# Report of the Council

OF THE

# LITERARY

AND

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

OF

QUEBEC,

FOR 1860,

Submitted at the Annual Meeting, held on the 8th January, 1861,

WITH

OFFICERS, LIST OF MEMBERS, &c.

QUEBEC :

Printed by G. T. Cary, at the "Mercury" Newspaper and Job Office, 11 & 13, Fabrique Street, U.T.

1860

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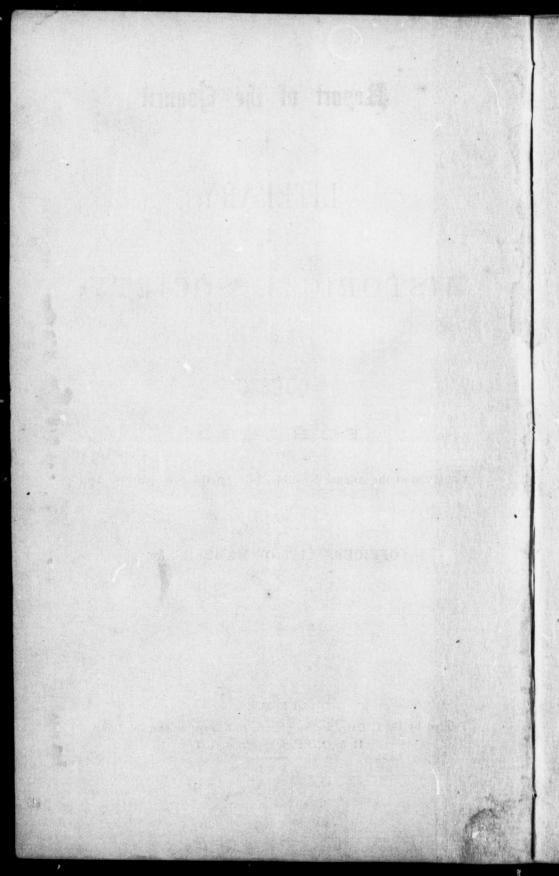
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### REPORT

OF

### THE COUNCIL

OF THE

# Literary and Historical Society,

FOR THE YEAR 1860.

The Council of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec have the honor to submit their Report of the proceedings of the Society during the past year.

While the Council are compelled to admit, with regret, that the results of the last year will not bear comparison with the efforts of the Society during the earlier years of its existence, they derive some consolation from the reflection that our condition and prospects now are more satisfactory and hopeful than they have been for many years past. If we turn to the Reports of the Council for the last few years, we find them filled with expressions of regret at the depressed and languishing condition of the Society. They are, in effect, little more than sad and weary chronicles of the continued disasters and losses of the Society. And, in truth, when we review this catalogue of calamities, we wonder almost that the Society could have survived The destruction of our splendid Museum by fire, the great them. injury inflicted on the Library by the same cause, several compulsory removals of the wreck of our effects in the course of four or five years, with the heavy losses necessarily incident to such removals, such are some among the calamities with which the Society has been recently visited. It is not surprising if, under such circumstances, the most hopeful friends of the Society lost heart and began to despair of her ever recovering from the effects of such a series of crushing disasters and discouragements.

A brief review of the proceedings of the Society during the last twelve months, will prove, however, that our affairs are far from desperate, and that it depends entirely upon the members themselves, what position the Society will take in future among the Literary Institutions of our Country.

Among the gratifying proofs of the improvement in the condition of the Society, the Council would mention, that during the past year the number of members has been greatly increased, our Parliamentary Grant restored, a commodious room has been provided for the purposes of a Museum, Stated Meetings for Literary purposes have been regularly held, and many interesting Literary and Scientific communications have been read at them; the publication of our Transactions, suspended during the last four years, is about to be renewed; and, lastly, arrangements have been made for the speedy publication of certain highly interesting Historical Documents, which for some years past the Society has had in its possession, but which it has hitherto been prevented, through lack of funds, from giving to the world.

The Council would also call attention to the Treasurer's Report, which accompanies this, as a satisfactory evidence of our improved financial condition. That officer's Report for the previous year, 1859, shows the balance in hand, at the close of that year as £17, while his Report for 1860, shows a balance to the Society's credit of upwards of £187, not including therein, nearly £200 of arrears of subscription due by members, of which a large portion doubtless can be recovered without difficulty.

To the liberal Parliamentary grant of last year (£250) is mainly owing the improvement in the financial position of the Society. The sum granted is the same amount as is allowed annually to the "Natural History Society" of Montreal, and the "Canadian Institute" of Toronto. This Society received a similar grant during the year

1854, but the grant was reduced to the almost nominal sum of £50 during the years 1856, 1857, 1858, and in 1859, was withdrawn altogether. There cannot be any doubt that the renewal of the Parliamentary grant last year was due in a very great degree to the vigorous effort which the Society was making to arouse itself from the lethargy into which it had sunk, and to prove itself deserving of assistance; and the Council are warranted in assuming that, as long as we shew ourselves as deserving of public aid as the sister Societies at Montreal and Toronto, already referred to, our claims will not be considered as inferior to theirs. The members of this Society should indeed take shame to themselves, if they permit any other Literary Institution in the Province to take precedence of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, the oldest chartered institution of the country, and one which enjoys, moreover, the peculiar advantages of a local habitation at the seat of Government, in the ancient capital of the whole Province and the centre too of the most interesting and important historical associations connected with the discovery and cession of the Province.

A small portion of the grant of last year was judiciously expended in renting the large room now used as a Museum. On the shelves in that room are now arranged all that remains of the splendid collection of animals which the Society once possessed. These, and a few cases of minerals and coins, are all that our Museum now can boast. Poor as the collection is, we have done well to display it. We have shewn at least that we are resolved to make the most of what we have, and that we certainly have room and to spare for further specimens. Although we may not hope to build up here, even in many years, anything like a complete or rich Museum of Natural History generally, yet we may reasonably look forward to collecting even within a few years, a Museum in which would be found specimens of almost everything interesting or important in the animal, vegetable, or mineral world, in our own immediate neighborhood. To form such a local Museum would not be beyond either the pecuniary or scientific resources of the Society: and yet the importance and utility of such a Museum could not but be considerable. The discoveries of the last few months have proved beyond cavil that the district is rich in mineral wealth, and hence the study of the minerals of the district is at the present moment a subject of special interest and importance. Such study could not but be very materially promoted by a judicious and well-arranged collection, accessible to the public, of all the more important minerals of the locality.

The Council have referred to the papers read at the Stated Meetings as one of the proofs of the marked improvement which has taken place during the year.

The following is a list of the papers read :-

- 1.—Lieut. Ashe, R. N., F. R. A. S., Vice-President. on "The Gyroscope".
- 2.—S. Sturton, Esquire, Curator of Apparatus. on "The Kimmeridge Clay and its Fossil Remains".
- 3.—N. H. Bowen, Esquire, Council Secretary, on "The Isle of Orleans".
- 4.—Lieut. Ashe, R. N., F. R. A. S., Vice-President, on "The Rotation of the Earth".
- 5.—W. S. BINGHAM, Esquire, Curator of Museum, "Notes of a Residence in the Sandwich Islands".
- 6.—Lieut. Ashe, R. N., F. R. A. S., Vice-President, on the "Notes of the Expedition to Cape Chidley to observe the late Solar Eclipse", 1860.
- 7.—S. STURTON, Esquire, Curator of Apparatus. on "Copper and Copper Mines".
- 8.—C. M. Tate, Esquire, C. E., Engineer to Quebec Harbor Commission, "Anecdotes of the Brunels".
- 9.—S. Sturton, Esquire, Curator of Apparatus.
  on "The Wild Flowers of Quebec, and where to find them".

Some of the foregoing communications the Society has, on the recommendation of the Council, deemed worthy of being added to its transactions, and the Council are happy to be able to say that a number of the transactions containing these papers will, probably, within the next month, be in the hands of the Members. The renewal of the old practice of publishing our transactions, (which was wholly discontinued during the preceding four years) is perhaps the best prac-

tical proof of the revival of the Society. Let us hope that the coming years will be even more fruitful in such results than the past.

Among the papers which the Council have recommended for publication, is that by Lieut. Ashe, containing his notes of the Expedition to the Coast of Labrador to observe the Eclipse of the sun which took place on the 18th of July last.

When it became known to the Government of Canada that a well appointed Scientific Expedition was to be sent from the United States to our coast to record their observations of this interesting phenomenon, our Government wisely determined that Canada should not be wholly unrepresented on the occasion, and they selected Lieut. Ashe as the Canadian delegate to Labrador.

The observations made by Lieut. Ashe on that occasion will of course be embodied in the general report made to Congress by his Scientific associates from the United States. Meantime it seems desirable that Lieut. Ashe's scientific journal should be published as speedily as possible "in extenso" in this country, in order that we may have an opportunity of seeing that the mission of Lieut. Ashe was not without fruit and that the Scientific interests of Canada did not suffer in the person of our energetic Vice President.

The Council cannot conclude their report without referring with pleasure to a somewhat novel but highly gratifying feature, in the events of last year. Within the last few weeks the President received from St. Malo, the birth place of Jacques Cartier, a communication from a Literary gentleman of that town, (a friend of an old corresponding member of this Society,) a long and apparently carefully compiled Memoir of that celebrated discoverer. M. C. Desmazières De Séchelles, the writer of this Memoir, which contains, he states, many details of Cartier's life and discoveries hitherto unpublished, collected by himself from the archives of Saint Malo, promises to send us future communications. The Council lost no time in conveying their thanks to this gentleman and expressed the gratification they would feel in being

favoured with further communications from him. The Members generally will soon have an opportunity of judging of the merit of the paper, and of deciding whether its author should not be formally enrolled on our list of Corresponding Members.

The Council have briefly adverted to many significant and gratifying proofs of improvement in the condition and prospects of the Society. The Council cannot, however, conceal from itself the fact that during the last few years our Society has had to deplore the loss of many of her oldest and most distinguished members, who from one cause or another have gradually separated themselves from her. The Council feel satisfied that, no matter what efforts we may make to infuse life and vigor into the Society, we cannot hope to achieve any important or lasting change unless we can find means to increase considerably the number of our working members. Let us swell the ranks of our Society, and we may be certain that with our increase of members will follow increased usefulness and increased activity.

The Council have had under consideration the measures which should be taken with a view to increase our members, and they have submitted certain suggestions on the subject for the consideration of the Society. These suggestions will, they trust, commend themselves to the members generally. The adoption of the recommendation to invite the original members of the Society to rejoin her ranks, either as life-members or ordinary members, could not fail they think to be attended with good results. The Society would thus secure to itself the encouragement and support of many who took part in its proceedings during its earlier and more palmy days. Their presence would serve to remind the Society of the labors of some of its most distinguished members and encourage the members of the present day to follow in the footsteps, even afar off, of such men as a Bayfield, a Baddeley, and an Andrew Stuart.

In concluding their Report, the Council would observe that while they are of opinion that we have reason to congratulate ourselves upon the progress which has been made by the Society during the past year, we should only regard that progress as an incentive to renewed exertions. The future of the Society is in the hands of its members. If each member will resolve to do his utmost during the coming year, and if the members of the Council especially, discharge their duties faithfully and vigorously, we need have no fears but that the progress made during the present year will far exceed that of the past.

E. A. MEREDITH, LL.D.,

President, Literary and Historical Society.

Quebec, January 8, 1861.



### REPORT

OF THE

## CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM.

The Curator of the Museum is sorry that it is not in his power to report to the Council any great addition to this department, since it came under his charge, but at the same time he feels pleasure in stating that with the assistance of Mr. Smith, who was employed by order of the Council, the birds and animals have been to a certain extent, cleaned, set up, and rescued from impending destruction. The sum of Forty dollars having been voted by the Council for shelving and other carpenter's work, your Curator has caused such shelves as he considered necessary to be placed in the Museum. He has also procured a large table with a glass case made for the Minerals: this table is now in the Museum. Some repairs have also been made in the old glass case containing the Coins, Medallions, &c.

In these additions, &c., he has expended Twenty-two dollars fifty cents, leaving a balance in hand for future additions and repairs.

Having found the Museum in the utmost disorder, your Curator begs leave to say that he has done all in his power to bring it into a proper state; and, as he is desirous now to retire from the position he holds, it may be of some benefit to his successor to know what things he will have under his charge. The appended list contains a correct account of the same.\*

Your Curator wishes more success to the Museum under his successor than he has enjoyed, and he is inclined to think that if the different members of the Society were appealed to, they might collect among their friends, (if they possess them not themselves,)

<sup>•</sup> The Catalogue is placed in the Museum for reference,

many specimens of Natural History, Geology, and articles of curiosity, &c.

Your Curator would also recommend to the Council and to his Successor, an examination into the state of several animals belonging to this department, e'er the setting in of the ensuing summer, as many of them are mere nests for moths, which on the least increase of the temperature by which they are at present surrounded, issue forth in myriads, to the threatened destruction of the valuable library of the Society. This should be at once taken into consideration, as nearly all the animals could be easily replaced by applying to any of our friends who are fond of the sports of the field, and whose donations in this respect would be amply compensated for, by having their names associated with the first and oldest Society of Canada.

I have the honor to be,

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. ST. MAUR BINGHAM,

Curator of Museum:

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS MADE ON ACCOUNT OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, DURING THE YEAR 1860, SHEWING THE ACTUAL BALANCE ON HAND, 4TH JANUARY, 1861.

1861.			Cr.	£	8.	d.
January	4.	Paid	Rent	46	5	0
"	"	"	Insurance	5	12	6
"	"	"	Fuel and Gas	2	19	6
"	"	66	Salary of Assistant Secretary		0	0
"	"	"	Guardían		5	0
66	66	"	Periodicals and Stationary		2	9
66	"	66	Printing and Advertising		18	1
	66	"	Shelves &c. for Library and Museum	14	19	5
"	66	"	Postage and Sundries	2	18	1
"	"	"	Restored to Historical Document			
			Fund		0	0
	"	"	Balance on Hand	124	19	5
				£279	19	10
1860.			Cr.	£	8.	d.
January	4	By	balance from last Account	5	4	3
. "	66	"	interest on last Account	0	0	7
June 1861.	5	"	grant from the Legislature		0	Ö
January	5	"	Subscriptions collected to date	24	15	0
				£279	19	10
				£	8.	d.
			General Fund on hand		19	5
			Historical Documents Fund		10	2
			Life Members Fund	12	8	0

### J. DUNBAR,

Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

T. D. HARINGTON, Auditors.

#### LIST OF DONATIONS.

The following donations to the Society have to be acknowledged since the last published List, besides numerous pamphlets of Reports, Catalogues, &c., &c.

From W. A. Holwell, Esq.,

Duplicate in electrotype, of the Society's seal.\*

From the "Academia Real das Sciencias" (Lisbon) 27 vols. viz :-

- 1 vol. Royal folio "Portugaliâ Monumenta Historica" Sc. vol. 1.
- 1 do do do do Leg. et Cons., vol. 1 6 vols. foolscap—" Historiâ da Academia, vol 12 pt. 2; vols. 1.
- (new series) 2 and 3.
  5 vols. demy 4to "Memorias da Academia," 1 classe, vol. 1.
- do do 2 cl. vol. I and II pt. 1.

  14 pamph. Roy. 8vo. "Annaes das Sciencias Lettras" 7 mos cl. 1.
  do do 7 " " 2.
- From the Court of Directors, of the Honorable the East India Company, (London.)
  - 3 vols. Impl. 4to, "Magnetic and Meteorological Observations at Bombay in 1855, 1856, and 1857."

From H. S. Scott, Esq.,

15 Silver Coins and 2 Gold Coins, various countries Memento of the Great Fire at Quebec, May 28, 1845. 1 box Labels for Museum.

From E. A. Meredith, Esq., LL.D.

1 Amaduva Finch, native of India.
1 "Wax Bill" do of Australia.
1 pamp. "The Oregon Question," by the donor.
Meteorlogical Observations at Toronto, 1840—53
Geological Map of Canada.
Temperature of Toronto.

From the Royal Society, (Edinburgh.)

Proceedings of that Society, Session, 1852-4-6-7.

From the Royal Irish Academy, (Dublin.)

Proceedings of that Institution. 1850-3.

The original then missing has since been found.

From Mr. George T. Cary.

51 vols., 8vo " Monthly Magazine or British Register," from 1796 to 1822, inclusive.

3 vols. 8vo. "L'Acadie." by Sir James Alexander.

1 vol. 12mo. "Esquisse sur le Canada," by J. C. Taché, M.P.P., et Commissaire a l'Exposition Universelle

A section of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable. A Specimen of Asbestos from Beauce, C.E.

Remarkable Section of a Birch Tree. Specimen of Red Sandstone from New York.

Canadian Ground Hog, (Sifleu.)

Grey Squirrel. do do A Turkish pass for the Dardanelles. Gazetteer of Oxford Co. C. W.

Textile fabric from Sandwich Island.

#### From Capt. J. McDougall.

5 pamph., Mss. relating to the " Royal Mail Steamship Company."

do Copy of Testimonials to Capt. McD.

5 Copies Inventory of the "Royal William," stor., &c.
40 letters from Gen. Alava, Gen. Evans, Commodore Beary, Col.
Considine, Foreign Office, Capt. Chappell.

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5 Charts of Chicago, Kinosha, St. Joseph, and Grand Haven harbors.

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#### From the Legislature of Canada.

Crown Lands Map, 1857.
Appendix to Statutes.
Table of Statutes, 1 English, 1 French.
3 pamp. Relations des Jésuites.
Appendix vol. XVI, No. 1, do. Nos. 6, 7, 8.
Journals, vol. XVII.
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