

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA, MONTREAL  
MEETING, 1891. HAND-BOOK FOR THE USE OF  
MEMBERS AND VISITORS, GIVING THE RULES  
OF  
THE SOCIETY, ITS HISTORY, AND A HISTORICAL  
SKETCH OF MONTREAL WITH PLACES OF  
INTEREST IN ITS VICINITY. 27TH MAY, 1891**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649502011

Royal Society of Canada, Montreal Meeting, 1891. Hand-Book for the Use of Members and Visitors, Giving the Rules of the Society, Its History, and a Historical Sketch of Montreal with Places of Interest in Its Vicinity. 27th May, 1891 by Various

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# **VARIOUS**

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# ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

MONTREAL MEETING, 1891.

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## HAND=BOOK

FOR THE USE OF MEMBERS AND VISITORS

GIVING THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY, ITS HISTORY,  
AND A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MONTREAL  
WITH PLACES OF INTEREST IN  
ITS VICINITY.

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27TH MAY, 1891.

COMPILED BY THE LOCAL COMMITTEE.

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MONTREAL :

1891.

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1891

## PREFACE.

The Royal Society of Canada was founded by the Marquis of Lorne in 1882. Hitherto its annual meetings have been held in Ottawa. Last year the Natural History Society of Montreal invited the Society to meet in this city, and the invitation having been accepted, citizens' committees were appointed to make the necessary preparations for the reception and entertainment of the Society. It was thought well that a Manual of the Royal Society, giving the main facts as to its origin, objects and operations, should be compiled and printed, and to this end a sub-committee, consisting of Dr. Bourinot, C.M.G., Hon. Secretary of the Society; Prof: Penhallow, B.Sc., and Mr. John Reade, was constituted at a meeting of the General Committee, in December. The Printing and Publishing Committee also undertook to prepare a historical and descriptive sketch of Montreal, for the benefit of the visitors, the task being entrusted to Mr. R. W. McLachlan. The twofold result is the present little volume, which, it is hoped, will prove acceptable to those for whom it is intended.

21365 (of ...)

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
<b>The Royal Society of Canada:—</b>	
Founded by the Marquis of Lorne.....	5
The Provisional Council.....	6
Inauguration.....	7
First Meeting.....	7, 8
Recognized by the Queen and Canadian Parliament.....	10
Act of Incorporation.....	10
Regulations.....	16
Affiliated Societies.....	29
The Society's Work.....	31
Recognition by Learned Foreign Societies.....	33
Circulation of the Transactions.....	35
Precedents in England and Australia.....	36
Relation to the State.....	36
Officers of the Society and Sections, 1882-91.....	40
Membership by Sections in 1882.....	43
Death of Members, 1882-1891.....	46
List of Members, 1890-91.....	46
Retired Members.....	50
List of Presidents.....	50
Officers for 1890-91.....	51
Transactions, 1882-91, Contents of.....	52
Montreal, Historical Sketch of.....	79
Public Libraries in Montreal.....	88
Societies in Montreal affiliated to the Royal Society of Canada.....	91
Art in Montreal.....	95
Historic Buildings in Montreal.....	97
The Towers, poem by the late Mrs. Leprohon.....	98

Château de Ramezay.....	100
Bonsecours Church.....	101
St. Gabriel Street Church.....	102
Nelson's Monument.....	102
The McTavish Monument.....	103
Private Houses of the Old Régime.....	103
Post-Conquest Houses.....	103
Educational Institutions.....	105
Places of Historic Interest.....	109
Geology of Montreal and Vicinity.....	116
Botany of Montreal.....	121
Entertainments and Excursions.....	129
Citizens' Committees.....	134



THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

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**T**HE Royal Society of Canada owes its existence to the thoughtful interest of Lord Lorne in the intellectual progress of Canada. The movement out of which its organization arose was inaugurated in 1881. Already its enlightened founder had established a Canadian Academy of Arts, for the encouragement of design as applied to painting, sculpture, architecture, engraving and the industrial arts, and the promotion and support of art education. The success which had attended the formation and early proceedings of this institution led his Lordship to believe that a national organization which would be to science and literature what the academy was to art would be of real service to the cause of the higher intellectual culture

in the Dominion. After consulting with the leading men of science and letters, both French and English, his Lordship invited the gentlemen whom he had designated as provisional officers of the proposed organization to meet in Montreal. The meeting accordingly took place on the 29th and 30th of December, 1881, and thereat a memorandum from Lord Lorne on the subject was read and considered.

A provisional basis was then agreed upon for the constitution of the new society, the first meeting of which took place at Ottawa on the 25th of May, 1882. The Governor General (Lord Lorne) had invited the members of the provisional council to Government House for the settlement of the procedure, and the arrangements proved entirely satisfactory. The Council consisted of Principal (now Sir) J. W. Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., President; the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, LL.D., Docteur ès Lettres, Vice-President; and the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of sections: J. M. Le Moine, Esq., and Faucher de Saint Maurice, Esq., first section; Dr. (now Sir) Daniel Wilson, F.R.S.E., and Goldwin Smith, Esq., D.C.L., second section; Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, F.R.S., and Charles Carpmael, Esq., third section, and Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, F.R.S., and Dr. George Lawson, Ph.D., fourth section; J. G. Bourinot, Esq., F.S.S., Honorary Secretary. All these members of Council were present except Dr. Goldwin Smith, then absent in England.

At the general business meeting, held in the railway committee room, Parliament Building, Ottawa, on the morning of the 25th of May, the Honorary Secretary read the Council's report, the recommendations of which were afterwards embodied in the charter and constitution of the Society. The public inauguration of the Society took place in the Senate Chamber, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The members of the Society having been formally presented to the noble Founder, His Excellency set forth the aims of the Society, and expressed the hope that its creation would promote the intellectual development of the Dominion in the higher ranges of thought, letters and research. "Imperfections," said his Lordship, "there must necessarily be at first in its constitution—omissions in its membership and organization there may be. Such faults may be hereafter avoided. Our countrymen will recognize that in a body of gentlemen drawn from all our provinces and conspicuous for their ability there will be a centre around which to rally. They will see that the welfare and strength of growth of this association shall be impeded by no small jealousies, no carping spirit of detraction, but shall be nourished by a noble motive common to the citizens of the republic of letters and to the students of the free world of nature, namely, the desire to prove that their land is not insensible to the glory which springs from numbering among its sons those whose success will become the heritage of mankind."