



Seventh Annual Report

OF THE

COUNCIL

OF THE

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OF

NEW BRUNSWICK.

SAINT JOHN, N. B. :

PRINTED AT THE MORNING TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

1869.



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OFFICERS
OF THE
SAINT JOHN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
FOR 1869.

PRESIDENT :

W. JACK, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

DR. BOTSFORD, and R. BRITAIN, Esq.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY :

GEO. F. MATTHEW, Esq.

RECORDING SECRETARY :

W. R. M. BURTIS, Esq.

TREASURER :

DR. KEATOR.

CURATORS :

I. A. JACK, J. L. McINNIS, and R. P. STARR,
Esqs.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL :

DR. HAMILTON, DR. STEEVES, and J.
DEW. SPURR, Esq.

LIBRARIAN :

EDWARD MANNING, Esq.

The President, Vice-Presidents, and Corresponding Secretary were appointed a Committee to apply for a grant to the Society from the Dominion Parliament.

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SOCIETY

REPORT.

TO THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF NEW BRUNSWICK:

In presenting their Seventh Annual Report, the Council, although conscious of some short-comings of the Society, and of defects, not so much perhaps in its organization, as in that vital energy and individual interest, which alone can secure success for any human undertaking, congratulate the Society upon its success during the past year.

Since the last annual meeting, one very important change has been made, which they cannot deem otherwise than beneficial; they refer to the removal of the Library, Museum and property of the Society, from the rooms so long occupied by them in the Mechanics' Institute to the St. John Grammar School building. This step they believe to have been advisedly taken, and while duly grateful to the Board of Directors of the Institute for the uniform kindness and consideration received at their hands, they are happy that the Society has secured, what the Institute could not offer, an apartment, which although not entirely meeting the requirements of the Society, is better fitted to contain their collection of books and natural curiosities, and in which the regular meetings can take place.

Esq.

TARR,

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Since the removal, an increase of work has of necessity fallen upon the shoulders of the Curators. This, however, they have cheerfully undertaken, and although much still remains to be done, the effects of a regularly pursued system and of steady application, have made a marked improvement in the appearance of the Cabinet. The minerals are now almost entirely arranged, and the Curators are about preparing a catalogue which will materially assist students in this branch of Science.

In regard to the Geological department of the Museum, the Council have much pleasure in stating, that especially since the return of the Hart collection, the leading Geological features, or rather the principal fossils, of the Province are exceedingly well represented. They would further state that a new case has been ordered for the last named Collection, which, having been carefully arranged and classified by Dr. Dawson, will prove a very valuable addition to this part of the Cabinet; and that they trust by the sale and exchange of the duplicates of these fossils to add largely to other groups of curiosities in the possession of the Society. The Council have also to comment with much pleasure upon the generosity of different gentlemen by whose donations the list of scientific specimens and objects of curiosity has been greatly enlarged. The names of these benefactors during the past year, and their respective donations are comprised in the following list:

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Character and Name of Donation.	Name of Donor.
Impression of rain drops in slate from Hazen st., near Calvin Church.....	Mr. J. L. McInnis.
Male of Harlequin Duck stuffed gratuitously for the Society by Mr. Albert Dunn.....	Mr. John Howe.
Fossils from Limestone rocks near Ottawa.....	Mr. C. E. L. Jarvis.
Squirrel preserved in alcohol.....	Mr. G. F. Matthew.
Samples of Coals from different localities.....	Mr. R. P. Starr.
Sea fan and corals found near Havana.....	Captain Sadlier.
Singular woody protuberance.....	Mr. I. Allen Jack.
Portion of root of petrified tree from Dutch Valley, King's County....	Mr. Enoch Dole.
<i>Solaster endeca</i> , Forbes (sun star).....	Prof. Bailey.
<i>Ophiopholis bellis</i> (spotted brittle star).....	"
<i>Toxopneustes drobachiensis</i> (sea urchin).....	"
<i>Pentacta frondosa</i> ? Young	"
<i>Chiton ruber</i>	"
<i>Echinarachnites parma</i>	"
<i>Uraster</i> ? <i>Crossaster</i> ? Naked Mollusc.....	"
<i>Cribrella</i> ?.....	"
(All found by the donor in Passamaquoddy Bay).	
Fish remains of cretaceous period from Bahia, Brazil.....	Prof. C. H. Hartt.
Shells, (<i>Melania terebriformis</i>).....	"
A number of Chemung fossils, Ithaca, New York...	"
Ores from Smoky Valley, Nevada.....	"

<i>Character and Name of Donation.</i>	<i>Name of Donor.</i>
Medina Sandstone, West- ern New York.....	Prof. C. H. Hartt.
Undetermined mineral from Chester County....	“

With reference to the Library, owing to the necessary expenses of removal and other calls upon the Treasury, the Council have not been able to add to any extent to the list of scientific works; the studious reader, however, will find upon the present catalogue, very many standard text books for the most part inaccessible to the general public; and thanks to the liberality of private gentlemen and of sister societies—among which latter the Council would name the Boston Society of Natural History, and the Essex Institute, in the United States, the Natural History Society of Montreal, and one Society in Bremen, as representing the Continent of Europe—several valuable publications, principally magazines and periodicals, have been placed on the shelves. The Council, however, would suggest the great desirability of sustaining and replenishing this department of the Society, as it is needless to remark, that no student in this age of circulation and published knowledge, can successfully prosecute his researches in any branch of Science, without access to the text books and the different productions of learned and scientific men; and that, although a man may do much for Science by collecting specimens, or as an incident thereto, by establishing facts before doubted or unknown,

when possessed of clear judgment and an imagination both active and well governed, if assisted by facts established by others, and by observations on concurrent phenomena, he may be equally, if not more useful to the world by proving doubtful hypotheses, or by promulgating new ideas.

During the past season, several papers have been read, which have generally elicited interesting discussions. At the first ordinary meeting, a valuable paper was brought before the Society, "On the effects of cold on certain trees, with a note on the destruction of the birch partridge by low temperatures," written by Dr. Adams, of the 22nd Regiment. This was followed by a paper by Professor Dawson on "Arctic and Alpine lands," with illustrative specimens, exhibited by Mr. R. P. Starr; by a paper "On the Manufacture of Maple Sugar," by Mr. Hoyt; by a paper from Professor Bailey, entitled "Classification;" and by different selections from scientific publications. The Council, while regretting that a greater amount of original matter has not been added to that already in the possession of the Society, beg leave to state that a number of gentlemen have promised essays on different subjects, and they do not doubt that the meetings for the present year will afford much instruction and entertainment for such of the members as are pleased to attend.

The following synopsis of the Treasurer's Report to the Council shows a respectable balance on hand to meet the limited liabilities of the Society:—

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1868.....	\$16.93
Cash received to same date, 1869.....	73.00
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	\$89.93
Cash paid during the year 1868....	\$13.84
Bills presented and passed at Council meetings, but not called for.....	29.38
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	43.22

Cash on hand.....\$46.71

The addition of five ordinary paying members to the roll of the Association during the past year, gives promise of a proportionate increase of popular support, but the Council would urge upon the public the great advantages afforded by the Society to those desiring profitable enjoyment during their leisure moments, and the great facilities afforded to boys, young men and others of scientific tastes. They would further call special attention to the provision of the Constitution, by which persons of small means are enabled to participate in the benefits of membership gratuitously, as the Council are fully sensible that well directed energy and youthful enthusiasm are elements of the most useful description, and they specially desire to open a field to such elements, not merely from philanthropic motives, but because they are convinced they will materially assist in attaining the grand objects of the Society.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Dated the 26th January, 1869.

I. ALLEN JACK,
Secretary to the Council.