

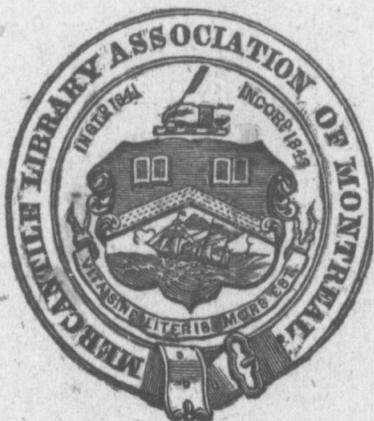
FOURTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.

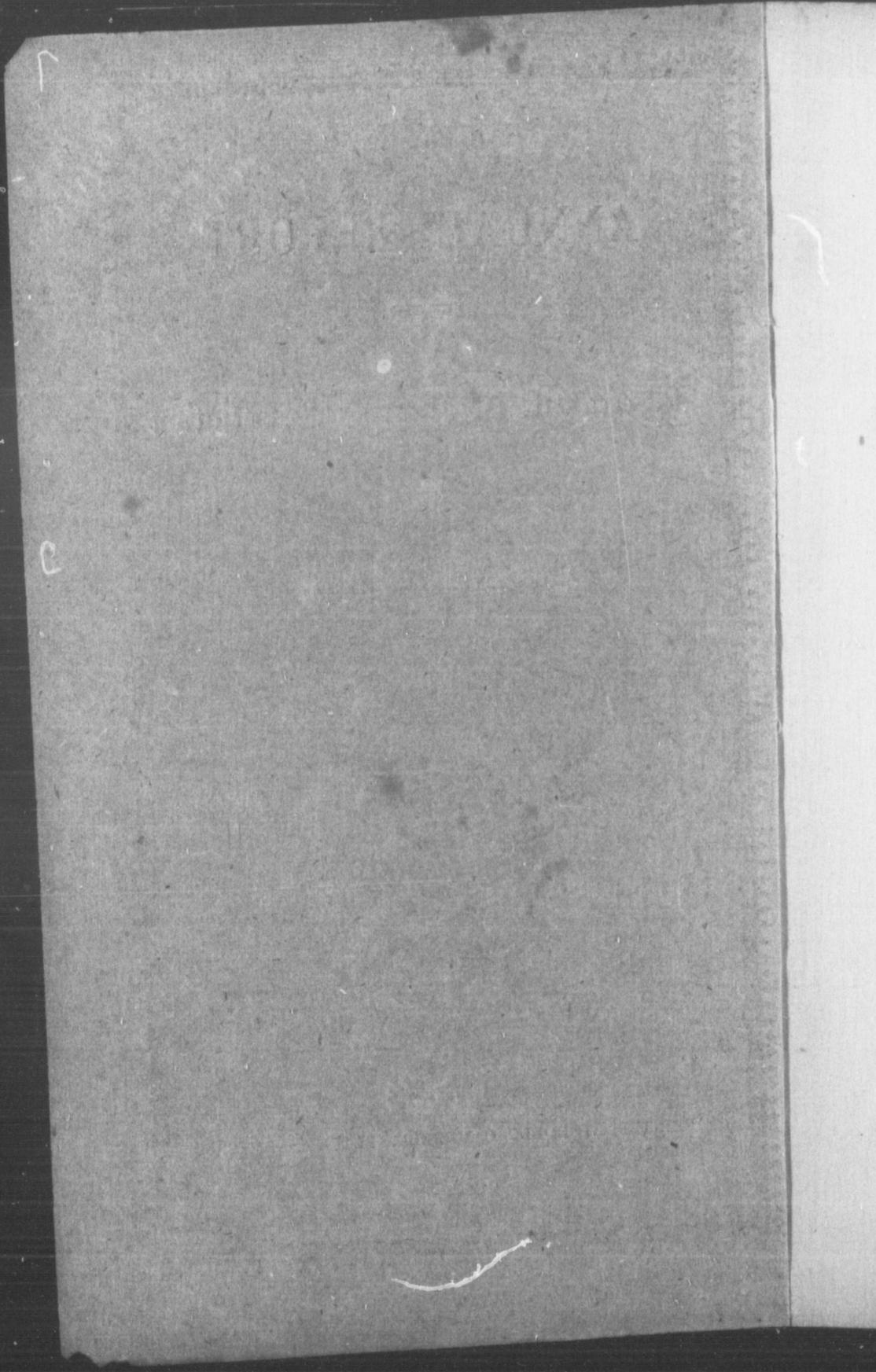


Montreal :

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL, PLACE D'ARMES.

1855.

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ANNUAL REPORT

MONTREAL



THE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MONTREAL



Printed and Published by
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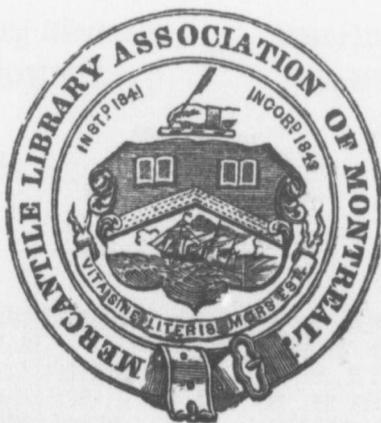
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POLYTECHNIC
ANNUAL REPORT

1887-88

MONTREAL



FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1888
PUBLISHED BY THE SCHOOL
RICHARD ST JOHN CAMPBELL, PRINTER

1888

Mercantile Library Association

OF

MONTREAL.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR 1855.

President.

E. T. TAYLOR.

Vice-President.

THOMAS KERSHAW.

Corresponding Secretary.

H. L. SNOWDON.

Recording Secretary.

DANIEL REES.

Treasurer.

JAMES STIRLING.

Directors.

GEORGE TEMPLETON.
JAMES M'LEAN.
JAMES P. CLEGHORN.
THOMAS WATKINS.
ALEX. MACPHERSON.

W. V. ABBOTT.
HENRY TORRANCE.
T. W. KYTE.
W. M. FREER.
ARCHD. STEWART.

Honorary Directors.

HON. JOHN YOUNG.
JAMES TORRANCE, Esq.

JOHN ARMOUR, Esq.
J. MACPHERSON, Esq.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR 1955

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E. T. FAYOR

Vice President
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Corresponding Secretary
DANIEL RIES

Treasurer
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Director

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HERN TORRANCE
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JAMES WELLS
JAMES P. GIBBONS
THOMAS WALLACE
ALICE MATTHEWS

Honorary Director

JOHN LAMOUR
J. MATTHEWS

DR. JOHN YORK
JAMES TORRANCE

STANDING COMMITTEES

OF THE

Board of Direction for 1855.

READING ROOM.

GEORGE TEMPLETON. JAMES M'LEAN.
DAN. REES.

LIBRARY.

J. P. CLEGHORN. W. V. ABBOTT.
ALEX. MACPHERSON.

LECTURE.

H. L. SNOWDON. THOMAS KERSHAW.
ARCHIBALD STEWART.

CLASS.

T. W. KYTE. HENRY TORRANCE.
W. M. FREER.

FINANCE.

E. T. TAYLOR. JAMES STIRLING.
THOMAS WATKINS.

STANDING COMMITTEES

1885

Board of Directors for 1885

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

GEORGE TRIMPTON

DAN KEES

SECRETARY

W. T. ABOTT

J. P. GIBSON

ALEX. MANNING

TREASURER

THOMAS KIRBY

J. A. BROOKS

ROBERT STEWART

CLERK

HENRY TORRANCE

J. W. EYRE

W. M. THOMAS

EXCHG.

JAMES SMITH

J. TAYLOR

THOMAS WATKINS

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

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*Extract from the Constitution of the Mercantile Library Association.*  
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ART. 1, SEC. 2.—Any person engaged in mercantile pursuits as a Clerk, may become a Member of this Association, on adding his name to the Register of Members, and paying his Subscription as in the next Article.

ART. 2.—Senior Clerk Members (*i. e.*, those receiving salaries of £25 or over) shall pay an annual Subscription of Twenty Shillings; and Junior Clerk Members (*i. e.*, those receiving no salary, or salaries under £25,) shall pay an annual Subscription of Ten Shillings.

ART. 3.—Merchants, and others not engaged in mercantile pursuits, may become members of the Association by signing the Register, and paying an annual Subscription of One Pound Five Shillings.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Gentlemen,

In conformity with the rules of the Association, the Board of Direction beg to submit the following Report of their operations during the past year:—

Although your Board are desirous that the Report should be brief, yet they cannot enter upon the several departments connected with the Association without presenting a general view of its history during the year now expiring.

At the last Annual meeting a resolution was passed to the effect, "That this Association was of opinion that the time had arrived when an effort should be made to secure a suitable site for the erection of a convenient building." At the same meeting a Committee was appointed to co-operate with the Board in carrying out the above resolution. This Committee reported:—"That in their opinion there were two sites on which suitable buildings for the Association could be erected. The one preferred by the Committee was a corner lot on McGill and Foundling streets, belonging to the Reverend Sisters of the Grey Nunnery, but this lot could not be obtained. The next best lot was one belonging to the Hon. John Young, in McGill Street, adjoining the buildings lately erected by him. This lot is bounded on one side by McGill and on the other by Grey Nun Street. The locality is not so central as the Committee could desire; but it can be bought at a lower price

than other lots at present better situated ; and they believed that a lot on McGill Street, so near the port and entrance of the canal, with the probability that the business will, by-and-bye, (on the completion of the Bridge across the St. Lawrence,) centre more towards the canal, is more desirable than at any other point, and will, in a few years, advance more in value proportionately than a lot secured in any other part of the city. The Committee pointed out the necessity of unanimity in the choice of a suitable building site, stating if there be not unanimity among the members, it will, to some extent, mar the probable success of the Association in securing subscriptions for the building."

Your Board would express a hope that an object so much desired as that alluded to, be not lost sight of by their successors in office.

Your Board would notice, as the most important step taken by them, the leasing for three years of our present commodious rooms. They cannot, however, conceal the fact, that in taking this step they incurred a heavy responsibility, such as they would not have felt themselves warranted in assuming, had it not been their desire to carry out your wishes expressed at the semi-annual meeting.

Notwithstanding the great advantages and convenience which the present rooms afford, being much superior to any hitherto occupied by the Association, your Board regret to say, that there has not been an accession of members such as they anticipated. Especially would they notice the apparent want of interest in the Association on the part of clerks in retail stores, there being only thirty-three who subscribe to the Rooms.

Your Board feel certain, however, that there is not one member of this Association who would not cheerfully aid the retail clerks in obtaining greater freedom

than they now enjoy, did they exhibit a desire to support an Institution so well calculated to afford them both pleasure and instruction.

Your Board witness with great pleasure the prosperity of their Sister Institutions in this city, although a comparison with our own affords little gratification. The Institut Canadien numbers 640 members, and the Mechanics' Institute 820, while we number only 489.

The acknowledged members of the Association appear thus:—149 merchants, 199 senior clerks, and 61 junior clerks, making 409 paying members; also 53 life and 27 honorary members, making a total of 489. Your Board would observe, that hitherto the practice has been to insert in the report all the members appearing on the books, whether paying or not; they have considered it advisable to discontinue this practice, deeming it their duty to guard their successors against forming their plans for future operations and engagements upon false data.

At the commencement of the past year Mr. A. B. Stewart gratuitously disposed by auction of the newspapers and periodicals not fyled, a kindness which your Board hereby beg to acknowledge.

The Board have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of Mr. Donaldson, the Superintendent, and are happy to add, that they believe his duties have been discharged to the satisfaction of all the members.

Your Board would proceed to notice more especially, the different branches of the Association.

READING ROOM.

The Room has been supplied with 59 newspapers and 9 reviews and magazines. 562 strangers, including 50 clergymen, were introduced into the Rooms during the year, a privilege which must be highly prized by members having friends visiting the city. For the last two years telegraphic reports have been regularly

furnished to the Rooms. Your Board would, however, recommend to their successors the discontinuance of these reports, as being, in their opinion, unnecessary, and too expensive.

The newspapers and periodicals received in the Room are as follows:—

NEWSPAPERS.

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

REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

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

PAPERS FURNISHED GRATIS.

Montreal Witness, by John Dougall, Esq.; Montreal Transcript, by D. McDonald, Esq.; True Witness, by George E. Clerk, Esq.; Montreal Freeman, by Messrs. F. Dalton & Co.; Temperance Advocate, by J. C. Becket, Esq.; Canada Official Gazette, by the Publishers; Moniteur Canadien, by J. G. DeMontigny, Esq.; Medical Chronicle, by Drs. Wright & MacCallum; New

York Sun, by Messrs. Beach & Co.; Christian Enquirer, by L. H. Holton, Esq.; St. John's (C.E.) News, by the Proprietor; Western Planet, by R. Blackwood, Esq.; Le Semeur Canadien, by E. Roe, Esq.; North British Advertiser, by a Friend; Agricultural Journal, by the Publisher; Port Hope Guide, by the Proprietor; Port Hope Echo, by W. Eden, Esq.; Eastern Advocate, by the Proprietor; Quebec Observer, by do; Ottawa Citizen, by do; Hazard's Gazette, by do; Colonist (Quebec), by do.

LIBRARY.

Your Board gratefully acknowledge the following liberal donations of Books, &c.:—

From Robert Armour, Esq.—£1.

From John Leeming, Esq.—Quebec Gazette for 1808; Montreal Herald for 1812; Canadian Courant, for 1807, '8, '9, '10, '14; Montreal Gazette for 1800, '2, '3, '4, '5, '6, '10, '11, '13; Quebec Mercury for 1805, '7, '9, '11; Ancient French Archives.

From G. D. Watson—The New Encyclopedia, 3 folio vols.; The Academy of Science and Art, 2 large octavos; Literary Panorama, 1809; The Quebec Mercury for 1814, '15, '17, '18, '19, '20, '22; Documents of the New York House of Refuge, 1 vol.; Life of Napoleon, 2 vols.; Muirhead's Dissertations, 2 vols.

From G. W. Stephens—Report of the Smithsonian Institution, and Closing Address of the Mechanics, Institution, Washington, 1853.

From John Armour—The Magazine of Art Almanack; The Uses of Biography; John Milton, the Patriot and Poet; Golden Steps for Youth; History of a Wasted Life; Course on Science; Life of Chatterston; Wonders of the Human Frame; History of Ireland; Diary of a Living Physician; Memoirs of Wadsworth; Old England; Fragments of Thought; Lions Living and Dead; Sketches of Feudalism; Dream and Ghost.

Land; Cromwell and his Times; Pen Pictures; Self-Education, and three Engravings, viz., the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Duke of Wellington.

From Frederick Griffin—"Junius Discovered."

LECTURES.

During the Winter Lectures were delivered by the following gentlemen, who are entitled to your best thanks for their services:—

W. T. LEACH, D.C.L.—Introductory Lecture.

R. M'GILL, D. D.—"The influence of circumstances on opinion and character, illustrated from the History of the Emperor Julian, commonly called the Apostate."

P. LESUEUR, Esq.—"Great social errors exploded or fast expiring."

F. W. TORRANCE, A.M.—"The Public Life of Edmund Burke."

W. G. MACK, Esq.—"Robert Burns; the Man and the Poet."

Right Rev. Dr. FULFORD, Bishop of Montreal.—Concluding Lecture—"Taste and Style in Literature."

SPECIAL LECTURES.

The following Special Lectures were also delivered before the Association:—

By E. P. WHIPPLE, Esq., of Boston, Massachusetts.—A Course of Four Lectures, in the following order: Thursday, April 6th, on "Character;" Friday, 7th, on "Eccentric Character;" Monday, April 10th, on "Heroic Character;" Tuesday, April 11th, "Martin Luther."

Also, a Second Course was delivered by the Rev. HENRY GILES, as follows:—Saturday evening, April 15th, on "Love of the Beautiful;" Monday evening, April 17th, on "The Worldling;" Wednesday evening, April 19th, on "The Enthusiast;" Thursday evening, April 20th, on "The Immortality of Shakspeare's Genius."

Soon after your Board assumed office, their special attention was directed to engage the services of popular Lecturers from the United States. But, the remuneration which they felt themselves justified in offering, not

being such as Lecturers of reputation would accept, during their "Lecture Season," your Board, like their predecessors, failed in effecting an engagement, until late in the Season. Not succeeding in carrying out their object at an earlier date, and being still desirous of affording the members an opportunity of hearing two of the most eloquent and popular Lecturers in the States, they secured the services of the gentlemen above named. Your Board fully expected that the reputation of these gentlemen would be a sufficient guarantee that their lectures would be more than well attended, and with that expectation they engaged the Theatre for the occasion. You need not be informed that your Board's anticipations were far from being realized. Suffice it to say that, that the receipts from these lectures did not cover the expenses incurred, and that the Board, and a few other members of the Association, contributed to meet the loss sustained, rather than draw upon the ordinary revenue of the Institution.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

At the first meeting of your Board the following gentlemen were elected Honorary Directors;—Honorable John Young; John Leeming, James Torrance, and John Armour, Esquires.

BOARD.

For various reasons, several members of the Board elected by you were under the necessity of resigning. Such vacancies were filled by your Board as they occurred, so that the Board, as at present constituted, is as follows:—

JOHN LEWIS:.....Président.

J. D. THOMAS.....Vice-President.

GEORGE TEMPLETON...Corresponding Sec'y.

JAMES M'LEAN.....Recording Secretary.

JAMES STIRLING.....Treasurer.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN M'PHERSON.
 DAN. REES.
 THOMAS KERSHAW.
 WALTER BENNY, JR.
 JAMES M. KERR.

J. P. CLEGHORN.
 ALEXANDER HART.
 WILLIAM F. LEWIS.
 ROBT. LOCKHART, JR.
 J. W. HOWARD.

FINANCES.

Your Board regret to say, that the financial state of the Association is not, by any means, in so flourishing a condition as last year's Report would lead you to expect. It is true, that an allusion is there made to old obligations, still unpaid; but, it is further added, "that the cash in hand, (£27 9s.) with some £20 of good debts, making £47 9s., would almost evenly balance the claims against the Institution. With apparently so favorable a state of things, your Board entered on their duties with high hopes as to the future of the Association.

Your Board soon discovered that the above cheering prospects were but ill founded. The predecessor of the late Treasurer, having lost by fire all vouchers, &c., in his possession, it was supposed that there remained but few claims against the Association; but, after a careful investigation, it was ascertained that the liabilities at the time of your Board assuming office were much greater than they anticipated. In addition to the above, the great increase in rent of our present over our former rooms, together with £30 indemnity, consequent upon the non-fulfilment of an engagement entered into with the Mechanics' Institute, have increased your liabilities to £260 10s. A detailed account of which will be found in your Treasurer's Report.

Upon several occasions during the short history of the Association, special appeals have been made to the merchants and others, to aid in extricating it from pecuniary embarrassments. That an Institution of this character should be under the necessity of soliciting such assistance, reflects little credit upon the clerks in this.

city, and should not be countenanced unless for the specific object of erecting a "Hall" for the use of the members; such extraneous support only tending to encourage that want of self-reliance which has hitherto characterized the proceedings of this Association.

But overshadowed as our prospects are, one effort would relieve us from our difficulties, and place us in a position as enviable as that of the Institutions alluded to. Let each member procure an additional subscriber, and the object is accomplished.

The Board, in resigning into your hands the trust committed to them, do so, feeling that, although they may not have, in every particular, discharged their duties to the entire satisfaction of all the members, they can flatter themselves that they have rendered the Association one essential service, in exhibiting its affairs in their true light, so that their successors will be able at one view to see the difficulty they have to encounter.

The whole of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

JOHN LEWIS, President.

JAMES M'LEAN, Rec. Sec'y.

Dr. Mercantile Library Association in Account Current with James Stirling, Treasurer. Cr.

To Cash paid for Papers and Magazines.....	£ 96	2	10½	£ 27	0	8½
" " Postages.....	14	10	4	164	3	9
" " Telegraph.....	33	9	6	145	10	0
" " Charge, including Fuel.....	27	1	7	28	17	6
" " for Salaries.....	137	11	6	14	12	2½
" " Gas.....	22	13	0			
" " Rent.....	75	0	0	0	1	3
" " Taxes.....	4	2	6	41	5	0
" " Printing Report.....	7	18	0	1	0	0
" " Hon. John Young's Note.....	10	19	3	10	10	0
" " Loss on Ordinary Lectures.....	3	11	10½	6	5	0
" " " H. Giles' "	8	13	4	5	0	0
" " " W. Whipple's "	1	4	6			
" " Balance.....	1	7	2			
	£444	5	5	£444	5	5
By Balance from last Report.....						
" Subscriptions—144 Merchants.....				164	3	9
" " —170 Clerks, Sen.....				145	10	0
" " — 68 " Jr.....				28	17	6
" Newspapers Sold.....				14	12	2½
" Catalogues "				0	1	3
" Lecture Room.....				41	5	0
" Donations.....				1	0	0
" Subscription to defray expenses of Lectures.				10	10	0
" Rent from Dr. M'Donald.....				6	5	0
" Hearle & Dorte for Gas Fitting.....				5	0	0
By Balance due Mercantile Library Association.				1	7	2

Montreal, November 24, 1854.

JAMES STIRLING, Treasurer.

1. The first
2. The second
3. The third
4. The fourth

100