

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MERCANTILE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OF

MONTREAL.



Montreal :

JAMES POTTS, PRINTER, HERALD OFFICE.

1848.

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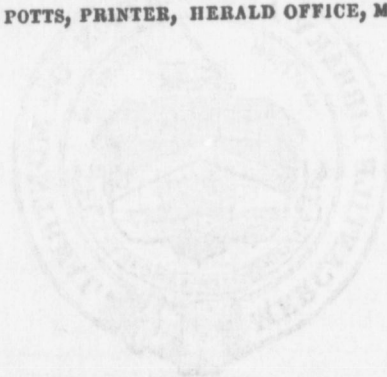
RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT

MERCANTILE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MONTREAL

JAMES POTTS, PRINTER, HERALD OFFICE, MONTREAL.



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A. F.
H. F.
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MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OF

MONTREAL.

PATRON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1848.

JOHN REID.....*President.*
ROBERT LINDSAY.....*Vice-President.*
ADAM BROWN.....*Corresponding Secretary.*
JOHN LOWE.....*Recording Secretary.*
JOHN MURRAY.....*Treasurer.*

DIRECTORS.

A. FREELAND.	J. CAMPBELL.
H. F. J. JACKSON.	R. S. MILLAR.
R. McDONNELL.	H. B. BUCKHAM.
R. BLACKWOOD.	W. W. STUART.
T. S. SMITH.	W. THOMSON.

HONORARY DIRECTORS.

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.	W. C. EVANS, Esq.
H. E. MONTGOMERIE, Esq.	A. McDONALD, Esq.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1849.

JOHN MURRAY.....*President.*
ALEXANDER MORRIS.....*Vice-President.*
EDWARD LUSHER.....*Corresponding Secretary.*
N. R. McDIARMID.....*Recording Secretary.*
JOHN CAMPBELL.....*Treasurer.*

DIRECTORS.

S. R. EVANS.	J. BRANDON.
W. THOMSON.	J. S. DAMPIER.
G. TEMPLETON.	W. RAE.
J. LEWIS.	J. BENNY.
G. WATSON.	W. R. SCOTT.

HONORARY DIRECTORS.

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.	W. C. EVANS, Esq.
H. E. MONTGOMERIE, Esq.	D. LINDSAY, Esq.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At the Eighth Annual Meeting of the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL, held in the Library Room of the Association, on Monday evening the 27th November, 1848, the President, having taken the Chair, called the Meeting to order.

The Recording Secretary read the Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Directors.

The President, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. CAMPBELL, Treasurer, read the Treasurer's Report.

It was moved by Mr. B. CHAMBERLIN, seconded by Mr. W. H. DELISLE, and

Resolved,—That the Reports now read be adopted and printed.

It was moved by Mr. ALEXANDER MORRIS, seconded by Mr. A. BROWN, and

Resolved,—That Art. 1 of Section VI. of the Bye-Laws be altered to read as follows:—The Library shall be in charge of the Superintendent, under the control of the Library Committee. He shall be in attendance to receive and deliver Books at such hours as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors, not to be less than four hours in each lawful day.

It was moved by Mr. ALEXANDER MORRIS, seconded by Mr. LOWE, and

Resolved,—That a fifth paragraph be added to Section VII., to read as follows:—No Number of any Periodical Work shall be taken from the Rooms until the completion of a volume, when the same shall be bound and transferred to the Library.

It was moved by Mr. ALEXANDER MORRIS, seconded by Mr. LEWIS, and

Resolved,—That Art. 9 of Section VI. be expunged, and the succeeding paragraphs be numbered 9 and 10 respectively.

It was moved by Mr. ALEXANDER MORRIS, seconded by Mr. A. BROWN, and

Resolved,—That a Prize be offered for the best Essay on the *Influence of Mercantile Library Associations in Elevating the Moral and Social Condition of the Mercantile Class*, and that the competition be not confined to the Members of the Association.

It was moved by Mr. MONTGOMERIE, seconded by Mr. LOWE, and

Resolved,—That a Prize be offered for the best Essay on such subject as shall be decided upon at the next General Meeting of the Members of the Association, to be competed for by the Clerk Members, and that the Prize be purchased by subscription.

The President then declared the meeting dissolved.

JOHN MURRAY, *President*.

JOHN LOWE, *Rec. Secretary*.

At the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Members of the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal, for the Election of Office Bearers, held in the Library Room, on Monday evening, December 4, 1848:

It was moved by Mr. ALEXANDER MORRIS, seconded by Mr. R. BLACKWOOD, and

Resolved,—That the Prize offered for the best Essay on the *Influence of Mercantile Library Associations, in Elevating the Moral and Social Condition of the Mercantile Class*, be a Silver Medal, and that it be only awarded in the event of not fewer than two Essays being submitted.

It was moved by Mr. B. CHAMBERLIN, seconded by Mr. H. E. MONTGOMERIE:

That the subject for the Prize Essay, to be competed for among the Clerk Members of the Association, be *On the Discovery and History of Canada to the period of its Conquest by the English*.

It was moved, in amendment, by Mr. T. S. SMITH, seconded by Mr. J. W. M'GLASHAN:

That the subject be the *Newspaper Press* and its Influence on Society.

The amendment was put and negatived.

The original motion was then put and resolved.

It was moved by Mr. ADAM BROWN, seconded by Mr. JOHN LOWE, and

Resolved,—That the time for the reception of Essays on both subjects be limited to 1st March 1849.

It was moved by Mr. B. CHAMBERLIN, seconded by Mr. BUDDEN, and

Resolved,—That the thanks of the Association be given to Board of Direction, for their very efficient services during the past year.

It was moved by Mr. T. S. SMITH, seconded Mr. B. CHAMBERLIN, and

Resolved,—That a vote of thanks be given to Messrs. J. Barry, J. Brown and J. Davidson, for their services as scrutineers.

The President then declared the Meeting dissolved.

JOHN MURRAY, *President*.

JOHN LOWE, *Rec. Secretary*.



EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association.

GENTLEMEN,—At the close of the Eighth Year of the existence of the Mercantile Library Association, the Board of Directors have the pleasing duty of announcing that, although the past year has been one of unparalleled commercial distress, yet at no former period have the affairs of the Association been in a more healthy state than at present. At its commencement a large accession of Members was obtained, and it is gratifying to state that the subscriptions have, on the whole, been paid with more than usual promptitude. With no desire to convey the impression that the Institution is in as flourishing a condition as could be desired, your Board can yet safely affirm that the past year has been emphatically one of progress. Still the fact is not to be disguised that although a very considerable portion of the debts which have so long burdened the Institution has been paid during the year, a large sum remains unliquidated and the usefulness of the Association is consequently much contracted. The Board firmly entertains the belief that a concentration of efforts is all that is required to relieve the Association from so embarrassing a position, and it is therefore hoped that each individual Member will feel it alike a duty and a privilege, to exert himself to the utmost to promote its prosperity.

With these brief introductory remarks the Directors proceed to the consideration of the various departments of the trust committed to their care at the

commencement of the year; and would first invite your attention to that important department from which the Association derived its name.

THE LIBRARY.

Your Board has, with regret, to announce that this department has not been much enlarged since the date of the last Report, as the many pressing claims upon the funds of the Association have precluded the possibility of any additions being made thereto by purchase. A few donations have, however, been received, which have from time to time been acknowledged through the medium of the press, and for which the warmest thanks of the Association are due to the respective donors. The Directors regret to state that a considerable number of the books which appear in the catalogue have been missing, in some instances, for two and even three years. Your Board cannot too strongly urge on all the Members of the Association the individual duty of each to use his influence for the recovery of the missing volumes, some of which form part of a series, and the remaining volumes being thus incomplete, the loss is the more to be regretted. The Directors are aware that Public Institutions are always more or less liable to suffer from the negligence and inattention of some of their Members; but, in their opinion, the retention of a book, the property of a Public Institution, is much more culpable than of one belonging to a private individual, as, in the latter case, but one would suffer, while, in the former, many are made to participate in the loss. The total number of volumes now in the Library is 4268, of which 39 have been presented during the past year. The number of books issued has been 3764, to about 350 readers, which affords a gratifying proof of the estimation in which the Library is held by the Members.

READING ROOM.

The Directors have much satisfaction in reporting that the Reading Room continues to be numerously attended. The following is a list of the Newspapers and Periodicals received by the Association, of which those marked with an asterisk have been added since the publication of the last Annual Report.

PERIODICALS.

Edinburgh Review.	Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.
Quarterly Review.	Tait's Magazine.
North American Review.	Frazer's Magazine.
North British Review.	Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.
Blackwood's Magazine.	Literary Garland.
Simmond's Colonial Magazine.	Medical Journal.
New Monthly Magazine.	Bentley's Miscellany.
Dublin Magazine.	Douglas Jerrold's Shilling Ma-
United Service Magazine.	gazine.

NEWSPAPERS.

Montreal Herald.	New York Observer.
——— Gazette.	——— Courier des Etats
——— Courier.	——— Unis.
——— Transcript.	——— Semaine Literaire.
——— Pilot.	Boston Atlas.
——— Register.	Cincinnati Gazette.
——— Temperance Advo-	Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.
——— cate.	London Times.
——— Canada (Official) Ga-	——— Illustrated News.
——— zette.	——— Punch.
——— Witness.	——— Atlas.
——— Minerve.	——— Watchman.
——— L'Aurore.	——— Record.
——— L'Avenir.	——— Patriot.
——— Melanges Religieux.	——— Economist.
Quebec Gazette.	——— Athenæum.
——— Mercury.	——— British Banner.
——— L'Echo de la Presse.	——— Gardener's and Farm-
Hamilton Spectator.	——— er's Journal.
——— Gazette.	——— Naval and Military Ga-
Toronto Colonist.	——— zette.
——— Church.	Willmer & Smith's European
Kingston British Whig.	——— Times.
Brockville Recorder.	North British Advertiser.
Port Hope Advertiser.	Edinburgh Witness.
Woodstock Monarch.	Glasgow Constitutional.
New York Herald.	——— Citizen.
——— Commercial Adver-	Limerick Chronicle.
——— tiser.	Dublin Warder.
——— Albion.	

Soon after the opening of the Navigation a book was procured for the purpose of entering the receipts of produce through the Lachine Canal. This book has been regularly kept during the season, by the Superintendent, from reports obligingly obtained from the various Forwarding Houses, by Mr. Eden, of the Customs' Department, to whom the thanks of the Association are due. Before concluding this brief notice of the Reading Room, the Board have much

pleasure in expressing their approbation of Mr. McGlashan, for his unremitting attention and active exertions, in the seeking and obtaining of the latest intelligence, and for his services in this Department generally.

LECTURES.

Under this head, the Directors have the gratification of announcing that the last Winter's Course was very numerously attended, not only by the Members, but by the public generally. Your Board feels justified in stating, that the course was more popular than in any previous year of the Association's History; and, they consequently hail this as a sure token of the happy influence which it is now exercising on the community. The following is the list of the Lectures which constituted the foregoing Course, and your Board had much pleasure in conveying the thanks of the Association to the several gentlemen whose names appear therein:—

- Introductory Lecture—Rev. WM. TAYLOR, A.M.
- Epistolary Correspondence—W. H. FLEET, Esq.
- Contemporary Literature—D. FRASER, Esq., A.M.
- Literature & Customs of India—Rev. J. JENKINS, B.A.
- Ancient History of Commerce—JOHN REID, Esq.
- Memory—Rev. H. WILKES, A.M.
- Mercantile Law of Lower Canada—E. L. MONTIZAMBERT, Esq.
- Religion Inculcated by the Writings of Shakspeare—Jos. S. LEE, Esq.
- The State and Prospects of Canada—Col. GUGY.
- Supernatural Characters of Shakspeare's Plays—C. DUNKIN, Esq.
- Prose Works of Milton—GEO. ROBERTSON, Esq.
- Ballad Poetry of Scotland—H. E. MONTGOMERIE, Esq.
- Literature and Customs of the Hindoos—Rev. J. JENKINS, B.A.
- Life Assurance—S. C. SEWELL, Esq., M.D.
- A Visit to Palestine in 1846—J. H. WILTON, Esq.
- Old English Literature—W. M. B. HARTLEY, Esq.
- Poems of Homer—Rev. J. A. DEVINE, A.M.
- History of the Jews in England—Rev. A. DESOLA.
- Money and Banking—JOHN LEEMING, Esq.
- Relations & Connections of Science—Rev. R. M'GILL.

Considerable progress has already been made in filling up the programme for the present year, and your Board has every reason to anticipate from the names of those gentlemen who have intimated their willingness to lecture, that the forthcoming Course will prove highly popular and interesting. The Opening Lecture of the Course for the present Winter was delivered in the large room of Donegana's Hotel, by the Rev. Henry Wilkes, A. M., on the evening of the 16th November. In consequence of the well-known talent of the lecturer, and the anticipated presence of the Governor General the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, the attendance was unusually large. The Lecture was delivered in a masterly and forcible manner, and the subject, "FREEDOM OF MIND", was most ably handled. The Directors have much gratification in stating that at its close, His Excellency was pleased, as the Association's Patron, and in its name, to tender its thanks to the Rev. Lecturer. His Lordship likewise took advantage of the occasion afforded, to address the members present, which he did in a manner not only eloquent and interesting, but calculated to be highly instructive. As a further evidence of the interest excited, the Directors have the gratification of announcing that His Excellency was accompanied, not only by the several gentlemen of his suite, but by Lady Alice Lambton, whose countenance and encouragement on this occasion they would thus respectfully acknowledge.

Your Directors, considering it highly desirable that the excellent Lecture and Speech delivered on the evening referred to, should be preserved in some permanent form, requested His Excellency and the Rev. Mr. Wilkes to allow their publication, a permission which was kindly accorded, and a pamphlet containing them is now in course of preparation.

CLASSES.

The Directors have unfortunately to record the fact that during last Winter no *Class*, properly so called, was formed in connection with the Association. They are of opinion, however, that a brighter prospect of success in this department might be attained, were the exertions of the appropriate Committee concentrated for the institution of *one large class* in each

season for the study of some interesting branch of science or literature, instead of the somewhat vague and indefinite system which has hitherto prevailed. This course has been adopted at the commencement of the present year, and a class has in consequence been instituted for the study of Commercial Law, (a subject of the highest importance to every mercantile man) under the direction of H. Driscoll, Esq., Q.C.

A prize was offered at the annual meeting for the best Essay on "*The influence of Mercantile Library Associations in elevating the moral and social condition of the mercantile class*;" but with regard to this the Directors unfortunately have again to echo the regret expressed in former reports, at the failure of similar attempts. The Board would, however, recommend that another effort be made to obtain an Essay upon this subject—one, as they believe, of great importance to the Association;—and in order to the better accomplishment of that object, they would suggest the propriety of not confining the competition to its Members alone, as hitherto, but of making it free to all who may choose to enter the lists. While treating of this head, your Board would notice with pleasure the success which attended the Athenæum Club, formed last Winter in connection with the Association. Weekly meetings were held in the Odd Fellows' Hall, at which many very creditable Essays were read and questions of interest discussed by the Members, of these the Club numbered fifty-three, in addition to whom the meetings were attended by many other Members of the Association, as well as by the public; and there is every reason to believe that it will maintain, during the coming Winter, the reputation it has already acquired.

MUSEUM.

Your Board has sincere pleasure in stating, that the Museum at length exists in something more than name, as not only have large additions been made thereto during the course of the year, but the whole of the various articles have been properly arranged, and are now exhibited in the Association's Rooms. The collection of geological specimens was examined by W. E. Logan, Esq., Provincial Geologist, who devoted some time to their classification and arrange-

ment, and for whose kind assistance the Directors have to express their warmest thanks.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer's Report so fully exhibits the financial position of the Association, that it is unnecessary to dwell thereon at any length. It will be observed that although there is a very material increase in the total receipts, as compared with those of last year, there is still a large amount remaining to be realized, much of which, they trust, will yet be collected. The advantages which would result, were the subscriptions promptly paid at the commencement of the year, cannot be over-estimated; and it is hoped that the Members generally will relieve the succeeding Board from the painful necessity, which has too often been imposed upon that now in office, of postponing the satisfaction of demands that were known to be just, solely because many of the Members had neglected or refused to pay their subscriptions.

It will be noticed that the debt due to the Montreal Bank has been lessened by £25, and the renewal of the note for the reduced amount effected on the guarantee of Messrs. Young and Montgomerie.

Your Directors, during their incumbency, ventured to solicit the countenance of His Excellency the Governor General, who was pleased graciously to accede to their request that he would permit his name to appear as Patron of the Association.

At the first meeting of the Board after election, four Honorary Directors, Messrs. John Young, H. E. Montgomerie, W. C. Evans, and Alex. McDonald were elected, in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution, and have acted with the other Members of your Board during the past year.

In the Board of Directors many changes have occurred since the last Annual Election. Mr. Reid, who so ably filled the Chair as President at the commencement of the year, having left town, Mr. Murray was elected in his place, and Mr. Campbell succeeded Mr. Murray as Treasurer. On the resignation of Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Brown was appointed Vice-President, and Mr. T. S. Smith, Corresponding Secretary; but Mr. Smith resigning shortly afterwards, Mr. Freeland was chosen to fill that office, and finally, Mr. Buckham succeeded Mr. Freeland, on the depar-

ture of the latter from town. Messrs. Templeton, Lusher, Alexr. Morris, McDiarmid and Lewis, have been chosen to fill the vacancies occasioned in the Board by the above changes and by the resignation of Mr. Miller.

Your Board desire to acknowledge the invariable courtesy of Editors of the city newspapers whose frequent notices of the proceedings of the Association have given clear proof of the interest they feel in its welfare, and richly merit this expression of gratitude.

The Directors have now to submit a statement of the number of members on the books of the Association, which exhibits a marked increase over the number in any preceding year.

It is indeed gratifying to be enabled to state that the list of members has year by year been steadily increasing since the establishment of the Association in 1841. At the close of that year the total number of Members was - - - - - 130

In November, 1842, - - - - -	264
1843, - - - - -	298
1844, - - - - -	392
1845, - - - - -	469
1846, - - - - -	446
1847, - - - - -	508

While in the present year it is - - - 613

This number is composed of—

Merchant Members, - - - - -	192
Senior Clerk, - - - - -	279
Junior Clerk, - - - - -	68
Life, - - - - -	49
Honorary, - - - - -	25
Total, - - - - -	613

So large an increase of numbers in a year of such commercial depression as the past has been, is very satisfactory and gives bright promise for the future.

The Mercantile Library Association of Montreal has already attained a most respectable place among the literary institutions of our country; and much good has been effected through its instrumentality.— Still, the Directors are convinced that its means of usefulness might be greatly increased, and even a higher position secured for it were proper exertions

made by all its Members on its behalf. Your Board would, therefore, conclude with earnestly urging upon all the Members of this Institution, the necessity of uniting their efforts towards the promotion of its prosperity and they confidently trust that their appeal will be warmly responded to by every one who is truly interested in the welfare of the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.



Dr. The Mercantile Library Association in Account with John Campbell, Treasurer. Cr.

1848.	£	s.	d.	1848.	£	s.	d.
To Paid Salaries—Mr. McGlashan, Assistant, and Mr. Cormick,	117	8	2	By Balance from Last Year, ... ..	...	...	2 16 4
" " Rent, Assessment and Insurance,	91	0	0	" Subscriptions—Merchants, 1847,	£5	0	0
" " Wood and Gas,	34	13	6	" " Senior Clerks, 1847,	5	0	0
" " Wilmer & Smith on Account of Papers,	39	16	0	" " Junior Clerks, 1847,	2	0	0
" " R. & C. Chalmers do,	45	5	0	" " Merchants, 1848, ... ..	...	...	12 0 0
" " Sundry Papers and Magazines,	26	5	4	" " Senior Clerks, 1848, ... ..	...	...	204 10 0
" " Postages,	19	4	7	" " Junior Clerks, 1848, ... ..	...	...	217 11 3
" " Montreal Bank on Account of Loan,	27	6	1	" Sale—Old Newspapers, ... ..	...	...	32 15 0
" " Sundry Accounts,	84	2	2	" Admission to Lectures, ... ..	...	...	0 10 0
" " Balance,	1	18	5				16 16 8
	£486	19	3				£486 19 3
	E. E.	Montreal, Nov. 1848.					£1 18 5
				Nov. 29.—By Balance in Treasurer's Hands, ... ..	...	...	JOHN CAMPBELL, Treasurer.

LIABILITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Debts of the Montreal Library,	£130	0	0	Estimate value of Books and other Property,	£800	0	0
Loan from Montreal Bank,	75	0	0	Arrears of Subscription,	£102	17	6
Sundry Individuals and Firms,	247	15	9	Of which considered bad and doubtful,	74	7	6
	£452	15	9	Cash in hands of Treasurer, ... ..	...	...	28 10 0
							1 18 5
							£830 8 5

ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Estimate value of Books and other Property,	£800	0	0
Arrears of Subscription,	£102	17	6
Of which considered bad and doubtful,	74	7	6
Cash in hands of Treasurer,
			28 10 0
			1 18 5
			£830 8 5

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 LIBRARY
 540 EAST 58TH STREET
 CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
 U.S.A.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
540 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

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