lichfield. (Replaced in 3 vols.)

51-Blossoms of Morality.

52-Pleasures of Hope.

53, 54-Mirror.

55-Mental Improvement.

56—Lady's Library.

57-Cowper's Task.

58-60-Marvellous Magazine.

61-Bennet's Lectures.

62-65-History of Jacobinism, £2.

66, 67-Repository.

68,69— The Rambler, £1 4s.

70-Letters on Courtship.

71--

73 -- Story Teller

74-77—Emperor Charles V.

78-Burk's Revolution.

79 McIntosh's Revolution.

80-A letter to Burk.

81—Communicant's Companion.

82-89-Pope's Works, £2 10s.

90-Milton's Works.

91-Brydon's Tour.

92-Indian Concert.

93, 94—Burnet's Theory of Earth, £2.

95-Robertson's Proofs.

96-\oung's Essays.

97-99-Robertson's History of Scotland.

100-History of War in Asia.

101-2--Burk's European Settlement in America.

103-Daniel and Revelation.

104-Gospel Its Own Witness.

105-Duty of Female Sex.

106-17-Rollins' History, £2, 8s.

118-19-20-Edinburgh Magazine, £3 18s.

39--Omitted in its place and carried to 'page 13, act. current, Boston's Memoirs.

121—Snodgrass' Revelation.

122-24-Gillies' Greece, £2 12s.

125-26-Moore's Letters.

27-28-- " Journal.

129-30-Fuller.

131-Ray's Discourses.

132-Taplin's Farriery.

133-Female Complaints.

134-37-Wells' Geography.

138-39-40-41—History of British Admirals, £2.

142-43-Knox on Education.

144-Paradise Regained.

145-World Depths.

146-47-Boderick's Travels.

148 - Constitution U. S.

149—Tracts presented by Andrew Heron.

150-History of Barbary.

To-more allowed for History of Charles.

151-52-Beattie's Essays.

153-54-Leland's Life of Philip.

155-56-Bloody Tribunal.

157—Bishop Burnet's History of His Own Times.

158-59—Quintius Curtius' History of Alexander.

160—Mendrill's Journey from Aleppoto Jerusalem.

161-Judah Restored.

162-63-Hervey's Meditation.

164—Goldsmith's Rome.

165—Adam's Views.

166-New Pilgrim.

167-Moral Repository.

168—Colet's Discourses.

700—Colet's Discourses.

169 - Theological Magazine.

170-71-N. Y. Missionary.

172—Female Education.

173—Seneca's Morals.

174-Murray's Sequel.

175-English Reader.

176—Zimmerman on Solitude.

177-Fuller's Gospel of the Bible.

178---

179-Mackenzie's Voyage.

180-81-Mofse's Gazetteer, £2.

182-Key to the Prophecies.

183—History of Iceland (presented by J. Young.)

j. roung.,

184-85-Forbes' Works.

186-206-Hume's History of England, 308-Saint's Everlasting Rest. continued by Smollet (21 vols.) 309—Gospel Sonnets. 310-Rushe's Charges. £7 4s. 207-212—Heine's History of Scotland, 311-Russian Empire. £3 17s. 213-17—Ferguson's History of Rome, £4 218-Kinneard's Edinburgh. 219-Heates' Pelew Islands. 220-Robertson's India. 221-22-Prideaux Connection. 223-28—Josephus' Works, £2 2s. 229-33-Edinburgh Magazine, £5 12s. 234-36-Edinburgh Review. 237-40-Johnson's Lives. 241-48-Shakespeare's Works, £2 12s. 249-52-Dryden's Virgil. 253-54-Silver Devil. 255-57-Gonsalvo of Cordova. 258-Joseph Andrews. 259-60-Humphrey Clinker. 261-62-Roderick Random. 263-John Bull. 264—Park's Travels. 265-70—British Tourists, £2 17s. 271-72—Heron's Journey. 273-76-Hawkesworth's Voyages. 277-80-Cook's Voyages. 281-Anson's Voyages. 282-83-Leland's Views. 284-86-Blair's Lectures. 287-Erskin's Discourses. 288-Campbell on Miracles. 384—Hart's 289-Wall's World to Come. 290-91-Beattie's Evidences. 292-New York Magazine. 293—Fuller. 294—Thompson's Seasons. 294—Spenser's Shepherd. 296—Sherlock on Providence. 297—History of George III. 298-99-Knox's Essays. 300-Commerce of Ancients. 301-Thoughts on State of Religion. 302-Theological Magazine. 303-Memoir's of Gent. -304—Fletcher's Appeal. 305-M. Magazine. 306—Forsyth on Trees. 307-N. Y. Missionary.

312-Robinson's. 313-14—Talemachus' French and English 315-Aikins' Letters to his Son. 316-18-Adolphus' George III. 319-20-British Critic, £3 5s. 321-23-Edinburgh Review, £1 16s. 324-25-European Magazine, £2 8s. 326-27-Edinburgh 328-29-Wilson's Egypt, £2 4s. 330-33-Pamela, £2. 334-36-Tom Jones, 18s. 337-Pictures of Palermo. 338—Vicar of Wakefield. 339-42- Burns' Works, £3 15s. 343—Percival's Ceylon, £3 12s. 344 - Barrington's N. S. Wales. 345-Nisbet's Church History. 346—State of Europe. (Presented by Hon. R. Hamilton.) 347-Adams' Anecdotes. 348-61-Young's Agriculturist, £10. 362-66-Museum Rusticus, £3 4s. 367-68-Young's Tour in Ireland. 369-74-Wright's Husbandry, £3 12s. 375-76-Marshall's Midland County. 377-78-Adams' Agriculturist. 379-81-Doylin's 382-83-Dickson's Husbandry. 385-86-Anderson's Agriculturist. 387-Gentleman Farmet. 388-92- Bath Papers. 393-94-Dickson's Agricusturist. 395-1)ublin Society. 396-Small & Barrm. 397—Hume on Agriculture. 398–99—Horne on the Psalms. 400-7-Spectator, £3 4s. £5 5s. N. Y. currency is in Canada currency £3 5s. 7½d. 408-Mills on Cattle, 409-10-Pallas' Travels in Russia. 🕼 1—Whitman's Travels in Syria. 🚧 2–13—Adolphus' History of France. Reflections. 415-16-Winterbottom's Sierra Leone.

417-Card's Revolutions of Russia.

418-Pinkerton's Geography.

419-Gordon's Rebellion.

420-Population of Ireland.

421-Divernois on the Five Provinces.

422-Grant's Poems.

423-25-Palmerston's Letters.

426—Scot's Magazine, 1804.

427-28-European "

429-33-Edinburgh Review.

434-Sketches at Cape Good Hope.

435-War in St. Domingo.

436-Female Education.

437--Simpson's Plea for Religion.

438—Brown's Sermons.

439-Religion of Greeks.

440-History of Popes.

441-Abelard and Heloise (presented by Mr. Alex. Cameron, Student-at-Law.)

442—Farmer's Boy.

443-54-Marshall's Yorkshire.

445-Tull's Husbandry.

446-Court of St. Cloud.

447-Scot's Edinburgh Magazine.

448-53-Edinburgh Review.

454-57-British Critic, £4 10s.

458-65-Bruce's Travels, £7 4s.

466-69-Blackstone's Commentaries.

470-Grant's Voyages to N. S. Wales.

471-72-Cyrus' Travels.

473-McHinnem's Tour.

474-79--Plutarch's Lives, £,1 13s.

480-Peyrmsis' Voyages.

481-89-Witherspoon's Works, £2 8s.

400-Sir H. Moncrieff's Sermons.

491-Chatham's Letters.

492-Mallory's Memoirs.

493-Masson's Cookery.

494-Lavater's Physiognomy.

495-98-1)on Quixote, £1 18s.

499-502-Arabian Nights.

503-05-Edgeworth's Tales.

506-10-Tales of the Castle.

511-4-Peregrine Pickle.

515—Estelie.

516-Devil upon Two Sticks.

517-18—Excessive Sensibility.

519-Man of Feeling.

520-22-Ramsav's Works.

524 - Tuckey's Voyages N. S. Wales.

525-Edwards on Baptism.

452-53-European Magazine, omitted.

526-28-Plains.

529-31-History of France.

532-Musical Repository.

533-Speechly on the Vine.

534-Selkirk on Emigration.

535-Fisher's Travels in Spain.

536-Bigland's Modern Europe.

537 -- Michavois Travels.

538-Scot's Magazine.

539-40-European Magazine.

541-Lady's Magazine.

542-45-Edinburgh Review.

546-Jackson on the Mediterranean.

547-Hinchley's Fall of Venice.

548-49-Repton's Odd Whims.

550-51-Father's Gift.

552-55—Children of the Abbey.

556—(Lucas on Duelling.

557-Bravo of Venice.

558-60-Count de Valmont.

560-63-Men and Women.

564of Seduction.

565-66-Tour of

567 - Sermons.

568-79-Henry's History of Great Britain, £6 15s.

580-83-Edinburgh Review.

584-85-Scotch Magazine.

586-88 - Annals of Great Britain.

589-90-Dick's Selections.

591-Cook on the Resurrection.

592-93-Robertson on Atmosphere.

594-97 — Trevanion.

598--History of Masonry.

599-601-Kaines' Sketches.

602-3-Malthus on Population.

604-11-Goldsmith's Animated Nature,

£2.

612-14-State of the Times.

615-Scotch Magazine.

6r6-17-European Magazine.

618—Lady's Magazine,

619-20-British Critic, £2 8s.

621-23-Edinburgh Review.

624-26-Smith's Wealth of Nations.

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627-29—Ferguson's Lectures.
                                         757-58-British Critic, £2 8s.
630-33-Sinclair on Longevity.
                                         759-62-Edinburgh Review.
634-36-Pickard's West Indies.
                                         763-64-Porteous' Sermons.
   637—Public Characters, 1809-10.
                                            765--Moorehead's Discourses.
638-40-Lounger.
                                            766-Gray's Letters.
   641-Lives of British Naval Heroes.
                                         767-68-History of Chili.
   642- Stewärt's Philosophy of Mind.
                                            769-Trotter on Drunkenness.
643-46-Gil Blas.
                                         770-72-Letters from the Mountains.
                                            773- " of Swedish Court.
647-49-Owen on the Spirit.
650-51-Gilpin's Lives of Reformers.
                                            774-Twin Sisters.
652-59-British Plutarch.
                                         775-82-Clarissa Harlowe, £2 14s.
   660-Mason on Self-Knowledge.
                                            783-Man of the World.
   661-New Picture of Edinburgh.
                                            784-Paul and Virginia.
   662 - Sterne's Sentimental Journey.
                                         785-86-History of St. Helena.
   663-Spirit of the English Wits.
                                         787-89-Edgeworth's Tales of Fashion-
   664-Saville's Dissertation.
                                                    able Life, £1 8s. 6d.
   665-Pilgrim's Progress.
                                            _790—History of Charles XII.
   666-The Mountain Bard.
                                            791-Scotch Magazine.
667-70-Medical Journal, £3 11s.
                                         792-93—European
                                            794—Lady's
671-75-Fool of Quality.
   676-Chesterfield's.
                                         795-96-British Critic.
   677-Scotch Magazine, 1809.
                                         797-800-Edinburgh Review.
678-79-European Magazine.
                                           801-2-New Annual Register.
                                           803-8-Gifford's Life of Pitt, £6 6s,
   680-Lady's Magazine.
681-82-British Critica
                                         809-13-Camilla, £1 14s.
683-86-Edinburgh Review.
                                             814-1)escription of 300 Animals.
687 to 711-British Theatre, 25 vols., £11.
                                         815-17-West's Letters to Young Men.
712-15-Cutorell's Gazetteer, £5.
                                             818-Park's Rudiments of Chemistry.
    716—General Atlas, £2 5s.
                                          819-20-Tolney's Travels.
717-18-Craig's Sermons.
                                         821-22-Walker's Sermons.
    719-Moore's Tales.
                                             823-Lady of the Lake.
720-21 Thornton's Turkey.
                                             824—Island of Jamaica.
722-29-Enfield's Encyclopædia.
                                          825-27-Tristram Shandy.
                                          828-35-Edgeworth's Moral Tales.
 730-31-Count Fathom.
    732-Vince on Atheism.
                                          836-37-British Critic, £2.
                                          83E-39-British Critic, 1813, £2.
 733-34-More's Utopia.
    735-Cottagers of Glenburnie.
                                          840-41-Edinburgh Annual Register.
    736-Adventures of D-
                                                      ..
                                          842-43-
 737-40<del>...</del>
                                             844—Scotch Magazine, 1812.
                       a Guinea.
                                          845-47-- "
                                                                   1813, 1814.
741-43-Belinda, £1 2s. 6d.
 744-45-Caroline of -
                                          848-49-European Magazine.
    746—
                                             850-Lady's
                                          851-53-Edinburgh Review.
    747-Letters from a Loyalist.
    748—Hill's Life of Dr. Blair.
                                             854—British Critic.
    749-Life of Buchanan.
                                          855-56-Annual Register, 1811.
                                          857-61-Edinburgh Register.
 750-51-Clarkson on the Slave Trade.
    752-Resources of Britain.
                                          862-63—Goldsmith's -
                                          864-67-Modern Geography.
    753—Scotch Magazine.
 754-55—European
                                             868-Savage New Zealand.
    756-Lady's
                                                         Magazine.
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