

FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The New England Society

OF MONTREAL,

Presented December 22, 1854.



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PRINTED BY OWLER & STEVENSON, 42 St. Francois
Xavier Street.

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In presenting a Report of the doings of the Society during the past year, the first of its existence, the Committee do so with much pleasure and satisfaction. Within the past few months, the possibility of establishing the Society was conceived of, measures put into operation for its organization, and every thing pertaining to its successful formation has been carried out. Indeed, our Society is yet in embryo ; its first Anniversary has not yet arrived. During the months of last December, January and February, the names of nearly one hundred gentlemen, natives of the United States, or their descendants, were procured, who signified their willingness to become Members of a Society, to be called the NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY, and whose objects should be to promote kindly feelings amongst its members ; to assist those of their fellow-countrymen who might require and be entitled to their aid, and to cherish the traditions and remembrances of the country of their birth. On the 6th of March, a majority of those who had signed the document, sig-

nifying their intention to become members, met in the lecture room of the Odd Fellows' Hall, and formally organized themselves into a Society. Some objections were made to the name by which the Society is at present designated, upon the grounds, that many of its present and future members, might be natives of other parts of the United States, than New England, and it was suggested by many, that a name which would embrace, in meaning the whole range of the United States should be given to it. But upon deliberation, gentlemen taking those grounds, waived their views, in consideration of the glorious fact, that whether from the Old Granite State, the Bay State, the Old Dominion, or wherever born within the boundaries of the Republic, every man claiming American birth, is equally and properly indebted to, and cannot fail to cherish with feelings of national and religious pride, the landing of Our Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth Rock, on the 22nd of December, 1620. This day, we with reverence and pride celebrated, because from that little band of devoted and hardy pioneers, has sprung that sterling honesty of purpose, piety and devotion, to country and to God, so characteristic of the Sons of New England, in all parts of the Republic. Who that has never even trod the confines of New England, and yet a native of the United States, cannot say with pride, "I, too, in feeling at least, am a New Englander; from thence my pride of nationality and religious feelings emanate, its history, its associations, its traditions I love, and its name in reference to my nationality will I bear." And from

these considerations, we too, as a Society bear its name. And we doubt not, that every present, as well as future member, will willingly concede to the fact, that it is right. Our Society having been organized by the adoption of the Constitution and the election of its officers, another meeting was held on the 22nd of March, when the By-Laws were passed, the Constitution received the signatures of the members present, and our infant society launched into existence. It is a well known fact, that nothing can be done to perfection, without much care and labour, and even then, things will sometimes fall short of the conclusions of long studied forethought and application. When the cause has been handled with so much nicety, that the effect it would seem, must be brought to its due state, there will yet remain behind something not thought of before. Perfection is only the result of experience. When the Committee met to draft the By-Laws for the government of the Society, every possible difficulty in the way of perfection, was supposed to be obviated, and it was only after a few months of experience that the Committee ascertained wherein several slight alterations could and should be made in order to its more perfect working. These alterations have been made, according to Constitution, upon several Articles, and the change will prove beneficial. The question has often been asked, even by natives of the United States, "Of what earthly use" say they, "is a charitable Society among the Americans? What good do you intend to accomplish? Whom do you in-

tend giving your funds to? 'The Yankees,' they say, "are too thrifty to need assistance." "No one ever crosses the line without money in his pocket, and even if he fell short, his characteristic independence could not stoop to beggary." Experience has already, during our short existence, answered these questions, and although our admission fee was placed at the figure of four dollars, and the annual subscription at one dollar, our more enlarged experience may prove the expediency at some future day of establishing a higher rate of admission and subscription, in order to meet charities which are now even with the utmost precaution draining the treasury. Since the existence of our Society, the sum of £33 13 0 has been expended in charities, principally given to strangers who, although from the land of independence, found themselves from unforeseen circumstances, dependent upon the charities of others to enable them to meet their wants, and furnish them with the means of returning to their homes. Indeed, our Society had existed but one month, when the Chaplain, Rev. John McLoud, was called to visit a young man from Oswego, who was lying dangerously ill at the hospital. His wants, spiritually and temporally were attended to, several members of our Society visited him; he was taken from the poor ward, a suitable room assigned him, a special nurse hired to attend upon him, and after a long illness he recovered, and was supplied with the funds to carry him home. A Physician who attended him, gave it as his opinion that to the kindness he received from the Members of this So-

ciety, was he indebted for his recovery. This is not mentioned to boast of what the Society has done, but rather to refute the arguments of those who say that our countrymen do not in any case need assistance.

Several other instances might be spoken of, where real necessity demanded immediate relief. These cases have mostly been strangers, but still none the less demanding our charities. There is, however, one, and only one, native of the United States, living in our City, who requires assistance. She is a widow whose husband died nearly three years ago, in very destitute circumstances. Having no relatives living in the States, she still remains dependent upon the kindness of her charitable neighbours, and the assistance she receives from the treasury of our Society. It cannot be doubted for a moment, that the increasing demands for labour, not only upon the public works but in the different manufactories so rapidly springing up in and about Montreal, will cause a proportionate influx of mechanics seeking employment. A large proportion of those will probably be natives of the United States. It is quite reasonable to suppose that from these some may require, if not the absolute charities, the kindly advice and counsel of their countrymen. Let it be known to them that such a society does exist, and although they may not need our money, our advice will gladly be sought and willingly given. But a few weeks ago, two young men from Connecticut having heard that mechanics were in demand on the Grand Trunk Railway, left their

homes, sure of employment, but finding themselves disappointed, sought the advice of your Committee. Too proud spirited to beg, they wished for work, which was after some trouble found, and the means thus afforded them of returning home. In several instances the Committee were called upon to render assistance to strangers, who were also in need of medical aid. These calls were promptly and cheerfully attended to by Dr. Hall, physician to the Society, to whom we are much indebted for these gratuitous favours. Cases which call for assistance, often have and will continue to come upon us unexpectedly, and when from pressure of business the Committee are prevented from meeting to take these cases into consideration. To obviate this difficulty a sub-committee of three has been formed for the purpose of managing in cases of urgent necessity, and this sub-committee report their proceedings to the General Committee. The utility of this has been proved.

The Quarterly Meetings of the Society have been regularly, although not so numerously attended as could be desired, owing no doubt to the fact that they were held at a time when the majority of the members were otherwise engaged. Be that as it may, Article 2nd of the Bye-Laws which provided that fifteen members should form a quorum for the transaction of business, has been altered in such a way as to make it competent for seven members to transact the business of the Society. The Committee would fain hope, however, that a bare quorum may never meet in that capacity, but that the inte-

tests of the Society may always be fully and zealously represented. The fact that the Society numbers ninety-five members, renders it quite easy to suppose that several quorums could very easily attend the regular meetings of the Society. The attendance, however, cannot be controlled, but we hope for the best.

At the Quarterly Meeting in September, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

“ Moved by S. J. Lyman and seconded by Benj. Hutchins, that in common with Americans in all countries, this Society looks with the greatest interest upon the erection of the national monument at Washington, in memory of the father of his country, and resolved, that measures be adopted for the transmission of a suitable block of Montreal Stone, with an appropriate inscription thereon, as a contribution from this Society, and that the Secretary, B. Brewster and Henry Lyman, be a Committee to correspond with the Secretary of the National Monument Association, and report at the next meeting.” The Committee appointed as above, having corresponded with the Secretary of the Monument Association, and ascertained particulars with reference to the required size of the block, made the necessary arrangements with Mr. Hyatt for the same. Owing to some difficulty in procuring a suitable block of stone for the purpose, it has not yet been shipped for Washington, but is about ready. The inscription on the block is as follows :—

THE SONS OF NEW ENGLAND
IN CANADA,
To
WASHINGTON,
CONTRIBUTED BY
THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY IN
MONTREAL.

JACOB DEWITT,	President,
JOHN FROTHINGHAM,	1st Vice-President,
WILLIAM LYMAN,	2nd do
N. S. WHITNEY,	Treasurer,
P. D. BROWN,	Secretary.

COMMITTEE:

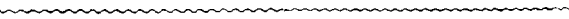
C. DORWIN,	H. STEPHENS,
B. BREWSTER,	G. HAGAR,
H. LYMAN,	D. P. JAMES,
N. S. FROST.	

Since the organization of the Society we have been called to part with two of our members, one of whom was a member of the Committee, and although Providence saw fit to remove him from among us, before the Society had got fully under way, and consequently before he had taken upon himself the duties of office, yet we doubt not that the well-known energy, zeal, and uprightness of character, shown in all matters, in which he took part, would also have shown itself in this capacity, had his valuable life been spared. We allude to the late N. S. Frost, Esq. The other death to which reference was made was that of Mr. Samuel Hedge, whom to know was to esteem.

In conclusion, the Committee beg leave to say, that the Society has reason to look with bright anticipations to the future as regards its prosperity and success. The fondest hopes with reference to its usefulness have been realized. Charity and brotherly kindness, as well as the traditionary remembrances of our forefathers, are the foundations upon which the Society is based, and with these principles truly at heart, we must feel assured that, as in the present infancy of our Society, so, also, in its future manhood and vigor, the hearty co-operation of every member will be made manifest.

The whole is respectfully submitted.

P. D. BROWN,
Secretary.



TREASURER'S ACCOUNT

OF

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY.

By amounts received from Annual Subscriptions	
and Admission Fees,	£65 5 0
To amounts paid for Charities, Rent, Advertising, &c.,	38 13 0
	£26 12 0
By Balance in Treasurer's hands,	26 12 0

N. S. WHITNEY.

Montreal, 19th January, 1855.