

places of Worship, but as precedents are not wanting for grants for a similar purpose, your Committee would suggest the propriety of granting to Petitioners the sum of Fifty Pounds, to enable the Petitioners to complete the work they have so laudably commenced.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN CAMPBELL,  
S. S. THORNE,  
JOHN HOLMES.

Committee Room, 6th March, 1847.

No. 53.

(See Page 635.)

The Committee appointed to report on the state of the Library of this House, and to suggest such alterations and improvements as may be required to put it into a more efficient condition, beg to report :

That they have taken means to have the Books belonging to the Library of this House placed under the charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms, who has been instructed to number the same ; to prepare a Catalogue thereof ; to put each volume every morning in its place ; and that for the future he is to be held responsible, "during the continuance of the Session," for the safe keeping of the Books. He has agreed to perform this duty for the sum of Five Pounds in addition to his former pay. These arrangements are not yet completed—but when done, they will promote an easy reference to the Books in the Library. But the Committee respectfully recommend the aid of the Members, that a more perfect system of order may be introduced, and the exertions of the officer be seconded, so as to effect the useful objects in view.

That your Committee regret to say, that under present arrangements they are unable to point out any suitable and convenient place for the late valuable additions made to the Library by Her Majesty's Government, in answer to the Addresses emanating from this House. That a complete set of the Journals of the House of Lords and Commons, and of the Papers laid before the Imperial Parliament in relation to these Colonies, are now in the hands of the Binder, but if now complete, your Committee are unable to suggest any suitable position in which they would be placed.

That your Committee are of opinion that means ought to be taken to unite the Libraries of the Legislative Council and Assembly, and a Room provided for the use of Members of both bodies. The utility in Legislation of a Library consisting of the Records of Public Documents, and of Standard Books, will at once be conceded, and by devoting the funds of the Legislature to the increase of one, in place of two collections, it is obvious, that while it will promote economy, it will enlarge the sphere of enquiry and knowledge. That the Committee are unable to see any practical objections to such a combination, although it is apparent, that until some new arrangement be made, no Room can now be obtained which can be exclusively devoted to this purpose.

That your Committee believe they represent the general opinion of the House, in stating that the progress of the public business is materially impeded from the want of suitable apartments for the meeting of Committees. That on these, questions are often discussed, of a delicate and private kind, which can only be communicated in matters of personal confidence, and at present it is felt that no Committees can meet, whose discussions are not public, and open to all who may please to attend ; but in addition to this inconvenience, there is not space to do the business required.

That

That your Committee are therefore of opinion that effective steps ought to be adopted, to have some suitable accommodation provided for the use of the Supreme Court, and other Courts, in order that the room these now occupy may be converted into a room for a Legislative Library, and the Committee Rooms indispensable for the better management and conduct of the public business,—

Your Committee leaving it to the House to decide in what way the necessary funds for this change are to be provided. That your Committee are of opinion, however, that the present Court Room is neither suitable or convenient for the business of the Courts, and that a larger and better ventilated apartment ought to be provided for the holding of the Supreme and other Courts, in a Capital City like Halifax.

Your Committee forbear suggesting, at the present time, any plan for the regular increase and improvement of the Library, until suitable accommodation can be provided, not only for additions to be made in future, but for the works already obtained.

That your Committee annex hereto a Catalogue of the Books belonging to the House, furnished at their request by the Sergeant at Arms.

That your Committee are further of opinion, that the thanks of this House ought to be conveyed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the readiness with which the respectful request of this House, that copies of the annual Sessional Papers relating to the British North American Colonies, as laid before the Imperial Parliament, should be furnished free of expense, has been complied with, as communicated in the Despatch of the Right Honorable W. E. Gladstone, bearing date the 16th day of June, 1846, recently laid before this Assembly.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE R. YOUNG, Chairman.  
BENJ. SMITH,  
A. M. UNIACKE.

Halifax, March 6th, 1847.

No. 54.

(See Page 635.)

The Committee appointed to consider the general subject of the Post Office, and instructed to direct its attention particularly to a consideration of the practicability of a reduced and uniform rate of Postage—and also, to the advantage of one general system being adopted for the Colonies, and to the best means of accomplishing such an object—having had the important subjects thus submitted to them under deliberation, report thereon as follows :

First, as regards the general subject of the Post Office, and the Accounts of that Department, and the various Petitions and applications in connection therewith, which have been brought under our consideration, the Committee report as follows :

They have examined the Accounts of the Post Office referred to them, and find them correct—the overplus of the revenue above the expenditure on the last three quarters, ending on the 5th January, 1847, amounting to £921 1s. 6½d. Currency.

The amount charged for Postage against the Legislature, amount to	£529	4	10½
“ “ “ against the Lieut.-Governor, to	45	2	9
“ “ “ against the Treasurer, to	83	10	8
“ “ “ against the Provincial Secretary, to	295	9	8

Making in the whole the sum of

£953 7 11