

FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.



Montreal :

PRINTED BY LOVELL AND GIBSON, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1845.

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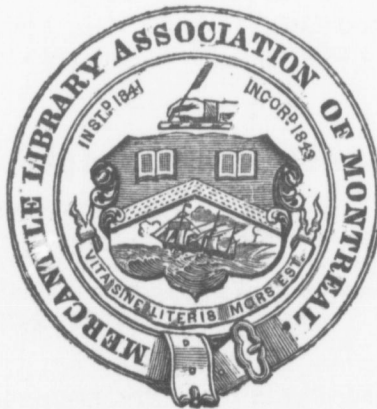
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MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
OF
MONTREAL.

Office Bearers—1845.

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

Directors.

J. H. WINN,	G. H. FROTHINGHAM,
PETER NICOL,	T. P. ROE,
JOHN MURRAY,	HENRY PRATT,
CHARLES FREELAND,	T. D. HALL,
DONALD FRASER,	J. J. MACKENZIE.

Honorary Directors.

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.	JAMES DOUGALL, Esq.
JOHN ARMOUR, Esq.	S. JONES LYMAN, Esq.

Office Bearers—1846.

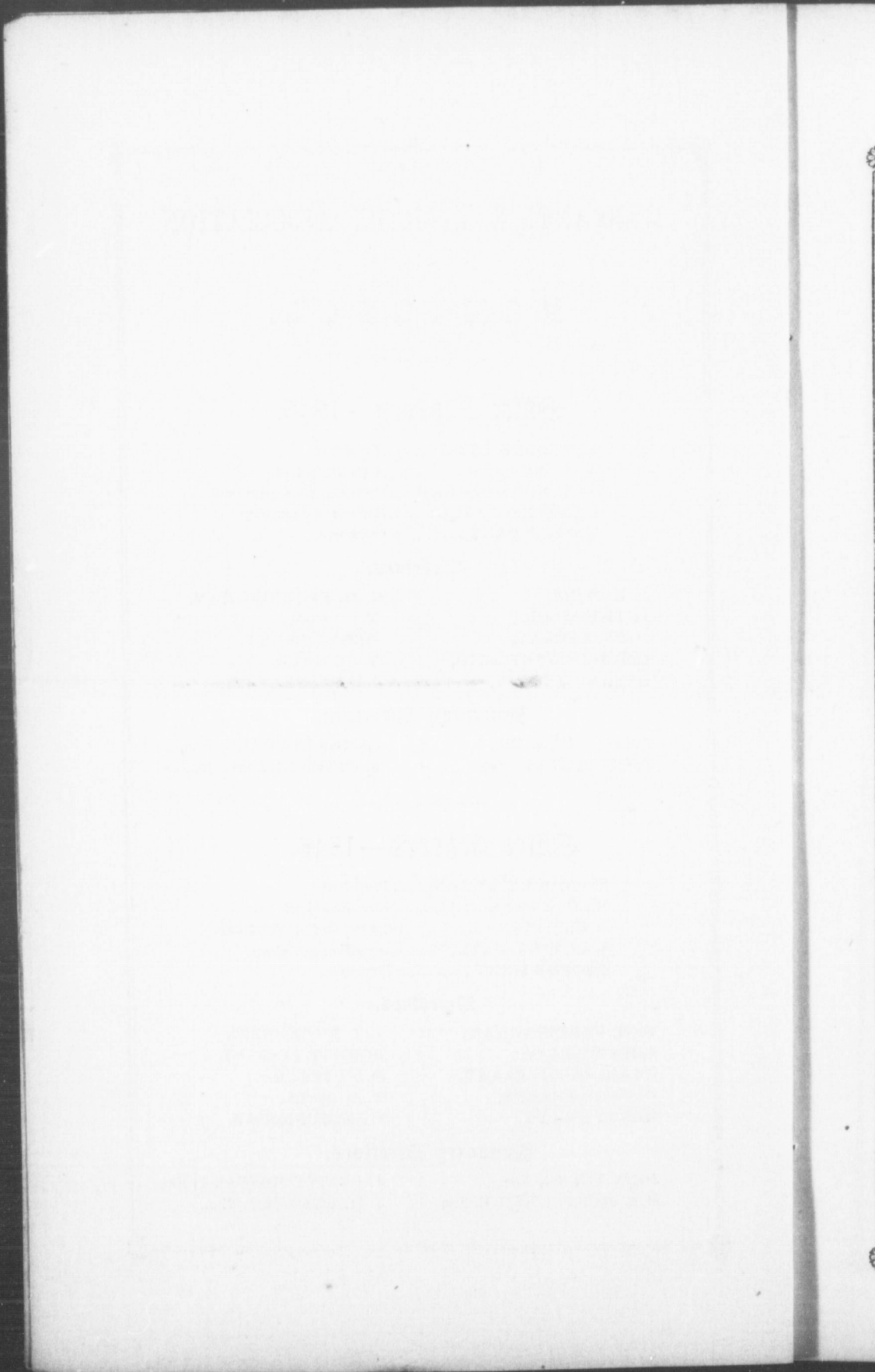
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G. H. FROTHINGHAM,	J. J. MACKENZIE,
JOHN MURRAY,	ROBERT LINDSAY,
CHARLES FREELAND,	D. BUSTEED,
DONALD FRASER,	T. D. HALL,
HENRY PRATT,	W. McDUNNOUGH.

Honorary Directors.

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



ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting of the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL, was held in the Rooms of the Institution, St. Joseph Street, on the evening of Monday, the 24th November, 1845.

The Chair having been taken by the President, Mr. THEODORE LYMAN, the Meeting was called to order ; and the Fifth Annual Report read by the Recording Secretary, Mr. S. LESTER TAYLOR ; after which the annual statement of the funds was submitted by the Treasurer, Mr. GEORGE BENT.

On motion of Mr. ANDREW ORR, seconded by Mr. JOHN M'GILL, it was

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

After a lengthy discussion, it was, on motion of Mr. S. L. TAYLOR, seconded by Mr. W. C. EVANS,

Resolved,—That the subject for the Prize Essay, be "*Commerce, its Objects and History*."

The following amendments to the Rules, of which due notice had been previously given, the old By-Laws being first repealed, were, on motion of Mr. CHARLES FREELAND, seconded by Mr. J. H. WINN, unanimously adopted :

"That twenty days be allowed for the perusal of any Book taken from the Library."

"That a uniform Fine of one penny per day be levied when any Book is kept beyond the time allowed."

On motion of Mr. J. W. MUNSON, seconded by Mr. G. W. ROWAN, it was

Resolved,—That the thanks of this Meeting be accorded to the Board of Direction, for their services during the past year.

The Meeting was then dissolved.

THEODORE LYMAN, *President*.

S. LESTER TAYLOR, *Rec. Secretary*.

At a Meeting of the Board of Direction on the 1st December, the time for the reception of Essays, was limited to the 15th March, 1846.

S. LESTER TAYLOR, *Rec. Secretary*.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Fellow-Members of the Mercantile Library Association.

GENTLEMEN :

The time having again arrived when it is the duty of your Board of Direction to present you a Report of the year's proceedings, it is a matter of much gratification to them, to be enabled to lay before you, a statement calculated to afford lively satisfaction to you, and to all the well-wishers of the Association ; furnishing good ground to look forward with confidence, not merely to its continuance, but to a constantly advancing measure of prosperity and usefulness.

To the increasing population of this city, and the enlarged intelligence and desire for improvement, developing itself among our citizens, connected with the convenience and central position of the Rooms now occupied by the Association, and the constant attention and unwearied exertions of the Superintendent, (Mr. Hayward,) your Board mainly attribute the increased prosperity of the Association.

In every Department save that of Classes, there has been considerable increase during the past year, as the respective Reports will satisfactorily show.

Your Board, being anxious to secure the services of a Superintendent in every way calculated to take charge of the Rooms offered at the expiration of the term of service for which the late Superintendent was engaged, an addition to the salary paid him, and they

feel confident that the measure has met with the entire approval of those who have visited the Rooms and experienced the untiring assiduity and obligingness of the individual who at present fills that responsible situation.

Another extra charge occurred in the item of Rent; the proprietors insisted on an advance, and your Board, finding it impossible to procure equally eligible premises elsewhere, were reluctantly compelled to pay the sum demanded.

Trusting that their conduct in these and in other respects will meet with your approval, they will now proceed to the Reports of the various departments of the Institution.

Library.

A few donations from several individuals—amounting in all to 97 volumes,—comprise all the additions that have been made to the Catalogue during the year; making a total of 3,934 volumes. Of the donations, particular mention should be made of Ree's Encyclopedia in 80 volumes, the gift of John Frothingham, Esq. As the heavy expenses which the Treasurer is compelled to meet absorb nearly all the income of the Association, the purchase of more books is for the present necessarily set aside; a necessity much to be regretted, as the want of a number of standard works, particularly in the departments of History and Science, is severely felt.

The Librarian reports a number of books still missing, and every exertion has failed to bring them to light. This is much to be deplored, as many valuable

works are lost to the Association through the gross negligence of some of its Members.

During the year the number of constant readers has been 320, and the number of volumes issued 3,095, besides upwards of 300 periodicals. On comparing these statements with those of last year, there will appear an increase of 20 to the number of readers ; and of volumes taken out, nearly a thousand. This decided proof of a growing thirst for knowledge among the Members generally, must be hailed with delight by all who are anxious to see the sphere of the Association's beneficial influence extended.

The very imperfect arrangements that existed for the receipt and delivery of books, rendered some change absolutely necessary, and accordingly a part of the Reading-Room has been enclosed by a partition, within which most of the books are kept, thus placing them entirely under the control of the Librarian, and preventing any displacement of them without his knowledge.

Your Board find it their painful duty to notice the injury which some of the books have received through carelessness or abuse. They hope the present mention of this evil will ensure more care on the part of readers, and obviate the necessity of their alluding to it in future.

Reading-Room.

Soon after the last Report the number of Newspapers and Magazines was materially augmented by the union of the "*Religious and Commercial Reading Room*" with our own. According to the terms of

agreement, the Publications subscribed for by that Institution were received till 1st May last, free of any charge to the Association. A due regard to economy obliged your Board to discontinue many of those Publications which they would have gladly retained ; but, to secure the continued support of many influential subscribers to that Institution, a few of them have been continued.

Your Board have followed out the suggestion contained in the Report of last year, of taking Periodicals in conjunction with Members of the Association, which has enabled them to procure at a trifling cost, a few valuable publications.

Your Board have great pleasure in recording their testimony to the diligence and attention which have been given to the Shipping and News Book, and to the general good order of the Room. They are also happy to notice the increased interest which the Members generally evince in this department. They would recommend a still further addition to the present list of Newspapers and Magazines.

The Publications received at present are as follows :—

QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

London Quarterly Review ; | North American Review.

MONTHLY MAGAZINES.

Athæneum ;
Ainsworth's Magazine ;
Blackwood's Magazine ;
Bentley's Miscellany ;
Canada Temperance Advocate ;
Dublin University Magazine ;
Fraser's Magazine ;
Hunt's Merchants Magazine ;

Journal of the American Temperance Union ;
Literary Garland ;
New Monthly Magazine ;
Philosophical Magazine ;
United Service Magazine ;
Odd Fellows' Chronicle.

NEWSPAPERS.

Montreal Herald ;	New York Observer ;
— Gazette ;	— <i>Courier des Etats Unis</i> ;
— Courier ;	* — <i>Semaine Littéraire</i> ;
— Times ;	Boston Evening Journal ;
— Transcript ;	Cincinnati Gazette ;
— Pilot ;	London Times ;
— Observer ;	* — Pictorial Times ;
— Register ;	— Atlas ;
— <i>La Minerve</i> ;	* — Punch ;
— <i>Aurore</i> ;	* — Literary Gazette ;
— <i>La Revue Canadienne</i> ;	— Watchman ;
Quebec Gazette ;	— Record ;
— Mercury ;	— Patriot ;
Kingston News ;	Liverpool Advertiser ;
* — Chronicle ;	Willmer & Smith's European
— British Whig ;	Times ;
Toronto British Colonist ;	North British Advertiser ;
Cobourg Church ;	Edinburgh Witness ;
Brockville Recorder ;	Glasgow Constitutional ;
Port Hope Gazette ;	— Citizen ;
New York Albion ;	Dublin Warder ;
— Journal of Com-	— Nation ;
merce ;	Limerick Chronicle.

NOTE.—Those marked thus (*) are supplied to Members at half the cost.

Lectures.

Your Board flatter themselves that the Course delivered before you last winter was superior to that of any former year. This department of the Association being very popular they have spared no exertions to secure for the coming season, a Course equally interesting and useful. The Rev. CHAS. BANCROFT, A.M., will deliver the Introductory Lecture during the present week ; and the following gentlemen have kindly offered their assistance to carry out the Course :

REV. HENRY WILKES, A. M.	REV. WILLIAM DAWES,
" G. F. SIMPSON, A. M.	" WILLIAM BOND,
" J. J. CARRUTHERS, D. D.	CHRISTOPHER DUNKIN, Esq.
" ALEX. MATHIESON, D. D.	J. BARBER, Esq. M. D.
" F. BOSWORTH, A. M.	W. M. B. HARTLEY, Esq.
" ROBERT MCGILL,	J. C. FISHER, Esq. L. L. D.

Besides the foregoing, several gentlemen have made conditional promises, which should their aid be required, they will undoubtedly fulfil. The list of subjects chosen is not yet complete, therefore your Board cannot lay an entire Programme before you. The following are the subjects already selected :—

Uniformity in the past and present agency employed in producing changes on the Earth's surface.

Ancient Britons.

Eloquence.

Intellectual Philosophy.

Phrenology.

Mental Portraiture, with specimens.

Most of these will occupy more than one evening.

Following out the suggestion of their predecessors, your Board procured a Lecture in the French Language, last winter. To the Hon. A. N. Morin, M.P.P., who so kindly consented to appear before you, they feel the liveliest gratitude—a gratitude which they testified by making him an Honorary Member of the Association. Your Board regret to say that notwithstanding their unwearied efforts to secure the active co-operation of your French Canadian fellow subjects, they have as yet met with no great success. They would recommend to their successors, a continuance of that friendly policy towards them, which has been uniformly acted upon by your Board since the formation of the Association. They cannot believe that the paltry difference of origin will for ever prevent the assimilation of common interests.

Your Board lost no opportunity during the past winter of availing themselves of the services of dis-

tinguished strangers, and the eminent success which attended the Addresses from Judge Preble of Portland, Maine, and W. H. Merritt, Esquire, M.P.P., fully justifies them in suggesting to their successors the propriety of endeavouring to obtain Lectures from gentlemen who may visit this city during the winter.

Another pleasing feature in last year's Course was the delivery of Lectures by two of the Clerk Members. The attendance on these occasions, and the marks of approval with which the Lectures were received, attested the success of this experiment, which your Board trusts will be repeated.

Classes.

At the commencement of last winter steps were taken for the formation of Classes in various branches of learning, but your Board regret to report that none but a Drawing Class was formed. They hope to see more interest exhibited in this department during the approaching winter. A Debating Class in connection with the Association has already been formed, and they would recommend Members to avail themselves of the advantages which it cannot fail to afford.

At the last Annual Meeting it was resolved to offer a Prize for the best Essay on "*The advantages to a Commercial Man of a Literary Education*," and in accordance with that Resolution, due notice was given, and the Rev. Messrs. Wilkes and Simpson, and John Dougall, Esquire, were requested to act as judges. Your Board regret to record the fact that only four Essayists competed for the Prize; which was unani-

mously awarded to Mr. Winn, the present Corresponding Secretary. They would advise the offer of another Prize upon some other subject, trusting that the paucity of Essays for the last, proceeded more from the novelty of the attempt, than from any want of talent on the part of the Members.*

Museum.

Under this head little unfortunately is to be said. A Cabinet containing geological specimens having been recently offered to the Association for a very trifling consideration, it was accepted. Its contents, with the articles mentioned in last year's Report, form the commencement of a Museum, which it is hoped, will ere long increase to such an extent as to be really serviceable and valuable to the Members of the Association.

Finances.

The Treasurer's Statement, annexed to this Report, will give a clear exposition of the present state of the Association's funds. It will be gratifying to notice that notwithstanding some unavoidable addition to the expenditure, it is more than covered by the yearly subscriptions.

At the last Annual Meeting a Resolution was passed, calling on the Members to enter into a subscription to pay off the more pressing debts under which the Association laboured. The call was promptly and liberally

* The subject selected by the Meeting was—" *Commerce, its Objects and History.*"—See Page 5.

responded to ;—seven of the Senior Clerk Members paid £12 10s. each, thus becoming Life Members ; which with a number of donations of smaller amount, realized the handsome sum of about £130. An appeal was then made to the Merchants of the City, by whom about £60 was subscribed. This enabled the Treasurer to pay most of the debts immediately demanding attention, and relieved the Association from the degradation of owing long standing claims, and at the same time furnished solid evidence of the interest felt in its welfare by many of its Members and friends.

It was confidently hoped that the payment by the Government of the heavy amount expended on the late premises in St. Ann's Market, which you were constrained to leave, would have relieved the Association of the greater part of its remaining liabilities. This hope has not yet been realized. The case was stated by your Board, both personally and by petition, to the Heads of the Government, and the reasonableness of the claim was not denied ; but no grant to reimburse the amount was made during the last Session of Parliament. When the Legislature again meets, renewed application must be made, and your Board feel convinced that the authorities, who give liberally to Institutions of a similar character, will not refuse to us an amount, which cannot be considered other than a just claim for compensation. Your Board trust that the receipt of this sum will enable their successors to pay the amount borrowed from the Bank of Montreal, for the very purpose of fitting up the Rooms of which you were deprived, and which is due in May next.

The premises now occupied by the Association are, both in size and situation, all that could be desired for the purposes of a Library and News Room. The want of a Lecture Hall attached is a serious objection, and this deficiency your Board have endeavoured to remedy in the best manner possible. The Room used for the purpose last year being found too small, and otherwise inconvenient, the Hall above the Exchange News Room has been engaged for the coming Course.

The list of Members presents, on comparison with former Reports, very gratifying evidence of a progressive increase ; it now includes :—

Merchant Members,	108
Senior Clerk Members,	202
Junior Clerk Members,	89
Life Members,	48
Honorary Members,	22
— 469	

The simple mention of the fact that the names upon the List at this time last year, numbered 392, and the year previous 319, speaks more forcibly than any protracted comment.

At the last Annual Meeting your Board were authorized to elect four Merchant Members, as Honorary Directors, and in compliance with this direction, the following gentlemen were chosen :—John Young, James Dougall, John Armour, and S. Jones Lyman, Esquires. From them your Board received much and valuable assistance in the discharge of their trust.

During the year, Messrs. Montgomerie and Roe—two of the gentlemen elected to the Board at the last

Annual Meeting,—becoming disqualified under the regulation which restricts the Directors to the Clerk Members only, Mr. Winn was chosen to fill the Secretaryship, held by Mr. Montgomerie, and Messrs. D. Busted and R. Lindsay, elected Directors. Your Board, though anxious to avoid all appearance of flattery, cannot refrain from here recording their grateful sense of the long and valuable services rendered the Association by Mr. Montgomerie, as a Member, as a Director, and more recently as Corresponding Secretary—services, doubtless, in some degree known and appreciated by yourselves, but which can only be fully estimated by those who have long had the pleasure of acting with him in the Direction Board, and who have since felt how heavy is the loss they have sustained.

The practice of early shop-shutting is now so general among respectable Houses, that your Board deem it unnecessary for them to say more, than the expression of their hope that it will soon become universal.

In conclusion, they would urge all and each of you, to avail yourselves as much as possible of the means of improvement offered you through the Association ; so that you may thus gather the information, and lay the foundations of that intelligence, uprightness and honor which characterise **BRITISH MERCHANTS**.

Donations to the Mercantile Library Association,

1845.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
James Wait, Jr.,	1	5	0	M. R.,	0	5	6
R. McNaughton,	1	5	0	A. Phillips,	1	5	0
Watson Thomson,	1	5	0	G. M. Kinghorn,	0	15	0
Andrew Orr,	0	10	0	N. S. Whitney,	1	5	0
C. Freeland,	1	5	0	Lieut. Hanly,	0	7	6
J. Reid,	1	5	0	Jas. Scott,	2	10	0
A. M.,	0	10	0	J. McGibbon,	0	15	0
W. S.,	0	10	0	Jas. Dougall,	2	10	0
D. Busted,	1	5	0	R. Watkins,	0	5	0
George Bent,	1	5	0	A. Cuvillier, Sr.,	5	0	0
Henry Pratt,	0	5	0	S. G. Patton,	0	5	0
Jas. Mathewson,	1	5	0	J. Armour,	2	10	0
J. B. Greenshields,	5	0	0	Wm. Blake,	1	10	0
Robt. Anderson,	0	10	0	R. H. Stephens,	1	5	0
J. O. Moffatt,	2	10	0	H. O. Harrison,	1	0	0
J. Gilmour,	2	10	0	H. Atkinson,	0	10	0
A. Gilmour,	2	10	0	J. Burns,	1	5	0
J. Logan,	2	10	0	D. Lindsay,	0	15	0
J. M. Tobin,	2	10	0	S. R. Evans,	1	0	0
J. R. Orr,	0	15	0	R. Forester,	0	5	0
J. Birss,	1	5	0	Alex. McGowan,	0	5	0
T. B. Anderson,	2	10	0	G. R. Charlton,	0	5	0
A. Moir,	0	10	0	T. P. Roe,	1	0	0
E. Wright,	0	10	0	Theo. Lyman,	2	10	0
J. E. Mills,	1	5	0	S. L. Taylor,	1	5	0
H. L. Routh,	2	10	0	D. Fraser,	1	5	0
R. D. Collins,	1	5	0	D. McKenzie,	1	0	0
Wm. Laurie,	5	0	0	J. H. Blaine,	1	5	0
John Gray,	0	5	0	J. J. McKenzie,	1	0	0
F. W. Bostwick,	1	5	0	D. Mair,	1	5	0
J. Foster,	1	5	0	H. H. Whitney,	1	0	0
R. Thompson,	0	5	0	J. Young,	5	0	0
H. Harkin,	0	5	0				
J. M. Donegani,	0	7	6				
					£91	0	0

£91 0 6

Montreal, 24th November, 1845.

Dr. **Mercantile Library Association in Account Current with George Bent, Treasurer.** *Cr.*

1845.		1845.	
Nov. 24.—To paid Papers and Periodicals.....		Nov. 24.—By Cash balance on last Annual Report.....	
" " " on account of Furniture.....	£ 24 4 2	" " Subscriptions, Merchant Members, 91 18 9	£ 5 5 0
" " " Books.....	14 17 3	" " Senior Clerk do.....	128 5 10
" " " Philosophic Apparatus.....	9 4 8	" " Junior do.....	31 5 0
" " " Insurance and Assessment.....	0 19 6	" " Sundry Donations.....	91 0 6
" " " on account Stationary, Engraving, Printing, &c.....	10 5 9	" " Life Members, Admission to Lectures.....	87 10 0
" " " Debts due at last Annual Report.....	9 2 4	" " for Catalogues.....	9 11 3
" " " Rent.....	123 4 10		
" " " Salaries.....	92 10 0		
" " " Postage, Fuel, and other incidental expenses.....	66 17 6		
" " " 1 year's Interest on £200 to Montreal Bank.....	79 15 0		
" " " Prize Essay.....	12 2 0		
" " " Balance on hand.....	2 8 9		
	1 9 4		
	<u>£447 0 1</u>		

1845.
Nov. 24.—By Balance due Mercantile Library Association 1 9 4
E. E. GEORGE BENT, *Treasurer*.
Montreal, 24th Nov. 1845.

AMOUNT DUE BY THE ASSOCIATION.		ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION.	
Montreal Bank, payable in May, 1846.....	200 0 0	Estimate value of Property.....	725 0 0
Montreal Library " " 1848.....	151 19 0	Arrears of Subscription unpaid.....	£181 0 0
Sundry individuals and firms.....	167 18 4	Of which considered bad or doubtful.....	90 0 0
	<u>£519 17 4</u>		91 0 0
			<u>£816 0 0</u>