

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

Literary and Historical Society

OF QUEBEC.

SESSIONS OF 1879-80.

v. 14

QUEBEC:

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* Presidents of the Literary and Historical Society.

1824	Sir F. N. Burton, Lt.-Governor.
1828	Hon. Mr. Reid, Chief Justice.
1829	Lieut. Frederick Baddeley, R.N.
1830	Hon. Jonathan Sewell, Chief Justice.
1831	“ “ “ “
1832	Hon. Andrew Stuart, Q.C.
1834	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1835	Joseph Skey, M.D.
1836	Rev. Daniel Wilkie, LL.D.
1837	Hon. Andrew Stuart, Q.C.
1838	“ “ “ “
1839	Wm. Kelly, M.D., R.N.
1840	“ “ “ “
1841	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1842	Hon. A. W. Cochrane.
1843	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1844	G. B. Faribault, Esq.
1845	Hon. A. W. Cochrane.
1846	John C. Fisher, Esq.
1847	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1851	G. B. Faribault, Esq.
1852	“ “ “
1853	“ “ “
1854	“ “ “
1855	E. A. Meredith, M.A.
1856	W. Andrew, Esq.
1857	“ “ “
1858	G. B. Faribault, Esq.
1859	“ “ “
1860	E. A. Meredith, M.A.
1861	“ “ “
1862	John Langton, M.A.
1863	“ “ “
1864	“ “ “
1865	“ “ “
1866	Com. E. D. Ashe, Lieut. R.N.
1867	“ “ “ “
1868	Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau.

* From list published by L. A. Turcotte.

1869.....Prof. James Douglass.
1870.....Dr. W. J. Anderson.
1871.....J. M. LeMoine, Esq.
1872-3.....Dr. W. J. Anderson.
1873.....Com. E. D. Ashe, Lieut. R.N., F.R.S
1874.....Prof. James Douglass.
1875....." " "
1876.....James Stevenson, Esq.
1877....." " "
1878....." " "
1879.....J. M. LeMoine, Esq.



Extracts from the Monthly Proceedings of the Society.

THE ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

At a general monthly meeting of the Society, held at its rooms, on the 12th March, 1879, attention having been called by the President to the recommendation of the previous Board, touching the expediency of memorializing Parliament, in order that measures be taken to organize, on a suitable footing, a PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, it was unanimously resolved, that a special committee be named to prepare such memorial, to be composed of the President, J. M. LeMoine, Esq.; Past-President, Jas. Stevenson, Esq., and Alex. Robertson, Esq., Council Secretary. The following memorial having been prepared, was submitted, approved of, and forwarded to the Honorable George Baby, Minister of Inland Revenue, who presented the same to His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne and the House of Commons.

The Memorial of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

That in the year 1824, His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, then Governor-General of Canada, with the cooperation of the most distinguished * and educated citizens

* The Earl of Dalhousie, Sir James Kempt, John Adams, Edmund William Romer Antrobus, Charles Arduin, Thomas Cushing Aylwin, Frederick Baddely, Henry W. Bayfield, Francis Bell, Henry Blake, Edward Bowen, William Brent, Joseph Bouchette, Robert Shore Milnes Bouchette, Joseph Bouchette, junior, George Bourne, Judge Burton, Edward Burroughs, John Caldwell, Hugh Caldwell, Archibald Campbell, Charles Campbell, John Saxton Campbell, John Cannon, Edward Caron, John P. Cockburn, Andrew Wm. Cochran, Thomas Coffin, James Cuthbert, John Davidson, William H. A. Davies, Dominick Daly, Jérôme Demers, Edward Desbarats, Frederic Desbarats, Robert D'Estimauville, William Dudley Dupont, William Bowman Felton, John Charlton Fisher, John Fletcher, William Findly, James B. Forsyth, John

of Quebec, founded a society at Quebec, for the promotion of literature in general and encouragement of researches touching early Canadian history in particular.

That on the 5th October, 1831, His Majesty William IV conferred a Royal Charter on this association of scientific gentlemen, which therein was styled "The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec."

That in accordance with the chief object of the charter, this society founded a library and museum, both of which have attained considerable dimensions—that it has devoted large sums to collect and publish M.S.S. and memoirs relating to the early history of the colony, and that the society now numbers close on 400 associate members.

That an earnest desire to fulfil the mission devolving on it under its charter, induced the Society to send delegates in October, 1877, to attend a literary convention at Ottawa, organized for the purpose, among others, of devising practical means for the preservation and publication of Canadian archives.

That a report was presented by the delegates, past President, J. M. LeMoine, and Vice-President, Lt.-Col. T. B. Strange, of which the following record was inserted in the

Fraser. John Malcolm Fraser, François Xavier Garneau, Augustin Germain, Manly Gore, William Green, Louis Gogy, John Hale, James Hamilton, André Rémi Hamel, Joseph Hamel, Victor Hamel, Aaron Hart, James Harkness, William Henderson, Frederick Ingall, William Kemble, William Kelly, James Kerr, Pierre Laforce, Louis Lagueux, William Lampson, Pierre de Salles Laterrière, Thomas Lee, junior, Joseph Légaré, Henry Lemesurier, Thomas Lloyd, William Lyons, Frederick Maitland, John McNider, William McKee, William King McCord, Roderick McKenzie, John Langly Mills, Thomas Moore, Joseph Morrin, George J. Mountain, Henry Nixon, Charles Panet, Joseph Parent, Etienne Parent, Augustus Patton, François Xavier Perrault, Joseph François Perrault, William Power, Francis Ward Primrose, William Price, Rémi Quirouet, William Rose, John Richardson, Randolph I. Routh, William Sax, Jonathan Sewell, Edmund Sewell, Robert S. M. Sewell, William Sheppard, Peter Sheppard, Joseph Skey, William J. Skewes, William Smith, James Smilie, William Stringer, Charles James Stewart, Lord Bishop of Quebec, (Sir) James Stuart, David Stuart, Andrew Stuart, Joseph Signay, Robert Symes, Jean Thomas Taschereau, John Pyefinch Thirlwall, Henry Trinder, Joseph Rémi Vallières de St. Real, George Vanfelson, Norman Fitzgerald Uniacke, George Osborne, George A. Wanton, Gustavus Wicksteed, Daniel Wilkie, George Willing, Thomas William Willan, George Wurtele, and Jonathan Wurtele.

annual address of the late President of the Society, Mr. James Stevenson :—

“Animated by our traditions to do our distinctive work in the land, this Society assumes a definite attitude towards every movement which has for its object the procuring and preservation of historical documents. In the absence of a public record office, such as other nations possess for the custody of official papers, journals and historical documents, irreparable losses have been suffered by Canada. It is therefore the opinion of the Council that this Society should unite with other societies of kindred purpose, in memorializing the Federal Government upon the subject, and in respectfully suggesting that the archives of Canada should be gathered together into one Public Record Office, under the supervision and control of a competent Archivist.”

That in accordance with the above this Society respectfully approaches this Honorable House, and that whilst gratefully acknowledging the efforts made by Parliament in previous years to gather up and preserve the archives of the Dominion scattered abroad, as evinced in the three reports of the delegates, Messrs. Douglass Brymner and the Abbé H. A. B. Verreault, submitted to Government by the Department of Agriculture in 1871 and 1874, this Society hopes the good work won't rest here and will be continued.

That the searches of Messrs. Brymner and Verreault extended to the records of the British Museum,—of the Tower of London—of the War Office—of the Office of the Secretary of State—the Public Record Office—the military archives at Halifax—the Segnier collection in the Harleian Library—the M.S.S. of George III,—the Colonial Calendar,—the Haldimand Papers—the Dorchester Papers—the Royal Institution—the French archives at Paris—the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, the *Département de la Marine*, the *Département des Affaires Etrangères*, the Dubrowski and the Zaluski Collection of French MSS in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, and also the archives of other European countries.

That the most noticeable documents affecting the several provinces of the Dominion discovered in these archives are indicated by their titles in the reports hereinbefore mentioned, comprising several thousand, the bulk of which some of the greatest moment for American and Canadian history, are unknown in Canada and a sealed book to those engaged in the laborious task of compiling the annals of the Dominion.

That unless gathered together and deposited in some place of easy access, those unpublished and fast-decaying records of the past preclude any one from undertaking a reliable history of Canada.

That these State documents are not only indispensable to the historian, but that their unrevealed contents must necessarily bear on other subjects fully as momentous, and are calculated to throw light on many obscure points in treaties, boundaries of provinces, fishery and other international rights, &c.

That the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, whilst recording its satisfaction at the interest shown by the Dominion Government in 1870-71, in furnishing the means to make the searches already alluded to, respectfully prays that the Dominion Government of this day will complete the measure of progress of 1870 by providing the necessary legislation to create a Public Record Office under a responsible head at Ottawa, and take the necessary steps to have copied and gathered there the archives of Canada, scattered in Canada, as well as in other lands.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By order,

J. M. LEMOINE,

Presid. Lit. & Hist. Socy.

Quebec, March 31st, 1879.

(Extracts from Votes and Proceedings, House of Commons.)

The following petitions were read :

“ Of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, praying that such measures may be adopted as will secure the establishment of a Public Record Office at Ottawa, for the safe-keeping therein of the archives of Canada.”—[10th April, 1879.]

On the item of expenses and care of public archives, \$3,000.

“ Mr. POPE (Compton) said he hoped to be able to spend the money this year in collecting the interesting records of the early history of Canada.”

The item passed.—[25th April, 1879.]