

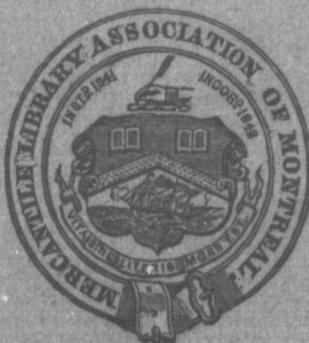
FIFTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

OF

MONTREAL.



MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY J. C. BECKET, NO. 23, GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.

1856.

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OF
MONTREAL.



MONTREAL:
PRINTED BY J. C. BECKET, NO. 38, GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.
1856.

DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

TO : [Illegible]

FROM : [Illegible]

SUBJECT : [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]

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Rooms of the Mercantile Library Association, }
3rd December, 1855.

The Annual General Meeting of the Mercantile Library Association for the election of officers, was held in these Rooms, at 8½ o'clock, the President, Mr. E. T. Taylor, in the Chair.

In the absence of Mr. D. J. Rees, Recording Secretary, Mr. Jacob DeWitt, Jr., was requested to act. By order of the President, the notice calling the Meeting was read by the Secretary, who then proceeded to read the minutes of the last General Meeting, which were approved of.

The President then requested Messrs. John Campbell and Ewen McLennan to act as Scrutineers, and the election of Officers for the year was proceeded with, which resulted as follows:—

PRESIDENT—E. T. TAYLOR.
VICE PRESIDENT—T. WATKINS.
JACOB DEWITT, JUN., *Corresponding Secretary.*
D. J. REES, *Recording Secretary.*
T. W. KYTE, *Treasurer.*

DIRECTORS.

JAMES McLEAN,
P. T. LYNCH,
J. B. COWAN,
D. McINTYRE,
D. GRAHAM,

J. P. CLEGHORN,
J. N. HALL, Junr.,
M. McCULLOCH,
F. H. FISHER,
W. B. LINDSAY.

The Meeting being then open for general business,

Mr. J. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. A. Milloy, and it was

Resolved,—That a Special Committee be appointed to consist of Messrs. M. Baxter, T. Lyman, E. McLennan, J. Campbell, R. Thomas, the mover and the President, to enquire into the present state of the Association, and to report what means should be adopted to increase its usefulness and prosperity. Said Committee to report to a General Meeting of the Association to be called by the President at the request of the Chairman of said Committee.

There being no further business the President dissolved the Meeting.

JACOB DEWITT, JUN.,
Acting Recording Secretary.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

The first settlement in Boston was made in 1630 by a group of Puritan settlers from England. They came to the city in search of religious freedom and a place to practice their faith. The city was founded on a small island in the harbor, and the settlers built a fort to protect themselves from the Native Americans. The city grew rapidly, and by 1639 it had a population of over 1,000 people. The city was the center of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and it played a major role in the American Revolution.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

The city of Boston was the center of the American Revolution. It was here that the first shots were fired on April 19, 1775, at the Battle of Lexington. The city was the headquarters of the Continental Congress, and it was here that the Declaration of Independence was signed. The city was the center of the American Revolution, and it played a major role in the American Revolution.

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STANDING COMMITTEES

OF THE

Board of Direction for 1856.

LECTURE.

E. T. TAYLOR, JACOB DEWITT, Jr. D. J. REES.

FINANCE.

THOMAS WATKINS, T. W. RYTE, M. McCULLOCH.

READING ROOM.

P. T. LYNCH, DUNCAN McINTYRE, D. GRAHAM.

LIBRARY.

J. P. CLEGHORN, JAMES McLEAN, JOS. N. HALL, Jr.

CLASS.

J. B. COWAN, W. B. LINDSAY, F. H. FISHER.

HONORARY DIRECTORS.

HON. JOHN YOUNG, M.P.P.,
L. H. HOLTON, ESQ., M.P.P.

JOHN ARMOUR, ESQ.
THEODORE LYMAN, ESQ.

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
Mercantile Library Association of Montreal.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the above Association was organized in the Lecture Room at a quarter past eight o'clock, by the President requesting the Recording Secretary to read the notice calling the meeting.

Mr. John Lewis then moved, seconded by Mr. M. Baxter, that the meeting adjourn to the Reading Room. Carried.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting having been read and confirmed

The Vice President read the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Board of Direction, also the Treasurer's account with the Association.

It was moved by Mr. John Lewis, seconded by Mr. Ewen McLennan, that the report now read be received. Carried.

It was then moved by Mr. John Lewis, seconded by Mr. R. Thomas, That a list of all the members of the Association, be prepared and hung up in the reading room, distinguishing those that have paid, and those that have not paid their subscription. Carried.

It was then moved by Mr. R. Thomas, seconded by Mr. John Lewis, that the present Treasurer be instructed to suspend Law proceedings for the recovery of subscriptions as inexpedient. Lost.

It was then moved by Mr. John Lewis, seconded by Mr. Ewen McLennan, that the report be adopted and printed in the various newspapers of the City, before the meeting for election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year, and in pamphlet form under the direction of the Board. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. M. Baxter, seconded by Mr. R. Thomas, That a list of the books added to the Library during the past year, be printed along with the Report in pamphlet form. Lost.

The President then declared the meeting dissolved.

D. J. REES,
Rec. Sec.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OF MONTREAL.

GENTLEMEN,—

The termination of another year of the existence of the Association lays upon the Board of Directors the duty of presenting to you the Fifteenth Annual Report.

In the last Annual Report, laid before you by our predecessors in office, the first matter mooted had reference to the purchase of a suitable site for the erection of a convenient building for the use of the Association.

Your Board, while admitting the many advantages which would accrue to the Association, could this be accomplished, have not felt themselves justified in taking any action in the matter.

The next matter mentioned by our predecessors was the important step taken by them of leasing for three years our present commodious rooms; and further, that in thus carrying out the wishes of the Association they had incurred a heavy responsibility.

Your Board cannot avoid responding to this statement, for it must be plain to you all that the increased advantages thus secured cannot be sustained without a corresponding degree of support from the members, and particularly that class for whose benefit the Institution was originally established.

In a city like our own, where there are so many young men engaged in the various branches of commerce, we are naturally led to suppose that it would be their ambition to support an Institution which it is their province to have the whole management of, for whose success and usefulness they are responsible, and in which they will have an opportunity of increasing their knowledge of commerce, and becoming immediately acquainted with passing events, which are at

a time like the present of peculiar interest and of much importance, and thereby be better fitted intelligently and well to discharge the duties severally assigned to them, and at the same time help to fit them for future usefulness both as citizens and merchants.

The year just closed has witnessed a considerable increase in the number of members.

Of these there are now 553, consisting of:—

Merchant Members	153
Senior Clerks	245
Junior do	75
Life Members	53
Honorary Members	27

While your Board have much satisfaction in recording this increase, they are bound to add that a very little exertion on the part of the present members would add very materially to the number. They cannot allow this opportunity to pass without placing on record their sense of the very valuable services rendered to the Association during the year by Mr. W. V. Abbott, late one of your Directors, who, during his time of holding office, procured a large number of new subscribers, an example of usefulness which your Board would be glad to see frequently followed.

Your Board have to call special attention to the irregularity with which many of the members pay their annual subscriptions. This necessarily throws the financial management of the Association into a state of confusion and backwardness, much to be regretted, and which the Board venture to hope will not characterize its future history.

They have again to tender the thanks of the Association to Mr. A. B. Stewart for gratuitously disposing of the newspapers.

They have also to express their satisfaction with the manner in which Mr. Donaldson, your Superintendent, has continued to discharge the duties assigned to him.

Your Board would now proceed to notice in detail, the several branches of the Association.

READING ROOM.

This Department has continued fully as attractive as heretofore, the plentiful supply of British papers being alone sufficient, in these stirring times to secure this result.

Some inconvenience occurred during the months of July and August, in consequence of an alteration in the British Postal Laws; but it has since been rectified, and the papers now arrive regularly.

The Board regret the absence, from the fyle, of "the Dublin Warder," and the carelessness of its correspondents, "Willmer & Smith," in forwarding an obscure paper instead, contrary to repeated instructions sent them.

The Shipping and Produce Receipt Books have been kept written up; and, although the latter is not so valuable as in former years, owing to the publication of all receipts of produce, &c., in the daily papers, still, as a book of reference, it is of much value.

From the very considerable outlay for telegraphic reporting, &c., the former Board recommended its discontinuance; but this not meeting the approbation of the Association, as expressed at the last annual meeting, they have been continued by the present Board, and it is hoped have been found of much advantage.

The newspapers and magazines at present received into the Room are as follows:—

NEWSPAPERS.

Montreal Herald, Pilot, Gazette, Commercial Advertiser Argus, and La Minerve; Quebec Gazette and Morning Chronicle; Toronto Colonist and Globe; Hamilton Spectator; Kingston Chronicle and News; Bytown Gazette; Three Rivers' Inquirer; New York Herald, Tribune, Albion, Observer, Shipping List, and Ballou's Pictorial; Boston Atlas and Commercial Advertiser; State of Maine; International Journal; Halifax Nova Scotian; Illustrated London Times; London Evening Mail; Willmer & Smith's European Times; London Punch; British Banner; Spectator; Illustrated News; Illustrated Times; Record; Economist; Athenæum, and Naval and Military Gazette; Edinburgh Witness; Liverpool Mercury; Dublin Freeman's Journal; Glasgow Herald; and Swansea Herald.

REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

London and Edinburgh Quarterly, North British, Westminster, and DeBow's Reviews; Blackwood's, Hunt's, Harpers', Putnam's, and National Magazines; Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, and Household Words.

PAPERS FURNISHED GRATIS.

For which the Board beg to tender the thanks of the Association, viz:—Montreal Witness, by John Dougall; Montreal Transcript, by D. McDonald; True Witness, by George E. Clerk; Temperance Advocate, by J. C. Becket; Canada Official Gazette, Bytown Monarchist, Kemptville Progressionist, and St. Catherines' Constitutional, by the Publish-

ers; Sherbrooke Gazette, by S. J. Lyman; Sherbrooke Canadian Times, by Messrs. Ritchie & Co, Proprietors; New York Sun, by Mrs. Beach & Co; Christian Enquirer, by L. H. Holton, Esq., M.P.P.; St. John's (C. E.) News, by the Proprietor; Western Planet, by R. Blackwood; North British Advertiser, by a Friend; Port Hope Guide, Port Hope Echo, and Hazard's Gazette, by the Proprietors; London Freeman, by Dr. Davies; Liberal Christian, by Messrs. Rose.

The advantages of the Reading Room have been fully availed of by the members during the past year—the number of readers being considerably above the average of former years.

A very large number of strangers have also made use of it, having been duly introduced by resident members.

LIBRARY.

Soon after assuming office, your Board had its attention directed to the state of the Library, and the Library Committee undertook thoroughly to examine it, and to prepare and issue a new catalogue. This arduous duty has been most efficiently discharged by that Committee, to whose Chairman, Mr. Cleghorn, the Board and the Association are under special obligation for his most valuable services—services which your Board appreciate most highly.

Every Volume was examined, and a new and most carefully arranged catalogue prepared by him. It was found that since the publication of the old catalogue no fewer than 87 volumes had been lost, some by the carelessness of members, more by the removal from the city of those who had drawn them from the Library.

During the year 220 new volumes have been placed upon the shelves. Of these, 180 volumes were by purchase, 24 by binding from the Reading room, and 16 by donation from the following gentlemen, to whom acknowledgment is now made:—Abbot's Summer in Scotland, by Mr. G. Templeton; London Lancet, 4 vols, J. McLean; Farmer's Instructor, 2 vols, A. Thompson; 6 vols, G. W. Stephens; 2 copies Prize Essay on Canada, from Alex. Morris—the author.

The present state of the Library is as follows:—English works, 3,166 vols.; French, 951; forming a total of 4,117 vols.,—being 427 vols. more than were on the shelves at the time of preparing the last catalogue.

The Board has much pleasure in being able to state, that the value of the Library appears to be highly appreciated

by the members of the Association; the books are freely made use of, and, as a rule, carefully handled; and they strongly recommend to the attention, not only of their successors in office, but also to the members of the Association, the necessity that exists of keeping up the attractiveness of the Library, by making from time to time such additions to it as the funds will admit. This they regard as of special importance.

LECTURES.

On approaching the subject of Lectures, your Board regrets that the report is not so satisfactory as could be wished.

It is impossible to estimate too highly the advantages of Lectures to an Institution such as this, whose sole object is to impart information. Young men, actively engaged in the busy scenes of life, can scarcely be expected to find sufficient time to follow the pursuit of Literature and Science to their sources. It is, however, necessary for the practical purposes of life that they should obtain, at least, a general view of the field of knowledge, and, for this purpose, where can they find a better guide to direct their attention and efforts than the well-read Lecturer? There is not one member of your Board who has not felt the great advantage of Lectures to the interests of the Association; not one who has not had them continually in view. At every meeting the subject has come up, and names of Lecturers proposed—who, after being invited to Lecture, have as often declined.

It is not surprising that your Board could not procure Lecturers for last winter. It was the beginning of January, this year, before the present Board was regularly organized and divided into Committees—and thus, the time was so limited that the gentlemen abroad, to whom we extended invitations, and others, either did not reply at all, or excused themselves on account of pre-engagements, while those of our own City very reasonably pleaded want of time to prepare.

Learning from past experience, your Board determined to make preparations in time for the coming winter; with this in view, application was made to twenty or more gentlemen both here and abroad, who have often lent their kind services to the diffusion of knowledge. Out of that number but three have been ready to comply with the request—the others being either unable or unwilling to do so.

When we ask ourselves what is the cause of this reluctance to Lecture—a reluctance which would have appeared quite strange five or six years ago—we cannot conceal the fact, that Lecturers feel the want of encouragement—as many, indeed, have not hesitated to express. They think, and justly too, that if they devote their time and attention to write Lectures for an Association they should, at least, have an ordinary audience to listen to them; but, how often this reasonable expectation has been disappointed the last two or three years of the history of this Association will abundantly testify. Let us trust that this is not permanently so; but that every member will unite in reviving the interest which has, probably, only flagged, and not vanished for ever.

Before bringing these remarks on the subject of Lectures to a close, your Board have to state that, under its sanction, the President opened a correspondence with Mr. Thackeray, in the hope to induce that gentleman to visit this city, and deliver a course of Lectures in connection with your Association. Your Board was prepared to incur a large measure of responsibility to obtain the result, but regret to have to add that Mr. Thackeray has intimated that he will, in all probability, be unable to comply with their request.

CLASSES.

During the past winter a class for debating purposes was formed, in accordance with the rules of the Association; the meetings of which were continued up to the commencement of the business season; and judging from the manner in which the class was attended, your Board is of opinion that it has been very popular among the members of the Association, and would strongly recommend to their successors the early formation of a similar class for the present winter.

FINANCES.

The Board in laying before you the accounts of the year, request attention to one or two points which cause the expenses to add up a larger sum than usual; one being that out of this year's funds all the expenses incurred by the removal to our present rooms, amounting to £25, were defrayed. Again, the cost of illumination was about £9. They would likewise call attention to the unusually large number of subscriptions remaining unpaid, amounting in all to £150. A sum which, if paid, would place the funds of the Association in a more easy position.

Your Board have pleasure in acknowledging the following donations:

Arch Deacon Lower.	£2 10 0
W. Ewen.	1 5 0
Robt. Armour.	1 5 0
Rev. Jno. Cordner.	1 5 0
Edwd. MacKay	0 10 0
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	£6 15 0

CHANGES IN THE BOARD.

Immediately after the last Annual Election, the President and Vice-President elect, Messrs. J. W. Howard and James MacLean, having declined to accept these offices, the Board at its first meeting elected Mr. Edward T. Taylor to the office of President and Mr. Thomas Kershaw to that of Vice-President. Shortly afterwards the latter gentleman resigned his office, and your present Vice-President, Mr. Thomas Watkins, was elected thereto. The vacancies in the Board caused by these changes were filled by the election of Messrs. James MacLean and P. T. Lynch.

Two of your Directors, Messrs. Torrance and Abbot, having resigned their seats at the Board, owing to departure from the city, Messrs. Jacob DeWitt, Jr., and J. B. Cowan were elected to replace them.

At the first meeting of the Board, after the Semi-Annual meeting of the Association, the President, Mr. Taylor, tendered the resignation of that office, this the Board declined to accept, and at its request it was withdrawn.

The Board has pleasure in stating that an application to the Provincial Administration for a grant in aid of the funds of the Association was favourably received, and the sum of Fifty Pounds was granted.

In conclusion, your Board would venture to state that the Association by no means holds that position in the estimation of those for whose benefit it was established which they consider it fairly entitled to hold; and they express an earnest hope that the young men of Montreal will combine to place an institution so completely their own, and whose management is wholly in their own hands, in a position worthy of themselves, of their city, and of the objects which it has in view.

It only remains for your Board respectfully to place in your hands the trust which they received from you twelve months ago, and to express a hope that very many years of

increased usefulness and prosperity are yet before an Institution whose welfare they have much at heart, and whose interests they will ever gladly endeavour to promote.

The whole respectfully submitted.

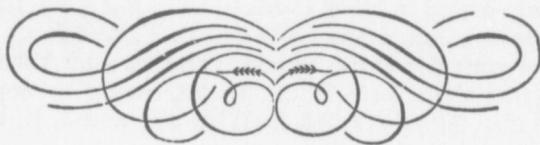
For the Board,

EDWD T. TAYLOR,

President.

DAN. REES,

Recording Secretary.



Dr. The Mercantile Library Association in Account with the Treasurer. Cr.

To Sundry Accounts paid Gas Fittings, &c.....	£61 17 4	By Balance from last year.....	£1 7 2
" Paid for Binding Books and Magazines.....	1 16 0	" Merchants Subscription.....	£141 14 6
" " 180 vols. New Books.....	25 0 0	" Senior Clerks ".....	137 12 8
" Printing Catalogues, including Act of Incorporation and By-Laws.....	11 15 0	" Junior ".....	26 17 1
" Fuel.....	20 1 6	" Proceeds of Newspapers Sold at Auction.....	17 0 11
" Postage.....	12 11 8	" Landlord's proportion Gas Fitting, &c.....	5 19 5
" Rent Balance on last year.....	£23 10 0	" Rent from Lecture Room.....	£56 0 0
" " present year at £150 Per Annum. 94 0 0	117 10 0	" " for Rooms.....	50 17 6
" Insurance.....	5 0 0	" Donations.....	6 15 0
" Salaries.....	116 15 0	" Government Grant.....	50 0 0
" Taxes.....	15 15 0		
" Gas.....	34 11 9		
" Papers and Magazines.....	65 14 0		
" Balance in Treasurer's hands.....	5 17 0		
	<u>£494 4 3</u>		<u>£494 4 3</u>
" Debts Due to Sundries by the Association.....	£297 0 0	By Balance in Cash.....	£5 17 0
" Balance.....	685 19 6	" Rents Due by Sundries.....	7 2 6
		" Subscriptions Outstanding.....	£150 0 0
		" Less Allowance for Bad Debts.....	50 0 0
		" Value of Library.....	£750 0 0
		" Furniture, Globes, Pictures, &c.....	120 0 0
	<u>£982 19 6</u>	By Balance brought down.....	£982 19 6
			£685 19 6