



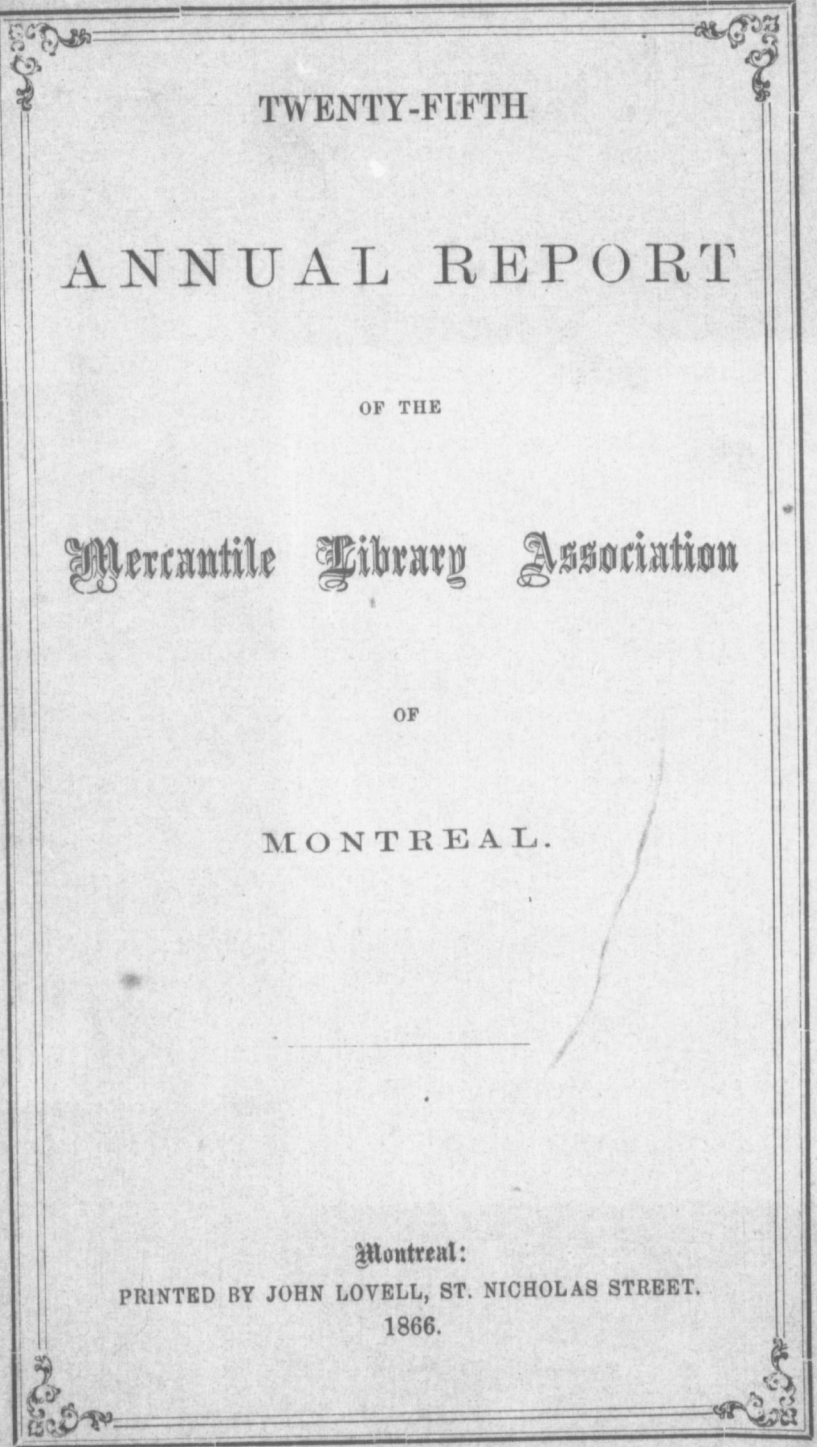
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TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

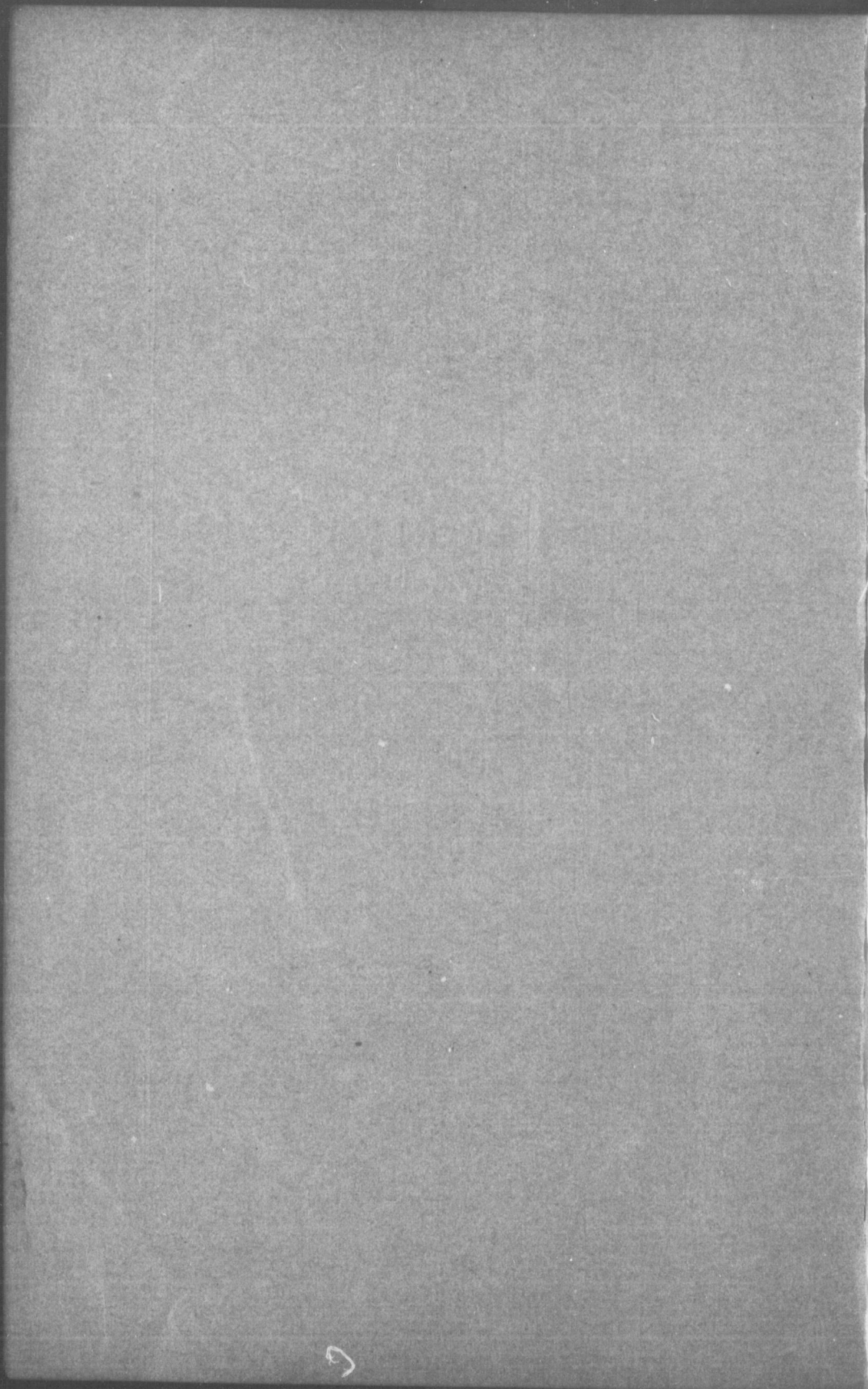
OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.

Montreal:
PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.
1866.



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ANNUAL REPORT

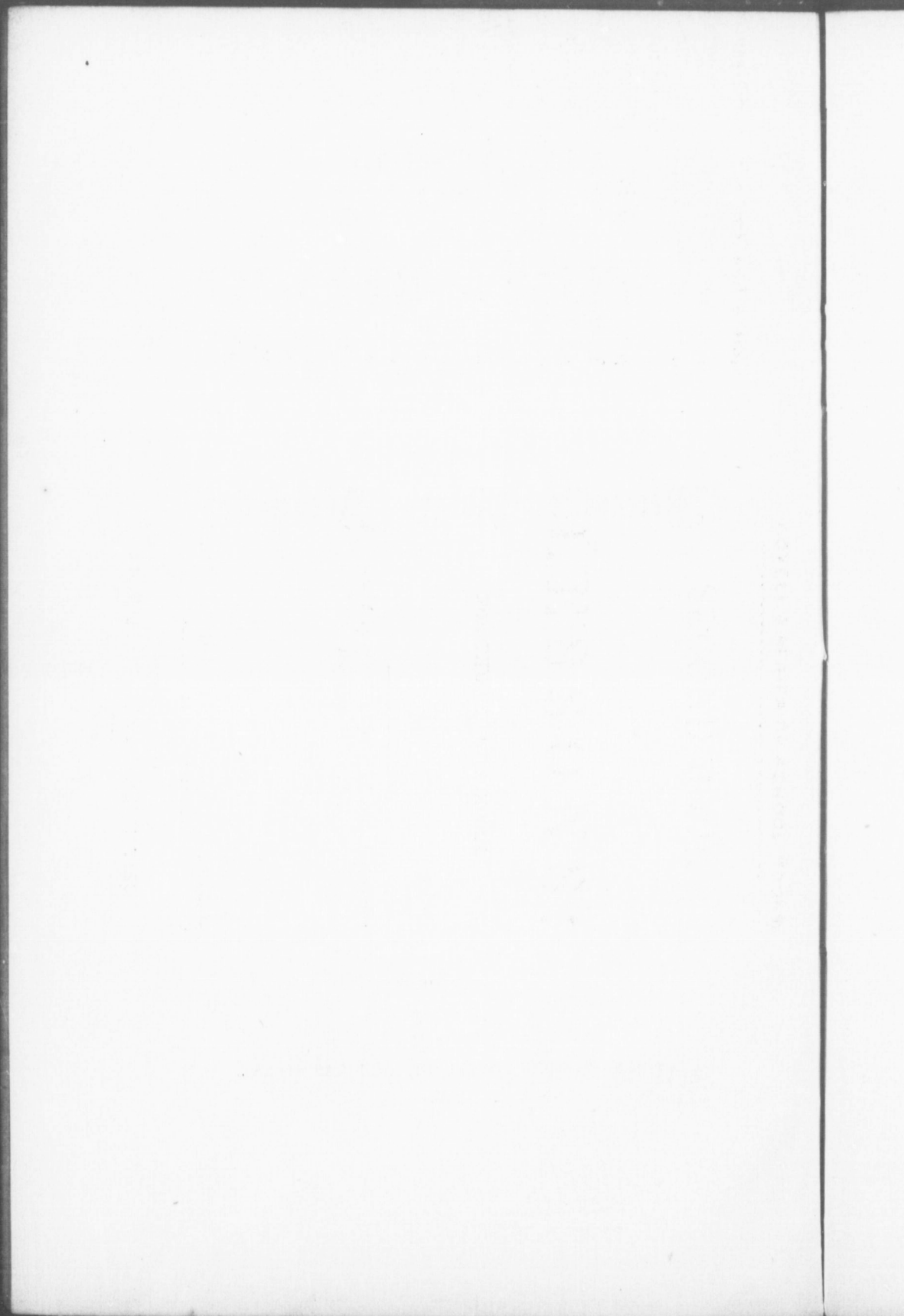
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OFFICERS, 1866:

President.
HON. JOHN YOUNG.

Vice-President.
JAMES C. SINTON.

SECRETARIES:

Corresponding.
RICHARD THOMAS.

Recording.
WILLIAM PATRICK.

TREASURER:

JAMES HARDMAN.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

JOHN McLENNAN.
DANIEL REES.
THOMAS RIMMER.
G. E. JAKES, JR.
D. S. EASTWOOD.

THOMAS SELLAR.
WILLIAM ANGUS.
JAMES STEWART.
W. J. PATTERSON.
A. A. MURPHY.

HONORARY DIRECTORS:

HON. L. H. HOLTON.
PETER REDPATH, Esq.

JOHN G. MCKENZIE, Esq.
CHAS. ALEXANDER, Esq.

AUDITORS:

R. W. MATCHITT.

JAMES INGLIS.

COMMITTEES:

Finance.
HON. JOHN YOUNG.
JAMES HARDMAN.
G. E. JAKES, JR.

Library.
JOHN McLENNAN.
THOMAS RIMMER.
WILLIAM ANGUS.

Reading Room.

THOMAS SELLAR.
DANIEL REES.
JAMES STEWART.

Lectures.
RICHARD THOMAS.
A. A. MURPHY.
W. J. PATTERSON.

Class.
D. S. EASTWOOD.
J. C. SINTON.
W. PATRICK.

13331A

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

G. E. JAQUES, JR., TREASURER.

In account with Mercantile Library Association.

—DR.—		—CR.—	
To Balance from last year.	\$53 15	By Cash paid Jas. Brennan	
Cash for annual subscrip-		for rent.....	\$495 00
tions 1864....	\$30 00	paid taxes.....	52 60
Cash for annual subscrip-		paid salaries.....	495 99
tions 1865....	\$894 50	paid commission col- }	45 51
Cash for annual subscrip-		lecting subscriptions.. }	
tions 1866....	\$43 00	paid gas account.....	78 41
	967 50	paid for fuel.....	40 25
Cash from Lecture Com-		paid T. Riddell for News-	
mittee.....	129 61	papers, &c.....	200 00
Cash for admission of		paid for new books.....	2 78
members to Chess Club	23 00	paid sundry small acc'ts.	128 72
Donation from A. A. Mur-		paid incidental expenses.	53 80
phy Esq.....	20 00	paid discount on silver..	8 20
Cash for Newspapers, &c.,		paid postage.....	22 32
sold	46 96	By Balance to new year...	26 64
Loan from A. A. Murphy,			
Esq.....	300 00		
Loan from J. McLennan,			
Esq.....	110 00		
	\$1650 22		\$1650 22

LIABILITIES.

Loans.....	\$410 00
Newspapers and Magazines.....	255 66
Printing and Advertising.....	102 77
Rent.....	91 66
Incidentals.....	72 22
Past due subscriptions to foreign Newspapers.....	84 00
Gas light.....	24 03
	\$1040 34

E. & O. E.

Montreal, 27th November, 1865.

G. E. JAQUES, JR.,

Treasurer.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Association,
submitted to the Members at the Annual General Meeting
held on Monday evening, the 27th November, 1865.

GENTLEMEN,—The period for which they were elected to office
having terminated, your Board beg leave to submit the following
Report :—

They regret to have to record that the affairs of the Association during the past twelve months have not been in a flourishing condition ; the want of attraction generally, having caused a notable falling off in the attendance at the rooms, which are by no means adapted to our wants. We have had a net loss (as will be noted under the proper head) of 37 members, 23 of this number being merchants. The reading room has been as well supplied with Journals and Magazines as formerly—but the want of space has been greatly felt. In the Library, no progress has been made in replenishing the shelves, the state of our finances not permitting any outlay for this purpose—nevertheless, owing to the judicious selection of the few books added by our predecessors the average number of books read by each member using the Library has been 15 as compared with 12 the average for last year, when, however, we had a larger number of readers.

Another cause which has operated against our success, is the fact that we have been in constant financial difficulties for many years, and many old and valued members have left us, tired of the reiterated appeals of successive Boards, for subscriptions to “pay off the debt,” while our expenditure being so much in excess of our income, we have on each occasion been saddled with a fresh debt of greater or lesser magnitude before our old one could be cancelled by voluntary subscriptions. Again, many gentlemen contributed such sums in that way as entitled them to life memberships, and we have thus, from time to time, been obliged to remove from the roll of ordinary members some of the best paying members of the

Association, though it appears to your Board to be to the last degree injudicious to apply the subscriptions of life members to any other purpose, than the creation of a permanent fund, except under the pressure of absolute necessity, a necessity which we truly believe now occurs for the last time.

BOARD.

The Board elected at your last Annual Meeting, was composed of the following gentlemen:—

President The Hon. JOHN YOUNG.
Vice-President..... ALEXANDER McGIBBON.
Corresponding Secretary ... THOMAS SELLAR.
Recording Secretary..... JAMES C. SINTON.
Treasurer..... G. E. JAKES, JR.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN McLENNAN.	FREDERICK A. MAY.
WILLIAM ANGUS.	J. H. BOTTERELL.
RICHARD THOMAS.	ROBERT G. HECTOR.
LONSDALE GREEN.	JAMES HARDMAN.
JAMES STEWART.	ALEXANDER A. MURPHY.

Mr. McGibbon declined the office of Vice-President, being unable to devote sufficient time to the performance of the duties involved in its acceptance; and Mr. Robert G. Hector, left the City early in the year. The Board was therefore reconstituted as follows:—

President..... The Hon. JOHN YOUNG.
Vice-President..... ALEXANDER A. MURPHY.
Corresponding Secretary.... THOMAS SELLAR.
Recording Secretary..... JAMES C. SINTON.
Treasurer..... G. E. JAKES, JR.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN McLENNAN.	FRED. A. MAY.
WILLIAM ANGUS.	J. H. BOTTERELL.
LONSDALE GREEN.	JAMES HARDMAN.
RICHARD THOMAS.	ALEXANDER McGIBBON.
JAMES STEWART.	W. PATRICK.

HONORARY MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE BOARD.

Hon. L. H. HOLTON.	THOMAS CRAMP, Esq.
HENRY THOMAS, Esq.	CHARLES ALEXANDER, Esq.

READING ROOM.

The Reading Room Committee have effected a few changes in the list of British papers provided for the Room. It was learned that there were comparatively few readers of the "Manchester Guardian" and "Edinburgh Scotsman," both expensive dailies—they were therefore discontinued, and the weekly editions ordered. The weekly edition of the Scotsman has been regularly on fyle, but the Committee have been unable to procure a weekly "Manchester Guardian," and they recommend their successors to procure a weekly edition of some paper published in that important town. The saving effected by these changes has enabled the Committee to furnish the Room with the London "Saturday Review"—a valuable addition to our list. An Irish weekly, of opposite politics to the one now received, has also been ordered—that we may be enabled to meet the views of a large number of members.

Your Board recommend to their successors to ascertain whether it will be practicable to make such arrangements in the new Hall as will enable the Committee to keep the fyles of Magazines and Reviews in the Library, as there must necessarily be too much noise in the Reading Room to permit of the reading of periodicals of that nature, with any degree of satisfaction.

The following publications are now regularly placed on fyle :

NEWSPAPERS.

BRITISH—The Times, Bell's Life in London, Illustrated London News, Illustrated Times, Punch, Athenæum, Saturday Review, Liverpool Mercury, European Times, Edinburgh Scotsman (weekly), *North British Advertiser*, Glasgow Herald, Dublin Freeman's Journal, Army and Navy Gazette.

UNITED STATES—New York Tribune, Herald, Shipping and Commercial List, Independent, Albion, Scottish American Journal, Christian Enquirer, Scientific American, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Journal, Boston Traveller, Chicago Tribune, and Portland Daily Press.

CANADIAN—Montreal Gazette, Herald, Telegraph, *Transcript*, *Daily Witness*, *True Witness*, *Echo*, *Journal of Education*, Trade Review, Saint John's News, Three Rivers *Enquirer* (weekly), Quebec Chronicle, Ottawa Union, *Canada Gazette*, Eastern Town-

ships Gazette, *Huntingdon Journal*, *Canadian Gleaner*, (Huntingdon,) *London Free Press*, *Hamilton Spectator*, *St. Catherine's Constitutional*, *Mount Forest Examiner*, *Toronto Globe*, and *Leader*, *Kingston Chronicle*.

LOWER PROVINCES—Halifax Nova Scotian.

MAGAZINES.

BRITISH—*Art Journal*, *Blackwood's Magazine*, *London Quarterly Review*, *North British Review*, *Edinburgh Review*, *Westminster Review*, *All the Year Round*, *Once A Week*, *Chambers' Journal*.

UNITED STATES—*Atlantic Monthly*, *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*, *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*.

We have again to express our thanks to the proprietors of the papers printed in italics for kindly furnishing us with copies of their respective publications gratis; also, to the following gentlemen for papers regularly supplied to the Room, viz: to the Hon'ble. L. H. Holton, for the *N. Y. Christian Inquirer*; to W. B. Cordier, Esquire, for the *London Free Press*; to John Dougall, Esq., for the *Portland Daily Press*, and to Messrs. Lowe & Chamberlin, for the *Ottawa Daily Union*.

LIBRARY.

The amount expended by the Library Committee has only been the trifling sum of \$2.78—the whole number of volumes added during the year, including missing works replaced by members, being 15. The number of volumes issued during the year has been 1600 to 105 readers, against 1960 volumes to 170 readers during the previous year.

A large number of volumes of considerable value for reference, but unsuited for issue to members, have been placed on separate shelves in the Committee Room, access to which is afforded to members at all times when the Library is open. The attention of members is particularly directed to these works, which have been classified and catalogued by our energetic Vice President, Mr. A. A. Murphy. The Library Committee report to your Board that frequent complaints have been made of the absence of the new and interesting works constantly issuing from the press, but we have shown in our opening remarks that that absence has been a matter

of necessity this year. We would, however, earnestly urge on our successors the necessity of availing themselves of the earliest opportunity to meet the wishes of readers in this respect.

LECTURES.

The operations of the Lecture Committee for the past twelve months embrace a course of five Lectures on "Representative Women," by the Rev. Dr. Lord, delivered early in March last, and a lecture by Mr. George Thompson, of England, on the 7th of the same month. The audiences on these occasions were, as usual, select rather than large, and we have unfortunately to announce that we have sustained a loss of \$102.33. These lectures were followed by a course of four readings by Mr. George Vandenhoff, commencing on the 20th March, which, notwithstanding the rare attraction of an opera troupe, were so well appreciated as to result in a net profit of \$147.13. The same gentleman gave another course of readings, commencing on the 23d October, which also yielded a profit of \$85.03. The Committee have thus been instrumental in adding the sum of \$129.61 to the funds of the Association at a time when it is greatly needed.

FINANCES.

Your Board, on assuming office, did so with the full expectation of deriving a revenue of \$1283 from subscriptions of members for the current year, and \$100 arrears of subscriptions for 1864. But they regret to state that the receipts on account of the current year have only reached \$894.50, and arrears \$30. The falling off for 1865 will be fully detailed under the head of Membership.

The late Board, in fixing the value of arrears at \$100, were quite satisfied that they were rather under than over the correct figure—and this after a very careful scrutiny—yet the result proves that a member who does not discharge his indebtedness during the year in which it is incurred, is very likely to neglect doing so altogether; and we would respectfully suggest that the Board be authorised to deny access to the Reading Room and Library to any member who shall have failed to pay his subscription on or before the 31st January in each year. This course will enable our successors to estimate more correctly the available income.

of their year of office, and it will be more than ever desirable that future Boards be careful not to authorise an expenditure on the part of the several Committees beyond the amount allotted to each. To a want, on the part of previous Boards, of proper attention to their duty in this respect, is to a great degree attributable the chronic state of embarrassment in the past. Twenty-four members are in arrears for 1865, whose aggregate indebtedness amounts to \$64, but it is of little use attempting to calculate the value of this sum—in all likelihood it will not produce \$30.

The other items of income, compare with the estimate of the preceding Board, as follows:—From Chess Club Estimate, \$30; Receipts, \$23; Deficit, \$7. Sale of Newspapers—Estimate, \$52.10; Receipts, \$46.96 (after deducting moneys returned for newspapers discontinued by the present Board); Deficit, \$5.04. We have received \$129.61 from the Lecture Committee not found in the Estimate, and \$20 from Mr. A. A. Murphy, being value of a prize won by him at the Lachine Regatta.

The total actual cash expenditure of the Association during the year has been \$1,623.58; the total income \$1,187.07. We have therefore been under the necessity of borrowing from two members of the Board, to whom we are indebted in the sums of \$300 and \$110 respectively, and even with that assistance, we have been unable to meet all our engagements. The sum of \$43 has also been received from twelve members for their subscriptions to the Association for 1866, the Board having allowed the free use of the Rooms for the last quarter of the current year as an inducement to new members, who are thus secured for the coming year. Excluding the members under this head, 46 in number, our numbers have fallen to 244.

Appended to the Treasurer's statement will be found a schedule of liabilities of the Association, amounting to the large sum of \$1,040. Your Board felt that it would be unwise to think of entering the new building with such a debt hanging over us, and they accordingly adopted a suggestion of your President to call a meeting of the members to consider our position. The meeting, which was held at Nordheimer's Hall on the 21st October, was rather thinly attended, but the sum of \$310 was subscribed on

the spot, and a Committee of five gentlemen appointed to wait on members for their subscriptions, and we have little doubt, but that this old debt will be obliterated before entering the new Hall.

MEMBERSHIP.

The number of members retained on the Roll at date of the last Annual Report was.....	327
Of whom, resigned and paid no subscription.....	81
resigned after payment of subscription.....	26
	<u>107</u>
There remain of last year's members.....	220
Of whom paid subscriptions for the year 1865, during the financial year of 1864 :—	
Merchants.....	6
Senior Clerks.....	3
Junior Clerks.....	3
	<u>12</u>
And paid 1865 subscriptions during current year :—	
Merchants.....	75
Senior Clerks.....	96
Junior Clerks.....	35
	<u>206</u>
Hold contra accounts:	
Merchants.....	4
Senior Clerks.....	3
	<u>7</u>
	225
Deduct those who paid for 1865 and resigned.....	26
	<u>199</u>
Number of members who owe subscriptions for 1865.....	21
	<u>=</u>
Number of New Members who joined in 1865.....	71
Of whom :—Paid subscriptions for 1865.....	22
Owe subscription for 1865.....	3
And are by resolution of the Board liable only for subscription of 1866.....	46
	<u>71</u>
One member who joined the Association in 1865, and paid his subscription, since resigned.....	1
Members who joined in 1865 carried to new year.....	<u>70</u>
	<u>=</u>

Of the members who joined in 1865, and are liable only for subscription of 1866, there have paid in advance (in 1865):

Merchants	3	
Seniors.....	5	
Juniors.....	4	
	<hr/>	12
		==

RECAPITULATION.

Number of Merchant and Clerk Members of the list of 1864 brought forward to 1866	220	
Members who joined in 1865 brought forward.....	70	
	<hr/>	290
		==

CLASSIFICATION.

Merchants.....	103	
Senior Clerks.....	131	
Junior Clerks	56	
	<hr/>	290
		==

CLASSES.

No classes have been held for the benefit of our members for many years, there being no rooms at our disposal adapted for the purpose. We may, however, refer with some satisfaction to the fact that the Mercantile Literary Society has now entered on its fourth year with unabated vigour, and we recommend the Society to the favourable consideration of those among you who may desire to acquire the faculty of public speaking, and the advantage of condensing their ideas on questions of importance—the limited time allotted to each member to speak having a very good effect.

CHESS CLUB.

Comparatively few members of your Association have availed themselves of the privilege of joining the Chess Club, the subscription to which is only one dollar per annum. The Club occupies the room above the Reading Room, under the arrangement entered into with the late Board.

It may be worthy the consideration of our successors to determine whether the members of the Association shall not hereafter enjoy all the advantages the Association can be made to afford them, without any further cost than the annual subscription to the institution itself.

THE NEW HALL.

Your Board have every reason to believe that we have passed through our severest trials; and although the progress of the Association for many years has been slow and painful, yet a little energetic action now will no doubt place it in a position, by having the command of means, to make it of vast utility and influence in the city, and deserving the esteem of a community who have so generously aided in the erection of the new Hall. The Building Committee appointed by the subscribers to superintend the construction of the new Hall have made such progress, that your Board feel authorized in stating their belief that it will be open to the members of this Association on the first of May next. Subscriptions for the new building continue to be made; and as the future success of the Association in a great measure depends on its being free from debt, and of being able to make annual purchases of new books, the Board would urge on their successors the necessity of leaving nothing undone to secure so desirable a result.

The liberality of the merchants of Montreal, who have so far aided in the construction of the Hall, is a credit and honour to our city; and your Board believe that, when fairly settled in the new building, the Mercantile Library Association will become eminently useful in facilitating mutual intercourse, in extending information upon mercantile and other subjects of general utility, in promoting a spirit of useful enquiry, and in qualifying the young man of business to discharge with dignity the duties of his profession. In no other profession is a greater variety and volume of general knowledge more necessary than in that of the merchant. The relations, geographical, political and commercial, of other countries, as well as of his own country; the principles and the systems of political economy and finance, commercial history and commercial law; the properties of natural products and their manufacture—are all intimately connected with the very details of his business; and the Mercantile Library Association may now aid in this good work with a power which it has not before possessed, in a building specially adapted to our requirements, and where the operations of the Association, in all its branches, can be carried on with a degree of comfort not hitherto enjoyed.

Your Board would respectfully recommend to their successors some new mode of providing lectures for the Association, and they hope this may be accomplished in their new Hall with more beneficial results to the members, and without such imperative necessity as has been necessary for considering the financial result. Under this view, your Board would suggest the advisability of making arrangements, in the early part of the summer of each year, for regular and systematic instruction by lectures during stated months in the winter, and on some stated day of each week, the same being open to members of the Association. These lectures might be on such subjects as the following:—

- 1st. The Principles of Commerce, including Commercial Law, Insurance, Exchange, Political Economy.
- 2nd. Commercial History and Geography, Mining, &c.
- 3rd. Natural Philosophy, including Chemistry and Natural History in its commercial applications.
- 4th. History, civil and literary; Intellectual Philosophy, Belles Lettres, &c.

Your Board, in these remarks, merely desire to throw out hints of what may be done, being well satisfied that in proportion as the mind is enlightened, the moral beauty and harmony of things is awakened; and no young man, who reads with attention, and who is a steady frequenter of a well provided reading room and library, but must have his taste cultivated and his mind improved. It is in this way that many can be weaned from idle and vicious pursuits.

In addition to the advantages to be derived from literary and scientific lectures statedly delivered, classes might be formed for the study of the French, Spanish, and German languages, under able instructors, and for the study of Chemistry, to facilitate which the Association should possess a chemical apparatus.

The leisure, which can be had in our winter season, may thus, if judiciously employed, do much to supply entirely to some, the deficiency of early education, and to extend to all that correct knowledge which is indispensable to the cultivated merchant.

All respectfully submitted.

Montreal, 27th Nov., 1865.

JOHN YOUNG,
President.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting was held in the Committee Room on Monday evening, the 27th November, 1865.

Hon. John Young, President, in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Semi-Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. G. E. Jaques, jun., Treasurer of the Association, submitted his report of the receipts and expenditure of the Association, subsequent to the last Annual Meeting, which, on motion, was received and ordered on file.

The President then read the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Board of Directors.

On motion of Mr. John McLennan, seconded by Mr. Thomas Rimmer, the Report was received and adopted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Murphy, on behalf of the Special Committee appointed to collect subscriptions to pay off the outstanding accounts of the Association, reported receipts up to date, the 27th November, to be \$461.

The President, in reply to a question put by a member present, stated that there was every reason to believe that the new Hall now being constructed for the Association would be completed and ready for occupation on the first of May, 1866. Whereupon, on motion of Mr. C. K. Adams, seconded by Mr. J. J. McLaren, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the Building Committee, for their valuable services during the past year.

On motion, the Committee adjourned.

JAMES C. SINTON,
Recording Secretary.