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TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
PAMPHLET COLLECTION

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF



THE HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1892

HAMILTON
SPECTATOR PRINTING COMPANY
1893

Board of Management.

1893.

REV. SAMUEL LYLE, B. D., *Chairman of the Board.*

Appointed by City Council :

	Term expires.
WM. DORAN, - - - - -	1895
J. EDWIN O'REILLY, - - - - -	1894
FRED. WALTER, - - - - -	1893

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR BLAICHER, - - 1893

Appointed by Public School Board :

WARREN F. BURTON, - - - - -	1895
F. W. FEARMAN, - - - - -	1894
REV. SAMUEL LYLE, B.D., - - - - -	1893

Appointed by Separate School Board :

JOHN T. ROUTH, - - - - -	1894
GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON, - - - - -	1893

1892.

ADAM RUTHERFORD, *Chairman.*

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR BLAICHER.	REV. S. LYLE, B. D.
ADAM RUTHERFORD.	WARREN F. BURTON.
FRED. WALTER.	GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON.
J. EDWIN O'REILLY.	J. T. ROUTH.

COMMITTEES FOR 1893.

BUILDING AND FINANCE :

G. LYNCH-STAUNTON, <i>Chairman.</i>	MAYOR BLAICHER.
J. E. O'REILLY.	WM. DORAN.

LIBRARY :

W. F. BURTON, <i>Chairman.</i>	F. WALTER.
F. W. FEARMAN.	J. T. ROUTH.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD, *Librarian and Secretary of the Board.*

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

Gentlemen of the Public Library Board:

We have been associated together as members of this Board for the past four years. We have been trustees to the people of this city in acquiring for them a Free Library and Reading Rooms. We had many difficulties to encounter in selecting the site or location, in the erection of a suitable building, in choosing the books, papers, magazines, etc, and in the appointment of a librarian and lady assistants. It is not necessary here to enter into details as to those difficulties, the discussions on some of which waxed very warm, and are, no doubt, yet fresh in the memories of most of the members of this Board. Suffice it to say that in nearly all these important questions the decision arrived at was for the best interests of the Library and the people whom the Library is intended to serve and accommodate. The result of our labors are that we have a Public Library and Reading Rooms second to none in our Dominion, a Public Library that is in every way an honor to our city, a Public Library that we can with feelings of pride show to our friends, and strangers visiting our city.

I feel that we were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. William Stewart as our architect. He has given us a building that is handsome, imposing, commodious, well lighted, well ventilated, convenient and in every way most suited for the purpose for which it was built.

I believe that we are all agreed that we were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. R. T. Lancefield, as our Librarian. He has proved himself to be the right man in the right place; and the successful working of the Library and its great popularity is largely due to his exertions, with the able assistance of his very efficient lady assistants.

I believe that the class of books, magazines and periodicals on the shelves and on file are the best that could be selected for the manifold wants of the numerous classes of readers, the tastes of a wide range of individuals having been respected.

I feel that we have great reason to congratulate ourselves on the result of our labors, and that we have discharged the trust reposed in us, as it should have been discharged, for the best interests of all concerned.

We have reason to regret that we did not originally ask the city to place at our disposal the sum of \$60,000, instead of \$50,000. The result is that our financial position is not as good as it ought to be or as good as we would like to see it, our bank account being overdrawn. Our fault was in being too modest. We thought we could purchase a site, erect a suitable building and furnish it for \$25,000, and still have \$25,000 to purchase books. We very soon found that public opinion, which we were constrained to follow, demanded a structure of a kind quite beyond the funds at our disposal, and in consequence and in view of the fact that we could not by law obtain any further sum on capital account, we concluded to make the expenditure for such a building the first claim upon the whole sum of \$50,000, trusting to the city authorities for an additional grant. In pursuance of such a course, an application was made to the City Council for a grant of \$10,000 in the fall of the year 1889; but that body at that time, owing chiefly to the fact that they had in several departments large overdrafts in excess of the appropriations for the year, found themselves unable to accede to our request, but recommended that an application should be made at a later date. In default of such assistance the Board of Management have been driven to call for nearly the full statutory allowance, in order that the necessary and proper additions to the Library may be made. If this grant is obtained from the city, the necessary yearly expenditure might, I think, be kept very nearly within the limits of a $\frac{1}{4}$ mill, or at any rate within the limits of $\frac{3}{8}$ of a mill. The city this year will make new financial arrangements; it will be in a position to throw off the great incubus it has carried for so many years (its city debt bill). This is an opportune time to again apply to the city for a grant, so that we can pay off our

overdraft, and I would urge on the members of this Board to apply to the City Council for a grant that will put our Library in good financial standing.

We have received many valuable donations in books and works of art and hope to continue receiving them. We are especially indebted to the Hon. W. E. Sanford for having donated to us on the anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday, two very valuable oil paintings, "St. Peter in Tears," a copy of a painting by Carlo Dolci, the original of which is in Pitti's Gallery in Florence, and "Faith," an original painting by Professor Annibale Gatti, an Italian Artist of the modern school of painting. These paintings were hung in the Reading Rooms by the donor, where they can be seen by all classes of the community. I trust that the act of this public-spirited gentleman may stimulate others to follow his example.

The Library and Reading Rooms continue to grow in favor, and are patronized by all classes of the community. Books are taken out at about the rate of one every minute during the hours that the Library is open. New books are constantly being added, of all the latest and best publications, great care being taken that no books are admitted that are not instructive, moral and of high tone.

We frequently hear deprecatory remarks regarding the large proportion of works of imagination and fiction, compared with those of other departments of literature, in public libraries. I recently read an address made by Mr. Alexander Ireland, which so nearly agrees with my own views on that question, that I cannot do better than reproduce them, "Now, a man reads either for entertainment or instruction. I would counsel him to mingle both, not allowing entertainment to absorb too great a portion of his leisure hours. But to works of imagination I attach very high importance. 'The function of imaginative literature,' says John Morley, 'is to awaken the sympathies, to quicken the moral sensibilities, and enlarge our moral vision. The sympathies and imagination of those who are engaged all day long in dull and often wearysome work, and whose surroundings it is not in their power to vary, are apt to flag and become languid. To persons in this jaded condition of mind, nothing is more refresh-

ing after the day's work than to spend an hour or two in reading wholesome works of imagination. The mind readily becomes interested in such reading, and is not taxed by it. The humble home or lonely lodging loses its dullness and monotony, and its occupant escapes to and lives amidst livelier scenes. He becomes detached as it were, from his present surroundings by the beneficent gift of imagination, and for a time inhabits a brighter world than the one he daily lives in. This power of detachment, one of the most blessed capacities of our nature, gradually but surely exercises its refining influence, and ministers to our self-dependence.' Before passing from this topic, let me suggest that the supply of works of fiction, while abundant, should exclude third-rate and inferior productions, and everything that is vicious or trashy. Donations of books considered objectionable should be declined as being unsuitable to the objects and aims of free libraries, which are to safeguard and strengthen the young against temptation, by supplying pure, wholesome and instructive reading."

I would respectfully urge on the Board, the advisability of fixing a minimum and maximum amount of remuneration for the lady assistants in the Library. What I mean is, fix a rate per week or per annum on entering, and an increase of so much per annum for each year of service until the maximum amount is reached. I would also suggest that a maximum amount of salary be fixed for the Librarian in his capacity of Librarian, Secretary and Treasurer, and would suggest that that amount be placed at \$1500.00 per annum; and that in consideration of the amount of work done by him, and the high state of efficiency the Library has been placed by him, I would say he is now entitled to the maximum amount.

Since our last annual meeting, the first name has been added to the death roll of the members of this Board. We have to mourn the death of our highly respected and former colleague, Mr. David McLellan. A little over a year ago he was with us, a bright and shining light, with a heart full of affection and good will to all mankind. May it be long before the next name is added to the roll of our honored dead.

On January 11th the Hon. Mr. Laurier visited our Library and Reading Rooms, where he was met by the Librarian and a

number of the members of the Board. Mr. Laurier was greatly pleased with the building, the collection of books, the Reading Rooms and the system under which the institution is conducted.

As the Librarian and Secretary-Treasurer's reports will contain statistics as to circulation of books, and additions to the Library, and the financial statement of the past year in detail, I need not say anything regarding these subjects. I desire, gentlemen, to thank you for honoring me by electing me your Chairman, and for the kind consideration which you have extended to me in that capacity during the past year, in making my duties easy and pleasant to discharge. It is with feelings of regret and sorrow that I make this report, as it not only a report, but a valedictory address, in consequence of my leaving the Board. I have spent many pleasant hours with you, and regret the cessation of our pleasant intercourse. If I have ever said or done anything to hurt the feelings of any member of the Board, I ask him to pardon me, and not to cherish any hard feelings, for I assure you I have nothing but the kindest feelings for you all.

Yours respectfully,

ADAM RUTHERFORD.



FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Management:

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present herewith my annual report of the working and state of the Library for the year ending December 31st, 1892.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 16,515. The total accessions for the year have been 1677 volumes, comprising 1592 volumes obtained by purchase (which includes 190 volumes to replace those worn out and condemned), and 85 volumes as gifts from various sources, leaving a present net total of 18,192 volumes. The number of Borrower's Cards issued to date is 8414.

THE YEAR'S GROWTH.

In purchasing books for the Library many tastes have to be considered, from that of the teacher or student of science, who may be struggling with the complex problems of astronomy or physics, or the still more abstruse subject as suggested by such a title as "De Bary's Comparative Morphology and Biology of the Fungi Mycetoza and Bacteria," through the hundred and one sub-divisions of literature, to the girl of sweet sixteen who delights to read one of Rosa Carey's or Annie Swan's stories of home life, or the school boy, who, too often, would neglect his prosaic everyday studies for the purpose of reveling in the stirring scenes depicted in Henty's books or a volume of the Boy's Own Paper. Constant association with the reading public, however, enables us to obtain a fair idea of the books desired or most likely to be read.

DONATIONS.

During the year 85 volumes were received as donations to the Library, a list of which is appended to this report.

It would be of great benefit to the Library and the city if some public-spirited gentleman who desires to perpetuate his

name in a good cause, would donate anywhere from \$500 to \$5000 for the purchase of books, specially on technological subjects. Books of this class are generally very expensive, and with our present limited resources we cannot begin to keep this class stocked as it should be. The idea here suggested has been acted upon in other cities, each book so purchased having a special label, stating that the book was purchased with funds supplied by——. I have mentioned the technological department as worthy of special notice, because it is here that our apprentices, mechanics, manufacturers, inventors and scientific investigators will find the information which may serve to keep our city in the front rank as a manufacturing centre.

But while it may be largely increased with benefit to the Library and the city, our collection in this department is already very good, compared with other departments, and better still the books are in constant demand.

One gentleman who was pursuing an exhaustive series of practical experiments in technology, and who has had occasion to use the libraries in other cities, complimented this Library, recently, on having, not a larger, but a better selection of technical books than some libraries had in cities three or four times the size of Hamilton. But of course donors may designate other classes of books if they desire.

Persons interested in the various charitable and other institutions of the city, are particularly requested to see that their annual reports are sent regularly to the Library. It is earnestly desired that any printed matter relating to the city be sent, so that in time the Library may become a complete repository of local history.

Thanks are also due to those publishers and friends of the Library who have contributed papers to the Reading Rooms.

ASSISTING READERS.

James Russell Lowell tells us that formerly the duty of a librarian was considered too much that of a watch dog, to keep people away from the books, so as to keep them as fresh and little worn as possible; but that the modern librarian takes a different view of his duties by devising aids for readers.

Realising the force of these remarks, it has been my constant aim, and I have endeavored to imbue my assistants with the same spirit, to aid and assist readers whenever possible.

The classifying of the books on the shelves by subjects has been found most useful and convenient, and a great assistance to both library staff and readers.

The point that most strongly commends this subject classification on the shelves is, that a reader desiring a book, say on electricity, by a particular author, and which is out at the time, can be taken to the shelves, shown all the books on electricity that are in at the moment, and may be able to make a selection that will answer equally well. So with any other subject, be it science, arts, history, etc.

Readers desiring books on any subject (except fiction) are freely invited to inspect the books on the shelves and make a selection personally.

The privilege of admission to the shelves has been largely extended and seems to be much appreciated by readers; nor has the privilege been abused, so far as we have yet discovered.

When in search of facts or special information that cannot readily be found, time and trouble may be often saved by applying to the Librarian, who will cheerfully render assistance when possible.

The subject-catalogue case has also been of great assistance to readers. This case shows the titles of all books, parts of books and magazine articles, in the Library on any subject. The author case, showing the books in the Library by each author, the author's names being arranged alphabetically, is likewise at the disposal of readers for consultation.

Of course, there is not, nor can there be, any short cut to learning, but there may be, and is, such a short cut to information that will make learning more easily accessible. It is our earnest endeavor always to assist readers to the short cut to any desired information.

THE CIRCULATION.

The circulation of books for the year was 198,210 volumes of which 132,720 were given for home use. These figures are one means of showing that the Library continues to be freely

used by the citizens. In addition to supplying books for ordinary readers, the Library is undoubtedly a powerful auxiliary to the work of the schools in our city, by aiding the scholars in the higher classes in their studies. After school hours during school terms, the reference room presents an animated scene with young people, and older ones, too, searching for facts and figures among the valuable encyclopedias and dictionaries of various kinds placed in this room for ready reference.

And while the Library has proved itself a valuable aid to the scholars and teachers of our city, it has also been of great assistance to many who attended one or other of the courses of lectures or class studies held in the city during the past year; notably the University Extension lecture courses under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association and the local branch of the Convocation of Trinity University, Toronto; also the Browning Class, under the leadership of that talented and hardworking member of our Board of Management, the Rev. S. Lyle, B.D. Special lists were prepared and distributed for these lectures, and it was noticed that most of the books so listed were almost constantly in use.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND THE LIBRARY.

The large room in the basement of our building will soon be finished and will make an admirable lecture hall. Might not the usefulness of the Library be still further enhanced if lecture courses could be given in connection with the University Extension movement in connection with other Associations, or directly under the auspices and management of the Library? It is now recognized that libraries are not merely store-houses for books, but readers must be attracted and welcomed, the books made accessible to readers as far as is consistent with orderly administration, and that while giving every reasonable assistance to students every endeavor must be made to reach and educate those who through one cause or another have left school.

The relation of local public libraries to the University Extension movement is now receiving a great deal of attention from educationalists and librarians. Where the library has a lecture hall—and the modern library is considered incomplete without one—a triple purpose is accomplished, (1) an excellent audi-

torium is furnished for lecture purposes ; (2) the required books are convenient to the lecturer and audience, and (3) citizens are encouraged to visit the library and make use of the various departments. In a city the size of Hamilton, courses of University Extension lectures ought to be successful on such subjects as astronomy and other branches of the natural sciences ; on such subjects as sanitary science, heating and ventilating, applications of electricity, and other branches of the useful arts ; on music, architecture and other branches of the fine arts, etc. The University Extension movement is yet in its infancy, but the lecture courses already given in connection therewith, both in England and America, have been the means of stimulating thought and inciting to study ; and if the movement spreads in the future as it has in the past, it will undoubtedly exercise a powerful influence for good on the intellectual activity of our age. It must be our duty, then, to see that our Library is well stocked with the requisite books as the various courses of study are reached, so that we may do our full share in this work.

WEAR AND TEAR.

Our books are handled so much, and alas, too frequently, so carelessly, that the damage resulting is necessarily heavy. But one reason for a large proportion of the damage (apart from careless handling) is to be found in the wretchedly flimsy manner in which many of the new books, especially of the cheaper class, are turned out by the publishers. During the year the sum of \$581.81 was paid for binding, giving us 1081 volumes bound, of which number 246 were new books bound and 835 were old books rebound. In addition to these, several hundred volumes were attended to by the Library assistants, loose leaves pasted in, backs glued on, etc.

THE READING ROOMS.

The Reading Rooms continue to maintain their standing as one of the chief departments of the institution. The 191 papers and periodicals in the Reading Rooms all show signs of being read, from the great London *Times* to the illustrated comic weekly. It is a good sign, too, to find that no paper comes off the fyles more used up from reading than the *Scientific American*, while other papers of the same class are so well worn as to show

that they too are freely consulted. The demand for the back numbers of the periodicals (which are allowed for home reading as soon as new issues are received), continues to steadily increase—a sign that readers take a lively interest in one or other of the many topics so ably discussed in the pages of the leading magazines and reviews.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Our warmest thanks are due to the newspapers of the city for the very efficient aid rendered in keeping the Library well before the citizens, by publishing lists of books, etc.

We have also to acknowledge the courteousness of the Librarian of the Toronto Public Library in occasionally loaning volumes to us, by means of which some of our readers were enabled to secure information not obtainable in our own collection.

During the year I have from time to time instructed the lady assistants in the manifold duties required for the proper working of the institution, and I am pleased to be able to record the uniform quickness with which these details have been seized and acted upon, and the hearty co-operation on their part in our efforts to render the Library useful to the citizens.

I desire to return thanks to the members of this Board for the evidences of confidence and trust reposed in me in the past.

In conclusion, I think I may safely say that we enter on the new year with the determination to still further extend the scope and usefulness of the institution in its various departments.

The appendices attached hereto give details of circulation, etc.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

RICHARD T. LANCEFIELD,
Librarian and Secretary

APPENDIX 1.
CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS.

	Circulating Dept.	Reference Dept.	Total Num. of Volumes.
Cyclopedias and Periodicals.....	1234	728	1962
Religion and Philosophy.....	666	155	821
Sociology.....	522	1367	1889
Natural Science.....	678	386	1064
Useful Arts.....	618	177	795
Fine Arts.....	390	199	589
General Literature.....	1953	341	2294
English Prose Fiction.....	4239		4239
Books for Young People.....	696		696
History, Travels, Biography.	2998	845	3843
	13994	4008	18192

APPENDIX 2.
CIRCULATION BY CLASSES.

The "Total" column includes both books given for home use and use of the circulating and reference books within the building.

	Per Centage of Total.	Total Vol. Circulated.	Vols. given for Home use.
Religion and Philosophy.....	2.2	4378	2210
Sociology.....	2.8	5282	3162
Useful and Fine Arts.....	5.2	11101	4826
Natural Science.....	8.5	16615	9796
Literature Generally.....	25.8	51121	17856
History, Travels and Biography..	13.6	26920	12190
Fiction.....	37.3	73842	73729
Books for Young People.....	4.6	8951	8951
Total for 1892.....	100	198210	132720
Total for 1891.....		198104	136904

APPENDIX 3.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GIFTS.

	Vols.	Pamph.
Black, Geo., City.....	1	
Chittenden, Miss, City.....	3	
Cox, James A.....	2	
Crisp, F. A., London, Eng.....	1	
Dominion Government, Ottawa.....	29	42
Dryden, John, Minister of Agriculture.....	1	
Gibson, Hon. J. M., Provincial Secretary, Toronto.....	1	
Hurd, John C., estate of.....	2	3
Kidner, F., City.....	1	
Legislative Assembly, Toronto.....	8	36
Miscellaneous.....	12	
New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.....		8
School of Practical Science, Toronto.....		1
Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.....	16	
Royal Society of Canada.....	1	
Rutherford, Adam, City.....	3	
Victoria, B. C., Corporation.....	1	
Watkins, T. C., City.....	3	16
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	85	106

Sanford, Hon. W. E., Senator, City, 2 paintings.

APPENDIX 3—CONTINUED.

ANNUAL REPORTS

FROM FOLLOWING LIBRARIES, INSTITUTES AND SOCIETIES.

Aberdeen Public Library, Aberdeen, Scotland. (2)
 Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.
 Birmingham Free Libraries, Birmingham, England.
 Brooklyn Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Brooklyn, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Buffalo Library, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Ont.
 Columbus Public Library, Columbus, Ohio.
 Glasgow, Baillie's Inst. Free Library, Glasgow, Scotland.
 Glasgow, The Mitchell Library, Glasgow, Scotland.
 Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 Hamilton Association, Hamilton, Ont.
 Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, Leeds, England.
 Leeds Free Public Library, Leeds, England.
 Liverpool Free Public Library, Liverpool, England.
 Lowell City Library, Lowell, Mass. (2)
 Manchester Public Libraries (Free), Manchester, England.
 Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee, Wis.
 New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.
 New York Apprentices Library, New York, N. Y.
 New York Free Circulating Library, New York, N. Y.
 Ontario Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association, Toronto, Ont.
 Oxford University, Bodleian Library, Oxford, England.
 Providence Public Library, Providence, R. I.
 St. Louis Mercantile Library, St. Louis, Mo.
 St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.
 Scranton Public Library, Scranton, Pa.
 Sheffield Free Public Libraries, Sheffield, England.
 Southbridge Public Library, Southbridge, Mass.
 Springfield City Library Association, Springfield, Mass.
 Taunton Public Library, Taunton, Mass.
 Toledo Public Library, Toledo, Ohio.
 Toronto Astronomical and Physical Society, Transactions.
 Toronto Humane Society, Toronto, Ont.
 Toronto Public Library, Toronto, Ont.
 Toronto University, Toronto, Ont.
 Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.