

L. A. Huguet Latour, N. O.

TWENTY-NINTH

10

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Natural History Society

OF MONTREAL,

DELIVERED BY THE LATE COUNCIL,

AND

READ AT THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,

18TH MAY, 1857.



MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1857.

THE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE

LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

1880

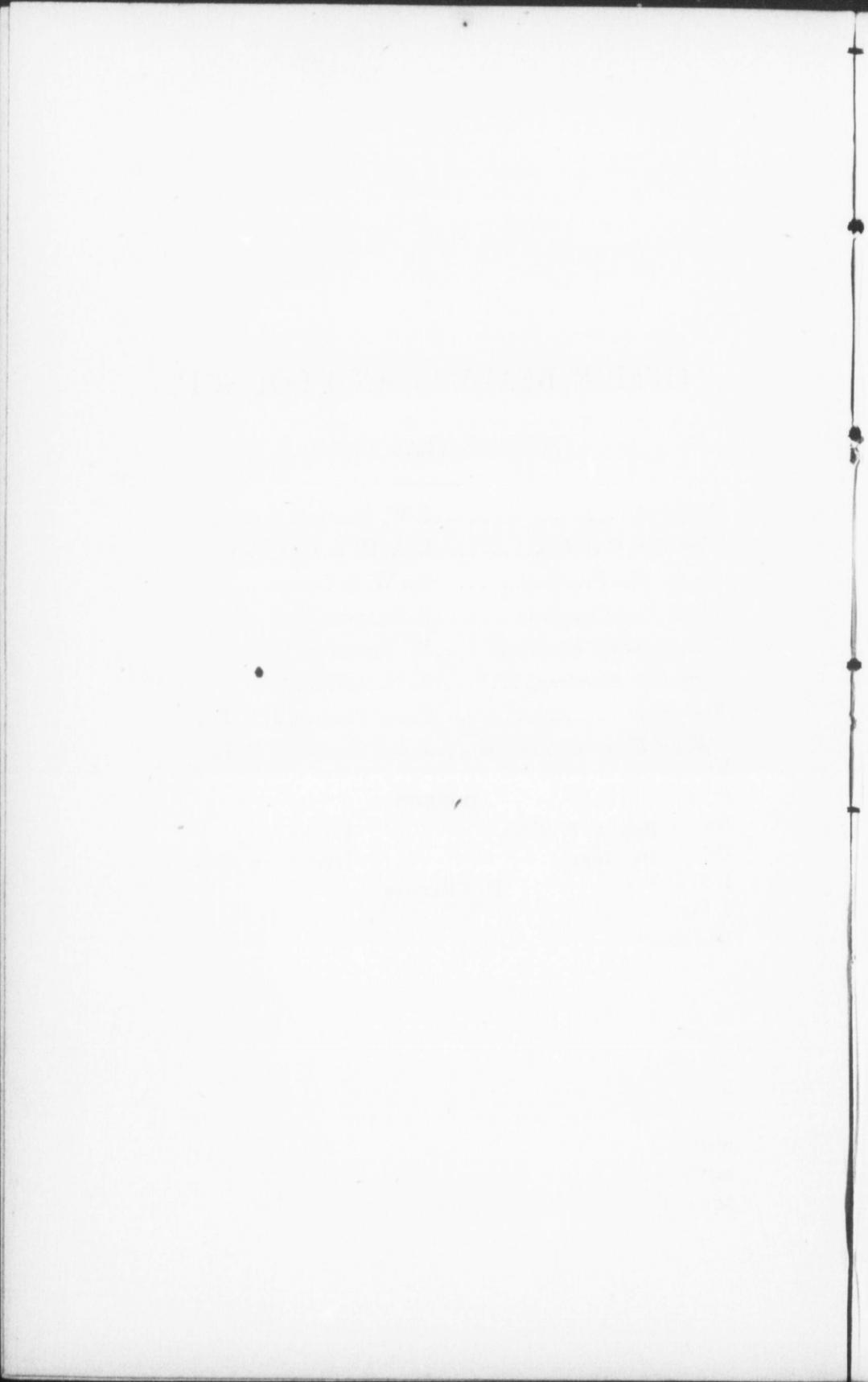
ALBANY:

1881

PRINTED

BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, ALBANY.

1881



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held in the Museum, on Monday evening, the President, J. W. Dawson, Esq., F. G. S., in the Chair. The members present were the Lord Bishop of Montreal, Rev. A. Kemp, Rev. A. D. Campbell, Rev. A. DeSola, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Jones, Dr. Barnston, L. A. H. Latour, J. T. Dutton, H. Rose, J. H. Joseph, W. H. A. Davies, D. Robertson, J. Ferrier, jr., N. S. Whitney, R. Scott, E. Murphy, Dr. Howard, Dr. Hingston, Dr. Fenwick, B. Chamberlin, A. N. Rennie.

REPORT FOR 1857.

Your Council in submitting the annual Report of the proceedings and progress of the Society for the years 1856-7, find no difficulty in discharging this duty from lack of materials, as the subjects which have engaged their attention have been both numerous and important. Our predecessors rendered an important service to the Society, by their concise sketch of its history contained in the last report—a proceeding often necessary, in order

to mark out the progress of any public Institution, and to call the attention of its supporters to its first principles and objects. Your Council, therefore, feel that they cannot do better than take up the subject as they received it, and continue the narrative down to the present time.

The first subject which engaged the attention of the Society during the past year, was the appointment of a Committee to be its representative at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science, held at Albany in the month of August last, and to solicit the selection of Montreal as the locality for the next annual assembly of that distinguished Society. A Committee was also appointed to consult with the City Corporation and with influential citizens to obtain their concurrence and assistance in accomplishing this purpose. Your Council have much pleasure in reporting that the labors of both Committees have been crowned with complete success. Your deputation was received with the utmost cordiality by the Association. Their invitation was unanimously accepted. The representatives of other cities, especially those of Baltimore, seeing the general desire of the Assembly to meet in Montreal, in the most honorable manner withdrew their claims for the time.

A large local Committee has been organised for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for receiving and entertaining the Association, and is now actively engaged in this work. Influential private individuals have come forward to assist in various ways to facilitate and complete the arrangements necessary for this important undertaking. The Society's sister Institution in Toronto has also most honorably offered to co-operate with us in carrying the project to a successful issue. The Government and influential members of the Legislature have taken a deep interest in the matter, as likely to promote the progress of science in the Province, and have indicated their purpose to do what lies in their power to render this meeting popular and beneficial. Some of the Railroad and Ocean Steamship Companies have granted valuable assistance in the form of free passages to scientific gentlemen invited by the Local Committee from different quarters, to take part in the proceedings of the Association.

Your council anticipate from the respectability, efficiency and zeal of the Committee to which the American Association have intrusted the necessary preparations for their meeting in August next, that the result will largely contribute to the interests of this Society, by stimulating its future efforts in the cause of science. Your Council therefore feel that it is unnecessary for them to urge upon the members of this Society the necessity of cordial unanimity and zeal in their exertions to contribute to so desirable an object. The Council entertain a confident hope that the contemplated meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be as successful as any that has yet been held.

With a view to promote the efficiency of the Society, and in compliance with the recommendation of their predecessors, Committees were last year appointed for the purpose of arranging the collection in the Museum, and of furnishing original investigations and papers in their several departments. Your Council are happy to report that, so far, this arrangement has been productive of good results; among which they would specially mention a valuable paper from the Committee appointed to report upon the method of rearing fish from the ova, the recommendations of which they trust, will be carried out as soon as practicable.

The Society at its meetings in the early part of the year having also taken into consideration the state of its building, and deeming it unsuitable for the present wants of the institution, resolved to take measures for the erection of new premises if a suitable site could be procured. A Committee was accordingly appointed to make enquiries. From the report of that Committee it was found that a sufficient sum of money to purchase an eligible site and to erect a suitable edifice could not be obtained from the sale of the present property. Enquiry was therefore made whether the grant of a free site might not be obtained. As the result of this, your Council feel great pleasure in being able to report that the Governors of the McGill College have made a very handsome offer to the Committee, of a lot of land on University and Cathcart Streets, 90 feet by 50, on terms which are equivalent to a donation, and which the Committee reported as the most eligible site that could be obtained. Your Council, under

this impression, adopted the Report, and proceeded to make arrangements for the disposal of the present building, and the erection of a new one, hoping that this might be effected before the meeting of the American Association. Plans of a new building were accordingly prepared and submitted to a special Meeting of the Society. However it was found that the sum of £2000, for which the Council were authorized to dispose of the building, would not be sufficient for the purpose contemplated; it was, therefore, determined to raise £500 in addition, by private subscriptions, amongst the members and friends of the Society. Your Council are happy to report that £250 has already been subscribed, and they entertain a lively hope that the balance will be obtained by their successors so as to complete the work they have had the honor to commence. In order to obtain sufficient means to cover all the expenses of removal, and to enable the Society to open its new erection, with their Natural History collection arranged and perfected, your Council drew up, and presented through H. H. Whitney, Esq., M. P. P., a petition to Parliament, for a more liberal annual grant to the Society. They are happy to report, that their petition has been so far successful, and that a sum of £500 has been granted by Parliament to meet the extraordinary expenses of the Society on account of the approaching convention. Your Council further expect that should the decision of her Most Gracious Majesty in Council be that Montreal shall be the seat of the Provincial Government, property will so increase in value as to enable their successors to dispose of the premises to greater advantage than could be done at present, and thus enable them more fully to realize the wishes of the Society. In connection with the new erection, the Council recommend the establishment of an Observatory if at all practicable and if sufficient means can be got to maintain it. Your Council have to regret that the revision of the Constitution and Bye laws, which have been effected at the cost of much labor, yet waits the confirmation of the Members. They are, therefore, obliged to leave so important a work, in its unfinished state, to their successors. The Society has been favored with several valuable donations during the year, for which thanks have been conveyed to the honors.

The Council have great pleasure in announcing that there has been a large increase in the number of members—*eighteen* corresponding and *thirty* ordinary members having been elected during the past year. It is with regret that they are called upon to record the loss, by removal to Toronto, of Dr. Workman. His departure from the city has deprived the Council of a painstaking treasurer and a most efficient member, and the Society of one of its oldest and firmest supporters. They beg also to note that the services of Dr. Wright, Curator for a period of three years, in arranging the Museum and the Library, are worthy of the thanks of the Society.

The title of honorary member has been conferred upon the Lord Bishop of Montreal, Sir Wm. Logan, Knt., LL.D., F.R.S., F. G. S., Charles Smallwood, Esq., M.D., LL.D., F.M.S. &c. &c., Professor Mitchell, of Cincinnati, Professor Hall, Albany, Professor Duglison, Philadelphia.

The course of lectures annually delivered under the auspices of the Society commenced on the 22nd January, and were remarkably well attended by the public generally.

The Introductory Lecture was delivered by Principal Dawson.

2nd Lecture—Thursday, 29th Jan.—by E. Billings, Esq. Subject:

“The Geology of the Ottawa Region.”

3rd Lecture—Thursday, 5th Feb.—By T. S. Hunt, Esq. Subject:

“Natural History of the Alkalies.”

4th Lecture—Thursday, 12th Feb.—By Rev. A. DeSola. Subject:

“Scripture Zoology.”

5th Lecture—Thursday, 19th March.—By Jas. Barnston, M. D.

Subject.—“General view of Vegetable Life.”

6th Lecture—J. P. Dutton, Esq. Subject: “Balæus Mysticus.”

The Council feel greatly indebted to those gentlemen for their valuable services on those occasions, and congratulate the Society on the interest taken in the lectures by the public. They hope that the next Course may be on a larger scale, held in a more convenient room, and attended by a still larger number of persons.

The Council regret that from various reasons they have not been able to carry out so fully as they could have wished the recommendation of their predecessors, to obtain the reading and

discussion of Monthly Essays or Papers, one paper only having been submitted; but they trust that the Meeting of the American Association and the greater facilities for acquiring a knowledge of Natural Science now enjoyed in this city, will have the good effect of calling forth greater scientific exertions in future.

The Council have much pleasure in reporting that L. A. H. Latour, Esq., 1st Vice-President, has during the year offered a Gold Medal as prize, for the best Essay in French or English on any subject of Canadian Natural History. They beg to recommend to their successors the appointment of a Committee to receive the Essays that may be offered, and to adjudge the Prize on the 1st August next. This measure, your Council trust, will call forth much latent talent, and advance the objects of the Society, while it rewards with honor the successful candidate, and realises the liberal and praiseworthy intentions of the donor.

Your Council also report that Mr. Billings, late of Ottawa, a Corresponding Member of the Society, having come to reside permanently in Montreal, has expressed a wish that the Society should take a part in the publication of "The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist," so successfully conducted by him during the past year. This offer was favorably received by the Society, and a Committee was formed to carry out this object and to open a subscription list for the issue of the second volume under the title of the "Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, and Transactions of the Natural History Society of Montreal." Another Committee was appointed to superintend its publication, of which Mr. Billings himself undertakes a part. Your Council are happy to say a first number has been printed under very auspicious circumstances, and they trust that this undertaking will meet with complete success.

Your Council have not considered it prudent at present to solicit from the Legislature a Copy Right Law, to compel publishers to contribute a copy of every publication to the several Literary and Scientific Institutions of the Province. The law as regards copyright is yet in an undecided and unsettled state, and they recommend that the matter receive the consideration of their successors.

The Council are sorry to announce that Mr. Broome, so long the Janitor of the Society, died after a brief illness a few months ago, and they have from various considerations deemed it proper for the present, to continue the services of his widow, as keeper of the premises, which they trust will meet with the approval of the Society.

The accompanying Reports of the Treasurer, the Librarian and the Cabinet Keeper, will present an account of the condition and prospects of the Finances, the Library, and the Museum.

In view of the meeting of the American Association in August, and of the necessity of arranging and presenting the subjects of the Museum in the best and most scientific order, the Council have engaged the services of J. M. D'Urban Esq., a young Naturalist of considerable attainments and ability, for six months as Assistant Curator. As however the collection cannot be rendered complete or properly arranged without considerable expense, which the present ordinary income of the Society will not sufficiently afford, it has been resolved to meet the additional expenditure by applying to this purpose any special funds that may be obtained.

In surrendering the important interests which have during the past year been confided to them, your Council experience much satisfaction in reviewing the activity and energy of the Society. A measure of progress has marked the history of this valuable Institution—an accession of scientific talent has been acquired, and much important literary and other labour has been undertaken. As the coming year appears destined to be one of considerable promise in promoting the aims of the Society, your Council beg to express a hope that its zeal and energy in the cause and promotion of Science may be crowned with complete success, and may largely contribute to foster that spirit of earnest investigation into the phenomena of nature which so eminently distinguishes the present age.

In conclusion, the Council have to express their gratitude for the liberal aid given by the Government in consideration of the invitation extended to the American Association. The Council recommend that a portion of this sum be expended in arranging and improving the Museum, in providing an entertainment for

one of the evenings of the meeting, and that the balance be reserved for any aid that the Society may be called upon to contribute towards the success of the meeting.

A Report from the Treasurer showing a balance in hand of over ten pounds was also read; as was a Report from the Curator of the Museum, on the state of the Society's collection, and the donations made to it during the past year.

On motion of Dr. Barnston, seconded by Dr. Jones, it was resolved that the Reports now read be received and adopted, and referred to the Council for early publication.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The President having appointed Drs. Fraser and Barnston as Scrutineers, the meeting proceeded to ballot for Office Bearers and Council. The following was declared the result:—

President, J. W. Dawson; 1st Vice-President, L. A. H. Latour; 2nd Vice-President, Sir W. E. Logan; 3rd Vice-President, E. Billings; Corresponding Secretary, W. Hingston, M. D.; Recording Secretary, A. N. Rennie; Treasurer, James Ferrier, jr.

Cabinet Keeper and Librarian—Jas. Barnston, M. D.

Members of Council.—Rev. A. F. Kemp, Dr. Fraser, Rev. A. DeSola, Dr. Jones, and H. Chapman.

Library Committee.—Dr. Wright, D. A. Poe, H. Rose, N. S. Whitney.

Mr. J. M. D'Urban was appointed Assistant Curator to the Society; and the following gentlemen named as the Editing Committee of the Canadian Naturalist; Messrs. Dawson, Billings, Poe, Hunt, Hingston, Barnston, and Rennie.

On motion by Dr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Billings, it was resolved:—

That the thanks of the Society are hereby given to the retiring Office-bearers and Council, for their valuable and efficient services during the past year.

On motion by the Rev. A. D. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Dutton, it was resolved:—

That the best thanks of this meeting are due to H. H. Whitney, Esq., M.P.P., for his kind and valuable services in further-

ance of the Society's Petition, for a supplementary grant, and that the Recording Secretary be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Member.

It was also moved by the Rev. A. D. Campbell, seconded by L. A. H. Latour, and resolved—That the sum of twenty-five pounds be granted to the Recording Secretary for incidental expenses, and obtaining the necessary assistance connected with the approaching Scientific Convention.

The President having left the chair, which was taken by Dr. Barnston,

The Rev. A. F. Kemp, in a highly complimentary speech, proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Prof. Dawson, for his able, efficient and zealous services during the past year. The motion was seconded by the Rev. A. DeSola, and carried by acclamation. The President briefly but appropriately acknowledged the compliment, and the meeting broke up.

A. N. RENNIE, *Rec. Sec.*

REPORT OF CURATOR.

In accordance with the usual custom, I beg to submit a short Report in reference to the Library and Museum. It is a matter of regret that during the past year nothing has been done to place the Library and Museum in a better condition than they formerly were. This has been owing to a difficulty in the practical organization of the Special Committees appointed to arrange the books in the Library and classify the objects of Natural History in the Museum. Your council of the past year have wisely adopted a much more satisfactory and efficient means of effecting so desirable an object, by securing the services of Mr. D'Urban for the ensuing year, who, besides undertaking to arrange the Museum, will take every opportunity of adding to its collections. He commenced his labours on the first of the present month, and his enthusiasm and ample practical knowledge of Natural History justifies the belief that he will prove of valuable service to the Society. It is intended that the arrangements in the Museum will be more or less completed previous to the session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science next August in this city.

The donations to the Library and Museum, though not very numerous, may be taken as a fair criterion of the interest exhibited by various individuals and institutions in the Society's welfare.

I herewith submit a list of the donations during the past year, and subscribe myself respectfully,

Your obedt. servt.

JAMES BARNSTON, M. D.

Curator.

Montreal, 18th May, 1857.

DONATIONS &c., TO THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

1856-7.

PRESENTED BY.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Bombay Magnet and Meteorological Observations, 1852-53, | } | East India Company. |
| Esquisse Geologique du Canada, 1855, | } | Sir Wm. Logan. |
| An Ancient English Law-Book, 1663, | } | J. J. Pelton Esq., N.P. |
| New York Meteorology, by Hough, 1826-50, .. | } | The Regents of the University of the State of New York. |
| New York State Library Catalogue, 1 & 2, 1855, | } | |
| Geological Survey of Missouri, | } | |
| Physiologique de la Terre, 1 & 2, | } | |
| Filche's Noxious Insects of New York, | } | |
| Various Pamphlets, | } | |
| Agriculture of Nova Scotia, | } | J. W. Dawson, Esq. |
| Statutes of Canada, 1856, with Index, | } | |
| Transactions of American Institute, 1854-55, | } | |
| Rapport du Surintendant de l'Education pour le Bas-Canada, | } | |
| Proceedings of the Essex Institute, vol. 1, 1748-56, | } | |
| Transactions of the Medical Faculty of Maryland, | } | |
| Statutes of Canada, 1856, | } | |
| Catalogue of all the Graduates of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, | } | |
| Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, Montreal, No. 1, | } | |
| The Sandstone Fossils of Connecticut River, ... | } | James Deane, M.D. |
| 2 Pamphlets, | } | L. A. H. Latour. |
| Portrait of the late William Evans, | } | |
| Moth, | } | Capt. J. F. Dutton. |
| Fossil and Rock from Niagara Falls, | } | Capt. Dutton. |
| Lycopodium from Thousand Islands, | } | Capt. Dutton. |
| 2 Moths and Chrysalis, | } | M. Cockburn & Brown. |
| Mineral from the Balaclava Railroad, with Fossil, | } | Major Hudson, 39th Rg. |
| Pearl Spar, Niagara Falls, | } | |
| Talc, Statue Island, Niagara, | } | J. H. Kemp, N. Y. |
| Asbestos, Statue Island, Niagara, | } | |
| Russian Cannon Ball from the Trenches before Sebastopol, | } | Major Robertson, 4th Rgt., A.D.C. to Gen. Sir Wm. Eyre. |
| Helmet Ornament of a Russian Soldier, | } | Do. |
| Russian Soldier's Forage Cap from Sebastopol, .. | } | |
| Indian Arrow Point, | } | A. Easton, Esq. |
| Indian Stone, | } | A. N. Rennie, Esq. |
| Box containing several articles taken from an old wreck of a ship of war, | } | D. Busted, Esq. |
| Indian Urn, found by Mr. Gosling, near Clarendon, .. | } | Lord Bishop of Mont'l. |
| Piece of Steamboat boiler which exploded at Longueuil, 10th June, 1856, | } | J. B. Meilleur, M.D. |
| Piece of Marble from late Christ Church, | } | Miss Smith. |
| 2 Coins, | } | L. A. H. Latour. |
| Coins | } | Miss Smith. |

