

SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION
OF
MONTREAL.



*M*ontreal:

PRINTED BY LOVELL AND GIBSON, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1846.

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MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OF

MONTREAL.

Office Bearers.—1846.

THEODORE LYMAN,.....*President.*
 W. C. EVANS,.....*Vice President.*
 J. H. WINN,.....*Corresponding Secretary.*
 S. LESTER TAYLOR,.....*Recording Secretary.*
 GEORGE BENT,.....*Treasurer.*

Directors.

G. H. FROTHINGHAM,	J. J. MACKENZIE,
JOHN MURRAY,	ROBERT LINDSAY,
CHARLES FREELAND,	D. BUSTEED,
DONALD FRASER,	T. D. HALL,
HENRY PRATT,	W. McDUNNOUGH.

Honorary Directors.

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.,	J. OGILVY MOFFATT, Esq.,
H. E. MONTGOMERIE, Esq.	J. D. BERNARD, Esq.

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 CHARLES FREELAND,.....*Treasurer.*

Directors.

ALEXANDER MORRIS,	J. W. McGLASHAN,
JOHN MCGILL,	A. McDONALD,
DAVID LINDSAY,	D. BUSTEED,
S. R. EVANS,	DAVID MUIR,
JOHN MURRAY,	A. D. MACDOUGALL.

Honorary Directors.

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.	W. C. EVANS, Esq.
H. E. MONTGOMERIE, Esq.	DONALD FRASER, Esq.



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ANNUAL MEETING.

At the general Annual Meeting of the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL, held in the Rooms of the Institution, in St. Joseph Street, on Monday Evening, the 30th November, 1846, the Chair was taken by the President, Mr. THEODORE LYMAN, and the Sixth Annual Report read by the Recording Secretary, Mr. R. LINDSAY ; after which the Finance Report was submitted by the Treasurer, Mr. CHARLES FREELAND.

On motion of Mr. A. D. MACDOUGALL, seconded by Mr. D. LINDSAY, it was

Resolved,—That the Reports now read be adopted and printed, under the superintendence of the Board of Direction.

On motion of Mr. J. W. MCGLASHAN, seconded by Mr. A. McDONALD, it was

Resolved,—That the thanks of the Association be presented to the Office Bearers, for their services during the past year.

On motion of Mr. J. H. WINN, seconded by Mr. CHARLES FREELAND, it was.

Resolved,—That a subscription list be opened, for the purpose of increasing the Library.

A conversation took place in regard to the propriety of offering a Prize for an Essay, and the general opinion being found favorable to doing so, the consideration of the subject was left for decision, until the General Meeting for the Election of Office Bearers.

The Meeting was then dissolved.

THEODORE LYMAN, *President*.

R. LINDSAY, *Rec. Secretary*.

At the General Meeting for the Election of Office Bearers, held on Monday evening, the 1st December, after a long discussion, the subject chosen for the Prize Essay, was "*The Evils arising from late Business Hours, and their Remedy.*"

THEODORE LYMAN, *President.*

R. LINDSAY, *Rec. Secretary.*

At a Meeting of the Board of Direction on the 14th December, the time for the reception of Essays, was limited to the 15th March, 1847.

R. LINDSAY, *Rec. Secretary.*

Members competing for the Prize will please affix some motto to their Essay, and a similar one to the envelope containing the name of the author. None of the envelopes will be opened, but that bearing the motto of the successful Essayist. The Superintendent will return to unsuccessful competitors their productions, on their naming the motto to him. Clerk Members only are allowed to compete.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Mercantile Library Association.

The Board of Directors, in conformity with the Constitution, beg to present the following Report :—

GENTLEMEN :

The duty which at the close of our term of office devolves upon us, of rendering to you an account of the past year's proceedings, and the present position of this Institution, is made pleasing by the belief, that the picture we lay before you will be found such as to give satisfaction to you, and to all who feel interested in the welfare of this and kindred societies. We feel happy in the thought, that, however imperfectly we may have discharged the trust with which you have honored us, at least we leave the Association in a better position than it was found at the commencement of our charge, and can view its future prospects with more of hope than fear. As we proceed with our Report, some things will doubtless excite feelings of regret ; but on the whole we think there will be found more subjects for pleasing, than for painful thoughts. We would hope that where stagnation or falling off has to be mentioned, it may stir you up to remove such stains from our future annals, and where we have the more welcome task of pointing to symptoms of improvement, it

may cheer you to combine your endeavours with those of our successors in office, to continue and accelerate this onward progress.

As a matter of the highest importance to the welfare of the Institution, we commence by recording the pleasing fact, that one cloud which long hung over it, impeding its progress, and even endangering its existence, is at last dispersed. The heavy debt contracted four years ago, for the purpose of fitting up rooms in the St. Ann's Market is now discharged. The Provincial Government, which, as you are all aware, took possession of the premises, have recognised the justice of our claim for remuneration, and voted the sum of £200 in liquidation, an act which, though but simple justice, yet as the payment of an amount for which we had no legal claim, calls for our thankful acknowledgments, and will by you also be duly appreciated. Relieved from our long suspense in regard to a matter so important, our debts diminished to nearly one half of their former amount, and in possession of an income somewhat, though slightly, exceeding our expenditure, we see every reason to hope that the Association will ere long find itself relieved from those pecuniary difficulties, which hitherto have so much embarrassed its management, and retarded its prosperity. The more particular account of our financial affairs, and of the different departments of the Association, to which we now proceed, will we hope give you a clear view of its position, and on the whole present a satisfactory aspect.

Library.

The state of the funds of the Association has prevented any addition to the catalogue by purchase, but we have to acknowledge several donations of books. Our special thanks are due to John Young, Esq., so long known as a warm and valuable friend of this Institution, for his handsome gift of a copy of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*—(latest edition)—an ornament and an important addition to our Library. To his kind recommendation, also, we are indebted for the very liberal donation lately received from M. Hector Bossange, of Paris, consisting of 220 volumes French works,—an acquisition which we hope may tend to encourage the study of French literature among our members, as well as induce some of our fellow-citizens, speaking that language, to join our Association,—an object which we have always desired, and now hope, ere long, in some measure to attain. Our sense of the kindness M. Bossange we have endeavoured to show, as far as in our power, by making him an Honorary Member. The Library now contains 4,209 volumes. The number of books issued during the year is 3,900, exclusive of periodicals to the extent of about 500. Of our Members, about 340 constantly avail themselves of our Library. The increase of these numbers, compared with those of former years, especially in regard to the books issued, affords us much gratification, furnishing strong evidence of the growing usefulness of the Institution, and giving cause to hope, that a taste for reading is spreading among our members, conducive alike to their own advantage, and to the prosperity, as well as utility of

the Association. Under such circumstances, we feel emboldened to call your attention to the urgent want of means to supply the Library with, at least, a few of the many valuable works, so continually appearing from the press. Our ordinary revenue gives no means of procuring new books, and we must appeal to your liberality, to furnish funds for this object, the advantage of which, to yourselves and to the Association, is so obvious, that we leave the matter with confidence in your hands.

Reading Room.

The increased usefulness and popularity of this department must have attracted your notice, and is to us a cause of extreme gratification. The constantly increasing attendance in the room, its often even crowded state, is an evidence of its attraction, and a testimonial to its management, on which we reflect with pleasure, and with hope of its being the means of greatly promoting the prosperity of the Association. The zeal and assiduity of the Superintendent, Mr. Hayward, his exertions to obtain the earliest and most authentic news, and the regularity with which shipping intelligence and other information of general interest, have been recorded in the News Book, have contributed much to the success of this branch of the Institution.

We submit for your Inspection, a list of newspapers and Magazines, with which the rooms are supplied, in which it will be seen, that during the year we have made but few changes, and those only where it appeared an improvement could be effected without increased expense:—

QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

London Quarterly Review; | North American Review.

MONTHLY MAGAZINES.

Athenæum. Ainsworth's Magazine. Blackwood's Magazine. Bentley's Miscellany Canada Temperance Advocate; Dublin University Magazine. Frazer's Magazine.	Hunt's Merchant's Magazine; Literary Garland. New Monthly Magazine; Odd Fellows' Chronicle; Philosophical Magazine; United Service Journal. Colonial Magazine.
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NEWSPAPERS.

Montreal Herald; ——— Gazette; ——— Courier; ——— Times; ——— Transcript. ——— Pilot; ——— Economist; ——— Register; ——— Canada Gazette. ——— <i>Minerve</i> ; ——— <i>Aurore</i> ; * ——— <i>Revue Canadienne</i> . Quebec Gazette. ——— Mercury. Kingston Gazette; ——— British Whig; Toronto British Colonist; ——— Church; Brockville Recorder; New York Herald; ——— Journal of Commerce; ——— Albion; ——— Observer;	New York <i>Courier des Etats</i> <i>Unis</i> ; * ——— <i>Semaine Littéraire</i> . London Times; ——— Pictorial Times; ——— Atlas; ——— Punch; ——— Watchman; ——— Record; ——— Patriot; ——— <i>Courier de l'Europe</i> ; Liverpool Advertiser. Willmer & Smith's European Times. North British Advertiser; Edinburgh Witness; Glasgow Constitutional; ——— Citizen; Dublin Warder; * ——— Nation; Limerick Chronicle; Boston Daily Atlas; Cincinnati Gazette.
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Note.—Those marked thus * are supplied to members at half cost.

In the present position of our funds, we do not feel warranted in incurring any increased expenditure in this department, and would leave it to the consideration of our successors whether it may not be desirable, by

discontinuing a few of the periodicals now on our list, to make an important saving without diminishing the usefulness of our rooms, and their attractions to the members.

Lectures.

The interest taken by the Members of the Association in its Lectures, and the obvious importance of this mode of diffusing knowledge, make it at all times an object of extreme anxiety to the Directors to render the course as popular, and in every respect as worthy of public favor, as their utmost pains can effect. The exertions of the Lecture Committee of last winter, were, we trust, in spite of numerous difficulties, sufficiently, successful to leave no cause for dissatisfaction or complaint. It was gratifying to us to number among our lecturers several who are or have lately been members of the Direction Board. The favor with which their lectures were received, leads us to hope that attempts so creditable and beneficial to the Association will continue and become more frequent. For the approaching course we have endeavored to make such arrangements as will furnish a series of lectures, equal we hope to those of any former year.

The Opening Lecture will be delivered on Thursday, 10th December, by the REV. CALEB STRONG, A.M.

Application has been made to numerous gentlemen, from several of whom promises of lectures have been received, and the kindness and ability of these parties will, we hope, enable our members and friends to attend, during the winter, a Course of Lectures, such as all may hear with pleasure and advantage.

Classes.

It is mortifying to us, under this head, to record the failure of all attempts made last winter to form classes for pursuing various branches of study. Should any of the members desire to join such classes during the coming season of leisure, it will afford the Directors pleasure to give every possible assistance to aid their wish. A class for Debating and Essay reading was formed, and for a time with apparent success, but we regret to add that, ere long, the scanty attendance, and the difficulty of finding members willing to take part in its discussions, led to its being given up. We trust this apathy to objects, calculated to be of so much benefit to the rising community, will not long continue, and would fain hope that even this winter, some exertion on your part, will enable our successors to present an account of the result of their efforts, very different from that which we are compelled to give. Connected with this department, we have still another, and if possible more unpleasing fact to notice. It was decided by you at the last Annual Meeting, to offer a prize for an Essay on "*Commerce, its Objects and History.*" We confidently hoped that among our numerous members, a few at least would be found willing to compete for this honorable reward, and desirous to seize the opportunity to exercise and improve their skill in expressing their ideas in writing. But in this expectation we were grievously disappointed. One Essay only was submitted. Its author, to whom of course the prize was awarded, was Mr Alexander Morris. On this subject comment would be as painful as it is needless. We would

leave it for you to decide whether another attempt shall be made to induce the members of the Association to seek that proficiency in composition which only practice can afford, or whether this object must be finally abandoned.

Museum.

All we have here to report is the reception of a few donations, which are gratefully acknowledged, not so much for their intrinsic value, as for the evidence they give of the kind interest felt by the donors in the welfare of the Association.

Finances.

A reference to the Treasurer's Statement, at the conclusion of this Report, will inform you of the position of our pecuniary affairs. The great diminution in the amount of debt must be gratifying to you. Its cause is the receipt of £200 from Government, already referred to, but an examination of the account will show, that our income somewhat exceeds the expenses of the Association, and that in consequence our liabilities are gradually, though slowly, diminishing; and, we have ground to hope, that ere very long, the Association will be relieved from all financial difficulties. In the meantime, with the kind assistance of two gentlemen, whose services to the Association have been often before most deserving of your gratitude, (we allude to Messrs. Young and Montgomerie,) a loan of £100 has been procured from the Bank of Montreal, and applied to paying off debts, which could not, with justice to the parties interested, be kept longer unpaid. In explanation of the apparent increase of amount due to

sundry individuals, it is necessary to remark, that in stating the amount last year, as £167 18s. 4d., no allowance was made for several accounts which had not then been presented, though actually due. The Superintendent, having at the close of his term of engagement, made application for an increase of salary, we deemed it right to mark our sense of his zealous exertions in the discharge of his duties, by granting him for the present year, an advance of £15 over last year's salary, which we trust will meet your approbation. From the convenience and eligible situation of the building at present occupied as News Room and Library, we have been induced to secure the same premises for another year, and in the absence of any more commodious Lecture Hall, we have engaged for the coming winter, the room occupied last year for that purpose. In the Direction Board, a number of changes have occurred; several of its members having become disqualified under the rule which assigns office to Clerk Members only, a rule which, though possibly in some respects desirable, has now, and on former occasions, deprived the Association of the services of some of its most efficient and warmest friends. In this way, the Board has, during the year, lost three of its most active and valuable members; Mr. Evans, the Vice President, and for some years a most zealous and useful Director, Mr. Bent, whose kindness in long discharging the very troublesome duty of Treasurer, and whose indefatigable exertions for the benefit of the Association, call for our warmest thanks, and Mr. Fraser. To supply these vacancies, the following appointments have been made—Mr. Winn, Vice-President, Mr. S. L. Tay-

lor, Corresponding Secretary ; Mr. R. Lindsay, Recording Secretary ; Mr. Freeland, Treasurer ; and Messrs. Reid, Babcock, and Roe, Directors. The list of Members is now as follows :

Merchant Members.....	112
Senior Clerk Members.....	196
Junior Clerk Members.....	66
Life Members.....	49
Honorary Members.....	23

— 446

The slight decrease this exhibits compared with the number last published, is chiefly owing to the erasure from our books, of some parties, who were then supposed to be still members, but who, it appears, did not so consider themselves—but small as this difference is, we trust it will have the effect of inducing you to exert yourselves to obtain additional subscribers, thereby benefiting the parties so led to join our ranks, more, we feel sure, than the Association.

Our task, gentlemen, is performed. We have gone briefly, but we hope intelligibly, over the various details of our trust, and, in conclusion, we would remind you, that it is upon you the success, the usefulness, the very existence of the Association must depend ; that however competent and vigilant the Directors you select, it is upon the members and the public, the institution depends. Permit us then to urge upon you the propriety, the duty, of doing all that may be within your power to promote the prosperity of so valuable an Institution, and at the same time, suffer us to appeal to each member individually, to consider, while reading this Re-

port, whether he has done what he ought, to avail himself of the means of improvement here placed within his reach. Surely, some parts of our brief narrative point out faults, which call upon you for their remedy. If in anything we have erred, we hope, our successors may redeem our fault, and you, we would fain hope, will arouse yourselves to exertion, to spare them, at the close of another year, the mortification which, in some respects, now falls upon us. If any of the plans we have adopted be useless, let them be pointed out and abandoned, but let not those which are worthy of encouragement perish for want of your support. Let us not have again to speak of Classes failing for want of members, of Prizes offered for Essays with none to compete for them. These are blots on our history, we trust, never to see again. Rather let us hope, and let us all exert ourselves to realise that hope, that the year on which we are about to enter may be a year of exertion, of progress, of improvement, and that its close may see our Institution richer, more popular, more useful than ever, and you, all rejoicing in the knowledge that you are, at least, somewhat better, wiser and happier for your connection with the **MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.**

Books presented to the Mercantile Library Association.

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30th Nov. 1846.

	VOLS.
Encycloppædia Britannica—by John Young, Esq., of Montreal,	21
Provincial Statutes of Canada, 1846—by His Excellency the Governor in Council,	2
Histoire du Canada, (par F. X. Garneau,)—by H. S. Scott, Esq., of Quebec,	2
English Miscellaneous Works—by Mutual Instruction Society of Montreal,	12
English Miscellaneous Works—by Mr. W. McLellan of Montreal,	9
English Miscellaneous Works—by Mr. J. A. Mathewson of Montreal,	8
English Miscellaneous Works—by Mr. John Connolly of Montreal,	1
French Miscellaneous Works—by Hector Bossange, Esq., of Paris,	220
	275
Number of volumes in the Library last year,	3934
Total number of volumes now in the Library,	4209

The Mercantile Library Association in Accord with Charles Ireland, Treasurer.

	1846.		£ s. d.
To paid Subscriptions to Newspapers,.....		49	12 5
“ “ on account of debts, due at last Annual Meeting.....		98	6 0
“ “ Salaries.....		92	5 0
“ “ Rent,.....		105	0 0
“ “ Incidentalexpenses,including Postage, 80		19	3
“ “ Loan at the Bank of Montreal, with interest.....		200	19 9
“ “ Balance.....		1	6 0

E. E. Montre

LIABILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

LIABILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION.	
Debts of the Montreal Library.....	£151 19 0
Loan at Montreal Bank.....	100 0 0
Bundry Individuals, and firms, about.....	150 0 0
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	£401 19 0