

## PROVINCIAL LIBRARY.

*To his Excellency the right honorable the EARL OF MULGRAVE, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over her Majesty's province of Nova Scotia, &c., &c., &c.*

Your Excellency having thought proper to place under my charge the books and printed papers belonging to the province in conjunction with my office as Commissioner of Records, I consented to accept a commission as provincial librarian, without pecuniary remuneration, believing that while I was engaged in the work of the commission, I could with the aid of those employed under me in that department, be instrumental in preserving to the public, many valuable books and pamphlets scattered about the province building, without any interference, however, with the libraries of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly. I considered also that by purchase at auction I might obtain for the province as opportunities occurred, many works of utility at trifling expense, and that others could be procured as gifts or exchanges from other countries if any one attended to the subject, at no further charge than that of freight or carriage.

Immediately on receiving your Excellency's commission as Librarian in April last, I caused search to be made throughout the building for all books and pamphlets of value not belonging to the library of the Council, and caused lists to be made of such as was discovered.

Finding from the information acquired in the progress of my duties as Commissioner of Records that the governments of New York, Massachusetts, and Canada, and several private institutions of learning in the United States, were ready to send us copies of their laws, legislative journals, and other valuable publications, in exchange for our statutes and journals, I opened a correspondence with Canada, New York and Massachusetts, &c., and from the two former, have received above one hundred volumes of printed books, besides a great number of pamphlets, in exchange for our journals and laws, which through the ready co-operation of Alexander James, esquire, Clerk of the House of Assembly, I have been enabled to obtain.

The suggestion which your Excellency did me the honor to entertain respecting the publications of the Great Seal Patent Office in London, has resulted through your Excellency's prompt action and personal influence, in the presentation to this province by her Majesty's Government of above 1400 volumes of valuable scientific papers. They consist of plans and descriptions of all the improvements in science and art for which patents have passed the Great Seal of England during the last twenty years. This work is a library in itself, and will no doubt be of essential service as a means of reference to scientific inquirers.

The sum of seventeen pounds placed at my disposal by your Excellency has enabled me to secure to the province by purchase, upwards of one hundred and twenty-five volumes of valuable books much required for the Legislative Library. Those together with the presents and exchanges during the last two years, exceed one thousand seven hundred and fifty volumes, a list of which is appended to this report.

I have caused to be imported several works on bibliography, indispensable in carrying on the selection of a library. I also have obtained, without expense, a large collection of London bookseller's catalogues, of recent date. Thus the means will be afforded of forming a correct judgment as to prices and editions of any works required, which, if sent for without those guides, or through an agent unacquainted with the book trade, would involve great pecuniary waste.

We have very few books in our public libraries in Nova Scotia, bearing on the history

tory and resources of the British North American provinces. The government libraries of New York and Canada are peculiarly rich in this branch; and on examining their catalogues, it occurred to me that in addition to the works on parliamentary law, history, general literature, and science and art, the obtaining a good collection of works specially relating to the British provinces, and particularly to our own, was a subject of paramount importance in forming a provincial parliamentary library in Nova Scotia. I have therefore made up a list of several thousand volumes in this department, for the information of government and any committee that may hereafter be formed from the legislative bodies for the organization of a parliamentary library, which I have heretofore understood was contemplated, as soon as a place of deposit should be obtained for the books belonging to the province, by the removal of the supreme court from the province building.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient, humble servant,

THOMAS B. AKINS,

Provincial Librarian.

Halifax, March 23, 1860.

BOOKS PURCHASED FOR THE PROVINCE.

	No. of Vols.
Statutes at large, from Magna Charta to William IV., 48 volumes, full bound in calf,	48
Statutes of Ireland, complete, from Henry II. to the union, old, calf, folio,	9
Hargrave's Coke upon Littleton, oct.,	2
Bacon's Abridgement of the Law, oct.,	8
Chronological Tables of History,	2
Henderson's History of Brazil,	1
Gourley's History of Upper Canada,	3
Bouchette's First Survey and History of Lower Canada,	1
Hume and Smollett's History of England, full bound, new, calf, gilt,	13
Canning's Speeches, do. do.	6
Bouchette's large Map of Lower Canada, bound up, 6½ ft. by 3½,	1
A complete set of Governor Desbarres' Charts of the Coasts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Gulf of St. Lawrence, &c., in sheets occupying two large folio volumes,	2
Dibden, Lownds, Rees, &c., works on Bibliography, useful in forming a library,	9
Locke's works (the folio edition),	3
Other books,	29
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PRESENT FROM HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

A complete set of all the works published by the Great Seal Patent Office, consisting of plates and descriptions of all the patents which have passed the great seal during the last ——— years, folio and octavo, in boards,	1400
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PRESENTS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Documents and Journals of the Legislative Assembly of New York for 1857 and 1858, bound in calf, oct.,	22
Catalogues of State Library of New York, oct.,	3
Colonial Documents of New York, 2d vol. to complete our set,	1
Reports of the Regents of the University of New York,	6
Annual Reports of the State Library,	2
Reports of the Normal Schools of the State,	6
	Reports

Reports of Lunatic Asylum of New York (pamphlets),	4
Documents relating to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb,	2
Report on the Canals of New York,	1
Railroads of Massachusetts—1855,	1
Board of Education of Massachusetts—1855,	1
Reports of the Regents of the University on the Natural History of N. York,	2
Reports on the State Library,	4
“    Canals of New York for 1859,	1
“    Public Schools,	2
Journals of the American Geographical Society,	12
Reports of the Regents of the University of New York for 1857 and 1858,	2
Miscellaneous Pamphlets of New York,	21
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## PRESENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

Journals of the Assembly of Canada, with appendix, for 1858,	12
Duplicates,	24
Geological Survey of Lower Canada, folio,	1
Report on the Hudson's Bay Territory, folio,	1
Journals and Appendix of the Legislative Council for 1858,	11
Duplicates,	11
Journals of Assembly for 1859,	4
Relations des Jesuits, oct.,	3
Plans of the Lakes and Rivers between the Lake Huron and the River Ottawa, folio,	1
Maps of Canada attached to Crown Land Reports, folio,	1
Report Railway Bridge, Montreal,	1
Small work on Canadian Agriculture, by M. Ossaye,	1
Report of Commissioners on Indian Affairs,	1
Maps of the Improvements in the Navigation of the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, folio,	1
Journals of Legislative Council of Canada, with Appendix—1855 and '56,	6
Duplicates,	6
Laws of Canada—1857 and '58,	2
Report of Products of Canada—1857,	1
Journals of the Assembly for 1856,	1
“    Legislative Council—1854, '55 and '56,	2
Legislative Council Session Papers—1854 and '55,	14
Report of Commissioners of Works, Toronto—1858,	1
“    Great Trunk Railway of Canada—1857,	1
Sundry Canadian pamphlets,	7
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## FROM NEW BRUNSWICK.

Report of Law Commissioners of New Brunswick—1853,	1
The same—1855,	1
Laws of New Brunswick for 1858,	1
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Pamphlets connected with the city of Halifax, presented by the Recorder, making 1 vol., oct.,	1
Miscellaneous pamphlets collected, making about 10 vols., oct.,	10
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