

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

THE PETTES MEMORIAL



1894.

KNOWLTON:

PRINTED BY H. F. SMITH.

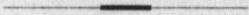
Z 736
P 3

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

THE PETTES MEMORIAL

1894.



KNOWLTON:
PRINTED BY H. F. SMITH.

GOVERNING BODY.

PRESIDENT.

J. C. PETTES, Esq.

TRUSTEES.

J. C. PETTES, Esq.
HON. MR. JUSTICE LYNCH.
A. H. CHHNDLER, Esq.
S. A. FISHER, Esq.
H. S. FOSTER, Esq.
R. N. ENGLAND, Esq., M. P. P.
A. W. PETTES, Esq.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

THE PRESIDENT.
HON. MR. JUSTICE LYNCH.
S. A. FISHER, Esq.
H. S. FOSTER, Esq.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

THE PRESIDENT.
A. H. CHANDLER, Esq.
R. N. ENGLAND, Esq., M. P. P.
A. W. PETTES, Esq.

SECRETARY-TREASURER AND LIBRARIAN.

G. R. CLEVELAND, Esq.

THE PETTES MEMORIAL.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

1894.

The Trustees in presenting their first annual report, believe that they will be meeting a legitimate desire on the part of the friends of the Institution and of the general public, by giving at the outset a brief history of the events which led up to its establishment. This can be easily done by reproducing the documents which now form the foundation of the Memorial's archives.

In the fall of 1893 each of the Trustees received the following communication from the estimable lady who founded it, and which fully sets forth the motives which inspired this generous act on her part as well as the ends which she hoped to accomplish by it:—

KNOWLTON, QUE., Oct. 20th, 1893.

MESSRS. J. C. PETTES, A. H. CHANDLER,
W. W. LYNCH, S. A. FISHER, A. W. PETTES,
H. S. FOSTER and R. N. ENGLAND.

DEAR SIRS,—

I presume you all are aware of the object which I had in view when I purchased the land in this village upon which I am now erecting a brick building. I feel that the time has now arrived when my project must assume a definite and practical shape. Desiring, as I

4

do most earnestly, to perpetuate for all time the name and memory of my dear late husband, who I know was a particular friend of you all, I have concluded that I cannot better do so, than by devoting a portion of the means which it pleased God to give us, to the establishing of a free public library and reading room, to be open to all honest and respectable persons whomsoever, of every rank in life, without distinction, and also of a lecture hall in connection therewith—the whole for the diffusion of useful knowledge. I desire you, gentlemen, to be the first trustees of the institution, which office I trust you will all accept; and application should be made at the approaching session of the Legislature for an Act to incorporate you under the name "Pettes Memorial," which is the title I wish to give the establishment.

As soon as the Act is passed, and the building is completed, I shall donate to you in your corporate capacity the land, building, and dependencies, and also a sum of money for the annual maintenance of the institution. The Act of incorporation should provide that the reading room and lecture hall are mere accessories to the library, and to be used only in connection with it, and for such purposes only as will promote its usefulness, making always the acquisition and maintenance of a library the leading object to be kept in view. I should like that J. C. Pettes should be the first President of the board of Trustees, and that he and they should retain office during life. The Act should further provide that in the event of a vacancy in the office of President or of Trustee, by death, resignation, or removal, permanently, from the limits of the village of Knowlton or of the Township of Brome, the remaining members of the board should have the right to appoint some person resident in said village or Township, and whom they considered qualified to be President or Trustee, as the case might be. Any further particulars as to what the Act should contain I leave to your own good judgement to suggest.

Yours Sincerely,

N. PETTES.

The gentlemen named could not, and did not, hesitate to accept the responsible and honorable position indicated by Mrs. Pettes; and they immediately caused to be prepared a bill embodying her wishes, which was placed in the hands of one of their number, Mr. England, for submission to the legislature then about to assemble. The bill passed through its several stages, and on the 8th January, 1894, was sanctioned and became law, under the title of "An Act to incorporate the Pettes Memorial," and is now known as chapter 90 of the 57 Victoria.

The Trustees were fortunate at their first meeting on the 20th January, 1894, to secure the services of G. R. Cleveland, Esq. as their Secretary-Treasurer and Librarian. While they were anxiously considering, pending the completion of the building, what steps they could take to provide a certain number of books to place on the shelves of the library, as the starting point of their undertaking, the following letter reached them,—

TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE "PETTES MEMORIAL,"
KNOWLTON, QUE.

GENTLEMEN,—

We, Frances Jane Davies and William Allen Davies, beg to inform you that we have great pleasure in hereby presenting to the "Pettes Memorial" the entire library of our late father William Henry Allen Davies, consisting of over 900 volumes, on the condition that it shall be known in the records of the "Pettes Memorial" as the "DAVIES COLLECTION," and that it shall, with the exception, of course, of books of reference, be absolutely free for purposes of loan, under the rules which the Trustees may, from time to time, frame for the lending of books from the "Pettes Memorial."

In doing this, we desire to manifest, as far as lies within our power, our deep interest in the welfare of the community, and this

part of our beloved country, Canada, and our high appreciation of the noble and practical manner in which Mrs. Nathaniel Pettes has manifested her interest in that welfare and her grand effort at furthering the same, by the magnificent gift of the beautiful structure known as the "Pettes Memorial"—for the benefit of the residents of this part of our Country and a lasting memorial to a beloved daughter and long widely known and highly respected husband. At the same time we further desire by this action to avail ourselves of the beautiful depository so generously supplied by Mrs. Pettes as a home for literature, to safeguard and preserve therein for the free use of all admitted to its benefits, this our father's library (the collection and the pet object of a lifetime) for the Glory of God, from and through whom alone all good and all blessings come, and as a memorial to dear and honored parents, both of whom ever took the deepest interest in our Country, and in all designed to advance the welfare of all therein, such as the noble work founded by Mrs. Pettes.

We consider ourselves both happy and honored in thus having the opportunity afforded us of aiding to the extent of our ability this good work, rendered possible by the "Pettes Memorial," and at the same time of providing a memorial to the honored memory of parents, who ever rejoiced in such work.

With the hope and the prayer, that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will vouchsafe always to bless this work, and use this collection of books as an instrument in his blessed hands in so doing, and with our own most hearty good wishes for its lasting prosperity,

We ever remain, Gentlemen,
The Sincere Friends of the "Pettes Memorial,"

FRANCES DAVIES.
WM. ALLEN DAVIES.

KNOWLTON, QUE., 16th Feb'y, 1894.

But one answer could be given to this proposition which contemplated handing over to the Memorial for the very uses for which it was intended, a choice collection of valuable and carefully selected books; and it was given by the following resolution adopted at a meeting of the Trustees on the 21st February, 1894.

Moved by the Hon. W. W. Lynch seconded by S. A. Fisher that this magnificent gift be accepted—that all of the conditions be acceded to—that the letter consigning it be entered at length in the minute book of the board—and that the grateful thanks of the trustees of the "Pettes Memorial" be tendered to Miss and Mr. Davies for their generous donation, which comes at a most opportune moment, assuring them of the beneficent results which are confidently anticipated from it, and wishing them every joy and blessing.

That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to Miss and Mr. Davies by the Secretary.

The following by-laws and regulations were adopted by the Trustees.

BY - LAWS.

- I. The board of Trustees shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, who may be one of themselves, the Librarian or any suitable person, and who shall at the annual meeting submit a statement of the financial affairs of the board.
- II. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the last Saturday of each of the months of February, May, August and November; and the President may call a special meeting at any time by giving four days notice to the members.
- III. The Librarian shall have charge of the Library, under the direction of the Board; and he shall at the annual February meeting make a full report of its condition and wants.

- IV. The Board will be divided for executive purposes into two committees—of each of which the President will be ex-officio a member,—the one to administer the affairs specially relating to the library—and the other those concerning the care of the property generally and the use to be made of the hall.
- V. The hall shall not at any time be used for any denominational, sectional, national or political purposes—the desire of the Board being, as far as possible, to ensure that no one shall be prevented from entering it by reason of the use which is made of it.

REGULATIONS.

- I. The Library, Reading and Conversation rooms will be open to the public each week day (Christmas, New Year's and Dominion days excepted) from 8 to 11 A. M., from 2.30 to 4.30 P. M. and from 7 to 9 P. M.
- II. The Librarian will have absolute control over the rooms, subject only to the direction of the Trustees.
- III. No smoking, spitting on the floor, or loud talk will be permitted in any part of the Building.
- IV. In the Library no talk or conversation will be allowed except what is necessary in the transaction of business with the Librarian or in obtaining books.
- V. No talk or conversation of any kind will be permitted in the Reading room.
- VI. The conversation room will be used for conversational purposes of a limited duration and for the writing of letters, &c.
- VII. The use of the library and books is unreservedly open to all persons over the age of fourteen years, who conduct themselves properly; and any such person who is known to the Librarian, or who is recommended to him by one of the Trustees, may have the free use of the books at his home for himself and family only.
- VIII. Any person entitled to use the books, will apply to the Librarian who will get the desired book, if it is on the shelves, charge the same to the applicant in the Register kept for that purpose; and it will be the duty of such person to hand the book to the Librarian when he returns it, in order that he may be credited with it.—Members of the same family may get books for each other; but a stranger desiring to get a book for another person must have a written order.

- IX. Any person desiring simply to refer to a book or to read it in the reading room, can obtain it on application to the Librarian; but a book so received shall not be taken away on any account from the building.
- X. The books are not to be handled or taken from the shelves by any one except the Librarian.
- XI. No book can be kept more than fourteen days; and a fine of two cents per day shall be collected by the Librarian for each day that a book is kept in excess of that time.
- XII. No person shall be allowed to take more than one volume at a time.
- XIII. If a book is partially damaged the borrower shall pay the damage; and if it be lost or badly injured, he shall pay the value of the book, and if it belongs to a set, the value of the set.
- XIV. Books taken from the library shall not be loaned to or used by others than those taking them and members of their families.
- XV. Any person violating these regulations, or in default to pay any fine, shall not be permitted to take books from the library or to frequent the rooms so long as he does not make his position good in these respects.
- XVI. The Trustees reserve to themselves the right to determine that certain rare books and books of general reference, shall not be taken from the Library.
- XVII. Children under twelve years of age, unless accompanied by their parents, teachers or guardians, shall not have access to the rooms.
-
- N. B.— The Trustees earnestly entreat the public to conform strictly to these regulations, and thus assist them in the discharge of the important duty they have undertaken, to maintain this valuable property and to carry out the noble purposes its founder had in view.

In the afternoon of the 7th March, 1894, a meeting of the Trustees was held, for the first time, in the Reading room of the Memorial building, when the deed of donation was executed before E. Fleury, Esq., N. P., by which Mrs. Pettes conveyed to the Trustees the property in accordance with the terms of her letter to them and of the act of incorporation. It was understood that Mrs. Pettes would level and place the grounds surrounding the building in a proper position during the following spring and summer, and would also pay for a few years the expense of administration, with a view to determine the requisite capital sum, the interest of which would in the future be sufficient to provide for such administration. The building was formally opened by a public meeting held in the Hall on the evening of that day, which was largely attended, and at which the following programme of exercises was rendered:—

OVERTURE,	"The Lightkeeper's Daughter,"	ORCHESTRA.
*READING OF FOUNDER'S LETTER,		MR. CHANDLER.
MUSIC,	Chorus, "Festival Hymn,"	HARMONY CLUB.
	READING OF ACT OF INCORPORATION,	JUDGE LYNCH.
MUSIC,	"Gung'l Waltzes,"	ORCHESTRA.
	READING OF THE DAVIES GIFT,	MR. FISHER.
MUSIC,	Song "Amelia,"	MR. STEVENS.
	ADDRESS,	MR. PRESIDENT.
MUSIC,	Chorus, "The Miller's Wooing,"	HARMONY CLUB.
	ADDRESS,	MR. O'HALLORAN, Q. C.
MUSIC,	"Heather Rose,"	ORCHESTRA.
MUSIC,	"Good Night Beloved,"	HARMONY CLUB.



The receipts during the year have naturally been very small, as the only available revenue has been from the use of the Hall for lectures, concerts, &c., and they amount to the sum of \$49.53. The expenses have likewise been small, as owing to the generosity of the founder those of maintenance and administration have been borne by her for the purpose above mentioned; and they amount to the sum of \$32.92, leaving a balance of \$16.61 in the hands of the Secretary Treasurer.

The Trustees confidently hope and expect that as time goes on, friends of the institution will make donations which will have the effect of extending its usefulness. The Davies collection of books is most valuable; but they are largely adapted for reference purposes, and many of them are too rare and precious to be allowed to go out of the library. There is a pressing want of more recent books and of a more popular character; but the Trustees are without the means of supplying this want. The Trustees desire to acknowledge with grateful thanks a number of gifts received during the year, a list of which will be found below. They mention specially the handsome gift of the President of the 200 comfortable and attractive opera chairs with which the Hall is now furnished.

	vols.
THE DAVIES COLLECTION (about)	1000
THOS. HEWSON, Knowlton	53
S. A. FISHER, "	50
READING CLUB, "	30
E. E. MILLS, "	18
W. J. BUCHANAN, Montreal	17
DR. W. A. SHUFELT, New York	15
WHITEFORD & THEORET, Montreal	14
J. C. PETTES, Knowlton	13
J. MACKINNON, Cowansville	10
W. H. MCGOWAN, Knowlton	6
MISS MAY WILLIAMS, "	5
S. ALDRICH, Montreal	5
MRS. A. T. FOSTER, New York	3
JUDGE LYNCH, Knowlton	3

MRS. A. FISHER, Knowlton	I
DR. FISHER, "	I
MRS. N. PETTES, "	I
MISS. A. WOOD, "	I
MRS. S. W. FOSTER, one Writing Desk.	
THOS. HEWSON, one Picture and one Mirror.	
MRS. H. S. FOSTER, Portrait of late Rev. Robert Lindsay.	
M. H. BEDEE, one Clock.	
MRS. N. PETTES, one Framed Address.	
MRS. G. R. CLEVELAND, two Crayon Pictures.	
JUDGE LYNCH, set of Books for Trustees, one Vase, and one Picture.	
J. P. NOYES, Cowansville, about 15 bound volumes of the Advertiser, from vol. one.	
MISS E. G. BARBER, Montreal, one bound volume of the Courier, Montreal, 1837-8, when edited by late Mr. Justice Dunkin.	

There are now upon the shelves of the library 1246 books. During the year, that is from the opening on the 7th March to the 1st of January, 1050 books were issued for home use and 46 for use in the library; and they were loaned to 225 different persons,—of the books so loaned, about 50 per cent were fiction, 24 per cent arts and science, 14 per cent history, and 12 per cent travels and adventures.

The circulation for home reading by the month was, as follows:—

March.....	80 vols.
April.....	100 "
May	102 "
June	140 "
July	119 "
August	117 "
September	108 "
October	95 "
November	93 "
December	96 "

It will be observed that during the summer months the circulation was larger than during the other months, showing that our summer visitors make use of the library. During the same period 288 persons entered their names in the visitors' register, in some instances accompanied by very gratifying remarks.

One of the first acts of the Trustees was to allow the Knowlton Reading Club to place its case for books and magazines in the library room and to avail itself of the services of the librarian for the care and circulation of the club's books and magazines. The objects of the club are to encourage a taste for literature and reading,—its membership is divided into two sections, one of books and the other of magazines, the yearly subscription for the former being \$3, and for the latter \$2. Last year it had 46 members and had 30 books and 35 magazines, with a circulation for magazines of 1432 and for books of 64. The arrangement with the Trustees is, that in consideration of the facilities offered, the club will at the end of each year hand over to the library the books and magazines of that year. The club, assisted by the orchestra, is now giving a series of lectures and concerts, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the purchase of the portraits of the founder, Mrs. N. Pettes, and of her late husband, to hang upon the walls of the library. This undertaking must commend itself to the support and generous assistance of all our citizens.

KNOWLTON, 23d February. 1895.