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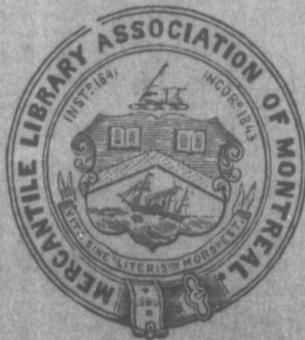
TWENTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF MONTREAL.



Montreal :

HERALD STREAM PRESS, 51 AND 53 GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.

1867

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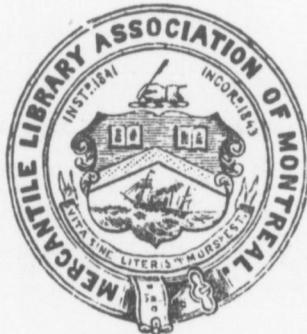
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THE

ANNALS OF THE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OF THE

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## BOARD OF DIRECTION FOR 1867-8.

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PETER REDPATH, *President.*

J. C. SINTON, *Vice-President.*

THOMAS MACDUFF, *Treasurer.*

N. W. TRENHOLME, *Secretary.*

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### DIRECTORS.

THEODORE LYMAN,

THOMAS RIMMER,

JOHN McLENNAN,

JAMES TORRANCE,

F. W. TORRANCE,

D. J. REES,

JAMES STEWART,

G. E. JAQUES, JR.

JAMES INGLIS,

KENNETH CAMPBELL.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 1912

1. The Board of Directors of the United States National Bank for the year 1912 has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the President and the Board of Directors of the United States National Bank for the year 1911, which was presented to the Board of Directors of the United States National Bank at its meeting held on the 15th day of December, 1911.

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THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
OF MONTREAL.

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The Report, which it is now the duty of the Directors to lay before the Members of the Association, relates to the proceedings of a period of sixteen months, owing to a change in the date of our Annual Meeting, consequent upon the amendment to our Act of Incorporation, passed in the last session of the Provincial Parliament, at the request of the Board, and in accordance with a resolution of a General Meeting of the Members held on 22nd May last (1866.)

The Directors cordially congratulate the Members on the possession of the handsome and commodious building in which we now meet. For the first time we occupy a building of our own. It is convenient and comfortable in every respect, and is likely to meet the requirements of the Association for many years to come.

The occasion suggests a review of our past history, and the Directors deem it advisable to put upon record in this Report the leading facts, so far as the rather limited materials at their disposal enable them to do so. Some documents were destroyed by fire, and many others have been lost. With some effort, however, copies of twenty-one, out of the previous twenty-five Annual Reports, have been got together, and to them we are chiefly indebted for the statement we are about to make.

The Institution was originated at a meeting held on 27th November, 1840, at which Mr. Young presided. In the following January (1841) a constitution was adopted, and Pro-

visional Directors appointed. A large room over the then Exchange News Room, in St. Joseph, now St. Sulpice Street, was leased, and the first Board of Directors was elected at a General Meeting held in July of that year. The membership of 130 at the outset increased during the year to 183 active, 65 merchant and 16 honorary, in all 265 members, and the first Annual Report records 311 volumes in the library.

In July, 1843, the Association moved to rooms in the upper floor of St. Ann's Market, which they fitted up at an expense of over £150 to the Association, only to abandon them a few months afterwards for the use of the Government.

A Charter of Incorporation was procured from the Legislature, and received the Royal assent on 9th December, 1843. The original Constitution and Bye-Laws were thereby annulled. A new Code of Bye-Laws was adopted at the Annual Meeting of 7th February, 1844. The Seal of the Association was, at the same time, adopted, with the motto, *Vita sine literis mors est*.

The original Constitution precluded persons in business on their own account from any share in the management of the Institution.

At the Annual Meeting held, as required by the charter, on 25th November, 1844, a resolution was passed requiring the Board of Directors to choose annually four Merchant Members to act with them as Honorary Directors. During this year the books belonging to the Montreal Library were transferred to the Association upon certain conditions, one being that the shareholders of the Library became Life Members of the Association. The sum of £200 was also paid as an indemnity to the shareholders. 2,980 volumes were thus added to the Library of the Association, which, with 64 volumes otherwise acquired, raised the number of volumes to 3,837.

In the early part of 1844 the Association was notified that the rooms they occupied were required for the accommodation of the Government, then about to remove to Montreal. A second removal therefore became necessary, and the premises engaged were those belonging to the Nuns, in St. Joseph

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Street. The idea of building was then contemplated, in connection with the Natural History Society, but the difficulties appeared to be insuperable, and the matter had to be deferred until better days.

The fifth Report, presented 24th November, 1845, was calculated "to afford lively satisfaction to the Members and well-wishers of the Association," and inspire the hope of increasing prosperity for the future.

The Library then numbered 3,934 volumes, and the number issued during the year was 3,095. The number of constant readers 320. The receipts more than covered the expenditure, but a debt of £519, which had been principally incurred in starting the Association, in acquiring the Montreal Library and in fitting up the rooms in St. Ann's Market, still encumbered the Association.

The sixth Report, presented 30th November, 1846, exhibited a steady progress in the growth of the Institution. In this year an important addition to the Library is reported. The special thanks of the Association are declared to be due to "John Young, Esq., for his handsome gift of a copy of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (latest edition)," and to whose "kind recommendation, also, the Association are indebted for the very liberal donation lately received from M. Hector Bossange, of Paris, consisting of 220 volumes French works, an acquisition which, we hope, may tend to encourage the study of French literature among our Members, as well as induce some of our fellow citizens, speaking that language, to join our Association, an object which we have always desired, and now hope, ere long, in some measure to attain." The Board showed their sense of M. Bossange's kindness by making him an Honorary Member.

With the above addition, the total number of volumes in the Library is reported to be 4,209. The number of volumes issued during the year was 3,900, or, including periodicals, 4,000, to 340 constant readers.

The number of Members was 446, made up as follows :—

Merchants, 112 ; Senior Clerks, 196 ; Junior Clerks, 66 ; Life Members, 49 ; Honorary Members, 23. The debt of the Association was now about £400, having been reduced by a grant of £200 from Government, who at length had recognized the justice of the claim of the Association for the expense incurred in fitting up rooms in St. Ann's Market, and abandoned to the use of the Government.

(Seventh Report wanting.)

The eighth Report announces a healthy growth in the affairs of the Association. A more than usually popular and successful course of Lectures had been delivered during the year by the Rev. Wm. Taylor, Rev. J. Jenkins, Rev. Hy. Wilkes, Rev. A. De Sola, Chris. Dunkin, Esq., and other gentlemen.

The opening Lecture of the winter had been delivered with great success in the large room of Donegani's Hotel, by the Rev. Hy. Wilkes, on the subject, "Freedom of Mind." His Excellency the Earl of Elgin, "accompanied by several gentlemen of his suite, and by Lady Alice Lambton, attended the Lecture, and, at its close, as the Patron of the Association, tendered the thanks of the Association to the Rev. Lecturer, and took advantage of the occasion to deliver an eloquent, interesting and highly instructive address to the Members present." The Lecture and Speech were, with permission, both published by the Association.

The Report showed 192 Merchants Members, 279 Senior Clerks, 68 Junior Clerks, 40 Life and 25 Honorary Members, or a total of 613 members, and the amount of annual subscriptions paid to be £454 16s. 8d.

The ninth Annual Report, presented 26th November, 1849, to the Members convened in the Hall over the News Room of the Association, St. Joseph Street, represents the undiminished usefulness and influence of the Association.

Large additions are reported to the Library, which should now show a return of 4,689 volumes, but which actually showed only 3,848 volumes, the Board having to regret the loss of 841 volumes missing before their coming into office.

A most successful course of Lectures had again been delivered by several of the Lecturers already mentioned, and by Hon. W. Badgley, D. C. L., Hon. Judge Mondelet, Rev. W. Leach, D. D., A. Cross, Esq., A. Morris, B. A., T. S. Hunt, Esq., E. A. Meredith, Esq., L. L. D., John Leeming, Esq., and several others of the most prominent and respected of the citizens of Montreal. A class of upwards of 60 had been successfully formed for the study of Commercial Law, upon which subject Lectures were delivered by Henry Driscoll, Esq., Q. C.,

A literary society, called the Athenæum Club, having for its object the improvement of its members in literature and elocution, had also proved very successful.

The membership showed a decrease, as compared with the previous year, greater in appearance than in reality, as many non-paying members had been struck off the books.

The tenth Report, presented 25th November, 1850, represented the position of the Association as having at the beginning of the year been embarrassing in more respects than one. The financial position, which during the year had been "perilous in the extreme," was greatly improved by the results of efforts made to obtain new subscribers, and of an appeal to the public for assistance, which was "generously responded to," and resulted in a subscription of £267 18s. 7d. towards lessening the debt of the Association, which in sums varying between £578 in 1843, and £417 in 1849, had constantly weighed upon the Institution.

The Association was "almost entirely relieved from embarrassments," and the prospects at the close of the year were cheering. The total number of Members was 480, of whom 76 were Life and Honorary Members. The number of Members at the close of the previous year was 509.

In the following year, 1851, the Report drew attention to the "steady progress which the Association continued to make;" the prosperity being attributed chiefly to the harmony and good feeling which prevailed among the Members, and the general desire to promote its interests.

Another removal is recorded "to the present central situation," which was the corner of Great St. James and St. Peter Streets.

"At no period in the history of the Association had it presented so encouraging a financial prospect, notwithstanding a heavy loss by Lectures, and the withdrawal of a few of the Members. The hope is expressed that ere long we shall have the satisfaction of assembling in our own rooms," a hope destined to be long deferred.

The twelfth Report, 2nd November, 1852, notices that the Association was insensibly assuming a character somewhat different from, though not at variance with the intention of its original projectors. The classes upon whose support the Association was presumed to depend did not yield it their zealous co-operation. It is especially remarked that the number of Members engaged in the retail stores was very limited. The number of volumes in the Library was 3,000; the number of Members 400.

The thirteenth Report, 28th November, 1853, shews that the number of Members had been increased during the year to 464. The subject of the erection of a building was again mentioned, and at the General Meeting for the election of officers, held 5th December, 1853, it was moved by Mr. John Lewis, seconded by Mr. Richard McDonnell, and carried: "That this Association is of opinion that the time has arrived when an effort should be made to secure a suitable site for the purpose of erecting a convenient building for its Members." The Hon. John Young, Theodore Lyman and James Davison, Esqrs. were appointed a Committee to ascertain whether it was practicable to carry the resolution into force.

By the fourteenth Report it appears the Association moved during the year from the corner of Great St. James and St. Peter Streets to Nordheimer's Building, Great St. James Street. This year presented a rather unfavourable state of the financial position of the Association. The debt had been increased during the year, and now stood at £260 10s.. The member-

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ship was 409, besides 53 Life and 27 Honorary Members. The Committee which had been appointed at the last Annual Meeting to consider the subject of building, reported that there were two sites suitable for that purpose : one on McGill Street, belonging to the Hon. John Young, and the other on the corner of McGill and Foundling Streets, which the Committee preferred, but which could not then be got. Difficulties, however, prevented any further measures in the matter, and the Board express the hope that so desirable an object will not be lost sight of by their successors.

The fifteenth Report records an increase in membership, which now amounted to 553, of whom 473 were paying Members. The number of volumes in the Library was 4,117.

The Board, while recognizing the many advantages which would accrue to the Association by the erection of a building, did not feel justified in taking action in the matter. A grant from Government was received for the first time, amounting to £50.

The sixteenth Report commences with a notice of a Festival which had been held with a view of furthering the interests of the Association, but the results from which were far from compensating the exertions which had been expended.

At a General Meeting, held during the year, a resolution was passed admitting all Members as eligible to a seat at the Board, which resolution was to take effect at the next Annual Meeting.

The number of Members was 522, being a decrease of 31 as compared with the previous year ; 97 names, however, had been struck off the books for non-payment of subscriptions, and other causes.

The issue of books was 1,912, to 254 readers, the circulation being confined to about 600 volumes. The number of volumes in the Library was stated to be 4,167, an increase of 50 volumes during the year.

The seventeenth Report showed a further decrease in membership, which now stood at 492. Dissentions prevailed for a

time, and threatened serious embarrassment to the Association, but they seem to have been healed before the close of the year. Financial difficulties are complained of, but the Report, like many of those that preceded it, speaks hopefully of the future. An Exhibition of Painting was got up, but resulted in a loss.

The eighteenth Annual Report, containing a statement of the affairs of the Association during a year of great commercial depression, shews only 372 paying Members, being a decrease of 38 Members, and \$310 subscriptions, as compared with the previous year. \$340 raised by special subscription, and \$225 from Lectures, enabled the Association to hold its own, notwithstanding the pressure of the old debts.

This year the Association was instrumental in bringing before a Montreal audience Dr. Chas. Mackay, Wendall Phillips, Horace Greely, and several other persons of celebrity.

It is noticed in the Report that the Government grant which had been £50 from the time it was first granted in 1855, had been cut down to \$140.

The nineteenth Report, December 5, 1859, shewed a further decrease in membership, which had fallen to 348 paying Members, from 372 in 1858, and 430 in 1857.

A temporary removal took place, during repairs or improvements to the rooms in Nordheimer's Building.

The decrease appears to have been somewhat retarded by the improved appearance of the room after the alteration. This expression indicated the necessity of a suitable building for the purpose of the Association, before complete success could be realized.

The number of volumes in the Library is reported to be 3,848. The removal appears to have greatly interfered with the usefulness of the Library. Besides this it is stated that the circulation was confined to about 300 volumes, of which only one-third were in constant use. A suggestion is made that some of the books should be sold, in order that funds

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might be obtained for the purpose of procuring books of greater general interest.

The finances were in a discouraging condition ; a debt of upwards of \$1,800 embarrassed the Directors, who felt that the repeated appeals to the mercantile community for procuring assistance were degrading to the Institution, and detrimental to its usefulness.

The twentieth Report, presented 27th November, 1860, represented that the Association which had been declining in prosperity for some years, had now taken a step forward. The number of Members is reported at 640 in all, being an increase of 230 over the previous year. The number of books issued was over 3,000, to 395 readers. The receipts shewed an excess over expenditure of \$252. Lectures were delivered during the year by Bayard Taylor, Hon. T. D. McGee and others.

The twenty-first Report, 25th November, 1861, shewed a membership of 628 in all, being a slight decrease from the previous year. The number of Members in arrears is reported at 187. The number of books issued during the year was 2,191, to about 200 readers.

The receipts were \$1,452,19, and the expenditure \$1,613,28, shewing a deficiency of \$160,59.

A special subscription was undertaken with a view to lessen the old debt of the Association, now amounting to \$1,846 ; and the sum of \$1,492 was contributed thereto by 127 subscribers, of which the Board subscribed among themselves \$412.

Two Lectures were delivered by John B. Gough, which resulted in a net profit to the Association of \$297,64.

The twenty-second year of the Association's history closed with a gloomy prospect for the future. A Committee appointed for that purpose at the end of the year reported that they found the financial position of the Association most deplorable.

The Association had fallen behind hand greatly during the year, the expenditure being no less than \$416 in excess of revenue.

The twenty-third Report, presented 23rd Nov., 1863, shewed a much more favorable state of the affairs of the Association.

The number of members in all was 474, being a decrease on former years rather in appearance than in reality, caused by striking off many merely nominal members.

The receipts were in excess of the expenditure, and the debt of the Association now reduced to about \$600 was further reduced by the sum of \$293 subscribed on the spot at the Annual Meeting, in response to an appeal made to the Meeting.

A course of Readings by Vandenhoff resulted in a net profit to the Association of \$449.

The Board of this year were the first to apply themselves energetically to the project of a New Building.

At its last Monthly Meeting a series of Resolutions were moved by Mr. Wm. P. McLaren, seconded by Mr. Hector and unanimously carried, the last of which was: That the Board recommend in their Annual Report that immediate steps be taken to erect a suitable Building for the Association. The Report accordingly contained this resolution, and at the Annual Meeting, held Monday, 23rd Nov., 1863, on motion by Mr. McLaren, seconded by Mr. Steele, it was unanimously resolved, (with one dissentient) "That it would be advisable to erect a Building for the use of the Association, and for that purpose immediate steps should be taken to procure the necessary funds as recommended by the Board.

It was also moved by the Hon. Jno. Young, seconded by Mr. H. J. Shaw, and carried, "That a Committee be appointed to take such preliminary steps as they may deem best adapted to accomplish the object in view, and to report progress at the Meeting in December, said Committee to consist of:—S. Caldecott, President; Wm. Workman, Thos. Cramp, Theo. Lyman, Wm. P. McLaren, T. M. Thomson, John McLennan, Hon. Jno. Young, H. J. Shaw; with power to add to their number.

Both resolutions were accompanied by appropriate addresses. In December the Committee reported favorably. They

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stated that the sum of \$20,000 or \$25,000 would be required, instead of \$15,000 as at first supposed, and recommended that a Committee be appointed to ascertain how far, and to what extent the merchants of the city approve of the plan to erect a new building for the use of the Mercantile Library Association.

A resolution was immediately passed in accordance with the recommendation, appointing a Committee, which, as will appear from the names entered in the minutes, comprised many of the most influential merchants of Montreal.

The Committee so appointed immediately issued to the Merchants of the City, a Circular of date, 17th Dec., 1863, and which is contained in the Report of the subsequent year, setting forth in admirable terms the scope and object of the undertaking, and stating it to be their intention to wait on them in a few days to ascertain whether they approved of the proposed plan, and to what extent each was willing to contribute towards the object.

The Members of the Committee issuing the circular were : J. H. Winn, M. H. Seymour, Thomas Rimmer, John Young, John McLennan, W. P. McLaren.

At the General Meeting held 28th Nov., 1864, it was reported that the issuing of the Circular mentioned was promptly followed by a thorough canvass of the city ;

That over \$20,000 had been subscribed, and that plans for Building were under consideration by the Committee, and that all they awaited to take active measures was the payment of funds into the hands of Mr. P. Redpath, who had accepted the office of Treasurer.

With regard to a site for the proposed building, it may be of interest to notice, that at a special Meeting of the Board, held 18th January, 1864, the Hon. John Young reported that Mr. McLaren and himself had purchased the parcel of land, extending from Bonaventure to St. Joseph Street, which had been spoken of as a site, and whenever the Association required it, it could be had from them on precisely the same terms, and for the same price as they paid for it. It was

determined to build on the site mentioned ; and the Hon. John Young, P. Redpath and Wm. P. McLaren, were appointed Trustees to hold the property in trust for the subscribers, until such time as the building was completed, and the property handed over to the Association.

A Building Committee were appointed, consisting of Messrs. Rimmer, McLennan and P. Redpath., who applied themselves with such vigor to the erection of the new building as that the Association were able to move into it in May last.

The Report for the year 1864 represented the revenue from all sources as in excess of the ordinary expenditure, but that of this a large proportion (\$598) was derived from Readings and Lectures, " at best a precarious item of revenue."

The number of *bona fide* paying members was 327, and the amount of the annual subscriptions \$1,170, being a decrease of Members, as compared with the previous year, of 70. The debt is now stated to be \$509,85.

The twenty-fifth Report regrets that the affairs of the Institution have not flourished during the year. The Membership had decreased 37. Want of space in the Reading Room, and want of funds to improve the Library, coupled with the old financial difficulties, not merely impeded progress but helped retrogression. \$310 were collected on the spot, in answer to a spirited appeal made at the Meeting.

The most interesting portion of the Report is that referring to the new Hall, which was now so far advanced, owing to the exertions of the Building Committee, sustained by the merchants of Montreal, whose aid in the construction of the Hall is declared to be a credit and honor to the city, as to warrant the belief that it would be open to the Members on the first of May then next.

The belief of the Board is also expressed, that when fairly settled in the new building, the Mercantile Library Association will become eminently useful in facilitating mutual intercourse ; in extending information on Mercantile and other subjects of general utility ; in promoting a spirit of useful inquiry ; and in

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qualifying the young man of business to discharge with dignity the duties of his profession.

THE NEW BUILDING.

The cost of the New Building having considerably exceeded the expectations of the Subscribers to the Building Fund, the Trustees were unable to carry out the intention of transferring the property to the Association free of debt. The Association therefore, at a Meeting held on 11th July last, accepted the property subject to the liabilities which had been incurred. Notwithstanding the amount of these liabilities, the Members of the Association have every reason to feel grateful to those by whose liberality the large sum of \$19,295 89 was subscribed, and paid for the benefit of this Institution.

The ground on a portion of which this Building is erected was purchased for the sum of - - - - -	\$14,000.00
Add interest paid - - - - -	1,547.69
Building and furnishing cost - - - - -	23,939.48
	<hr/>
	39,487.17
Deduct amount of sale to Cloutier \$8,300	
And net amount of sale to Corporation 1,780.60	
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	10,080.60

Cost of Property now belonging to the Association, \$29,406.57

To enable the Board to meet all the unpaid Building and furnishing accounts, they were authorized at a general meeting held on 22nd Nov. last, to borrow a sum not exceeding \$11,000. It has not been found necessary to borrow more than \$10,300, the amount of certain claims which were paid by Judge Malloch of Brockville, and transferred to him. He takes security in the form of a judgment against the Association registered against the property, and also the personal obligation of three members of the present Board for the repayment of the amount in five years, with interest at 7 per cent., payable semi-annually.

To meet the interest of the Debt, and, if possible, to set aside annually a sum towards the liquidation of the principal, the As-

sociation resolved, at the meeting before referred to, to appropriate the rents derived from such portions of the Building as may be leased. It is hoped that the net income from this source will not be less than \$1,200 per annum.

One office on the ground floor has been let to the Ottawa River Navigation Company at a rent of \$400 per annum, including heating. For the corresponding office or shop on the other side of the entrance, the Board have not yet had a suitable offer ; but it will doubtless be easily disposed of, even before the great improvements about to be made between this property and McGill Street shall have been completed.

The large room on the ground floor under the Library has been let for a school, at \$300 per annum, or \$400 including heating and taxes. The picture gallery on the top story has been let to Mr. F. B. Mathews, who has taken it for a school of design. As the object is one akin to those of the Association, the Board had no hesitation in accepting Mr. Mathews' offer of \$200 per annum, including heating and taxes.

The Board have pleasure in expressing their belief that the property belonging to the Association has increased considerably in value during the last twelve months. The Building is insured in the Royal Insurance Company for the sum of \$15,000, and the Books, furniture, &c. in the British America Assurance Company for the further sum of \$4,000.

The Board decided not to let permanently the large Room over the Reading Room unless circumstances hereafter require it. It is to be hoped the necessity will not arise.

#### EXHIBITION OF ART ASSOCIATION.

An application having been made by the Art Association for the use of the picture gallery and other rooms in the upper story of the Building, the Board were glad to have the opportunity of showing their appreciation of the objects of that Association by granting the rooms for a *Conversazione* and Exhibition of pictures during a fortnight free of charge. The members of this Institution were admitted free to the Exhibition on

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presentation of an order from the Superintendent, and 400 availed themselves of the privilege.

The Exhibition has proved advantageous to this Association by drawing public attention to it, and by making many individuals acquainted with the Building who had scarcely been aware of its existence. We have acquired quite a number of new members in this way.

MEMBERSHIP.

The debt on the Building, which was a source of great anxiety, having been temporarily disposed of, the Board turned their attention to an effort to increase the number of members. In this, owing to the unwearied exertions of several members of the Board, they have been very successful.

The membership is now as follows, viz :—

	82 Merchants,
	155 Senior Clerks,
	181 Junior Clerks,
	2 Ladies
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
Total	420
	140 Life Members
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Total	560

The Directors consider it important that the income derived from the annual subscriptions should be more than sufficient to pay all the current expenses of the Institution. It has hitherto fallen far short of this requirement, and the different Boards have thus been crippled in their operations. They therefore respectfully request the co-operation of each and every member of the Institution in the vigorous effort which is now being made to place it upon a satisfactory basis. The number of members, as stated above, is 420. It is thought not unreasonable to ask that it be raised to at least one thousand, though even that number is far below what the city ought to furnish. The Association, without a home of its own, and without the attraction and comfort it now possesses, numbered

over 400 members when Montreal had a population little exceeding one-third of its present inhabitants.

But our numbers and prosperity can only be adequately increased by every member taking a personal interest in the matter, and exerting himself to induce others to join the Association. By so doing they will benefit themselves as well as them. The larger the income the greater attraction will the Board be enabled to offer. Let no member rest satisfied without doing something to aid in the progress of the Association towards the position it ought to occupy in this community. It is a great mistake to rely upon the unassisted efforts of a Board of Directors, every one of whom is actively engaged in business, and none of whom can therefore devote very much of his time to this single object. The members should show their appreciation of the advantages they enjoy, by endeavouring to extend them to others, and by encouraging the Directors by attending the meetings, and taking an interest in all that concerns the Institution.

#### LIBRARY.

During the confusion consequent upon the removal to the New Building, it became necessary to cease issuing Books from the Library, and the re-arrangement, and other causes prevented the re-opening of the Library until September.

The Board regret to state that quite a number of books are missing, and they urgently request persons who have books in their possession belonging to the Association to return them without delay.

The number of volumes issued during the sixteen months has been 1,963, to 306 members, of which 501 were issued during last month (March.) The circumstances render this result no criterion of what we should expect during the coming year. The amount expended on the Library has been only \$21 for the purchase of 39 volumes from Harper & Bros., New York. We have received the following donations, viz : From Hon. John Young 104 vols. Hansard's Parliamentary Debates,

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1066 to 1831; 93 vols. other Works, including Sir W. Molesworth's Edition of Hobbes' Philosophy.

Charles A. Low, Esq., 36 vols. Illustrated News and Illustrated Times.

Thomas Rimmer, Esq., 21 vols. Miscellaneous.

John McLennan, Esq., 72 Standard Novels, Recent Travels, &c.

Peter Redpath, Esq., 72 do do do do

Jas. McNider, Esq., 10 vols.

Several other handsome donations have been promised which will add greatly to the attractions of the Library during the coming year.

The thanks of the Association are due to the gentlemen whose timely contributions have added so much to the interest and value of the Library.

The Board would recommend to their successors a more thorough classification of the Books than has heretofore existed.

The number of Volumes in the Library is now 4,365.

At our Annual Meeting next year it is hoped that a good report may be given of the use made of them.

#### READING ROOM.

Before entering our New Building the number of Newspapers received was 51, Periodicals 12. With a view to add to the attractions of the Room, the Board shortly after the New Building was erected, deemed it advisable to increase the number to 81 Newspapers, and 24 Periodicals. The increase in Membership not having taken place so soon, and to the extent anticipated, it was afterwards determined from motives of economy to discontinue a few of the most expensive and least read Newspapers and Periodicals. This however, scarcely if at all affected the completeness of the Reading Room, and there is now received a class and variety of publications which undoubtedly make the Mercantile Library Association Reading Room equal to any in British North America. The Room itself is believed to be superior to any public Reading Room in the Dominion of Canada. The ceiling has been recently frescoed and the walls coloured gratuitously by Mr. McArthur,

to whom the thanks of the Association are due for this act of liberality.

Among the British Newspapers received are :—LONDON :—Times, *daily*, Daily News, Pall Mall Gazette, Saturday Review. Spectator, Punch, Army and Navy Gazette, Illustrated London News, Illustrated Times, Bell's Life, Mark Lane Express. LIVERPOOL : European Times, Mercury. EDINBURGH : Scotsman. GLASGOW : Herald. INVERNESS : Courier. DUBLIN : Warder, Freeman.

#### UNITED STATES PAPERS.

NEW YORK : Tribune, Times, Herald, Journal of Commerce, Shipping and Commercial List, Independent, Scottish American, Albion. BOSTON : Journal. RICHMOND : Enquirer. CINCINNATI : Gazette. CHICAGO : Tribune. DETROIT : Free Press. NEW ORLEANS : Picayune.

#### CANADIAN.

MONTREAL : Seven daily papers. QUEBEC : Chronicle. TORONTO : Globe, Leader. HAMILTON : Spectator. LONDON : Free Press. KINGSTON : News. OTTAWA : Citizen ; and a number of weekly papers from Canada East and West.

NEWFOUNDLAND : St. John's Courier. NOVA SCOTIA : Halifax Morning News. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND : Islander.

The best British and American Magazines are to be found on the tables of the Reading Room.

The name of any publication not received has the attention of the Board, if entered in the Recommendation Book, always to be found in the Room.

The Annual sale of Newspapers in December last, amounted to \$93.85. Several of the most valuable are reserved for reference. The following files were bound during the year, and placed in the Library, viz : European Times, 1 year ; Toronto Globe, 2 years, Leader, 2 years ; N. Y. Herald, 2 years, Tribune, 2 years, Shipping List, 2 years ; Montreal Gazette, 2 years, Herald, 2 years. The Board have great pleasure in stating, that during the past few months, the number of Members visiting the Room has very greatly increased.

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## LECTURES.

The Board decided that considering the usually unsatisfactory result of Lectures, in a pecuniary view, it was not advisable to make any arrangements during the present winter. They, however, recommend the consideration of the subject to their successors.

## CHARTER AND BY-LAWS.

Shortly after the Board entered upon the duties of their office, the subject of framing a new set of By-Laws was moved by the Hon. Jno. Young, late President of the Association, which resulted in the unanimous adoption, at a General Meeting of the Association, held on the 22nd May last, (1866) of our present By-Laws, which contain several new provisions.

Among these may be mentioned the conferring of membership only by ticket, and on prepayment of the proper subscription: The abolition of the Five Standing Committees, and giving to the Board full discretionary power at all times to appoint, control, or discharge any Committee, and to manage the entire ordinary business of the Association by means of one or more Committees of their own number; The abolition of the By-Law requiring the election of four Merchant Members annually, as Honorary Directors, a provision which was desirable only under our earlier constitutions, when Clerks alone were eligible to office. The taking away from the Board the power to elect Honorary Members, which can now only be done by a General Meeting of the Members. The abolition of the office of Corresponding and Recording Secretary, and the establishment of that of Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The abolition of Semi-Annual Meetings.

The extending to Ladies, whether as Life or Ordinary Members, all the privileges of the Association, except the right to vote and take part in the Management, and on payment of \$50 for Life Membership, or \$3 per annum.

Admission free by the Members to all Readings and Lectures given by the Association.

In accordance with a resolution of the General Meeting mentioned, of the 22nd May last, the Board also took measures to secure an amendment to the original Act of Incorporation, changing the day of holding the Annual Meeting for the election of Officers, from the first Monday in December, to the second Monday in April, of each year. The Amendment which is the 29th Vic. C. 138, was entrusted to, and its passage speedily secured by the Hon. Jno. Rose, whose services in this as well as in securing the discharge of a legal mortgage that existed on the property of the Association, in favor of the Crown, merit the thanks of the Association.

## BOARD OF DIRECTION.

The Board, as elected at the last General Election in December, 1865, was as follows :—

<i>President</i> , - - - - -	HON. JNO. YOUNG.
<i>Vice President</i> - - - - -	J. C. SINTON.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> - - - - -	R. THOMAS.
<i>Recording Secretary</i> - - - - -	WM. PATRICK.
<i>Treasurer</i> - - - - -	JAS. HARDMAN.

## DIRECTORS.

JOHN McLENNAN,	THOS. SELLAR,
THOS. RIMMER,	WM. ANGUS,
G. E. JAQUES, JR.,	JAS. STEWART,
D. REES,	W. J. PATTERSON,
D. S. EASTWOOD,	A. A. MURPHY.

In consequence of resignations and removals from the city, several changes have taken place, and the Board, as reconstituted, stands as follows :—

<i>President</i> , - - - - -	P. REDPATH.
<i>Vice President</i> - - - - -	J. C. SINTON.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> - - - - -	R. THOMAS.
<i>Recording Secretary</i> - - - - -	N. W. TRENHOLME.
<i>Treasurer</i> - - - - -	JAS HARDMAN.

## DIRECTORS.

JOHN MCLENNAN,	THOS. SELLAR,
THOS. RIMMER,	THEO. LYMAN,
G. E. JAQUES,	JAS. STEWART,
D. REES,	THOS. CRAMP,
R. STEWART,	A. A. MURPHY,

The Board cannot close this part of the Report without expressing their regret that the Hon. Jno. Young should have found it necessary in August last, from the pressure of private business, to place in their hands his resignation, as President of the Association. The Board duly appreciate the great services rendered to the Institution by Mr. Young, at many periods of its history. To him we owe its origin, and chiefly to his exertion we owe the existence of the beautiful Building, in which we are now met.

The Board have been so long and so anxiously occupied with matters connected with the pecuniary position of the Institution, that they have not been able to devote so much time in other directions as they wished. The position of the incoming Board will be much better in this respect, and if they be at all adequately supported by the Members generally, there can be little doubt that pecuniary embarrassments, that have so hampered the Association, from its origin until now, will soon cease to be lamented in the Annual Reports.

It was suggested that the opening of the New Building should be inaugurated by a *Conversazione*, or other form of evening entertainment. The Board were, however, unwilling to incur the necessary expenditure. The *Conversazione* of the Art Association has to some extent obviated the need which might have been supposed to exist for a formal opening of our own.

MONTREAL, 1st April, 1867.

PETER REDPATH,  
*President.*

LIST OF  
OLD LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERS,

*From Report of Mr. A. A. Murphy, of date 2nd October, 1866.*

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FIRST.—OLD LIFE MEMBERS.

Life Members in virtue of having been shareholders in the old Montreal Library.

ALIVE AND IN MONTREAL :

JOHN FROTHINGHAM,	JAMES ADAMS MATHEWSON,
JOHN DONEGANI,	WILLIAM LUNN,
FREDERICK GRIFFIN,	ARTHUR ROSS,
JOHN BLEAKELY,	JOHN J. DAY,
ARCHIBALD FERGUSON,	JOHN MCKENZIE,
JAMES L. MATHEWSON.	

ALIVE BUT REMOVED FROM THE CITY :

BENJAMIN WORKMAN, M.D., Toronto, C.W.  
H. E. MONTGOMERIE, London, England.  
WILLIAM EDMONSTONE, Scotland.  
EDMUND RITCHIE, Hamilton, C.W.  
THOMAS ROSS, Ottawa, C.W.

DECEASED :

HON. JAMES REID,	CHARLES TAIT,
HON. GEORGE MOFFATT,	JAMES L. MATHEWSON, SENR.,
DONALD PROCTOR ROSS,	W. M. PEDDIE,
MISS CLARA GUGY,	J. T. BARRETT,
JOHN FRY,	T. B. A. FORSYTHE,
GEORGE PLATT,	ADAM FERRIE,
H. GRIFFIN,	HON. JOHN MOLSON,
HON. PETER MCGILL,	BENJAMIN HOLMES,
SAMUEL GERRARD,	WILLIAM HEDGE,
T. C. PANTON,	R. H. ARMOUR,

TURTON PENN.

## OLD LIFE MEMBERS, BY PURCHASE.

### ALIVE AND IN MONTREAL.

J. H. WINN,	JOHN BARRY,
GEO. H. FROTHINGHAM,	HENRY LYMAN,
JOHN LEEMING,	T. L. STEELE,
B. H. LEMOINE,	L. FILER,
P. D. BROWNE,	WILLIAM NIVIN,
JAMES FERRIER, JR.	T. M. THOMPSON,
ALEXANDER MILLOY,	HENRY THOMAS,
S. JONES LYMAN,	F. W. TORRANCE,
C. BINMORE,	A. EMPEY,
ANDREW WILSON, SEN.	JOHN LOWE,
ANDREW WILSON, JR.	JOHN LOWE, JR.,
JAMES STEWART,	DONALD MACDONALD,
WILLIAM SALTER,	DONALD MACDONALD, JR.,

### REMOVED FROM THE CITY.

WILLIAM FOOTNER,	W. H. JAQUES.
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### DECEASED.

JOHN MURRAY,	ROBERT FROSTE,
GEORGE RHYNAS,	JAMES W. CUMMING.

### SECOND.—OLD HONORARY MEMBERS.

SIR CHARLES METCALFE, (Deceased.)  
 BISHOP FULFORD.  
 HON. A. N. MORIN, (Deceased.)  
 HON. GEORGE MOFFATT, (Deceased.)  
 HENRY DRISCOLL, Q. C.  
 DONALD MACDONALD, Esq.  
 M. HECTOR BOSSANGE, Paris, France.

## REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CANVASS FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE ASSOCIATION ; TO ASCERTAIN WHAT PERSONS ARE ENTITLED TO BE ENROLLED AS LIFE MEMBERS, BY REASON OF THEIR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BUILDING FUND," AND TO ISSUE TICKETS TO SAID LIFE MEMBERS.

The Committee have the pleasure to report separately, on the question of "Life Memberships."

By agreement made with subscribers to the fund by the "Building Committee," each person subscribing \$100 thereto, was entitled to the privileges of Life Membership; and firms subscribing \$100 and upwards were entitled to a Life Membership for one member of the firm, for each \$100 subscribed and paid.

The duty of ascertaining who were Life Members, under the above arrangement, devolved on Messrs. Murphy and Sinton, who have issued tickets to the following gentlemen, who, themselves, or by their firm, have paid the amounts placed opposite their names, viz :—

NO. OF TICKET.	LIFE MEMBERS.	AMOUNT PAID.	BY WHOM PAID.
70	Peter Redpath .....	\$1,000	Peter Redpath
108	David Lewis .....	750	Lewis, Kay & Co.
110	William F. Kay .....		
109	Richard C. Montgomery )	500	William Molson
15	William Molson .....		
77	Charles Alexander..... )	500	Charles Alexander
139	Thos. Keiller Alexander )		
71	Isaac Buchanan..... )	500	I. Buchanan & Co.
72	Peter T. Buchanan..... )		
73	Alexander Campbell... )		
74	Robert Leckie..... )		
133	James B. Greenshields.)	500	Gillespie, Moffatt & Co.
136	James Alex. Gillespie.. )		
134	George Moffatt..... )		
135	Alex. Thos. Paterson... )		

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NO. OF TICKET.	LIFE MEMBERS.	AMOUNT PAID.	BY WHOM PAID.
89	James Law .....	500	Law, Young & Co.
90	Andrew Law .....		
91	David Law .....		
93	William Leitch .....		
92	John Young .....	500	William Stephen & Co., or George Stephen
101	George Stephen .....		
102	James Stephen .....		
103	William Stephen .....		
104	Francis Stephen .....	500	Henry Thomas
106	John Stephen .....		
128	Henry Thomas .....	500	David Torrance & Co.
22	David Torrance .....		
23	Thomas Cramp .....		
24	John Torrance jr. ....	500	Joseph Mackay & Bros.
82	Joseph Mackay .....		
83	Edward Mackay .....		
84	Hugh Mackay .....		
85	James Mackay .....	300	Grant, Hall & Co.
86	Hugh Macdonald .....		
61	John Grant .....		
63	John Smyth Hall .....	300	George Winks & Co.
62	Alex Fisher Macpherson		
117	George Winks .....	300	J. A. & H. Mathewson
118	William MacDougall ..		
138	Reuben Taylor .....	250	John McLennan
79	*Jas. Adams Mathewson		
80	Hugh Mathewson .....	250	Thomas Rimmer
67	John McLennan .....		
53	Thomas Rimmer .....	200	Thomas Claxton & Co.
25	T. James Claxton .....		
26	Joseph C. Lonsdale .....	200	H. & A. Allan
123	Hugh Allan .....		
124	Andrew Allan .....	200	S. Greenshields, Son & Co.
51	John Greenshields .....		
52	David J. Greenshields ..	100	William Angus
97	William Angus .....		
114	Henry W. Atwater .....	100	Henry W. Atwater
12	T. M. Bryson .....	100	T. M. Bryson
48	William Bayley .....	100	William Nivin & Co.
43	James Benning .....	100	James Benning
54	Champion Brown .....	100	Champion Brown
94	Joel C. Baker .....	100	Joel C. Baker
100	John Baillie .....	100	John Baillie, per James Baillie & Co.
29	James D. Crawford .....	100	Sidey & Crawford

\* N.B.—James A. Mathewson was a shareholder in the Montreal Library, and therefore a Life Member, independent of the Building Fund Subscription.

NO. OF TICKET.	LIFE MEMBERS.	AMOUNT PAID.	BY WHOM PAID.
28	Matthew H. Cochrane....	100	M. H. Cochrane
88	J. P. Clark .....	100	J. P. Clark
122	William H. Clare .....	100	Lymans, Clare & Co.
4	William Dow .....	100	William Dow
37	Edmund T. Day .....	100	Edmund T. Day
60	Henry Drescher .....	100	Henry Drescher
95	William Darling .....	100	William Darling
113	Thomas Davidson .....	100	MacDougall & Davidson
5	*John Frothingham .....	100	John Frothingham
33	George D. Ferrier .....	100	Ferrier & Co.
50	Hugh Fraser .....	100	Hugh Fraser
66	John Joseph Frothingham	100	Geo. H. Frothingham, father of John Joseph
41	Andrew F. Gault .....	100	Gault, Brothers & Co.
98	Charles H. Gould .....	100	Ira Gould & Son
99	Edward K. Greene .....	100	Edward K. Greene
81	Benjamin Hutchins .....	100	Benjamin Hutchins
96	Jonathan Hodgson .....	100	Foulds and Hodgson
111	Caleb S. Holiday .....	100	Caleb S. Holiday
116	Phillip Holland .....	100	Winn & Holland
7	G. E. Jaques, Senior .....	100	G. E. Jaques, Senior
49	Robert C. Jamieson .....	100	Robert C. Jamieson
125	Henry Joseph .....	100	Henry Joseph
131	John Kerry .....	100	Kerry Bros. & Crathern
38	Theodore Lyman .....	300	Theodore Lyman, for self and two sons
39	Henry Lyman Lyman..		
132	Theodore P. Lyman....		
120	Benjamin Lyman .....	100	Benjamin Lyman
13	James Morgan, Junior .....	100	Henry Morgan & Co.
75	†Frederick B. Mathews .....	100	F. B. Mathews
64	James McDougall .....	100	James McDougall
	William Murray .....	100	William Murray
119	Thomas Morland .....	100	Thomas Morland
137	Alexander Allen Murphy .....	150	Alex. Allen Murphy
17	Alexander McGibbon .....	100	Alexander McGibbon
126	Gordon McKenzie .....	100	Gordon McKenzie
57	H. A. Nelson .....	100	H. A. Nelson
10	W. E. Phillips .....	100	W. E. Phillips
142	James Popham .....	100	Popham & Sinclair
69	Havilland L. Routh .....	100	Havilland L. Routh
76	Daniel J. Rees .....	100	Daniel J. Rees
107	Andrew Robertson .....	100	A. Robertson & Co.
141	George Robson .....	100	George Robson
46	William W. Stuart .....	100	William W. Stuart

\* He was one of the Shareholders of Montreal Library, and therefore a Life Member before.

† Also entitled to Life Membership—on subscription of I. Buchanan & Co.

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NO. OF TICKET.	LIFE MEMBERS.	AMOUNT PAID.	BY WHOM PAID.
27	Samuel G. Smith.....	100	Samuel G. Smith
59	Brackley Shaw.....	100	F. Shaw & Brother
127	Robert W. Shepherd... .	100	Robert W. Shepherd
2	John Torrance, Senior....	100	John Torrance, Senior
130	Joseph Tiffin.....	100	Joseph Tiffin
42	Alexander Urquhart.....	100	Alexander Urquhart
58	A. S. Wood.....	100	A. S. Wood
68	H. H. Whitney.....	100	H. H. Whitney
140	Alexander Walker.....	100	Alexander Walker
	W. H. A. Davies.....	100	W. H. A. Davies
		100	Rae & Mitchell
143	J. W. Hopkins.....		
144	John Stirling.....	100	John Stirling

The Committee have also issued Tickets to the Life Members, who became such prior to the opening of the subscription to the Building Fund, and whose names have been submitted in Mr. Murphy's Report.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES C. SINTON.

*Chairman.*

Montreal, 25th March, 1867.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FROM DECEMBER, 1866, TO APRIL, 1867,—15 MONTHS.**

*Dr.* *Cr.*

**WORKING ACCOUNT.**

EXPENDITURE.	RECEIPTS.
Rent, Brennan.....	Members Subscriptions for 1866, \$1,118 92
Commission on Collections.....	Special Subscriptions do . . . . . 582 08
Salaries.....	Subscriptions in Arrear.....
Postages, &c.....	Do M. Literary Society.....
General Expenses.....	Do Chess Club.....
Reading Room Expenses.....	Do Profit on Lecture.....
Library Expenses.....	Do To Deficiency.....
\$220 00	\$1,701 02
55 86	79 00
806 65	8 00
37 36	20 00
1,057 00½	62 74
387 75	729 94½
36 08	\$2,600 70½
<b>\$2,600 70½</b>	

Above.....	\$729 94½
Outstanding Debts.....	750 00
Total Deficiencies.....	\$1,479 94½

**GENERAL ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING BUILDING AND FURNITURE ACCOUNTS, &c.**

*Dr.*

*Cr.*

Cost of Building and Furniture	\$31,187 17
Less Balance of transaction	
with the Corporation..	1,780 60
New Books.....	\$29,406 57
Sundry Debtors.....	21 01
Old Loss Account.....	622 67½
Loss on Working Account—as above.....	472 49
	729 94½
	<u>\$31,252 69</u>

Subscriptions by Merchants to date.....	\$19,295 89
Raised on Mortgage.....	10,300 00
Chess Club, 1867.....	6 00
Members Subscriptions for 1867-8.....	1,517 22
Sundry Creditors, as per Ledger.....	133 58
	<u>\$31,252 69</u>

Montreal, April, 1867.

JAS. HARDMAN,  
*Treasurer M. I. A.*