

MINUTE BOOK

1853 - 1861





















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# Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was held in the Rooms of the Institute, on Monday Evening, the 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1853

The President, Mr Henry Bulmer, having taken the Chair, and called the meeting to order, the Secretary, Mr Alex. Murray read the Minutes of last Annual Meeting which were confirmed.

The Secretary then read the following Report,

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL,

PRESENTED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 1853.

The term for which your Committee were elected being about to expire, they beg to submit the following report of the more important transactions of the year, and of the progress, present state and prospects of the Institute.

#### MEMBERS.

The number of Members at the date of the last Report was	484
Of whom have ceased to be Members during the year,	147
The number of Members elected during the year was	165
	— 18

Consequently at the present time the total number of Members is 502

And these may be classified as follows:—

Honorary Members.....	15
Corresponding Members.....	7
Life Members.....	24
Ordinary Members.....	456
	— 502

In view of the above slow rate of progression, the Committee would beg to impress upon the Members in general, the importance of making individual efforts to increase the list of members. They are con-

fidant that were the advantages of membership generally known, the number would in a short time be at least doubled.

#### FINANCES.

The past year, as regards Finances, has been a prosperous one. By the Treasurer's statement, which is on the table for the inspection of members, it will be seen that the receipts from all sources, for the year, are £400 3s. 1d., while the disbursements for the same period amount to £262 5s. 2d., thus leaving a balance at the credit of the Institute of £137 17s. 11d. No demand in the ordinary purposes of the Institute requiring this amount, your Committee have felt warranted in adding from it the sum of £135 2s. 9d. to the sum of £150, which, as the Members are aware, has been deposited at interest, for some time, in the Bank of Montreal, and thus with the accrued interest, they have been enabled to place £300 to the credit of the Building Fund.

The sum of £3 5s. 2d. only, therefore, now remains in the hands of the Treasurer, but as the unsettled accounts are very few, and as the financial year has just commenced, the subscriptions from Members being in course of collection, the Institute will in a few days be in a position to meet the ordinary demands upon it.

#### LECTURES AND CLASSES.

The Opening Lecture of the Winter Course of Lectures was delivered January 4, by Dr. BARBER, on the "Philosophy of France," as exhibited in the writings of M. Auguste Comte, lately Professor Polytechnic School, Paris.

The subsequent lectures of the Course were delivered by the following gentlemen, viz. —



T. C. KEEFER, Esq., Civil Engineer, on "Montreal," its Bridge, Railroads, and Canals.

Rev. J. HUTCHINSON, two lectures on "Architecture, Ancient and Modern," with illustrations.

Rev. Mr. INGLIS, St. Gabriel Street Church, on "The Social Position of Woman."

JOHN DOUGALL, Esq., on "Elements of Success in Business."

Dr. A. FISHER, M.R.S.E., on "The Uses of the Beard."

W. G. MACK, Esq., Advocate, on "The Revolutions of France and England, and their Results."

And the Closing Lecture was delivered on the 8th April, by Rev. ALEX. MATHIESON, D.D., on "The Material Progress of the Age."

Instruction in Drawing, Linear and Perspective, was gratuitously given by the Rev. J. Hutchinson, and James Duncan, Esq., to a limited number of apprentice members, during the months of February, March and April.

It is to be hoped, however, that larger numbers will avail themselves of the facilities afforded them in the Institute for instruction in classes, for the acquisition of that varied knowledge, which will tend to their own material and intellectual advancement, and consequently to the benefit of society-at large.

#### LIBRARY.

The Library, to which this year but few additions have been required by the Sub-Committee having charge of that department, now numbers 1650 vols. The issues for the last year were 4457, for the present but 4000, showing a deficiency, which may, perhaps, be accounted for by the increased pressure of business which has this year fallen on all classes.

An interesting report on the Library, from the Chairman of that Committee, is upon the table for reference.

#### READING ROOM.

The Reading Room has, as usual, been well attended during the whole year. The following is a list of the Newspapers and Periodicals to be found on the tables:—

**CITY PAPERS.**  
Herald Sun  
Gazette Minerva  
Pilot Pays  
Transcript Witness  
Advertiser True Witness

**CANADIAN PAPERS.**  
Toronto Globe  
" Examiner  
Kingston Chronicle  
" Herald  
Hamilton Spectator  
Brantford Herald  
St. John's News  
Quebec Chronicle  
Canada Gazette

**UNITED STATES.**  
Boston Atlas  
New York Albion  
" Tribune  
" Herald

Philadelphia Courier

**PERIODICALS.**  
The Medical Chronicle  
North British Review  
Edinburgh Review  
Blackwood's Magazine  
Hunt's Magazine  
London Quarterly  
Harper's Magazine  
Appleton's Mechanic  
Civil Engineer  
Practical Mechanic  
Art Journal

**ENGLISH PAPERS, &c.**  
London Spectator  
" Dispatch  
" Illustrated News  
" Builder  
" Punch  
Dublin Nation  
Glasgow Saturday Post

#### ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

Your Committee are happy to say that the Annual Festival of the last season was eminently successful. The number present exceeded 1400, and the evening's proceedings throughout were carried on and terminated in the most happy manner. The use of the hall was this year obtained at a more reasonable rate, and as every exertion was made to keep the expenses as moderate as possible, consistent with good arrangements, the net proceeds derived from this Festival amounted to £108 17s. 3d.

The foregoing constitute the details required by the Bye-Laws, to be submitted at each Annual Meeting. One or two other matters in connexion with the history of the Institute for the year are worth notice.

Your Committee would first allude briefly and with gratification to the introduction, during the past season, of a new feature in the operations of the Institute. It was conceived that a very fitting mark of celebration on the occasion of the completion of the railroad connexion between this city and Portland, would be the visit to that city, under the auspices of our Institute, of a large number of its Members and the public. The idea was responded to in a very liberal spirit by the Railroad Company, and arrangements were at once commenced to carry it into effect. A deputation consisting of Messrs. Bulmer, McGill and Ladd, proceeded to Portland to make the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of the party, where they then discovered the existence of "The Maine Charitable Mechanics' Association," a body whose Committee, with a kindness as great as it was unexpected, at once took that duty under their charge. How nobly it was performed, is known to all who had the good fortune to experience the warm hospitality of the brethren of that Association. Suffice it to say, that the excursion, although falling short in number of what was anticipated, was yet a most successful one, and that it has originated feelings of the warmest esteem and good will between many of our citizens and those of Portland; who otherwise would have been strangers. Owing to the arrangement made with the Grand Trunk Railroad Company, by which a portion of the proceeds were to be devoted to the Building pur-

poses of the Institute, the sum of £60 was netted, after paying all expenses, and credited to that Fund.

The Members will also be aware of the return visit paid our city by a large number of the Members of that Association and others, from Portland; and your Committee are gratified in being able to say, that the Members of the Institute, as also many of the public in general, evinced every disposition, and made every exertion, to extend hospitality and attention to our guests. The Committee have reason to believe that these exertions were successful, and to the kind friends of the Institute who co-operated with its members in paying attention, in the then crowded state of the city, to our friends from Portland, the best thanks of the Members are due.

A Social Reunion in honor of our guests was held in the City Concert Hall, which was attended with complete success; and the Committee have to express the acknowledgements of the Institute to those gentlemen who so kindly took part in the proceedings, and to whose happy addresses so much of the success of the entertainment is to be attributed, and also to the City Hall Committee, for the liberal manner in which, free of all expense, the City Concert Hall was placed at their disposal.

One of not the least pleasing incidents of the season was the opportunity offered to present an address on behalf of this Institute, and the mechanics of Montreal, to Robert Stephenson, Esq., the eminent engineer, and the cordial manner in which, even delaying his departure from the city for the purpose, he responded to it. Your Committee would express the hope that the occasion may yet arrive when a more marked demonstration of respect and esteem for that gentleman may be practicable.



In connexion, your Committee would again acknowledge with thanks, the liberal donation towards the Building Fund of the Institute of £50 stg., by Mr. Stephenson, and £100 stg. by Messrs. Jackson & Co., as also £30 by the hands of Thomas Ryan, Esq., being surplus from the complimentary dinner given to Mr. Stephenson.

On the occasion of the late Grand Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, it was deemed advisable by the Committee to offer three prizes on behalf of the institute, in the shape of Life Memberships. But one of these was adjudged to Mr. M. G. Southwick of St. Hilaire, who will consequently become a Life Member of the Institute.

#### MECHANICS' HALL.

At the period of the last Annual Meeting of the Corporation, your Committee had in view the purchase of a lot of ground held by the Estate of the late Richard Tate, forming the corner of Great St. James and St. Peter Streets, a site which was deemed every way suitable for the purpose of erecting a spacious hall for the use of this Institute.

Subsequently, however, in consequence of an apparent change of views on the part of the seller, it was found impracticable to obtain the part required, without becoming a purchaser of the whole, at an increased rate of £500 upon the price first named to your Committee.

On the 24th January following, a General Meeting of the Members of the Institute was called, to authorise this Committee to effect the purchase of the property of the Hon. C. Wilson and J. J. Gibb, Esq., forming the corner of Commissioner Square and Bonaventure Street, for the sum of £2,800, on a credit of a term of years. Aside from Mrs. Tate's lot, this was considered to be the best in the market.

The preliminaries of purchase were all but completed, when it was discovered that Mr. Wilson would not consent to give with the deed the customary warranty of title.

The Committee, acting as they do on delegated authority, by an association of extended membership, did not consider themselves authorised to pledge the Institute in a matter so important, and in view of a possible contingency of loss: the hesitancy of the seller, in such a case, being deemed sufficient in itself to imply, at least, a doubt in his mind, which, if realised in fact by the Institute, would unquestionably involve the Institution in irretrievable ruin.

Under these circumstances, your Committee were impressed with the conviction that their only alternative was to effect the purchase, if possible, of the lot belonging to the estate of Tate, already referred to. Your Committee are happy to be able to say, that their negotiations were successful, and sufficient space has been secured for the sum of £2,400, the Committee agreeing to pay the expense of purchase, including the necessary judicial proceedings, having reference to the rights of the minor heirs.

At this point, it will be in place to say, that in consequence of the resolution on the part of the Institute to purchase the property in Commissioner Square, three Members of the Institute, Messrs. Maxwell, Mavor and Hutchison, consented to prepare plans and specifications for the new building. The task assumed was speedily accomplished in a very satisfactory manner; the plans presented by these gentlemen were approved and adopted by the Committee.

Subsequently, however, when it was determined to acquire the present site, Messrs. Hopkins & Nelson, architects, kindly consented to make the necessary alterations, preserving, as far as practicable, the same style and character of front, and details of interior arrangement. This work your Committee have to observe has been done by those gentlemen in a manner which reflects the highest credit upon their professional ability.

Having received numerous tenders from various parties prepared to undertake the erection of the New Hall, your Committee have made contracts with the following parties, viz.:—

Excavation,.....Messrs. Garvin & Laurie.  
Masons' Work,... " Mavor & McDonald.  
Carpenters' Work, Mr. Edward Maxwell.  
Bricklayers' do...Messrs. Wyatt & Jackson.  
Plastering..... " Aitkin & Morrison.  
Painting & Glazing " Ramsay & McArthur.

At the present time the greater part of the excavation has been made, and Messrs. Mavor & McDonald are now laying the foundation, to be ready for the erection of the superstructure early in the ensuing season.

#### Subscriptions.

At the General Meeting in January last, it was supposed that about the sum of £2,500 was subscribed to the Building Fund, and that it was probable £500 more would be added during the year.

The subscription list now amounts to the sum of £2,800 5s., and the sum of £1725 is at the credit of this fund in the Bank of Montreal, at 4 per cent interest.

Besides the subscriptions in cash already referred to, and detailed in the Appendix to this report, Messrs. Badgley & Abbott, advocates, have handsomely offered to furnish a sufficient quantity of slate from the Kingsey Slate Works, to cover the roof of the new building.

Your Committee are happy to add, that Messrs. McKay & Austin, advocates, J. J. Gibb, Esq., notary, and Messrs. Hopkins & Nelson, architects, have proposed to receive tickets of Life Membership in consideration of professional services rendered to the Committee, in the acquisition of the property, and the contemplated erection of the New Hall, an arrangement which is considered advantageous to the Institute.

The estimated cost of the New Hall, requiring immediate payment, is £5000, of which the sum of £2800 has been subscribed. Should the whole of the sum subscribed be collected, there will yet remain the sum of £2200 to be raised in further subscriptions.

And now, in conclusion, your Committee can assure the Members, that if they have in any respect fallen short in the execution of the trust confided to them, it has been from no indifference on their part, or want of desire to advance the best interests of the Institute. They trust their successors may possess an equal desire to add to its prosperity, with more ability to carry that desire out; and looking at present prospects, they are confident that earnest endeavors on the part of all, a cordial co-operation between the Members, and the Committees they



appoint, and a sustained spirit of self-relying enterprise, are alone required to enable the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, to attain a position and sphere of usefulness, worthy alike of the genius of such Institutions, of the liberality of those who have so warmly befriended it, and of this, the city where it has its place.

All which is respectfully submitted.

*Montreal Mechanics' Institute in Account with J. A. B. McGill, Treasurer.*

1853.		1853.		
To Deficit from last Account,	£17 12 11	Jan. 24—By net amount of Annual Grant from Provincial Parliament for 1852,	£49 15 0	
To paid House Expenses, viz., Gas, Rent, &c.	87 16 10	25—By subscriptions from Members & Supt.	71 18 9	
To paid Superintendent's Salary,	84 1 8	By donation from Hon. C. Wilson, mayor,	10 0 0	
To paid old Account,	7 17 0	By cash subscriptions per Superintendent,	43 5 8	
To paid Advertising, Stationery, Periodicals, &c.	59 1 9	By cash net proceeds of Annual Festival,	108 17 2	
To paid for Printing,	5 15 0	Oct. 34—By cash subscriptions per Superintendent,	66 6 6	
To paid to Building Fund,*	134 12 9	By cash from Provincial Government, Grant for 1853,	50 0 0	
To Balance in hand,	3 5 2			
	£400 3 1		£400 0 1	
		Nov. 4—By Balance,	£3 5 2	
Examined and found correct,		E.E. (Signed)	J. A. B. MCGILL, Treasurer.	
(Signed) C. P. LADD,	}	Committee	of	
THOS. D. REED,				Audit.
ALEX. BERTRAM.				

Montreal, November 4, 1853.

\* This amount, added to £150, with interest accrued, made up the sum of £300, deposited to the credit of Building Fund.

*Dr. Building Fund, Mechanics' Institute, in Acct. with Mr. Henry Bulmer. Cr.*

1852.		1853.	
March—To cash paid C. McCormack, delivering Circulars,	£0 15 0	March —By cash from Earl of Elgin,	£10 0 0
" For search in Registry Office,	2 0 0	Do do the Hon. Justice Day,	2 10 0
May— " Mr. Dorval, Crier's Fees,	1 10 0	Do do Mr. Chénier,	1 5 0
June— " Prothonotary Fee for Ratification,	2 0 0	Do do Mr. Dorion	1 5 0
" Messrs. McKay & Austin, for Disbursements,	1 10 0	July 28—By Superintendent's Collections,	202 3 4
Sept.— " Advertising in Canada Gazette,	4 16 6	30— Do do,	146 6 8
October— " Mr. Perrault, for surveying Lot,	2 10 0	Augt. 6— Do do,	205 6 8
" Messrs. Garvin & Lawrie, on account of Excavation,	20 0 0	13— Do do,	159 3 4
Do do do	15 0 0	Sept. 6—By cash, T. Ryan, Esq. balance Stephenson Dinner,	30 0 0
Novr. 5—" Balance in Bank of Montreal,	1725 0 2	10—By cash from Superintendent,	110 0 0
		14— Do Nett proceeds of Portland Excursion,	60 0 0
Examined and found correct.		Do Donation of Robert Stephenson, Esq., M.P.,	60 16 8
H. LYMAN. )	}	Do Messrs. Jackson, Peto & Co.,	121 13 4
A. MURRAY. )		19— Do Superintendent's collections,	73 6 8
		25— Do do do,	70 0 0
		Octr. 8— Do do do,	66 13 4
		22— Do do do,	62 1 8
		Novr. 5— Do Appropriation from Gen. Fund,	300 0 0
	£1775 1 8		£1775 1 8



It was moved by Mr. C. P. Ladd, seconded by Mr. John Fletcher—That the Report now read be received and adopted, and that a synopsis thereof be published in the city newspapers.—Carried.

Moved by Dr. A. Bernard, and seconded by Mr. William Spiers—That the thanks of the Institute are due, and are hereby tendered to the Members of the General Committee, for the extensive and successful efforts made by them to promote the best interests of the Institute, during the past year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. H. Lyman, seconded by W. Hutchison—That the thanks of the Institute be given to the Rev. J. Hutchinson, and James Duncan, Esq., for their efficient, zealous and gratuitous services in conducting the Drawing Class during the past winter.—Carried.

The following gentlemen were admitted Life Members of the Institute, having paid into the Building Fund the amount required to entitle them to Life Membership:—

C. P. Ladd	Hon. S. Gale.	John B. Greenshields,
A. Ramsay		Thomas Ryan
John W. Arthur		Samuel Keefer
Wm Edmonstone		John J. Day,
Victor Munroe		David Brown,
Alex Kinloch		Thos Watson,
Hugh Allan		J. W. B. Masson,
George Brush		Thomas Mussen
Joseph B. Bronsdon		John Brown
Wm Watson		Mungo Ramsay
Hon. James Ferrier		Hon. Peter McGill
James Ferrier, Jr		Wm Kennedy
C. J. Paleygrave		John Seeming
John H. B. Malson.		Thos C. Keefer.
D. L. Macpherson		B. Gible
James Gilman		Hon. Geo. Moffatt
Joseph Tiffin		Henry Thomas
Gilbert Scott,		John Redpath
P. Jodoin.		H. Stephens
Edwin Atwater.		A. B. Corse
A. W. Atwater.		Robt Macfarlane,
A. Simpson.		Ira Gould
Augustin Cantin.		Phillip Holland and
Wm Augustin Cantin.		Henry Bulmer.



Messrs. Irwin, Macaulay and Nelson having been appointed scrutineers, the Meeting then proceeded to the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year, according to the provisions of the act of incorporation, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected, viz. :—

*President.*

HENRY BULMER.

*Vice Presidents.*

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. ALEX. BERTRAM.      | 3. C. P. LADD.  |
| 2. JAMES A. B. MCGILL. | 4. JAMES HAYES. |

*Corresponding Secretary.*

ALEXANDER MURRAY.

*Recording Secretary.*

ALEXANDER A. STEVENSON.

*Treasurer.*

HENRY LYMAN.

*Librarian and Cabinet Keeper.*

T. D. REED.

*Members of General Committee.*

Alexander Ramsay.	William Hutchison.
Robert Goodwillie.	John Fletcher.
James Mavor.	John Lambert.
Alexander Fleck.	James Wells.
Edward Maxwell.	David Brown.
William Spiers.	Robert Mitchell.

*No other Business appearing the meeting  
adjourned*

*A. A. Stevenson  
Rec Secy*



An Ordinary Meeting was held on  
Monday Evening, Nov 28/1853.

The Pres. in the Chair

The Minutes of former meeting were read and Confirmed  
The following persons were admitted ordinary members  
of the Institute viz

First Class - J. G. Sims, A. Ferguson, G. P. Brewster  
James Charles.

Second Class - J. S. Porter, J. De Witt James Arnott  
James Evans, Geo Mortimer, A. Wilcartin, W. Thompson,  
Robt Middlemiss, James Brown, Robt Smith  
Jas J. Gentle, - Spence, A. Cockburn, W. Smith,  
H. Brewster, Robt Duffin

Third Class - John Maguire, W. Balfour, W. Short  
B. J. Rodden, W. Fitzpatrick, A. McIntosh, W.  
Goodwillie, John Duffey, John Duffin, John Russell  
J. Macfarlane, Robt Spier, Wm Anderson.

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson Rec. Sec.

An Ordinary Meeting was held on  
Monday Evening December 12, 1853

Mr A. Bertram, 1st Vice Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved

The following were admitted as members of the  
Institute viz;

First Class - S. Frazer, J. A. Milne, W. Miller,  
James Milne

Second Class - Wm Connor, Daniel Thompson,  
Benjamin Draper, Andrew Stevenson, C. Roger,  
Thos Dalton

Third Class - Thos Satter, Henry O'Brien

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson  
Rec. Sec.



An ordinary meeting was held on  
Monday Evening Dec 23/53.

The Pres. in the Chair

The Minutes of former meeting were read and confirmed.  
The following were admitted Members of the Institute, viz:

First Class — C. Lemereux, G. S. Brush, W. G.

Boadevin, Benj. Brewster Jr

Second Class. — Thos Hamilton, Randolph Stacey,  
Andrew Lindsay, John A. Stevenson, Robt Murray  
James Simpson, Geo. Reed, Samuel Tyler  
John Wilson, W. G. Slack.

Third Class. — Edward Millocks, John Bell, Alex  
Ramsay, Jr Wm McGaw, Cajetan Ducheneaux,  
Hugh Harold, Charles Willock

The Meeting then adjourned

A. S. Stevenson, Rec. Sec

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was  
held on Monday Evening January 23, 1854

The Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.  
The following were admitted Members of the Institute, viz:

First Class — William Lloyd, Francis Adams.

Second Class — J. J. Evans, Thos McEwen, Alex McEwan,  
— Patton, Jas Marchant, Geo. Robertson, John Cameron,  
James Scott, Daniel Graham, W. Johnston, A. Morrison,  
Daniel Thompson, Geo. Sanson, John Turner.

Third Class — Patrick McGuy, D. Buchanan, Moses  
Parker, Owen Pentland, William Brown, W. Webster  
Jas McArthur, John Sweaton, Danell Bell.

The following papers were then disposed of at auction, viz:

Dublin Nation	John O'Meara	L. - 6/3
London Weekly Dispatch	J. D. Reed	5/1
New York Tribune	Robt Mitchell	3/6
" " Herald	W. Donahue	3/4
Glasgow Saturday Post	A. S. Stevenson	6/3
Philadelphia Courier	H. Bulmer	6/6
Boston Atlas	John Fletcher	3/3
Toronto Globe	Henry Lyman	3/1



Mr Lyman announced his intention of placing (gratis) on the table of the Reading Room a copy of the "Scientific American."

The Meeting then adjourned  
A. A. Stevenson, Rec. Secy

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held on Monday Evening Feb 10, 1854  
The President in the Chair

The Minutes of former Meeting were read and approved.  
The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute, viz

First Class — John Campbell, J. W. McClellan, J. Boese, Thomas Ireland, John Dodsworth, J. Sandham John McClellan.

Second Class. — James Starke, James Riddle, Edw. Gould, John Montgomery, B. G. Plow, Jas. Olive, C. Caldwell, J. Hogg, Benj. Ibbotson, Macpherson LeMoine, Patrick Waldron Robert Miller, Benj. Ingle, James Smith, Tho. Adley, Thurlow Cunningham, Edw. Jones, Jas. B. Spence, A. Hill, J. Maxwell Bryson, S. Forbes, Oliver F. Nelson, Jas. Kane, D. Stevens, Geo. B. Thomas.

Third Class. — Chas. Esplin, Geo. Young, R. Graham, John McCortay, B. Hamilton, C. Adams, B. Carr, John McDougall, Melville Millar, F. Castle, W. Bryan, B. A. Kennedy, Jas. Foster, Geo. Milln, A. W. Footner John Esinhart, Tho. Bowerbank, Wm. Martindale, Wm. Thompson Wm. McDonald, B. Walker, Neal Douglas, Benj. Franklin, Geo. Black, John Higgins, Geo. Bishop, John Laird, Chas. Owen, W. Calvert, John Ferguson, Tho. Mathewson, W. Dalgleish, W. Board, Jas. Latham, J. D. McClellan, Michael Kelly, J. Shelley, John Kennedy, Wm. W. McClellan,

No other business appearing the meeting adjourned,  
A. A. Stevenson  
Rec Secy



An ordinary Meeting of the Institute  
was held on Monday Evening Feb. 27/54

The Pres. in the Chair

The Minutes of former Meeting were read and confirmed.  
The following persons were admitted Ordinary Members  
of the Institute, viz

First Class. — Mr. M. Steele, G. W. Reed, W. A. Hazen  
A. Mc. Farley, James Penny, John Morrison, B. Hutchins  
Mathew Hutchison, G. W. Warner.

Second Class. — Geo. Smith, J. Townsend, J. Hopper,  
G. Warner, P. Cooper, John Holland, C. C. Thompson.

Third Class. — C. Seavyedge, James Kilgore,  
John Richardson, Peter Dod.

The Meeting then adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson Rec. Sec.



An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on + March 13, 1854 + Monday Evening

The Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.

The following persons were admitted Ordinary Members viz:

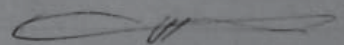
First Class — W. S. MacKenzie, Wm Porteous.

Second Class — C. Wilkinson, Joseph Irwin.

Third Class — John Mc. Becket, John McMartin,  
C. W. Cumming, Wm Donaldson, S. Boyd.

The Meeting then adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson, Rec. Sec.





An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening, March 27, 1854  
The Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of former Meeting were read and approved.

The following persons were admitted as Ordinary Members, viz-

First Class - Mr Boon, Capt James, John Martin  
Joseph G. Higgins.

Second Class - John Cassels, John J. Warner,  
W. Tracy, Robert Freeland.

Third Class - J. Cregan, Alex Patterson, W. Gunn.

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson, Rec. Sec.

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An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening April 10, 1854.  
The Pres. in the Chair

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.  
Mess. Fred. W. Harris and J. T. Bigelow were admitted  
First Class Members of the Institute, and the Meeting  
adjourned

A. A. Stevenson, Rec. Sec.

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An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening April 24, 1854  
The Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of former Meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members, viz-

First Class - Robert Miller

Second Class - Tho<sup>s</sup> Chambers

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson, Rec. Sec.

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NEW MECHANICS' HALL.

In connection with the laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Mechanics' Hall yesterday, we may remark that a great change seems to have taken place in the architectural taste of our fellow citizens within the last few years.

Formerly, our buildings, both public and private, were scarcely remarkable for anything save their extreme plainness and simplicity of design; if they served the purpose for which they were erected, it seemed to have been all that was thought necessary, the greater number being innocent of anything in the shape of architectural design or ornament. The buildings erected within the last few years, however, evince a growing taste for appropriate design and embellishment; indeed, many of our recently erected public buildings, warehouses, &c., would, in point of design, advantageously contrast with—and as regards stability, far surpass structures of a corresponding character in the cities of the neighboring Republic.

The New Hall, now in course of erection, is in the Italian style of architecture, corresponding in that respect with many other public buildings in the city. The evident partiality manifested for this character of design is easily accounted for by the fact of its easy

adaptation under almost any circumstances, either of site or cost.

The Hall is situated on the East side of Great St. James Street at its junction with St. Peter Street, with a frontage on the former of 64 feet, and of 84 feet on the latter. The elevation towards Great St. James Street is divided into three parts by a projecting centre, in the lower story of which is the Portico giving access to the rooms of the Institute. On each side of the Portico on the ground floor, there will be a large shop 30 feet by 24 feet, and 13 feet high, with plate glass doors and windows, and with cellars below for storage. The windows of the second and third stories will be finished with architraves, consoles and cornices. The extremities of the centre and fronts on the ground story will be of rusticated work, with quoins on the upper stories; the whole surmounted by a bold projecting cantilever cornice, and an attic, bearing the date of the building's erection.

From the Portico on Great St. James Street, and from an entrance of similar width at the back of the building, access is gained to the vestibule and Hall 10 feet in width, in which are placed the two wide stair cases leading to the second story, where will be

located the apartments devoted to the use of the Institute. There will open off a corridor 10 feet and 10 feet wide, and will consist of a Library 40 feet by 24 feet 6 inches; a Library 20 feet 6 inches, both looking out on Great St. James Street; a President's room; a Committee room; three large Class rooms. All these rooms are 10 feet high. The entrance to the Reading Room will be by means of large folding doors, and the ceiling of the former as well as the ceiling of the latter, will be handsomely enriched with centre flowers, &c. Three stair cases lead from the ground story to the spacious Lecture Room on the second story, which will be 80 feet long by 60 feet wide and 22 feet high, appropriately decorated, and, both from its size and situation, will be the best in the city for all kinds of Lectures, &c.; and the means of egress are so arranged that in the event of a panic or accident, the hall can be emptied in a very few minutes, a fact which the public will no doubt appreciate.

The most essential points of light, heat, and ventilation, appear to have been well considered from the whole, when completed, will form an addition to the number of fine buildings ready to adorn this section of the city.

Laying the Foundation Stone of the Mechanics' Hall.

Yesterday, according to arrangement, the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Building in course of erection for the Mechanics' Institute of this city, was performed with Masonic Honours. The day was very fine, and a Masonic procession being a somewhat unusual sight, a very large concourse, composed in part of ladies, turned out to witness it. The extreme length to which the report will necessarily extend, admonishes us to be as brief as possible in its introduction, and we will therefor confine ourselves to saying that the arrangements were perfect, and that the pageant afforded very great satisfaction, as well to the parties more immediately concerned as to the spectators. A platform for the especial accommodation of ladies had been erected over the foundations of the building, upon which a forest of parasols, each one no doubt covering a beautiful face, might be seen. All the windows in the vicinity of the site, and all other available places were early taken. The ceremonies were enlivened by the cheering strains of Nono's band, already so well known, and who, in their new uniform, presented a very military appearance. The procession formed at the St. Lawrence Hall, and moved round the Place d'Armes Square, then through Notre Dame Street, and up by McGill Street to Great St. James Street.

Arrived at the place, and all things being in readiness, Henry Bulmer, Esq., the worthy President of the Institute, delivered the following address:—

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

**MOST WORSHIPFUL PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER AND BRETHREN,**—In the name and on behalf of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, I welcome you to the ground, upon which, before another year passes, we hope to see completed and occupied—the Mechanics' Hall, the chief corner stone of which building we have asked you this day to lay in solemn form.

Before requesting you to proceed with that ceremony, I would wish briefly to allude to the Institution, for the purposes of which this Hall is in course of erection—to its objects, aims and prospects, and to the circumstances under which this building has been commenced, and the means by which we have been enabled to do so.

The Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was founded in the year 1828, for the objects common to such associations; and has, ever since that period, continued gradually to increase in prosperity and the means of usefulness. The number of members is now 600, and the annual revenue averages £400. It possesses a well selected Library of about 2,000 volumes, a Reading Room, supplied with the principal newspapers and periodicals of the day, and it has continued throughout to organize each season courses of lectures and winter classes.

In the year 1845, an Act of Incorporation was obtained from the Legislature of the Province, authorising the Association, among other things, to hold real estate to a certain amount, and before the year 1850, that period, it has been able to acquire property in

men who have lived in the practice of industry and private virtue, and who all, in all respects, most zealous for the present welfare and prosperity of our Order, we may justify ourselves and confidence of the community for our tenacity, as being the opposite to any trifling and irreligious. From the moment another institution has been permanently established, whatever were its laws, however excellent it could not be extended into every part of the country. It had chiefly in view the conquests, and the elevation of one to another. It could not, therefore, be reconciled to the interest nor reconciled to the Institution.—Philanthropy was not the basis upon which systems were founded—the love of country understood and carried to excess frequently love of humanity. Mankind are not distinguished by the difference of the language they speak, the garb they wear, or the religion they are invested. The whole world is one public, of which every nation is a part, and every individual a child; to revive and sustain the maxims drawn from the nature of man, the great ends of our Institution, and those great ends identified with those of all nations, the boundless extent, unceasing duration, and antiquity of our Order. Unless, therefore, we were good and praiseworthy, and our conduct, we should not have existed for the benefit of our Order, nor should we have had so many illustrious Brothers in our ranks.



His Excellency, the Right Honorable James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor General of British North America, &c. &c., the Foundation Stone of this Building, the Mechanics' Hall, was laid, with full Masonic honors, by the Right Worshipful Brother, the Hon. William Badgley, Esq., Q. C., Provincial Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, for the District of Montreal and William Henry; the other officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge being:—

- R. W. Brother, the Hon. Peter McGill—Past Provincial Grand Master.
- R. W. Brother Frederick Griffin—Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
- V. W. Brother Calvin P. Ladd—Senior Grand Warden.
- V. W. Brother A. G. Fenwick, M.D.—Junior Grand Warden.
- V. W. Brother the Rev. Joseph Scott—P. Grand Chaplain.
- V. W. Brother George Moffatt, Jr.—P. Grand Treasurer.
- V. W. Brother Strachan Be'hune—P. Grand Registrar.
- V. W. Brother John Ogilvy Moffatt—P. Grand Sec.
- Brother Alfred King Lavicount—Assistant Grand Sec.
- W. Brother Robert Denny Collis—Senior Grand Deacon.
- W. Brother Murdoch Morison—Junior Grand Deacon.
- W. Brother William Footner—P. Grand Superintendent of Works.
- W. Brother Francis Crispo—P. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- Brother H. W. King—Assistant P. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- W. Brother Joseph Walker—P. Grand Sword Bearer.
- W. Brother Gilbert Scott—P. Grand Pursuivant.
- Brothers James H. Springle, Aldis Bernard, S. W. Foster, H. L. Robinson—P. Grand Stewards.
- Brother R. Colquhoun—P. Grand Tyler.
- Brother Thomas Spiers—Asst. Grand Tyler.

In addition to the parchments, the vessel contained the following

**COINS, NEWSPAPERS, &c.,**

A Sovereign of the present reign; British Silver Crowns, Half Crown, Florin, Shilling, Sixpence, Fourpence, Threepence; One Half Penny, One Penny; Shilling Geo. 3rd, East India Two Annas, Copper Penny Geo. 3rd, do. Wm. 4th, do. New Brunswick, do. Canadian Quebec Bank, do. do. Bank of U. Canada; Half Penny Geo. 3rd, do. Victoria Jersey, do. Isle of Man, do. Model, Silver Centre, do. Canadian Quebec Bank, do. Bank of U. Canada; Farthing Geo. 3rd, do. Wm. 4th, do. Victoria; Half Farthing Victoria; Bronze Service Medal, for services Industrial Exhibition, 1851.

**NEWSPAPERS OF THE DAY.**—Herald, Gazette, Transcript, Pilot, Advertiser, Sun, Freeman, Pays Minerve, Witness, True Witness, Temperance Advocate, St. Johns News, Herald of 18th Feb., with Plate of New Building in Montreal, Thompson's Co. Chart Manual, Starke's Almanac for 1854, Copy of last Annual Reports Mechanics' Institute, do. Act Incorporation and Bye-laws, do. President's Address on the occasion of laying the stone, with Program of order of Procession.

Over the cavity of the stone was placed a triangular brass plate, bearing the following inscription:—

**MECHANICS' HALL,**

Erected 1854.

**ARCHITECTS:**

Hopkins & Nelson,

The Building Committee Superintending.

**BUILDERS:**

- Masons.....Mavor & M'Donald.
- Carpenter.....Edward Maxwell.
- Bricklayers.....Wyatt & Jackson.
- Plasterers.....Aitken & Morrison.
- Painters.....Ramsay & M'Arthur.

At this stage of the proceedings, the Grand Chaplain offered the following prayer:—

May the Almighty Architect of the Universe, who has disposed of all things in order, according to the excellency of His will, who made the heavens for His majesty, the sun and the stars for His glory and our comfort, and the earth for a place for our obedience to His laws, look down upon us Master Masons now endeavouring to erect a house according to the rules of Charity, by the bond of Love, for the advancement of Art and Science. May this house, of which we have now laid the foundation stone, be a habitation for good and scientific men, meeting together to do good for the common advantage and the honor of our craft and skill. May the work done here prosper.—May the workmen and superintendents be comforted. May no strife or unseemly words be heard within its walls. May the members of the Institute love and

league in this good work, may long be preserved to promote the prosperity of your Institute, and to give encouragement and assistance to other public structures for the convenience and beauty of our important and rising city.

Mr. Bulmer having been called, spoke to this effect:

The present occasion appears to me to be peculiarly appropriate to take a brief glance at the past history of the Mechanics' Institute, and, by comparing that with its present and future prospects, its friends will see that they have no reason to fear for the future; on the contrary, they will perceive that it is destined to take an important position in the education of this large and fast growing community. In the year 1828, a few individuals met, and took the necessary steps to form the Mechanics' Institution, and to those few individual we of the present day owe a debt of gratitude. The Institution continued to flourish until 1836, when, from various causes, it was allowed to languish until 1840; when it was again revived, and merged into the present Institute, and has since continued in active operation. In 1845, an Act of Incorporation was obtained, since which it has rapidly grown in the number of its members, and has been constantly adding to its reading room and library, both by purchase of new works from its ordinary income, and by large and valuable donations from its friends and well-wishers.

Thus we see, that sharing in the prosperity, and growing with the growth of the city, it has now, by the liberality of the citizens, been put in a position to commence the erection of this large and spacious building, the chief corner stone of which has been so well laid to-day—a building which will be an ornament to the noble street in which it is placed, and a testimony of the value and importance attached by the inhabitants of this city to the general diffusion of knowledge; and now, having reached this present satisfactory position, I will call upon its friends not to relax in their efforts—not merely to maintain it; but steadily to look forward to the hour when we shall count its members by thousands, instead of hundreds, and when even this large building will be found too small for its accommodation, and I hope by the continued support and liberality of the citizens of Montreal, that at the celebration of the opening of the Hall next winter, the committee for the time being will be able to shew receipts sufficient to pay the cost of construction, and the members enjoy the full benefit of an Institute free from debt, and the city at large will be amply compensated for the outlay by the increased intelligence and usefulness of its inhabitants.

To conclude the ceremonial, Mr. Papin, the Acting Mayor, was requested to address the throng, which he did to the following effect:—

He said that this was a happy day to all parties, and one which would be remembered to the latest times. This vast concourse was a strong proof of the sympathies which accompanied the Mechanics' Institute in their important enterprise. The building about to be erected would be an honor to the city, and a source of honest pride to its inhabitants. It would be a cause of progress and of union, and many would live to bless the day when it had been erected. It would be a standing evidence of the honor which is held in Montreal, and as it is by labour that men become wise and virtuous, there was every reason to hope that this Hall would be every reason to moral results among all classes, productive of the best those for whose benefit it was, but especially among those especially designed. An institution offering to its members the use of 2000 volumes upon sciences, morals and literature, and suppling 50 newspapers and periodicals, could not fail of exerting a very large influence. He concluded by hoping that the Mechanics of Montreal would prize their privileges, which certainly were of the most exalted character.

Mr. Papin spoke in French, with much animation and readiness, and at the conclusion of his speech was very warmly cheered.

This concluded the exercises of the afternoon.



An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was  
held on Monday Evening May 29, 1852  
The Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members, viz—  
Second Class — Robert Gee, Thos Dow,  
James Bansley, J. C. Holdiege.

Third Class — George Beers.

The Meeting then adjourned.

A. Stevenson Secy.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the  
Members of the Institute Called by order of the  
President was held on Monday Evening  
June 12, 1854,

The President in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.

The President stated that the Meeting had been  
convened for the purpose of authorizing the sale of  
Light in the S. W. gable of the new Mechanics' Hall, and  
after explaining the matter to the Meeting,

It was moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by Mr. Lambert  
that the President be and is hereby authorized to sign a  
"Deed of Sale of the right of Light and view, for and  
"from the Upper stories of the Mechanics' Hall, now being  
"erected — said right to Comprehend all the right of  
"Light and view acquired by the Mechanics Institute  
"under Deed of Sale from Mr. William Tate and Mrs. Jane  
"Stethem, widow of the late <sup>9th</sup> Richard Tate, co qualites,  
"bearing date and executed before J. J. Gibbe and his Colleague  
"Notaries, the seventh of July, 1853 — said Deed to be drawn  
"in favor of Robert Campbell, Esq. Merchant of this City,  
"in Consideration of the sum of (£150.0.0) One hundred and  
"Fifty Pounds, Esq. to be paid by the said Robert Campbell  
"to this Institute — Carried



The following were admitted Ordinary Members, viz.  
George Gray - 1st Class.  
Hugh Lowden - 2nd do  
Andrew J. Campbell - 3rd do.

The Meeting then adjourned

A. Stevenson Secy

An Ordinary Meeting was held on Monday  
Evening, Sept. 25/54.

Mr. Bertram, 1st Vice President in the Chair.

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members, viz.

First Class - A. J. Adams, D. A. Lee.

Second Class - Tho<sup>s</sup> Lessenden, Wm Jones, Wm Graham,  
Thomas Isaac, William McCormick, J. Robinson,  
Andrew C. Hunter, Wm Anderson, A. Taylor  
D. Campbell, George Blackmeyer, Martin Hamilton.

The following gentlemen having paid their Subscriptions  
to the Building Fund to the amount of £12.10/ Currency and  
upwards, were enrolled as Life-Members of the Institute viz.

James Thompson, John McLean, John Estell McDow,  
Hon John Young, John Grant Jr, John Hall, Mrs Liffin,  
A. J. W. Pherson, W. F. Bartley, H. L. South, Hector Fabre,  
Henry Chapman, Henry Jones, Sidney Jones, Miles Williams,  
Charles Alexander, Jas<sup>r</sup> Manor, Jas<sup>r</sup> Roy, Laird Patton,  
L. H. Holton, J. P. Pitton, New Ramsay, Alex<sup>r</sup> Wand  
Wm Lawley, John Lovell Peter Mc. Christie, F. B. Starr,  
James Douglas, John Easton Mills Whitney, Mansfield Holland,  
Geo. Smith, Alex. McDonald, B. P. Paige, J. C. Major, Henry Lyman,  
Noah Shaw, David Torrance W. A. Townsend, Chas<sup>r</sup> Phillips, W. B. Phillips,  
E. E. Gilbert, John Hilton, Jas<sup>r</sup> McDonald, J. H. Joseph, John Henderson,  
Bobt Cross, Wm Murray, Jas<sup>r</sup> Shearer, J. W. Stephens, John Long, Wm Spiers  
Charles D. Proctor, John Frothingham, Wm Workman, B. G. Starke  
J. C. B. McGill, Alex<sup>r</sup> Bertram, Edward Macneil, J. C. Beckett.  
The Meeting then adjourned  
A. Stevenson, Secy

Life Members



An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening, Oct. 9, 1854  
The President in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.  
The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the  
Institute, viz:—

First Class— W. W. Masterman

Second do. — John Leitch

" " Jacob Whowan,

Third do. Chas. A. Peck, W. P. Boach.

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson Rec Sec.

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An Ordinary Meeting was held on Monday  
Evening, October 23, 1854.  
The President in the Chair

The Minutes of former Meeting were read and approved.  
The following were admitted Ordinary Members of  
the Institute, viz:—

First Class— W. Reid.

Second do. W. J. N. Turner, John Garwin

Third do. Rinaldo Fuller.

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson, Rec Sec.

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# Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was held in the rooms of the Institute, on Monday Evening, the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1854.

The President, Mr Henry Bulmer, having taken the Chair and called the meeting to order, the Secretary, Mr Alex<sup>r</sup> A. Stevenson, read the minutes of last Meeting, which were approved.

The Secretary then read the following Report:—

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL, PRESENTED ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER, 1854.

The period for which your Committee were elected being about to terminate, they have now to lay before you the usual Annual Statement of the progress of the Institute during the past year, its condition at the present time, and its prospects for the future. In doing so, they would refer in the first place to the list of Membership.

The number of Members at the date of last Annual Report was, . . . . .	502	
Of whom have ceased to be Members during the year, . . . . .	82	420
Number of Ordinary Members admitted during the year, . . . . .		259
The number of Life Members elected during the year . . . . .	116	
Of whom were Members previously, . . . . .	57	59
Total number of Members enrolled at this date, . . . . .		738

These may be classified as follows:—

Honorary Members, . . . . .	15
Corresponding do., . . . . .	7
Life do., . . . . .	140
Ordinary do., . . . . .	576
	<hr/>
	738

Shewing an increase during the year of 236, Life Members included. The increase of Ordinary Members may, in a great measure, be attributed to the adoption of the Free Class system during the past winter, a measure which induced a large number of apprentices and others to connect themselves with the Institute. Your Committee would here point out to the Members in general, the importance of individual exertion for increasing the List of Membership. A very slight effort on the part of individual Members would soon swell the list to double its present number. The Committee are confident that if the aims and objects of the Institute were more fully known and understood, it would be appreciated and supported in a corresponding degree, by that large and important class of the community—the working Mechanics—whose interests it is more especially designed to promote.

### THE LIBRARY.

The Library has received a large measure of attention from the Sub-Committee, to whose charge it was committed. The additions made to it during the year amount to 138 volumes, 84 of which were by purchase, and 54 donations. In consequence of the bad condition in which many of the works were found, a considerable number had to be re-



bound,—in all, 135 volumes have passed through the binder's hands. The number of books issued during the previous year was 4000; the issues for the year just closed were 4643. The Committee would take this opportunity to remind Members that valuable additions might be made to the Library in the shape of donations of works, perhaps of little value to the present owners, but which would be of much value and utility if placed in a public Library.

Your Committee have also to report that, during last session of Provincial Parliament, they forwarded to the three branches of the Legislature a Petition on behalf of the Institute, setting forth the objects of the Institute and number of its Members, the progress of the new Hall, and the opportunities which will be afforded by its completion to increase the sphere of usefulness of the Institute; also, that it would be most desirable to possess an extensive Library of Literature and Science, to be a Library of reference, free to all, and a Model-Room in which models might be collected and studied, free of expense; that the funds at the disposal of the Institute would not allow them to accomplish these useful purposes, which in their effect could not be considered of a merely local nature; and praying an appropriation from the public revenue for these purposes exclusively. This Petition was kindly taken charge of by the Hon. John Young, M.P.P., one of the City Members; was laid before the House of Assembly, and printed on motion of Mr. Young. No action, however, was taken in the matter, up to the time of the adjournment of the House. It is

hoped that it may receive favorable attention when the session is resumed in February next.

#### THE READING ROOM.

The READING ROOM has, as usual, been well attended throughout the year. The following is a list of the Newspapers and Periodicals to be found on the tables:—

*City Papers.*—Herald, Gazette, Pilot, Transcript, Advertiser, Sun, Argus, Minerve, Pays, Witness, True Witness.

*Canadian Papers.*—Toronto Globe, Toronto Examiner, Kingston Chronicle, Hamilton Spectator, St. John's News, Quebec Chronicle, Canada Gazette.

*United States.*—Boston Atlas, New York Albion, Tribune and Herald, Philadelphia Courier.

*Periodicals.*—The Medical Chronicle, North British Review, Edinburgh Review, Blackwood's Magazine, Hunt's Magazine, London Quarterly, Harper's Magazine, Appleton's Mechanic, Civil Engineer, Practical Mechanic, Art Journal, Greenough's Polytechnic Journal of Science and Art.

*English Papers, &c.*—Wilmer and Smith's European Times, London Dispatch, do. Illustrated News, Builder, Punch, Dublin Nation, and Glasgow Saturday Post.

**DONATIONS.**—The Committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following donations:

From John Leeming, Esq., 12 volumes.  
 „ A. Murray, Esq., 13 do.  
 „ Mr. F. Gallagher, 1 do.  
 „ T. C. Keefer, Esq., a copy of Maury's Wind and Current Chart.

From the Grand Trunk R. R. Co., a Model of a Bridge.

From Messrs. G. P. Putnam and Co., of New York, 14 vols.

From John Armour, Esq., 18 vols.

„ C. P. Ladd, Esq., 6 do.

„ Robert Stephenson, Esq., Civil Engineer, of London, England, a splendid volume of Engravings, and two volumes letter-press, descriptive of the construction of the Britannia and Conway Tabular Bridges.

#### LECTURES AND CLASSES.

A short Course of Lectures was delivered during the past winter, the attendance at which was greater than on any former year. The following is the order of delivery, viz.:

Introductory Lecture by the Rev. W. BOND, on Dec. 13, 1853, on "The Pleasure and Profit of Science."

Followed by D. C. McCALLUM, Esq., M.D., on "The new Theory of the relations of Forces."

T. C. KEEFER, Esq., on "The Ottawa."

Rev. JOHN CORDNER, on "The social Position and Rights of Women."

Rev. A. LILLIE, D.D., on "Robert Burns."

A. N. RENNIE, Esq., on "Poetry—its relation to History."

W. MILLN, Esq., on "The Steam Engine."

Rev. W. TAYLOR, D.D., on "Spirit Rappings."

W. MILLN, Esq., (2nd lecture) on "The Causes and Prevention of Steam Boiler Explosion."

B. CHAMBERLIN, Esq.,—"Our Country, and our Duty to it."

The Concluding Lecture was delivered on the 14th March, 1854, by Rev. D. INGLIS; subject—"The True Patriot."

The Sub-Committee on Classes having observed that during former years the Classes were attended by but a very small number of the Members, perhaps not averaging more than from 12 to 18, resolved to abolish the small charge usually made for admission, and to afford instruction in the Classes free to all Members of the Institute. The result was, that immediately on the announcement of this proceeding, the applications for admission numbered upwards of 100, being as many as the limited accommodation would admit of. Instruction in Mechanical, Architectural, and Ornamental Drawing, was given by W. Milln, D. J. Macfarlane, John Kay, and James Duncan, Esqs. Messrs. Duncan, Milln and Macfarlane, having refused to accept any compensation for their services, were presented with Tickets of Life Membership.

Your Committee hope that the Free Class system, so auspiciously commenced, will be still further extended by their successors, affording instruction in other branches of knowledge, requisite for the proper education of the youth of our working-classes.

#### ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The returns from last season's Festival exceeded those of any former year by about £50, amounting in net proceeds to £154 8s. 8d. The number in attendance was upwards of 1500; and the conduct and management, your Committee have been gratified to learn, gave universal satisfaction.

From the proceeds of the Festival, the Committee



appropriated the sum of £100 towards the Building Fund of the Institute.

#### FINANCE.

The Treasurer's Statement, which now lies on the table, exhibits a deficiency in the current expense account of £84 2s. 1d., which is to be accounted for in consequence of not having received the annual grant for the year 1854 of £50 from the Provincial Exchequer, and from the fact, that a considerable number of Members had constituted themselves *Life Members*, by contributions to the "Building Fund," of £12 10s and upwards. If these Members would generously consider the exigency of the case, and the desirableness of closing each year's transactions without incurring debt, and would severally pay their subscriptions for the current year 1854, the financial year of the Institute would close without debt. The sum of £30 is also due by the Mercantile Library Association, as an indemnity for the non-fulfilment of an arrangement entered into with this Institute, for the joint occupancy of the rooms at present leased by the Institute.

#### THE NEW MECHANICS' HALL.

The erection of this structure has occupied a large share of the attention of the Committee during the year. Various adverse circumstances have arisen to retard the completion of the building, which will be found fully explained in the following Report of the Building Committee, embodied with this, in order that Members may be fully acquainted with the building operations, and the difficulties with which the Committee have had to contend.

#### REPORT OF BUILDING COMMITTEE.

At the period of the last Annual Report, your Sub-committee reported that having been authorised to that effect, a most desirable site had been purchased, and that contracts had been made with responsible and competent persons, for the different descriptions of work required. The foundation of the Hall was commenced in the month of October last, but not completed, owing to the early setting in of wintry weather. Building operations were resumed in the month of April, and the foundation stone was laid with most imposing Masonic ceremonies on the 11th of May. Subsequently the work progressed, but not with the rapidity desired by your Sub-committee, in consequence as it is believed, of the pressure of other engagements upon the contractors for Masonry, and other causes, among which may be mentioned the scarcity of workmen, the extreme heat of the weather, and the ravages of a fearful pestilence.

As it may not be unknown to many, that the original plan of the building has been slightly modified, it may be in place to explain that it was primarily intended to cover the building with a flat roof, to be covered with Warren's patent roofing, but the offer of a donation of all the slate requisite by Messrs. Badgley & Abbott gave rise to a change in the plan of the roof, and it was ultimately agreed to adopt a hipped truss roof, having a flat portion of about one third, and the remainder constructed on an angle suitable for the use of slate.

By making this arrangement, it was found practicable to raise the ceiling of the Lecture Room from

18 to 22 feet, making it in many respects a more desirable Hall for public occasions, without materially adding to the cost of construction.

It was supposed likewise that the attic story might be made to subserve a more useful purpose, as for example a *Model Room*, or for something of a kindred character; your Sub-committee believe, that on the whole the change was not, by any means, detrimental either to the usefulness or appearance of the structure.

Owing to causes, however beyond the control of your Sub-committee, the slates offered by Messrs. Badgley and Abbott, the former proprietors of the Kingsley quarries could not be obtained at the time required, and Messrs. Reed and Raynor were employed to furnish the material, and complete the work. The flat portion of the roof was covered in a most satisfactory manner, by Messrs. C. M. Warren & Co., with their Patent Roofing materials.

To recur to the execution of the work, your Sub-committee regret extremely to say, that before the stone walls were raised to the height proposed, it was discovered that they were not perpendicular to their bases, that in St. Peter Street especially was found upon examination to be considerably off the plumb.

Under these circumstances, your Sub-committee conceived that only one course of procedure was open to them, viz: to take the regular legal proceeding in such cases, and they accordingly protested against the contractors, Messrs. Mavor and McDonald, on account of defective materials and workmanship, holding them responsible for all losses and damages that might ensue.

This action of the Building Committee led to an arbitration by experts mutually chosen, viz: John Redpath, Esq., on the part of this Institute. J. H. Springle, Esq., Architect, on the part of the contractors, and T. C. Keefer, Esq., C. E. as umpire. The result of this reference was an award of £500 damages against the contractors above mentioned, for reasons specified in their able report.

The Building Committee feel that the thanks of the Institute are due to the gentlemen who acted so promptly and generously in this matter; performing an onerous task with much ability and without fee or reward, and also to Messrs. McKay & Austin, Advocates, and J. J. Gibb, Esq., Notary Public, who added to the favours previously bestowed, by giving their professional assistance to your Committee gratuitously.

The Building Committee have decided that it will be requisite to take down and rebuild the wall fronting on St. Peter Street, and are of opinion that with other alterations contemplated, the building will be made secure, and will fully meet the expectations of the public. To obviate the loss of time, the Building Committee are making the necessary arrangements for the reconstruction of the wall without delay, and in the most economical manner.

The Building Committee have every reason to be satisfied with the materials and work furnished by the contractors for Brick and Joiner work.

The roof of the new Hall having been complet-



ed under the direction of the Building Committee, the reconstruction of wall referred to is the only impediment to the early finishing of the new Hall. Applications have been received for the lease of the Shops, but no engagement was entered into, in consequence of the difficulties occasioned by the contractors for Masonry.

There is every reason to believe, however, that when completed no difficulty will be experienced in leasing the Shops at a very fair rate.

**FINANCES—BUILDING ACCOUNT.**

Since the period of last Annual Meeting, an additional sum of £241 3s. 3d, has been subscribed to this fund, and the amount of £964 6s. 6d. has been collected by the Superintendent, and one hundred pounds from the surplus of the last Annual Festival was appropriated to this fund, by order of the General Committee.

The subscriptions were called for by public advertisement in three instalments; the whole is now due, and the sum of £591 14s. remains yet to be collected. It is to be hoped that every exertion will be made by every Member of the Institute to increase the subscriptions to this fund.

The Building Committee have issued a circular which is now in process of distribution among the journeymen mechanics in the several establishments and workshops of the City, in the hope that that enterprising and increasingly intelligent class will aid materially in completing the structure which is intended to promote their own interests and increase their usefulness.

With the view to meet in part the expense of furnishing the new Hall, the Committee have had under discussion the expediency of holding a Bazaar upon the occasion of opening the new Hall, when needlework and articles of every description of workmanship, the contributions of the Members and friends of the Institute, might be exposed for sale, and from which, with suitable and united exertion, a considerable sum, it is thought, might be raised.

The Account Current of this fund will be found under its appropriate head.

In conclusion your Committee can assure the Members of the Institute, that while its interests have been committed to them, they have done their utmost to promote them. It has been a busy year, throughout, and when the distressing epidemic that for so long a time this year afflicted our City, as well as several other difficulties with which the Committee had to contend, are considered, it is hoped that the Members will do them the justice of approving of their efforts, and by cordial co-operation in the objects of the Institute, assist and encourage future committees in their exertions to render the Mechanics' Institute, a lasting benefit to its Members and a credit to the City.

All of which is respectfully submitted,



It was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Ramsay—

“That the Report be received and adopted,” which was carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Milln, and carried unanimously—

“That it be an instruction to the General Committee to put themselves in correspondence with the Executive Committee appointed for the Paris Exhibition, with the view to the holding an Exhibition about the period of the usual Annual Festival, at which selections might be made by the Commissioners.”

Moved by Mr. Milln, seconded by Mr. Perry, and carried unanimously—

“That in future the Annual Report be placed in

the most convenient place in the Reading Room, at least three days previous to the Annual Meeting, for examination of the Members.”

Moved by Mr. Milln, seconded by Mr. Irwin, and carried unanimously—

“That a special vote of thanks be given to the General Committee for the past year, for taking the initiatory steps to establish a Free Library of Reference in the City of Montreal.”

Messrs. Garth, Bernard and Kennedy having been appointed scrutineers, the Meeting then proceeded to the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year, according to the provisions of the act of incorporation, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected, viz. :—

*President.*

HENRY BULMER.

*Vice-Presidents.*

1. A. BERTRAM.  
2. D. BROWN.

3. W. HUSTCHISON.  
4. W. P. BARTLEY.

*Corresponding Secretary.*

A. MURRAY.

*Recording Secretary.*

ALEX. A. STEVENSON.

*Treasurer.*

HENRY LYMAN.

*Librarian, and Cabinet Keeper.*

T. D. REED.

*Members of General Committee.*

W. Milln.

R. Spence.

H. Munro.

B. Mitchell.

W. Kennedy.

Dr. A. Bernard.

J. Lambert.

Chas. Garth.

W. Spiers.

J. W. James Hopkins

J. Fletcher.

C. P. Ladd.



Mechanics' Institute of Montreal in Account with HENRY LYMAN, Treasurer.

Dr

Cr

1854.

-To cash paid contingent expenses, including rent of rooms, gas, assessment, printing, advertising, postage, stationery, &c., &c., .....	£210 0 8
To cash paid for Books for Library, .....	31 0 10
To cash paid for Periodicals for Reading Room, .....	38 16 11
To cash paid for salary Superintendent, .....	83 5 0
	<hr/>
	£363 3 5
To Balance due to Treasurer, .....	£84 2 1

1853.

Nov. 9.—By Cash from J. A. B. McGill, late Treasurer, .....	£ 3 2 5
By Cash from Members' Subscriptions, rent of rooms, &c., &c., .....	220 5 3
By Balance proceeds of Festival 1854, .....	55 3 8
Balance, .....	84 2 1
	<hr/>
	£363 3 5

We, the undersigned Auditors, having examined the Account Current of the Treasurer, and compared the same with the Receipts of Income and Vouchers of Expenditure, find the same to be perfectly correct.

DAVID BROWN,  
ALEX. BERTRAM, } Auditors.  
C. P. LADD,

Montreal, Nov. 6, 1854.

E. & O. E.,  
Montreal, Nov. 6, 1854.

HENRY LYMAN, Treas.,  
Mechanics' Institute.

Mechanics' Institute Building Fund in Account with HENRY LYMAN, Treasurer.

Dr. From November, 1853, to November, 1854. Cr.

1853.

To Cash paid Contractors for New Hall, .....	£2507 10 7
To paid Interest, .....	134 2 5
To paid Contingencies, including Insurance, Printing, Commission on Collections, &c. &c., .....	57 5 4
Balance, .....	321 1 1
	<hr/>
	£3119 19 5

1853.

Nov. 8—By Balance in Bank, .....	£1725 0 2
By Cash from Corporation for Ground in St Peter Street, .....	115 0 0
By Collections per Superintendent, .....	964 6 6
By appropriation of proceeds of Festival, .....	100 0 0
By Interest from Montreal Bank, .....	51 13 0
By donation, acting-mayor J. Papin, Esq., .....	5 0 0
By Robert Campbell, for commutation of Light, .....	150 0 0
By donation, Nunn's Band, services at Procession, .....	7 10 0
By donation C. McCormick, for services, .....	0 10 0
By donation D. & W. Smith, .....	0 19 8
	<hr/>
	£3119 19 5

1854.

Nov. 6—By Cash Balance, .....	£321 1 1
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We, the undersigned Auditors, having examined the Account Current, and compared the same with vouchers, find it perfectly correct.

DAVID BROWN,  
ALEX. BERTRAM, } Auditors.  
C. P. LADD,

Montreal, Nov. 6, 1854.

E. & O. E.,  
Montreal, Nov. 8, 1854.

HENRY LYMAN,  
Treasurer.

The following Gentlemen were admitted Life Members of the Institute viz.

J. W. Hopkins	W. P. Bartley	John Lovell,	James McDonald
Jas Nelson	H. L. Bouth,	V. M. Christie	J. H. Joseph
H. W. Austin	Hector Fabre	J. B. Starr,	J. Henderson
S. J. Gibb	Henry Chapman	James Douglas	Robert Cross,
Wm Mackay	H. Jones	J. E. M. Whitney,	William Murray,
W. Millin	Sidney Jones,	M. Holland	James Shearer
D. J. Macfarlane	Miles Williams	George Smith	John Long,
James Duncan	Chas Alexander	Alex McDonald	Wm Spiers,
James Thompson,	Thos Tiffin	B. P. Paige,	Charles D. Proctor,
John McLean,	James Mavor,	J. C. Major,	Alex Bertram
William Dow,	James Roy,	Noah Shaw	J. A. B. McGill
John Frothingham,	Laird Patton	David Torrance	R. J. Starke
Geo. Workman	L. H. Holton,	W. A. Townsend,	Edward Maxwell
John Ostell,	S. P. Titton	Chas Phillips	J. C. Becket
Hon. John Young,	New Ramsay,	W. C. Phillips,	A. Lanocque
John Grant Jr	Alex Wand	E. C. Gilbert	Edward Evans
John Hall	Wm Lawley,	J. Hilton,	George Morrison
A. J. Macpherson,	Henry Lyman		



The following were admitted Ordinary Members  
of the Institute, viz

First Class—George Joseph Stanley, James Kay,  
Robert Hunt, C. Robertson, Wm Thompson, W. Wardle,  
J. G. Mackenzie, David Meysenholder, Theodore Watson  
and John Dunkin

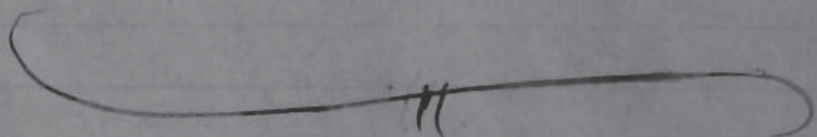
Second Class—John Graham, George Young,  
Thomas Nelson, Wm Chester, J. Cutbill, L. W. Hughes,  
Robert Woods, G. C. Gapper, Duncan Macfarlane,  
D. Aikman, James Maxwell, Greville W. Indoe,  
Thos Borbridge, Henry Meakins, William Brown,  
James Lawson, John White, Thomas Cole, Wm Turner  
and William James Porteous.

Third Class—George Pickup, Bolls Garven,  
James Wilson, Gavin W. Hutchins, Wm Murray,  
Richard Spiter, James J. Bernard, Cyrus Ashford,  
Charles Sutherland Wm Wilson, William Bawley,  
Charles Draycott, Wm Jack, Charles Sutherland,  
George S. Evans, and John Wainock.

It was Moved by Mr Lyman, and seconded by Mr Reid,  
That a note of thanks be given to the Secretaries  
for the prompt and efficient manner, in which  
they have performed their arduous duties.  
Carried unanimously.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned,

A. Stevenson  
Rec<sup>d</sup> Secretary





An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was held, in accordance with the 31<sup>st</sup> section of the Bye-Laws, on Friday Evening, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1854. Twenty three members were present.

The President having taken the Chair, the requisition calling the Meeting was read by the ~~Secy~~ Corresponding Secretary, who, in the absence of the Recording Secretary acted as such. The requisition is as follows:—

Montreal, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1854

Sir— We, the undersigned members of the General Committee of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, hereby request that you will call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of said Institute, for the purpose of considering and sanctioning a proposition of loan, for the sum of Two thousand Pounds (£2000) required for the completion of the New Hall, at the rate of eight per cent interest p<sup>a</sup> annum.

(Signed) W. Spiers,

A. Murray,

J. W. Hopkins,

Wm Kennedy,

Henry Lyman,

H. Munro.

To Henry Butler Esq  
President of the  
Mechanics' Institute  
Montreal

The Building Committee reported that in order to complete the new Hall, it would be necessary to borrow the sum of £2000 — that that amount could be obtained from Mrs Jeffrey, of Quebec for the period of ten years, at a rate of interest, equivalent to Eight per cent per annum, and they recommended that the loan be negotiated with as little delay as possible

It was moved by Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Bentham, that the Report be received and adopted — Carried.



It was moved by J. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Miller, -  
That the President be and is hereby authorized to  
negotiate the proposed loan of £2,000 (Two thousand  
Pounds) from Mrs. Jeffreys; and sign all necessary  
documents under the advice of the legal advisers of the  
Institute.

(The President stated that the legal advisers of the Institute  
had drawn up a Resolution, for the adoption of the Meeting,  
but as it had not been presented, he would recommend that  
the meeting be adjourned till to-morrow evening.)

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Ludd, seconded by Mr. Perry,  
That this meeting do now adjourn till to-morrow evening at  
7 o'clock,

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried,  
and the Meeting adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson Secy

An Adjourned Extraordinary General  
Meeting of the members of the Mechanics'  
Institute of Montreal, was held on Saturday  
Evening, November 18/54. Nineteen members  
present.

The President having taken the Chair, the Minutes  
of last meeting were read and approved.

The President explained that the Meeting had been  
adjourned <sup>on the previous evening,</sup> in consequence of the Resolution, which  
was prepared by the legal advisers of the Institute  
not having been then received.

It was then moved by Mr. Murray seconded by Mr. Munro, and  
Resolved That the President is authorized to  
borrow money for the Institute, upon mortgage  
of all or any of its property, and specially of  
the building, corner of Great St. James and Saint  
Peter Streets in Montreal, and to sign an obligation  
in form, in favor of Charlotte Neil, wife of  
James Jeffrey, Shipbuilder of Quebec, for Two



Thousand three hundred and Fifty Pounds,  
(£2350.0.0) Currency, — re-payable by the Institute  
as follows; —

£2000 at the end of Ten Years from the date of Obligation.

£350 in five years from date thereof.

The said £2350 to bear interest at six per cent  
per annum, — payable semi-annually, from date of  
said obligation, until perfect payment — after  
re-payment of said £350.0.0, the interest to be  
reducible pro rata. The deed to contain  
such General Clauses, as the President may  
agree to, and other Clauses, such as the following.

A Clause, binding the Institute to insure  
the Building, year after year, for the security  
of the said Charlotte Neil, and to hand over  
the Policies or Renewal Receipts to her in Quebec,  
without delay — the President to make such  
agreements in respect thereof, as may be  
agreed upon.

A Clause, binding the Institute to pay  
the interest, and finally the principal, at  
Quebec, at the office of the Bank of Montreal  
there, free of charge to said Charlotte Neil.

A Clause, binding the Institute to expend  
said money borrowed, towards payment firstly  
of all Contractors or Workmen, who may now  
be creditors in respect of said building, corner  
of Great St James and St Peter streets.

A Clause binding the Institute to pay  
the said £350 punctually when due and also  
all interest punctually, even under terms that  
if two payments of interest be allowed to fall  
into arrears, or if said £350, be not punctually  
paid, the whole Capital shall become ipso  
facto exigible.

A Clause, binding the Institute to pay  
all costs of Notarial Deeds, Law and Regis-  
-tration Charges, also to furnish the lender with  
a copy of the obligation registered, with a certificate  
upon it without delay. — Carried.



A letter was read from the Provincial Secretary  
acknowledging receipt of a <sup>copy, transmitting</sup> Resolution passed by the  
General Committee of the Institute, in reference to  
the composition of the Paris Exhibition Committee.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson, Rec Sec.

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 1854.

The President in the Chair

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of  
the Institute, viz:

Second Class - Patrick Madden, F. J. Dutton,  
John Greig, Thomas Whitehead, Joseph Whitehead  
George Hardgrave, John White, Wm Jaggens,  
Thomas Frazer, Robert Bridges, Alex Frazer  
Samuel Perry, Wm Beattie

Third Class, - James Feeney, Jas W. Irving,  
Thos Denis Reed, Wm Murray, Jr James Garvin  
Geo. Wait, Jr, James Parkyn.

No other business appearing the  
Meeting adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson,

Rec Secy



An Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal, convened by the President, in accordance with the 31st Section of the Bye-Laws, was held on Wednesday Evening, Dec<sup>r</sup> 6, 1853, at which Nineteen Members were present.

The President having taken the Chair, the Minutes of last <sup>Extraordinary general</sup> Meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read the requisition calling the Meeting, as follows;—

Montreal Dec<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1854

Sir—We, the undersigned members of the General Committee of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal, hereby request that you will call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of said Institute, for the purpose of perfecting the arrangements for the negociation of the loan from Mrs Jeffreys — the Resolution passed at last Extraordinary General Meeting not being satisfactory to the parties concerned.

(Signed)

A. A. Stevenson,  
A. Murray,  
A. Bernard,  
Henry Lyman,  
J. D. Reed,  
H. Munro.

To Henry Bulmer Esq  
President  
Mechanics' Institute  
of Montreal

The President explained that exception had been taken to that clause in the Resolution passed at last Extraordinary General Meeting, which provides that if two payments of interest be allowed to fall into arrears, or if the £350.0.0 be not punctually paid at the end of five years from the date of the obligation, then the whole Capital shall become exigible. As the parties loaning the money were in some measure dependant upon



the interest accruing therefrom; the Resolution had been amended to meet their views, and as it would make no material difference to the Institute, he recommended that it be adopted by the Meeting.

It was then moved by Mr. Munro, seconded by Dr. Bernard, and carried unanimously—

Resolved—That the President is authorized to borrow money for the Institute, upon mortgage of all or any of its property, and specially of the Building, Corner of Great St. James and St. Peter Streets, in Montreal; and to sign an obligation in form, in favor of Charlotte Neil, wife of James Jeffrey, Ship-builder of Quebec, for Two Thousand three hundred and Fifty Pounds, (£2350.0.0) Currency, repayable by the Institute as follows:—

£2000 at the end of ten years from the date of obligation,

£350 in five years from the date thereof.

The said £2350.0.0 to bear interest at six per cent *per annum*,—payable semi-annually, from date of said obligation until perfect payment—after re-payment of said £350.0.0 the interest to be reducible *pro rata*. The deed to contain such general clauses as the President may agree to, and other clauses, such as the following:—

A Clause, binding the Institute to insure the Building year after year, for the security of the said Charlotte Neil, and to hand over the Policies or Renewal Receipts to her in Quebec, without delay—the President to make such agreements in respect thereof, as may be agreed upon.

A Clause, binding the Institute to pay the Interest, and finally the principal at Quebec at the office of the Bank of Montreal there free of charge to said Charlotte Neil.

A Clause, binding the Institute to expend said money borrowed, towards payment firstly of all Contractors or Workmen, who may now be Creditors in respect of said building, corner of Great St James and St Peter Streets.



A Clause, binding the Institute to pay the said £350 punctually when due, and also all interest punctually; - and in case the said Institute shall make default in the payment of the said interest to accrue and become due on the said principal sum of £2350.0.0, for the space of thirty days, after the said interest payments shall become due and payable as before mentioned; - and provided, or should default be made of the payment of the said sum of £350.0.0, for thirty days after the period herein-before stipulated for the payment thereof, then, and in that case, the whole of the said debt, with all interest then accrued, shall immediately be, and become exigible.

A Clause, binding the Institute to pay all costs of Notarial Deeds, Law & Registration Charges, also to furnish the lender with a copy of the obligation registered, with a Certificate upon it without delay.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned

A. A. Stevenson

Rec Sec

An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute was held on Monday Ev'g December 11, 1854.

Mr Bartley, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President having taken the Chair, the Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute viz

First Class - John Jones, James Snowdon.

Second do - Jas Duncan Henderson, John Patterson, Jas W. Dickson, W. W. Ellis, Patrick Condon, J. J. Lougee, Thos McCabe, Wm Dickson, John Watters, W. Willis, Wm Robt. G. Angus, G. Cair, Wm Watters, R. J. Bodden, Stuart McConnell.



Third Class — John Morris, Wm Lamb, J. K. Alexander,  
Thos Irwin, W. Bertram, Fred. Thompson, Samuel  
Clarke, Alex<sup>r</sup> Watson, Geo. Aitken Jas Long.

The Meeting then adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson  
Rec Sec

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An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics'  
Institute was held on Monday Ev<sup>g</sup> Dec 26/54

Mr. Bertram, sat Vice President in the Chair

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary members of  
the Institute, viz: —

First Class — Frederick Lauford, John Carlisle  
H. Winkley, Alex<sup>r</sup> Ogilvy, Miles Pennington  
Virgil Pennington,

Second Class — H. K. Ritchie, E. Roberts,  
Robt Romaine, James Church, John Bowry,  
Hugh Mitchell Anthony King, J. H. Higginson  
Joseph Bush, John Wilson, Jr. A. Bell, John Rhind,  
Thos Campbell, Alex. Turbyme, Henry Gilder  
Stanley Patterson,

Third Class — Robt Reed, James Denables  
Danill Bose, P. O'Connell Walsh, Henry Hart  
Wm Knox, John Young, John O'Connor, Robt  
Church, Richard Irwin, J. G. A. Ellis, Rich<sup>d</sup> Irwin,

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson  
Rec Sec



An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute  
was held on Monday evening January 8, 1855,

The President in the Chair

The Minutes of last meeting read and approved,

The following were admitted Ordinary Members  
viz:—

First Class—John W. Kimmon.

Second do—Gas W. Carter, W. Whitty,  
Stephen Kyte, Christian Peterson, John Gettun,  
James Casey, Joseph Lees, David Lees,

Third Class—John Nicholson, Gas Costine,  
James Dean, Charles Scott, John Sharpe,  
John Garnott, Henry Satter, Donald Murray,  
Albert Draycott, W. Wright, C. Murray,  
David Pink.

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson

Sec Sec

An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics  
Institute was held on Monday evening,  
January 22nd, 1855,

The Pres. in the Chair.

The Minutes of former meeting were read and  
approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members  
viz: First Class—W. Meikleham

Second do, Donald W. Iver, John Lancelby,  
Thos Gordon Peter McGregor — Paine,

Third Class—W. W. Mills, Pat<sup>h</sup> Canfield, Daniel W. Kenzie,  
R. Balfour, G. Sutherland, W. Calvert, John Coules,

The Meeting then adjourned. — A. A. Stevenson Sec Sec



An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was held on Monday Evening Feb 26, 1855

Mr. Bertram, set Vice President in the Chair

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute, viz

First Class. — Mr. Morrison, John Doyle,  
H. Glassford, S. B. Scott.

Second Class. — Charles James, James Hansfield,  
John Taylor, Michael Morris,  
John Dawson, Heat Wilson.

Third Class — Andrew Holloway, James Conway  
Samuel Marick Francis Allen  
Bernard Silverman, Tho<sup>s</sup> C. Dawson  
Walter Macfarlane, Donald McDougall  
John Beckingham, George Tollenius,  
S. Goff, James Burke.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson

Recording Secretary

An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute was held on Monday Evening, March 12, 1855.

The President in the Chair. The Minutes of last meeting were read & approved

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute, viz

First Class — B. Beaufield. Second Class — Jas. Foster Jamieson.

Third Class — John Wood, Don<sup>d</sup> McPherson, John Maguire, H. Kirkpatrick

The Meeting there adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson

Recording Secretary



An Extraordinary General Meeting  
of the Institute, called by order of the President  
was held on Tuesday Evening March 27, 1853.

The President having taken the Chair, the Minutes of  
last Meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read the Requisition calling the Meeting,  
which was as follows:—

Montreal March 20, 1853.

To Henry Bulmer Esq  
Pres. Mechanics Institute  
of Montreal,

Sir — We, the undersigned, members  
of the General Committee of the Mechanics Institute of  
Montreal, respectfully request that you will call  
an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of  
the Institute, for the purpose of appointing Committees  
and making other arrangements for carrying out the  
proposed Exhibition and Fancy Fair, at the opening of the  
new Hall.

(Signed) — A. A. Stevenson  
" Charles Garth  
" J. W. Hopkins  
" John Fletcher  
" Wm. Kennedy  
" J. C. Spence  
" Alex. Bertram  
" D. Brown  
" Alex. Murray,

The General Committee presented a Report, recommending that  
the Hall be opened on Monday the 21st of May next, with  
a Grand Polytechnic Exhibition and Fancy Fair, to be kept  
open for a week, with a Concert, Lecture or other entertainments  
on each evening of the week, & the Hall to be illuminated in the evenings.

It was moved by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Spence  
and carried unanimously — That the Report just read, be  
received.



It was moved by Mr Garth, seconded by Mr Munro, and carried unanimously — That the Members of this Institute heartily approve of the Polytechnic Exhibition and Fancy Fair, as proposed by the General Committee, for the opening of the new Hall, and do hereby pledge themselves to assist in every possible way to carry out the project.

It was moved by Mr John Martin, seconded by Mr Doyle, — and unanimously Resolved — That the following Committees be named, to carry out the respective departments, which Committees shall have power to add to their number, but no Committee to be allowed to incur any expense, without first reporting to, and obtaining the Consent of the General Committee of the Institute, viz: — A Music Committee, An Essay and Opening Address do., A Lecture do., An Exhibition do., A Fancy Fair do., A Decoration do., A Refreshment do., and a Committee on Tickets and Finance.

The following were then appointed, viz:

Music Com — Messrs Kennedy, Fletcher, Stevenson, Geo D. Ferriss, Wm Dutton, S. B. Warren, Alex Ramsay, George Hunter, and John Long.

Essay and Opening Address Com. — Messrs. Alex<sup>r</sup> Murray, J. J. Day, M. Morrison, H. J. Clarke, George Smith, D. Brown and D. Bernard.

Scientific Lecture Com. — Messrs. Chas Garth, W. M. Miller, H. Munro, D. Sutherland, John Petell, G. B. Doyle and Jas Nelson.

Exhibition Com. — Messrs. A. Bertram, John Lambert, W. Spiers, John Martin, W. Rutherford, D. W. Kevin, J. Kearey, W. M. Gibbon, F. Farrell, A. H. Ogilvie, Alex<sup>r</sup> McIntosh, Mr Rodden, George Gray, W. Dunbar, Alex<sup>r</sup> Hutchison, Daniel Munro, and James Dingwall.

Decoration Com — Messrs J. C. Spence, B. Mitchell, J. Angus, John W. Arthur, Jas Hayes, W. Reid, John Osborne, H. Morton and James Stevenson.



Juncy Fair Com. - Messrs. J. W. Hopkins, J. D. Reed  
W. P. Bartley, J. Adams, John Leaning, Miles Williams,  
John Garner, A. Cantin, W. Parkyn, W. McCormick  
Robert Burry, P. M. Christie, C. McDonald, J. Whitlaw  
J. B. Bronsdon and W. A. Townsend.

Refreshment Com. - Messrs. J. Fletcher, W. Hutchinson,  
Chas. Alexander, George Mochrie, David Brodie  
and Hugh Cameron.

Ticket and Finance Com. - Messrs. H. Lyman,  
C. P. Ladd, J. McGrath, J. Jones, J. A. B. McGill,  
and J. W. Mcellan.

It was moved by Dr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Kennedy,  
and carried unanimously; - That the secretary be  
instructed to notify all members who have been  
appointed to act on Sub-Committees, and under the  
direction of the President, to inform them of the first  
meeting of the Sub-Committee

It was moved by Dr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Bertram  
and unanimously Resolved - That at the first  
Meeting of each Sub-Committee - ~~the~~ members  
thereof be authorized to appoint their own Chairman  
and Secretary, and to determine what number shall  
constitute a quorum, for the transaction of business.

It was moved by Mr. Garth, seconded by Mr. Bertram,  
and carried unanimously - That the General Committee  
of the Institute be authorized to offer a Ticket of  
Life-Membership, as a prize for the best essay on "the  
Nature and objects of Mechanics' Institutes, to be competed  
for by the members of the Institute only.

No other business appearing, the Meeting adjourned

W. Stevenson  
Recy Secy



An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics  
Institute, was held on Monday Evening,  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 1855.

The President in the Chair

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the  
Institute, viz:—

First Class— Alex<sup>r</sup> Levey, Mark Samuel,  
George Munro, John Kelly, Andrew Young, Theodore Lyman  
and Daniel Munroe,

Second Class— Wm Manless, Alex<sup>r</sup> Shephard and  
Robert Liberry,

Third Class.— John Robinson, Andrew McKerron,  
Arthur McBean and John Aitken jr

No other business appearing, the Meeting adjourned.

M Stevenson

Recording Secretary

An ordinary Meeting of the Institute held on  
Monday Evening, April 23, 1855.

Dr Bernard in the Chair

The Minutes of former meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary members of the  
Institute, viz:—

First Class— Wm Learmont, Andrew Wilson  
J. D. Hall, Archibald McConnochy, and  
Charles McDonald, Senr.



Second Class — Thomas Bremah, Fred<sup>r</sup> Cole,  
Thomas Goff, C. Robertson, James Carmichael and  
George Langburn.

Third Class — G<sup>d</sup> Woods and John Kennedy.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson

Rec. Sec.

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An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute held  
on Monday Evening May, 14, 1853.

The President in the Chair

The Minutes of last meeting were read & approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute,

First Class — Richard Thomas, and David Duncan.

Second Class — J. M. Kerr, George Donald, John Ellis,  
P. Leduc, P. A. Murphy, W. H. Lefebvre.

Third Class — W. Trayer and Henry Leavitt.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson,

Rec. Sec.

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An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics Institute  
was held on Monday Evening June 11, 1855.

The Pres in the Chair. The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute,

First Class — B. W. Cowan, and Samuel Phillips.

Second do — Chas<sup>y</sup> Drummond and W. Bennett.

The Meeting then adjourned.

A. A. Stevenson, Rec. Sec.



An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics Institute  
was held on Monday Evening June 25, 1855.

The President in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted ordinary members of the Institute

First Class.— J. W. Haldimand, John Thompson  
Alexr Bissett, James E. Mayard.

Second Class— Mr Seaton, Alexr Craig,

Third Class— John Little, Henry Palmer, — Allan,  
Mr Manning and Mr Linton.

No other business appearing, the Meeting adjourned

A. A. Stevenson, Sec Sec

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening, July 16, 1855.

The President in the Chair.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute, viz:

First Class— G. Ward, John Milne, Joseph Bourdeau,

Second Class— John K. Spears, Thos Whittaker, J. F. Gibson  
Henry Coombs, W. Lozier, Joseph A. Cockburn, Geo Polson,  
W. Alderdice, John Pape, Robt Macfarlane, J. F. L. Maud,

Third Class— W. G. Deslesderniers, and Andrew Rae,

The Meeting then adjourned

A. A. Stevenson,

Sec. Sec



INAUGURAL

# ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BY

HIS HONOR MR. JUSTICE AYLWIN,

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE OPENING

OF

*The New Mechanics' Hall,*

ON THE 21st MAY, 1855.

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## ADDRESS.

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ON the evening of the 21st May, 1855, a large and highly respectable audience filled the Lecture Room of the New Mechanics' Hall, to hear the Inaugural Address of the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin.

Shortly after eight o'clock, the President and Committee of the Institute, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin and His Worship the Mayor, Dr. W. Nelsen, took their seats on the platform.

Mr. Bulmer, the President, rose and briefly stated the object for which they had met, expressed his gratification at the success which had crowned their efforts, and concluded by introducing the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin.

His Honor, on rising, was loudly cheered, and spoke as follows :

The age in which we live is distinguished from all preceding times, as much by an irrepressible desire for useful knowledge, as by strong efforts for its general diffusion among all classes of society. The cry has gone forth that the schoolmaster is abroad—and so, in truth, he is—but unaided, his teachings would not achieve much more than those of the admirable men of other years, who had preceded him in the same high career. But now his success is mighty, for he has for coadjutors and adjuncts, the Printer, and the full weight and power of his Press—not of that Press in its venerable simplicity, which, in the hands even of a Franklin, worked hard and slowly, but of the nicely finished instrument perfected by the mechanic's skill of the present time, which, moved by the giant arm of steam, is exhaustless and invincible.



only chronicle the passing events, but, as a higher vocation, convey to millions, freely, the knowledge which the schoolmaster imparts, and communicates the lessons of all teachers, and of all times, past and present. High and low, rich and poor, have access to the same fountain alike, and the rare and precious volumes, which gold only was used to procure, are now so multiplied, as to be within ready reach almost of all.

The age in which we live is again memorable, not only for its glorious discoveries in science, in astronomy, in geology, chemistry, galvanism, magnetism and electricity, but for the practical application of them to the wants, the uses, and the purposes of mankind. The inventions in the arts, and the beautiful perfection to which most, if not all of them, have been advanced, of which we are daily witnesses, distinguish the 19th century from the times which have passed. The navigation of the ocean by steam, so long incredible, is now a common reality: The railroad car has displaced all other means of conveyance on the highways: The electric telegraph traverses seas and continents, and we are accustomed to it, as if it had always been so; and photography has been seized upon, and is now applied for our daily enjoyment, as an ordinary process. But there is yet something, which, more than its desire after knowledge, its scientific discoveries, its inventions in the arts, and its practical application of them, distinguishes the age in which we live. It is the spirit of association, by which men are brought together, are made to unite their efforts towards effecting good and useful purposes. So long as men, or classes of men, would persist in keeping aloof from their fellows, and individual benevolence, Howard like, was left to travel alone in the world, progress could only be slow. But when difference of creed, of origin and of language, when even national antipathies came to be mastered and overcome, the combined power of men acting together for good could hardly fail of success. There is a law of Providence, which, stronger than man's will, compels him, however he may struggle against it, to restore to humanity a portion at least, of what he has taken from it, and to contribute, however little may be the amount, at least something, although he would fain withhold it. Society is kept together, in despite of the selfishness of classes and of individuals, by the same law which binds together and sustains the particles of the globe which we inhabit. Since then, even against their will, men must be compelled to do something or give something for others, however strongly disposed they may be to keep all to themselves; is it not even good policy to do it with a good grace? But, in justice to this age, there is not the selfishness which marked former times. The spirit of association has brought men, in their common helpless humanity, to acknowledge how much they need the assistance of their fellows, and to see, in every one of our kind, a man and a brother. This spirit, hallowed by religion, has given birth to innumerable undertakings, in a countless variety of ways, among all denominations, but all having the same tendency to promote the happiness of mankind, temporal and eternal. The cheap lodging-house, the Bethel unions, the ragged schools, the temperance societies, and above all, the Sunday and Sabbath Schools, prove the benevolent and christian spirit of the age in which we live; and this it is, and this mainly, which exalts it far beyond all others.

Among the associations for which this age is remarkable, it is now time, not further to extend preliminary observations, to notice particularly Mechanics' Institutes. The advantages of machinery over bodily labour, in every manufacturing process, was early felt, and machinery once introduced, suggests improvements and degrees of perfection little thought of at first. In proportion as the machine became valuable, so became the talent not only of the contriver, but of the workman, who could skilfully execute each part of it, and so adjust the whole as to make it fully perform the purpose for which it was designed. The value of the mechanic became known when his science and co-operation was felt to be necessary to aid the discoveries of Science and to second the efforts of Art. From himself this value could not have been hid, and he at last availed himself of the spirit of the age to form associations of his own. The natural and the physical sciences and arts had long had their schools and academies—literature and the exact sciences their grammar schools, colleges, and universities—but now the working mechanic of the 19th century was to open a new school for himself—and this school met at once with the most distinguished success. Learning and science contributed eagerly all their stores, and the highly educated and the highly born were there striving to teach and to promote the instruction of a new class of pupils and of scholars, before untaught and neglected. Everywhere throughout Britain's enlightened and glorious land sprang up Mechanics' Institutes. Books, models, casts, plans, moulds, maps,



were everywhere collected; the scientific imparted their knowledge in lectures; the working mechanic was put in communication with the man of theory; oral explanation and practical experiment completed the course of instruction. And this new school produced its fruits; machinery of the most curious and complicated kind is now made with the most unerring precision, and the watch is no longer the model of the works of contrivance. Our ships, our beds, our houses, are of iron; steel is made to furnish us with the pen to write; caoutchouc and gutta percha in every varied form, are made to suit the purposes of life. And even for the dread ends of war, and destruction of human life, resort is again had to mechanical skill; the Minié rifle and the Colt revolver are supplied by the mechanic; while the "navvy" plying his work on the dump, erects the railroad, which contributes more to the success of the gallant soldier, than his war horse, or the elephant of the armies of old. To all classes of men, the mechanic is alike useful and necessary; he is the backbone of society, and its best interests are linked with him and his prosperity. From the beautifully constructed instrument which the hand of science applies for the minutest of purposes, or to view the most distant heavenly bodies, or the humane skill of the surgeon delicately directs for the relief of suffering, down to the plough with which the farmer opens the earth to give us bread, or the iron shoe of his farm horse—all is supplied by the mechanic. To him the Painter owes his brush and his pallet, the canvas on which he draws his living pictures, and the colours to which his genius gives immortality. The Musician receives from him the hero's harp and the lover's lute, to pour out his heavenly strains of music sweet. And the Sculptor claims from him the well tempered steel which, in a master-hand, is to produce forms of beauty, dignity and grace, which all but breathe.

It is singular that in a country renowned for the skill of its workmen, and for the honor in which they are held, the language has been so far perverted as to annex to the word mechanic such epithets as "mean," "servile," "of mean occupation." The English dictionary when opened by the school-boy presents to him these degrading accompaniments, and are supported by even the authority of Shakspeare. The improper use of words has in all ages led to great mischief, and men have long gone on with controversies arising solely from this cause. A little explanation, or a correction in time, might have saved much strife and contention, by explaining and defining a single word. The word *mechanic* is derived from the Greek, and means "inventive," "ingenious," "full of resources," "clever." Its root is a verb which means, to "make by art," "put together by contrivance," "to build," "to contrive," "to devise." Such being the original meaning of the word, it seems strange that it should be debased in English, and that Shakspeare, above all others, should be the authority for this. But this is a grievous error of lexicographers, arising, probably, from a misconstruction of the lines of our immortal bard, in *Midsummer Night's Dream*—

"A crew of patches, rude mechanicals,  
That work for bread upon Athenian stalls."

Rude has been supposed an epithet of mechanicals, but such it is not. It was intended by the poet to apply not to mechanics generally, but to the crew of patches of whom mention is made in the passage. The proper meaning of the Greek word can never be altered; unlike the English word "patch," which meant a poor or bad tradesman, and what is now called a "botch." It is probable that Shakspeare was the first English writer who resorted to the Greek for the use of this word. In our translations of the bible made in Shakspeare's time, the word mechanic never appears; and in lieu of it, the words "craftsman," "workman," from the Saxon, and "artificer," from the Latin, are alone used. In Minshewe's "Guide into the Tongues"—a valuable and learned dictionary, most carefully compiled, and which was published in 1617—the word mechanic is not to be found at all. The word mechanically is again subjected to an improper meaning—to import what the French convey better by the word *machinalement*—which refers to the thing or machine made, and not to the maker or artist. The word mechanic has been more correctly treated in French, as one to be coupled with the loftiest and sublimest subjects; and LaPlace could not find a more appropriate title for his great astronomical work, than "*Mecanique Celeste*." Even in English, mechanism implies nothing less or more. It has been the fashion, which at one time can create "Merchant Princes" and "Railway Kings," to make the mechanic an object of ridicule and ribaldry, and to degrade him beneath contempt. While mechanics were the chief officers of the Corporations in the great towns, and supplied England with her mayors, and her aldermen, the civic greatness, a class was found affecting to despise all labor alike, as degrading to the gentleman.



When the Lord sent our first parent from Paradise, he said to him:—"In the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat bread." He who is ashamed to eat his bread in the sweat of his brow ought to be ashamed to eat it at all. There is no mechanic who has reason to be ashamed of his calling; and if there be one ashamed of it, his calling ought heartily to be ashamed of him. Labor there must be; it is not in the power of man to withdraw from it. And is there any man who leads a more laborious life than the mechanic? But is there anything that deprives him of thoughts which the highest intellect can claim? Was there anything to prevent Burns at his plough from composing his works, which are ever admired? Is labor a curse? Something to be avoided? No. So far from it, that labor is pursued, even by the Majesty on the throne and by those who are brought up in luxury, and refinements, and wealth. Therefore, instead of labor being a curse, a disgrace, precisely the reverse is the case. Let foolish men endeavor, if they please, to degrade the mechanic; but they will hardly venture to do so now that we are under the necessity of having recourse to the mechanic's skill and ingenuity day after day. Those who would turn into ridicule the mechanic's labor, will at the same time ridicule all other labor. Sir Walter Scott fully appreciated the littleness of disparaging the worth of labor, which he shows in *Guy Mannering*, where he introduces Sir Robert Haslewood and Mr. Glossin, the latter having been requested to render services to the former as a lawyer, answers that, whatever small assistance he could render, was entirely at Sir Robert's service; but as Sir Robert Haslewood's name stood high on the list of the faculty, Mr. Glossin could not presume to hope it could be either necessary or useful. Sir R. H. then answers:—"Why, my good sir, you will understand me only to mean that I am something deficient in the practical knowledge of the ordinary details of justice-business. I was indeed educated to the bar, and might boast, perhaps, at one time, that I had made some progress in the speculative, and abstract, and abstruse doctrines of our municipal code; but there is in the present day, so little opportunity of a man of family and fortune rising to that eminence at the bar, which is attained by adventurers, who are as willing to plead for John a Nokes as well as for the first noble of the land, that I was really disgusted with practice. The first case, indeed, which was laid on my table, quite sickened me; it respected a bargain, sir, of tallow, between a butcher and candle-maker; and I found that it was expected that I should grease my mouth not only with their vulgar names, but with all the technical terms and phrases, and peculiar language of their dirty arts. Upon my honor, my good sir, I have never been able to bear the smell of a tallow candle since."

Sir Walter Scott puts into the mouth of one of the characters in his *Antiquary*, the following manly sentiment, and in the person of Jonathan Oldbuck, gives expression to his own Scottish enthusiasm: "There, Mr. Lovell; there is the work I mentioned to you, last night, the rare quarto of the *Augsburg Confession*—the foundation at once, and the bulwark of the reformation, drawn up by the learned and venerable Melancthon, defended by the Elector of Saxony and the other valiant hearts who stood up for their faith, even against the front of a powerful and victorious Emperor; and imprinted by the scarcely less venerable and praiseworthy Aldebrand Oldenbuck, my happy progenitor, during the yet more tyrannical attempts of Philip II. to suppress at once, civil and religious liberty. Yes sir, for printing this work, that eminent man was expelled from his ungrateful country, and driven to establish his household gods even here at Monkbarne, among the ruins of Papal superstition and domination. Look upon his venerable effigies, Mr. Lovell, and respect the honorable occupation in which it presents him, as laboring personally at the press, for the diffusion of christian and political knowledge. And see here his favorite motto, expressive of his independence and self-reliance, which scorned to owe anything to patronage that was not earned by desert—expressive also of that firmness of mind and tenacity of purpose, recommended by Horace. He was indeed a man who would have stood firm, had his whole printing-house, presses, fonts, forms of great and small pica, been shivered to pieces around him. Read, I say, his motto, (for each printer had his motto or device, when that illustrious art was first practiced.) My ancestor's was expressed, as you see, in the Teutonic phrase, *Kunst macht Gunst*—that is, skill or prudence in availing ourselves of our natural talents and advantages, will compel favor and patronage, even where it is withheld, from prejudice or ignorance."

As to mechanics, what class of men can boast of greater and more illustrious members than those that have handled the tools of a mechanic? If we look back to the Pagan ages, we have one of the best and wisest men, who was almost a christian, the Prince of Philosophers—"Socrates." It is said that a group, representing the



Graces, which stood on the Acropolis of Athens, was his production. But it is certain, that at the age of thirty, he practised his father's art—statuary. Plato, one of his hearers, said of him:—"When I heard Pericles, or any other great orator, I was entertained and delighted, and I felt that he had spoken well. But no mortal speech has ever excited in my mind such emotions as are kindled by this magician. Whenever I hear him, I am, as it were, charmed and fettered. My heart leaps like an inspired Corybant. My inmost soul is stung by his words as by the bite of a serpent; it is indignant at its own rude and ignoble character. I often weep tears of regret, and think how vain and inglorious is the life I lead. Nor am I the only one that weeps like a child, and despairs of himself; many others are affected in the same way." Socrates was, therefore, mighty in word. Xenophon, his disciple, says of him:—"All the friends of virtue who knew Socrates, are still filled with sorrow for his loss; for they found him the best guide to virtue. He was so pious that he did nothing without the advice and consent of God; so just, that he never injured in any way the happiness of any man; but, on the other hand, did the most important services to those who were connected with him. He was so temperate, that he never preferred the agreeable to the useful. Of so clear a mind, that he never erred in the distinction of good and evil, and all by his own considered strength. He was besides, so able in his definitions and illustrations of these subjects, in his judgment of men, in confuting error and recommending virtue and uprightness, that I esteem him the best and the happiest of mortals." Xenophon again says of him:—"He felt all the dignity of labor, and he was in the habit of insisting mainly on the importance of labor in his lessons. He said, (quoting from the works and days of Hesiod):—*Labour is, no disgrace; Illness is a disgrace.*"

Such was Socrates, the Pagan mechanic. But are there no illustrious mechanics in the christian time? Was not the founder of our religion the son of a carpenter? Did he not handle the tools of a carpenter? We have another illustrious mechanic—the great Apostle Paul, who was a tent maker. Does he not glory in speaking of his vocation, that a man ought to be proud of having a similar? As to examples in modern times, of illustrious mechanics, to name one, would be commencing an endless catalogue. It is useless to endeavor to degrade labor—let such endeavors be made; but so long as Victoria Bridges are in contemplation, so long as such subterranean communications, like the Thames Tunnel, are projected, so long as such gigantic plans as the Menai Bridge are conceived, it will be in vain to attempt to degrade the mechanic. Let others endeavor to elevate themselves to a level with them.

The mechanics of our own city, stimulated by the results of similar institutions elsewhere, entered—it is now more than fifteen years ago—into an association, which was afterwards incorporated by Act of Parliament as the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal. Their efforts, aided by their friends, have been attended with marked success. A spirit of emulation has been created, which cannot be satisfied by less than the attainment of perfection, and will not shrink from competition in any quarter. The manufactures of Canada and the specimens of our workmanship exhibited at the Crystal Palace, did no discredit to our country. They first made Canada known by her industry, as now she has made herself honorable in the eyes of the two greatest nations of the earth by her liberal sympathy with them in their present struggle. At this very hour our products and the labor and skill of our mechanics have found their way to the Grand Exposition at Paris, and Canada has her place there. And can we doubt it, that that place will be one deserving of our rising fame and rapidly increasing importance? To the advantages of this Institute, no citizen of Montreal can be insensible. It is here that the mechanic—master and man—may take lessons for improving himself in skill and workmanship. It is here that he can learn what other countries are doing. It is here that the mind can be cultivated and the intellect exalted, and where he can fit himself for the important duties which he has to perform. We have each of us a deep interest in the success of this Institute. Montreal, with all the advantages which nature has given her—with the numerous railroads and canals which centre in her from all sides—with the enterprize and spirit of her merchants, and with the wealth of her capitalists—above all, requires the support of her intelligent and well-skilled mechanics, to become a manufacturing as well as a commercial city. With such support, and upon such a basis, the prosperity of our city is assured not to be disturbed by passing storms in politics or temporary depression in trade. Whatever tends, then, to improve and to elevate mechanics as a class, directly contributes to our best interests, and urges on all the other classes to make similar efforts towards progress and



advancement. But especially to the young, is this Institute valuable. The apprentice of to-day is destined hereafter to be a master mechanic himself; let him, then, have every means of instruction, and of fitting himself for his high calling in future years. The employers in the city have readily as a body, consented to give up the evenings to those in their employ. Such liberality should be met in a like spirit, for these precious evenings well employed, are able to yield returns abundant beyond all expectation. If the young will but profit by the assistance which our public institutions afford, the character of our city will be exalted and its peace secured, for they will learn how greatly they are interested in maintaining peace and order, and so far from disturbing it themselves, will be its most trusty and powerful defenders.

Let us recollect, that if the age in which we live is distinguished as has been already said, for good, there is much evil abroad. While we are peacefully assembled here, thousands of our brave countrymen and of our allies are struggling to the death in the great war of opinion now raging in the East. A siege, unexampled in history, has been carried on with an unheard-of spirit of obstinacy and determination. The warlike means employed are beyond precedent, and the tons of iron missiles and of powder employed in these terrific operations, passes belief. England's best blood has been freely spilled, and yet we are at the commencement of the contest. The tide of war may roll back upon Europe, and though divided by the ocean from that theatre, communications with the old world are too rapid not to involve us ultimately in the contest. If the powers of Europe be shaken, America cannot be unmoved. In this war of opinion—this contest between the serfdom and tyranny of despotic Russia, and the liberty and civilization of enlightened Europe,—no lover of his race can be apathetic. To the spirit of Association, then, we must look for support in the coming struggle, if we are to join in it—to the spirit of liberty which the free institutions of Britain have ever breathed: that spirit which has always animated and distinguished the British. Mechanic, no less than it has all other of Britain's Sons.

But time admonishes that this Address must be brought to a close.

*Fellow-Citizens.*—We are here assembled to inaugurate the beautiful, spacious, and commodious structure, which rises above us, and to open it for the first time, to the purposes for which it was designed by its munificent builders. The present occasion must be a proud one for the officers and members of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, and crowns all their past labors. In a city, possessed as ours is, of many public buildings, where there is no one like this, constructed at private individual expense, for a public and philanthropic purpose, by one single class of the community? Praised, then, and honored be the men to whose public spirit and patriotism Montreal owes one of her most interesting and beautiful monuments. Long, long may it endure, braving the tempest and the storm, the fire and all other accidents, to serve as a temple of science to the Mechanics of Montreal: and when, like all other earthly tabernacles, this is destroyed, may the Great Architect of the world, the Mighty Maker and Mechanic of the Universe, build with hewn stones the bricks that are fallen down, and when the Sycamores are cut down, may He change them into Cedars.

The lecturer was loudly cheered as he concluded and sat down. He was, also, several times during the delivery of the Address, interrupted with cheering. At the request of the President—

His Worship the Mayor then addressed a few words to the audience. He expressed the deep gratification that he had felt in listening to the eloquent and learned address of Mr. Justice Aylwin. He thought after such an address, it would be quite unnecessary for him to detain the audience with a speech, and he should not attempt to do so. After a few general remarks, congratulating the Mechanics of Montreal on their splendid Hall, he sat down, and was cheered.

Councillor Day said that he, like His Worship, would not make a speech, but he desired to move a resolution to which he felt assured all present would heartily respond; and after a few introductory remarks, he moved that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin for his eloquent address.

The motion was seconded by B. Holmes, Esq., who expressed his admiration for the address and its fitness for the occasion. The resolution was past by acclamation.



# REPORT

## OF ESSAY AND OPENING ADDRESS COMMITTEE

### ON THE MERITS OF THE SEVERAL ESSAYS SUBMITTED.

The Essay and Opening Address Committee have the honor to report that five Essays have been received, carefully read and examined, and after mature consideration of each of them on their respective merits, the Committee have come to the conclusion that the Essay bearing the motto, "*Behold in these what leisure hours demand, amusement and true knowledge,*" which, for the facility of reference, has been numbered *One*, excels in conciseness, originality, and poetic beauty that numbered *Two*, and bearing the motto, "*The love of knowledge is in itself the attainment of knowledge,*" whilst Number *Two* is, in the view of the Committee, equally as perspicuous, systematic and appropriate as Number *One*; and contains, perhaps, some more useful suggestions. Both of them are very creditable productions, and evince much literary proficiency and taste. The writer of Essay Number *Two*, is evidently a scholar, and, in the opinion of the Committee, has had more experience in Essay writing than the writer of Number *One*. The Committee after some hesitation and difficulty in deciding upon the merits of these two excellent Essays, have come to the determination that, all circumstances considered, the prize of Life Membership should be awarded to the writer of Essay Number *One*. But the Committee would at the same time recommend, that, with the permission of the writer, Essay Number *Two* should be published at the expense of the Institute, and be admitted with Number *One* to a permanent place in its records.

Essay No. 3.—Motto, "*Nil Desperandum,*" is a respectable production, written evidently by a novice in Essay writing; and although falling far short of Nos. 1 and 2, as a composition, ought, in the estimation of the Committee, to be placed next after them as a literary effort.

No. 4.—Motto, "*Fortitudine vincit,*"—is the most voluminous and lengthy Essay of the whole, and although not entitled to a place with the three former as a literary production, it affords evidence of an extensive knowledge and large practical experience in the writer as a mechanic; and the Committee cannot, therefore, but commend the writer of it for the amount of useful information he has collected and conveyed in the plain and simple language of the craft.

No. 5.—Motto, "*Labor directed by Industry, the Source of all Wealth and Prosperity,*"—is apparently the unostentatious effort of an uneducated mechanic, who, had he possessed the advantages of the other Essayists, might have produced something worthy of a higher place in the report of the Committee.

The Committee cannot close this report without remarking, that, when it is considered that the competition for the Prize Life Membership, in the present instance, has been restricted to Members of the Institute, who, with some few exceptions, are practical mechanics, it is highly creditable to the Institute, and must prove as gratifying to the Members generally, as it is to the Committee, to perceive that there exists amongst us the amount of literary taste, energy and application displayed on this occasion by the several competitors.

The writer of Essay No. 1, the successful competitor, entitled to the prize, is J. M. KERR, a Member of the Institute.

Essay No. 2, is from the pen of Andrew Thompson Campbell, also a Member of the Institute, who has, since the foregoing was written, consented to allow it to be published and placed on the Records.

JOHN J. DAY, CHAIRMAN.  
A. BERNARD.  
A. MURRAY.  
M. MORRISON.  
D. BROWN.  
G. SMITH.  
H. J. CLARKE.

MONTREAL, 24th May, 1855.



# ESSAY

ON

## THE NATURE AND OBJECTS OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES,

By J. M. KERR,

AWARDED THE PRIZE OF A TICKET OF LIFE-MEMBERSHIP

BY

The Mechanics' Institute of Montreal,

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE  
MECHANICS' HALL IN MAY, 1855.

THE

NATURE AND OBJECTS OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

"Behold in these what leisure hours demand,  
Amusement and true knowledge."—COWPER.

There was a time—not very remote either—when the *utility* of popular education was questioned. Some persons condemned it from, what they doubtless imagined to be, conscientious and praiseworthy motives; others objected to it on the grounds of expediency and conservatism; while many, perhaps the greatest number, thought there should be exclusiveness in it as in various others commodities. But a problem so plain—a matter of such evident interest to society at large—and one directly affecting every principle of morality and religion, could not forever remain in doubt. Truth has always to struggle slowly against ignorance and folly, but in the end it as surely prevails.

So it was in the present instance; ere long, conservatism, expediency, exclusiveness, were swept away, and the *utility* of popular education universally recognized. Among the most marked indications of the *progress* of this age are, the efforts everywhere being made for the elevation of the *masses*—morally, socially and intellectually. The pulpit and the press, the wise and the great, the philanthropic and the good, are all enlisted, all aim at promoting this important object. It forms the leading topic for discussion in the council-chambers of nations; the opinions uttered in its advocacy there, determine more quickly than anything else, the rise or fall of statesmen and politicians. Philosophy does not disdain to stoop and lend its aid in advancing so great a cause; while poesy wreathes around it the brightest charms of feeling and of fancy; indeed, the greatest poet now is the poet of the people.

Better still, the *masses* themselves, are alive to the power of knowledge, the advantages it confers, the necessity for it, to be able to meet the requirements of the times. Men have begun to *think*—to think *deeply* and *earnestly*; and *true thought* gives birth to *action*.

*Voluntary association*, another powerful auxiliary for extending education, is also busily at work. Formerly, great reformations—political, moral or religious—were the result of *individual* effort, but now that the power of *combined effort* has become better understood, it is more widely adopted. Hence numerous Institutions and Associations, based on this principle, have, of late years, sprung into



existence : all of them admirably suited to carry out the ends in view, and deserving the countenance and support of every well regulated community. None of them, it may be added, more so than those which form the subject of the present Essay.

It is a melancholy reflection that Mechanics and Artisans generally, while, of necessity, deprived of many of the enjoyments and privileges of life, are yet exposed to its worst and most pernicious influences.

The truth of this will appear on a moment's consideration. Obligated to toil at all seasons of the year, and during the greater portion of each day, in dingy workshops—living together in the crowded lanes and alleys of smoky cities, their physical energies are weakened, and the best feelings of their natures corrupted or destroyed. For them, too often, the flowers of Spring never blossom—the birds of Summer never warble their sweet song.

Is it surprising then that *drink* is resorted to, that Intemperance, with its multitude of evils, its broken hearts and desolated homes—flourishes in their midst? Can it be wondered at, if their minds become vitiated, their morals degraded, and their habits depraved; or, that the allurements of vice urge them to the committal of crimes of the worst description?

When it is remembered, too, that the influences described, are not confined to *mature age alone*, "the NATURE and OBJECTS of MECHANICS' INSTITUTES," are explained.

For correcting these evils, and placing the means of education within the reach of the young Mechanic, these Institutions are unsurpassed.

Self-supporting economy, marks all their internal arrangements, designed for a strictly *practical* class of men, *whilry* is observable in all their operations. Self-governed, also, they possess advantages in this respect not to be underrated; for none can be better acquainted with the *wants* and *requirements* of the Mechanic, than Mechanics themselves.

Another important *desideratum* in their formation, is the trifling sum required for a Membership, a necessary inducement to those whose means are usually limited to the result of daily labor. Here, then, are places of resort for pleasure and improvement. Within their walls, the leisure of the mechanic, which would probably be whiled listlessly away or squandered in a manner destructive of both body and mind, may be spent with profit and advantage.

Brought in contact, there, with others of his own station in life, friendships are formed, and intercourse established, that cannot fail to be resultive of material benefit. He meets the honest, industrious, and intelligent of his class, and their habits are instilled into his mind. Seeing what is virtuous in others, will stimulate him to the exercise of whatever is good in himself. The evil impulse of his nature will be curbed, its more generous promptings be called into action.

Soon he, who before, may have been morose and unhappy, will become contented and cheerful.—Toil will be no longer a burden; his work will be performed with punctuality, his task done well. Self-respect, energy and stability will be added to his character.

The ills of life may sometimes come, and its sorrows touch his heart, but neither will ever be able to oppress it;—the shadows of care may often darken his path, but will never be able to quench the light of hope. Observing what is noble in others, he will become noble-minded himself. Happiness will follow him to his home, however humble, and adorn it with a beauty not always to be found in the mansions of the wealthy. Happy himself, bound by *new* ties of affection to those dear to him, love will shed its beams around—tranquility and peace will dwell along with him. Though Nature's loveliest scenes may seldom bless his sight—though he cannot roam at pleasure through green fields, or meditate amid solitary woods,—though he may not linger beside the rippling brook and listen to the murmuring of its limpid waters—yet *thought* can create a Nature of its own within his soul, and enrich it with things as full of life and as full of gladness. The smoke of the city, the gloom of the workshop, may dim the rosy hues of morn—but in the silence of night, orbs more beautiful will gaze down from their azure depths and shine with a light serene and holy.

But the nature and objects of Mechanics' Institutes do not stop here; in fact, they only begin. For while the intercourse they thus establish, tends to exalt the Mechanic's social feelings, they likewise open up opportunities for improving the mind, means to obtain knowledge—which would otherwise be beyond his reach.

It is true, *cheapness* is the characteristic of the day, in literature, as in every thing else, and that all classes of society possess surprising advantages in that respect for the acquirement of liberal education: Still, it would be obviously impossible for any one of ordinary means, still less the Mechanic, individually to profit by it to any great extent, without the aid of such associations.

For a sum, less, perhaps, than he would be obliged to expend in the purchase of a single volume, Mechanics' Institutes give to the Mechanic, access to inexhaustible treasures of mental wealth. Newspapers and magazines are there collected together for his use, and containing as they do, much that is useful and interesting, their perusal cannot fail to be highly beneficial. The newspaper press is now the great organ of public opinion, the source when first emanates almost every great undertaking or reform of the age. Boundless and unlimited in its power, yet, under wholesome and necessary restraint, it is the upholder of all that is noble and virtuous, the corrector of every thing demoralizing or vicious. Rulers tremble at its edict if they do wrong, feel secure, if the objects of its commendation. The most profound words of philosophy and wisdom—the most brilliant efforts



of oratory—the sweetest gems of song are to be found in it. Every great discovery in art and science—every improvement in human knowledge and industry—first reaches the public ear through the columns of the press. Its influence on the Mechanic, therefore, cannot be small. But, besides this, it gives him a full insight into his social and political rights; teaches him how to appreciate them properly, and directs him how to exercise them honestly. It shows him, moreover, the efforts that are being made to improve the condition of all classes of Society, and points out the way in which his own energies may best be directed, for the benefit of himself and his fellow-men. He likewise gets a knowledge of what is taking place around him—and by comparing his own habits and pursuits, with those of others, is enabled to avoid whatever is flimsy or corrupt, and copy what is really solid, substantial and good. Thus will the Mechanic's views of men and matter be liberalised and expanded. The Magazine and Review, too, will open their pages for his instruction and amusement, and will exercise a like influence on his heart and mind. These will discuss and explain the inventions or improvements of mechanical skill, and show him how to turn them to practical account himself. They will also tell him of the triumphs of mind and impress him with the vastness of its achievements, of its immortality! *For mind is immortal.* It mounts upward through the realms of space and explores worlds unseen, and it may be, unknown. It plays amid the clouds with lightening, makes it subservient to its will so that words have but to be expressed, and quick as thought they circle the globe. It descends into the caverns of the ocean, and compels even it to yield up its secret and hidden stores. It rends the cold granite from the mountain; touches it, and it becomes a thing full of life, and soul, and beauty. It digs the rough ore out of the earth, and moulds it into a thousand shapes and forms for use, comfort and convenience. It converts the tiny drops of water into a power that alike bids defiance to the wind and the waves.

Still more illustrative of the nature and objects of the Mechanics' Institute and its adaptation for educational purposes, is the Library.

The newspaper and magazine, it may be observed, are generally read in a hasty and cursory manner—hence, the impressions and information they convey might not always be lasting. Not so with books. They are intended to be the companions of the Mechanic's home and fire-side, and who can doubt their influence there?

"Good books," says a modern writer, speaking of them in connection with the subject of education, "have a tendency to exalt the character, and in some measure, to correct and subdue the taste for gross sensuality. They enable the possessor to beguile his leisure moments (and every man has such) in an innocent, at least, if not in a useful manner.

"The poor man who can read, and who possesses a taste for reading, can find entertainment at home without being tempted to repair to the public house for that purpose. His mind can find employment when his body is at rest. There is in the mind of such a man an intellectual spring, urging him to the pursuit of mental good, and if the minds of his family are also a little cultivated, conversation becomes the more interesting, and the sphere of domestic enjoyment enlarged. The calm-satisfaction which books afford, put him into a disposition to relish more exquisitely the tranquil delight of conjugal and parental affection. And as he will be more respectable in the eyes of his family than if he could teach them nothing, he will be naturally induced to cultivate whatever may preserve, and to shun whatever may impair that respect."

Books will do all this for the Mechanic. In the well selected library of such institutions, he will be able to vary his readings, and satisfy his most eager desires in the pursuit of knowledge.

The pages of history will draw aside the veil that curtains the past, and tell him of people who existed, events that happened, in times long gone by. There, too, he may trace the rise and fall of nations, and follow the progress of civilization "down the corridors of time." The origin and growth of all the wonderful inventions which mark the present era will become known to him. He will become familiar with the properties of steam, electricity, heat and light, and their practical use and application for economizing time and labor. Lighter works of literature will afford him pleasure in his hours of relaxation after the toils or fatigues of the day. Poetry will open its illumined tones, and shed a flood of joy and happiness upon his weary soul. The sublime truths of Milton, the laughter-loving wit and fancy of Shakespeare, Cowper's melancholy, Goldsmith's lovely descriptions of nature, cannot be lost upon the Mechanic. And where the homy-handed son of toil, whose whole moral feelings will vibrate better in their tone, after wandering with Burns over the heather-clad mountains; or weeping with the gentle Hood over the "Song of the Shirt?"

There are various other branches of education conferred on the Mechanic by these institutions which he could not otherwise obtain.

Free classes may be formed and lectures given on popular and interesting subjects. Lessons in architecture, sculpture, engraving, drawing and many other useful arts may be procured, at rates sufficiently moderate to be within the reach of all. Architecture can be turned to good use by the workman in the construction of his own dwellings, their proper ventilation and drainage, which will be not only of decided advantage as regards personal comfort, but be, likewise, conducive of health. Drawing and music, also, will tend to refine and to cultivate—to give a taste for the harmonious and the beautiful. For what more pleasant pastime than sketching objects that may strike the fancy, or copying Nature's ever-varying and ever



lovely scenes? What source of purer delight in our happy moments, what sweeter solace in our melancholy hours, than music's heavenly sounds! It lifts our thoughts far above the grovelling things of earth, beyond the touch of care or sorrow, until, angel like, Imagination holds converse with Spirits, and joins in pæans they are chanting continually around the throne of the infinite.

Reference has thus been made to some of the most striking features of Mechanics' Institutes, as it was considered *those features* would best elucidate the present enquiry. Other modes of treating the subject might perhaps have been preferable, but, if the *use* and *fitness* of these associations for the wants of the young Mechanic have been made apparent, our purpose will have been carried out.

In youth the *character* of the man is formed. In almost every instance, it may be observed, the impressions we then receive—be they good or bad—generally affect us throughout the whole course of our later career. How important then is it to educate the labouring classes, particularly the youthful, in a thorough and efficient manner,—to inculcate industrious, virtuous and orderly sentiments in their breasts,—by showing them what industry and perseverance have attained.

Franklin, the printer boy, Watt and Arkwright, Jenner and Davy, only worked their way to immortality after long years of patient labor, long study, and earnest investigation.

*Determined Perseverance* will overcome every difficulty. Bloomfield, the poet, wrote his first poems with his awl on smooth pieces of leather. Hugh Miller worked in a quarry. Farady, now of the highest repute as a chemist and philisopher, was once a poor working carpenter.

In our own day names are not wanting to prove what self-culture, perseverance, and industry can do. George Stephenson labored as a trapper-boy in a coal pit. Elihu Burritt, a benefactor of his age, was a blacksmith. It was while wielding the blacksmith's hammer that he forged in his wondrous brain many of those thoughts teeming with a truth and a beauty *all their own!*

The nature and objects of Mechanics' Institutes are to place such examples as these before the mechanic—to impress him with the conviction that life has a nobler and better end than toil—to improve his moral, to elevate his social and intellectual qualities—to give him a source of amusement and pleasure for his leisure moments—to impart to him instruction that will make him wiser, better and happier in his youth, and be a solace and comfort to him in old age.



# ESSAY

ON

## THE NATURE AND OBJECTS OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES,

BY

ANDREW THOMSON CAMPBELL,

Recommended to be published by the Essay Committee,

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE  
MECHANICS' HALL IN MAY, 1855.

THE

## NATURE AND OBJECTS OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

Industry approached,  
And roused him from his miserable sloth;  
His faculties unfolded; pointed out  
Where lavish Nature the directing hand  
Of Art demanded; showed him how to raise  
His feeble force by the *Mechanic Powers*;  
Set science, wisdom, glory in his view,  
And bade him be the lord of all below.  
THOMSON.

We propose, in a short Essay, to examine the objects and nature of Mechanics' Institutes.

These institutions, which, within the last few years, have spread with such rapidity, have justly attracted the attention and merited the applause of every enlightened patriot. And, having been the instruments in bettering the condition of the laboring classes, and increasing their legitimate influence and power, they are invested with a degree of interest that will well repay an examination of the objects for which they were established, and the organization by which these objects are carried out. And, while we do so, we cannot but observe the rapid increase which has taken place, within the last century, in all those efforts that have for their object the advancement of science, the improvement of education, and the spread of religion. While, year after year, enlightened schemes of philanthropy are conceived, so from time to time are the glorious benefits of their development acknowledged and enjoyed.

It is sometimes thought, that men never before possessed such social advantages as those which surround us in the 19th century; but, while it must be admitted that this age will compare very favorably with some of the past periods of history, it must, at the same time be confessed, that great reformation is still required, and a much happier development of our social system, even yet demanded.

Prominent among the efforts to which we have alluded, stand the numerous plans for the advancement of education, and placing its advantages within the reach of the people. This strikes at the root of all abuses, for it is the necessary beginning of every reform. Before a man can be a good citizen he must be educated; before he can be a good Christian he must be enlightened; in short, the universal spread of knowledge is necessary to the full happiness of



individuals, and the prosperity of nations. It is not too much to say that ignorance is the great curse of the land; crime finds ready victims in those who have never been taught the eternal truths of right and justice; prejudice warps the mind that has never entered the wide field of knowledge; and superstition enthral the soul that dwells in the darkness of ignorance.

But while the importance of education is on all hands allowed, there are few who really understand its true meaning. Though this is too often to be attributed to a misconception of the real nature of education, yet we are willing to suppose that it arises in many instances from the want of proper thought, and we cannot imagine that men would seriously assert, that education should be confined to the few short years of youth which are passed at school. Men generally allow that something more is required; but, in too many cases, it is a mere theoretical opinion—it is not reduced to individual practice. Education has really a very extended meaning. Not confined to any one period of life, it is commenced when the mother gives an impress for good or for evil upon her unconscious child, and it is finished only when life comes to a close. There are men possessed of considerable energy, and still in the vigor of life, who deplore the want of advantages in early years, and the deficiencies of their education in many points which they considered irremediable, when, in reality, they were daily wasting precious hours, which, if properly applied, would have secured for them far greater attainments in any department of knowledge, than they could possibly have acquired under any system of youthful training. It has been truly observed that school is only the elementary branch of education, merely putting us upon the road to knowledge, or furnishing us only with the keys by which we may open its stores. What has school been to most men,—to that great class which forms the sinews of the nation? Little else than the nursery of knowledge. Indeed to most of those who, in a young and busy country, require to go at once into the world to seek a livelihood, school is an establishment in which they have been taught, mechanically, only to read, write, and cipher. And if it is true that this is all the primary education which the rich too often give their sons, what must be the education of Mechanics, who, from the necessities of their position, are obliged to go forth into the world at that age in which the youthful mind is so susceptible of improvement.

It follows from the principles by which our world is governed, that different classes should exist, each of which has its own important part to play in the great social system. In the early ages of the history of England, and under the *regime* of the Feudal Tenure, there existed but two classes in society,—the aristocracy and their vassals. The emancipation of the latter by which they were enabled to carry on trade for themselves, and pursue the various handiworks which the wants of a more refined age demanded, gradually encouraged the formation of a middle class. This class now consists of Capitalists, Tradesmen, Merchants, Professional men, and others—the descendants of the liberated serfs of the middle ages,—and its existence is a proof of the power and influence of education. These three divisions in English Society are not, as foreigners are apt to suppose, fixed and unchangeable. On the contrary, they are continually receiving accessions from each other, and would, if this upward movement were stopped, cease to exist. From the lower, large numbers are continually ascending and taking their places in the middle classes, so that the latter would in a short time dwindle into insignificance, unless recruited from the ranks of those who, in point of fortune, are beneath them.

In the advantages thus enjoyed, and the opportunities of advancement so freely offered, the present social position of the operatives, presents a striking contrast to their condition in past years. While under the Feudal system, the vassal was the property of his Lord, the Mechanic now, in this age of social reforms, has become a thinking member of society, and has learned to take an interest in himself and the world.

In the year 1830, an incident occurred in one of the Midland Counties of England, which will illustrate the feeling of the laboring classes themselves upon the subject of their social condition. A paper was found, one day, affixed to the door of the Parish Church, which from various circumstances, and from intrinsic evidence, was proved to have been the genuine production of a laboring man. In this paper he uttered complaints; but these complaints were not against the Church or the Government, rents, tithes, or the oppression of the rich. The paper set out with saying, that God had intended that there should be both rich and poor in the world, *but not that the poor should be so wretched and degraded as they were at present.* This was a reasonable enough complaint; it breathed no revolutionary spirit—no chartist levelling of all social and political distinctions, nor any insane outcry against the unequal distribution of poverty and wealth, misery and happiness; but it was the testimony of a man who felt the degradation of ignorance, and it was a protest which has since been heard by the nation, and answered. The condition of the poor has, consequently, been vastly improved: they are no longer mere mechanics, but, while they work for others, they think for themselves.

It has been remarked by the most popular of modern writers, that in the higher circles of British Society, the prominent topic of discussion, is the condition of the working classes, and that the conversation almost invariably turns upon this subject. And if this is the result which a shrewd observer has recorded of her acquaintance with the higher phases of English Society, the rise and multiplication of so many plans for the amelioration of the poor is at once explained. And, that the experience of Mrs. Stowe is really indicative of the feeling



among the rich, we can readily believe when we find so many eminent and distinguished men recording their views upon the subject of popular education, and by their active co-operation, promoting the success of Institutions for its advancement. Among our own great men, Henry Brougham stands prominently forward in his earnest and patriotic advocacy of these efforts; and in France, M. Dupin has been a great benefactor to his countrymen, by introducing among them a knowledge of mechanical science, and instructing and liberalising their minds, with regard to the scientific improvements of other nations. M. Dupin in a lecture before the "Conservatoire des Arts et Metier" reasons strongly in favor of instructing the industrious portion of society, and uses the following striking language:—

"I will tell those men who see nothing but mere machines in the laborious classes, that I know a machine more powerful than that of Watt—more ingenious than that of Arkwright, and greatly more susceptible of improvement. The whole universe does not contain 20,000 of Watt's machines, nor 10,000 of those of Arkwright; but the kind of machine to which I allude is multiplied on the face of the Globe a thousand million of times. The steam engines of the whole world do not represent a force greater than that of four hundred thousand horses; and I know one which represents the force of one hundred millions of horses! What then is this machine? Must I mention it in adopting the degrading language of some persons?—It is man!"

Now as man was placed in his present sphere for education and improvement, the reasonableness of affording this amelioration to such a large proportion of the race, can of course be proved on high grounds; but, even to come down to political expediency, it is equally defensible. The artizans and workmen of a country, constitute its chief strength, for at the same time that they add to its wealth, do they also increase its power. It has been asserted that England has gained all her victories by her gold; but, admitting that her triumphs were obtained by subsidising other powers, how did England acquire this mighty wealth? She did not extort it from conquered nations, nor has she drawn it from mines of gold or silver. No, the *industry* of her people, and the labor which is its element, are the sources of this wealth. It is therefore an important and cheering fact that this great class of producers, no longer denied those privileges which experience has shown it can enjoy so well, is inspired with a new life and vitality, and its members despising a life of ignorance and vice, earnestly take hold of the opportunities afforded for remedying those deficiencies in youthful training, necessitated by their position in early life.

As from the condition of serfs or machines, knowledge has rescued the working classes, and made them what they are, so if they are to rise yet higher in the scale of social beings, education must be the grand lever by which this is to be accomplished. Education can alone succeed, while all the ingenuity of the politician will fail to devise some parchment scheme to effect such a mighty social reform. For it must be borne in mind that knowledge does not merely create a relish for intellectual recreation, or work poetical reformations in the field of literature; there is yet a more real and substantial reform which it accomplishes in the improvement of the *moral and physical* condition of man. That the moral condition of a people exists only in proportion with their intellectual advancement, is a truth attested by the history of many a people in our own day. Ignorance, superstition and vice are always found associated, and, where the former is in the ascendant, the historian will have a dark and revolting tale to disclose.

That education improves the *physical* condition of man, is a fact equally incontestible. "It is," says Professor Simpson, "by operating on the moral and intellectual man, that the only steady and permanent provision is made for his physical wants. The only true channel of physical comfort will be found in cultivated intellectual and moral powers. Besides attaining the self denying, upright and industrious habits which live in the very atmosphere of an improved morality, an enlightened intellect looks before and after, observes relations, calculates consequences, and according to the nature of things, avoids evil, and secures good. But this is not all; it is the humblest office of an elevated moral and intellectual character to improve the physical condition; when it has established bodily comfort, and a reasonable leisure from reasonable toil, it is in itself a positive good, a source of direct enjoyment, far above the richest material possessions." To which we may add, that, as the physical condition of man is improved by intellectual energy, so is happiness increased, as a necessary consequence.

But, when the education of the poor was first attempted, many who dreaded the effects of the diffusion of knowledge among the masses, offered great opposition. They declared that it would upset the existing order of things, so that the servants would know more than their masters. To which it was at once answered that as a great and radical change in the existing state of things was certainly required, so this of all things was the means best calculated to accomplish it, and no doubt, if the masters chose to stand still, and failed to increase their knowledge in the same proportion as the workmen added to theirs, they would very likely, in this great race, be left far behind. But what then? Many of the former dependants would take the places of the masters and prove better and more enlightened employers.

The time however has gone by when this policy can any longer be a matter of doubt; and experience has proved that the great power of a nation consists in the intellectual energy of its people.



And so plain has this been made by the experience of fifty years, that we wonder at the blindness and short sighted policy which should have shut out the light of knowledge so long from the masses, and this, while the community daily witnessed the crimes and outrages which ignorance, superstition and fanaticism prompted the unenlightened to commit. One of the first efforts the philanthropists who advocated universal education had to make, was the removal of that superstitious dread of the introduction of machinery, which seized the working classes, and which drove them to such excesses. For a long time did these enlightend men battle with this fanaticism, till their repeated efforts, and the good effects that speedily followed the introduction of their principles gradually brought the operatives to their senses, and led them to see how it is that machinery by enriching the masters, improves the condition of the operatives.

"Whilst I remind you," said Dr. Birkbeck, in an address to a Mechanics' Institute, "that the illustrious Bacon long ago maintained that *knowledge is power*, I may apprise you that it has since his time, been established that knowledge is wealth—is comfort—is security—is enjoyment—is happiness. It has been found so completely to mingle with human affairs, that it renders social life more endearing; has given to morality more uprightness, and politically has produced more consistent obedience,—it takes from adversity some of its bitterness, and enlarges the sphere, as well as augments the sweetness of every laudable gratification; and last, unquestionably one of its highest influences, it becomes at once an avenue and a guide to that temple which is not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

From what has been advanced, may be gathered the fundamental principles upon which Mechanics' Institutes have been established. To borrow the forcible language of the French Philosopher, before quoted, "man is a machine more powerful than that of Watt, and greatly more susceptible of improvement,"—and the great object of these Institutions, which form the present theme, is to foster and increase this susceptibility of improvement. The original object of Mechanics' Institutes was, to instruct the Mechanic in the science of his calling. A machinist was to be taught the great principles of Mechanics—the laws of force and the properties of bodies; the painter and dyer, the elements of chemical science; the builder, the rules of Mathematics. It was intended to make the artizans better acquainted with the principles of the several arts which they practice;—to think while they toil;—to present in the most attractive forms the principles of science from every source; and to put them in possession of every theory which might tend to assist them in practice. It was argued that industry and perseverance were not enough, even ability was not sufficient. But to that industry and ability, there required to be added skill and knowledge—that skill which is founded on experience, and that knowledge which constitutes power. For the purpose of acquiring and extending both, these institutions were established. The original design of Dr. Birkbeck, the founder of Mechanics' Institutes, was to deliver a course of lectures to mechanics on the mechanical properties of solid and fluid bodies, abounding with experiments, and, by their simplicity and familiarity of illustration, calculated to attract and instruct his hearers. These lectures he delivered solely to Mechanics; men whose situation in early life had prevented the possibility of their acquiring the smallest particle of scientific knowledge. The objects which Dr. Birkbeck had in view in delivering these lectures was to teach the various improvements which science and learning continually make applicable to arts and manufactures; besides making the Mechanic at once a happier man, and a better workman. He had every reason to expect that some knowledge of the first principles of the great laws of mechanics would awaken a new interest in the mind of the workman, and that, in the relaxation which follows toil, some philosophical idea might yield that real enjoyment which scenes of idleness or dissipation cannot afford. And again, the knowledge of the principles upon which a machine is constructed, must make the mechanic infinitely better fitted to form it, than if in total ignorance of its mechanism or uses, he worked according to superior directions or prescribed plans. And it can readily be conceived, that the gratification arising from this knowledge, would enable the workman to undertake his task with far greater alacrity, and perform it with much more expedition.

Gradually; however, as the number of these Institutions increased, their objects became enlarged, until we find the field which they now occupy much more extensive, and their operations embracing a far greater scope, than at their first formation. The Preamble of the Montreal Mechanics' Institute declares the objects of the Association to be, the formation of a Library and Reading Room, and the organization of a system of instruction, by means of lectures and classes, for the use and benefit of those who may become members; and it further recites, that the Association was originally formed in the year 1828, with the object of affording instruction to its members in the principles of the Arts, and in the various branches of science and *useful knowledge*, necessary or *advantageous* to pursuits in life. So that to Dr. Birkbeck's design of teaching the principles of the Arts, there have been added, opportunities of acquiring "useful knowledge advantageous to pursuits in life." The unfolding of the principles of Mechanics has ceased to be the exclusive object of these Associations, and consequently, men not connected at all with the mechanical Arts, form a large class of the members. Adopting the principles laid down at the commencement of this Essay, they have become schools in which a man may continue his education after having entered the business of life. And, recognising the great truth that education ought never to cease, and that a man can never be too



old to learn, they offer to those who in their youth had to contend with difficulties, an opportunity of improvement; at the same time that they afford a means of healthful intellectual enjoyment. Thus their present objects may be said to be two fold. On the one hand they are intended by means of classes and lectures to give the members an acquaintance with the first principles in literary and scientific knowledge; and on the other, by the possession of news-rooms and libraries, they are designed to supply the lighter literature of the Press, as well as the standard works on every instructive subject. By this enlarged design they have extended their benefits to a class of citizens which under the original plan would have been prevented from participation in them. So long as the intention was to benefit Mechanics only, it is evident that their constitution and practical working, referring wholly to the requirements of that particular class, would offer few inducements to others; but as at present constituted, men engaged in any trade or calling whatever, can receive from them both pleasure and benefit.

We turn now to the *nature* of Mechanics' Institutes, and under this division will be explained their organization and practical working. Besides being interesting, it will tend to throw light upon this head, if we sketch in a brief manner the history and the gradual progress of these Institutions. When the education of the working classes was first mooted, various were the plans proposed to carry it out. The publication of cheap and instructive books was, perhaps, the first effort to disseminate knowledge. This was immediately followed by the formation of public Libraries which contributed largely to the great end. Popular lectures on scientific subjects were next introduced, and though the scheme of teaching science to untutored mechanics was at first ridiculed as visionary, the lectures met with great success, and were the direct means of the formation of Mechanics' Institutes. Dr. Birkbeck will be remembered in England by countless multitudes, and his name associated with the greatest benefactors of mankind, for it was to his benevolence and enlightened philanthropy that we are indebted for these Institutions. In the year 1800—just 54 years ago,—Dr. Birkbeck, then a Professor in the Andersonian Institute of Glasgow, formed the resolution of delivering a course of scientific Lectures for the instruction of the humble and unenlightened operatives of that City.

The circumstances which gave rise to the formation and accomplishment of a plan so obviously calculated to confer upon society such inestimable benefits, were interesting and peculiar. To illustrate a course of lectures which Dr. Birkbeck had commenced at the Andersonian Institute, it was necessary to have several pieces of apparatus which the Institute did not possess. Application was therefore made to the most competent Mechanics of Glasgow, and, under the supervision of the Doctor, the different pieces of Mechanism were constructed. It was whilst directing the construction of the model of a centrifugal pump, and whilst explaining its structure and objects to a knot of artizans, that the idea of delivering a course of gratuitous lectures for the scientific instruction of the Glasgow Mechanics first entered his mind. The introductory lecture of the course was delivered to 75 Mechanics, and at the third, the number was augmented to 500. From this "class" sprang the "Glasgow Mechanics' Institute"—the first Association of the kind ever formed in Great Britain. In the same year Dr. Birkbeck obtained the establishment of a similar society in London, and had the honor of being elected its first President.

It was not until the benefits of the Glasgow Mechanics' Institute became apparent, and its success placed beyond a doubt, that similar Associations were organized; but when they did begin to multiply throughout the empire, the increase was rapid and encouraging. Though the objects which they all had in view were the same, the constitution of the different societies were various. The plan most generally adopted was the formation of an Association under the patronage of scientific or public spirited men, whose influence and counsel would greatly promote its success. But this was only in conjunction with directors chosen from the common class of members, in whose hands of course much of the practical management was placed. Regular courses of Lectures were delivered by the most scientific men, who reduced their subjects to the comprehension of their hearers by simple illustrations and practical experiments. But there were a few Institutions of a more homely nature, in which the Mechanics themselves were their own Directors and Instructors.

In examining the practical working of the Institutions, we must confine our attention to those means which are employed in the present day for the furtherance of their objects. It was before said, that the plan of their practical organization was at first very contracted; and was only by degrees enlarged and improved. As it will be unnecessary and impossible in the present Essay to trace these changes, we will notice, in the order in which they are placed, the various departments which, united, form a Mechanics' Institute, *viz.* Lectures, Library, Classes, Museum, and Reading Room.

#### 1st.—LECTURES.

As the first intention of the founder of these Institutions, was merely to deliver a course of scientific lectures to artizans, and as instruction by the human voice is superior to all other modes, we assign the first place in importance to this department. But when we use the word *Lectures*, it must not be understood to mean a "winter's course" of Lectures upon various, and often uninteresting subjects, forming a heterogeneous mass, which if worth remembering must be forgotten; but which from the hasty and popular style of the composition, would do little good if that feat in Mnemotechny were pos-



sible. The Lectures which should be delivered to these and kindred Institutions must be of a regular, systematic, and instructive kind. They must commence at the first principles of the subject, and proceed by regular stages up to its higher truths. They should also embrace a great variety of subjects, not only to meet the diversity in the requirements of the members, but to afford to those who are not immediately and practically interested, information and instruction. As it is now no longer doubted that science can be taught in a popular way, and simplified to the understanding of the most humble Mechanic, we would most urgently press the importance of a regular course of scientific Lectures. In all the principal Institutions in England these Lectures are regarded as the best medium of instruction, and so careful are the Directors that the legitimate effect may follow, that the highest scientific talent is engaged to unfold the wonders of science in a simple and practical manner. We do not enter upon the argument, but simply ask, can their importance be overlooked, or their benefits overestimated?

#### 2nd.—LIBRARY.

What has been hitherto said may be applicable to all countries, but, in urging the importance of Libraries, reference is more particularly made to a young and busy Colony. While countries that have had a national existence for centuries can boast of many magnificent public Libraries, in course of collection for hundreds of years, a young country, whose history commenced but yesterday, possesses no such rich storehouses of literature. Certainly Canada can boast of no public Library. Whether this arises from the insufficiency of the means at the disposal of public Corporations, or from apathy as to their importance, we know not, but it throws a greater responsibility upon private Institutions to supply the deficiency as much as possible. Although books are in this Country so much less expensive than in England, still they are beyond the reach of the Mechanic. He certainly by industry and economy may in time be able to collect a small Library of useful books, but, under the most favorable circumstances, his collection must be limited. By becoming a member of an Institute he at once has immediate access to thousands of volumes,—many of them valuable and expensive standard works, and all of them instructive or entertaining. The pleasure in the mere possession of books, is with some men as great as the enjoyment of their contents; but while there is something much more satisfactory in being the possessor of the books we read, there is little real difference when we reflect that the only object of having a book, is to learn its contents.

The Libraries of Mechanics' Institutes generally consist of books on every subject, and embrace as wide and liberal selection as the diversity in the opinions and feelings of the members demand. But, while it is proper that there should be this variety, the objects of the Association must not be forgotten. It must be steadily borne in mind that the great design is instruction, and that the pleasures of intellectual recreation must be subservient to it. Viewed in this light, a judicious selection is indispensable, and upon those, under whose supervision the Library is commenced or enlarged, there rests a grave responsibility.

#### 3rd.—CLASSES.

In most of the Institutions in England, instruction is imparted in the Languages, Mathematics, or the Fine Arts, by means of evening classes, sometimes these classes are free, and sometimes a trifling price of admission is charged; but in all cases they are accessible to every member. These classes may be formed for instruction in any branch, and in fact have assumed the character of adult schools. To them, the Institutes principally owe their character of being promoters of adult education, and to the adoption of them, much of their success has been immediately attributable.

#### 4th.—MUSEUM.

The Museum is perhaps the most difficult department to form, but is not the less important. No Institute of any standing should be without at least the nucleus of one. Besides being the depositaries of rare and interesting articles and relics, they should contain the history of the Geology, Mineralogy and Ornithology of the country. Most of the Institutes in Great Britain possess very valuable Museums, which, containing complete Mechanical and Chemical apparatus, contribute to the illustration of the Lectures.

#### 5th.—READING ROOM.

We mention the Reading Room last, because we really regard it as less important than any other department. There is certainly information to be obtained from Newspapers, and it may be proper to be kept informed of what is passing in the world; yet, while the information which they afford is any thing but reliable, they engender a taste for light and desultory reading, and create a dislike to books of a more solid and substantial character. It has often been alleged in depreciation of the British people, that few of them ever see a Newspaper. Mrs. Stowe found this to be true, but, at the same time, she has recorded the fact that, while the peasantry of Scotland "took no paper," they yet were well read in the standard literature of the day. A very clever author has said that assuredly he who does honestly want to gain knowledge, will not go to a Newspaper to look for it.

And lastly as a record of their doings and a means of letting their benefits be known, some Institutes publish a weekly Magazine or Register. Every party has its organ in the Press—every set of opinions is duly supported by an Advocate, and why should not Mechanics' Institutes have a voice to speak for them, to sound their praises and advocate their interests?

And now in view of the objects which we have described, how fitted are the means employed to produce the required effects. To



a large class of our fellow beings are denied the pleasures of intellectual recreation. For them in vain has an all-wise Creator connected infinite enjoyment with the contemplation of his mighty works. Their eyes are shut to the wonders of creation; the starry firmament—a world of contemplation—is a great and dark mystery; the rain cloud and the dew drop tell them not of that Maker's beneficence: the book of nature is conceived in an unknown tongue; toil,— ceaseless, grovelling toil,— finds only recreation in idleness and vice. What a field is here open to receive the seeds of knowledge?

But we rejoice that this field has been cultivated; already we see the fruits in the increased intelligence which this class now possesses, and the greater influence which it now wields; and, may we not hope, in the greater susceptibility of receiving the seeds of eternal truth. Already it has become aware of its own proper importance; already does it take an interest in the world's doings; already does it grasp the mysteries of science, and revel in the enjoyment of intellectual recreation.

And we rejoice to say, the Institutions, the objects of which we have described, and the cause of which we have advocated, have been the mighty agency in effecting much of these splendid results. It were vain, however, to suppose they can give a perfect education, for there are two things which, from necessity, they cannot embrace. They cannot teach us our duties as men and citizens in the higher sense of the term, but, in the language of Dr. Arnold, "they may furnish us with some Knowledge, that may be of use to us in our several callings, and they may undoubtedly give us some innocent and wholesome recreation. They may do more than this, however, if they encourage in us habits of unimpassioned enquiry; if they make us hold commune with our minds, and teach us to feel the difference between understanding a subject and not understanding it. In this manner they may prepare us for the study of those higher matters on which they themselves do not enter; they may make us feel our ignorance where we are ignorant, and the vagueness of our notions where they are vague: they may thus preserve us from presumption on the one hand, and yet, by stimulating the desire of knowledge, may save us from an idolatrous leaning upon human authority on the other: so helping to cherish a state of mind at once docile and enquiring, which best becomes us both as men and as christians."

Yes, their objects have been so noble—their organization so judicious and practical, that their success has now exceeded the most sanguine expectations of their founders. They have instilled into the minds of a great class, a love for the acquisition of knowledge;— they have awakened new sympathies;—they have induced new aspirations;—they have struck a blow at Vice, and gained a victory for Virtue. And here in Canada, where all is busy industry and toil, where there is little repose from the worrying cares of business, and

where we are steeped in the grosser cares of the world, how refreshing to behold these temples of science and instruction raising their proud spires throughout the land, and sending forth a sweet smelling incense.

FINIS.



WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1855.

**INAUGURATION OF THE NEW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—The City of Montreal may in many respects feel proud at the completion and opening of this new building. Situated in Great St. James Street, it is handsome, large, and of cut stone, and is a creditable specimen of street architecture. It is in every way well fitted for its object. The entrance is spacious; the Committee, Library, and Reading Rooms are commodious, and the Lecture Room is calculated to seat 800 persons. This is lofty and handsome; well ventilated and lit; and, what is of much importance, sound is clearly and distinctly heard in it.

On the occasion of the inauguration this room was tastefully draped with flags, and conspicuous among these we noticed those of the allies. The room was also ornamented with various devices, and prominent among these were the words: "To make the Man a better Mechanic; the Mechanic a better Man." The Independent Canadian Band played some beautiful airs during the evening.

Some 500 or 600 ladies and gentlemen gathered to hear the Inaugural Address of the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin. Among this audience were many persons of the first standing in the city; we should, however, have preferred to see more Mechanics present. There were a great many; but we would rather have seen a crowd on such an occasion.

Some time after eight o'clock the President and Committee, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin and the Mayor, took their seats on the platform, and they were received with cheers.

Mr. H. Bulmer, the President, rose and briefly stated the object for which they had met. He said the occasion was very gratifying to every mechanic in Montreal. He particularly expressed his own deep gratification at the success that had accompanied their efforts to erect that splendid building, and concluded by introducing the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin.

The lecturer was loudly cheered as he concluded and sat down. He was also several times during the delivery of the address interrupted with cheering. At the request of the President—

His Worship the Mayor then addressed a few words to the audience. He expressed the deep gratification that he had felt in listening to the eloquent and learned address of Mr. Justice Aylwin. He thought after such an address it would be quite unnecessary for him to detain the audience with a speech, and he should not attempt to do so. After a few general remarks, congratulating the Mechanics of Montreal on their splendid Hall, he sat down, and was cheered.

Councillor Day said that he, like His Worship, would not make a speech, but he desired to move a resolution to which he felt assured all present would heartily respond; and after a few introductory remarks, he moved that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Hon. Mr. Justice Aylwin for his eloquent address.

The motion was seconded by B. Holmes, Esq., who expressed his admiration for the address and its fitness for the occasion. The resolution was past by acclamation. The audience then left, and many of them paused in the street to admire the transparencies in front of the building.

**FINANCES.**

Many of our readers will be interested to know something of the Finances connected with this splendid building. The total cost, including the ground, is about £8,000. Of this amount, £3,250 has been received from voluntary contributions, and a further sum of nearly £600, already subscribed, remains to be collected. To pay the interest of the debt, the rents from the two splendid shops in Great St. James Street will suffice, and place the Institute at a merely nominal rent for its rooms. Besides, a large revenue is expected to arise from letting the magnificent lecture hall for concerts, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1855.

**THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.**—This is the Queen's Birthday; and Her Majesty is 36 years old. We hold the day in honor as well from deep esteem for her personally as because she is the Queen of the British empire; and in manifesting loyalty and respect for her we do so for the constitution and the laws. We have already indicated some of the modes in which the day is to be kept. The Post Office will be closed in the afternoon, and all the afternoon mails despatched in the morning.

**THE RESPECTABILITIES AND MECHANICAL EDUCATION.**—Mr. Justice Aylwin was at much pains, in his address before the Mechanics' Institute, to vindicate the claims of the Mechanic to a respectable position in society; and we agree with his audience in thinking that he succeeded in his task. In fact, the title of the Mechanic to that position is not disputed now, except by parvenue fools; a class with whom all countries are more or less infested. Judge Aylwin alluded to many distinguished men who had been Mechanics. We are sure, if time had permitted him, he would also have dilated on mechanical genius, and its own claims to high respect. It is much for the Mechanics as a class, to say that the Philosopher Socrates, the Apostle Paul, and even Christ himself, sprang from among them; but it may be claimed that the mind required to invent or make a machine, is at least of as high an order as that required to write or read a book; and indeed sometimes higher, and far more useful. Judge Aylwin commenced his address by allusion to the printing press. To go no farther than our own office, take the cylinder press on which this journal is printed. It is a machine of nice construction, and cost many an hour of intense thought to contrive and make. Driven by the power of steam, it economises human labor, and rapidly multiplies copies of the paper. Is the skill or the mind required for making such a machine not of high order? And is it not entitled to respect, often ignorantly not accorded to it? Go to the Exhibition now open at the Mechanics' Institute, and carefully examine the machines or other articles there displayed, and say if they do not manifest skill and genius to be admired? It is true all mechanics are not inventors; but neither do all book writers deal in original ideas, to say nothing of book readers. We have no wish to carry this comparison further, or to attempt to decide whether knowledge of books or mechanics requires the more thought, or is the more useful to mankind, or the more to be admired. It is enough to establish rivalry on the part of mechanical skill, which has not always been admitted. Macaulay, a good Greek scholar, went so far in one of his essays as to accuse Dr. Johnson of stupidity, because he spoke slightly of the intelligence and education of the Athenians from their having few or no books. Macaulay shewed that if books were not common in Athens, other means of education were, and among these he pointed out those works of art which have become immortal. Nobody could look on these and study them, and not become more educated and refined. The question of education is complex, and doctors of various sorts, as well as the world at large, are far from being agreed upon it. Some hold education is one thing, some another; and it is certain the human mind is only capable of receiving a certain number of ideas. No one mind can grasp everything. If Mezzofanti mastered fifty or sixty of the tongues, he did not know them all, nor yet all that could be taught by one of them, or all of record in the books of one of them. It might be invidious to inquire whether he possessed a greater grasp of mind than that displayed in the mechanism of the cylinder printing press. In the sciences, what mind has exhausted one branch?—As no man can know everything, he is not wise who does not look on his neighbour's knowledge with respect, although it is not book knowledge, but that of the Mechanic.

We rejoice at the completion of the new Mechanics' Hall in Great St. James Street. It does honor, as we have before said, to the class of mechanics. Its objects are calculated "to make the Man a better Mechanic; the Mechanic a better Man." The Association, necessary for the existence of such an institution, must of itself do much to promote such a result. Apart from the union which gives strength and *esprit de corps*, it is an old maxim that, like as iron sharpeneth iron, a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. We believe that in this Institution young mechanics may organize classes for any particular study,—in literature, arts, or sciences. The Institution will also supply them books and lectures, newspapers and periodicals, which will put within their reach information that it has now become a sort of necessity to know, and which must be pursued apart from one's particular avocation. The whole of this is calculated to advance the position of the Mechanics as citizens, and place them beyond the reach of being used as instruments in the hands of impudent and noisy demagogues; besides, and what is of vast importance, affording the best guarantee for the permanence and well-working of our free institutions.

It is not, however, enough to assert that intellect is manifested in the handiwork of the mechanic, or that this Institution is calculated to promote its cultivation. The Institution is capable of doing much, but to reap all the benefits that may be derived from it, earnestness and perseverance are necessary. Much has already been done, but there is yet a ripe field to reap. The success of the past is a guarantee for the future.



The Soiree at the Mechanics' Institute came off Thursday evening with great eclat. The splendid Hall of the Institute was crowded to excess by eight o'clock, and Hardie's Brass Band and the Independent Canadian Band discoursed some sweet music. At about a quarter past 8 o'clock the chair was taken by the President, Henry Bulmer, Esq., who made a few appropriate remarks, and then called upon the Honorable John Young to address the assembly. The Honorable gentleman said:

He was taken a little by surprise in being called on so early in the evening, for he had understood that several gentlemen were to precede him. To express his ideas in words, was to him, one of the greatest difficulties he had to meet, and he never made the attempt without extreme reluctance. As a citizen of Montreal he was proud of this Hall, for it furnished unmistakable evidence of the energy and self-reliance of the Mechanics of Montreal—and although they must have encountered difficulties up to this period, yet the same spirit which has carried them through so far, will successfully surmount and overcome all obstacles in the future. The President had glanced at the position of the Institute. This was a most important point. He understood that the building and land will cost about £8,000—of this amount about £3250 had been paid, leaving in round numbers £5000 yet due, or an annual interest of 300. To meet this the shops in the basement are rented for about £300. Now, although the annual receipts from Members may be sufficient to keep the Institute out of debt—still such an institution can never be powerful for good without ample funds, and he for one would like to see the debt paid off, so that the rent of the shops, instead of being taken to pay interest, should be kept inviolate for the purpose of an annual investment in books for the library, and for all the necessary scientific instruments which it will be requisite to obtain before the members and apprentices can receive the full benefit from their evening classes. He (Mr Young) would therefore urge upon the friends of this institution the absolute necessity of striving in every possible way to free the institute from debt. He regretted to find that the result of the bazaar will not be what was expected, but it must be borne in mind that times are very hard, and that trade is not flourishing; but he was quite sure, that when the advantages of this institute come to be well understood, that on some future day another effort will be more successful, and that ladies in greater numbers will aid them, and that gentlemen will be more free purchasers. There was no competing the advantages of the Mechanics' Institute. Look at the numbers of young lads, who became apprentices in the various mechanical employments. Many of these are poor, to whom it is almost impossible for their parents to give a proper education. Well, in such an institute as this thirty or forty may join together, and for a comparatively small sum they can engage a competent teacher to learn drawing, mathematics, French, or any other branch, writing, English, or arithmetic; and in the evenings during the period of their apprenticeship a good education may be secured, a taste for literature obtained. To succeed in this the institute should aid liberally, and without ample funds they cannot do so. The day has gone by when any kind of labor is looked down upon. All men are laborers—the clergyman, lawyer, merchant, and blacksmith are all equal; each one laborers in his particular department. Mere rank or title is comparatively nothing; mind and worth stand foremost, and although a man may come out of the work shop covered with dust and dirt, all that will wash off, and, as Burns says:

"The ruck is but the guinea's stamp,  
The ryan 's the gold for a' that."

There is another reason why the inhabitants of Montreal should assist this Institute. It seemed to him that from the vast water power at or near the city,—with a fall of 46 feet in nine miles on the St. Lawrence, say, with a fall in one place of 24 feet in less than 3 miles, and the St. Lawrence the feeder,—this city most ultimately become a great seat for manufacturing. He did not mean to say that manufacturing was the great interest in this country. Both manufacturing and commerce must give place to Agriculture. That was the great interest,—the great central pillar; but neither could flourish alone; the prosperity of all three was necessary for the greatest development of any one. In Montreal we had to depend on ourselves. He believed this to be a great natural centre of the commerce of the country, and, although this was no place to talk politics, yet he would say that the Government of this country, at present, were not acting justly to the mercantile interests, and were doing their best to drive commerce from Lower Canada. He, however, did not despair, and he trusted that the times would change. He did not doubt that the merchants of Montreal, who had already assisted the members of the Institute in the erection of their buildings, would further assist in aiding them to relieve them from debt.

At the close of the Hon. Mr. Young's speech, a Glee "The Canadian Boat Song" was admirably sung by Messrs Anderson, Johns, and Dow, accompanied on the Piano Forte by Mr. Millard; after which, Hardie's Band having played a most beautiful air, the President rose and briefly stated that it had been determined on by the general Committee of the Institute amongst the other arrangements made a month or two ago for the celebration of the opening of the new Hall that a prize of life-membership should be offered for the best Essay on the nature and objects of Mechanics' Institutes; and that a Committee of members had been appointed to decide upon the merits of the Essays sent in, whose Report he would request the John J. Day, Esq., the Chairman of the Essay Committee to read. Mr. Day then advanced to the front of the platform and said that it devolved upon him to discharge a two-fold duty—to appear before them not merely as Chairman of the Essay Committee, but also as the apologist for His Worship the Mayor, who he regretted to say was unable to appear before them that evening, to deliver the eloquent speech he had promised them, in consequence of a telegraphic communication received from Quebec that afternoon, requiring his immediate presence there on business of urgent importance to the interest of this city. The speaker remarked that deeply interested as were the mechanics' of Montreal in the welfare of the city of Montreal, the statement made of the cause of the absence of his Worship would, he was sure, be received as a sufficient apology. Mr. Day added that perhaps, were his Worship present to speak for himself, he would notice in glowing language that magnificent edifice in which they were now assembled—point to the room they now occupied as the Mechanic's future "Academic Hall," and to those below as his "Colleges of Learning," and remark that there, in that durable structure the youthful mechanic would hereafter be able to lay by those stores of knowledge which would secure for him future fame, and enable him to attain the only true and recognized aristocracy of the age,—that aristocracy of mind whose gigantic power has already spanned the Menai Straits and will soon bridge the mighty St. Lawrence, and whose influence has brought into subjection the very lightnings of Heaven and rendered them by the ingenuity of man subservient to his purposes and will. Mr. Day then remarked that it next devolved upon him as Chairman of the Essay Committee, unfit and unworthy though he was to fill so honorable a position, to communicate the decision of the Committee upon the Essays sent in for competition. He said the task had been delicate and difficult, but he trusted that it would be believed that the Committee had performed their arduous duty without favor or partiality. But as the audience were awaiting for something more attractive than appeared from him, and as they all, or at least many of them, knew him to be a man of action rather than words, he would proceed to read the report, which he then did in the following words:—

The Essay and Opening Address Committee have been honored to report that five Essays have been received, carefully read and examined, and after mature consideration of each of them on their respective merits, the Committee have come to the conclusion that the Essay bearing the motto, "Behold in these what leisure hours demand, eminent and true knowledge," which, for the facility of reference has been numbered One, excels in conciseness, originality, and poetic beauty that numbered Two, and bearing the motto, "The love of knowledge is in itself the attainment of knowledge," whilst Number Two is, in the view of the Committee, equally as perspicuous, systematic and appropriate as Number One; and contains, perhaps, some more useful suggestions. Both of them are very creditable productions and evince much literary proficiency and taste. The writer of Essay No. 2 is evidently a scholar and, in the opinion of the Committee, has had more experience in Essay writing than the writer of No. 1. The Committee after some hesitation and difficulty in deciding upon the relative merits of these two excellent Essays, have come to the determination that, all circumstances considered, the prize of Life Membership should be awarded to the writer of Essay No. 1. But the Committee would, at the same time recommend that, with the permission of the writer, Essay No. 2, should be published at the expense of the Institute, and be admitted with

former as a literary production, it affords evidence of extensive knowledge and large practical experience in the writer as a mechanic; and the Committee cannot, therefore, but commend the writer of it for the amount of useful information he has collected and conveyed in the plain and simple language of the craft.

No. 5—Motto, "Labour directed by Industry, the Source of all Wealth and Prosperity"—is apparently the unostentatious effort of an uneducated mechanic, who, had he possessed the advantages of some of the other Essayists, might have produced something worthy of a higher place in the report of the Committee.

The Committee cannot close this report without remarking, that when it is considered that the competition for the Prize Life Membership, in the present instance, has been restricted to members of the Institute, who, with some few exceptions, are practical mechanics, it is highly creditable to the Institute, and must prove as gratifying to the members generally, as it is to the Committee to perceive that there exists amongst us the amount of literary taste, energy and application displayed on this occasion by the several competitors.

The writer of Essay No. 1, the successful competitor, entitled to the prize, is J. M. KERR, a member of the Institute.

Essay No. 2 is from the pen of Andrew Thompson Campbell, also a member of the Institute, who has, since the foregoing was written, consented to allow it to be published and placed on the Records.

JOHN J. DAY,  
Chairman;  
A. BERNARD,  
A. MURRAY,  
M. MORRISON,  
D. BROWN,  
G. SMITH,  
H. J. CLARKE.

Montreal, 24th May, 1855.

Having read the report, Mr. Day, added that in all probability had the writer of Essay No. 5 enjoyed in his early days the advantages for the acquisition of knowledge and mental advancement, now offered by this Institution to every young mechanic disposed to become a member of the Institute, that at this time instead of the writer of essay No. 5 being noticed last amongst the competitors for the prize on this occasion, the laurels of the successful competitor might have graced his brow.

Dr. Bernard then, at the request of the President, read the prize Essay, after which the President declared that in accordance with the report of the Committee, the prize of life-membership was awarded to Mr. J. M. Kerr, and that the Essay written by Mr. Andrew T. Campbell, would be published and placed on the records of the Institute.

The Glee Choir then sung "Hark! Apollo strike the Lyre," most admirably, and were followed by a short speech from Henry Lyman, Esq., who, in the course of his remarks, stated that the success of the building of the new hall was in a great measure owing to the energy and perseverance of the President, Mr. Bulmer. This announcement was received with loud cheers.

Mr. Lyman's remarks were followed by the national anthem "God Save the Queen," sung most enchantingly by Mrs. Unsworth, assisted in the chorus by the Glee Choir, many of the audience heartily joining.

The President then intimated that the addresses being over, the Room would be cleared for dancing, which shortly commenced and was kept up until a late hour. We had almost forgotten to mention that some very broad hints were thrown out by one of the speakers to those gentlemen who had not yet patronized the Ladies' Fancy Fair, to the effect that the fair Patronesses having toiled so hard for the interest of the Institute and contributed so largely of their own industry and ingenuity to the tables, that the gentlemen would be thought wanting in gallantry unless they were more liberal in their visits to the Ladies' tables, adding that he trusted the receipts arising from the gentlemen's patronage of the Ladies during the coming Friday and Saturday would help materially towards making up for former deficiency and liquidating the debt that will be incurred in furnishing the hall in the handsome and comfortable style intended.



**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**—*Dr. R. P. Howard's Lecture on Chemistry.*—We have already said that this lecture was able and well adapted to the occasion. We listened to it with much pleasure. The experiments were both interesting and very successful; and, we believe, both delighted and instructed a numerous audience. The lecturer began with oxygen, which is one of the most extensively diffused in nature, forming one-fifth part of the atmosphere, and eight-ninths of the water of the globe. Having stated that it was without color, taste or odor, he observed that its most striking property was combining with burning bodies, whence it was called a supporter of combustion. This was illustrated by plunging a lighted candle into a jar of the gas, when it burned with increased brilliancy; and charcoal previously heated, and then introduced into another jar of the gas, inflamed and was speedily consumed. Even a coil of iron wire, the end of which was heated, when introduced into a vessel of oxygen burned almost as quickly as match-paper, and emitted beautiful scintillations. In none of these instances of combustion, was the burned body destroyed—it had merely united with the oxygen to form a new body, whose weight was precisely the sum of the weights of the body burnt and the oxygen consumed. The union of oxygen with other bodies was not always attended with the evolution of light and heat, for the rusting of iron, and the decay and putrefaction of animal and vegetable matters, was really their oxidation—that is, their union with oxygen; it might be called slow combustion. By the constant operation of this grand natural process, the decay or oxidation of all organized beings after death, their elements resume new forms, in which they again serve as food to a new generation of plants and animals. Death, followed by the dissolution of the dead generations, is the source of life for a new one.

The next gas introduced was hydrogen, which was prepared by decomposing water by pressing through it a current of electricity from a small galvanic battery on the table. Water consists of eight parts of weight of oxygen, and one of hydrogen, or of two parts by volume of hydrogen and one of oxygen; and in these latter proportions were they collected in the tubes placed over the ends of the wires from the battery. This gas was said to be fifteen times lighter than air and the lightest body in nature. It was shown to be an inflammable gas, but a non-supporter of combustion, by inverting a jar of the gas over a little candle; the gas took fire and burned away gradually, but the candle went out. To show the influence of a due supply of air on a burning body, a second jar of the gas was turned mouth upwards, so that the air might freely enter it. Now, when the hydrogen was ignited it was consumed with great rapidity. Indeed, when the gas was mixed in certain proportions with oxygen instead of air, and a match applied, the gas was instantly consumed, and was attended with a report as loud as that of a pistol. A jet of hydrogen was next burned within long tubes of glass, brass and other materials, when long and loud musical notes were produced, owing to a rapid series of explosions, caused by the partial extinction and rekindling of the flame by the current of air ascending in the tube. The consumption of hydrogen in all these experiments was attended with the formation of the vapour of water. The lecturer observed that there were other supporters of combustion than oxygen; one of the most remarkable of these was chlorine, which was a greenish yellow gas with an oppressive odour, and having a specific gravity two and a-half times as great as the air. To prove its gravity and its power of sustaining combustion, the gas was poured from one jar into another containing a lighted candle, which when surrounded by the gas continued to burn with, however, a dull red light and much smoke. A slip of paper dipped into turpentine and then plunged into a bottle of chlorine, burst spontaneously into flame, as did also a piece of phosphorus. Owing to the powerful affinity existing between this gas and metals, many of these would ignite when immersed in the gas, and accordingly some slips of Dutch gold leaf having been introduced into the gas took fire and burnt as readily as paper.

The importance of chlorine as a disinfecting and bleaching agent was now alluded to, and the latter property, illustrated by placing a bunch of flowers in a jar of the gas, which converted their rich hues into a sickly white in a few minutes.

The attention of the audience was now directed to the fact, that the three gases which had been examined were elements or simple bodies, of which there were only some 64 in nature. What a subject for contemplation! The countless varieties and forms of matter which constitute the globe, its atmosphere, its inhabitants, capable of construction out of three score elements! What wisdom must the Creator of such elements possess! What contrivance and skill the Fabricator of such a world from such limited materials!

What a grand generalization and simplification of material things is their reduction to 64 primary forms! But more wonderful still, the tendency of modern investigation is to reduce our present elements to some three or four primary forms. Should such prove to be the case, our present elements must be regarded as transmutations or co-relatives of each other, and the dreams of the alchemist respecting the philosopher's stone, which should transmute the baser metals into gold, will prove to have been the foreshadowing of truth in minds familiar with the spirit and genius of science, but not in full possession of the means of proving anticipations so far in advance of their own age.

The lecturer next spoke of some compound gases. One of these, called phosphoretted hydrogen, was interesting from its property of spontaneous inflammability. The gas was prepared, and each bubble as it escaped from the water, burst into flame, and formed waving rings of smoke, which enlarged as they ascended in the air. This was probably the source of the phenomenon popularly known as "Will o' the Wisp," although some chemists had attributed it to the accidental ignition of another gas called "marsh gas." What was commonly and emphatically called "gas," was a compound body, and contained several gases, some of which were illuminating, others acted as diluents of these, and a third class were impurities. The lecturer here entered into some details respecting the essentials to the production of light by combustion, the sum of which was that solid particles of matter must be present to be rendered luminous by the heat of the burning body. With the view of illustrating this, he referred to the feeble light which was evolved when the phosphorus was burned in chlorine, and said that the chief cause of the feebleness of the light was that the new body formed was a vapor. A piece of phosphorus was then consumed in a globe of oxygen; the light emitted was of dazzling brightness, because, said the speaker, the new body formed in the vessel was a solid, although being divided. The separation of particles of solid carbon in the flame of common gas was also shown by holding a piece of wire gauze in the flame; the smoke, or carbon, passed through the meshes of the gauze, and was then ignited above. It was the carbon then present in coal gas, oil, and tallow, which, becoming intensely heated by the burning hydrogen also present in these substances, emitted the light. The principle of the safety lamp was now rapidly illustrated, and the scientific part of the lecture concluded with an experiment adapted to show the intensity of the heat produced by burning hydrogen, and the property possessed by solids when intensely heated of evolving light. A jet of hydrogen and oxygen gases from a chaoutchine bag and ignited; it burned with a feeble blue flame; so great was the heat of this flame, that a piece of steel watch-spring, when held in it, was soon consumed, sparks from the burning metal flying off in every direction. The flame was now made to fall upon a piece of lime, and the most brilliant, pure, white light was emitted, and dazzled the eyes of the beholder. This was the "Drummond Light."

He then went on to say:—

*Ladies and Gentlemen.*—This experiment concludes this evening's lecture, but I cannot sit down without congratulating my fellow-citizens, the mechanics of Montreal, upon the erection and completion of the noble building whose hall we now occupy. It is a tangible, a memorable and a lasting proof of the enterprise, industry and perseverance of the body, honorable as useful, to which they belong; and it is highly creditable to their liberality and that of their numerous friends amongst the inhabitants of our city.

*Fellow Citizens.*—We should regard the conception and accomplishment of this work as an illustration, an expression of the *spirit of the age*—as an evidence that our country, in common with every other where the French or English language is spoken, is aspiring after progress—is indeed imbued with the comprehensive, liberal and onward sentiments of the times. Are factories of cotton wool or iron favorable to the physical development of our city?—are railroads essential in the opening up of our wide-spread and fertile country, and as highways for the transport of the products of our own and our neighbors' soil?—are ships and ocean steamers important as connecting links with the civilization and markets of Europe?—then, say our mechanics, you shall have handi craftsmen in cotton wool or iron inferior to none, shipwrights inferior to none, engineers inferior to none; and they act as well as promise. The artizan of the present day is no longer satisfied with making a nail or constructing a machine in the precise manner that his forefathers did; but, regardless of time-honored methods, he seeks new and more simple, it may be, but certainly more sure and successful ones. Not satisfied with the practice, he seeks to know the theory of his art. Is he a carpenter, he acquaints himself with mathematics, drawing and architecture—is he an engineer,

he familiarises himself with hydrostatics, hydraulics and other branches of natural philosophy, and even more of the higher departments of mathematics; and having mastered both the practice and theory of his art, his aspiring and improved mind instructs, refines and invigorates itself by the perusal of history and general literature. What are Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith, and Hugh Miller, the literary and scientific mason, but personifications, living incarnations of the spirit pervading the body of which they once formed useful members? To what do we owe the perfection of our scientific instruments, the general application and availability of steam, and the almost whirlwind speed of our steamers and locomotives, but to the superior knowledge of our mechanics? And who shall venture to predict what shall yet be accomplished, when the apprentices of to-day having become the masters of to-morrow, shall combine in their individual persons the great practical skill and experience of the modern mechanic with the extensive acquaintance of science and general knowledge, which may be obtained in the class-rooms of the Institute?

*Gentlemen of the Committee.*—I doubt not that this effort of yours will prove a source of fresh vigor and greater progress in the onward march of art, science and civilization; and let me hope that under your wise and judicious management many of the members of the Mechanics' Institute may receive within its portals that mental culture which shall produce in this our beloved country, and this our favorite city, both Watts and Arkwrights, and Bravels and Stevensons.



An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute  
was held on Monday Evening, Aug 27, 1855.

The President in the Chair.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary members of  
the Institute, viz:—

First Class—Neil McIntosh and J. S. Lade,

Third Class—Richard Birdsall, Henry Scott  
and John Donoghue.

No other business appearing, the Meeting adjourned.

A. Stevenson

Rec. Secy

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An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics'  
Institute was held on Monday Evening  
October 22, 1855.

The President in the Chair

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and approved.

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of  
the Institute, viz:—

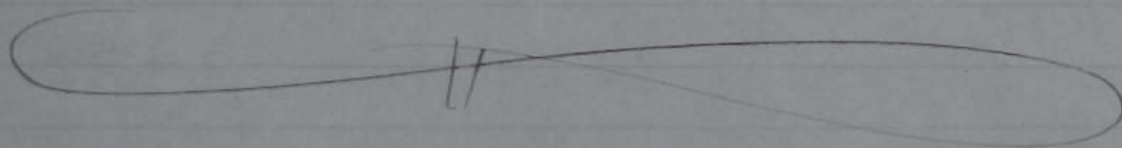
First Class—Wm Nolan, John Kamena  
and P. D. Carrigue.

Second Class—Vere Stapleton, David Macfarlane  
Thomas Brown, G. A. McIntyre, Wm H. Smith  
Edward Boyle Jr, Richard S. Latham, J. B. Brighton  
Michael Maloney, Wm Gray, J. Budnach, John Fenner,  
William Bain, — Wynd, Chas J Dagg, Jas Knox  
and W. J. Kirby.



Third Class — William Fisher, John Middlemiss  
Daniel Watter Barber, Henry Scott, Alex<sup>r</sup> Rose  
Thos Shorthouse, W<sup>r</sup> Collins, Andrew Brown,  
Geo. Weaver, Jr, Thos Montgomery, James Moore  
Robert Greene, and Lewis Clement.

No other business appearing, the Meeting adjourned  
Attest Stevenson, Rec Sec<sup>y</sup>









# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the ~~Mechanics~~ <sup>Mechanics</sup> Institute of Montreal, was held in the ~~Institute~~ <sup>Institute</sup> Hall, ~~Building~~ on Monday Evening, Nov. 5, 1855,

The President, Mr. Henry Bulmer, having taken the Chair, and called the Meeting to order, the Secretary, Mr. Alex<sup>r</sup>. A. Stevenson read the Minutes of last Annual Meeting, which were approved.

The Secretary then read the following Report,

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL, PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON NOV. 5, 1855.

The year just closed marks an important epoch in the history of the Institute. During that period the building of the new Hall has been brought to a successful completion, and the Institute has entered into possession of an edifice reared by the subscriptions of its members and other citizens, and consecrated to a noble and philanthropic purpose: the dissemination of knowledge and the principles of education throughout this community.

Allusion will be made to the Building in another part of this Report; meanwhile the Committee would here take occasion to offer to the members their hearty congratulations on this, the first, annual assembly in the New Mechanics' Hall.

Your Committee, in resigning the trust committed to their charge at the last annual meeting of the members of the Institute, have now to submit the following statement of its affairs:—

The number of members at the date of last annual report was.....	738
Of whom have ceased to be members.....	89—649
The number of Ordinary members admitted during the year was.....	308
Do do Life do do.....	20
Of whom were previously members.....	8—12
Consequently the total number of members enrolled at this date is.....	969
These may be classified as follows:	
Honorary Members.....	10
Corresponding Members.....	8
Life Members.....	157
Ordinary Members.....	794—969

Shewing an increase during the year of 231 members.

The Committee would again remind the members that the list might be increased to an almost infinite extent were each member to take a proper interest in the prosperity of the Institute, and use his influence to induce those of his acquaintance who are not members to become connected with it. During the last few years several have exerted themselves in this way with the most satisfactory results; and the erection of the building having in many ways increased the sphere of its usefulness, the Committee hope that every member will see the propriety of doing whatever lies in his power to advance the welfare of the Institute.

### THE LIBRARY.

The Library, at the close of the year 1854, appears to have consisted of 1,891 volumes, since which time there have been added: by purchase, 189 vols; by donation, 13 do; Periodicals bound from the Reading Room, 20; which would make in all 2,112 volumes: but it having been discovered, on examination of the Library, that a number of volumes were either lost or so mutilated as to be unfit for use, 45 volumes were struck out of the catalogue, and the Library now contains 2,057 volumes, consisting in most part of standard modern works, in very fair preservation.

As the members are aware, the moving into the new Hall and preparation of library furniture there, rendered necessary the closing of the Library from the 28th April to the 21st of July, notwithstanding which the Committee are pleased to discover that the issues for the past year exceed those of the previous one, being for the year just passed 4,968, while in 1854 they reached but 4,643.

The Library has this year received that amount of attention which its importance demands as a branch of the Institute's operations. The Sub-Committee, to whose charge it was entrusted, taking advantage of the considerable time during which the issues were suspended, entered into a complete examination of the whole, with a view to the preparation of what had been long required—a new and correct Catalogue. This thorough examination, as well as the preparation of the Catalogue itself, embodying as it does more than double the amount of the old one, has been a work of no inconsiderable labor. It has, however, been completed, and the Catalogue is now in the printer's hands, and will be ready in a few days.

A new and improved system of enregistration of issues has been adopted, which will enable much fuller statistics, as to the operations of the Library, to be given in future, than under the old plan it was possible to arrive at.

While always endeavouring to enrich the Library by the addition of any valuable work, either old or new, within the available means of the Institute, it has been a prominent object during the past year to keep the Library up with the current literature of the day, by immediately placing on the shelves the newest publications as they arrive. Your Committee consider that the carrying out of this course will increase at once the value and attractiveness of the Library, and would recommend its continuance to their successors.

The Committee regret to have to announce so few donations in the course of the year. They feel confident that there are a large number of the members in possession of works, which, once read, or not appreciated, are of comparatively little value to themselves, but which, if placed on the shelves of this Library, would at once be available for the benefit of hundreds of readers.

The Reading Room has been well attended throughout the year. The following is a list of the papers and periodicals to be found on the tables; viz:—

*City Papers*—Herald, Gazette, Pilot, Transcript, Advertiser, Argus, Pays, Witness, True Witness.

*Canadian Papers*—Toronto Globe, Toronto Examiner, Kingston Chronicle, Hamilton Spectator, St. John's News, Quebec Chronicle, Canada Gazette, Ottawa Tribune, Guelph Advertiser.

*United States*—Boston Post, New York Albion, Tribune and Herald, Philadelphia Courier.

*Periodicals*—North British Review, Edinburgh Review, Blackwood's Magazine, Hunt's Magazine, London Quarterly, Harper's Magazine, Civil Engineer, Practical Mechanic, Art Journal.

*English Papers, &c.*—Wilmer & Smith's European Times, London Illustrated News, The Builder, Punch, Liverpool Mercury, Dublin Freeman's Journal, Glasgow Saturday Post.

### FREE LIBRARY OF REFERENCE AND MODEL ROOM.

Referring to the action of their predecessors in their efforts to obtain the assistance of Parliament to establish and sustain a free reference library and model room. (See printed report 1854, page 7.) Your Committee feel constrained to say that they fully concur in the views there expressed of the importance of the enterprise. The value of such facilities for the study of mechanics theoretically, in an accessible and commanding position, as for example, in the cities of Montreal and Toronto, can scarcely be over estimated.

If it is ever intended that Canada shall take a high position as a state, its mechanical resources must be fully developed, as well as its agricultural capabilities; and it is quite clear that an institution affording cheap or gratuitous instruction in mechanics and kindred sciences, with the study of models and apparatus, would tend largely to improve taste, stimulate invention and add immensely to the fame and wealth of the Province.

Your Committee hold it to be incontrovertible, however, that without the potent aid of Government, or unless enterprising and public spirited individuals come forward with liberal contributions, the objects referred to, however desirable they may be, must remain for a long time to come, unaccomplished.

Embracing this occasion to refer the members of the Institute to an able description of the "Conservatoire des Arts et metiers" in Paris, from the ready pen of one of our members, the Paris correspondent of the "Montreal Gazette," which will be found in the appendix to this report; your Committee commend this subject to the earnest attention of their successors.

### DONATIONS.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following donations, viz:—

- From Henry Chapman, Esq., three volumes of books.
- "The American Institute of New York, 8 volumes.
- "The Canadian Institute of Toronto, 1 vol.
- "Mrs. C. M. Tate, a very handsome embroidered President's Chair.
- "Mr. E. Coyle, jr., 1 volume and a dioramic view of the city of Dublin.
- "Mr. T. D. Reed, 9 volumes.

### LECTURES AND CLASSES.

In respect to Lectures, your Committee have to announce that strenuous exertions were made to obtain a Course of Lectures during last winter, but they regret to say their efforts were unsuccessful. Difficulties of an insurmountable nature presented themselves, and your Committee were reluctantly compelled to abandon the idea altogether. They would, however, recommend to their successors to take up the subject without delay, in order to insure the delivery of a Course during the coming winter.

The Classes were organized early in December for instruction in

1. Mechanical Drawing,
2. Architectural Drawing,
3. Landscape and Ornamental Drawing,
4. Practical Geometry, and
5. The French Language.

The first named was conducted by Messrs. W. M. Milln and James Langlands; the second by Messrs. John Lambert, T. D. Reed, and Wm. Kennedy; the third by Messrs. James Duncan and J. C. Spence; and the two last by Mr. J. T. Dutton.

The attendance on each of the classes was exceedingly good; upwards of 150 members having derived gratuitous instruction in one or other of the above named branches of education. Messrs. Milln, Lambert, Reed, Kennedy and Spence, in giving their efficient services gratuitously, merit the thanks of every member of the Institute.



FINANCES.

The Treasurer's statements, which now lie on the table, show an increase in the amount of your financial operations as compared with any previous year.

The amount received and disbursed is.....	£425 7 5
The total amount of Liabilities, embracing the Building Fund, Furnishing, and Current Expense Funds, is.....	5,658 0 5
The amount of Assets, as per Balance Sheet, is.....	8,729 16 11
Leaving a Balance over and above Liabilities of.....	3,071 18 11

This exhibit of the financial state of the Institute, your Committee cannot but regard as highly encouraging to its friends and wellwishers.

The amount of indebtedness is large enough to supply a powerful stimulus to its members for future exertion; but not so large as to render its security doubtful to its creditors, especially when its sources of revenue are considered. In the opinion of your Committee, the principal points to be aimed at by their successors in office, are, a rigid economy in the expense of management, and the largest possible increase to its funds from every available source.

A perseverance in this course must ultimately be crowned with complete success.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The visit to this city, in the month of March last, of His Excellency the Governor General, at the opening of the Local Exhibition, preparatory to the Great Exposition now being held in the city of Paris, afforded your Committee an opportunity of presenting to him a Congratulatory Address, and at the same time to solicit His Excellency to become the Patron of the Institute.

In reply to the Address, His Excellency expressed his great satisfaction with the highly creditable display made by the Mechanics of this city at the Local Exhibition; and at the close of his remarks His Excellency was graciously pleased to say, that he gladly accepted the office conferred upon him by the Members of the Institute.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The Festival of last season fully sustained its former popularity. The large attendance, notwithstanding the pressure of the times upon all classes, clearly demonstrates that our annual gathering continues to hold the firm position which it has for many years maintained in public estimation. Your Committee are pleased to learn that the arrangements gave the utmost satisfaction. The net proceeds were £93 6s. 5d.

OPENING OF THE NEW MECHANICS' HALL.

In the last Annual Report it was announced that the expediency of holding a Bazaar, in connection with the opening of the New Hall, had engaged the attention of the Committee of last year, from which, it was hoped, sufficient funds could be realized to meet the expenses of furnishing the Hall.

Early in the year, your Committee took the matter into consideration, and, concurring in the opinions entertained by the former Committee, they resolved to carry out the project in the mode which to them seemed best adapted to secure the desired result. Accordingly, with a view to enlist the co-operation of the members generally, in this object, it will, doubtless, be in your recollection that an Extraordinary meeting was held on the 27th of March last, at which Meeting there were upwards of 250 of the Members present. The General Committee submitted a Report, recommending that the Hall be opened on the 21st of May, with a grand Polytechnic Exhibition and Fancy Fair—to continue open for a week—a Concert, Lecture, or other entertainment to be given on the evening of each day during the week.

The Meeting heartily approved of the Report, and appointed Sub-Committees to carry out the arrangements.

A Circular Address was also prepared and distributed amongst the ladies of the City, soliciting contributions to the Fancy Fair. The response to that address was, indeed, a generous one,—the ladies, with characteristic liberality, having contributed articles of needle-work, embroidery, &c., &c., from the sale of which, together with the receipts of the evening entertainments, after paying all expenses, the sum of £314 7s 11d was derived.

The Inauguration Festivities commenced on the 21st of May, and were continued throughout the week, in the following order:—

On Monday evening, 21st, the Inaugural Address was delivered by his Honor Mr. Justice Aylwin. The Address, together with the Prize Essay, has since been published in pamphlet form, at the expense of the Institute.

On Tuesday evening, a grand Concert of vocal and instrumental music was given.

On Wednesday evening, an interesting Lecture on Chemistry, with experiments, was delivered by R. P. Howard, Esq., M.D.

On Thursday evening, (the anniversary of her Majesty's birthday), a grand Soiree was held, at which addresses were delivered by the Hon. John Young, J. J. Day, Esq., and other gentlemen. At this Meeting, the Prize Essay on the Nature and Objects of Mechanics' Institutes was read, and the award of a ticket of life-membership made to the author, Mr. James M. Kerr.

On Friday evening, an interesting Lecture on Astronomy, with illustrations, was delivered by Thos. McGinn, Esq.

On Saturday evening, the Inaugural proceedings were concluded with a grand Concert of Sacred Music.

The Hall was brilliantly illuminated on every evening during the week, and music, furnished by several instrumental bands, (who volunteered their services gratuitously,) lent its charming influence to the general enjoyment. The whole affair was carried through with great spirit, and excited universal admiration.

Your Committee embrace this occasion to say that the thanks of the Institute are due to the Contributors to the Fancy Fair, to the Lady Managers of the Bazaar, to His Honor Mr. Justice Aylwin, to R. P. Howard, Esq., M.D., and Thomas McGinn, Esq., to Mrs. Unsworth, Mr. George Anderson, Mr. R. J. Fowler, and the many other vocalists who assisted at the Concerts, to the members of the various instrumental Bands of the city, and to all who in any way assisted on the occasion of the Inauguration of the New Hall.

INTERNATIONAL PIC-NIC.

On the 31st of July, a number of the Members had again the pleasure of meeting their friends from Portland, at Island Pond; and although the Institute was not represented on that occasion as it was desirable it should have been, and we were much outnumbered by the members of the Maine Charitable Mechanic Association of Portland, yet the whole proceedings were conducted and terminated in a very pleasant and satisfactory manner.

THE BUILDING.

The following interesting Report from the Building Committee, has been embodied in the Annual Report, with a view to render the members conversant with the main features of the building operations:—

The Building Committee have to congratulate the members of this corporation on the conclusion of their labors and the completion of the new building in which they are now assembled, and which bears the modest, but appropriate appellation of "Mechanics' Hall."

This work so long and so anxiously contemplated by the older members and friends of the Institute, has been at length achieved, with a fair prospect of permanence.

The style of the building, your sub-committee are happy to observe, is generally admired; it is not profusely ornamented, and yet it is not devoid of ornament, while the appearance is that of solidity and strength. The mode of lighting the principal audience or lecture room is novel here, and is highly approved—being inexpensive, and, at the same time, elegant and effective. The plan of the seats was copied from those in use in the Music Hall of Boston, and are much superior to those in ordinary use. The committee have made arrangements for heating the building by the agency of hot water, upon a new plan, by which they anticipate that the evils experienced in the use of the ordinary hot air furnaces, will be obviated.

To recur to the narrative of the Building Committee's labors for the past year, they have to observe that at the period of the last annual report it was stated that, for reasons which were considered sufficient, the General Committee, acting upon the recommendation of this Committee, had decided to take down and rebuild the side wall in St. Peter Street, in order to rectify the errors of the original construction.

Although the months of December and January are not usually, in this climate, favorable to building operations, yet the work of reconstruction went on without any serious interruption to completion, about the middle of the latter month.

When the building was commenced in the autumn of 1853, it was hoped that it might be made ready for occupation by December of the following year; but the unfortunate circumstance just referred to, placed the realization of this object quite out of the question.

The actual cost of reconstruction, beyond the award of the arbitrators, was about £50 without taking into account, however, the incidental loss of the rental of the new hall for four or five months, and the payment of rent by the Institute in another place.

The formal opening of the new hall commenced with appropriate ceremonies on the 21st of May last, to which more special reference is made in another place.

The Building Committee have frequently conferred with the members of the General Committee and other friends, on the expediency of erecting a building on the vacant ground in rear of the Hall.

It is the decided opinion of this Committee that a building, such as they have had in view, might be erected, not only without detriment to the present building, but with many positive advantages, both as regards its usefulness to the Institute, and as a paying investment. They commend this matter to the careful consideration of their successors.

BUILDING FUND.

Amount collected from subscribers since last annual meeting.....	£193 8 7
Amount received for rent of Hall from June 6 to date.....	116 15 10
One half-year's rent of Shops.....	150 0 0
	£460 4 5

Should the rental of the Hall amount to an equal sum for the remainder of the year, say to 1st May next, the income from these sources—Hall and Shops—will probably reach the sum of..... £530 0 0

The amount of interest required to be paid annually is... £263 2 5

The Institute is pledged to the payment of an annual instalment of arrears of Constitut to the Reverend Gentlemen of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, say for three years ending in 1857..... 144 0 0—£407 2 5

It will be seen from the above statement that the rental of the buildings may with good management be made to pay the whole of the interest of the floating debt, with arrears of constitut, and leave a balance, less or more, to form a sinking fund, to be rigidly retained for the purpose of ultimately redeeming the entire indebtedness of the Institution.

This supposition is based upon the principle of appropriating the whole of the rental revenue to this specific object. The reasonableness of this will appear if it is considered that the cost of the insurance of the building, city assessment, and extra consumption of gas and fuel will not amount to a greater sum than the Institute would require to pay in the shape of rent if they occupied property not their own.

COST OF NEW HALL.

Cost of Land.....	£2520 13 8
Cost of Buildings and Furnishing.....	5236 18 10—£7757 12 6

The building is insured for the sum of £4,350. The sum of £1,500, and the amount of commutation, £138, in all £1,938, will remain a constitut of 6 per cent interest so long as it may suit the convenience of the Institute.

A loan for the sum of £2,350 is payable in ten years from 1854, and there will remain a debt to the several contractors of £279 4s 6d, (on Building account £358 7s 6d, and Furnishing £520 17s) which it is highly desirable should be paid off as soon as possible. The Building Committee would venture to suggest the expediency of adding to the subscription list, by soliciting the contributions of parties who would doubtless subscribe liberally if called upon by your Committee; also of collecting the arrears of subscriptions, amounting to about £250.

Another mode of supplying the now exhausted exchequer might be by means of another Bazaar or Fancy Fair, to be held in connection with the annual Festival or otherwise.

The whole of which however is respectfully commended, to the wisdom, enterprise, and skill of their successors:—who will doubtless give these important matters the attention they will imperiously demand.

In conclusion, your Committee would venture to express the hope that a new era has now dawned upon the Institute, and that dating from now and henceforth, this institution with its commanding position and facilities for usefulness, will prove a felt good to this community, and thus gratify and reward the liberality of those who have aided to raise this Hall.

The Committee would earnestly desire to impress on their successors in office, that as worthy and perhaps as arduous a duty as the carrying out the erection of the Hall, will devolve upon them, in developing the resources for usefulness, and multiplying the facilities for the diffusion of knowledge, which the position of the Institute now places it in their power to influence.

The management of this Institute must now neither faint nor fall back till the salutary influences of such institutions are felt in every mechanic's home and every workshop in the city; till they are evidenced in the high position which the future mechanics of Montreal, whose

For sale by  
Zane's Currents—25 barrels  
Indigo—3 chests  
Sulphate—25 kegs  
COLMAN'S MUSTARD—10 lbs





It was moved by Mr Spiers, seconded by Mr Ramsay and carried unanimously — That the Report be received and adopted.

The following gentlemen were admitted as Ordinary Members for Life, viz:—

Thomas Peck,  
George Morrison,  
Edward Evans,  
Joseph Knapp,  
James Simpson,  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Bryson,  
H. H. Whitney,

Dr A. Bernard,  
William Cowan,  
Henry Mulholland,  
Benjamin Brewster  
William Parker  
W. F. Coffin  
Dr W. Lutherland

W. B. Borse  
Joseph Savage,  
D. W. Kevin,  
Hon. C. Wilson,  
J. J. Dutton,  
J. M. Kerr,  
F. S. Lyman,

The following were admitted Ordinary Members of the Institute, viz:  
First Class. — Abraham Wilson, A. J. Harrison and D. Handyside.

Second Class. — G. B. Fraser, James Spiers, John Cassels, Phillip Boss, George ~~Blyth~~ Blyth, Charles Estcourt, — W. Affee, James Benton, George Broster, John Campbell, John Henderson, John Thompson, James Wood, Robert Lutherland, Archibald Campbell Wentele, W<sup>m</sup> Telford, John Thornton, Thomas Thomas, William Fairbairn and Edward Hughes,

Third Class. — R. M. Bernard, W. W. Dawson, M. Hannan, Alfred Kellan, Henry Childs, R. Wardlaw, W. W. Kenzie, R. S. Dunbar, James Dunbar, W. Miller, John Tait, W. Fessenden, Robert Miller, John Dyer and Jas<sup>r</sup> Christie.

It was moved by Mr Charles Garth, and seconded by Mr W. M. Millin, — That the Committee about to be appointed, be instructed to make arrangements for holding Monthly Meetings of the Members of the Institute, for the purpose of engaging in discussions on Scientific Subjects.

It was moved in amendment by Dr Bernard, and seconded by Mr Fletcher — That the Committee be requested to call a Meeting of the members of the Institute at an early day, to take into consideration



the propriety of holding Meetings for Mutual Instruction.

On being put to the vote, the Amendment was carried.

It was moved by Dr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Spiers, and carried unanimously —

That the General Committee be requested to consider what alterations may be required in the Act of Incorporation, and report at the next Annual Meeting of the Institute.

It was moved by Dr. Bernard, and seconded by Mr. Fletcher —

That it is expedient that this Hall should be rented for religious services on the Sabbath, provided a revenue of sixty Pounds can be derived to the Institute from that source.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Bertram —

That this Meeting, having confidence in the Executive it appoints to-night, does not consider it expedient to express an opinion on the question now raised.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried by a majority of four.

It was moved by Dr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. John Campbell, — That the Committee be and they are hereby instructed to rent this Hall, if opportunity occurs, in accordance with the foregoing Resolutions. — Carried.

Messrs Messrs Bodden, G. M. Bose, and P. M. Christie having been appointed scrutineers, the Meeting proceeded to the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year, according to the provisions of the Act of Incorporation, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected, viz — President — Chas. Garth, 1st Vice President — A. Bertram; 2nd do do. — Mr. M. Miller; 3rd do do. — J. B. Spence; 4th do do. — Mr. Bodden. Corresponding Sec. — Mr. Murray; Recording Secretary — G. M. Bose; Treasurer — H. Munro.



Librarian & Cabinet Keeper — Charles J. McDonald,  
Members of Committee — Messrs. A. Bernard, J. Brown, Wm Kennedy, John Fletcher, Wm McGibbon, W. Reid, A. H. Stevens, James Dingwall, Geo. W. Weaver, W. P. Bantley, Geo Gray and A. W. Ogilvie.

On motion of Mr Bodden, Mr Bulmer vacated the Chair, and Mr Henry Lyman was called thereto.

It was moved by Mr Bodden, seconded by Mr Murray, and carried unanimously —

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr Bulmer, for the many valuable services he has rendered to the Institute, while holding the office of President, during the past four years, as well as for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of the Chair on this occasion.

It was moved by Dr Bernard, seconded by Mr Munro, and carried unanimously —

That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby tendered to the gentlemen who have acted as scrutineers on this occasion.

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned.

A. Stevenson.

Recording Secretary.

**Mechanics' Institute, Montreal, in Account with Henry Lyman, Treasurer.**

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<table border="0"> <tr><td>1854.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>To Balance due Treasurer,</td><td style="text-align: right;">£64 2 1</td></tr> <tr><td>To Cash paid Contingent Expenses, Rent of Rooms, Gas, Printing, Advertising, Postage, Stationary,</td><td style="text-align: right;">191 9 6</td></tr> <tr><td>To Cash paid for Books for Library,</td><td style="text-align: right;">37 9 2</td></tr> <tr><td>To Cash paid for Periodicals for Reading Room,</td><td style="text-align: right;">30 0 9</td></tr> <tr><td>To Superintendent's Salary,</td><td style="text-align: right;">94 16 4</td></tr> <tr><td>To Cash paid Drawing Master,</td><td style="text-align: right;">5 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>To Balance,</td><td style="text-align: right;">0 4 9</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">£423 4 7</td></tr> </table>	1854.		To Balance due Treasurer,	£64 2 1	To Cash paid Contingent Expenses, Rent of Rooms, Gas, Printing, Advertising, Postage, Stationary,	191 9 6	To Cash paid for Books for Library,	37 9 2	To Cash paid for Periodicals for Reading Room,	30 0 9	To Superintendent's Salary,	94 16 4	To Cash paid Drawing Master,	5 0 0	To Balance,	0 4 9		£423 4 7	<table border="0"> <tr><td>1854.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>By Subscriptions of Members,</td><td style="text-align: right;">£205 6 8</td></tr> <tr><td>By Grant Provincial Parliament, 1854,</td><td style="text-align: right;">50 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td>By do do do 1855, less 2s 6d,</td><td style="text-align: right;">49 17 6</td></tr> <tr><td>By Proceeds of Festival,</td><td style="text-align: right;">93 0 5</td></tr> <tr><td>By Rent of Rooms,</td><td style="text-align: right;">25 0 0</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">£423 4 7</td></tr> <tr><td>1855.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>November.—By Balance,</td><td style="text-align: right;">£0 4 9</td></tr> </table>	1854.		By Subscriptions of Members,	£205 6 8	By Grant Provincial Parliament, 1854,	50 0 0	By do do do 1855, less 2s 6d,	49 17 6	By Proceeds of Festival,	93 0 5	By Rent of Rooms,	25 0 0		£423 4 7	1855.		November.—By Balance,	£0 4 9
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We, the undersigned, having carefully examined the foregoing Accounts, and compared vouchers find it correct.  
 (Signed) A. MURRAY,  
 H. MUNRO, } Auditors.  
 J. W. HOPKINS.

Montreal, November 5th, 1855.  
 E. & O. E.,  
 HENRY LYMAN,  
 Treasurer.



Mechanics' Institute "Building Fund," in Account with Henry Lyman, Treasurer.

Dr.	Cr.
1854—To cash paid Contractors, . . . . . £2295 13 6	1854-55—By Balance on hand, . . . . . £307 1 6
1855—To cash paid Insurance, . . . . . £53 1 3	By cash, James Jeffery, . . . . . 1995 0 0
To cash paid Law and Notarial Charges, . . . . . 9 5 0	By Subscriptions and Donations, . . . . . 193 8 7
To cash paid Architects, . . . . . 36 10 0	By amount of Rent New Hall, . . . . . 191 15 10
To cash paid Interest on Debt, 283 8 11	Interest Bank of Montreal, . . . . . 15 10 9
To cash paid Contingencies, . . . . . 39 9 11	Balance, . . . . . 14 11 11
421 15 1	
£2717 8 7	£2717 8 7
Nov. 5—To Balance due Treasurer, . . . . . £14 11 11	

We, the undersigned, have examined this Account and compared the same with vouchers, and find it correct.

Montreal, Nov. 5, 1855.  
E. & O. E.,

(Signed) A. MURRAY,  
H. MUNRO, } Auditors.  
J. W. HOPKINS, }

HENRY LYMAN,  
Treasurer.

Mechanics' Institute Fancy Fair and Polytechnic Exhibition Fund in Account with HENRY LYMAN, Treasurer.

Dr.	Cr.
1855. May 21—To cash paid Advertising, . . . . . £60 10 0	1855. May 28—By proceeds of Tickets sold, . . . . . £167 5 1
To cash paid Music Committee, . . . . . 17 17 2	By proceeds Fancy Fair, £275 17 5
To Decorations and Labor, . . . . . 59 3 1	Less paid for Goods Sold, . . . . . 24 12 7
Balance, . . . . . 314 7 11	251 4 10
£451 18 2	By Donations, . . . . . 7 10 0
	By Refreshments and Sales by Committee, 25 18 3
	£451 18 2
1855. June 25—To amount paid J. & W. Hilton, . . . . . £200 0 0	1855. By Balance brought down, . . . . . £314 7 11
To " Hopkins, Lawford & Nelson, . . . . . 6 0 0	
To " E. Maxwell, Library Fittings, 52 18 0	
To " J. & W. Hilton, . . . . . 11 0 0	
Balance, . . . . . 44 9 11	
£314 7 11	£314 7 11
	By Balance brought down, . . . . . £44 9 11

We, the undersigned, have examined this Account, and compared the same with vouchers, and find it correct.

Montreal, Nov. 5, 1855.  
E. O. & E.,

(Signed) A. MURRAY,  
H. MUNRO, } Auditors.  
J. W. HOPKINS, }

HENRY LYMAN,  
Treasurer.

Mechanics' Institute, Montreal.

BALANCE SHEET.

Dr.	Cr.
Debt on Land Bailleur du Fonds Mortgage, . . . . . £2333 0 0	Cost of Land, . . . . . £2520 13 8
Debt on Building, . . . . . £2350 0 0	Cost of Mechanics Hall, . . . . . 4860 4 0
Debt due to Contractors, . . . . . 328 7 6	Cost of Fittings and Furniture, . . . . . 782 13 2
Debt on Fixtures and Furniture, . . . . . 520 17 0	Estimated Value of Library, . . . . . 500 0 0
3229 4 6	Amount due by Mercantile Library Association, . . . . . 19 13 6
Debt to Sundry Persons on Current Expense Account, . . . . . 90 7 8	Amount due on Building Fund Sub., £250 0 0
Balance, . . . . . 3185 14 11	Deduct, . . . . . 125 0 0
£8838 7 1	125 0 0
	Cash in hands of Treasurer, . . . . . 30 2 9
	£8838 7 1

Montreal, November 5th, 1855.

E. & O. E.,  
HENRY LYMAN,  
Treasurer.



## APPENDIX.

The following interesting description of the French Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers, is extracted from the letters of Mr. ALFRED PERRY, the able correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette*, as they appeared in the issues of that paper, on October 8th, and October 20th, 1855:—

### Le Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers.

PARIS, September 20, 1855.

I have selected the above institution as the subject of a special letter, believing it would prove of interest to the mechanics and laboring men of Montreal. As its name implies, it is a mechanical museum where models of machinery employed in almost every trade are preserved, and their use explained in courses of lectures by most able professors. These lectures are free to the public, and take place in the evenings of week days, and at various hours on Sundays, so as to give the working classes an opportunity of receiving instruction,—to learn theoretically as well as practically, the trade they are engaged in. The whole is under the management of a directory, the professors, and several members of a governing board, who are chosen from various learned societies, their numbers never exceeding those of the professors. Of these latter there are fifteen lecturing on the following subjects, viz:—1. Mechanics applied to the Arts; 2. Geometry; 3. Chemistry; 4. Physics; 5. Descriptive Geometry; 6. Industrial Chemistry; 7. Industrial Legislation; 8. Agriculture; 9. Agricultural Chemistry; 10. Pottery; 11. Spinning and Weaving; 12. Cotton Printing; 13. Zoology, as applied to Agriculture; 14. Civil Engineering; 15. Industrial Administration. The principal galleries of the museum are 17 in number. As a minute description of these would far exceed the limits of a newspaper letter, the reader must be content with a few general remarks on their arrangement, and the organization of the institution. I will commence my list at the northern wing, on the first story of which there are four galleries, each about 240 feet long and 40 feet wide, containing first, old models, among which I found the Hydraulic machines of Marley, Geneva, and Bicetre; second, a collection of instruments for the demonstration of the science of acoustics; third, a magnificent collection of optical instruments, amongst which is Buffon's celebrated burning mirror. There is also here a dark chamber where the Camera Obscura and other instruments are shown. Fourth, a collection of Pottery with a gallery of patterns. In the transept, on the ground floor, four galleries about the same size as the others. The first contains balances, weights and measures, the second is intended to receive specimens of weaving (this is not yet complete); third, spinning and weaving machines, and fourth, mixed machinery. Off these we have again five galleries. The first contains models illustrative of descriptive geometry; second, railway models; third, dynamometers, &c., &c.; fourth, the grand gallery of machine models—this is 400 feet long by 21 wide, containing steam engines, hand and water mills, horse machines, sugar refiners, &c., &c.; fifth, a collection of astronomical instruments, globes, &c. In the southern wing, the ground floor contains a splendid collection of agricultural implements, and on the second story two galleries, one containing electrical machines and telegraphs of all kinds, the other chronometers and clocks, clock makers' tools, &c., &c. The grand gallery already noticed for its immense length, contains most of the models of prime motors, such as horse wheels, wind mills, and steam engines. Concerning each of these a few details may be found interesting. Amongst the horse machines I find one by Valcour, two said to be by Vaucauston, and the enclosed horse gearing of Barrett, Exall and Andrews (English). Neither of these would in my opinion, do as much as Paige & Co.'s (Canadian) machine, where the horse walks up an inclined plane. Wind mills, I find, were introduced into England and France about the year 1040, but it appears from a work now exhibited, published in 1625, that they were employed in Bohemia in the 8th century,

where they took the precedence of water wheels. Here I find models of all kinds of them, for various uses, with the common mill and with patent sweeps, horizontal as well as vertical, applied to thrashing and grinding corn, pumping, &c. Next come water wheels and turbines, these being machines for which France is famous. I find models of the very best construction: viz: Poncelet's undershot wheel, with carved float; Board's, which has the advantage of either being worked faster or slower than the speed which gives its maximum effect without making any appreciable difference in its power; Lawrie's oblique wheel; Bassadet's undershot, with an angular bend in the float board. There are also several models of iron wheels famous for their size and power, combined with lightness and beauty of construction. Amongst the turbines I noticed Fourneyron's, Fouval's improved by Heschlin and Fontaine's, each of which gives a duty of about 70 per cent, and will, if required, work under water. Combe's also works well, and is more easily used under high falls than the others. Amongst the steam engines I find models from the first made, up to the present day, with sections showing the valves, suction, &c. of engines by Wolf, Maundsley, Fairbairne, Taylor and Farcot, with Walker's rotary engine, all beautifully well made with parts cut away to show the working of the pistons, valves, &c., so that a person unacquainted with machinery could learn more in a day by ocular demonstration than by a month's or year's reading. In addition to the prime motors, I find collected in this gallery, and the others on this floor, an immense number of models of flour and saw mills, hydraulic machines, sugar refiners, and work shops of white and black smiths, carpenters, cabinet makers, &c., &c. There is one deserving of especial notice as particularly interesting. It is a factory for making Carriage Wheels by machinery, consisting of six machines, which, however, might be combined and worked together on the same plan as Rodden's Cabinet Maker's table. The models are all worked from a centre line of shafting, and perform the following operations, viz:—1st, boring the stock or nave; 2nd, turning ditto; 3rd, morticing do; 4th, cutting spokes; 5th, making the tenons of do, sawing out the felloes, the circular motion being self-acting; 7th, sawing ends; 9th, morticing felloes; 10th, cutting spokes to the same length after they are in place, and shaping the ends to fit the felloes' mortice; 11th, bending the tires to their proper form (this is not at all equal to a similar machine in use in G. Perry's fire engine factory, in Craig Street); 12th, furnace for heating tires, (a great improvement on Perry's); 13th, drilling the tires for the nails. The general and compact arrangement of this work-shop cannot be too highly praised. As for the models themselves, their make is equal to any clock-work. The whole stand in a glass case about 4 by 3 feet in size.

For the manufacture of sugar from the best root, I find here the following systems, viz: Deroque & Carl's, Bramie's, Chevalier's and Roth's. There are also models of paper-making machinery, showing each operation from the cutting up of the rag to the finishing of the finest paper. Here, too, are models of the engines belonging to the Sphinx and Town of Nantes steamers, with their boilers, Cave's feathering paddle wheel, Beslay's patent condenser, Nasmyth's steam-hammer, oil and bark mills, machines for making flat chains, fire engines from the days of Noah, I suppose, down to the latest improvements embodied in the Canadian. There are models of 37 different kinds of these engines. Numbers have glass duplicates shewing the action of the valves and the different passages for the water. These are of very simple construction, but the greater number are far otherwise. Parties interested in these machines might pass days in the examination of this strange collection. After seeing all of them, I question whether all the improvements patented which professedly originated in Canada are not bad copies of a copy. There are 21 different models of fire-escapes, amongst which I find that by I. Lewis, who figured in this line some years back in Canada. Happily for us in Canada, we have not often found a necessity for these contrivances. Here I must break off my description of the wonders of this place for to-day. I will endeavor to continue it in my next.



Paris, October 3, 1855.

In my previous letter I left off my description of one of the compartments of the *Conservatoire*, in which I found a large number of fire-engines and escapes, as well as other interesting machinery. Besides, there were also blowing off machines adapted to giving the blast to iron furnaces, &c., laths, drilling and boring machines, Planing machines locomotive tenders, cars and waggons, turning tables, bridges, &c., the whole made to a gauge, and of a beauty and fineness of construction which it is next to impossible to excel. These models average in value £53 a piece. Here, too, we find porcelain factories of the most ancient and modern models, chemical laboratories, lead foundries, and lead pipe machinery, gas apparatus, dynamometers, &c. In fact, it would require more than one page of your paper for a year to do justice to these machine models, if a minute description were attempted. Suffice it to say, that it is the finest collection ever made by any country or government whatever. I question much if the body of our French Parish Church in Montreal would contain it. These galleries are all open to the public free on Sundays and Thursdays; and on other days on payment of one franc.

Besides these interesting collections, the conservatoire places at the disposal of the public a library of scientific works containing 16,000 vols., and a large collection of drawings, with which engineers and others can study designs of the best and most recent machines invented. Of the place now occupied by this establishment, I have been able to gather the following historical particulars. It was during more than seven hundred years, a monastery, once dignified by the name abbey: afterwards, and until the time of its suppression in 1789 called the "Royal Priory of St. Martin des Champs." It dates back to the year 1060, but a long time before this period there existed in the same place a kind of Church, which, from the time of the earliest Christians was under the patronage of St. Martin. The Monks of the priory enjoyed very extended privileges, exercising jurisdiction over all their properties, which were rich and numerous. Their lands alone brought in an income of £100,000 per annum. Added to this was the nomination to one hundred and eight ecclesiastical benefices. The monastery itself was extremely rich in relics, and adorned with statues and pictures by the best masters. Many of these are now to be seen, and are in a good state of preservation. Its altars were resplendent with gold and precious stones. I question, indeed, if poverty, except as formerly mentioned in one of their three vows, was much dreamed of by those royal monks. But the revolution of 1789, which suppressed all religious orders, put an end to the existence of this priory. The monks were dispersed, their valuable lands confiscated, and all sold, with the exception of the monastery itself, which became, and still remains public property. Descartes is said to have been the first who conceived the idea of giving public lectures to the working classes. His plan consisted in building large halls for each professor, and in attaching to it a cabinet of models, machinery and instruments used in the art,—the mode of employing them to be explained during and after the lecture. The best professors obtainable were to be secured for each department. This plan of his remained nearly a century an unrealised project. It was reserved for Vancauson to commence its execution, by forming in 1775 at the Hotel de Montagne, Faubourg St. Antoine, the public collection of machinery for the working classes. At his death he bequeathed this collection to the government, and it became the foundation or nucleus of the present conservatoire. I find that in the year 1794, a decree was passed by the convention "that there should be formed at Paris, under the name of '*Le Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers*,' a public depot of models, machines, designs and books of all kinds belonging to the arts and sciences, to be explained by able professors." Four years after this, the convention gave the building of the priory for the site of the *Conservatoire*. Ever since that time it has been constantly increasing both the number of its models and its professorships. The old refractory of the monks is now the library of the establishment, having been restored by M. Leon Udoyer, architect of the institution, who is at present engaged in the restoration of the ancient chapel, now used as the grand hall of experiments. This is 210 feet long, including the place of the late altar, where the apartment is narrower than through the body. That for 185 feet of the length is 51 feet wide, and will contain all the principal hydraulic machines in motion. For this purpose reservoirs have been formed, one

above the other, to the height of 42 feet; also an iron canal or reservoir, 2 feet 6 inches wide, by the same height, standing 9 feet from the ground, and extending 130 feet, with wings 11 feet long at each end, at right angles with the body. From this, sluices admit the water into another canal, 10 feet by 4, the top of which is on a level with the floor, its ends being made to correspond with the iron reservoir above. Here are fixed water-wheels for experiments, the water being conducted to them by channels—any amount of water being supplied to them through the sluices. On the other side of the hall, near the end, are placed two steam engines of eight horse power. One of them is English, manufactured by Fairbairne; the other French, by Picot. Down the entire length on both sides is shafting, from which the machines to be experimented on will be driven. This shafting and pulleys are now being placed. The connecting joints are something new to me, but are not, perhaps, to those more familiar with recent improvements in engine-making. They are about 12 inches in diameter and 5 in thickness, and are made and neatly turned out 8 inches. At a depth of 2½ inches this piece is shrunk on the end of the shaft, and the opposite coupling turned and ground with emery to fit into the other; and this, instead of being shrunk on, is worked on with a screw, which is done on the shaft. When these two become united, the joint is much superior to the plan now in general use in Canada. Attached to the premises is a fine garden; in which long ago, no doubt, the Royal Monks passed merry times, if all tales be true which are told of their days. Here, too, education is kept in view; the botanist has full scope for his experiments, and the garden becomes a school in which he teaches others his pleasing science.

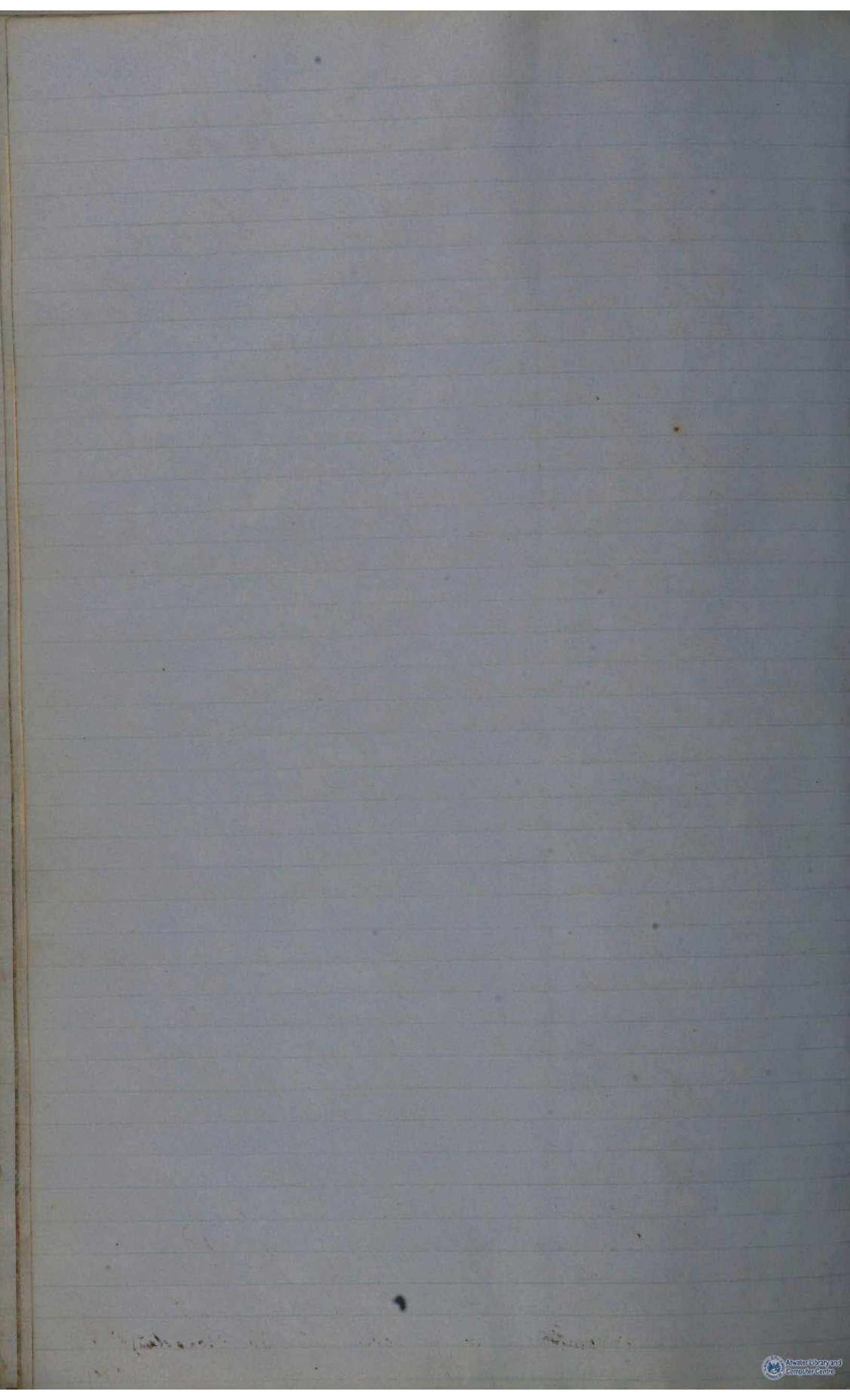
In closing this notice of the *Conservatoire* and its accessories, my great regret is that I have not time at my disposal to take a deliberate survey of each hall and apartment, and give more complete details. Although such a description might not suit the general newspaper reader, I am satisfied the mechanics and laboring classes (generally of our young country might derive much benefit from it. I am of opinion that such an institution ought to be founded forthwith in Canada, or such a collection commenced; placing, as it would do, the necessary scientific attainments, for the successful prosecution of his art, within the reach of the humblest artizan. Thus civilization would be extended, and, we might hope, morality also increased. However much we may boast of enjoying a greater measure of freedom than the people of France, I cannot close my eyes to the fact that, in many respects, we have much to learn from them, ere we equal them. As to education, I have not yet seen one who could not read and write. How do we in Canada compare with them in that regard? Yet, I must at the same time admit they are by no means so religiously inclined as our French Canadians. I repeat the hope that the day is not far distant, when we shall have in Canada a similar institution to that I have attempted to describe. These two letters have been principally of interest to mechanics. I shall endeavor shortly to find time to give some description of the *Experimental Farm and School* at Grignon, for your agricultural readers. This is about 20 miles from Paris. It was founded by Charles X., and occupies 1162 acres of land, stocked with 400 cows, 1100 sheep, and a great quantity of other stock. The director, M. Barrell, has kindly given me an invitation to visit it, of which I shall avail myself at the first opportunity.

P.



No. 1 to a permanent place in its records.  
Essay No. 3.—Motto "*Nil Desperandum*," is a respectable production, written evidently by a novice in Essay writing; and, although falling far short of Nos. 1 & 2 as a composition, ought, in the estimation of the Committee, be placed next after them as a literary effort.  
No. 4—Motto, "*Fortitudine vincit*"—is the most voluminous and lengthy essay of the whole, and although not entitled to a place with the three







An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics  
Institute was held on Monday Evening  
November, 26<sup>th</sup> 1855

The President, Mr. Gault, in the chair.

Object of meeting  
The Chairman stated that the principle business  
before the meeting was the carrying out of the Reso-  
lution passed at the Annual Meeting, in reference  
to Mutual Instruction Classes

It was moved by Mr. M. Faulane, seconded  
by Mr. Spence, and

Committee  
to carry out  
Resolutions  
Resolved, That a committee of seven be  
appointed to carry out the object of the Resolution  
passed at Annual Meeting, for formation of Mutual  
Instruction Classes, and that the Committee con-  
sist of Messrs. M. Faulane, Millne, Gault, M. Rose,  
Kennedy, A. Rose, Knox

It was moved by Mr. Rodden, seconded by  
Mr. Spence and

Placards for  
Committee meeting  
Resolved, That it is the opinion of this  
meeting that placards <sup>should</sup> be procured and hung up  
on the room door, announcing the hour and night  
of meeting of each committee

A conversation having arisen in reference  
to the construction of the Hall

It was moved by Mr. John Kelly, seconded  
by Mr. Gray,

Form of Inves-  
tigation  
That the President be authorized to instruct  
the Committee of investigation, appointed to examine  
and report on the management and erection of the  
Mechanics Hall to enquire into and report upon  
the whole of the transactions of the Building Com-  
mittee, from their appointment to the completion of  
the building.

The Motion was declared lost.

It was moved by Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. Stearns,

Chairman  
Mr. Palmer  
That, in view of the many and valuable  
services rendered to this Institute by King Palmer  
Esq. late President, during an unusually long and  
laborious service, having been elected President for  
four



Balmer Testimonial four successive terms. This meeting is of opinion that it is fitting and highly expedient to make their appreciation, and that of the public generally, by a suitable testimonial, the expense of which to be raised by a general subscription.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Knox seconded by Mr. Kelly

That the name of Mr. Stevenson Recording Secretary, be substituted for that of Mr. Balmer.

On being put the amendment was declared lost and motion carried.

Committee

On motion, the following committee were then appointed to carry out the object of the Resolution, viz: Messrs. H. Lyman, Wm. Sears, A. Munay, A. A. Stevenson, A. Ramsay, J. C. Spence and D. Bernard.

It was moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Bestwin, and unanimously carried

That a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. A. Ramsay for the gift of the fan and side lights at the entrance of the Hall.

It was moved by Mr. Laddeu, seconded by Mr. Gray, and unanimously agreed to.

That the President and both Secretaries, with Mr. H. Lyman and Mr. J. C. Spence, be a committee, for the purpose of getting up a statement of the objects of the Institute, and all its means of carrying them out, with the advantages to be obtained by those whom embrace them, and that said statement be brought prominently and speedily before the public, and particularly called to the attention of the members by being printed and addressed to them.

Note of thanks to Mr. Ramsay

Publishing of a statement of the objects of the Institute

Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

New Members

The following were admitted ordinary members of the Institute.

1<sup>st</sup> Class. - Messrs John Gilvie John McGovern William Gilvie John Smith John M. Gilbert



New Members.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class. - Messrs James Evans, James Robertson,  
J. McGrath, Wm Martin, Lewis Saunders, Tho Brennan,  
Alex. Mitchell, J. H. McVider, Chas. Baird, John Mac-  
dougall, Louis Leacy, Chas Conacher.

3<sup>rd</sup> Class. - Wm. Patterson, Sydney Prush, Alexander  
Fisher, Wm. Morris James Barrett, Robt. Barrett  
John Lawry, Feigus McFee, John Willeain, Edward  
Clerk James Kaye, John McNeiric, Andrew Morgan,  
Chas. Watson, Wm Wright, Wm Kallmyre, Wm. Sloan.

G. M. Rose, Sec. Secy.

An Ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics Institute  
was held on Monday Evening, Dec. 11, 1855.

Examin-  
Minutes

The President in the Chair.

Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

The following were admitted as ordinary members  
of the Institute, viz: -

New Members

1<sup>st</sup> Class. - John F. F. Amery, J. H. Isaacson,  
A. Coulter, J. Keller, and W. P. M. Kircyn, J. Galbraith,  
Robert Forester, & Conarty.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class. - Messrs Cookfield Wm. Shaw,  
Alex. Bowen, G. Gilmour, J. Gordon, Alex Kay,  
And. Boyd, J. Nicholson, M. Heylin, J. Oliver,  
J. C. Raddeu.

3<sup>rd</sup> Class. - Timothy Coffey, R. McRay, S. Lynch,  
R. Wornington, John Cox, R. Hendry, W. Ryan,  
J. Pillow, W. Massay, G. Massay, Alex. Nimmo,  
Chas. Dutton, George Redpath.

and, amount

There being no other business the meeting  
adjourned -

G. M. Rose Sec Secy.



Meeting

An ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held Monday Evening the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1856

Chair

The President in the Chair -

Minutes

The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1855 was read and Confirmed -

1<sup>st</sup> class

The following were admitted as members -  
1<sup>st</sup> class. Manning, John Jones. Date, W<sup>th</sup> Monday

2<sup>nd</sup> do

2<sup>nd</sup> class. W. Henderson, Fred Hart, Donald<sup>n</sup> Donald  
Edward Meury, Samuel Spruce, Daniel Bayrell  
Joseph ~~Thompson~~ Townsend, Malcolm Thompson  
A. B. Tracy, Sam<sup>r</sup> Piper, Alex<sup>r</sup> Rough, James Francis  
James Denam, Joseph Brennan, Wilkom Mythe,

3<sup>rd</sup> do

3<sup>rd</sup> class. George Wardley, Thomas Craig, Donald M<sup>c</sup> Donald  
James Mason, Donald M<sup>c</sup> Donald, John Anderson  
John Armstrong, David Henderson, Jas. Goldthrope  
Henry Mullins, Alfred Dutton, Francis Brown,  
John W<sup>r</sup> Ferns, W<sup>r</sup> E. Jackson, Edward Myers -

There being no other Business the Meeting adjourned

M<sup>c</sup>Neill P.S.



Meeting  
Chair

An ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening 28<sup>th</sup> January 1856

President in the Chair

Minutes  
new members

The minutes of former meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst.  
was read and Confirmed  
the following list of new members  
was read over and passed

1<sup>st</sup> Clap.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Clap.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Henry Samuel, John McDonald, P D Brown,  
William Gorman, Thomas Patton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Archibald Sinclair, Robert Low, James Wood  
Peter Johnson, G. Sibley Peter Goss, George Logan  
& Nighthingale, John Burgess, Joseph S. Lee,  
George Thompson, E. H. Barnham, James Antiers  
James Dauntie, William Almond, William Cottingham  
W. Ryan, James Lucas, John Webster,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James Facer, John Webster George Loing  
David Wilson, John Wakefield, Alex Watson  
Matthew Wakefield, Robt Rogers, Anthony Wick  
Joseph Pitman, William Simpson - a McFarley  
William Elliot, Henry Schriat John Ferners  
George Stuffle

3<sup>rd</sup>

There being no other Business before the meeting,  
-adjourned

H. Munnell S.  
*[Signature]*



meeting

Chair

minutes

new members

D. M. Clap

An ordinary meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday evening the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1856

President in the Chair.

The minutes of former meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 1856  
was read and confirmed.

The following new members was read over  
and passed.

2. G. M. Childs, Alex. Fisher, John M. Pherson  
Duncan M. Ellen, Charles Ballou, G. W. Luntie,

No other business appearing the meeting adjourned

*J. M. Clap*



Meeting  
Chair

"An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held  
on Monday Evening the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 25 - 1856

President in the Chair

Minutes

The Minutes of former meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> was  
read and Confirmed.

New Members

The following new members was read  
over, and passed.

1<sup>st</sup> clap.

1<sup>st</sup>. Rev. John Bethune, James Thomas Munn, Warden -  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Ring, St Jean, George Rogers,  
Patrick Dunn, James Gowdie

2<sup>nd</sup> clap.

2<sup>nd</sup>. James Hamilton, William Henderson, Lewis Benjamin,  
Edward Murphy, J Nicolls

3<sup>rd</sup> clap

George Hunter, William Thornton, Alex Adie  
David Sinclair, Wilkes Holmes.

No other Business appearing the Meeting adjourned

J. Munn RS



Meeting

The General Committee met this evening  
March 10th 1856  
present.

Present

Messrs Garte, Gray, Kennedy, Weaver, Lorse,  
Borham, Peirce, Dingwall, Murray, Bernard,  
Robb, Stevenson, Munro.

Chair  
Minutes

The president in the Chair  
The minutes of former meeting were read & confirmed

Memberships

The following members their names being read over  
were admitted as ordinary members  
1st Class. John Harold, Thomas Finney, Edmond Kay  
Parsons, William C. Hayatt  
2nd Class. Arthur Wurtle, John Moss, Tho. McEllen

There being no other business the Meeting adjourned  
J. A. Lumsden Secy.  
J. A. L.



The General Committee met this evening  
24th March 1856

present

Mr. G. H. Grey, Bentram Murray, Kennedy,  
Weaver, Lorse, Mc Gibbon, Miln Dingwall  
Stevenson, Munro,

President in the Chair

The Minutes of former Meeting were read  
and Confirmed

The following members were read over and  
admitted as ordinary members

1<sup>st</sup> class Thos. Paul, John A. Curran

2<sup>n</sup>

William Mawlin

3<sup>n</sup> Nicholas Monro, Thos W Paul  
Henry Bailey James Dyer

no other business appearing the  
Meeting adjourned

J. G. Munro  
Secy



The Seventeenth Annual Meeting of The  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held in the  
Mechanics Hall, on Monday Evening the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1856

Charles Gauth Esq<sup>r</sup> President in the chair

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Mr G. L. S. Stevenson read the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting which were confirmed by the Meeting.

Mr Stevenson then read the Annual Report for the year as also the Treasurers account Currents and Statement of Assets, and Liabilities of the Institute,

It was moved by J. H. Palmer Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Seconded by Mr Fortin Esq<sup>r</sup>

That the Report and Statements now  
read be received and adopted

Carried unanimously

The Chairman having read a list of parties who had complied with the conditions requisite to secure tickets of Life Membership, the following names were ordered to be entered on the Life Membership roll, and the Secretary was instructed to issue the necessary tickets:

Rev Jno Woodner

Jas M<sup>c</sup> Dougal

Wm Warren

Thos Bessing

J M Peto

Wm Jackson

Edward L Peto

Robt Stevenson

James Simpson

Wm M Gibbon

Robt Penn

Jas Poyal Jr

Columba Smith

Alfred Poy

Wm Meikleman

J Consoles

Robt Irwin

Thomas Miller

L<sup>r</sup> Greager

G F Prouse

W F Carter

Joseph Thomson

J G M Kenzie

Wm Parkyn

Thos Kay

Jas E Centier

Wm Campbell

Wm Elliott

J G Shipway

William Reed



The following Ordinary Members were the papers  
1<sup>st</sup> Class Jonathan Findley, Geo. Bayne  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class Wm. Patterson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Class Charles Wm. Thomas, Welsh, Richard Tate,

It was then moved by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. W. Redden

That this meeting thinks it is Expedient to have an Exposition of the Manufactures and Mechanical Industry of United Canada in the course of the next Autumn, in this City, and that the time be engaged so as to meet the periods when the Agricultural Association of Lower Canada and the United States Association for the Advancement of Science shall have their meetings in Montreal and that the Committee of the Mechanics Institute, be authorized, to take the necessary steps to carry out this resolution by calling on the Government to put at their disposal, a sum of money for premiums, and thereby affording an opportunity to select articles to be sent to the Canadian department in the Crystal Palace at Sydenham

Carried  
It was then moved by Mr. C. Perry seconded by Mr. Clarke that this meeting is of opinion that the Committee of this Institute should at an early day put themselves in communication with all parties who have it in their power to further the obtaining a universal Exposition in Canada at the most convenient period for holding the same - if possible not later than the Summer of 1858,  
Carried

On motion of Dr. Dun and seconded by Mr. Palmer it was resolved

That the resolution just passed be reconsidered by this meeting,  
Carried

It was then moved by Dr. Dunard seconded by Mr. Mason that the resolution moved by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Clarke having reference to an Universal Exposition in Montreal and Carried by this meeting, be now rescinded.



Mr Wm Rodden seconded by Mr Palmer, having moved  
the previous question, the vote was again taken on the  
Original Motion, which was declared to be lost consequently  
the resolution referred to was rescinded.

Messrs Fletcher Miller and Harris having been appointed  
Scribes the Meeting proceeded to elect Officers & Clerks  
for the ensuing year according to the provisions of the  
Act of Incorporation when the following gentlemen were  
declared duly elected,

President Charles Garth,

Vice Presidents

1 G W Weaver

3 David Brown

2 Wm Rodden

4 A Murray

Clerks & Scribes. A C Stearns Recd & Scribe Mr Fletcher  
Treasurer. A Blease Librarian Herbert Hope W J McDonald.

General Committee

#

1 Mr Palmer

W J Bentley

A W Legrove

A Peery

W M Mellor

W C Heyatt

R Miller

F W Harris

D J Bernard

J P Doyle

Alex Buttram

W Kennedy

On Motion of Mr Knoss the Meeting adjourned  
Sine die

John Fletcher  
Russey Bro. Firm,



To The Members of Mechanics  
Institute of Montreal

The term of Office for which the General Committee of Management was Elected having expired it becomes their duty to lay before you an account of their proceedings and a statement of the Affairs of the Institute for the past year.

Membership

The number of Members enrolled at the date of last Annual report was 969

The number of Life Members admitted during the year, 140 11 of whom being previously ordinary Members there remains to be added 8

The increase to the Ordinary during the year is of which number 45 were re-admitted, having formerly been Members but had neglected to remain in good standing 268

To the 969 previously on the Books add 276 new Members making a total of 1245

But your Committee having thoroughly investigated the matter during the year, have arrived at the conclusion that the actual number of paying Members is considerably less than is represented by the above figures.

The result of their researches may be said to be as follows. Of the Members enrolled at the present time there should be struck off as being Dead 6

Having left the City 149  
for non-payment of Subscription 174  
332

There are also on the Books considered good but in arrears 100

leaving the total number of Members after above deduction 924

These may be classified as follows  
Honorary Members 10  
Corresponding do 8



Life Members		146
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	do	159
2 <sup>nd</sup> " "	do	260
3 <sup>rd</sup> " "	do	211
		824
and those in arrears		100
		924

With reference to the above list of Members your Committee would recommend that all Members not paying their arrears on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of December next shall be dealt with in accordance with the By Laws and be prevented from enjoying the privileges of Membership.

The Committee would impress on the minds of Members the great importance of increased exertions to procure new Members. Let each Member endeavour during the year, to induce at least one person to join the Institute, and the roll of Members would be materially increased thereby benefiting the Institute as well as themselves.

## The Library

The Library is in a very prosperous state and is gradually increasing in magnitude the number of vols by the last report was 205. The number at present is 2235 showing an increase of 148 of which 62 were by donation and 116 by purchase.

The number of issues has been 5869 being an increase over any previous year and 899 in excess of the issue of 1855. This shows the increased interest Members take in their privileges and should induce our successors to give their best attention to making the Library still more attractive. The Books are all in very fair condition, and the system now in use for recording the issues and return of Books, has been found to work



admirably, and is in the opinion of your Committee the best plan that has hitherto been adopted. Your Committee would recommend to their Successors the propriety of selecting in future purchases for the Library such works as tend to elevate the tone of reading among the younger Members, an addition to the Library Stocking is required as it is not sufficiently extensive for the books on hand.

### The Reading Room

The attendance in the Reading Room has been very good, and a very pleasing feature in the night's throng that frequent them, is the large number of Youth, who may be seen poring over with evident delight, the Journals, and Magazines, indeed it may be said that their accommodation in the Room is too limited already, it would be well if another if another Desk Case be Erected and filled with a further good selection of Papers & Periodicals.

The following is a list of the Papers & Periodicals to be found on the tables.

City Papers, Herald, Gazette, Transcript, Advertiser, Pilot, Argus, Miner, Post, Witness, True Witness, Temperance Advocate, Masonic Pioneer

Canadian Papers Toronto Globe, Kingston Chronicle, Hamilton Spectator, Stratford Freeman, Quebec Chronicle, Guelph Advertiser, & John's News, Ottawa Tribune, Toronto Times.

United States Papers, Boston Post, New York Herald, New York Albion, New York Tribune, Philadelphia Courier Home Journal, Anglo Saxon, Magazines, North British Review, Edinburgh Review, Blackwood's Magazine, Hunt's Magazine, London Quarterly Review, Harper's Magazine, Scientific American, Civil Engineer, Practical Mechanic, Art Journal,

English Papers, Wilson & Smith's European Times, London Illustrated News, The Builder



From Glasgow Saturday Post,

Your Committee gratefully acknowledge the following donations,

From J J Weston Esq. 8 Copies in oil from the Antiquary  
 " Dr. B. B. Callaghan & W. L.  
 " H. C. Chapman Esq 6 do  
 " W. P. Munn Esq Ottawa 9 do  
 " Wm Miller " 2 do  
 " R. Miller " 2 do  
 " Priscilla Deussen 1 do  
 " J. H. Leeming Esq 2 do  
 " David Elliott " Boston. 3 do  
 " Dr Holmes 24 do  
 " Provincial Government 2 do  
 " J. B. Saunders Esq. of London 1 do very valuable  
 " Mr. Clavier of Toledo 2 do of drawings  
 Some engravings from Paul Beausinge  
 A Chest Iron Hall Chairs from Mr. Kiddleby  
 2 Gas Stoves from G. G. Esq.

### Lectures & Classes

The number of lectures delivered during the year under the auspices of the Institute has been fourteen, including a course of five lectures from J. W. Patterson Esq of Massachusetts and formerly of Kansas.

The following is the order in which they were delivered,

December 11<sup>th</sup> 55 The opening lecture by the Lord Bishop of Montreal, Subject, "Some remarks on Colonial Institutions"  
 January 10<sup>th</sup> 56 Dr. Peniston "Structure & life of the Plant"  
 February 4<sup>th</sup> do do do do  
 " 12 W. J. Patterson Esq. Shakspeare his Poets & his Lectures  
 " 14 do " Mary Queen of Scots  
 " 16 do " Burns his genius & Poetry  
 " 21 do " On the Kansas Question  
 " 23 do " do do  
 " 28<sup>th</sup> Dr. Peniston "Structure & life of the plant"

Admission, 50 cents



March 5 "Professor Lawson "Coal & Coal Fields"  
 " 13th. "R. de La "Arts & Sciences"  
 " " "among the Ancient Jews"  
 " 20 "R. H. Fayer "On Compensation"  
 April 29 Major Dechlan "The Islands of Cortes"  
 July 9th. Wm. M. Miller Esq. "The Causes and Prevention of Steam  
 " " "Boiler Explosions"

The above lectures were well attended with the Exception of one or two,

### Clases

Your Committee were exceedingly desirous of carrying out the system of free Clases which had been adopted during the two former years, but there existed considerable difference of opinion in the General Committee on that subject and it was decided to make nominal charge of one dollar for each pupil and a notice to that effect, having been posted in the Reading Room for several weeks a drawing Clap was opened with 26 pupils on the 20th Decr '55 and was continued till the middle of March 1856,

Lects were also opened for several other Clases but the number of names enrolled was so far below what might have been expected that after due Consideration the Committee did not feel warranted, in incurring more expences than the formation of the drawing Clap the attendance at this throughout the Season was remarkably good many of the pupils devoting themselves to their Studies with great diligence and zeal, and under the efficient teaching of Mr Macfarlane made very great progress.

### Annual Festival

This time honored Celebration was held on the 4th February and went off with great eclat the attendance was large than at any other time since the opening of the new City Concert Hall the arrangements gave universal satisfaction;



## Address to His Excellency the Governor General

On the 31<sup>st</sup> July last His Excellency arrived in this City. On the following day he visited the Institute when an address was presented to him by the President and Members of the General Committee, to which he was pleased to make a very gracious reply.

## The Building

When your Committee entered upon their duties and took charge of the Building, there were some improvements and additions required to make it suitable for the accommodation and comfort of the Members, which they have endeavored as far as practicable, to carry out, though they have to regret that the means at their disposal would not admit of their doing many things to improve the appearance of the Hall and other rooms which they would have desired, the revenue derived from the Hall and Committee Rooms is larger than anticipated and with proper attention to the state of the rooms, and to the wants of Parties applying for them, the Revenue may still be expected to increase. The central locality of the Building and easy access to the Hall will always secure to it a fair share of Patronage.

## Finances

The Treasurers Statement and other documents that now lie on the table show a very favorable state of affairs and though highly encouraging to the Members and Friends of the Institute will it is hoped only still further increase their interest and exertions so that in a reasonable time the debts now due may be paid off, and the whole revenue of the Building be appropriated to educate and improve the working the Working Mechanic.

The total amount received from all sources during the past year, has been



L1149.18.3

While the disbursements for the } 885. 16. 8  
same period amounts to, }  
Shewing a balance in the Treasurers }  
hands of } - 264. 1. 7  
1149. 18. 3

The total amount of liabilities are 5863. 19. 1  
and the amount of assets }  
Shewing a Balance in favor of }  
the Institute, } 10,657. 3. 4  
4793. 4. 3

Your Committee have been enabled during the past year, to redeem the liabilities, and to add considerably to the assets of the Institute, and would recommend to their successors, to use every means at their disposal, to pay off the balances now due the various Contractors with as little delay as possible,

### "Amendments to the Act of Incorporation"

By a Resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting your Committee were instructed to consider what alterations were required in the Act of Incorporation your Committee would therefore suggest the following amendments 1<sup>st</sup> That the time of holding the Annual Meeting be changed, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in Nov. till the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in April, for this reason, The Winter Months Months are those in which the Lectures and Classes are held, and as it is at present, the retiring Officers and Members of Committee go out of Office and the newly Elected ones enter upon their duties at the beginning of the Winter, it follows that the retiring Committee cannot in justice to the new Committee make the necessary arrangements for the Lectures and Classes and as it takes, and as it takes the new Committee some time to organize, instead of the Lectures and Classes commencing at the beginning of Winter a great part of the season is over before anything is done, the proposed change would



would entirely obviate this difficulty, as the retiring Committee would go out of Office at the time that their years Operations ought to be brought to a close, and their successors to make arrangements for the Winters Work. An improvement might be made to this amendment, by having two Meetings, one for the Annual Reports and Statements, and the other eight days afterwards for the Election of Officers.

There are other changes in the Act that are desirable and your Committee would recommend that steps be taken to have the Amendments passed at the next Session.

Your Committee have had ~~much~~ considerable attention the subject of Lectures for the ensuing Winter, and would recommend to their successors to discontinue the present system of voluntary Lectures, and endeavor to obtain competent Persons to deliver Courses of Lectures on such subjects as ought to be brought prominently before the Members of a Mechanics Institute.

In conclusion your Committee would state that during their term of Office they trust that they have done all in their power to advance the interests of the Institute they trust, that as the Institute has now attained a very high and important position, and requires much more attention than formerly, that their successors now about to be Elected, will have the time and ability which is needed to watch over its affairs, they also hope that the new Committee may be enabled to infuse into the Mechanics generally that Union and cordial cooperation, in supporting the Institute that it may continue to be a credit to our City, and a source of pride to every Member.

all of which is respectfully submitted,

John Fletcher  
Secy. Pro. Tem.



Mechanics Hall 16<sup>th</sup> July 1857

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Institute was held this evening, called according to a requisition, C. Gauthier Esq. President in the Chair, 40 members present.

The President stated why & how the meeting was called, when it was moved by Mr Rodden seconded by Mr Ogilvie

"That the letter of J. S. Brown upon which the Committee of the Institute appointed a sub-committee, and his subsequent letter to the subcommittee making offers, together with the resolution appointing a sub. Com. with the action of the ~~Board~~ General Committee on the subject be now read" Carried.

The letters and the proceedings of the General & subcommittees upon them, were then read, the letters from Mr Brown were to the effect "That the Board of Agriculture intended to hold a Provincial Exhibition in this City next September, and they desired the Mechanics Institute to take the management of the Industrial Department thereof, the General Committee had consented, and had appointed a subcommittee to cooperate with the Board,

II It was then moved by Mr Kennedy seconded by Mr Perry "That inasmuch as the Mechanics Institute of Montreal are called upon from time to time to contribute to Exhibitions, that they approve of the erection of a permanent Building, to be opened once a year for exhibitions, and kept as a model & sample room for the benefit of Mechanics & Manufacturers, and that it is not expedient to enter into the proposed <sup>scheme</sup> with the Agricultural Board, as we ought to have an exhibition for ourselves"



Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> January continued

The President declared this motion out of order an appeal was made from the decision of the Chair by Mr Milne, the question was put "Shall the Chair be sustained", when a large majority voted in the affirmative, the motion proposed by Mr Kennedy was then thrown out.

III A motion was made by Mr Rodden seconded by Mr Wood "That this meeting concur in the action of the Board, and of the General Committee on the subject of the coming Exhibition, it being expressly understood, that the subcommittee be held personally responsible for any action they may take contrary to instructions of the General Committee" Moved in amendment by J. Barnard seconded by Mr Miller. "That it is the opinion of this meeting that the act of incorporation gives to this Institute no authority to engage in a matter such as that proposed, in connection with another society, and would therefore recommend to the general Committee to discontinue any further action on behalf of the Institute, and that a Committee appointed by a general meeting of Mechanics & Manufacturers to be convened for that purpose, would be the proper executive authority to act in concert with the Board of Agriculture and to take charge of the Industrial Department, as proposed by Mr J. S. Brown to the Committee of this Institute" The amendment upon being put was lost. The main motion was then put and carried by a large majority.

The meeting then adjourned

John Fletcher  
Secy.







Mechanics Hall. July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1857  
An adjourned ordinary Meeting of the  
Members of the Institute as called by  
Advertisement was held this evening in the  
Clap Room. J. Garth President in the  
Chair and 25 Members present. — The  
President stated the purpose of the  
Meeting to be to take into consideration  
the act of parliament passed at last session  
to establish a Board of Arts & Manufactures  
in each Section of the province and to  
elect Delegates to said board. The Pres<sup>t</sup>  
then read the clauses of the act relative to  
the formation of the Board. It was then  
Moved by Mr Wood. Seconded by Mr  
Ogilvie that we proceed at once to the  
election of Delegates to the Board. Moved  
Moved by Mr Hayatt. Seconded by J. Fletcher  
that the President Mr Murray and Mr Doyle  
be a committee to prepare a list of names to  
act as Delegates. Carried  
The committee soon after reported a  
list of 22 names. — The number the  
Institute would be entitled to elect  
after the list had been read over the  
Members present suggested an additional  
list of 11 names. out of which to make  
a selection it was then Moved by Mr Doyle  
seconded by Mr Perry that the list of  
names selected by the committee as also the  
list suggested by the Members be now  
read and that as the names on the original  
list are read over it shall be com-  
petent for any member to move that  
any name on said list be struck out  
and filled up by a name from the  
suggested list. Moved & carried  
Moved by Mr Hayatt seconded by Mr Stevenson  
that such names on the list of —  
proposals



proposed delegates be read over consecutively  
so that the members present may transcribe  
the requisite number of 22 therefrom and that  
from those ballots the names of 22 who have the  
highest number of votes be declared elected the  
amendment upon being put was carried by a  
large majority

Mr Stevenson & Mr Murray were appointed  
secretaries the ballot was taken and the following  
were declared duly elected members of delegates  
to the Board of Arts and Manufacturers for  
Lower Canada

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 David Brown     | 12 G. Grant       |
| 2 R. B. Lorse     | 13 J. A. Converse |
| 3 J. Fletcher     | 14 W. Rodden      |
| 4 H. Bulmer       | 15 Dr. Bernard    |
| 5 A. A. Stevenson | 16 John Lovel     |
| 6 Alex. Murray    | 17 Wm. Parkyn     |
| 7 H. Lyman        | 18 J. P. Doyle    |
| 8 Wm. Spier       | 19 A. Perry       |
| 9 G. W. Keaser    | 20 J. Redpath     |
| 10 A. Ramsay      | 21 H. S. Young    |
| 11 B. Chamberlain | 22 G. S. Spence   |

The meeting then adjourned

*A. Murray*  
Secy



Mechanics Hall 24<sup>th</sup> August 1857  
The ordinary Meeting was held this evening  
The President in the Chair 13 Members present  
The following persons proposed at former Meetings  
of the Committee, were regularly admitted -  
Members of the Institute -

1<sup>st</sup> class B Chamberlain  
" " J. Mc Lane  
" " " Robertson  
2 " " D Smith  
" " " E Robertson  
" " " J. A. Shels.

The Meeting then adjourned  
H. Munro  
Secretary  
pro Tem

Mechanics Hall 12 Oct 1857  
The ordinary Meeting was held this evening  
The President in the Chair the following  
Members was admitted Members of the  
Institute -

1<sup>st</sup> Class. Mr Doran " " J. D. Mc Gee  
" " Mr Kinnon " " Joseph Dunn  
" " Mr Bellman " " Geo Hughes  
" " J. Penn " " J. P. Craig  
" " J. D. Hood " " Robert Watson  
" " W. Hudson " " G. J. Payne  
" " John Watson " " H. Kayan  
" " Mr Hoagley.

The Meeting then adjourned  
H. Munro  
Secretary  
pro Tem



Mechanic's Hall. 26 Oct. 1857

The ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Institute was held this evening & George Prescott in the Chair 13 Members present.

I The Minutes of former Meetings read and confirmed

II The following persons having been regularly proposed at the Meetings of Committee were elected  
6th Members of the Institute

1<sup>st</sup> Class. Jacob Perrotte, Ed. Thompson, P<sup>r</sup> Hunter  
& Smith W<sup>th</sup> Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Tho<sup>s</sup> Wilson, G B Lazenby, R Hensing —  
Ho Watson, R White, Ho Tait, W<sup>th</sup> Reid  
M Gollery W Green.

3<sup>rd</sup> Class. G W Keyell, W<sup>th</sup> Murphy, R Watson  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Hardisty Alex Mc Intyre  
The Meeting adjourned

M. Munro  
Secy & Pro Tem



Montreal No. 2<sup>o</sup> 1857. On this  
 the first Monday of Nov<sup>r</sup>. the Eighteen  
 Annual Meeting of the Institute was  
 held in the Class Room. & George  
 President in the Chair the Secretary  
 read the Minutes of last Annual  
 Meeting which were approved. The  
 Secretary then read the Annual Report  
 and Treasurers statement.

To the Members of the Mechanics Institute  
 of Montreal - the period having  
 arrived at which the comes Neapoy  
 for the office Bearer and Committee  
 of Management Design their trust  
 they would now lay before you an  
 account of the proceedings and a statement  
 of the affairs of the Institute for the year  
 now closed.

Membership

The Number of Members at this  
 date of the Last Annual Meeting  
 was.

	824
Ceased to be Members.	40
	<u>784</u>
Members admitted during the year	210
Making a total	<u>994</u>

& Classified as follows.

Honorary Members	10	
Corresponding do	8	
Life do	178	
1 <sup>o</sup> Class do	222	
2 <sup>o</sup> do do	299	
3 <sup>o</sup> do do	277	<u>994</u>

Showing an increase of 170 over the  
 number on the Books at the Last Annual  
 Meeting. But as a large Number of the  
 above have neglected to pay their annual  
 subscriptions your Committee would  
 earnestly recommend a more  
 rigorous enforcement thereof.



heretofore than the case with the 10<sup>th</sup> Bylaw  
of the Institute. The Committee would also seek  
to enforce impress on the minds of Members  
the importance of increased exertions to  
procure New Membership let each one endeavour  
to use his influence to induce those of his acquai-  
-ntances who do not belong to the Institute  
to become connected with it and the Roll of  
Members would very soon be increased  
efforts should also be made to retain them  
When admitted More especially the apprentice  
Members. Many of those who have from time  
to time Ceased to be Members, might still  
have been with us if a little watchfull care  
by the Committee had been exercised over them  
When neglect of the privileges of the Institute  
had become apparent on their part to  
accomplish this object Standing Com<sup>tee</sup>  
on Membership ought to be appointed  
whose duty it would be to become acq-  
-ainted with New Members to endeavour  
to interest them in the affairs and advan-  
-tages of the Institute and to visit any who  
show a desire to withdraw from its privileges  
The Library. This essential and very  
important part of the Institute continues in  
a prosperous state altho the additions made  
to it are not so Large as your Committee could  
have wished it is to be hoped that the financial  
affairs of the Institute during the coming year  
will place our Successors in a position to make  
larger additions. The Number of Volumes a-  
-added during the Year have been - 207 -  
173 by purchase and 34 by donation. The  
Number of Volumes in the Library at the date  
of the Last Report was. 2235  
Making in all a total of 2442  
The Number of Issues during the Year  
has been 5362 exhibiting a falling off  
from the preceding Year of 807. The



The System of enrigenstration adopted in 1855  
works admirably it has enabled the Library Com<sup>t</sup>  
to prepare an interesting classafied statement  
of the Contents of the Library the Annuals issues  
in each of the classes and the average percentage  
of use made of each class or Department. See  
Report of Liby Com<sup>t</sup> The Com<sup>t</sup>. gratefully express  
their thanks to the following gentlemen for donations  
made by them to the Library and trust that Members  
and friends of the Institute would bear in mind how  
easily and cheaply the Library could be increased  
by donations of works lying unused in their  
private collections See Report Lecture of Liby Com<sup>t</sup>  
The Reading Room. The attendance of Members  
in the Reading Room has increased very much  
during the Year the attendance of the Young  
Members especially has been very good the  
Room is filled every evening and of an increase  
should be made to the Membership during the  
coming Year. further accommodation will have  
to be provided. the following is a List of the  
papers and Periodicals to be found on the tables  
and desks See (Library Report)

Lecture and Classes — The Number of  
Lectures delivered during the Year under  
the auspices of the Institute was only five this  
decrease in the Number of Lectures was owing  
to the fact that in the early part of the Winter  
the Hall was occupied by other parties some  
of them Lecturers. This want was not so  
much felt as many of them attended the Lectures  
given by those who rented the Hall the following  
the order in which they were delivered  
1<sup>st</sup> B Chamberlain Esq. On the Title and  
Territory of the Heuds on Bay Com<sup>t</sup>.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by L Dunkin Esq. On some of Shakes  
pears delineations of Characters in McBeth  
3<sup>rd</sup> by Mr Doherty on the Telegraph its  
influences and improvements Explained



4 by Dr Knight on the Theory of Sounds  
with practical Illustrations  
5<sup>th</sup> by Professor Dawson on Minerals & Minerals  
with Maps and drawings and description of their  
History Classes In the early part of the  
Winter a drawing Class under the Tuition  
of Mr J Young was formed and carried  
on for some time with considerable success the  
industrious pupils made good progress at a  
later period Classes were formed for the study of  
French Writing and Arithmetic and teachers  
furnished by A Wash Esq. of the Lower Canada  
College free of charge and were attended  
with some interest but from the lateness of  
Season when they were opened the attendance  
was not as large as might have been. Desirable  
Your Com<sup>te</sup> would here recommend that Steps  
be taken at an early date after the New Com<sup>te</sup>  
shall have been organized to procure competent  
Teachers and open Classes.

Annuals Festivals The Festival was held  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> Feby 1857 and was well attended  
the arrangements gave great satisfaction  
this time honoured celebration seems to hold  
position in the estimation of the Citizens the  
net proceeds were £76. 8. 4

The Building , During the past Sum-  
-mer the interior of the hall has been thorough-  
-ly changed and renovated at a cost of  
£46. 3. 0 the Concert hall presents an im-  
-proved appearance and as will be  
seen by reference to the Treasurers report  
the Revenue derived from it has increased  
The heating apparatus erected last Winter  
was found to be insufficient for the  
proper heating Some alterations of  
the Building now being made in its  
Construction which it is expected will  
remove all cause for further Complaint

Finances

and attractive  
R.C.M.



Hence the Treasurers Statement and  
 other documents that now lie on the Table  
 show a very favourable state of affairs  
 Your Committee have been enabled during the  
 past Year to reduce the Liabilities of the Institute  
 and they confidently hope that the Members and  
 friends of the Institute may still further increase  
 their efforts and exertions so that in a reason-  
 -able time the debts now due may be paid  
 off and the whole revenue of the Building  
 be appropriated to educate and improve  
 the Working Mechanic The total amount  
 received from all sources during the past  
 Year has been £ 1367.5.7  
 Balance in Treasurers hands  
 at Last Annual Meeting £ 264.1.7  
 £ 1631.7.2

While the Disbursements for the same  
 period amounts to £ 1619.8.5  
 Balance In Treasurers hands. 11.8.9 1631.7.2  
 The Total amount of Liabilities  
 are. ————— £ 5130.9.1  
 The amount of assets Thus £ 10352.10.9

Showing a balance in favour of the  
 Institute amounting to the sum of £ 5222.18  
 £ 10352.10.9

and also reducing the liabilities  
 of the Institute since last annual  
 Report the sum of £ 428.17.5.



Provincial Exhibition At an early period  
of the year the Board of Agriculture made  
application to your Committee to ascertain whether  
the Institute would take charge of the Industrial  
-ial Department of the Provincial Exhibition  
to be held in this City in the Month of September -  
the application was entertained and sub  
Committee consisting of the following Members  
of the General Committee were appointed to Coop  
-erate with the Board of Agriculture in  
Managing the Exhibition viz Messrs C Garth  
G W Weaver, Mr R Rodden, D Brown, and  
J Fletcher their Report is herewith submi  
-tted and it is hoped the Course they  
pursued so far has met the approbation  
of the Board of Agriculture the Exhibitors and  
the Public. The Board of Agriculture has  
Carried out in good faith all its arrangements  
with the Sub Committee but owing to the  
president of the Board being absent from the  
City a settlement has not yet been made  
this will be done at an early date  
The great facilities afforded by the Grand  
Trunk Railway Comp. and other kind  
friends of the Institute and the personal  
efforts and ~~of~~ Lab. Comrs. assisted by other  
Members of the General Comrs enabled a  
great saving to be effected in the estimated  
expenses. A portion of the balance on hand  
with the Sub Comrs has been handed over to  
your Treasurer, to meet a pressing claim  
and there is no doubt ere long a further con  
siderable sum which can be applied to the  
Liquidation of the debts of the Institute. The  
Report of the Sub Comrs will show that their  
duties were arduous, and the most of their  
acts being public you have had ere this an  
opportunity of judging the Manner in which  
they were performed. It would have  
pleased

\* Services of the  
Hall



pleased the Sub Com<sup>tee</sup>, to have been able to introduce several improvements in the system of conducting these exhibitions but as this was the last that would be carried out under the old act it was impossible to do otherwise than adopt the old system and work it out in the best possible manner, under existing circumstances. It is hoped the organization of a Board of Arts and Manufacturers and its participation in future in the control of Exhibitions will with the assistance of your delegates to the Board be enabled to influence the adoption of improvements in the future management of Exhibitions.

### Board of Arts & Manufacturers

Your Committee with pleasure record in their report the fact that their efforts to secure further privileges for the Mechanic and Manufacturer of Montreal as well as all Canada have been to a considerable extent crowned with success. In accordance with <sup>the</sup> your expressed wish of your last Annual Meeting a sub Com<sup>tee</sup> was appointed an address was prepared and submitted to Government urging the immediate organization of a Board of Arts and Manufacturers, supported by a grant of Public Money, and empowered to make provisions for the instruction & improvement of Mechanics together with the establishments of Model Rooms and the power to take part in the future management of Exhibitions - Endeavours were made by your Committee to secure these privileges for this Institute but it was found impossible in consequence of the great number of Institutes throughout the Country that would look for similar grants the present law was therefore accepted - establishing a Board of Arts & Manufacturers. Consequently a meeting of the Institute was held and 22 delegates to said Board elected who will no doubt give such attention to the

Duties



duties as will enable them to serve this Institute and influence the actions of the Board in a direction that will materially improve the position of Manufacturers & Mechanics. It may be observed however that some improvement is required in the Law and your Com<sup>tee</sup> would recommend it to the early attention of their successors in office while referring to this subject your Com<sup>tee</sup> cannot leave it without remarking that the Meetings of the Board are now held in the Institute and will afford a small Annual increase in the Revenue to be taken which and to make the premises suitable for the purposes of the Board it is extremely important that action should speedily be taken with the view of increasing the size of the premises by adding thereto some more suitable class ~~rooms~~ and ~~Waller~~ Rooms. And in the opinion of your Com<sup>tee</sup> this can only be done by an extension of the Building from the rear over the present Yard.

Railway Celebration It will be within your recollection that several of the officers & Members of the Institute at the time of your last Annual Meeting were Members of the Com<sup>tee</sup> of Management of the Railway celebration which took place in November last. This event is one that has fastened itself on the memory of every good Canadian. The opening of such important connections by Railway as was then inaugurated cannot fail to have created a beneficial and lasting influence on the Mercantile and Mechanical Interests throughout Canada, and no doubt it had the effect of producing the most favourable impression abroad of the increasing importance of this fine Province. Not the least important and imposing features of the Celebration was to be found in the Trades procession through



the influence of your Members. in the Committee  
of Management a large Sum was appropriated  
from the General celebration funds, for the purpose  
of making ample provisions for a suitable Mechanical  
display a sub Comtee. was appointed they called  
upon the different tradesmen of the City and  
your Committee how much pleasure in  
testifying to the promptness energy & ability  
with which the Trades procession was conducted  
by the different Mechanics who made such  
a creditable display that occasion the  
Mechanical demonstration of that day established  
the fact that the Manufacturing facilities of Canada  
and particular of Montreal were of a high order  
and if properly encouraged as is done in other  
countries the Manufacturers of Canada would  
compete favourably with those of any other Country  
and ere long their would be such an improve-  
ment in the position of our Mechanics as to  
defy competition from any quarter - It is a  
matter worthy of the serious consideration  
of the Mechanics of Montreal - that can  
be done by the united effort of Mechanics  
in Montreal to place them in as good a position  
as the Mechanics in other Countries Montreal must  
lead in any undertaking of this kind which  
can accomplish such an object and the  
Members of this Institute can be instrumen-  
tal by their united efforts in speedily  
arranging the desirable end The follow-  
ing Gentlemen paid over to the Treasurer  
of the Institute the several Sums allowed  
them by the Celebration Committee for Expenses  
incurred by them in taking part in the  
procession - Messrs. Bartley & Gumbo  
W. Rodden J. Redpath J. D. Biglow - and  
Grant & Hall. for which your Committee tendered  
their thanks on your behalf through the  
usual Channel

Yours.







*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*



Pereira's Materia Medica	17179	Vol I	Pt.
" " " " " "	17180	II	" I
" " " " " "	17181	II	" II
Pharmaceutical Journal	17100	I	1841-42
" " " " " "	17101	II	1842-43
" " " " " "	2	III	1843-44
" " " " " "	3	IV	1844-45
" " " " " "	4	V	1845-46
" " " " " "	5	VI	1846-47
" " " " " "	6	VII	1847-48
" " " " " "	7	VIII	1848-49
" " " " " "	8	IX	1849-50
" " " " " "	9	X	1850-51
" " " " " "	10	XI	1851-52
" " " " " "	17130	Index from	1841-1868
" " " " " "	17112	XIII	1853-54
" " " " " "	13	XIV	1854-55
" " " " " "	14	XV	1855-56
" " " " " "	15	XVI	1856-57
" " " " " "	16	XVII	1857-58
" " " " " "	17	XVIII	1858-59
<hr/>			
" " " " " "	18	XIX	new series 1869-70
" " " " " "	19	II	new series 60-61
" " " " " "	20	III	" " 61-62
" " " " " "	21	IV	" " 62-63
" " " " " "	22	V	" " 63-64
" " " " " "	23	VI	" " 64-65
" " " " " "	24	VII	" " 65-66
" " " " " "	25	VIII	" " 66-67
" " " " " "	26	IX	" " 67-68
" " " " " "	27	X	" " 68-69
" " " " " "	28	XI	" " 69-70



Herms  
Oscar  
by  
N. Muench



Your Comtee would seek to remind you that we are the high position which the Institute has attained to the state of prosperity which has existed in this City and to the liberality of its Citizens but times of Adversity May visit us and a decrease of the Revenue be felt it would be well then for the office bearers and Comtee of the Institute to be prepared for any Crisis so that by a watchfull Care over its Management it May long Continue to flourish - In Conclusion your Comtee would express a hope that their Successors in office now about to be elected will have the time and ability which is needed to watch over the affairs and be enabled to infuse into the Mechanics generally that union and Cordial Cooperation in Supporting the Institute that it May continue to be a credit to our City and a source of pleasure profit and improvement to every Member -

all which is respectfully  
Submitted

I Moved by R. Irwin seconded by J. Wood. that the Report now before be received and adopted & carried

II Moved by Mr Milne seconded by Mr Cross. that the Report be published in pamphlet form

Over



III Moved in Amendment by D Bernard  
 Seconded by Mr. Navos. that a Synopsis  
 of the Report be published in the Newspapers  
 and the Chairman of the Sub Committee  
 be appointed to prepare ~~the~~ the  
 Report for publication. The Amendment  
 - Moved upon being put was carried.  
 The President read the Names of Messrs  
 John Mathewson J. W. Peck as being  
 entitled to be elected Life Members.  
 The President appointed Messrs H. Munro  
 J. Wood and J. Grant. Scrutineers and  
 the Meeting proceeded to elect office bearers  
 for the ensuing year according to the pro-  
 -visions of the act of incorporation when  
 the following Gentlemen was declared duly  
 Elected.

President G. W. Weaver  
 1 Vice .D. David Brown  
 2 " " Hector Munro  
 3 " " Alex. Murray  
 4 " " Alex. Ogilvie  
 Correspondy Secy. Alex. Thomson  
 Rec<sup>d</sup> Secy. John Fletcher  
 Treasurer B. B. Corse  
 Librarian Chas. McDonald  
 Committee

John Grant  
 Will. Kennedy  
 Dr. Bernard  
 Alex. Bertram  
 William Rodden  
 Alex. Perry  
 William P. Bartley  
 Re. Irving  
 Chas. Garth  
 Geo. Gray  
 John Wood  
 John Smith



IV

Moved by J Anderson Seconded by Mr S Pyle That one of the small Rooms of the Institute be appropriated for Musical purposes in connection with the Institute two hours once a week or what ever evenings the Comtee might deem most convenient

V

Moved by ANNUNCIATION by W. Clendinning Seconded by Mr Hazat That it is inexpedient for the Meeting to interfere with the Committee now about to be elected for the Management of the affairs of the Institute in granting the use of any of the ~~Rooms~~ Rooms.

VI

Moved by Mr William Rodden Seconded by Mr Lorse That the previous question be now put. Which was carried, the Main Motion was then put and lost by a large majority

VII

Moved by Mr Bernard Seconded by William Rodden. That the thanks of this Meeting are due and are hereby tendered to Messrs. Chas. Garth J. W. Weaver and C. B. Lorse. for their zealous and successful exertions made by them for the reduction of the liabilities of the Institute during the past year and for the liberality displayed in raising money on the personal responsibility for that purpose whereby the interests of the Institute were greatly promoted - Carried

VIII

Moved by A Stevenson Seconded by A. W. Ogilvie That the thanks of the Institute are due and are hereby tendered to those Gentlemen Messrs. Chas. Garth, J. W. Weaver, D. Brown and J. Fletcher who composed the Executive Committee of the Industrial Department of the Late Provincial Exhibition for their zeal and abilities which they manifested in fulfilling the arduous duties

W. Rodden  
H. M.



Articles Connected with the Carrying out the  
various details of that important Department  
and for the economy which they exercised  
in the Management of the preliminary ar-  
rangements whereby a large saving was  
effected in the estimated expenses. from which  
fund this Institute will derive considerable  
Material assistance. Carried.

IX Moved by Mr. Kralen seconded by D. Berman  
In the opinion of this Meeting it is desirable  
that the Generals & Comm. should at an  
early day take into consideration the  
necessity of preparing amendments to the  
present act of Incorporation of this Institute  
and submit their Recommendations at their  
earliest possible Convenience to a special  
Meeting of its Members. Attention being  
given to the propriety of Reducing the  
Numbers of officers and Members of Comm.  
The alteration of the time of holding the  
Annual Meeting which in the opinion  
of this Meeting is desirable, the  
Motion on being put from the Chair was  
Lost.

X Moved by Mr. Rose seconded by Mr. Bartley  
that the act of incorporation be referred to the  
Generals Committee to make such alterations as is  
deemed necessary, and to report the same at  
a general Meeting to be called for this purpose.  
Carried.

XI Moved by James Dixon seconded by J. Hyde  
that a vote of thanks is due and is hereby ten-  
dered by this Meeting to the Retiring Members  
the President ~~and~~ office bearers and Committee  
for their unwearied exertions on behalf of the  
interests of the Institute during the past year.

The Meeting adjourned  
Director Munro  
Secretary  
for them



Mechanics Hall No. 23. 1858

An ordinary Meeting was held this evening by W. Weaver President in the chair. present Messrs. Messrs. G. Hill, Grant, Brown, Rodden, Corse, Edwin Smith, Kennedy, Murray.

The Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> was read and approved.

The following List of names proposed at General Committee Meetings was read and Elected Members of the Institute —

1<sup>st</sup> class John Walker  
John M<sup>c</sup>Laren  
Robert Gardner

2<sup>nd</sup> class Alex Lindsay  
Wm Best  
Geor Spiers  
John Grein

John M<sup>c</sup>Shane  
Robt M<sup>c</sup>Phu  
Francis John Maybury

3<sup>rd</sup> class Henry Andrew  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Murray  
Patrick Hanahan  
Patrick Hughes  
Robt Duncan

3<sup>rd</sup> class Henry Wall  
Joseph Gagon  
Henry Casany  
Robt D M<sup>c</sup>Laren

David Ross  
Alex M<sup>c</sup>Phu  
Robt Gardner jr  
Norman M<sup>c</sup>Loud  
Jas Patterson

S. W. Boyd  
Jas Web  
ab. Provanham  
Ar<sup>r</sup> Cassels  
Wm Galt  
David Dean

No other Business appearing the Meeting adjourned

H. A. Murray

Secretary

per [Signature]



Mechanics Hall Dec<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1857

An ordinary was held this evening  
the President in the Chair fourteen  
Members being present. -

The Minutes of former Meeting was  
read and confirmed - -

The following List of names  
proposed by the General Committee  
was read over and Elected Members  
of the Institute -

1st. William Byrne	Francis Kennon
Benjd Tailor	John Adley
W. L. Bayd	James Gaule
Daniel Somerville	William Bournen
2. Robt Abeyketh	Geo Hall
A. S. Irving	Sam Lase
Edw. Hughes	David Fannell
Reid Peters	Geo. Perry
J. G. Hamilton	John Fannell
Arthur Kuddell	A. M. Cleghorn
Paul Crada	Geo. W. Kirk
Wm. McGaw	E. A. Martineau
Geo. Henderson	Robt Windson
W. J. Martineau	Geo W. Mills
Geo Thompson	John L. Evans.
John Docherty	James Scott
Daniel Lerner	Robt Duncan
Edmund Buhagon	Wm. Hill
Thos Irwin	James Brown
William Moor	Robt M. Laughlin
Robt Campbell	Duncan Munn
John McNeil	William Turner
Benjd Hollands	John McJintyne
Rubben Brunett	Robt Duncan
Patrick Lacle	John Mc Dermott
A. Eustas	W. Seacomb
Benjd. S. Parker	William Fitz
C. McEllon	John Walker
J. W. Laidie	Geo Hewitt

forward



Mechanics Hall Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1857 Continued

3. Jas Wilson  
Jas Chyhorn  
Jas Grey  
Will. Geary  
Fred<sup>r</sup> Samuels  
M. G. M<sup>r</sup> Plenton  
Alfred Pappleton  
Arthur Samuels

The Meeting adjourned  
Secretary, pro Tem

Mechanics Hall, Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1858  
a Special General Meeting was  
held this evening G. W. Weaver  
president in the Chair

The president stated that he had  
called this Meeting by advertisement  
for the purpose of Electing Delegates  
to the Board of arts and Manufac-  
-turers.

The president then instructed the  
Secretary to read the Minutes of Meeting 23 July 1857  
which was confirmed

The President stated that a list of the  
Membership entitled to vote and eligible  
for Delegates was laid upon the Table  
which Members present could avail them-  
-selves of and according to the List made  
out the Institute was entitled to send  
Twenty one Delegates - 21

To represent us at the Board of arts and Manufactory

Moved by Mr Milne Seconded by  
Mr Gant that the whole number  
of Twenty one Delegates the Institute are  
entitled to Elect be balloted for at once  
and the Names having the highest number  
of Votes be declared Elected

Carried



Mechanics Hall Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1858  
Special Meeting Continued  
Moved by Mr Rodden seconded by  
Mr Bartley that Messrs Stevenson and  
Leckie be appointed scrutineers of the  
Ballot. Carried

The Result of the Ballot was  
as follows:-

1	David Brown	26
2	Henry Bulmer	26
3	Alfred Murray	26
4	A. D. Stevenson	26
5	John Fletcher	26
6	Mr B. Lorse	26
7	A. Ramsay	26
8	Chas. Garth	26
9	John Grant	26
10	J. A. Carverse	26
11	Wm. Parkyn	26
12	A. Coutin	22
13	William Spiro	22
14	B. Chamberlain	22
15	William Mibe	22
16	Alfred Perry	21
17	Edward Murphy	12
18	William P. Bartley	15
19	William Rodden	14
20	Rail Forsythe	14
21	John Redpath	5

Moved by Mr Mibe seconded  
by Mr Bartley that the Meeting  
do now adjourn

Carried  
Hector Murray  
Secretary

protem



Mechanics Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1858  
 An ordinary Meeting was held  
 this Evening G. W. Weaver President  
 in the Chair present Messrs. Corse,  
 Kennedy, Bertram Woods Grant  
 Stevenson Algelvie, McDonald  
 Perry, Brown Brown, Bartley  
 Rodden Munn

The Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> December was  
 Read and Confirmed -

The following List of New  
 Members proposed by the General  
 Committee was Read and Elected  
 Members of the Institute

1 <sup>st</sup>	G. B. Scott	3.	And. Fletcher
	H. N. Vicatt		John McEntyre
	- Carverhill		Thos. Marshall
	A. F. Jones		W. H. Dickes
	William Satter		John Inglis
	James Chambers		Robt Tennor
	J. G. Riffle		Geor. Seabrook
	Jas S Black		Stephen White
2 <sup>d</sup>	Edw. Blomley		G. J. Liffington
	David Young		Thos. Kellogg
	William Campbell		John Ryan
	D. Wark		James Ryan
	Robert French		John Took
	G. B. Richards		Rich Took
	Jas Smith		Joseph Guido
	Jas Hart		John Wright
	Jas Connors		James McCreane
	John Hammitton		Richard Sadler
	James Callaghan		
	Miss Chisholm		
	Miss Dunn		

There being no further Business the  
 Meeting adjourned  
 Peter Munn  
 Secretary pro tem



Mechanics Hall Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1858

An ordinary Meeting was held this Evening by W. Weaver President in the Chair, present Messrs Wood, Ben Corse, Grant, Gorth, Rodden.

Bentham, Kennedy, Gavin, Ogilvie, Smith, Fletcher, Perry, Munro

The Minutes of former was read and confirmed

The following list was read over as proposed by the General Committee and elected as Members of the Institute

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr John Paxton
- John Gordon
- Hugh Murphy
- T. G. Green
- G. Bush
- 2<sup>nd</sup> William Bellan
- Walter Duffit
- Thos. McValley
- James Henry
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Charles Nimmo
- Alfred Cooper
- 4<sup>th</sup> James Everit
- William Watter
- William Daulin
- Michael Burke
- George Lish
- Ed. G. Catoates
- John Gausye
- Horquard, Beamanith
- Thos. Connolly
- Edward Shepherd
- John Cullen
- Phoebe Gatehouse
- H. Felkin
- John Mc Cormick
- Jocelyn Waller

No further Business appearing the Meeting adjourned  
Wm. Munn



Mechanics Hall, ~~March~~ Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> - 1858

An ordinary Meeting was held this Evening J. W. Weaver President in the Chair. present Messrs Perry, Corse - Wood, Gray, Ben, Grant, Rodden, Smith, Kennedy, Stevenson, Munro,

The Minutes of former Meeting, was read and confirmed. The following Members proposed by the General Committee was read and Elected Members of the Institute

- 1<sup>st</sup> A. Jodoin  
- William Morgan  
2<sup>nd</sup> G. Scott  
- Robt Darling  
- John Frazer  
- John A. McCallum  
- William Smith  
3. Cunningham Shephards  
- J. Gillie  
- William Bond  
- John Dickson  
- J. Guff  
- David Taylor  
- Dent. Nolan  
- John Simpson

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned

J. W. Weaver  
Secretary



Mechanics Hall 8<sup>th</sup> March 1858

An ordinary Meeting was held this evening  
H. Mund Esq. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in  
the Chair

The Minutes of last Meeting were read &  
confirmed

The following list of Gentlemen proposed by  
the General Committee were read over &  
elected Members of the Institute

1<sup>st</sup> Class George Drummond  
" " Alexander Morris  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Robert Hammond  
" " John Holland  
" " Daniel Sexton  
" " Francis B. M<sup>rs</sup> Names  
" " William B. Converse  
" " Louis Farrel  
3<sup>rd</sup> " William Burns  
" " William G. Cunningham  
" " James M<sup>rs</sup>  
" " Joseph Lavery  
" " Charles B. Burbridge  
" " Henry Hammond  
" " John J. Hayes  
" " John Hammond

No other business appearing the  
Meeting adjourned

John Wood  
R<sup>g</sup> Secretary



1858

Mechanics Hall 25<sup>th</sup> March 1858

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held this evening

G. W. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair  
Present Weaver, Bartley, Rodden, Bertram, Gorse  
Gray, Mr. Donald, Benn, Stevenson, Munro,  
Guth, Mandy Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons proposed by the General Committee  
were then elected Members of the Institute to wit

- 1<sup>st</sup> Class Henry Hemming
- 1 " Andrew White
- 2 " J. W. M. Glashan
- 2 " James Middleton
- 3 " Alexander Boulton

Complaints having been made against Samuel  
Price the Superintendent's assistant for non-  
performance of his duties

It was Moved by Mr. H. Munro Seconded by Mr.  
John Wood that in order for the more efficient  
performance of the duties of Samuel Price the Super-  
intendent's assistant he be left under the  
sole control of the President

Carried

It having been stated to the Meeting that the  
Alligator gave a very rare & valuable Specimen of  
Fish in the Museum was in a decaying state &  
that it could be got Stuffed & put in good order  
for the sum of 4/- or less

It was Moved by Mr. H. Munro Seconded by  
Mr. John Wood that the Stuffed of the Alligator  
be referred to the Finance Committee to report  
upon at next Meeting

Carried

Continued



1858

Minutes Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March Continued

Mr. William Rodden reported for the Exhibition Committee that the Board of Agriculture had agreed to accept the sum of \$150 for the sale of Tickets and waiving their claim for Advertising Bills for about \$125 additional

Moved by Mr. William Rodden Seconded by Mr. W. Co. Stevenson that a deputation be appointed to wait upon the Institute Canadian for the purpose of adopting such means as may be necessary in conjunction with them for the purpose of getting that of this Institute freed from Taxes & Water Rates

The following were appointed the deputation to wait <sup>Carried</sup> Messrs. Weaver, Murray, Stevenson & Barkley

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Vice Secretary

Mechanic Hall 26<sup>th</sup> April 58

An Ordinary Meeting of the Members was held this evening

H. Murray Esqr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in the Chair  
Present Messrs Rodden Corse, Kennedy, Austin, Mr. Donald Benn Bartram & Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons proposed by the General Committee were read over & selected Members of the Institute

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Oliver Wells | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class J. S. Smith   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> " G. W. Ferguson   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> " " S. Holt         |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> " L. Marchand      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> " " John Livingston |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> " Dunbar Browne    |                                     |

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood



Mechanics Institute 28<sup>th</sup> June 58

An ordinary Meeting of the Members was held this evening  
G. H. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair  
Present Brown, Munro, Gray, Bean, Barkley, Irvine  
Kennedy, Garth, Stevenson, W. Donald, & Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted Members of  
the Institute

1<sup>st</sup> class  
William Campbell  
H. W. Atwater

2<sup>nd</sup> class  
William Mitchell  
John James  
J. Belmain  
Geo Webb  
James Marsh

3<sup>rd</sup> class  
John Moore  
Alfred Adams  
William Pullin  
Thomas Moore

3<sup>rd</sup> class Continued  
Alfred Barry  
C. Foley  
Geo Hogan  
John McLean  
A. Ramsay Mc Duff  
C. Gurdy

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary



Montreal 9<sup>th</sup> August 1858

An ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Institute was held this evening

Present G. W. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair  
Messrs Munro, Kennedy, Perry, Gault, Corse, Bean  
Stevenson, Spurr, Rose, Rodden, Ogilvie,  
and Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted Members of the Institute viz

1<sup>st</sup> Class  
J. S. Clayton  
W. Bell

2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
W. Johnson  
Andrew Styles  
Geo Soule  
Geo Anderson

3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
C. G. Ward  
A. Wimbsey  
W. Malby  
J. W. Gatehouse

No other business appearing the Meeting adjourned

John Wood  
R. Secretary

Mechanics Institute 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 58

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held this evening in the Committee Room

President G. W. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair  
Messrs Barry, M<sup>r</sup> Donald, Munro, Corse, Spurr  
Brown, Kennedy, Stevenson, Bertram Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted Members of the Institute

1 <sup>st</sup> Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Class
S. H. May	W. W. Campbell	James J. Hearles



Minutes Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> October 1858 Continued

2<sup>nd</sup> class

Samuel Watson  
John Fabian  
Frederick Garceau  
Oliver Garceau  
Mrs Lett

2<sup>nd</sup> class

M<sup>rs</sup> Craven  
Henry Wright  
Robert Staveland

3<sup>rd</sup> class

James Shaughaussy

No further business appearing the Meeting adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Montreal 8<sup>th</sup> November 1858  
The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Mechanics  
Institute was held this evening in the Class Room  
Geo. H. Weaver Esq. President of the Institute by  
virtue of his office took the Chair

The Minutes of last Annual Meeting were read  
and confirmed

The Corresponding Secretary (Mr. A. A. Stevenson)  
then read the following Annual Report and  
Treasurers Statement



## The Evening Pilot.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

### Mechanics' Institute, Montreal.

THE Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute was held at its rooms on Monday evening, the 8th instant. There was a large attendance of members. G. W. Weaver, Esq., the President, occupied the Chair, and discharged the duties of his office with marked ability. So we thought, and now write, for we were present. Previous to the election of office-bearers, a list of which we published yesterday, and republish to-night in order to make the proceedings complete in our present issue, A. A. Stevenson, Esq., the accomplished Corresponding Secretary, read the following well-written report, which was received with great favor, as was indicated by the immense

### ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal:

GENTLEMEN.—In accordance with the requirements of the Bye-laws of the Institute, it becomes the duty of the General Committee to lay before you a statement of its affairs, previous to resigning the important trust confided to them at your last annual assembly. In so doing, they desire to give a true report of its condition, in a brief but comprehensive form, and will, therefore, without further preamble, proceed to consider the various items, in the usual order.

#### THE MEMBERSHIP.

The number of Members at date of last Annual Report, was . . . . . 994  
Of whom have ceased to be Members . . . . . 180

Leaving . . . . . 864  
The number of Members elected during the year is . . . . . 271

Making a total of . . . . . 1135  
Shewing an increase over last year of 141.

These may be classified as follows:—

Honorary members . . . . . 10  
Corresponding members . . . . . 8  
Life members . . . . . 178  
Ordinary members . . . . . 939

Total . . . . . 1135

Of the number at present on the membership roll, there are very many who have fallen behind in the payment of their subscriptions, and are yet retained on the books of the Institute, on account



of their from time to time *promising to pay*. Your Committee are, however, of opinion that more stringent measures than have heretofore been adopted are needed, to insure the collection of the revenue, which ought to be derived from that source. A rigorous enforcement of the tenth By-law would be attended with good results, which provides that "Any member who shall refuse to pay his subscription within three months after the same becomes payable (viz., the first of November in each year,) shall be liable to be fined in a sum not exceeding *five shillings*, or to be suspended or expelled, upon motion made and passed, at any meeting of the General Committee, by a majority of two thirds of the members present thereat." Your Committee are also of opinion that it would be found beneficial if a By-law or Resolution were adopted, making it imperative on the members to pay their subscriptions *previous to the Annual Meeting*; or, in default thereof, to be deprived of the right of voting, or taking any part whatever in the proceedings at that meeting. They would also recommend to their successors, the appointment of a permanent sub-committee on membership, for the purpose of revising the list, and adopting such means as would more effectually secure the prompt payment of members subscriptions than has hitherto been accomplished.

#### THE LIBRARY.

The Committee regret that they have not been able to expend as large a sum upon this important branch of the operations of the Institute as they would have liked to have done. Such additions have been made to it, however, as under all the circumstances, the Library Committee thought most called for, yet there are many valuable works, from day to day being published, which it is entirely out of their power to add to the Library. They trust, that in a very short time, the financial position of the Institute may be such as to enable them to give that liberal assistance to the Library which its acknowledged importance demands.

At the date of last report, the number of volumes in the Library was..... 2442  
Since then, have been added, by purchase and otherwise..... 176

Making in all..... 2618

The number of issues during the year was 6191, exhibiting an increase on the past year of 629 volumes.

#### THE READING ROOM.

At an early period of the present year, your Committee added to the Reading Room *The Daily London Times, Edinburgh Scotsman, and Dublin Warder*, as also the *London Engineer and Dublin University Magazine*, and at the same time increased the reading accommodation of the room, by the erection of new desks. The papers and periodicals which now appear on the tables are the following:—

**MONTREAL PAPERS.**—Herald, Gazette, Transcript, Commercial Advertiser, Pilot, Argus, Le Pays, Witness, True Witness and Le Semeur Canadien.

**Canadian Papers.**—Canada Gazette, Collingwood Journal, Hamilton Spectator, Hamilton Times, Kingston Chronicle, Ottawa Tribune, Quebec Chronicle, Quebec Vindicator, St. John News, Stratford Beacon, Toronto Daily Globe, Toronto Atlas, and Protectionist.

**American Papers.**—New York Herald, Tribune, Home Journal, Scientific American, Albion, and Philadelphia Saturday Bulletin.

**British Papers.**—London Times, Engineer, Punch, Builder, and Illustrated News, Wilmer and Smith's European Times, Glasgow Saturday Post, Edinburgh Scotsman and Dublin Warder.

**Periodicals.**—Edinburgh Review, London Quarterly, Westminster Review, North British Review, Blackwood's Magazine, Hunt's Merchant's Magazine, Mechanics' Magazine, Civil Engineer, Practical Mechanics' Journal, Art Journal, Dublin University Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, Journal of the Society of Arts, Temperance Advocate, and Liberal Christian.

#### LECTURES AND CLASSES.

During last winter your Committee were not called upon to make arrangements for the usual course of lectures, in consequence of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Lower Canada having engaged some of the best talent in the country, for the delivery of a course on scientific subjects, exceedingly well adapted for such an institution as

ours. The lectures, being free to all, were well attended. They were delivered in the Hall of the Institute, by the gentlemen whose names appear below, in the following order, viz:—

February 22, 1858.—Prof. Howe, of M'Gill College, on "The Principles of Wheel Work."

March 1, 1858.—Prof. Robins, of M'Gill Normal School, on "Artificial Light."

March 5, 1858.—Mark J. Hamilton, Professor M'Gill College, on "Steam."

March 15, 1858.—Wm. M. Mills, Esq., on "Mechanical Engineering."

April 12, 1858.—Prof. Mills, of Bishops' College, Lennoxville, on "Ventilation."

April 19, 1858.—Do do do do do.

April 26, 1858.—Prof. Robins, of M'Gill Normal School, (2nd lecture) on "Artificial Light."

Other lectures were to have been given under the same auspices, but owing to the lateness of the season, it was deemed best to postpone the remainder till a future occasion. Your Committee learn, with pleasure, that it is the intention of the Board of Arts and Manufactures to organize a similar course during the coming winter, and they earnestly recommend the attendance of the members of the Institute thereat.

In respect to *Classes* your Committee have to report that free classes for instruction in French, Architectural and Mechanical Drawing, Writing, Book-keeping, Arithmetic and Mathematics, were organized early last winter, and kept up for a period of over four months. The attendance was not what might have been expected, yet, on the whole, a very great degree of efficiency was attained by many of the scholars. The Board of Arts and Manufactures kindly granted the sum of fifty pounds towards the support of these classes, on condition of their having the privilege of sending pupils, not members of the Institute. At the close of the session Professors Dawson and Howe, of M'Gill College, held an examination, and expressed their great satisfaction with the attainments of the pupils, and the efficient manner in which the classes had been conducted. The names of the teachers in the various departments, and the average attendance of pupils, were as follows:—

	<i>Pupils.</i>
Mechanical Drawing (Mr. Geo. Hughes).....	19
Architectural Drawing (Mr. Wm. Kennedy).....	20
French (Rev. J. E. Tanner).....	30
Writing, Book-keeping, Arithmetic, and Mathematics (Mr. Alex. H. Shewan).....	25

To the two former gentlemen, Messrs. Hughes and Kennedy, the thanks of the Institute are due, for their disinterested generosity in giving their valuable services *gratis* during the season. The Committee recommend that a life-member's ticket be awarded to Mr. Hughes, in consideration of the attention bestowed upon the class under his care. Your Committee also strongly recommend the continuation of the free class system, more especially as they have every reason to believe that the same liberal assistance will be rendered by the Board of Arts and Manufactures, as was received last year.

#### DONATIONS.

The following donations have been received during the year, viz:—

From John Leeming, Esq., 12 vols. Books	
" J. R. Brousdon, Esq., a copy of Ure's Dictionary of Arts	
" George Brush, Esq.,.....	\$0.00
" Wm. Ferguson, Esq.,.....	2.50
" Dr. A. Bernard,.....	4.00
" Messrs. A. Buntin & Co.,.....	5.00
" Chas. Sheppard, Esq., St. Ours,....	4.00

Being amounts awarded them in premiums at the late Provincial Exhibition.

#### ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The annual festival of the Institute was held on the 9th of February, but, from various causes, the attendance was not so large as on some former occasions, and the amount realized was very inconsiderable. The Committee think that the members generally should take a deep interest in the success of this old-established and deservedly popular annual assembly, inasmuch as the entire proceeds have been for many years devoted to the enlargements of the library.

#### FINANCES.

The scarcity of money, which has been so severely felt by all classes of our citizens during the past year, has been the cause of diminishing the revenues of this Institute to an extent that would have proved highly detrimental to its interest, had not funds been obtained from other sources to supply the deficiency, and enable the Committee to meet all liabilities as they became due.

The amount collected from the subscriptions of ordinary members has been very small in proportion to the number on the roll, and the rent derived from the Hall during the present year has amounted to less than usual, as panoramas, concerts and lectures were often attended with considerable loss. There was little encouragement to rent the Hall when the receipts at the door were often scarcely sufficient to pay the rent, so that the Hall has remained unoccupied for a much larger portion of the time than in former years. Early in the year, the Finance Committee were under the necessity of obtaining a loan of six hundred dollars, to enable them to meet the demands of creditors who were unwilling to wait for their money till it could be collected from the revenues of the Institute. A note drawn by the members of that Committee was discounted at the City Bank, and renewed until a few days ago, when it was paid in full; and your Committee would recommend to their successors not to allow the interest of the Institute to suffer for want of funds, if they can furnish them, with a certainty of the amount being paid from the revenues before the next annual meeting.

The Treasurer's statements which now lie on the table, show that the amount received from all sources during the year was £2084 10s 5d; the disbursements amount to £1809 17s 2d, leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands, after paying all accounts of £274 13s 3d.

#### THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

It will be in the recollection of most of you, that in the year 1857 an arrangement was entered into between the Board of Agriculture and Committee of this Institute, whereby the Industrial Department of the Exhibition was placed under the management of a sub-committee named by the General Committee, and as their arrangements met the entire approval of the Board, a similar proposition was submitted to your Committee, during the present year, which, after due deliberation, they consented to accept, and named the following gentlemen from their number, to take charge of the Industrial Department of this year's Exhibition, viz.: Messrs. W. P. Bartley, Charles Garth, John C. Macdonald, Robert Irwin, and A. A. Stevenson. Presuming that the majority of the Members of the Institute embraced the opportunity of visiting the Exhibition, and inspecting for themselves the merits of the various articles, your Committee consider it unnecessary to enter into the details connected therewith, but content themselves with the following extract from the Industrial Committee's Report:—

"A few general remarks will convey all the information which the Industrial Committee deem necessary to enable you to form an adequate estimate of the superiority of the late Exhibition over any that has yet been held in this portion of the Province. The number of exhibitors this year was 360; last year, 309. The number of articles entered for competition was much greater than last year, and the display in some of the departments was such as to throw into the shade anything ever before attempted here. Amongst these may be named the magnificent display of furs, furniture, musical instruments, architectural stone-cutting, the specimens of typography and photography, and the splendid assortment of elegant and costly goods exhibited in the Ladies' Department. The Industrial Committee are aware that the merits of the Exhibition were not set before the public in such a favorable light as they ought to have been. They venture to say, that had the press of Montreal followed the example of their confreres in Toronto, the Exhibition here would not have been made to appear so insignificant an affair as any one would be led to suppose it was, from the accounts given in several of our city papers. From a comparison of the space occupied by the Industrial Department of the Toronto Exhibition and that of our own, the Committee are led to believe that the Exhibition here must have been equal in extent to that of Toronto, and the list of prizes published by each demonstrates that in Montreal there was paid in premiums *over two hundred dollars more than was awarded in Toronto*. As is usual at every Exhibition, there was some dissatisfaction with the decisions of the judges; but, as the malcontents have not been more numerous, nor their complaints of a more serious character than on former occasions, the Industrial Committee did not consider it judicious to reverse, or set aside any decision given."



The General Committee have every reason to be satisfied with the arrangements of the Industrial Committee, and while on this subject they embrace the opportunity of expressing their sense of the deep debt of obligation under which the members of the Institute are laid to George W. Weaver, Esq., President, for the invaluable services rendered by him, in connection with the Exhibition. The liberality of the Grand Trunk Railway Company in granting their large Freight Building, for the Industrial Department, free of any expense, and also the kindness of James Hodges, Esq., in gratuitously affording the Committee the use of a Steam Engine for driving Machinery, merit your warm acknowledgments. These favors, with the assistance of other friends, and the experience of the former year for their guidance, enabled the Committee to economise in many particulars, thereby contributing in a slight degree to the revenue of the Institute.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

Having thus briefly treated all the topics usually embraced in a Report, there remains yet one other subject regarding which the Committee may be permitted to offer a few remarks. It is doubtless within the knowledge of every member of this Institute, that the gigantic undertaking above-named was brought to a successful completion on the 5th day of August last. The Committee have no desire to enter upon the question as to whether the Telegraph Cable then laid, can or cannot be made available for the all-important purposes for which it was intended. They do not stop to enquire whether the rejoicings, by which that event was celebrated, on both sides of the Atlantic, and in which this Institute, in the demonstration made in our city, took a leading and conspicuous part, were, or were not, premature,—their object is rather to point your attention to the triumph of Mechanical skill achieved in its successful termination. The mechanical difficulties which confronted its projectors were of no ordinary character, and it required more than ordinary energy and perseverance to overcome them. Twice did the noble vessels, manned by brave and resolute spirits, start upon their perilous enterprize of depositing, in the deep waters of the Atlantic, the iron cord which henceforward was to bind, in perpetual unity, the continents of Europe and America. The hopes and prayers of both continents attended them; but hope seemed only to be born to be extinguished, for as often did the brave men return to the port from whence they set out, bearing with them the painful news that, from defects existing in the machinery, the Cable had parted! Failure seemed now an all but certainty; hope of success, where it was cherished at all, was feeble and well nigh extinct; yet the projectors of the Atlantic Telegraph despair not—they determined to embark a third time—to make yet one more effort before the undertaking be given up as impracticable. And the consequences of that resolve are known everywhere; success crowned their persevering efforts, when but few, very few indeed expected it.

Such an example of perseverance we would hold up for your imitation. Whenever you have anything to do, do it with a hearty earnestness and good will. In connexion with this Institute, there are very many youths, whose success in life will depend very materially upon their own exertions—upon the amount of time which they devote to acquiring knowledge, and the perseverance they display in putting it to practical purpose. With the view of affording them the means of acquiring useful knowledge, the managers of this Institute labor unceasingly from year to year; and it becomes the duty of every member thereof, not only to foster and encourage it by every means within his power, but to make the best use of the advantages he enjoys from his connexion with it, and to labor cheerfully and perseveringly for its prosperity and perpetuation. By the instruction afforded in such institutions as this, will the Mechanics of a future day be enabled to undertake and carry out to a successful issue, works of a more gigantic nature, and perhaps of a still more important character than that just referred to, and the name of Birbeck, the founder of Mechanics' Institutes, will descend to other generations, as one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. The whole nevertheless respectfully submitted.

A. A. STEVENSON,  
Corresponding Secretary,  
Mechanics' Institute.

Mechanics' Institute of Montreal in account with  
NORTON B. CORSE, Treasurer:

Dr.	
Nov. 8—To Disbursements during the year.....	£1809 17 2
To Balance on hand.....	274 18 8
	£2084 10 5
Cr.	
Nov. 8—By Balance on hand November 2, 1857.....	11 8 9
By Cash from all sources during the year.....	2073 1 8
	£2084 10 5
(Signed,) H. MUNRO, JOHN WOOD, A. W. OGILVIE, )	Auditors.

Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, Balance Sheet,  
1858:

Dr.	
To cost of Lands.....	£2538 17 11
" " Building to date.....	6245 11 4
" " Furniture ".....	957 1 6
" " Library ".....	600 0 0
" due on Building Fund.....	50 0 0
" " Rent of Shops, Rooms, and Members' Subscriptions..	153 10 0
	£10545 0 9
	4520 12 11

Balance in favor of Institute.. £6024 7 10

LIABILITIES.

Cr.	
By Debt due on Land, Bailleur de Fonds Mortgage.....	£2100 2 11
" Debt due Loan on Building.....	2420 10 0
	£4520 12 11

We confess that we were more than surprised during the evening, at finding Mr. Stevenson removed from the office of Corresponding Secretary, to that of Fourth Vice-President. It was no doubt meant as a compliment, but we think it was rather a "left-handed" one. We hope, however, that he may, next year, be chosen President of the Institute; satisfied as we are, that he has not only strong claims, but that he will discharge its duties with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

OFFICERS:

- President—G. W. Weaver.
- 1st Vice-President—David Brown.
- 2nd do —Hector Munro.
- 3rd do —Wm. Watson.
- 4th do —A. A. Stevenson.
- Corresponding Secretary—Alex. Murray.
- Recording Secretary—John Wood.
- Treasurer—N. B. Corse.
- Librarian and Cabinet Keeper—J. C. McDonald.
- Committee—D. M'Nevin, A. Bertram, W. Kennedy, A. W. Ogilvie, Dr. A. Bernard, Wm. Rodden, Robert Irwin, Chas. Garth, Geo. Gray, Henry Bulmer, Alfred Perry, W. P. Bartley.



Moved by Mr. Wm. R. Miller seconded by Mr. Jonathan  
Finnell, that the report now read be received and  
adopted & that the Committee about to be elected,  
be authorized to publish it in pamphlet form or in the  
City papers as they deem expedient

The following persons were then elected Members of the  
Institute

First Class

Robert Kerr, Mr. Leaw Bell, E. Demars, S. Compain  
Peter Moir, C. G. Simpson,

Second Class

William Burgeous, Thomas Warner, William Patton,  
John G. Kennedy, J. M. Mitchell, De Ballentine, Seaborn  
Thomas Brennan, Richard Bolton, James Oliver,

Third Class

James Oliver, William Mc Nider, Robert Hampton, Robert  
G. Brown, Charles Allan, Samuel Campbell, John Trayce  
William Craime, A. Sutherland, Albert Smith, J.  
Blackman, Henry Jackson, Alfred Elliott, D. Mc  
Callum, Mrs. Harper, William Dart, Robert  
Turnbull, Henry Garth.

The President then appointed Messrs. William Ogilvie,  
James Speir, and D. Mc Niven scrutineers to super-  
intend the Ballot for the election of officebearers for the  
ensuing year when the Ballots were taken up the following  
were declared to be duly elected

President. George H. Weaver.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President David Brown.

2<sup>d</sup> " " Hector Munro.

3<sup>d</sup> " " William Watson.

4<sup>th</sup> " " A. A. Stevenson.

Corresponding Secretary. Alex Murray

Recording Secretary John Wood.

Treasurer. Norton B. Corsi.

Librarian & Cabinet Keeper. John C. Mc Donald.

Committee. H. Kennedy, David Mc Niven, A. H. Ogilvie

A. Portram, Mrs. Rodden, D. Bernard, Robert

Thring, Charles Garth, Geo Gray, H. P. Bartley, A. Perry,  
& H. Zulmer.



x It having been stated to the Meeting that a member was  
seen by Mr Mc Minnie one of the Secretaries to put a package  
containing nine tickets into the ballot box it was

Miner

Moved by Mr John C. Procter Seconded by Mrs Robert  
Irwin That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to have  
a Music Class in connection with this Institution and that it  
be a request to the Committee about to be elected to consider  
the propriety of establishing such a Class

Carried

Moved by Mrs Jm Rodden Seconded by Mrs John Wood  
That Mr Weaver do leave the chair and Mrs Munro  
come thereto

Carried

Moved by Mr Robert Irwin Seconded by Mrs Jm  
Reid. That a special vote of thanks be given to George W.  
Weaver Esq. President of the Institute for the unwearied  
attention he has devoted to its interests and for the  
very able and efficient manner in which he has discharged  
the arduous and responsible duties appertaining to his office

Carried unanimously

Moved by Mrs S. B. Nye Seconded by Mrs James  
Nace That the following Resolution be substituted for the  
one passed at a late meeting of the Committee: - That  
Apprentices be eligible for admission into this Institute  
upon the written recommendation of a First or Second  
Class Member

Ruled out of order

Moved by Mr John Campbell Seconded by Mrs Wm  
Reid That it is the opinion of this meeting that Mrs Mc  
should give the name of the party who put into the  
Ballot Box nine tickets in one package

Carried

Moved by Mr Alexander Bryson Seconded by Mr A. W.  
Cairnie. That Messrs Ramsay, Stevenson, & James  
D. Mathewson be a Committee to procure photographic  
likenesses of the present and all preceding Presidents  
of the Institute since its incorporation to be well framed  
and hung up in a prominent place in the Institute and  
further that a subscription list be now opened for defraying  
the expense of the same

Carried

On Motion of Dr. Bernard Seconded by Mr Stevenson the  
Meeting Adjourned

John Wood Secy







Andrew Kirkpatrick, Robert Cowan, Robert McAllan, Alex  
Bryson Junr, Abraham McKay, John Munro, James Brown  
Thomas Haughey, Samuel Robertson, Benjamin Robinson, John  
Stoan, Henry Baillie, William Edwards, Robert Moffatt  
William Bruce, George Wilson.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute of  
Montreal 27<sup>th</sup> December 1858

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held this  
evening

G. P. W. Weaver Esq. President in the chair.

Present Messrs Rodden, Murray, Munro, Ogilvie, Brown,  
Mr. Donald, Mr. Niven, and Wood.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed

The following persons were elected members of the Institute  
First class

John Perry,

Second class

Thomas Sweeny, Patrick Spillassy, William Lowry, Alexander  
Taylor, Alfred Davis, H. North, H. D. Tucker, Mr. Munro  
William Ross, H. Mc. Dougal, Alexander Fraser, George  
Clarke, Henry Cheney, Thomas Johnson, Augustin Perrault, Mr.  
Campbell, A. Cameron, James Norval, Nelson Bryson.

Third class

William Townsend, William Wait, William McAffery, Mr.  
Farguhar, John Farguhar, George McArthur, William Allen,  
Alexander Bachelor, John McNamee, William Patterson, John  
Seibold, Michael Hemington, James Perry,

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary



Mechanics Institute of

Montreal 10 Jan 1859

An ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held this evening

Geo. H. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs Munro, Bernard, Core, Parry, M<sup>r</sup>. Donald  
Brown, Murphy, Watson, Hutchison, & Wood.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted Members of the Institute

First Class

John Smith, W. A. A. Davis, W. B. Burnett, Wm. Mc. Lury,  
James M<sup>r</sup>. Cormack, J. Nightingale, Daniel Tracey, Charles  
Leblan, Andrew Thompson, William Williamson, James  
Fraser, George Smith, Robert Nelson, Alexander M<sup>r</sup>.  
Donald, A. J. Barnett, John Bonallock, Oliver  
Laudrennan. (Those within the parenthesis are second Class

Third Class

Alexander Gaw, John Houlden, Benjamin Wandless  
Francis Holliday, E. M<sup>r</sup>. Millen, Robert Smith, Henry  
Lory, William Bell, James Speirs, John James M<sup>r</sup>. Culloch  
Cros Horn, Alexander Leith, John Headon, William  
Candlish, John Haydon,

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute

Montreal 24 January 1859

An Ordinary Meeting was held this evening

Geo. H. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair

Present Brown, Hutchison, Munro, Core, Rodden, Parry, & Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then elected Members of the Institute

First Class

Daniel Drummond, Curran M<sup>r</sup>. Lenman, John Stafford



## Second Class

George Perry Junr, Alexander Brown, H. V. Hunt, Edward H. Church, Narcie Guilbault

## Third Class

Henry Price, Joseph Barrett, James Walsh, Andrew Donald  
John Mc Intosh, Henry W. Corse, Thomas Tate, William Clark  
Philip ~~Clark~~, Hart, William Wellstead, Archibald O. Weaver,  
Charles Madden, Thomas Foreman, John Menick.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

## Mechanics Institute of Montreal 3 January 1859

An extraordinary General meeting of the members of the Institute was held this evening for the purpose of electing delegates to the Board of Arts and Manufactures and to receive the report from the Committee appointed to revise the Bylaws

Geo W. Weaver Esq. President in the chair and about thirty members present

The President stated that we were entitled to be represented in the Board by twenty delegates and appointed Messrs Henry Rose, James Stephenson, and Edward Murphy as scrutineers and the meeting proceeded to the election of the following gentlemen were declared duly elected viz

David Brown, H. Munro, E. Murphy, W. Spier, J. Redpath  
St. Bernard, A. A. Stevenson, C. Gault, W. Rodden, W. B. Corse,  
A. Murray, W. Miller, H. Bulmer, A. Perry, B. Chamberlain  
A. Ramsay, W. Parry, H. Lyman, A. Peart, & H. Berkeley

The Committee appointed to revise the Bylaws then read their which was in substance that it would be of very little benefit to the Institute to revise the Bylaws until the Act of incorporation was so amended as to admit of the alterations the requirements of the Institute demanded

Moved by Mrs. Sophia Lindley Seconded by Mrs. M. M.



Mills

That the report be received and adopted & that the matter be left in the hands of the General Committee

Carried

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute of  
Montreal 14 Feb'y 1859

An ordinary meeting of the members of the Institute was held this evening

David Brown Esq. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in the chair

Present Messrs Munro, Mc Donald, Perry, Gray, Bertram, Bonnard, Murphy, Hutchison, Bryson, and Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then elected members of the Institute

First Class

A. G. Mc. Aub, James C. Hair, A. Mc. Conochy, William Powers, John Mc. Lunn.

Second Class

Henry Merral, Alexander Hunt, Thomas Birks, N. Hearle, Mr. Mc. Donald, Robert Ballentine, P. A. Eldridge

Third Class

Thomas Savage, James Robertson, James Jennings, William Hunt, James Sharpley, Henry Nimms, Henry Smith, Robert Kemmure, William Worthington.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute

Montreal 14 March 1859

An ordinary meeting of the members was held this evening

Geo. H. Ward Esq. President in the chair

Present Messrs Bryson, Munro, Bertram, Brown, Rutherford, Rodden, Stevenson & Wood



The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then elected Members of the Institute

First Class  
William Brown.

Third Class

Peter Jackson, Thomas Dann, Andrew Fleet, Arthur Sweet

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute of  
Montreal 9<sup>th</sup> May 1859

An ordinary Meeting of the Institute was held this evening

George L. Leaver Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs. Corse, Hutchinson, Bertram, Brown, Stevenson  
Kiddler, Rutherford, Bonnard, Gray and Wood,

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then elected Members of the Institute

First Class  
Robert Godfrey M. D., Francis Mullins, Charles McDonald

Second Class

John Dunlop, Alfred Colbourne, F. H. Hoodman, Ernest  
Scott, F. Castle, Thomas Gordon, R. L. Elbert, P. N. Burton  
Charles Barrington

Third Class

Martin Hamilton, Allan Brown, Thomas A. Millne  
James Gibson, John Conroy, Francis Donawon, William Rivers

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary



Mechanics Institute of  
Montreal 25<sup>th</sup> July 1859

An ordinary Meeting of the Mechanics Institute was held this evening

George H. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs Murray, Bertram, Stimson, Gray, Mc  
Donald, Hutchison, Parry, Bryson, Coxe, Bond & Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then elected Members of the Institute

First Class

Francis Boer, George Childs

Second Class

Mrs Brown junr., Alfred Sandham, James Inglis, James Ross  
Edmond Thompson, Samuel Johnson, John G. Burrows, F. D.  
Garrington, James Harold, Geo Burgess, Thomas Stewart  
Henry Childs, Alex Begg, Morris Jones, E. C. White, Mrs  
Boyd, William Jones, Thomas Leake, Henry Tidmarsh, David  
J. Craig, Thomas Walker, Foster, C. Phillips, A. Gates  
Murray, Richard Patton, William Keeley, Alfred Miller  
George Fraser, Samuel Price, Norman McDonald, Henry  
Hutchison.

The meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute

Montreal 22 August 1859

An ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Institute  
was held this evening

G. H. Weaver Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs Bertram, Osburn, Gray, Murray, Rodden  
Hutchison, Coxe, Bernard, Rutherford, Stevenson Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then elected members of the Institute



*Second class*  
William Mc. Watters, Robert Carmichael, H. R. Lomas  
Thomas Haquey, James Burry, Bayley  
*Third class*  
Daniel Shea, John Wilson,

*The Meeting then adjourned*

*John Wood*  
*Recording Secretary*

**PROCEEDINGS at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**  
**OF MONTREAL,**  
**HELD ON**  
**MONDAY EVENING, Nov. 7, '59**

Montreal, 7th November, 1859.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, was held this Evening, GEO. W. WEAVER, Esq., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of last Annual Meeting, which were approved of.

Mr. A. A. STEVENSON, then read the Annual Report.

Moved by Mr. W. W. OGILVIE, seconded by Mr. S. B. SCOTT,—That the Report now read be received, adopted and printed in pamphlet form.

Moved in Amendment by Mr. W. REID, seconded by Mr. ROBERT BURRY,—That the Report be received, adopted and published in the newspapers.

Amendment lost. Main Motion carried.

Mr. A. A. STEVENSON then read the Report of the Committee appointed to revise the Act of Incorporation, Section by Section, all of which were adopted.

Moved by Dr. A. BERNARD, seconded by Mr. H. MUNRO,—That the General Committee be instructed to adopt the necessary proceedings to secure the Amendments to the Act of Incorporation at the next Session of the Provincial Parliament.—Carried.

The following persons were then elected Members of the Institute:—

**FIRST CLASS.**

Alfred Savage, Hugh Boyd, George Bell, William Muir.



SECOND CLASS.

Andrew West, James C. Cox, William Lowry, Andrew Sturgeon, Andrew Kaltenback, Thomas Kane, Paul Coté, Thomas Heathcote, Donald Graham, Thomas Pringle, Daniel Rose, Patrick Mulhern, Wm. Stewart, Geo. Summers, William Campbell, Donald McKay, David Rea, jr., William Roy, John Cameron, James P. McConnell, William Inglis, James Wafer, James Campbell, George E. Cooke, James Harvey.

THIRD CLASS.

John Smith, George Betts, William Couch, Robert Hendery, jun., William Gray, William McNaughton, Charles Seaver, Andrew Laurie, James Stuart, James Warner, Donald F. Sutherland, James Moore, Thomas Picket, C. W. Hagar, A. McNaughton, Frederick Birks, John Oxley, Thomas Turner, Robert Kneeshaw, Thomas McIntosh, F. Stephens, William Thompson, Johnston Beers, William Robinson, Wm. Dow, Frederick Jones, John Bayley, Alfred Piggott, Henry Clemens, William Puckard.

The President then appointed Messrs. D. McFarlane, P. McQuisten, and James Walker, Scrutineers, and the meeting proceeded to the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year. The ballots being taken up, the following were declared duly elected. (G. W. Weaver, Esq., the retiring President declined re-nomination.)

- President ..... Mr. David Brown,
- 1st Vice-President ..... Mr. Hector Munro,
- 2nd do ..... Mr. A. A. Stevenson,
- 3rd do ..... Dr. A. Bernard,
- 4th do ..... Mr. Alex. C. Hutchison,
- Corresponding Secretary..... Mr. Alex. Murray,
- Recording do ..... Mr. John Wood,
- Treasurer..... Mr. Norton B. Corse,
- Librarian and Cabinet Keeper..... Mr. John C. McDonald.

COMMITTEE.—Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie, A. Bryson, Wm. Rodden, Alex. Bertram, Jonathan Findlay, Geo. W. Weaver, David McFarlane, Wm. Rutherford, Geo. Gray, James Walker, Alfred Perry, and P. McQuisten.

Moved by Mr. JONATHAN FINDLAY, seconded by Mr. JOHN WOOD,—That Mr. Weaver leave the Chair, and that Mr. Rodden come thereto.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. ALEX. BRYSON, seconded by Mr. S. H. MAY,—That the thanks of this Institute are due and are hereby tendered to G. W. Weaver, Esq., whose long services as its President have been so remarkable for constant and unwearied devotion to all its interests, and to which mainly is attributable the very high position in which this Institute now finds itself.—Carried amidst applause.

Dr. Bernard spoke at considerable length of the very valuable services of Mr. Weaver, as President, and suggested that as a mark of esteem for him the Members of the Institute, ought to raise one hundred volumes for the Library as a memento of his services.

Moved by Mr. HENRY ROSE, seconded by Mr. GEORGE GRAY,—That the suggestion of Dr. Bernard, to increase the Library of the Institute an hundred or more volumes, as a memento of their appreciation of the able services of G. W. Weaver, Esq., as President of the Institute, meets the approval of this meeting, and it is recommended to the General Committee, to adopt measures to carry out the suggestion with the view of the addition to the Library being kept in perpetuity.

Moved in amendment by Mr. ALEX. BRYSON, seconded by Mr. JONATHAN FINDLAY,—That a testimonial, consisting of Silver Plate, be got up in appreciation of the valuable services of Geo. W. Weaver, Esq., as President of this Institute.

On being put to the vote, the Amendment was lost, and the Main Motion carried.

No other business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

JOHN WOOD,  
Recording Secretary.

# REPORT.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal.

GENTLEMEN,—In presenting for your consideration, the Annual Statement of the affairs of the Institute, the General Committee deem it unnecessary to offer any lengthy preface, as the facts stated and the suggestions made in the following Report, will enable you to judge whether, during the year now closed, they have performed faithfully or otherwise, the arduous and important duties which necessarily devolved upon them. The limits of a Report do not admit of much enlargement; they trust, however, that the cursory notice taken of many matters connected with the prosperity of the Institute, will afford you a satisfactory view of its present state and future prospects.

The first item to be considered is that of

## THE MEMBERSHIP.

The number of members at the date of last Annual Report was ..... 1135  
Of whom have ceased to be members..... 527

Leaving..... 608  
The number of members elected during the year, was ..... 303

Making a total on the Membership Roll of..... 911  
Shewing a decrease of 224.

They may be classified as follows:—

Honorary Members ..... 10  
Corresponding Members..... 8  
Life Members..... 177  
Ordinary Members..... 716

Total..... 911

In the Annual Report of last year, it was announced that a considerable number of the names then on the Membership List were in arrears, but had not been struck off on account of their repeated promises to pay up the amount of such arrears; and your Committee, upon entering upon their duties, appointed a Standing Committee on Membership, with the President of the Institute as Chairman. That Committee, as will be seen from the copious extract made from their Report, have found the same difficulty in collecting the members' subscriptions as their predecessors, although the action taken by the Library Committee in refusing to give out books to those whose subscriptions were not paid, tended very materially to assist their endeavours, and the General Committee venture to express their honest conviction that just in proportion as this system of advance payments is adhered to, will the prosperity of the Institute be increased. The following is the extract from the Report of the Membership Committee, before referred to:—

"The Membership Committee have made a thorough examination of all records of membership, lists of new Members admitted, and of all who paid subscriptions between the years 1854 and 1858, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of Members that renewed their subscriptions, the number of new Members admitted, and the number of subscriptions remaining due at the close of each year, without regard to subscriptions due the previous year; and also to learn what portion of the subscriptions that were not paid during the years in which they became due, were ever paid afterwards. And having carefully compared the Records, Lists and Cash Books, with the following statement, to be sure of its general accuracy, they now lay it before you as the result of their investigation:—

Year.	Subscriptions renewed.	Number of new Members admitted.	New Members paid	New Mem. not paid	Last year's subscriptions not paid.	Last year's subscriptions paid.	Unrenewed and unpaid.	Renewed and new Members paid.
1854	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	403
1855	177	275	237	38	226	14	270	414
1856	268	284	246	38	146	41	225	514
1857	284	298	182	26	230	29	285	466
1858	266	278	234	44	200	29	273	500
1859	376	303	270	33	124	39	196	646



After making allowance for the very few who may have sent in their resignations according to the provisions of the 9th Bye-law, the average number of subscriptions due at the close of each year, are equal to the number renewed during the year; and the admission of 1045 new members during four years have increased the list of paid subscriptions only 97—the list of 1854 showing 403, and that of 1858, 500 members. Nearly one-half of the renewed subscriptions are collected with great trouble and expense to the Institute. The collector must call on all who have not resigned before the close of the previous year, and for the first few days, by calling on the best paying members, he collects ten or twelve subscriptions daily, but the number soon diminishes, and by the time 100 are collected, 3 or 4 is a good day's work, which shortly falls to an average of 4 in a week; and by the time that one-half have paid, the collector travels many days and collects nothing but promises. He calls several times before he finds Members at home; then the answer given may be that he "only joined for last year," or "call again," or "call next week," or perhaps he appoints a day and hour when the money will be ready; but when the time and collector both come, a more indefinite promise is given, while many Members promise to "call and pay at the Institute"; but when asked for it there, they have no money with them. This, in many cases goes on for two or three years, while the Member is a constant visitor of the Reading Room and Library—always ready to renew his promise but not his subscription, and at last, to the great relief of the collector, he leaves the city, and perhaps takes a book with him, which he has had out of the Library for the last six months. Out of the 1045 Members admitted during four years, 146, or 2 in 15 never paid their subscription. The average duration of Membership, or the time that Members pay subscriptions, does not exceed two and a half years. The Library and Reading Room form the chief attractions of the Institute, and the manner in which these departments are supplied and managed will always have great influence on the Membership list.—Many Members have left from not being able to obtain the books of their choice, while those who had them out of the Library often retained them for several months. Loss of Members from this cause will now be prevented, so long as the Library Committee enforce the rule for returning books in a specified time. Their resolution to issue books only to Members whose subscriptions were paid, while it has added materially to the list of paid subscriptions and to the funds of the Institute, has also added to the numbers in the Reading Room, as many Members who were accustomed to draw books from the Library, have, since the adoption of that rule, found new attractions in that department; and if the Reading Room could be cleared of non-paying Members and others who are frequent visitors, there would be much more room for those whose subscriptions are paid. After seeing the little progress made in adding to the list of paying Members, owing to the difficulty or impossibility of collecting a large number of subscriptions (many of which are never paid,) this Sub-Committee would earnestly recommend that some other system of Membership be adopted. If the Act of Incorporation can be so amended as to admit life Members at the lowest rate consistent with the interests of the Institute, and have the amount paid in small instalments, extending over one and a half or two years, the effect would be the building up of a permanent Membership, who would take more interest in the management of the Institute than can be expected from yearly subscribers. At the same time all yearly subscriptions should be paid strictly in advance."

### THE LIBRARY.

The Committee are gratified in being able to report that they have had it in their power to devote a larger sum than usual to increase the Library during the past year. By the last Annual Report it consisted of 2618 volumes, since when have been added:—By purchase, 471 vols.; by donations, 7 vols.; and by binding Periodicals from the Reading Room, 25 vols. Which should have increased the number to 3121 vols, but on the re-arrangement of the Library, which was effected during the summer, it was discovered that a number of the books were either lost or so damaged as to be unfit for further service, consequently 34 volumes have to be deducted from the above, and the Library now contains 3087 volumes.

As nearly five years had elapsed since a Catalogue was issued, and the Library had greatly increased during that time, it was considered necessary that a new and complete one should be prepared and printed for the use of Members. The Books were called in, and the issues stopped for about six weeks, during which time the whole Library was re-arranged and re-numbered; a considerable addition to the shelving had at the same time to be made.

The number of issues during the year 1857-58 were.....6191  
 During the present year, and although, as above stated, the Library was closed for a considerable time, the issues were..... 6840

Showing an increase of..... 649

Through the good offices of the Hon. John Young, when on a recent visit to Europe, the Commissioners of Patents in England were kind enough to grant a set of the valuable publications of the British Patent Office, consisting of about 1100 volumes, to this Institute; but as your Committee ascertained that the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Lower Canada had made application for the same works, and as the importation and binding would involve an expenditure of nearly £200 and the acceptance of the donation obliged the recipients to keep the books open for the free use of the public, it was deemed advisable to relinquish the claim of the Institute in favor of the Board.

The publications have arrived safely and are now in the Binder's hands, and will in a short time be freely available to the Members of this Institute, as well as to the public at large.

### DONATIONS.

Your Committee have to acknowledge the following donations:—

- 4 volumes Transactions, from the American Institute of New York.
- 1 volume Transactions, from the Maryland Institute.
- 2 volumes from G. P. Urs, Esq.
- A Cast Iron Pillar for the Reading Room, from William Rodden, Esq.

### THE READING ROOM.

The following is a list of the Periodicals and Newspapers to be found upon the Tables of your Reading Room:—

#### MONTREAL PAPERS.

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Daily Herald. | True Witness.        |
| " Transcript. | Witness.             |
| " Pilot.      | Le Pays.             |
| " Gazette.    | Semear Canadien.     |
| " Advertiser. | Temperance Advocate. |

#### PROVINCIAL PAPERS.

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Toronto Daily Globe. | Quebec Morning Chronicle.  |
| " " Colonist.        | " Vindicator.              |
| Stratford Examiner.  | Kingston News.             |
| " Beacon.            | Aylmer Times.              |
| Granby Gazette.      | Huntingdon Herald.         |
| Hamilton Times.      | Canadian Official Gazette. |
| " Spectator.         |                            |

#### BRITISH PAPERS.

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| London Daily Times. | Liverpool European Times. |
| " Illustrated News. | Edinburgh Scotsman        |
| " Punch             | Glasgow Saturday Post,    |
| " Engineer.         | Dublin Warder.            |
| " Builder.          |                           |

#### UNITED STATES PAPERS.

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| New York Daily Herald.   | *Harper's Weekly.               |
| " Albion.                | Scientific American.            |
| *Frank Leslie's Gazette. | *Boston Ballou's Pictorial.     |
| Home Journal.            | *Scottish American Journal.     |
| New York Tribune.        | Philadelphia Saturday Bulletin. |

#### PERIODICALS.

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Edinburgh Review.                       | The Practical Mechanic's Journal. |
| London Quarterly Review.                | The Art Journal.                  |
| Westminster Review.                     | The Canadian Journal.             |
| North British Review.                   | Chambers' Journal.                |
| Blackwood's Magazine.                   | The Atlantic Monthly.             |
| Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.             | *All the Year Round.              |
| Dublin University Magazine.             | *The Horticulturist.              |
| *Harper's Monthly Magazine.             | *The Family Herald.               |
| Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal. | *The London Journal.              |
|   | The Journal of Instruction.       |

Of the foregoing, those marked with an asterisk (\*) have been added during the past year.

The sale by auction of such of the papers, &c., as are not added to the Library, realized £7 8s. 9d., and the Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the services of Mr. Arnton on that occasion.

While on this branch of the Institute's operations, your Committee have to state that the accommodation both of the Reading Room and Library is now taxed to the uttermost, and that, to provide for the further expansion anticipated, it will, in all probability, soon be necessary to remove the Library into some other apartment, and to throw the whole front of the building into a Reading Room.

### LECTURES AND CLASSES.

During the past winter the Committee were relieved from the necessity of organizing a course of Lectures, as the Members of the Institute had free access to the Lectures of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, which were delivered in the Hall of Institute,—the first by Prof. Kindal of Toronto, "On the connection between Experiment and Theory in the progress of Scientific Discovery," and a course of seven, by Professor Thomas Sterry Hunt, "On the Economic Geology of Canada."

Arrangements are now in progress for a Joint Course for the coming winter, between the board of Arts and the Institute, which arrangement, if carried out, will greatly lessen the cost to both Institutions, and will doubtless prove highly instructive to those members of this Institute who avail themselves of the opportunity that will be thus afforded them.

In regard to Classes, your Committee have to report that free Classes for Instruction in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, French, Mechanical, Ornamental, and Architectural Drawing, were opened on the 9th of December last, and continued in operation till the 18th of March, a period of three months and a half. At the first the pupils were regular in their attendance, applied themselves closely to their studies, and consequently made rapid improvement. At the end of three months the attendance declined, and during the last week became so irregular, as to induce the Committee to close the Classes at an earlier day than they had intended. The reason generally assigned by



the pupils for irregular attendance was the unwillingness of employers to grant their apprentices the time, when business began to revive about the beginning of March. The Committee would fairly believe that such is not the case to any great extent, they can hardly conceive that employers could be so totally blind to their own interest, as to act so inconsiderately towards their apprentices: indeed if it could be definitely ascertained that such were the case, your Committee would recommend parents or guardians in indenturing apprentices, to stipulate that sufficient opportunity be afforded them, to profit to the fullest extent, by the advantages which this Institute affords. The following were the classes in operation, with the names of the teachers.

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic—Mr. P. Clancy.

French—Rev. J. E. Tanner.

Mechanical and Ornamental Drawing—Messrs. David McFarlane and William King.

Architectural Drawing—Alexander G. Hutchison.

The average attendance of pupils during the season was 95. The Classes were examined by Professor Dawson, on the 16th of February last, on behalf of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, who was pleased to express his gratification with the manner in which they were conducted, and the proficiency made.

The Committee avail themselves of this opportunity of acknowledging their indebtedness to Messrs. McFarlane, King, and Hutchison, for their valuable services in conducting the Drawing Classes, gratuitously. Such disinterested kindness merits the warmest acknowledgements of the Members of the Institute. The Chairman of the Class Committee, Hector Munro, Esq., is also entitled to honorable mention for his services in connection with the classes during the past season. The means at the disposal of the Board of Arts did not admit of so large a grant in aid of the Classes as was made, during the previous year—yet the amount so appropriated (Fifty Dollars) enabled the Committee to carry out their views more fully and they hope that more liberal aid will be afforded during the coming season.

As the season is generally too far advanced before the Classes are opened, the General Committee have made such arrangements as will enable the new Committee to open the Classes immediately on their assumption of office; say by the 20th instant.

This they have no doubt will be more generally acceptable to the pupils, and will allow a larger period of instruction than has hitherto been possible.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT OF INCORPORATION.

The Sub-committee to whom the Act of Incorporation was referred, have reported several amendments which will be submitted for your approval.

### FINANCES.

The balance on hand at the date of the last annual report, was £274 13s. 9d., with cheques drawn against that amount for nearly £100, leaving a balance of £175. This has been expended in making improvements in the Reading Room and Library, in extending the shelving, preparing and printing catalogues, in the purchase of new books and repairing of old ones, and other expenses incurred in re-arranging the Library.

The revenue derived from the Lecture Hall and Rooms the past year, was nearly equal to that of the preceding one, while the amount received for Members' subscriptions, up to the 1st of Nov., exceeds that of any former year by 30 per cent. This last addition is in a great part owing to the action taken by the Committee in allowing books only to Members whose subscriptions were paid.

This Committee, for the purpose of assisting their successors to meet a payment of £350, due to Mrs. Jeffrey, on the 4th of Dec. next, have endeavored to collect and economize the funds

of the Institute to the greatest possible extent, and have now much pleasure in placing in their hands the sum of £447 10s. 4d., which will enable them to pay off this demand when it becomes due, and thereby diminish the amount of interest to be paid, by the sum of £21 annually.

The Treasurer's Report shows a balance on hand of £447 10s. 4d.

In closing their Report, the General Committee may be permitted to take a passing notice of two great undertakings, which have reached a successful completion during the present year, and which may fairly be ranked amongst the greatest mechanical achievements of this or any other age. The first of these is the building of the monster steamship, known first to the world as the *Leviathan*, but more recently denominated the *Great Eastern*. Enormous difficulties have at various times beset this gigantic enterprise, and numerous serious obstacles have had to be overcome—not only in the process of construction, but even after the vast structure was ready to be launched. You will recollect with what regularity and minuteness the vehicles of public information chronicled the slow, yet sure progress made by this enormous vessel, towards what is popularly, though perhaps erroneously styled "her native element." Not easily and gracefully, as in ordinary cases, did this crowning monument of naval architecture glide into the watery element, but by means of Mechanical appliances such as were never before brought into operation, was this accomplished, inch by inch, until the Ocean Queen floated on the fair bosom of the Thames. Never before in the history of the world, has any nation risked so much in producing such a marvel, and never before was there such interest manifested in the construction of any vessel. Never did the people on both sides the Atlantic watch so intently the progress, or wish so earnestly for the success of any similar marine enterprise. Indeed, it may be fairly questioned whether even Noah's Ark, (the only structure that at all compares with it.) though one hundred and twenty years in building, absorbed half the interest which has been taken in this modern Ocean wonder—the *Great Eastern*. While, on the other side of the Atlantic, public attention has been so entirely concentrated upon the mammoth steamer, another work of a different character, but of still more gigantic proportions, has, on this side of the Atlantic, been progressing steadily, silently, and with such astonishing rapidity, that even now it may also be said to be completed. It need hardly be said that the Victoria Bridge is the work referred to. With its history you have already been made acquainted, and it would serve little purpose to enumerate now, in statistical order, the immense quantities of material used in its erection; as we doubt not you have already made yourselves familiar with the details of its construction. While we are proud to have it to say that Canada possesses one of the greatest engineering works extant; whilst, almost at our own doors, we have had placed before us one of the greatest monuments of mechanical genius, it becomes us also to bestir ourselves to provide for succeeding generations the means of acquiring such an education as will fit them to undertake and carry on, in the progressive spirit of the age, yet still greater works than these now referred to. Mechanics' Institutes present themselves as excellent mediums for conveying to the young mind the information and instruction best adapted for the improvement of the mind and the cultivation of the intellect. On the Reading Room desks, on the shelves of the Library, in the Lecture and the Class Rooms, stores of information may be gathered and garnered, that will prove of inestimable value to those who profit by the facilities thus afforded them.

While then, in this Institute, there are provided such abundance of means for obtaining knowledge, that the pursuit of it may be said to be attended with no more difficulty than the application necessary for its acquirement; whilst its doors are thrown open to every one, without distinction of country, color, or creed, inviting even the poorest to enter, no apology or excuse can suffice for any one remaining in ignorance. Let the Members of the Institute avail themselves of the opportunities



afforded them here of acquiring knowledge, which is "better than riches," let them labor to bring within its influence those who have hitherto neglected to benefit by its establishment; let every Member study to develop its resources, and increase its usefulness to the utmost of his power, and the reward will be felt in the consciousness of having been the means of doing good to his fellow-workmen, or fellow-countrymen, and through them to the community at large.

The whole, nevertheless, respectfully submitted.

JOHN WOOD,

*Recording Secretary.*

**Dr. Mechanics' Institute of Montreal in account with Norton B. Corse, Treas. Cr.**

1859.		1859.	
Nov. 7—To disbursements during the year	£875 4 1	Nov. 7—By Balance on hand, Nov. 8, 1858	£274 13 3
To balance in hands of Treasurer	447 10 4	By Cash from all sources during the year	1048 1 2
	<u>£1322 14 5</u>		<u>£1322 14 5</u>
Examined and found correct, (Signed,) JOHN WOOD, ALEX. C. HUTCHISON, ALEX. A. STEVENSON,		Auditors.	

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BALANCE SHEET, Nov. 7, 1859.**

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
To Cost of Lands.....	£2538 17 11	By Debt due on Land, Bailleur de Fonds	
Do Buildings to date.....	6245 11 4	Mortgage.....	£2100 2 11
Do Furniture to date.....	957 1 6	By Debt due Loan on Building.....	2420 10 0
Do Library to date.....	700 0 0		<u>£4520 12 11</u>
To Due on Building Fund.....	50 0 0		<u>\$18,082.58</u>
To Rent of Shops and Rooms.....	202 0 0		
	<u>£10,693 10 9</u>		
	4,520 12 11		
Balance in favour of Institute.....	<u>£6,172 17 10</u>		
	<u>\$24,691.57</u>		



Mechanics Institute  
of Montreal 28<sup>th</sup> November 1860  
An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the  
Institute of Montreal was held this evening

David Brown Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs. Bernard, Stevenson, Gray,  
Mr. Justin, Findlay, Mr. Farlane, Bertram  
Weaver, Hutchison, Munro, and Woods

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and  
confirmed

The following persons were admitted Members

1<sup>st</sup> Class. James Knight, James Murrie, Edward M<sup>r</sup>. Donald  
George Blinworth, William A. Little, Felix Morgan

2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Edward Chaney, Thomas Bickstaff, William  
King, Charles West, W. G. Harrington, Alex  
Riddle, Evans, Thomas Mulhall, Henry  
Callagher, Richard M<sup>r</sup>. Neou, Louis Black  
Alexander Brodie, F. A. Johnson, James Dougall  
Alfred Frost, Robert Nichols, Garbett Angel  
Duncan M<sup>r</sup>. Dougall, Andrew Cameron, Robert  
Dunn, George Jamieson, Patrick Fitzgerald  
David Brown, John Graham, George Crawford  
John Rutledge, C. S. J. Phillips, James  
Sutherland, Charles Goodwin,

3<sup>rd</sup> Class. John Ash, William Hutchinson, John Claskin,  
George Morris, W. H. Austin, Martin Ryan, Rich<sup>d</sup>.  
Hyde, Hugh John Stephenson, Samuel C.  
Stephenson, William Whinton, James M<sup>r</sup>. Dougall  
Patrick Cuddy, W. Henry Lulham, Alfred  
J. Prouse, George Perry, George Hyde, Sydneyham  
Kelly, William Fitter, Alexander Munro Jun<sup>r</sup>,  
John Gaw, James Woods, Charles Madden,  
Alex M<sup>r</sup>. Donald, Robert Fleets, Mr. Elliott  
Fred Myers, James M<sup>r</sup>. Kenzie, Mr. Simpson  
James Henderson, John Henry Godge, John M<sup>r</sup>.  
Naughton, F. A. Jones, Edward J. Moore, Charles



Nimmo, George Arless, Benjamin Robinson, John Roby-  
-inson, John Edman, Joseph Haber, William Pilbeam, John  
Campion, Alfred de Rostaing, Thomas O. Brien, Pat.  
McGuirk, Thomas Mc. Guirk, William Watkins  
John Mc. Dougall, Daniel Henderson, H. B. Mc. Gown,  
James Henderson, William Sloan, E. Pickren, Jas.  
Wilson, William Shields, Louis Samuels, Nelson  
Wosbough,

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute of  
Montreal 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan'y 1860

An extraordinary meeting of the Members of the Institute  
pursuant to advertisement was held this evening for the election  
of Delegate to the Board of Arts and Manufactures  
for the ensuing year

D. Brown Esq. President in the Chair and about  
Twenty members present

The Minutes of last Extraordinary Meeting were  
read & confirmed

The President stated that we were entitled to be repre-  
-sented in the Board by Twenty Delegates and  
appointed Mess<sup>rs</sup> Perry, Murphy, & Stevenson scrutineers  
and the meeting proceeded to Ballot for Delegates  
and the following were declared duly elected viz

William Roddick, Geo. W. Weaver, A. A. Stevenson  
Dr. A. Bernard, B. Chamberlin, Alfred Perry, H. B.  
Corse, Henry Lyman, Henry Bulmer, William  
Spier, Hector Munro, George Drummond, Peter  
Mc. Justin, John Redpath, A. Cantin, H. P. Bartley, C.  
Murphy, C. Garth, A. Murray, A. Ramsay

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood



Mechanics Institute

9<sup>th</sup> January 1860

An Ordinary Meeting of the members of the Institute was held this evening

A. Brown Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs. Walker, Munro, Stevenson, Perry, Hutchison, Findlay, M<sup>r</sup>. Donald, Wear, Wood, Rodden, Bartram, & Gray

The following persons were then admitted as Members of the Institute viz.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Class D. H. B. James, W. W. Anderson, H. Walker  
I. A. Remmer, John Buchanan, Clark Fitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Henry Thompson, George Cook, Joel Prince, P. A. Lee, John Oliver, A. Steel, James Virtue, Alex. Brodie, James Leggatt, A. McLean, William Beathman, John Gray, Robert Peel, William Holmes, N. Bateman, W. Bennett, James Douglas, Thomas Mudcroft, Benjamin Savage, John M<sup>r</sup>. Carr, Thomas Power, A. A. Murphy, Peter Johnston, William Bowden, John H. Elliot, George Hinton, D. H. Taylor.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Class John Pendergraft, W. C. Kane, C. Cunningham, C. G. Lamieson, Simon, Kemp, William Stephen, William Costigan, Robert Costigan, John Smith, Robert Brown, John Henderson, William Wilson, John Higgins, John Bennett, John Ireland, W. E. Bell, James Wilson, John Webster, William Bergin, William McLean, Jim Young, Thomas Power, John Power, Robert Henderson, John Waugh, Emanuel Yule, Robert Waugh, Lawrence Fletcher, B. Corcoran, A. Wildgast, James Finch, Peter Beardow, George Cunningham, Henry Smillie, Alexander Smillie, Henry Handlay, Hugh Evans

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary



Mechanics Institute

23 January 1860

An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Institute was held this evening

D. Brown Esq, President in the chair  
Present Messrs Hutchison, Findlay, Mr. Dunstan  
Gray, Pary, Bernard, Mr. Farlane, Weaver, Munro  
Stevenson, Ogilvie, Mr. Donald & Wood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted  
Members of the Institute

- 1<sup>st</sup> Class William Berry, Edmund Pickup, John Ewart  
2<sup>nd</sup> " John Notman, L. Mc Gowan, John Norbury  
M. J. Brum, W. Burrell, R. Burrell, G. H. Johnson  
James Anderson, J. J. Smeaton, John Mc  
Phail, G. J. Dyke  
3<sup>rd</sup> Class R. C. Garvin, W. Frametum, E. Woodbridge W.  
Peatman, J. Mc Arthur, D. Munro, J. Wardrum  
M. O. Hora, Martin O. Hora, G. E. Menworthy  
J. Cassidy, P. Lemoine, C. Scott, F. Wolfe  
J. Wilson, J. Brame, J. Mattinoc, M.  
Milne

The Meeting then adjourned  
John Wood  
Sec Sec



Montreal 27<sup>th</sup> Feby 1860

An Ordinary Meeting of the members of the  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this  
evening

A. Brown Esq. President in the Chair  
Present Messrs Perry, Corse, Rodden, Bertram, Mc  
Farlane, Mc Lustin, Weaver, Rutherford, Hutchison  
Walker, & Howes.

The Minute of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted Members  
of the Institute.

First Class. Edward Charters.

Second Class. R. Kennedy, F. Moore, J. Mc Kenzie  
John Little, B. F. Copeland, James A. Harte, William  
Johnson, ~~C. Wardrum~~

Third Class. C. Wardrum, John Davidson, William  
Myers, John Peffer, John Ross, Samuel Goslin  
Geo Balfour, Samuel Wait, William Boque,  
Edward Laughney, Geo E. Shepston, James Kerr,  
Hugh Montgomery, Amos Hodgson, William  
Hodgson & Thomas Swindle.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute 26<sup>th</sup> March 1860

An Ordinary Meeting was held this evening  
A. Brown Esq. President in the Chair  
Present. Fernidley, Mc Lustin, Rutherford, Munro, Wood  
Walker, McFarlane, Rodden, & Weaver.  
The Minute of last Meeting were read & confirmed  
The following persons were then admitted Members  
First Class. W. Kerr, John Wignand & John Mc Intosh.  
Third Class. William Crowhurst, & Peter Beardon.  
The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood Recording Secretary



Montreal 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1860  
An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics  
Institute of Montreal was held this evening

St Brown Esq. President in the chair

Present Messrs Stevenson, Munro, Findlay, Weaver  
McQuistin, Perry Rodden, Bertram and Hood

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed.

The following persons were then admitted  
Members of the Institute viz.

First Class. Samuel Hepworth, & Robert Green.

Second Class. John Nichols, Alex. G. Fowler, Thomas  
Campbell, William Munro, and W. A. Sampson.

Third Class. William Brewster.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Hood  
Recording Secretary

Montreal 11<sup>th</sup> June 1860  
An Ordinary meeting of the Members of the  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this evening

St Brown Esq. President in the chair

Present Messrs Munro, Rutherford, Walker, Gray  
Perry, Weaver, Corse, McQuistin, Agilvie, Bertram  
Findlay and Hood.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed.

The following persons were then admitted. Members  
First Class. S. Symmers, O. E. Teavel & Ch. Legge C. E.

Second Class. Serwetus Bispham, J. Williamson, H. A. Hepburn,  
Andr<sup>e</sup> Bell, Wm Campbell, J. Mc Donald & S. H. Mason.

Third Class. G. W. Walters, James Brown, Samuel  
Green, William Green, David Glen, Alex



Badnach, and Henry Bennet

The Meeting then adjourned

John Good  
Recording Secretary

Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> August 1860  
An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this  
evening.

W Brown Esq. President in the Chair.  
Present. Munro, Corse, W. E. Lustin, Wood, Weaver,  
Murray, Findlay, Rutherford & Stevenson.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then admitted Members  
of the Institute

First Class. John Andrews, & Andrew Telf.

Second Class. John Craig, Arnold Meyer, John  
O. Neill, Forrester Jacques, & Michael Bonal.

Third Class. E. Davis, G. W. Dougall, and H. S.  
Stephenson.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Good  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute of

Montreal 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1860

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the  
Institute was held this evening in accordance with  
the Amendments to the Act of Incorporation

W Brown Esq. President in the Chair and  
about thirty other Members present



The Minutes of last Annual ~~Report~~ Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary then read the Amendments to the Act of Incorporation.

He also read a report from the General Committee stating that in consequence of the unavoidable engagements of most of the Members of the Committee in connection with the recent visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and the present Industrial Exhibition it had been found impossible to prepare the usual Annual Statements and report for submission to the Members and in view of these circumstances recommending that as provided by the 4<sup>th</sup> Clause of the Act of Incorporation the election of Office-bearers and the reception of the Annual report be deferred to an adjourned Meeting to be held at a period not exceeding three weeks from this date.

Whereupon it was moved by Mr. J. M. Rodden Seconded by Mr. P. M. E. Austin That the report be received and that the Meeting adjourn to this day three weeks.

Carried

The Meeting then adjourned till the 24<sup>th</sup> Instant  
John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Mechanics Institute of Montreal  
24<sup>th</sup> September 1860

The adjourned Annual Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this evening.

St Brown Esq. President in the Chair and about forty Members present.

The Secretary then read the following Annual Report



GENTLEMEN.—As you are probably aware a resolution was passed at the last Annual Meeting, instructing the General Committee to take the necessary steps to obtain an amended Act of Incorporation at the next ensuing session of Parliament.

A draft of an act, embodying the amendment required was consequently prepared, and was entrusted to the care of the Honble. James Ferrier, by whose influence the customary fee of Twenty-five pounds on the introduction of a private Bill was remitted, and the act passed by the Honble. the Legislative Council, free of all charge to the Institute. To that gentleman and to C. Dunkin, Esq., M.P.P., who kindly took charge of the Bill in the Legislative Assembly, the best thanks of the Institute are due.

The Act duly received the royal sanction and became law on the 19th May last.

Among other changes provided for, the date of the Annual meeting has been altered from the first Monday in November to the first Monday of September in each year, and in consequence you were summoned together on the 3d instant, but as from several causes mentioned in the short report then presented, it had been found impossible to have the usual Annual Report prepared; it was then resolved to adjourn the meeting as provided for in the By-laws, until this evening.

It now devolves upon your Committee to lay before you the Annual Statement of the affairs and progress of the Institute and the first item coming before us is the

#### STATE OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

The Sub-Committee on Membership have reported that last December it was deemed advisable to put in force for a time, the rule requiring members to exhibit their tickets on entering the Reading room; and this had the good effect intended, of putting a stop to the visits of a number of persons not members who had for a long time been in the habit of making use of the room.

Several members of this sub-committee in co-operation with members of the Library Committee, attended during the winter evenings to assist the Superintendent in the delivery of Books, and to see that the rule was enforced that no member should draw Books from the Library whose subscriptions were unpaid. The strict adherence to this rule during the last year, although having the appearance at first of being somewhat harsh, was yet found to be necessary, and has been productive of the best results.

The number of members at the date of last report was.....	911
The number of new members elected during the 10 months to date was.....	307
And the number who in that time ceased to be members was..	107

Showing an increase during the time of...200

And making a present total on the Membership roll of..... 1111

Who are classified as follows:

Honorary Members.....	10
Corresponding Members.....	8
Life Members.....	176
Ordinary Members.....	917

Of the 917 ordinary members 287 are in arrears of subscription; during the two months required, however, to complete the whole of this year, the number will be materially reduced.

Your Committee would again urge upon the members the duty which they owe to the Institute, an establishment which is their own, of which the Mechanics of Montreal have reason to be proud, and in the success of which they should feel the deepest interest, of endeavouring by every means in their power to increase the list of members. The present roll ought to be double its present number, and that would easily be effected did the members but use a little influence with their friends.

The Committee recommend to their successors the consideration of the expediency of reducing the subscription for Life Membership to the lowest rate consistent with the interests of the Institute. This can be done in the revision of the By-laws, which will be necessary under the new Act, and, would, your Committee believe, be the means of building up a permanent membership, taking a much deeper interest in the well doing of the Institute, than can be expected from the present one.

Your Committee regret to have to announce the death during the past year of one of the Life Members of the Institute, one whom the civilized world laments; and who, during his brief visit to this country, enrolled himself as one of our members, and at the same time made a most liberal donation towards the then Building fund of the Institute. It is a melancholy duty to have to record the loss of Robert Stephenson.

our Committee are gratified in being to report the steady enlargement of the Library, and also that each year exhibits an increase in the number of the members availing themselves of its privileges, and in the extent to which they do so.

At the date of the last annual report the number of volumes in the Library was 3087, since which time have been added—

By donation.....	12
By binding Periodicals from the Reading Room.....	27
By purchase, in the ordinary course, of new Works.....	142
By the addition of Bohn's publications, which will be further alluded to.....	268

Making the present number of Volumes in the Library, available to the members.3536

The number of issues during the year 1858-59 were.....6840

While during the present year now, and up to the 1st Sept. only, they reached.7338

Showing an increase in ten months of... 498

Had the issues up to the 1st November next been added as usual, thus completing the year, they would in all probability have reached 9000; exhibiting a per-centage of increase in the use of the Library of nearly 50 per cent. This gratifying circumstance may be attributed, to a considerable extent, to the rule which the Committee adopted this year, of strictly enforcing in all cases the penalties for retaining books beyond the specified time for perusal. As a consequence, instead of a member retaining one book for months, as was sometimes the case, it is now returned at the time appointed, or before it, and another taken out.

#### DONATIONS.

Your Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—

#### DONATIONS.

From W. H. Boyd, an Egyptian Genlock.  
 " Mr. John Baily, 2 specimens fossil shells from Ireland.  
 " A Friend, one volume.  
 " C. Legge, C.E., a copy of his work, entitled a glance at the Victoria Bridge and the men who built it.  
 " John Smith, Upper St. Urbain Street, 6 volumes Polhamptons gallery of nature and art.  
 " Arthur Scratchley, by the hands of Austin Cuvillier, 1 volume Treatise on Life Insurance and friendly Societies, and one volume entitled practical Treatise on Savings Banks.  
 " John Wood, 2 copies Life of Capt. John Brown, of Harper's Ferry.

#### BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

In the last annual report it was mentioned that the Board of Arts and Manufactures, C.E., had received a set of the valuable British Patent Office Reports, and that when bound they would be open to the Members of the Institute and to the public at large, as a part of the free Library of Reference of the Board.

These very interesting and instructive reports, comprising about 1100 volumes, the new edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, and many other valuable works, can now be referred to at certain hours at the Office of the Board, and your Committee will call the attention of the Members to the fact, in order that they may avail themselves of the means of study thus afforded.

#### THE WEAVER TESTIMONIAL

At the last annual meeting it was unanimously resolved that the Library should be increased an hundred or more volumes, as a memento of the Members' appreciation of the able services of G. W. Weaver, Esq., as President of the Institute, and with the view that the addition should be kept in perpetuity for that purpose.

The Committee have had in their consideration the best means of carrying out the views of the Members, and for that purpose have made a selection from Bohn's standard publications, numbering 268 volumes, which, placed in the Bookcase which has been made especially for them, will form a neat and handsome Library in themselves of many of the best works in the English language.

This collection is now ready to be opened to the use of Members; an inscription has been placed on each volume, declaring the purpose for which these books were added to the Library, and it will be for the Members tonight to solicit Mr. Weaver's permission to use his name in the manner desired, and his acceptance of this mark of the estimation in which the members hold his active and valuable services during the two years in which he held the office of President.

#### THE READING ROOM.

The following Newspapers and Periodicals are to be found on the table of the Reading Room:

Montreal Papers.—Daily Herald, Transcript, Pilot, Gazette, Advertiser; True Witness, Wit-

ness, Le Pays, Semeur, Canadien, Temperance Advocate.

Provincial Papers.—Toronto Daily Globe, Colonist; Stratford Examiner, Beacon; Granby Gazette; Hamilton Times, Spectator; Quebec Morning Chronicle, Vindicator; Kingston News; Aylmer Times; Huntingdon Herald; Canda Official Gazette.

British Papers.—London Daily Times, Illustrated News, Punch, Engineer, Builder; Liverpool European Times; Edinburgh Scotsman; Glasgow Saturday Post; Dublin Warder.

United States Papers.—New York Daily Herald, Albion, Frank Leslie's Gazette, Home Journal, New York Tribune, Life Illustrated, Harper's Weekly, Scientific American; Boston Ballou's Pictorial; Scottish American Journal; Philadelphia Saturday Bulletin.

Periodicals.—Edinburgh Review; London Quarterly Review; Westminster Review; North British Review; Blackwood's Magazine; Hunt's Merchant's Magazine; Dublin University Magazine; Harper's Monthly Magazine; Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal; The Practical Mechanic's Journal; Mechanics' Magazine; The Art Journal; The Canadian Journal; Cornhill Magazine; Chambers' Journal; The Atlantic Monthly; Once a Week; All the Year Round; The Horticulturist; The Family Herald; Journal of Education, C.E.; The London Journal; The Journal of Instruction.

Of the foregoing, those marked with an asterisk (\*) have been added during the past year.

The annual sale of such of the papers and periodicals as are not added to the Library, realized £5 17s 9d, and the Committee have to thank Mr. Arnton for his kindness in acting as auctioneer on that occasion.

#### LECTURES AND CLASSES.

A course of lectures was delivered during last winter by Prof. Robins, of McGill College, on Iron and the allied metals.

These lectures were under the management of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, and were free to the members of the Institute and the public at large; a large number of the members availed themselves of these valuable lectures.

The classes were opened on the 23rd of Nov., 1859, and continued till the 1st of April following—the session lasting 111 days. The branches taught were English Reading, Grammar, Writing, Book-keeping and Arithmetic, under Mr. James Stewart and Mr. James Bute; Architectural Drawing, under Mr. Alexander C. Hutchison; Mechanical Drawing, under Mr. David McFarlane; Ornamental Drawing, under Mr. James Bute and Mr. James Elliott; and French, under Mr. J. E. Tanner. A class for Mathematics was also organized, but owing to the small number of pupils offering, it was discontinued.

The number of scholars averaged about 70, and the attendance, in point of regularity, was much better than in former years. This is mainly attributed to the aid and encouragement which many employers have, during the past year, rendered to their apprentices, and the Committee are gratified that in this respect they have not to regret the complaint so justly made in last year's report. The Committee sincerely trust that no one will be guilty of such selfish injustice, as by depriving the lads in his employment of the winter evenings, to deprive them also of the opportunities now offered of acquiring instruction and information, that otherwise would be quite beyond their reach.

At the close of the session the classes on the English branches, were examined by Professor Robins, on behalf of the Board of Arts and Manufactures; and that gentleman expressed himself satisfied with the mode of teaching and the progress made.

The Class Committee strongly recommend the institution of a system of prizes, say for attendance, diligence and proficiency, and would recommend that subject strongly to their successors.

The report of the Sub-Committee on Lectures and Classes, embracing further details on the subject, is on the table, and can be referred to by the members.

The Committee have in an especial manner to record the obligations which the Legislature is under to Mr. David McFarlane, Engineer, for the very valuable services which for several years past he has rendered to the Drawing Classes, free of all charge; and they have also to return their best thanks to Mr. James Elliot, for the gratuitous services rendered by him during the past winter.

The Chairman of the Class Committee, Mr. Hector Munro, again merits the especial acknowledgment, by your Committee, for his indefatigable and zealous attention to the success of the classes.



THE BUILDING.

During last winter, the new heating apparatus was so far completed as to admit of its being tried, and the results obtained were very satisfactory; but as there are yet several things to be done before it can be said to be finished, it will be the duty of our successors to have it fairly tested as soon as the cold weather sets in.

In consequence of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, it became necessary to expend a larger sum than usual in repairs to the various rooms in the Building. The large Hall, Class Rooms, Library, Reading-Room, &c., have all been thoroughly white-washed and coloured, the Committee Room was also re-carpeted and the walls papered. The whole has been done with a due regard to economy.

It was also necessary, on the above occasion, in common with the other public Institutions and citizens generally, to illuminate the Building; this was done in what your Committee consider to have been a very effective manner, by Messrs. McArthur & Spence. The cost of the whole will probably reach £50.

FINANCES.

The Treasurer's report, which lies on the table, shows a statement of the receipts from all sources during the year to be \$4,946 30, with disbursements against that sum to the amount of \$4,606 57, leaving a balance in his hands of \$339 70.

\$1,408 of the \$4,606 57 of the disbursements were paid to Mrs. Jeffrey, being the amount referred to in the report of last year. The revenue derived from the Lecture Hall and Rooms, has not quite equaled that of last year; but when it is taken into consideration that this report embraces the receipts of ten months, it accounts in a great measure for this; otherwise the balance in the Treasurer's hands would have been much larger.

In consequence of the obtaining the amended act, it will be requisite that the By-Laws be revised to correspond therewith. A Special Committee was appointed sometime ago, who have proceeded a certain length with the alterations. They are not yet ready, however, for submission to the Members, and the Committee deem it best to hand the whole over to their successors, who can give this important matter their deliberate attention.

Your Committee have now to call the attention of the Members to the very material alteration which, according to the new Act, will take place this year in the number of Office-Bearers. On this and future occasions you have to elect the following officers only:

- A President,
- A Vice-President,
- A Corresponding Secretary,
- A Recording Secretary,
- A Treasurer,
- A Librarian,
- A Cabinet Keeper,

and six Members of Committee, making thirteen in all as constituting the General Committee, instead of twenty-one as formerly.

In view of this reduction in the number of the Committee, the Members will require to exercise their best judgments in the election about to be made. The Institute has now large and important interests at stake which may be greatly advanced, or sadly injured, just as the Managers of its affairs are attentive and faithful or the reverse; and it is to be hoped that the Members upon whom now devolves the responsibility of saying into whose hands that management is for a year to pass, and those who may accept election from their hands, will equally feel the weight of that responsibility, and endeavor to the utmost to do their duty to the Institute, forgetting all consideration but what may tend to its advancement and prosperity.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN WOOD.  
Recording Secretary.

Moved by Mr. Geo. W. Stephens Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Findlay That the report now read be Received and adopted

Carried

At the request of Geo. W. Stephens Esq. the report of the Lecture and Class Committee referred to in the report was read to the meeting

The President then stated that it gave him much pleasure on behalf of the Institute to ask Mr. Weaver to allow his name to be used on the Books in the manner described in the report and to accept of this mark of the estimation in which the members hold his valuable services during the time of his Presidency. Mr. Weaver briefly replied stating that he had much pleasure in allowing his name to be used in the manner mentioned and that he thought more of this kind of a memento than any personal one the members could have given him.

The President then appointed Messrs. R. Forsyth



S. E. Gilbert and G. H. Fowler to act as  
Scrutineers and the meeting proceeded to the  
election of officebearers for the ensuing year

Moved by Mr. A. A. Stevenson Seconded by Mr.  
Geo Gray That the meeting proceed to  
nominate persons for the various offices

The following gentlemen were then declared duly  
elected. Carried

President Mr. Hector Munro  
Vice do " Alex Bertram  
Corresponding Secretary " Alex Murray  
Recording do " John Wood  
Treasurer " W. B. Coase  
Librarian " P. McQuiston  
Cabinet Keeper " Jonathan Findlay  
Committee. Robert Forsyth, William Rutherford,  
David McFarlane, William Inglis, George A.  
Drummond, James Walker.

The following persons were then admitted mem-  
bers of the Institute

First class. William Gardner, Mathew Bell  
Second Class. John Williams, H. A. Snell,  
Henry Wood, John Morrison, John Barlow  
W. P. McQuiston, John W. Ferris, John Thomson  
Daniel Kily, Thomas J. Sterry.  
Third Class. Joseph Parrott, William Scott,  
Thomas Ford, John Dater, David Little, Peter  
Redmond.

Moved by Mr. Jonathan Findlay Seconded  
by Mr. Robert Gardner That a record be  
kept of the number of meetings held during the  
next year by the General Committee and number  
of times which the different officers and  
members meet during such term and that  
the same be included in next Annual Report  
and read for the information of the members of



The Institute

Moved by Mr. Geo. W. Stephens seconded by Mr. Morgan That the thanks of the Institute are due and are hereby tendered to the retiring Officers and Committee for their services during the past year. So carried

Moved by Mr. James Ince seconded by Mr. A. Murray That the Annual Report be published in pamphlet form. Carried

No other business appearing the meeting adjourned  
John Ford  
Recording Secretary

### Mechanics Institute

of Montreal 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 1860

An ordinary meeting of the Members of the Institute was held this evening

Present G. Munro Esq. President in the Chair Messrs Murray, Rutherford, Inglis, Bertram, Fridlay, McQuinn, Forsyth, Wood, Walter and Corrie.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed.

The following persons were admitted members of the Institute

First class.

Second class.

Third class.

James Buchanan.

George Aude, W. R. Lafabre,

A. Hudson, A. Mc Donald, P.

Hay, C. Conway, J. Urquhart, E.

Mc Mullins, J. Smith, Peter

Nicholson and Thomas Williams

R. Phillips, J. Goule, Mr Bowie,

John Crane and John Hummings

The Meeting then adjourned

John Ford  
rec Sec



Mechanics Institute  
of Montreal 22 October 1860  
An Ordinary General Meeting of the Mechanics  
Institute was held this evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the Chair

Present Messrs Weaver, Forsyth, Rutherford,  
Findlay, Murray, Bertram, Munro, Inglis,  
W. Farlane, M. Thair, Craig, Hood and  
about eight others

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and  
confirmed

The President stated that the committee had  
finished the revision of the Byelaws and that  
they would now be submitted for the approval  
of the Meeting notice of which had been given in  
the manner prescribed by the 39<sup>th</sup> Section of  
the Byelaws

The Secretary was then instructed to read them  
Section by Section

Now upon the same being read Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4,  
5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, were passed without any  
Amendments.

No 10 was amended by changing two days for  
eight.

Nos. 11, 12, & 13 were passed without alteration  
on No 14 being read it was moved by Mr  
D. J. Craig, seconded by Mr Robert Hays  
that after the word year be added: - But to entitle  
a member to vote in the election of officebearers or  
be eligible for office for the subsequent year  
his Subscription for that year must be paid  
on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> August

Moved in Amendment by Mr Wm Rutherford  
Seconded by Mr Murray that the date of the



financial year be changed from the first day of September to the first day of August and that in order to entitle a member to vote for the election of officebearers or be eligible for office for the current year, his subscription must be paid on or before the 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Mr. Rutherford's amendment on being put to the vote was declared carried after which the clause as amended was put to the vote and carried.

The remainder of the Bylaws were then passed without any alterations or amendments.

Moved by Mr. Robert Forsyth Seconded by Mr. William Rutherford That the Committee be instructed to get the Act of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended printed for the use of the Members and that a copy be presented to each.

Carried

The following persons were then proposed for Membership and admitted,

Second class. Robert Hay, John Greig, John Brett, Robert Beckham, James Jardine and John Shaw.

Third class. Mr. Liddle, Thomas M. Baylay, Robert Lawrie, Robert Johnston, James Reid, William Paterson, C. M. Gregor, James Stewart, Robert Thomson, George Scott, Alex. Aude, H. E. Murray, Mick Dalhinky, B. B. Deacon, Joshua Bell, Albert Birse, James Allan, E. Hyde, Mr. M. Farlane, Donald M. M. Adie, Richard Hall, James Dougall, Andrew Brown, James Morrison, Mr. Pringle, Robert Horner, John Robinson, Mr. Marchant, Ashburn M. Budge, Walter M. Budge, Henry Scott, and George Barry.

The Meeting then adjourned.

John Wood



Montreal 12<sup>th</sup> November 1860

An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this  
evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the Chair

Present Bertram, Inglis, Macfarlane, Walter  
Forsyth, Rutherford and Wood

The following persons were then proposed and  
admitted Members of the Institute

First Class. W. H. McManis, J. M. Hanna  
& William Stewart

Second Class. J. S. Stephens, Wm Dunlop  
C. H. Binger, E. David, J. Johnston, Alex  
Watson, Robt. Hector, Bertram, C.  
Crozier, Thos. Whittle, D. Knight, F. Murray  
J. Spindle, Wm. Critchley, J. Murphy, Hugh Andrews  
Wm. Carson, W. D. Tucker, J. G. Hays, A. Falconer  
J. DeWitt, James Higgins, Thomas Phillips

Third Class. James Hyde, Wm. Mintz, David  
Goudie, J. Martin, F. McRae, E. Sharp, K. Crozier  
Geo. Dart, John Reid, W. Sternberg, David McManis  
Alfred Munnis, Geo. Stanway, James Thompson  
J. M. M. Duff, Wm. Scott, James Nicholson, George  
Squirrel, Wm. Dalryd, Alex. Nelson, Alex. C. Grady  
Thomas Watson, W. J. M. & Nice, Rich<sup>d</sup> Wilson, Wm.  
Owler Junr, Samuel Brady, David Harvey, And<sup>r</sup>  
Donald, Robert M<sup>c</sup>Callum, Wm. Hurdell, H. A.  
Myer, Alex. Stewart, J. L. Kincaid, Wm. Gamble, Geo.  
Paterson, William Wait, Jos. Deacon, J. James  
Wm. Elliot, D. M. Beers, John Brown, William  
Richardson, D. Davidson, Thomas Coonan,  
Geo. Kennedy, C. W. Arnold, J. Madden,  
H. Leslie, W. Chisholm, A. B. Chisholm, L. M. Naughton  
H. Lummis, D. M<sup>c</sup> Killop, H. Harrington, H. Houston  
Joseph Brown, A. M. Donald, E. Carmichael, J. Fleet  
Wm. Peacock

The Meeting then adjourned John Wood R<sup>es</sup>



Montreal 17<sup>th</sup> December 1861

An extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal pursuant to Advertisement was held this evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the Chair

Nineteen Members present

The President stated that he had received a requisition signed by five members of the General Committee desiring him to call an extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of the Institute for the purpose of considering a proposition for a loan of the sum of one thousand Dollars to be appropriated in payment of the debts of the Institute the rate of Interest not to exceed 8 per Cent. In accordance with which requisition this Meeting had been duly called.

He also made a statement of the debts due by the Institute up to the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1860 was \$ 2187.52 \$ 966.00 of which amount is due the Corporation for assessments. The Secretary then read the requisition calling the Meeting.

A considerable discussion then took place as to the propriety of borrowing the money mentioned above

Moved by Mr. A. Perry Seconded by Mr. George J. Jonathan Findlay That the President be authorised to borrow the sum of one thousand Dollars for a term of three years at a rate of Interest not to exceed 8 per Cent per annum to pay off the debts of the Institute

Carried



Moved by Mr. Alexander Bertram Seconded by  
Mr. G. W. Stevens and Carried unanimously  
That the President is hereby authorised to  
borrow money for the Institute upon Mortgage of  
all or any of its property and especially of the  
Building corners of Great St. James St. and St  
Peter St. in the City of Montreal and to sign  
an obligation in form in favour of Charlotte Neil  
Wife of James Jeffrey Ship Builder of Quebec  
for one Thousand Dollars repayable by the Institute  
on the Seventeenth day of December Eighteen  
Hundred Sixty Three and to bear Interest from  
the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December Eighteen Hundred  
and Sixty at 8 per Cent per Annum pay-  
able semi-annually on the fourth day of December  
and fourth day of June of each and every year  
untill perfect payment is made of the one  
Thousand Dollars of said obligation as per date  
Seventeenth day of December Eighteen Hundred  
and Sixty Three. The deed to contain such  
general clauses as the President may agree to  
and other clauses such as the following

A Clause binding the Institute to  
insure the Building year after year for the  
security of the said Charlotte Neil and to  
hand over the policies or Renewal receipts to  
her in Quebec without delay the President to  
make such agreements in respect thereof  
as may be agreed upon.

A Clause binding the Institute  
to pay the Interest and finally the principle  
at Quebec at the office of the Bank of  
Montreal there free of charge to the said Char-  
lotte Neil.

A Clause binding the Institute  
to expend said money borrowed in payment  
of accounts due by the Institute and as certified  
by the General Committee and sent to the  
Finance Committee for payment.

A Clause binding the Institute  
to pay the said one Thousand Dollars punctually



when due and also all Interest punctually and in  
case the said Institute shall make default in the  
payment of the said Interest to accrue and become  
due on the said principle sum of one Thousand  
Dollars for the space of 30 days after the said Interest  
payments shall become due and payable as  
before mentioned and provided or should default  
be made of the payment of said sum herein before  
stipulated for the payment thereof for the space  
of thirty days then and in that case the whole  
of the Interest and principle then due shall become  
exigible

A clause binding the Institute to pay  
all costs of Notarial deeds and registration  
charges also to furnish the lender with a copy  
of the obligation registered with a certificate with-  
out delay

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary  
Per \_\_\_\_\_

Montreal 26<sup>th</sup> November 1860

An Ordinary meeting of the Members of the Mechanics Institute  
of Montreal was held this evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the Chair

Present Forsyth, Rutherford, Bertram, M. Farlane, Inglis,  
Finlay, Wood, Walker, Coxe, M. E. Quistin.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed

The following persons were then proposed and admitted  
Members of the Institute

First Class. Thomas K. Raphael

Second Class. A. C. Brunet, J. C. Grinton, James Garwood,  
Geo. Wait, Richard Oeres.

Third Class. R. A. Beckett, J. M. Drysdale, J. M. Johnston



Benjamin D. Hager, Daniel Ross, Alfred Berry Junr, James  
Perry, James Ross, William Bell, Geo Young, Wm M. Pherson  
Robert Colquhoun, Robert Horner, John Clendinning, B.S.  
Harte, Thomas Moodie, Thomas Coates, Albert Moore  
Barnet Humes, James Judge, Wm John Fortner, Edward  
Clouston, William James, Richard Smith.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Montreal 10<sup>th</sup> December 1861  
An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics  
Institute of Montreal was held this evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the Chair

Present. Bertram, Inglis, Rutherford, Findlay, Forsyth,  
Wood, Corse, McFarlane, Walker, Drummond

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed

The following persons were then proposed and admitted Members  
of the Institute

First Class. James Brown.

Second Class. A. K. Roy, John Murray, Arthur  
Wurtle, Francis Corner, William Coban, J. B. Dewar,  
Charles Pilbeam, C. A. McLeish, John Power, J. B.  
Graham, Henry Ward, Walter Davidson, John  
Sullivan, John Ferguson, James Stewart, Alfred  
Hosley,

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary



Montreal 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1861

An extraordinary Meeting of the Members of The  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the chair,  
19 Members present

The President stated that the Meeting was called in  
accordance with the Act of Incorporation of the  
Board of Arts and Manufactures to elect Delegates to  
represent the Institute at the board and that the  
Institute was entitled to 22 representatives according  
to the list of members submitted.

The President then appointed Messrs Fowler, Forsyth,  
and Wood Scrutinizers and ~~the~~ Meeting proceeded to  
ballot for Delegates when the following were declared  
duly elected viz.

G. W. Weaver, David Brown, William Rodden, Henry  
Bulmer, W. P. Bartley, Dunbar Brown, Robt. Forsyth  
W. B. Corse, A. A. Stevenson, Jonathan Findlay, A. Perry,  
James Shearer, B. Chamberlin W. Rutherford, A. Cantin, W.  
Lyman, A. Ramsay, P. M. Quistin, John Wood, John  
Medpath, A. Murray, A. Bertram, ~~Geo. Drummond~~  
~~and~~

The Secretary then read a letter from Mr. David Brown  
declining to stand if he should be elected Mr. G. W. Weaver  
also declined to act as a representative at the Board.

Moved by Mr. Robt. Forsyth Seconded by Mr. John  
Wood That this Meeting do accept the refusal of  
Messrs G. W. Weaver and D. Brown, to act as delegates  
to the Board of Arts and Manufactures and that the  
Meeting do immediately proceed to elect others in  
their stead

Carried  
Messrs Geo Drummond and E. E. Gilbert were then  
elected and the Meeting adjourned.

John Wood, Secy



Montreal 14<sup>th</sup> January 1861  
An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics  
Institute of Montreal was held this evening

N. Munro Esq. President in the Chair

Twelve members present,

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

The following persons were then proposed and admitted  
Members of the Institute.

First Class John Gloom.

Second Class Lorenzo Bowden, James Richardson,  
Thomas Ryan, Daniel McManany, &  
John Clark.

Third Class S. J. Thompson, Joseph Porteous, James  
D. Thompson, John S. Green, John Richardson,  
Thomas Stell, Charles F. Nagle, William Inglis, Henry  
Wilson, Charles Tweedy, John St. John, C. Chipman,  
John McNeill, Geo. Summoller, Charles Roach, Patrick  
McIntyre.

First Class James Paxton, William Paxton.

Second Class Leon Spenard.

The Meeting then adjourned.

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Montreal 28<sup>th</sup> January 1861  
An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the  
Mechanics Institute of Montreal was held this  
evening

In the absence of the President and Vice President  
Mr. Jonathan Findlay was called to the Chair

Ten Members present

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed



The following persons were then proposed and admitted  
Members of the Institute

First Class. Mark Mitchell

Second Class. William Dennis, D. B. Scott, Louis Harper

Third Class. Louis Harper, William Parker.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood  
Recording Secretary

Montreal 25<sup>th</sup> February 1861

An Ordinary Meeting of the Members of the Mechanics  
Institute of Montreal was held this evening

H. Munro Esq. President in the chair

There were 12 Members present

The Minutes of last Meeting were read & confirmed

It was Moved by Mr. John Wood, Seconded by Mr. H. Munro  
That W. A. Kingston, M. D. be elected a life Member of  
the Institute in consideration of his handsome donation  
of \$50.00

Carried

Mr. Robert Forsyth was proposed as a Life Member  
of the Institute by Mr. Jonathan Findlay Seconded  
by Mr. A. Bertram and duly elected.

The following persons were also proposed and elected  
Annual Subscribing Members. viz.

First Class. F. C. Wilmot, Col. R. A. John Berwick

Second Class. A. Scott, J. Mathewson, A. Loudon  
John Lee.

Third Class. Charles Boushiller, Henry Boushiller  
James A. Nicholson, Robert Beechard  
William Johnston, Geo M<sup>c</sup> Dougal, Robt Wardlaw.

The Meeting then adjourned

John Wood Rec. Sec.



Montreal 11<sup>th</sup> March 1861  
The ordinary Meeting was held this  
Evening 16 Members present in  
the Chair. The Minutes of last  
Meeting Read and Confirmed  
The following Members was admitted  
Daniel Wilson 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Joseph Luffet 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Mrs Ryan 2<sup>nd</sup>, W Phipps 2<sup>nd</sup>, John McLubben 3<sup>rd</sup>  
John Walter 3<sup>rd</sup>, D McLaren 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Charles Kabb 1. John Cameron 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Her Sir 2<sup>nd</sup>. S Stomess 2  
Rabt Audinney 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
No other Business appearing  
The Meeting adjourned.

Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> May 1861  
The ordinary Meeting of the Members  
was held this Evening 16 Members present  
in the Chair, 12 Members being present  
The following Members was admitted  
Henry Hampstead 3<sup>rd</sup>  
David Morrison 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Hosare Haurold 2<sup>nd</sup>  
The Meeting adjourned

Montreal August 12<sup>th</sup> 61  
The ordinary Meeting of the Members of the  
Institute was held this Evening  
W. Murray President in the Chair  
The Minutes of former Meeting was Read and  
Confirmed The following Members was admitted  
Joseph Brown 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mark Gisdale 3<sup>rd</sup> & S. Walidog 3<sup>rd</sup>  
D B Small 3<sup>rd</sup>. James Leslie 3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Laville 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Neil Campbell 3<sup>rd</sup>. James Michalis 3<sup>rd</sup> James Short 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Alexander Dow.  
The Meeting adjourned



**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,**

MONTREAL, 2nd Sept., 1861.

The Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was held this evening—H. Munro, Esq. President, in the chair. The President briefly stated the object of the meeting, which, in accordance with the By-laws, was for the election of officers and members to compose the General Committee for the ensuing year, and to receive the report from the retiring Committee on the affairs of the Institute, which the Secretary would read.

The minutes of last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary then read the Twenty-second Annual Report, together with a list of the attendance of members of Committee during the past year.

Moved by Dr. A. Bernard, seconded by Mr. William Rodden,

"That the Report be received; and that the suggestions therein contained be referred to the Committee about to be elected."

Moved in amendment by Mr. Geo. Cruikshank, seconded by Mr. McNivin,

"That the Report be received and adopted."—Carried.

A number of members were proposed and admitted.

Moved by Mr. Rodden, seconded by Mr. Jas. Walker,

"That a short synopsis of the Report be prepared and published in the various newspapers."—Carried.

The President then appointed Messrs. Rodden, Stevenson and Wood a Committee to prepare a synopsis of the Report for publication.

Moved by Mr. Jonathan Findlay, seconded by Dr. Bernard,

"That the meeting proceed to nominate candidates for the various offices."—Carried.

The President then appointed Messrs. Stevenson, Cruikshank and Reid, to act as scrutineers, and the meeting proceeded to the election of office-bearers and members for the current year, when the following were declared duly elected:

- President—Hector Munro.
- Vice-President—Alexander Bettram.
- Corresponding Secretary—William Inglis.
- Recording Secretary—John Wood.
- Treasurer—N. B. Corse.
- Librarian—Jonathan Findlay.
- Cabinet Keeper—Robert Forsythe.
- Committee—James Walker, William Rutherford, George Gray, Thomas Pringle, Alex. G. Fowler and Robert Irwin.

Moved by Mr. R. Irwin, seconded by Mr. R. Forsythe,

"That this Meeting request Mr. William Spier to sit, to get his likeness taken, to hang up in the rooms of the Institute with the other Presidents."—Carried.

On motion, Mr. G. W. Weaver took the Chair.

Moved by Mr. G. Gray, seconded by Mr. Geo. Cruikshank,

"That the thanks of the Institute are due, and are hereby tendered, to the President, and retiring Officers and Committee, for their valuable services during the past year."—Carried.

The Meeting then adjourned.  
JOHN WOOD,  
Recording Secretary.

**MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal was held on Monday evening, the 2nd September, 1861.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the following synopsis of the Annual Report then submitted is prepared for publication.

In accordance with a previous resolution of the Institute the Committee have had printed, and herewith furnish for circulation copies of the By-laws, as passed in accordance with the recent changes in the act of incorporation.

The Life-Membership fee is reduced from \$40 to \$20. This reduction has been made with the view of building up a more permanent Membership, who would take a much greater interest in the welfare of the Institute than can be expected from annual subscribing members, who cease to be such at the end of the year, and have no right to enjoy the privileges of the Institute, except on renewing and paying the annual subscription, consequently, as is shown below, a large number are reduced from the list of Subscribing Members. It is recommended in this connection that the rule of payment be strictly enforced before books are given to them from the Library, also, that members be made to show their cards on entering the Reading Room, as there are persons who are frequent visitors who are believed not to be members, to the great inconvenience of those who are.

**MEMBERSHIP.**

The number of Members at the date of last Annual Report were	1111
The number of New Members admitted during the year	239
	—
	1,350
Of which there is on the books annual subscribing members who have not renewed their subscription to date.	517
Showing the number of members in good standing to be	833
Who are classified as follows:	
Honorary members	10
Corresponding members	8
Ordinary or Life members	180
Annual Subscribing members	635
	—
Total.....	833

It is recommended that the members use their influence with those who are not such to join the Institute, as in this way a large increase might be made to the list.

**LIBRARY.**

The character of the library and its usefulness has been maintained throughout the past year. Such additions have been made to it as were thought most called for.

The total number of books on the catalogue of the present library is	3547
The issues during the year just closed were	7769
being an increase over the previous year of	431

The above does not include the Free Library and the British Patent Reports and Drawings (in this building, open to the public at stated hours), belonging to the Board of Arts and Manufactures, which it is hoped will be allowed to remain here for the accommodation and benefit of those who can only spare a few hours in the evening for instruction.

**DONATIONS.**

The following donations are thankfully acknowledged.

From Henry Morton, Esq., 2 volumes Appleton's Dictionary of Mechanics.

From Capt. Barclay, ship "Montreal," per A. Ramsay, Esq., a species of Shark.

From Robert Forsyth, Esq., C.E., a lead plate, with other relics, taken from the foundation stone of the old Court House of Montreal.

From E. Picken, Esq., specimens of ancient and rare coins.

From John S. Hall, Esq., a collection of crystals and other minerals.

From F. N. Boxer, Esq., 2 volumes; also, a summer and winter view of the Victoria Bridge, accompanied by a hand book of the same.

From W. H. Hingston, M.D., the sum of \$50, being part of the amount recovered by him from the Corporation of Montreal for damage sustained by him.

From the Carpenters' Committee of the Atlantic Telegraph Celebration, per Robert Bean, Esq., \$5.30.

From Brevt. Lieut. Col. J. D. Graham, Major U. S. Top. Engineers, the Lunar Tidal Wave in Lake Michigan.

From A. Ramsay, Esq., 2 specie at Turkish pistols, taken from the Crimea during the Russian War; also, a musket taken out of the Malakoff Tower.

From Principal Dawson, the Calender of the University of McGill College, for the year 1861-62.

**READING ROOM.**

This portion of the Institute furnishes to its subscribers and members a large amount of reading matter in a central and convenient part of the city, and is in itself worth the sum charged to annual subscribing members. On the tables will be found the following Newspapers, Periodicals, Magazines, &c.

**Montreal Papers.**—Herald, Gazette, Transcript, Commercial Advertiser, Pilot, Witness, True Witness, Temperance Advocate, and Le Semeur Canadien.

**Provincial Papers.**—Quebec Chronicle, Quebec Vindicator, Canada Gazette, Stratford Examiner, Stratford Beacon, Toronto Globe, Hamilton Times, Hamilton Spectator, Granby Gazette, Kingston News, Ottawa Times, and Sherbrooke Leader.

**British Papers.**—London Daily Times, London Illustrated News, The Builder, London Engineer, Punch, Wilmer & Smith's European Times, Glasgow Saturday Post, Edinburgh Scotsman, and Dublin Warder.

**Periodicals and Magazines.**—London Journal, Family Herald, Edinburgh Review, Westminster Review, London Quarterly Review, North British Review, Mechanics' Journal, Civil Engineer, Practical Mechanic, once a Week, Hunt's Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, Dublin University Magazine, Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures of Upper Canada, Cornhill Magazine, Canada Magazine, Harpers' Monthly, Macmillan's Magazine, Horticulturist, Chambers' Journal, and the Art Journal.

**United States Papers.**—New York Herald, Tribune, Albion, Scientific American, Home Journal, Harpers' Weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper, and the Scottish American Journal.

The annual sale of newspapers and periodicals (which are not bound for the use of the Library), realized the sum of \$28.05, and the thanks of the Institute are again tendered to John J. Arnton, Esq., for his kindness in acting as Auctioneer without charge.

**CLASSES.**

On the 20th of November evening classes were opened for instruction to the Members of the Institute in the following branches, viz:—Reading, Writing, Book-keeping, Arithmetic, Grammar, French, Architectural, Mechanical and Ornamental Drawing, and continued opened for four months. The average attendance at all the classes was 117 each evening. A member of the Institute is at liberty to join any or all of the classes, thus the journeyman, clerk and apprentice, whose engagements require daily labor, can receive a fair education during the winter, evenings by becoming connected with this Institute a privilege well worthy the consideration of parents, guardians, employers and others. It is recommended that great care be taken in admitting such scholars as may join only for amusement, to the serious injury of those who do so for instruction, also, that the rules of the class room be strictly enforced in regard to the conduct and regularity of attendance of the pupils, and persons found guilty of breaking the rules be dismissed from the class-room, or expelled from the Institute, as the circumstances of the case may demand. The Teachers for the various branches were Messrs. Mathewson and Cleghorn for the English Classes. The French Class was under the superintendance of the Rev. Mr. Roux, late Principal at Pointe aux Tremble Institute, who gave general satisfaction. The Architectural Drawing was conducted by Mr. Alex. G. Fowler; Mechanical by Messrs. McFarlane, Inglis and King, and the Ornamental by Mr. William Elliott. The Institute is indebted to the four last named gentlemen for their disinterested kindness in giving their services gratuitous.

*Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.*



## LECTURES.

A course of free Lectures were delivered during the winter under the Management of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, on the following subjects, viz:—

By Principal Dawson, "On the operations of the Board."

" Professor Hunt, "On Bitumen and Mineral Oils."

" " Robins, "on Motive Power."

" B. Chamberlin, B.C.L., "On Living and Learning, needs of the working man, having reference to Sanitary reform and Education."

" Prof. Darey, "On the Manufactures of France" (in French.)

" D. Browne, B.C.L., "on the History of Law and Letters Patent of Invention."

These Lectures, although free, were not so well attended as they ought to have been.

## THE BUILDING.

The expenses during the past year have been confined to the necessary repairs, which have been small in comparison with previous ones.

The rent of the Hall has been reduced to \$6 per night, or \$30 per week. This reduction has been a benefit to the Institute, and an accommodation to the public. It is well ventilated; the sound clear and distinct, and is calculated to hold 700 persons. With all these advantages conferred upon the public, at such low rates, it is hoped they will give the Institute more encouragement.

The heating apparatus still remains unfinished, and will require several alterations before it can be fairly tested.

## FINANCES.

The receipts from all sources during the year were.....\$4796 55

Disbursements during the same period ..... 4358 38

Balance in Treasurer's hands..... \$438 17

The receipts from the rent of the Hall exceed those of last year; and it is hoped that, with the reduced rates on former years, a large increase will be the result. The amount from members' subscriptions is not quite equal to that of last year, which is attributed to the change of the fiscal year from the 1st of November to the 1st of August.

It is recommended, in conclusion, that the members be very careful in the selection of officers for the current year, as the arduous duties which must necessarily devolve upon them in carrying out the objects of the Institute, and multiplying the facilities for the diffusion of knowledge, which the position of the Institute now places it in their power to do, may be materially advanced or otherwise, just as the officers selected are attentive to their duties, or the reverse.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN WOOD, Rec. Secy.

Gentlemen

According to the Resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting respecting the number of ~~Members~~ Meetings and of the number of Members of the Committee that they to Submit the following Report of the same

The Committee met 15 times during the seven months at which the attendance of Members was as follows. Viz,

H. Murray	14 times
Alex. Bertram	13 "
Alex. Murray	2 "
John Wood	15 "
A. B. Corse	6 "
P. M. Quisten	6 "
John Findlay	12 "
Robert Forsythe	11 "
W. Rutherford	13 "
David McJordan	4 "
W. Inglis	14 "

Signed

John Wood

The following persons were then proposed and admitted Members of the Institute

Joseph Gouin 2; W. Hoyle Esq. Southland  
P. M. Quisten Rep. Member

The Meeting then adjourned



Montreal 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1867  
The Ordinary Meeting of Members met this evening  
A Munro President in the Chair  
The Minutes of former Meeting were Read and confirmed 12 Members being present the Meeting proceeded to the election of the following Members.

John Stevenson 2. Robt Garson 3  
D Ferguson 3. Daniel Morrison 2. Mrs Nieman 2  
Chas D adridge 2. John Shea 2. Alex Millar 2  
George Seales 2. And Rough 2. R Green 2  
John McHughes 3. Willb Stuart 3. John Flin 3  
William Flin 3. Samuel James 3

No other Business appearing  
the Meeting adjourned.

Montreal 14<sup>th</sup> October 1867  
The ordinary Meeting of Members was held this evening  
A Munro President in the Chair  
10 members being present the Meeting proceeded to the election of the Members proposed

Alfred Bostworth 2. John Patton 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
No other Business appearing the Meeting adjourned

Montreal 28<sup>th</sup> October 1867  
The Ordinary Meeting of Members was held this evening  
A Munro President in the Chair 10 Members being present  
the Meeting proceeded to the election of the Members proposed

John Kemp 1. John Donnie 2. Alex Finnil 2  
Otis Childs 3<sup>rd</sup>. William Warriels 3. Edward Kyle 3  
R C Simpson 3. G Belland 3. Alex Harte 3. D Whoss 3  
The Calmon 3. John Cuthbert  
Meeting adjourned



Montreal 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1864

The Ordinary Meeting of Members met this evening, H. Murray President in the Chair 10 Members being present the Meeting proceeded to the election of papers. Members

John Murray 2, Chas. Kearn 2, Y. J. Stafford 2  
W. McMurdie 2, Wm. McFarquhar 2, Ed. Loring 2  
W. Kineth 2, Geo. McPherson 2, Geo. Fass 3  
Timothy Leahy 3, Geo. Bette 3, Jas. McConnell 3  
John Shewan 3, William Shields 3, W. Campbell 3  
David Cooper 3, W. Dalrymple 3, G. Johnston 3  
W. Small 3, G. M. Desa 3, Chas. Crayton 3, Peter Gray 3  
Rab. Gold 3, Wm. Loring 3, W. Gault 3  
Geo. Perry 3, F. Cook 3, Jas. Selkirk 3  
Jas. Robertson 3, James S. Pier 3, Robt. Fennell 3  
Horace McMurdie 2<sup>nd</sup>.

W. McMurdie Life Member

The Meeting adjourned.

Montreal Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1864

The Ordinary Meeting of Members was held this evening, H. Murray President in the Chair. The Minutes of former Meeting read and confirmed. There being 10 Members present

Members admitting Chas. Newell 1  
W. Kirkpatrick 2, John Robertson 2, James Garth 2  
Randolph Latta 3, John Hartgrove 3, W. Bayne 2  
Geo. Calver 3, Herald Symon 3, David Laurie 3  
Jas. Pichon 3, Maus Lemire 3, Oscar Gullermon 3  
Eugene Lemire 3, Lidger Hammond 3, Alex. Loudon 3  
George Rogers Life Member.

Meeting adjourned



