

REPORT

OF

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 7th, 1855.

TORONTO:

PRINTED BY THOMPSON & CO., KING STREET EAST.

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MECH.

The Annual Meeting
Hall, on Monday evening
President in the chair

The Report of the
the Secretary, received

The following gentlemen
mittee for the ensuing year

President,-----
First Vice-President,-----
Second Vice-President,-----
Treasurer,-----
Corresponding Secretary,-----
Recording Secretary,-----
Librarian,-----

Patrick Freeland
E. F. Whittemore
J. E. Pell,
F. W. Cumberland
Joseph Rowell,
Samuel Rogers,

TORONTO

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The Annual Meeting of members was held in the Society's Hall, on Monday evening, May 7th, 1855, the second Vice-President in the chair.

The Report of the Committee for the past year, was read by the Secretary, received and adopted.

The following gentlemen were elected as Officers and Committee for the ensuing year:—

President,.....G. W. ALLAN.
First Vice-President,.....WILLIAM EDWARDS.
Second Vice-President.....RICE LEWIS.
TreasurerJOHN HARRINGTON.
Corresponding Secretary...MATTHEW SWEETNAM.
Recording SecretaryROBERT EDWARDS.
Librarian.....Do.

COMMITTEE:

Patrick Freeland,
E. F. Whittemore,
J. E. Pell,
F. W. Cumberland,
Joseph Rowell,
Samuel Rogers,

George Harcourt,
Hiram Piper,
John McBean,
John Elliot,
Robert McPhail,
John Nasmith.

Moved by Mr. G. Harcourt, seconded by Mr. S. B. Johnson:

Resolved,—That the special thanks of this Institute be presented to the late President—Patrick Freeland, Esq., for the energy and ability with which he discharged the duties of that office during the past year.

Moved by Mr. J. Elliot, seconded by Mr. J. J. Woodhouse:

Resolved,—That the cordial thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby tendered to the officers and members of the retiring Committee, for their efficient and satisfactory services for the past year.

The Committee close of another year during that period.

In 1823, the first Britain. As these dictated that they w experience of more proportion as educ prosperous; their p the present day, th culated to foster a were established w of scientific knowl mote mechanical i ment of natural ab culture of society. cation, many adva "adding to dexter of the scientific mechanical art."

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by Mr. S. B. Johnson:

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Mr. J. J. Woodhouse:

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REPORT.

The Committee of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, at the close of another year, beg to present a report of their proceedings during that period.

In 1823, the first Mechanics' Institute was established in Great Britain. As these Institutions gradually increased, many predicted that they were destined to decline and die. After an experience of more than 30 years, however, we find, that in proportion as education has advanced, they have become more prosperous; their permanence more firmly secured; and that in the present day, they rank with the great modern agencies, calculated to foster and extend education. Mechanics' Institutes were established with a view to afford means for the attainment of scientific knowledge by the artisan classes, and thereby to promote mechanical inventions; to open up a path for the development of natural ability; and to improve generally the intellectual culture of society. It was justly conceived, that, aided by education, many advantages would result to the community, from "adding to dexterity of hand and ingenuity of head, a knowledge of the scientific principles which are the foundation of every mechanical art."

The improvements and inventions, which are frequently presented for our inspection and admiration, bear pleasing testimony to the utility of these and kindred institutions and lead to the opinion, that the most sanguine hopes entertained of their success, will be realized at no very distant day.

It is a matter of much gratification to your Committee to be able to record the evidences of another successful year in the history of the Institute; successful, at least so far as receiving

large accessions to its membership; and a growing disposition to embrace the advantages for mental improvement which it affords.

The increase of members since the last Annual Meeting, cannot fail to be satisfactory, in a high degree, to the friends and supporters of the Institute.

The number of members at the last annual Report was... 453
From which deduct—

Loss by deaths.....	7
Removals from the city.....	35
Withdrawals from other causes.....	20
	— 62

Number remaining.....	391
To which add new members.....	162

Shewing a total at the present time of..... 553
Or a net increase during the year of..... 100

The classification of members is as follows:—

Honorary Members.....	28
Life Members.....	80
Ordinary Members.....	344
Junior Members.....	101
Total.....	553

The efforts of your Committee to contribute to the improvement and intellectual gratification of their fellow members and the public generally, although limited, were, they have reason to believe, duly appreciated.

THE LIBRARY

Contains 1,951 volumes; 149 of which were added during the past year. The increasing interest manifested in this department of the Institute, augurs well for the future. Upwards of 400 members are regularly supplied with books. Such a proportion of reading members is, in the opinion of your Committee, a cause of much satisfaction.

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Normal, Model
Board of Regist
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P.P., W. Patric
J. Hartman, Es

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Your Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging the kindness of Robert Stephenson, Esq., M.P., England, in presenting to the Institute, a copy of a valuable work on the Britannia and Conway Tubular Bridges, with plates; of the American Institute, New York City, for 8 volumes of the Transactions of that Society, to last year; of Rev. Dr. Lyerson, Chief Superintendent of Education, for Reports of Normal, Model, and Common Schools, for 1852-3; of the Board of Registration and Statistics, for their First Report; of the Hon. W. B. Robinson, M.P.P., W. L. Mackenzie, Esq., M. P.P., W. Patrick, Esq., M.P.P., E. Larwill, Esq., M.P.P., and J. Hartman, Esq., M.P.P., for sundry Parliamentary papers.

THE READING ROOM

Is supplied with 50 Reviews, Magazines, and Newspapers, selected from those published in Great Britain, the United States, and Canada.

The large number who attend to read the periodical literature and news of the day, is the best proof of the appreciation of this particular branch of the Institute.

The following Newspapers and Publications are furnished gratuitously, viz.:—New York Albion, Hamilton Spectator, Toronto Christian Guardian, and Echo, by Mr. J. E. Pell; the Herald of Peace and Anti-Slavery Reporter, by Mr. J. Wickson; the Streetsville Review, by Mr. J. Harrington; the Canadian Agriculturist, U. C. Jurist, Journal of Education, Montreal Transcript, Kingston Herald, Bradford Chronicle, Owen Sound Times, Port Hope Guide, Windsor Herald, Barrie Advance, Toronto Church and Old Countryman, by their respective proprietors.

THE LECTURES

During the past season, were well attended; and the Institute is laid under renewed obligations to the several gentlemen who cheerfully came forward, and bestowed their time and talent, to stimulate their hearers in the pursuit of knowledge, and to the

attainment of mental culture, which are always the source of happiness and delight to those fortunate enough to possess them.

The following are the dates at which the Lectures were delivered; the subjects treated upon; and the names of the Lecturers:—

1854.

Friday,

Dec. 1—Opening Lecture—Patrick Freeland, Esq.

" 8—Animal and Vegetable Organization—James Bovell, M. D.

" 15—Memory—Rev. A. Lillie, D.D.

" 22—The Respiratory Function in Animals—Rev. W. Hincks, F.L.S.

1855.

Jan. 5—English Literature of the 18th Century—Rev. R. Burns, D.D.

" 12—Science and Revelation—Rev. J. Pyper, D.D.

" 19—Comparative Organization, Life and Mind, in the several orders of Terrestrial Beings—Rev. J. Roaf.

" 26—Chemistry, in some of its Applications—H. H. Croft, D.C.L.

Feb. 2—The West—D. Wilson, L.L.D.

" 9—On Association—Rev. T. Goldsmith.

" 16—On Life Assurance, in Theory and Practice—G. Sheppard, Esq.

" 23—The Discrimination of Minerals—E. J. Chapman, Esq.

Mar. 2—The Plurality of Worlds—T. Henning, Esq.

" 9—Mystery—Rev. W. Ormiston, B.A.

" 16—The Early History of Russia—T. J. Robertson, Esq.

" 23—English Literature of the 18th Century—Rev. R. Burns, D.D.

" 30—Concluding Lecture—F. W. Cumberland, Esq.

It was expected that the New Hall would have been occupied by the Institute before the present time; but the sum required

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to finish it being much larger than was anticipated, your Committee were obliged to suspend the works until the necessary funds could be raised. An appeal has recently been made to the members, and the public generally, for additional aid, to finish, at least, as many rooms in the building as may be necessary for the accommodation of the Institute, and serve as offices for rental; the proceeds of the latter to be applied to the payment of interest on the present loan. The appeal has been partially successful; many of the members and citizens, already called upon, having subscribed liberally; and it is the opinion of your committee that when the canvass of the city shall have been made, a sufficient sum will be realized to complete those parts of the building referred to.

In October last, Lord Elgin—late Governor General of Canada—paid a farewell visit to this city previous to his departure for England. During his stay, your Committee took the opportunity of waiting upon his Excellency with an address, acknowledging the support which, during the term of his Excellency's administration, had been generally extended to this Institution, of which he was the patron—referring also to the establishment of a successful and enlightened system of education in the Province, and his Excellency's active sympathy and aid to societies specially calculated to elevate and strengthen mechanical and agricultural industry among us. In replying to the address, his Excellency remarked, that he had "always considered it an imperative duty, whilst engaged in the administration of the affairs of this Province, to promote, to the best of his ability, the education of the people; and had always desired to render especial assistance to Mechanics' Institutes, because they practically illustrated the principle of self-improvement."

Your Committee have to record the removal, by death, during the year, of two members of long standing, the late Mr. William Atkinson, and Mr. Francis Thomas. They were among the early members of the Institute, and continued their connection with it up to the time of their death. For many years they served as members of the General Committee, and from the

commencement took a warm interest in its affairs, and, by advice and assistance, did much to affect its permanent interests.

The Finances of the Institute for the past year, as shewn by the Treasurer's Account, exhibit an increase over the previous year of £51 17s. 2½d., leaving a balance in hand, after paying current expenses and appropriating £50 to building purposes, of £22 18s. 2d.

For details of General Account and Building Fund, see Statements submitted herewith.

It is the opinion of your Committee, that an advance on the present rates of annual subscriptions is very desirable; and that the members need only to be reminded of the increased cost of lighting and heating, and the other necessary requirements of the Institute, to obtain their hearty concurrence to the proposition. The scale proposed is as follows:—For ordinary members, ten shillings per annum, instead of seven shillings and sixpence; and for junior members, six shillings and threepence, instead of five shillings; and to abolish the entrance fees altogether. It may be observed, that, whilst the sum to each will appear comparatively trifling, it will in the aggregate be of considerable importance to the Institute.

Your Committee respectfully suggest, that the duties connected with, as well as the importance and usefulness of, the Institute, which, for years past, have been steadily increasing, have now arrived at a point to require the entire services of an officer who shall act in the capacity of Secretary and Librarian, and manage the affairs of the Institute, under the direction and control of the General Committee.

Your Committee refer, with pleasure, to the generous disposition manifested by the numerous friends of the Institute. When their sympathies have been appealed to, and their aid required, they have shewn, in a substantial manner, their appreciation of an enterprise in every way worthy of countenance and support. The progress which has been made during the past twelve months when viewed in connection with the gradual but steady growth

of former years, affords
promising future for

All of which is res

Toronto, 7th May

of former years, affords a pleasing indication of a bright and promising future for our Institute.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATRICK FREELAND,
President.

ROBERT EDWARDS,
Secretary.

Toronto, 7th May, 1855.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending May 7th, 1855.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in hand at last annual report.....	£ 19 12 6
Members' subscriptions	158 4 3
Rents for Hall.....	73 6 5½
Lecture fees.....	9 2 6
Sale of Library Catalogues	2 6 10½
Sale of numbers of the London "Punch".....	0 15 4
Government Grant for 1854.....	50 0 0
Total	£313 7 11

EXPENDITURE.

Secretary and Librarian's remuneration for the year ending May 14th, 1855.....	£75 0 0
Hall-keeper's remuneration, for the year ending May 1st, 1855.....	20 0 0
Insurance on Hall.....	4 10 9
Books for Library.....	20 16 0
Reviews, Magazines, and Newspapers.....	27 8 4
Printing 1000 copies Annual Report	11 5 0
General printing	21 16 9
Binding and repairing books.....	10 16 10½
Stationery and blank books.....	2 13 11½
Postage.....	0 16 0
Posting bills and distributing circulars.....	2 13 9
Gas and candles.....	24 10 5½
Fuel and fitting up stoves.....	14 8 6
Whitefield's View of Toronto, 1 copy.....	1 5 0
Appropriation to building fund.....	50 0 0
Sundries	2 8 4½
Balance in hand	22 18 2
Total	£313 7 11

Examined and found correct.

JAMES BRETT, }
J. J. WOODHOUSE, } *Auditors*

Toronto, 5th May, 1855.

Statement of Receipts

18

Subscriptions

Sale of old Hall

Loan from University

Appropriation from g

Appropriation from g

Sale of old house on l

Proceeds of a lecture

Total.....

Excavation of cellar.....

Enclosing cellar

Corporation, for sewer

B. Walton, brick and

W. H. Pim, carpenter

A. Hamilton, painting

H. & N. Piper, tinsmith

Expenses of laying c

Insurance

Printing

Paid for collection of

1854, at 2 per c

Interest on loan,—i

November 30th

Sundries.....

Balance in hand.....

Total.....

Examined and found

Toronto, 5th May

BUILDING FUND.

May 7th, 1855.

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, from November 27th,
1852, to May 1st, 1855.*

RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions	£2,023 16 11
Sale of old Hall	500 0 0
Loan from University Fund	2,968 15 0
Appropriation from general fund, 1854	50 0 0
Appropriation from general fund, 1855	50 0 0
Sale of old house on building lot	3 12 6
Proceeds of a lecture by Mr. Wilson	2 5 7
Total	£5,598 10 0

EXPENDITURE.

Excavation of cellar	£95 3 1
Enclosing cellar	3 19 3
Corporation, for sewerage	14 0 0
B. Walton, brick and stone work	3,794 7 0
W. H. Pim, carpenter's work	1,100 0 0
A. Hamilton, painting and glazing	100 0 0
H. & N. Piper, tinsmith's work	50 0 0
Expenses of laying corner-stone	72 18 3 <i>623c.7.7</i>
Insurance	32 0 0
Printing	4 13 0
Paid for collection of subscriptions to May 1st, 1854, at 2 per cent	23 0 0
Interest on loan,—including building lot,—to November 30th, 1854	265 18 7
Sundries	4 18 4
Balance in hand	37 12 6
Total	£5,598 10 0

Examined and found correct.

JAMES BRETT, }
J. J. WOODHOUSE, } *Auditors.*

Toronto, 5th May, 1855.

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SPECIAL MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the members of the Institute, was held on Saturday evening, May 19th, 1855; the President, G. W. Allan, Esq., in the Chair.

The President stated the object of the meeting, viz., to take into consideration a proposition made by the Provincial Government, to lease the new Hall of the Institute for four years, as Offices for Public Departments.

A memorandum,—forming the basis of agreement,—drawn up by Hon. H. H. Killaly, and approved of by the General Committee of the Institute, was then read by the Secretary, as follows:

“In the event of the new Mechanics’ Institute Hall being placed at the disposal of Government, during the time of its being carried on in Toronto (say for four years), the following is understood to be the basis of the arrangement to be entered into between the parties, viz.: The Government to be at liberty to divide and partition the interior to suit the wants of the several departments to be accommodated in it; but, on, or prior to, its being handed up to the Institute, the building is to be completed and left in the state in which it was intended it was to have been for the purposes of the Institute; that the Government shall pay the interest on the debt (£4,600) while they occupy the building; shall discharge the present liabilities of the building, or otherwise arrange with the respective parties for the same; they shall also keep the building insured,—during the time of its being occupied for public purposes,—for the sum of £6,000; and shall pay to the Institute the sum of £100 a-year, to cover the rent, &c., of the temporary accommodation of the Institute during the time the Hall is occupied.”

Several members having addressed the meeting in favour of the arrangement, it was

Moved by Mr. J. Duggan, seconded by Mr. T. Sellar, and unanimously

Resolved. "That this meeting,—taking into consideration the liberal offer made by the Provincial Government, through the Hon. Mr. Killaly, for the use of the new Mechanics' Institute Building, during the period of four years,—recommend that the said offer be accepted, on the conditions mentioned in the memorandum of agreement drawn up by Mr. Killaly, which memorandum was approved of by the General Committee, at a meeting held on Friday, the 18th instant; and that the President and Committee take immediate steps to conclude the same."

The meeting then adjourned.

ROBERT EDWARDS,

Secretary.
