

GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADESMEN
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

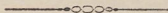


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARY COMMITTEE,
OF THE
APPRENTICES' LIBRARY,

Presented January 4th, 1865,

ALSO,

ABSTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
AND
LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.



PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.

A. W. KING, PRINTER.

1865.

GENERAL SOCIETY OF MECHANICS AND TRADERSMEN

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

For the Year 1882.

ANNUAL REPORT

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY

ABSTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY
1882

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

For the Year 1865.

GEORGE F. NESBITT, *President*.
JOHN T. CONOVER, *First Vice-President*.
WADE B. WORRALL, *Second Vice-President*.
RICHARD E. MOUNT, *Treasurer*.
WILLIAM VAN NORDEN, *Secretary*.
FREDERICK W. WILLIAMS, *Collector*.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

James Van Norden, *Chairman*.
Wade B. Worrall, *Secretary*.
John T. B. Maxwell.
James Phyfe.
Matthias Bloodgood.
George R. Jackson.
Wade B. Worrall, *2d V. P., ex off.*
Richard E. Mount, *Treas., ex off.*

COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS.

Andrew Hutton, *Chairman*.
George B. Billerwell, *Secretary*.
John Allen.
John A. Weeks.
John Gallier.
Noah Worrall.
Jacob C. Bogert.
John J. Riceman.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

James J. Burnet, *Chairman*.
Peter Hogg, *Treasurer*.
John Cann, *Secretary*.
Wilson Small.
Ira Hutchinson.
Henry H. Winans.
William T. Peterson.
Abraham McBride.
Francis Taylor.
Silas B. Furbush.
John Mills.
Jacob S. Warden.
Geo. F. Nesbitt, *President, ex off.*

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Corns. H. De Lamater, *Chairman*.
George J. Byrd, *Treasurer*.
Stephen S. Chatterton, *Secretary*.
Richard Poillon.
Albert G. Bogert.
Lewis Meallio.
Adelmour W. King.
Silas S. Furbush.
Henry Wilson.
Daniel Slote.
Thomas Harrison.
William O. Munroe.
John T. Conover, *1st V. P., ex off.*

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

George H. Franklin, *Chairman*.
Freeman Bloodgood, *Treasurer*.
Frederick H. Grosz, *Secretary*.
Benjamin F. Judson.
Martin R. Roome.
John Castree.
John E. Hoagland.
Henry W. Ryerson.
John Taylor.
Samuel Tribit.
Daniel Herbert.
John W. Rowe.
Geo. F. Nesbitt, *President, ex off.*

William Van Norden, *Librarian*.

EXTRACTS

FROM

THE BY-LAWS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

ALL persons under twenty-one years of age, employed as Apprentices, and all females employed by mechanics or tradesmen in their business, on presentation of a proper certificate (blank forms of which can be obtained from the Librarian) may take out books from the Apprentices' Library without charge.

Each member of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, and Widow of a deceased member, are entitled to take books from the Apprentices' Library themselves, or to authorize one of their minor children to do so in their names, without charge; but a member or Widow may not transfer this right to any other person. The families of deceased members are entitled to the rights of members.

Journeyman Mechanics or Tradesmen, Teachers in Schools or Academies, Students in Academies, Colleges. &c., Youths in the offices of Lawyers, Physicians or Artists, or other suitable persons, may take out books from the Apprentices' Library on presentation of a proper certificate (blank forms of which can be obtained from the Librarian) and the payment of one dollar per annum.

SEC 15. Mechanics or Tradesmen, Artists or other suitable persons in business on their own account, may take out books from the Apprentices' Library on presentation of a proper certificate and the payment of two dollars per annum.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen
of the City of New York.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Society, the Library Committee respectfully submit their report for the year ending July 31st, 1864, and have great pleasure in doing so, because the results exhibited are very much beyond the anticipations they had been led to indulge.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

Cash in hand January 1, 1864.....	\$182 52	
“ received from Treasurer of Society.....	4,000 00	
“ “ “ Pay Readers.....	545 00	
“ “ for Fines, Books Lost, Catalogues		
Sold, &c.....	1,120 47	
“ “ De Milt Library for Books, &c.....	168 70	
Balance due Treasurer.....	33 61	
		\$6,050 30

Cash paid for Books.....	\$2,669 09	
“ “ Magazines and Newspapers..	161 89	
“ “ Binding.....	388 68	
“ “ Repairs, &c.....	78 95	
“ “ Cleaning and Incidental Ex-		
penses.....	540 00	
“ “ Insurance.....	141 75	
“ “ De Milt Library.....	82 13	
“ “ Salaries.....	1,987 81	
	<u> </u>	\$6,050 30

DE MILT LIBRARY.

Cash Received from Treasurer of Society.....	\$300 00	
“ “ Apprentices' Library.....	82 13	
Balance due Treasurer.....	50 62	
	<u> </u>	\$432 75
To Cash due Treasurer.....	\$210 41	
“ “ for Books, &c.....	171 70	
“ “ for Insurance.....	50 64	
	<u> </u>	\$432 75

NEW YORK, *Dec.* 31st, 1864.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The whole number of volumes at date of last report.

In the Apprentices' Library.....	23,572	
The number of volumes purchased during the year was		
3,304, of which, after making up losses, there were		
added.....	2,756	
	<u> </u>	26,328
In the De Milt Library.....	3,706	
The number added during the year.....	49	
	<u> </u>	3,755
Total number of volumes in both Departments.....		30,083

During the year accounts have been opened

With Apprentices and other Male Gratuitous Readers...	3,631	
“ Female Gratuitous Readers.....	1,702	
“ Pay Readers.....	524	
“ Members of the Mechanics’ Society	196	
		<hr/> 6,053

Increase during the year :

Male Gratuitous Readers.....	717	
Female Gratuitous Readers.....	896	
Pay Readers.....	132	
Members of the Society.....	6	
		<hr/> 1,751

The number of volumes taken out was :

By Apprentices, &c.....	67,529	
Females	28,119	
Pay Readers.....	10,812	
Members of Society.....	3,415	
		<hr/> 109,875

There were also handed out to be read in the rooms 225 volumes.

The number of volumes taken out was 39,012 more than in any previous year.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that the operations of the past year have been eminently successful. A comparison between the results here presented and those of former years will render this still more apparent.

From 1825 down to 1855 the number of readers varied but little from year to year, being generally about 1,500 or 1,600. In 1856 and 1857 it was between 1,800 and

1,900. From that date to 1861 it had risen to about 2,000; increasing at the rate of about 200 a year. Some time in 1861 it was first publicly announced that "Females employed by Mechanics or Tradesmen in their business," might participate in the advantages of the Library, and 200 availed themselves of the privilege, making the increase in that year 413. In 1862-'3, the number of persons who frequented the Library had become so great that the rooms were no longer of sufficient size to accommodate them, and were therefore greatly enlarged. During that and the two succeeding years the numbers and yearly increase were as follows:

1862-'3, Male Gratuitous Readers.....	2,914	...increase...	578
Female Gratuitous Readers	806	"	606
Pay Readers and Members....	582	"	136
Total Readers.....	4,302	"	1,320
1863-'4, Male Gratuitous Readers.....	3,631	...increase...	717
Female Gratuitous Readers.....	1,702	"	896
Pay Readers and Members	720	"	138
Total Readers.....	6,053	"	1,751

It will be noticed that this increase is not from the addition of females alone, but in an almost equal proportion from that of other classes also, the number of apprentices being much greater than that of all classes previous to 1861, and the increase alone more than the entire number previous to 1856.

A similar comparison relative to the number of volumes read has proved equally satisfactory. For many years it varied but little from 36,000 volumes a year.

In 1859-'60 there were about 48,000 volumes read.

1861—'2	"	"	58,610	"	"
1862—'3	"	"	70,863	"	"
1863—'4	"	"	109,875	"	"

The success which has attended our operations is, without doubt, to be attributed principally to the liberality of the Society in extending the privileges of the library to females, and enlarging the rooms for their accommodation. The former of these measures was at first received by some with no little apprehension. Our premises are not of sufficient size to enable us to afford a separate room for females, and it was feared that in a place so crowded as ours the minging of the two sexes would be found unpleasant and inexpedient. This fear however, has proved to be entirely without foundation. Our rooms have, for the last two years been frequented—often thronged—in the daytime and in the evening—by both, and not a single circumstance has occurred to render a change in our arrangements desirable. On the contrary, many members of the Society, as well as others visiting the rooms, have expressed surprise and pleasure at witnessing the lady-like appearance and deportment of the females, and the generally quiet and orderly conduct of the males, who appear to manifest even a greater regard for propriety than before. So that the measure has proved to be not only free from objection, but entirely successful in itself, and the cause of a great increase of readers of other classes.

The enlargement of the premises occupied by the library has also proved eminently beneficial. Instead of confined and crowded rooms, as before, we have now spacious, airy and pleasant ones, affording ample accommodations both for readers and books, without which we should not have been able to extend our operations as we have done. The efforts of the Society, therefore, "to improve the minds and elevate the characters of the apprentices" and female operatives of our city, are receiving an ample and an appropriate reward.

Before concluding their report it is the duty of the Committee to call your attention to a few circumstances, the natural consequences of these operations, which will have an important influence in relation to continued success in the future. The extremely rapid increase in the number of our readers during the last few years has greatly reduced the proportion of our books to applicants. For many years past it was as 10 to 1, both in our own and the Mercantile Library. In the latter Institution, it is now as 12 to 1, while in ours it is but as 5 to 1. From this circumstance it is obvious that our ability to supply the wants of our readers is proportionably diminished, as well as the wear and tear of the books in use greatly increased. The removal of this inconvenience is a matter of no little importance. The increase in the number of volumes last year was a little under 3,000, at which rate per year, should the number of our readers remain as at present, it will require just ten years to regain our former proportion; but if we

allow for the usual additions it will require fifteen, or, perhaps twenty years to regain it. This delay, we feel assured will not be acceptable to the Society, and have therefore, at the end of our report, ventured to suggest for the present year, the appropriation of a larger amount for the increase of the library than has heretofore been granted.

The great increase in the cost of books is another, and in this connection an important circumstance. Every article employed in manufacturing them has advanced in price two or threefold, and consequently their cost is advanced in proportion. The same may be said in relation to bookbinding, to salaries, and to every other item of expenditure.

The printing of a new catalogue, which will be necessary during the coming spring, and which will involve an expenditure of perhaps two thousand dollars, is another subject entitled to consideration. Our last edition of four thousand, was published in 1860. It was then thought to be a very large one, and expected to be sufficient for at least ten years, but it has been all disposed of in five years. The cost of this, it is true, will, in the end, be refunded to the library, but only in small sums at times extending over several years, while it must be all disbursed at once, and so withdrawn from the purchase of books.

The Committee, therefore, regarding the institution under their superintendence as one of the most useful

and important in the city, and with perhaps one exception, the only one in the country of which females enjoy the privileges without charge ; remembering also the many instances of liberality on the part of the Society in supplying means for its support and extension, feel that they but give expression to the wishes of their brethren, in recommending an appropriation of eight thousand dollars for the ensuing year, which amount, in the present circumstances of the library, and considering the present value of money, will not, in their opinion be, in proportion, any more effective than the sums heretofore appropriated.

All which is respectfully submitted.

C. H. DE LAMATER,

Chairman.

ABSTRACT

FROM

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

During the year the classes have been well attended, and the pupils have made commendable progress. The number in attendance is three hundred and fifty-two, varying in ages from *ten* to *forty* years. They are described as follows :

In the Architectural Drawing Class.....	31	
“ Mechanical “ “	71	
“ Free Hand “ “	159	
“ Naval Architecture “	35	
“ Mathematical Class.....	16	
	<hr/>	312
There is also a Debating Class of.		40
		<hr/>
Making in all.....		352

Besides the ordinary course of instruction pursued in his class, the teacher of machine drawing frequently occupies an additional half hour in familiar lectures on such subjects as he thinks calculated to aid his pupils in their studies. The following are some of the subjects treated :

How to Study without a Teacher.

On Training and Using the Eye.

Sketching a Rough Free-hand Drawing of Machinery, with Dimensions Noted.

Tinting, and the Use of Tints in Designating the Material to be Used.

Scales and the Means of Working at will from any Irregular or uncommon Scale.

Modes of Laying out Irregular Objects and of Defining their exact form on a Plane Surface.

The Development of Surfaces, such as Cutting out Sheets of Iron and Wood to be applied to Domes and other Convex Surfaces.

Modes of Drawing Ellipses and other ordinary Curves.

The varieties of Strains, and the Strength of different Forms, &c.

ABSTRACT
FROM
THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

The following Lectures have been delivered during the past year :

Jan. 8.—The War : its Causes and Successes.

By Major-General D. E. SICKLES

An Address on the same Subject.

By Rev. A. A. WILLETS.

Jan. 15.—A Voluntary Lecture on Egypt and the recent Discoveries of the Source of the Nile.

By JAMES W. GERARD, Esq.

Nov. 18.—Life in Boston Two Hundred Years Ago.

By Rt. Rev. THOMAS M. CLARK.

Dec. 9.—Jerusalem as I saw It.

By Rev. JAMES PRESTLEY, D. D.

Dec. 16.—A Ramble in California.

By Rev. F. C. EWER.

These Lectures were well attended and by appreciative audiences.

