

Eleventh Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

SAINT LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

JANUARY 13, 1857.

GENTLEMEN: You have assembled here to-night for the purpose of receiving from the Board of Directors their report of the present condition of the affairs of the Association, and of their acts and doings during the past year. It is made my duty, as it is my pleasure to perform this task, and, in doing so, it will be my aim to state such facts as may appear necessary for your information, and to offer such suggestions in regard to the future management as may be deemed important.

At your last annual meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Directors serving for the ensuing year be directed to solicit donations in money for the purpose of liquidating the debts of the *Mercantile Library Hall Company* maturing in April next.

In obedience to this resolution, the Board of Directors, immediately after organization, together with the aid of a few members, canvassed the city for the purpose of obtaining by donation the sum of \$10,000. *They met a spirit of liberality heretofore unknown*. In their efforts they obtained the handsome sum of \$7,551 11.