

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
LITERARY & HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF
QUEBEC:

FOUNDED, JANUARY 1822.

VOLUME

OF 1870

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE S. BROWN,
BOOKSELLER, 75, RUE D'ORLÉANS,
QUEBEC.

1870

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Académie de QUEBEC :

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VOLUME I.



QUEBEC :

PRINTED FOR THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY ; BY FRANÇOIS LEMAITRE,

STAR OFFICE.

1829.

U. S. A.
General

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1910

U. S. G. O.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.



	PAGE.
List of Officers of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec and Preface,	
Inaugural Address.....	ii to xxxvi
On the Geology of Lake Superior, by Commander H. W. Bayfield, R. N.....	1
On Colouring Materials produced in Canada, by William Green, Esq.....	43
On Meteorological Phenomena observed in Canada, by Captain Bonnycastle, R. E.....	47
Notes on the Saguenay Country, by A. Stuart, Esq.	52
Observations on a few of the Rocks and Minerals of Upper Canada, by Captain Bonnycastle, R. E...	62
On the Geology of a portion of the Labrador Coast, by Lieutenant Baddeley, R. E.....	71
On the Geognosy of a part of the Saguenay Country,	79
On the Ancient Etruscans Tyrrhenians or Tuscans, by A. Stuart, Esq.....	167
Notes on the Country about the Falls of Montmorenci, by Wm. Green, Esq.....	181
On the Recent Shells which characterise Quebec and its environs, by Mrs. Sheppard of Woodfield,	188
Journey across the Continent of North America, by an Indian Chief, from Mr. Le Page du Pratz, communicated by A. Stuart, Esq.....	198
Observations on the American Plants, described by Charlevoix, by William Sheppard, Esq.....	218
Observations on the Myrtus Cerifera or Myrtle-wax Shrub, compiled by W. Green, Esq.....	231
Catalogue of Remarkable Coincidences inducing a belief of the Asiatic Origin of the North American Indians, by Major Mercer, R. A.....	240
Observations on Crickets in Canada, by the Hon. J. Hale.....	251
Catalogue of Canadian Plants, presented to the Literary and Historical Society by the Right Hon. the Countess of Dalhousie.....	255
Errata.....	263
Catalogue of the Mineralogical Collection belonging to the Literary and Historical Society.....	265
And—at the end of the volume, twelve Prints, of which five are Lithographic.	

OFFICERS
OF THE
LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
QUEBEC,

For the Year ending 4th June, 1829.

President—FREDERICK BADDELEY, Esq. ;

First Vice President—THE HON. JUSTICE BOWEN ;

Second Vice President—HON. A. W. COCHRAN ;

Secretary and Treasurer—WILLIAM GREEN, Esq.

THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, founded in January 1824, owes its origin to the zeal for the advancement of Science, and to the munificence of the Earl of DALHOUSIE, late Governor General of British North America.—To that distinguished Nobleman the first idea of its creation is due—The powerful influence of his example supported it during its infancy, and his generous liberality portioned its youth.

The establishment of this Institution, as being the first step by which the rising literature of a Colony is made to approximate, that of the Mother Country, must be interesting to every friend of Science. Its first efforts have an undoubted claim to be viewed with a

degree of indulgence somewhat greater than would be allowed to a similar Institution in most of the European States ; for, it must be obvious, that in a Colony where, with few exceptions, the occupations of all, are either Professional, Commercial, or Agricultural, Society, besides being comparatively less extensive, is so constituted, that those who have leisure for scientific enquiry are far from numerous, and there are perhaps none who are so circumstanced as to be able to devote the greater part of their time to the acquisition of knowledge. This Society has, therefore, difficulties to overcome which are peculiar to its situation.

When the Members of this Young Society reflect on the successful efforts made by similar Institutions of the Old World in the pursuit of knowledge, they feel, in regard to their own humble exertions, that there are different gradations in the scale of merit. They have, however, this gratifying recollection, that all additions to the sources of literary and scientific information are valuable and meritorious.

In conclusion, it must be borne in mind, that the first object of this Society is to promote a taste for literature, and scientific enquiry in a New Country.—The following Volume which contains selections from its Transactions, from the period of its foundation down to its junction with the SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN CANADA, which formally took effect on the 4th June 1829, will show, in part, how far they have as yet succeeded, in exertions which are universally conceded to be conducive to the good of Society.

Quebec, 10th November, 1829.

AT THE MEETING of the **QUEBEC LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, holden at the Castle of Saint Lewis, in the city of Quebec, on Monday, the 31st day of May, 1824—

The following inaugural Address and Essay respecting the early civil and ecclesiastical juridical History of France, written by the Honorable J. SEWELL, Chief Justice of Lower Canada, was read before the Society, by the Author.

Certified,

WM. GREEN,
Secretary.