

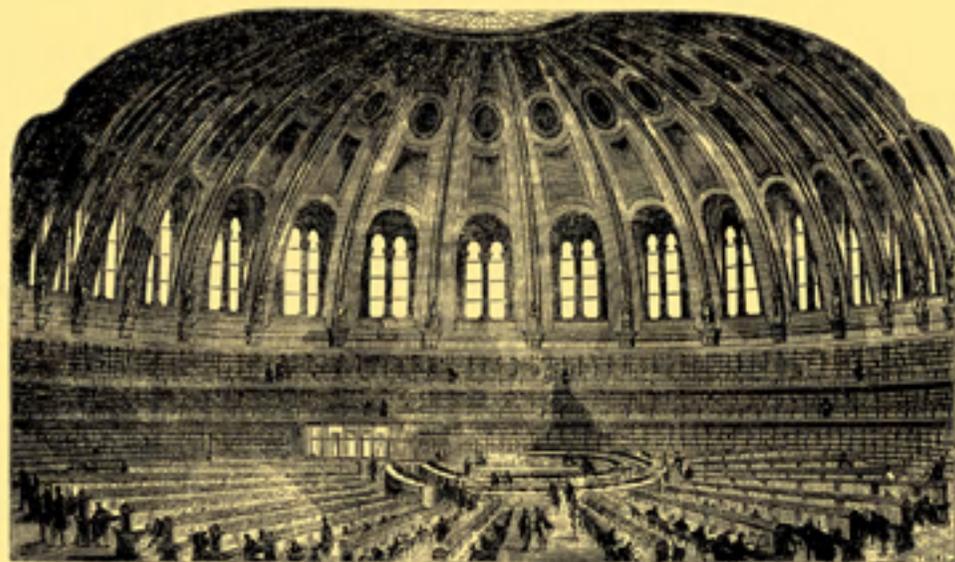
CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

MEMOIRS OF LIBRARIES

INCLUDING A HANDBOOK
OF LIBRARY ECONOMY

VOLUME 2

EDWARD EDWARDS



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Memoirs of Libraries

Including a Handbook of Library Economy

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CHAPTER XV.

THE OLDER LIBRARIES OF ENGLISH TOWNS, AND THEIR MANAGEMENT BY MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

.... Hyde, Clifford, and Dauby found a Parliament full of lewd young men, chosen by a furious people, in spite to the Puritans, whose severity had disgusted them. Many knew not what they did, when they made the Act for Corporations, by which the greatest part of the nation was brought under the worst men in it, drunk or sober.

ALGERNON SYDNEY. *Discourses on Government* (Hollis' edition), p. 502.

SEVERAL of the ancient Corporate Towns of England possess Libraries, which were originally founded—either by the munificence of individuals, or by a public and joint-stock contribution,—and then entrusted to the guardianship of the respective municipalities. Most of these Libraries date from the early part of the seventeenth century. At that period, studious and even learned men were occasionally seen to take their share in the business of Town Councils. Others, sitting with them, who laid no claim to distinction of this sort, were forward to show their respect for it. No very elaborate argument was thought necessary to prove

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Several Town Libraries founded early in the 17th century.

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that all the townspeople had a common interest in the provision of facilities for study; or that this common interest was wholly independent of gradations in social position.

Outchecked by the Civil Wars, and profligacy of the Restoration.

Neglect by Corporations of their literary trusts.

But this recognition of a common want which we find to have been made in several towns at nearly the same period, was soon checked in its natural results by the political strife then fast gathering head. The temporary lull in the great struggle, which occurred between the death of Cromwell and the call of William of Orange, is too full of public infamy to admit of surprise that the municipalities of the day had little attention to bestow on trusts of this kind. Algernon Sydney has truly depicted the then state of things, in his incisive way, by the statement that "the greatest part of the nation was brought under the power of the worst men in it." A fact so pregnant leaves small room for wonder that scarcely one of these Municipal Libraries was even decently cared for.

Norwich, Leicester, and Bristol may here serve as sufficient examples of the treatment of Town Libraries by Corporations of such a stamp. Each of them possessed a Library founded within the first third of the seventeenth century. It would be hard to decide which has the pre-eminence in neglect of its advantage, but, as will be seen hereafter, Norwich, at least, has had a near prospect of distancing, in the present generation, the supineness and puerility of a past one.

§. 1. THE CITY LIBRARY OF NORWICH.

This Library was commenced in the year 1608, during the mayoralty of Sir John Pettus. It seems to have enlisted very general good will in its favour. The donation-book records, in all, the names of no fewer than a hundred and forty-four donors. Most of the gifts, however, were small. The most important bequests appear to have been those of the Rev. Richard Ireland, in 1692, and of the Rev. Thomas Nelson, in 1714.

The distinguished but eccentric antiquary Peter Le Neve (Norroy) is said to have directed the preservation in Norwich, for public use, of his extensive and curious collections on the topography and antiquities of the county. There is some obscurity about the precise circumstances which impeded his purpose. Bishop Tanner, one of his Executors, says expressly: "Part of his Will relates to the putting his papers into some Public Library at Norwich." Subsequently, the Bishop writes to Dr. Rawlinson: "There was an ugly codicil, made a few days before his death, in favour of his wife, upon which she set up a claim for several of his Norfolk collections, and hindered the execution of that part of his Will." ... "But I have hopes," he adds, "that she is coming into better temper, and will let us perform our trust without entering into a Chancery suit." The lady, however, persisted. The Library, or great part of it, was sold by auction, in 1731. Some of the Norfolk MSS. had already passed, with the fair widow herself, into the possession of "Honest Tom Martin of Palgrave,"

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City Library
of Norwich.

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and he seems to have bought more of them at the sale. Others were purchased by the Duke of Norfolk. Some MSS. of a different class were bought by the Earl of Oxford, and now form part of the Harleian collection in the British Museum. Martin's books were dispersed, in their turn, and several of them are in the Chetham Library at Manchester.

Book Rarities of
Norwich.

Amongst the old books in the Norwich Library are the Polyglott Bibles of Antwerp and London; Taverner's English Bible of 1549; many fine specimens of early English Topography; choice copies of Hakluyt, Purchas, and of many of our national Chronicles. In short, though small, it is a curious and valuable collection. But the Corporation of a byegone day betrayed its trust by permitting it to pass into the custody of a private Society, and the Society thus illegitimately favoured has tried hard to induce the present Corporation to follow in the old track.

Under the provisions of a recent Act of Parliament—the "Public Libraries Act,"—the history of which will be found in a subsequent chapter,—a majority of the Corporation has, after much discussion, determined to repair the *laches* of its predecessor by reclaiming the two thousand volumes thus temporarily alienated, but has met with sturdy opposition on pretexts the most futile. The opponents may tell their own story, which to an observant reader carries its refutation on its face. It is framed, as a Memorial to the City Council, in the following terms:—

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of Norwich, in Council assembled.

The Memorial of the Committee of the Norwich Public Library

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Sheweth,—That at a quarterly assembly of the Corporation, held June 19th, 1815, a certain Report of the Library Committee was agreed to, and consent given for the City books to be taken to the Public Library under the direction of the said Committee.

That your memorialists have learned with deep regret that it is contemplated to apply to the Council for power to remove the City books to the Free Library.

That upon the faith of their tenure of these books, as long as the conditions imposed were satisfactorily complied with, various sums of money, to a considerable amount, have from time to time been expended by your memorialists from the funds of the Public Library in their preservation.

That the books of the City Library have been embodied in the catalogues of 1825 and 1847, under the same scientific arrangement as the books which are the property of the Public Library, distinguishing those which are the property of the Corporation by a prominent and appropriate designation; and that therefore by the removal of the City Library, the catalogue, to which your memorialists have recently published the first appendix, will be rendered quite useless, and an expense, otherwise unnecessary, will be incurred.

That although the books of the City Library were recently found in a very dusty condition; yet that during the 40 years they have been in the custody of your memorialists, they have suffered no deterioration from damp, loss, or otherwise.

That the contiguity of the Public Library to the Guildhall affords the greatest convenience of application to the Town Clerk for permission to take out books from the City Library, and of the access of the Library Committee of the Corporation to inspect their property.

That it is in contemplation to place a fire in the room appropriated to the City Library, and further to improve it by the insertion of a large bay-window, which will make it a light and cheerful place for all who need reference to these ancient and valuable books.

That your memorialists venture to point out the entire unsuitableness, in their judgment, of works in learned languages, on abstruse subjects or in black letter, to the objects of the Free Library.

And your memorialists therefore pray that the books of the City Library be allowed to remain, as heretofore, in their keeping.

Signed on behalf of the Public Library Committee.

Norwich, Nov. 10th, 1856.

G. W. W. FIRTH, President.

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ries of English
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On so puerile a production it were idle to waste words. One remark, however, may be appropriate in anticipation of the history and objects of the Act of Parliament in pursuance of which the Free City Library of Norwich has been created. No Institution established under that Act can with justice address itself to any "class" of the population in particular. Rate-supported Libraries are *ipso facto* "Town Libraries." Their cost is defrayed by rate-payers of all degrees. It is the imperative duty of every Town-Council so to manage them as to make them conduce, in the utmost possible measure, to the researches, the pursuits, and the profit of every class of the townspeople. For some readers it may also be desirable to add that the so-called "Public" Library by whose managers this Memorial is drawn up, is Public in name only.

The decision of the Council may, I believe, be regarded as conclusive of the matter, notwithstanding the attempts which have been made to rescind it. As will be inferred from the recital, the indirect importance of the question thus raised, in its relation to the future working of the "Public Libraries Act" of 1855, is considerable, however comparatively trivial the immediate point in dispute.

§. 2. THE CITY LIBRARY AT BRISTOL.

City Library of
Bristol, founded
by Robert
Redwood.

The City Library of Bristol is in origin nearly contemporaneous with that of Norwich, and its ill fortunes under Corporate management have been very similar. It was founded by Robert Redwood, an eminent citizen,

in 1614.¹ The first recorded proceeding on the subject is to be found in the following Council Minute:—"Convocatio Domus Consilii xv. die Decembris 1613. It is this day agreed that, if Mr. Roberte Redwoode will give his Lodge adjoyninge to the Towne Hall, neere the Marsh of Bristol, to the Mayor and Commonalty, to be converted to a Librarye, or place to put bookes for the furtherance of Learninge, then the same shal be thankfully accepted, and that then there shal be a dore made through the wall on suche sorte as shal be thought convenient by the Surveyors of the Landes of the Cytie, . . . and that such bookes as shal be gyven to the Cytie by the reverende Father in God, the Lord Archbishop of York, or any other well-disposed person, for the furnishinge of a Library, shal be thankfully accepted, and preserved in the place aforesayed."

The next entry occurs in the Mayor's Register Book of 1614. It records that "this year was erected and builded the Library in the Marsh; Doctor Toby Matthew and Robert Redwood were the founders thereof, and Richard Williams, Vicar of St. Leonards, was the first . . . Keeper thereof." The precise extent of the aid accorded by Archbishop Matthew does not appear, but it was obviously liberal. He was the son of a Bristol mercer, and had been born on Bristol Bridge, which in the sixteenth century was covered with houses. His gifts were described by himself as intended "for the benefit of his native city by the dissemination of know-

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Benefaction of
Archbishop
Matthew.

¹ *Letters from . . . the Bodleian*, ii, 104; Blomfield, *Essay towards a Topographical History of Norfolk*, iv, 343; Nichols, *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, 415, 416; Botfield, *Notes on Libraries*, in the *Philobiblon Miscellanies*, 1-10.

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ledge, and for the purpose of founding a Library of sound divinity and other learning, for the use of the Aldermen and shopkeepers. Many of the works he gave contain, in his autograph, the words:—

Tobias Eboracum.

Vita mihi Christus, Mors lucrum.

The Archbishop died in 1628, in the 83rd year of his age, after governing the See of York for twenty-two years. His fellow labourer in the foundation of Bristol Library, Robert Redwood, died two years afterwards; bequeathing, as an addition to his former gifts, ten pounds towards the further augmentation of the Library.

Early purchases
by the Cor-
poration.

The first entry of the purchase of books by the Corporation occurred in 1622, and runs thus:—"Paid Mr. Brown for 117 books for the provision of the Library, £14 10s 0d." In 1640 there is an entry of payment to an ironmonger "for 15 dozen and a half of book-chains for the Library, £3 17s. 6d." There are also other entries which show the enlargement of the Library building, and the gift of ground for the purpose by Richard Vickris, one of Redwood's Executors. A long blank ensues.

In the year 1725, the then Librarian and Vicar of St. Leonards, the Rev. Robert Clarke, called the attention of the City Council, by Memorial, to the fact that "the Library was become ruinous, the books much damaged, and in danger of being spoiled, and the building itself unsafe for persons to resort to." After nearly *fifteen years'* consideration, (the petition had been referred to a "Committee" with instructions to consider and report,) it was recommended to the Council that

the Library should be entirely rebuilt; which was accordingly done, in 1740, at an expense of £1300. In addition to the expenditure of the Corporation, private liberality appears to have enlisted itself in the undertaking. The building contains a chimney-piece which is a noble specimen of the carving in wood of Grinling Gibbons. It seems to have been one of the choice works which he had retained in his own gallery until his death, and to have been given by the subsequent purchaser.

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The most considerable bequest which Bristol Library has received, possesses a melancholy interest, from the death of the donor by his own hand. John Heylin was a descendant of the well-known (but by no means popular) author of *Microcosmus*, of *Cyprianus Anglicus*, and of a host of other laborious books, Dr. Peter Heylin. Although that sturdy divine, like many of his brethren, lost his Library during the Civil Wars, it seems probable that some of his lost books were recovered, and, with his subsequent acquisitions, inherited by his family. John Heylin's legacy is worded thus:—"I do hereby give to the Library in King Street in the parish of St. Leonard, in the City of Bristol, under the direction of the Mayor, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the same City, all my Father's Dr. [John] Heylin's manuscripts and manuscript sermons, and all my Library of printed books, which I judge may be about fourteen hundred in number."

Bequest of a descendant of Dr. Peter Heylin.

The folly and scandal of converting the public-spirited foundation of Redwood and Matthew into a private Subscription Library belongs to the Town Council

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Pretexts on
which the Librar-
y was turned
over to a pri-
vate Society.

of 1773. The promoters of the new institution—laudable in itself—made it one of their first steps to obtain possession of the City Library, and in their memorial to the Corporation coolly express their persuasion that such “an attempt to *promote Literature* requires only to be mentioned in order to recommend itself to the patronage and support of the Magistracy.” Quite as coolly the pliant Corporation accedes to the request by granting the “use of the Library House, and of the books therein deposited,” and by expending the sum of a hundred and sixty pounds in fittings and bookbinding, prior to the transfer. Four years later, a further sum of three hundred pounds is expended in the removal of a coachhouse and stables, in order to “lay open the said Library.” Shortly afterwards, the entrance money, the payment of which became the preliminary of access to the Library, was advanced by the Society to four guineas. Another demand on the public purse kept by the City Council followed, and was as successful as before. Well may the historian of these transactions note that they evince “the natural tendency of power unrestrained, or not subject to public controul, to creep into abuse.” The Corporations created by the Carolinian politicians were, in truth, so many snug little coteries. The gentlemen to whose discretion the Bristol Corporation had thus yielded up a sacred trust, displayed their capacity to deal with it by passing a formal Resolution, “That no person keeping a lodging-house, inn, tavern, coffeehouse, or other place of public entertainment, be permitted to subscribe to this Society.” So that had William Roscoe been born in Bristol, his

father would have been precluded from securing for him the advantage of access to books, which had been given to the townspeople at large, by Redwood, by Archbishop Matthew, and by Heylin, even had he been willing to pay for it an entrance fee of four guineas, in addition to an annual subscription. The Archbishop, too, we may call to mind, expressly designates "shopkeepers," as among those he purposed to benefit. Some of the authors of this notable resolution were themselves simply shopkeepers of a larger growth—dealers in wool, tobacco, or sugar in bulk. But they probably thought with "Yellowplush:" "*We must draw the line somewhere.*" And the race is by no means extinct, or confined to Somersetshire.

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Encouraged by so much success, attained by their predecessors, a subsequent Committee waxed bolder still, and applied, in 1814, for such a lease of the ground as would give the Society "a permanent interest" in it. "The Citizens," says Mr. Tovey, the recent historian of the Library, "had a narrow escape." The Library Society had no money, . . . or Redwood's Library, given to the City, would have been signed, sealed, and delivered to a *private* Society for a thousand years, at two shillings and five pence per annum."¹ Eleven years later, this admirable Society capped its proceedings by addressing a letter to the Mayor (signed "Samuel Seyer," and dated 3 May 1826), requesting "permission to remove the City books from the City bookcases," to some less conspicuous part of the building, as it would seem, "in order to make room for books

Attempt, in 1815, permanently to alienate the City land.

¹ Tovey, *The Bristol City Library, its founders and benefactors*, 37.

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belonging to the Society." This was too much for the complaisance, even of the old Corporation, and "it was ordered that the said letter do lie upon the table."

Memorial of Citizens on the state of Redwood's Library, in 1848.

In the year 1848,—the date as will be seen hereafter, of a greatly increased interest in Town Libraries, in many parts of England,—the attention of the Bristol Town Council was called by a Memorial of Citizens to the unsatisfactory condition of their Library. It led to the preparation, by a Sub-Committee, composed of the then Mayor and some of the leading Councillors, of a Report in which it was stated that "the Council consider the books as open to the inspection of the Public, and that, on application to the Librarian, any inhabitant of the City is entitled to peruse them, in that part of the Library appropriated to the custody, avoiding interference with the Bristol Library Society, or prejudice to the grants made to that body." The Council took no further steps, at that time, in the matter. What has subsequently occurred belongs to the History of the "Public Libraries Acts" of 1850 and 1855.

It may be well, however, to add, in this place, that the "Library Society" has received from the public purse of the Citizens of Bristol nearly three thousand pounds, in addition to the use, for upwards of eighty years, of the City Library, built in 1740, at the cost of thirteen hundred pounds. To the books thus alienated from their purpose,—that, namely, of becoming the foundation of a Public Library duly augmented, from time to time, in proportion to the means which a City Council, honestly discharging its self-accepted trust, would have found

available,—no addition worthy of mention has been made during these eighty years. The last accession having accrued by the bequest, in 1778, by the Rev. Alexander Catcott, of a small but curious collection of “Hutchinsonian” books, and of works on “Natural History,” as it was then cultivated. This bequest made the total number of volumes belonging to the City, about two thousand. Amongst them are important groups of books in Theology, Ecclesiastical History, and seventeenth-century French literature. The works of the Mystical divines (which attracted so remarkable an amount of attention in England a hundred years ago) are numerous, as are also the foreign editions and versions of the Holy Scriptures. For early English Bibles, the curious “stranger in Bristol” must visit the Baptist College, or obtain an introduction to the collection of Mr. Francis Fry.

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Catcott's bequest.

§. 3. THE TOWN LIBRARY OF LEICESTER.

The fine old Town of Leicester—a corporation from the beginning of the thirteenth century, if not from an earlier date, and even at that time rich in historical associations—can boast that its Corporation had intellect and forethought enough to found a Library, at the public charge, in the year 1632. The indefatigable Archbishop Williams (at that time Bishop of Lincoln) whom we have so often met in this path of enterprise already, incited the Town Councillors to the effort, and held out to them his ever open hand. “There was,” says the annalist, “a general and voluntary collection

The Town Library of Leicester.

throughout the Corporation, . . . and likewise amongst the Ministers and Clergy in every Deanery in the county." Amongst the donors were John Angell, "public lecturer for the sayd burrough," Sir Arthur Haslerig, Lady Beaumont of Coleorton, Sir Trevor Williams of Langriley, William Heyricke of Beaumanoir, and Thomas Hayne, one of the schoolmasters of Christ's Hospital. The latter, whose character and learning won the regard of Selden, is described as "a prime benefactor, who, for the love and zeal he had for the advancement of learning and affection to this Library . . . gave by his last Will . . . all his books [a few excepted which were bequeathed to the Chapter Library, *then* the Public Library, be it remembered, of Westminster], amounting to above six hundred, . . . being worthy books both divine and moral, and also many ancient and modern Chronicles and Historians, books of Philosophy and Poetry, Dictionaries, and divers other Tractates and Treatises."¹

There was already in Leicester, attached to St. Martin's Church, a small Library which had been founded by Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, Lord President of York, and, with subsequent augmentations, placed in that Church "for the help and benefit of ministers and scholars." With the Bishop of Lincoln's hearty approval, this little collection was added to the new

¹ Hayne was a native of Thrussington in Leicestershire. There does not exist, I think, any warrant for the statement in the local guide-book that he was its "Rector." There is a portrait of him over the Library door, with the following inscription:

"M. S. HAYNE, qui inter eruditos et optimos nominari meruit, . . . et præter multa piæ libertatibus testimonia passim collata, Bibliothecam hanc suppellectile libraria munificè adornavit.—Ob. 27 Jul. 1645, ætat. 64."

Town Library. Angell now made a catalogue of the latter, which he thus classified:—

Libri Theologici.

Libri Historici.

Libri Oratorii et Poetici.

Libri Philosophici, Medici, Grammaticales, et Mathematici.

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The aggregate number of *Works* included in this catalogue was 876. Among them were the Nuremberg Latin Bible of 1549; Stephanus' Greek Testament of 1550; the English Bibles of Tyndale and Cranmer; the Rheims New Testament of 1582, and some other versions.

Sir Henry Savile's Chrysostom was given by Sir Thomas Dolman, in 1668. Walton's Polyglott Bible, with various biblical Commentaries and Concordances, were given by Dr. Lazarus Seaman; shortly afterwards, Archbishop Tenison added Castell's Lexicon, in 1696. An anonymous donor gave what are enigmatically entered as "Two MSS. of foreign nations," which have since disappeared. A few years later, the name of Humphrey Wanley appears as the donor of Gale's Antoninus. Finally, in 1743, many valuable books were bequeathed by the Rev. John Harryman.

From the latter part of the seventeenth century, the Library seems gradually to have sunk into careless guardianship and ultimate neglect. The character of the guardianship will be sufficiently inferred from the fact that we find it gravely recorded in the Annals of the Corporation that a certain Librarian was "*promoted*" to be macebearer. Barefaced depredations were committed. From a MS. Latin Bible (on vellum) many leaves were cut out, by and for visitors, and by way of

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“keepsakes.” An Arabic MS. was similarly treated, and a copy of Purchas’ Voyages almost entirely destroyed. Nor can such doings excite the smallest surprise when we read in the *History of Leicestershire* that several hundreds of books were removed from their places, and thrown into a confused heap, in 1793, in order to increase the accommodation for the company invited by a magistrate of more than usual hospitality to the “Mayor’s feast;” the books still remaining in that chaotic state when the fact was published ten years afterwards.

The Codex
Leicestrensis.

But the chief treasure of the Library, the famous *Codex Leicestrensis* of the Greek Testament, ascribed to the fourteenth century, has happily escaped. This fine MS. was part of the bequest of Thomas Hayne. It had formerly belonged, with other MSS. of the same class, to William Clarke, the ejected fellow of Peterhouse. Thirty years ago, the Town Council acquired the elaborate collation of this MS. with the Oxford edition of the Greek text, published in 1685,—a collation which had been made by John Jackson (the editor of Novatianus), with the help of Tiffin and Gee; became afterwards the property of Cæsar de Missy; and by him was lent to Wetstein.¹ The Codex is in cursive letters, and is partly on vellum and partly on paper.

With the exception of the volume just mentioned, no addition appears to have been made to the Leicester Library for half a century. Then came a donation from the late Commissioners on the Public Records of a

¹ This volume is thus described in the Sale Catalogue of De Missy’s Library (1776), No. 1617: “*Collatio Codicis Leicestrensis per Rev. J. Jackson adscripta margine N. T. Græce, impressi Oxoniæ 1675. Hoc est originale e quo variantes lectiones suo N. T. inseruit Wetsteinus.*”

selection from their publications; and a few minor gifts. The Town Council then put this Library into good condition, but did nothing to augment it. The Records of the Town itself are of great interest. They extend from the reign of King John, and are bound in about forty volumes, but—somewhat strangely, I think—are kept in another Library. Very recently, the Commissioners of Patents have presented their valuable publications,—rich in matter both of commercial and of scientific interest,—but there is a wide gap between the old staple and this new importation, which must be filled up by local exertion, if either the one or the other is to be of permanent utility to the good old Town.¹

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¹ Nichols, *History of Leicestershire*, i, pt. 5, 505-510; *Catalogue of the books in the Town Library, Leicester* [1846]; *Thirty-second Report of the Commissioners concerning Charities* [1837], pt. 5, 7; Thompson, *Hand-book of Leicester*, 61; Wetstein, *Prologomena in Nov. Test. Gr.*, 53; Tregelles, *Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, 210; MS. notes with which I have been obligingly favoured by Mr. Plant of Salford.

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THE PAROCHIAL AND QUASI-PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES OF ENGLAND.

....Per secondare l'istruzione delle scuole, e dar ogni ajuto al clero studioso, avevano le Chiese le loro Biblioteche, che de' più opportuni libri procuravano fossero arricchite. Di Panfilio Martire dice San Girolamo, che nell' ardore di ben corredare la sacra Biblioteca non voleva cedere alle preunure di Demetrio Falereo e di Pisistrato per cercare ogni sorta di buoni libri. La Chiesa Gerosolimitana conservava una copiosa Libreria, di cui era stato fondatore il vescovo Alessandro, e dagli scritti di questa aver ricavata Eusebio gran parte delle storiche sue notizie egli stesso confessa. *etc.*

ANDRES, *Dell' origine, de' progressi e dello stato attuale d'ogni letteratura*, i, 159-160. (Ed. of 1783.)

The simple words of our good old English Bible are consecrated sounds; they ring in the depths of our heart like the holiest memories; are associated with fields of conflict; with meek and patient martyrdoms; with successful missions; with all that is dearest and deepest, and most stirring in the great battle of the Christian life.

CUMMING, *Revision ... of the Bible*, 290.

It is more than probable that throughout all Christendom the earliest Libraries were Church Libraries. The necessity that those whose lives were to be spent in teaching and preaching should themselves continue to be taught and exhorted, sustained and comforted, by books, must everywhere have made itself apparent.

When the great Reformation introduced new relations between priests and people, the Churches, and pre-eminently our English Churches, came to be in a special sense the Libraries of the Laity. It was there that the popular mind first became deeply imbued with the precepts, the discipline, and the consolations of the Bible, not alone by listening to pulpit exposition, and thus "receiving the word with all the readiness of mind," but by "searching the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

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Within a few years of that bitter hostility to the very idea of a Bible for the people which had driven Tyndal across the Channel in order to work, with all his soul, at his translation, the demand for one—whatever the motive—came from the royal lips. Henry VIII. told the Bishops that if Tyndale's translation was bad, they must make a better. Delays and evasions were multiplied. At length, Cranmer sent a portion of Tyndale's version to each Bishop for correction. One refused; nine promised or insinuated compliance; but none set to work. They doubtless well remembered that, but a little while before, the very books they were called upon to revise had been publicly burnt in St. Paul's, and the adventurous importers of them episcopally and regally anathematized. Coverdale was now officially commissioned to go abroad to seek Tyndale's aid in the collection and revision of the various portions. It was probably not until the year 1536 that the first complete English Bible was fully printed.¹ There was prefixed to it a

Translation of
the English
Bible.

¹ The colophon notwithstanding: ... ("fynished the fourth daye of October 1535.) Additions appear to have been made at an English press.

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highly imaginative frontispiece in which (amidst other groups) the Almighty is represented in the clouds; a scroll proceeds from his mouth towards the kneeling monarch, with the inscription: "*I have found me a man after my own heart who shall fulfil all my will.*" Henry is made to ejaculate in answer: "*Thy word is a lantern unto my feet.*" But a long delay was yet to intervene, before the common people entered into the really free and publicly authorized enjoyment of the sacred volume. It has, indeed, been frequently asserted that in this very year (1536) a royal injunction was addressed by the Vicar General Cromwell to the Clergy throughout the realm, directing that "every parson or proprietary of any Parish Church within the realm shall on this side the feast of St. Peter *ad Vincula* next coming, provide a book of the whole Bible, both in Latin and also in English, and lay the same in the Quire for every man that will to read and look therein; and shall discourage no man from reading any part of the Bible, either in Latin or in English." But there is great reason to doubt that this part of the injunctions of 1536 was ever issued. The probabilities seem to be that such a clause was contemplated and drafted; but struck out prior to the promulgation. The clause does not appear in Archbishop Cranmer's Register; it is not printed in the *Concilia Magnæ Britannicæ*; Burnet did not himself print it, although in the Oxford edition of the *History of the Reformation* of 1829 it is inserted, but with a marginal note pointing out its doubtful authenticity.

I believe that the suggestion for placing Bibles in the Churches so that they might be read of all men,

was highly displeasing to Henry VIII., and that repeated efforts had to be used in order to overcome his repugnance. In the autumn of 1537, Grafton was evidently in fear that the Bibles then on his hands would be slow of sale. He implores Cranmer to obtain the King's consent "that every Curate have one of them; yea, and that every Abbey should possess six to be laid in six several places." The Archbishop then writes to Cromwell: "I pray you, my Lord, that you will exhibit the books unto the King's Highness, and to obtain of His Grace, *if you can*, a license that the same may be sold and read of every person without danger of any Act, Proclamation, or Ordinance to the contrary, . . . *until such time that we the Bishops shall set forth a better translation, which, I think, will not be till a day after Doomsday.*"¹ Then, at length (September, 1537), came the published injunction: "Item, That ye shall provide . . . a book of the whole Bible of the largest volume in

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Efforts in 1537
to obtain the
King's assent to
the free circula-
tion of the Eng-
lish Bible.

¹ Jenkyns, *Remains of Thomas Cranmer*, i, 197, seqq.; Wilkins, *Concilia*, 845; Burnet, *History of the Reformation*, Appendix of Records, i, part 2, 254; Anderson, *Annals of the English Bible*, i, 517, seqq. Comp. Froude, *History of England from the Fall of Wolsey*, iii, 76, seqq. There is, I fear, not the smallest evidence to warrant us in substituting, for the memorable words attributed during so many generations to the illustrious Tyndale, at the stake (6 Sept. 1536)—*Lord, open the King of England's eyes*,—Mr. Froude's bold hypothesis: "He lived to see the Bible no longer carried by stealth into his country, where the possession of it was crime, but borne in by the solemn will of the King, solemnly recognized as the word of the Most High God" (*ut supra*, 84). In other respects, Mr. Froude has spoken worthily of the noble-hearted man, whose martyrdom did not begin at Brussels. It can *now* but with partial truth be said of Tyndale:—

"With his name
No bard embalms and sanctifies his song;
And History, so warm on minor themes,
Is cold on this."

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The deposit of
Bibles the germ
of our Parochial
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English, and the same set up in some convenient place within the said Church, that ye have cure, where your parishioners may the most commodiously resort to the same and read it; *the charges of which book shall be ratably borne between You, the Parson, and the Parishioners aforesaid.* Thus was laid the first rude foundation of the Parochial Libraries of England.

If we accept Bishop Berkeley's test of the greatness of a benefaction,—namely, that it is rather in proportion to the number and want of the receivers, than to the liberality of the giver,"¹—we can hardly estimate too highly the value of the measure which was thus at length reluctantly conceded by the capricious Monarch. It had been won by the blood of voluntary martyrs; by the toils of obscure Bible printers, some of them working amidst the perils of a vagrant exile, others amidst those of pestilence embittered with mental anxieties; and by the long-continued efforts of well-meaning men in high place (then, perhaps, most of all to be pitied) who could discern no way of doing what they knew to be God's work, save at the cost of often flattering the pride, and occasionally winking hard at the crimes of a King, incapable of curbing his own basest appetites, yet bent on governing the thoughts, and controlling the aspirations, of all his subjects.²

The people flocked in such crowds to read the Bibles that a choice had to be made of certain of their number to read aloud to the rest. Other books were occasion-

¹ *Proposal of a College, etc.* (Works, 209.)

² E. G. "We will have no more thwarting, no more contentions.... We will, in any case, that all preachers agree." .. Henry VIII. to the Bishops,—MS. in the Rolls' House, d. 15. (Froude, iii, 245.)

ally added, by like authority, as, for instance, Erasmus' Paraphrase of the New Testament, and the work (*The Institution of a Christian man*), known as "The Bishops' Book." Then, the battle of the "Old Learning" and the "New Learning" waxing hot and earnest, the appeals and concessions to opinion and open speech were repented of. Reading aloud was first forbidden; afterwards the reading in any wise of certain translations and editions. At length, the Bible was to be accessible only under restriction as to age, sex, and social rank. Under Queen Mary the very possession of some of the books which a few years before had been placed in the Churches became a capital offence, punishable "by martial law."¹ Well may the infant Libraries have been checked and stunted in their growth.

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I am ignorant of any proofs of the foundation of Parochial Libraries by individual beneficence, of prior date to the formation of the existing Library in the Church of Langley Marish, Buckinghamshire, by Sir John Kederminster, in the year 1632. It is placed at the West end of the Kederminster Chapel, in which there is an ancient tablet, recording that the above-named donor (Lord of the Manor of Langley) "made and gave to this town for ever the adjoining Library." His Will (dated 2 Feb. 1631) directs that books to the value of twenty pounds should be placed in the Library so prepared; and that the key should be strictly kept by certain almspeople of his endowment, under regu-

Parochial Lib-
rary of Langley
Marish, Buck-
inghamshire.

¹ Proclamations of 14 June 1555, and 6 June 1558; quoted by Strype, *Eccles. Memorials*, iii (pt. 1), 418; (pt. 2) 130, 131.

lations which are specified with curious minuteness. The Charity Commissioners describe this small collection as consisting of "500 or 600 volumes of ancient divinity, in good preservation." The Curate of Langley, Mr. Nash, writing in 1849, says: "The Library consists of the Greek and Latin Fathers, and the chief works on the Reformation Controversy.... There is no provision for adding to it.... The room in which the books are, was evidently the South Porch, and perhaps a Priests' Room to the Church, and is of as early a date as 1500."¹

Halifax Church has an old Library of nearly contemporaneous date, as it would seem, from the vague mention of it in the ponderous *History and Antiquities of Halifax*, by Watson.² Boston, in Lincolnshire, has another which dates from 1635. Wotton Wawen, in Warwickshire, has one founded in 1645 by the then Vicar George Dunscomb, M. A.³ The Church Libraries of this period are usually founded in accordance with the principle which governed Cranmer and Thomas Cromwell; namely, as depositories and centres of the dominant Theology of that day. Perhaps no better instance of the object in view can be exemplified, than that afforded by the Will of Humphrey Chetham of Manchester (16 Dec. 1651), already quoted for a different purpose. The passage we are here concerned with runs thus:—

¹ Lipscomb, *History of Buckinghamshire*, iv, 542-543; *Twenty-fifth Report of the Commissioners concerning Charities*, 95-99; *Gentleman's Magazine*, lxii, 1181; W. D. Cooper in *Notes and Queries* for June, 1856; MS Correspondence.

² pp. 258, seqq.; Comp. Gough, *Additions to Camden's Britannia*, iii, 275.

³ *Notes and Queries*, *ubi supra*.

“Also I do hereby give and bequeath the sum of two hundred pounds to be bestowed by my Executors in godly English books, such as Calvin’s, Preston’s, and Perkins’ works, comments and annotations of the Bible, or some parts thereof; or such other books as... [the said Executors] shall think most proper for the edification of the common people; to be ... chained upon desks... or in other convenient places, in the Parish Churches of Manchester and Boulton-in-the Moors, and in the Chapels of Turton, Walmesley, and Gorton, in the said county of Lancaster, within one year after my decease” [which happened in 1653].

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Church Libra-
ries in Lanca-
shire, founded
by Humphrey
Chetham.

The trust was faithfully and liberally carried out by the Executors. A considerable collection of the works of Protestant Divines was purchased. It included those of Baxter, Bolton, Brightman, Anthony Burgess, Burroughes, Calvin, Cartwright, Chillingworth, Peter Du Moulin, Foxe, Greenhill, Jewell, Peter Martyr, Mede, Morton, Perkins, Reynolds, Thomas Taylor, Ursinus, Ussher, Francis White, John White, and Willet.

Besides the *Acts and Monuments* of Foxe there were, in the section “Church History,” Knox’s *Reformation in Scotland*, Luther’s *Table Talk*, and Paolo Sarpi’s *Council at Trent*. Fine old carved oak book-cases still exist at Turton and at Gorton, both of which are inscribed:—
“*The Gift of Humphrey Chetham, Esquire, 1655.*”

The books belonging to Bolton and to Walmesley have long since been dispersed, and no trace of them is now recoverable. Those of Manchester Church had been suffered to fall into neglect and dilapidation—not, however, until they had obviously rendered good

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service in their day,—and it was thought “expedient,” some twenty years ago, “to dispose of them to a dealer in Shudehill,” rather than to repair and preserve them. Some of the volumes thus sold were subsequently purchased from the dealer by Mr. Crossley of Manchester, in whose valuable collection they are now safely housed.

Restoration of the
small Library at
Turton.

The number of volumes remaining at Turton is fifty-two; at Gorton, fifty-six. The former have recently been well and thoroughly repaired by public subscription. The latter will probably receive the like good offices in their turn. It appears probable from accounts still preserved in the Chetham archives that about four hundred were originally bought for distribution amongst these Parochial Libraries, by Chetham’s Executors, at an average-cost, in the money of that day, of about eight shillings a volume.¹ The books at Turton and at Gorton are still chained, but in a manner that admits of their convenient use. The restoration at Turton is at once a mark of the respect rightly due to a most worthy man, and an honour to those who have been the means of effecting it.

Parochial Libra-
ries in the east-
ern counties.

The Records of the parish of Wisbeach in the county of Sussex tell us that “about the time of the Restoration, the ten Capital Burgesses, towards the encouragement of learning, prepared the chamber over the Church porch ... for the reception of books; and several other gentlemen, at the same time, liberally contributed both money and books.² At Shipdham, in Norfolk, there is

¹ Chetham MSS.; *Bibliographical notices of the Libraries at Turton and Gorton* (Chetham Society, 1855).

² *Catalogue of the Parochial Library of Wisbeach* (1718), preface.

an old Church Library, of uncertain date, which contains, I believe, some early printed books of considerable rarity. At Beeches, too, in the neighbouring county, there are some old books—amongst them the first book of Common Prayer, of King Edward VI.,—long grossly neglected, but of late years put into good order. “About 1835,” wrote the Rev. J. J. Smith, in 1849, “I saw the Library in the Church in a lamentable condition. In 1840, I went there again, and found a room in the town of good size and well fitted up, with a large number of goodly volumes. The beginning had been made by transferring the Church Library, under proper conditions.”¹

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Archbishop Tenison, in March 1684, applied to the Vestry of St. Martin's, in the Fields, of which he was then the exemplary and beloved Vicar, for permission to erect “at his own proper costs and charges,” upon certain ground belonging to the parish, “a fabrick for a public Library,” ... to be for “public use, but especially for the Vicar and Lecturer of the said parish, and the parsons of the parish churches of St. James's and St. Anne's, Westminster;” etc. The application was of course gratefully acceded to. A building was erected, and a deed of settlement executed. Besides building the Library and a schoolhouse beneath it, and presenting a considerable and valuable series of books, the munificent Archbishop gave a thousand pounds in money towards the support of the Library and School. John Evelyn, Sir Paul Ricaut, and Dr. Edmund Gibson,

Tenison Library
in St. Martin's,
Westminster.

¹ MS. Correspondence.

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afterwards Bishop of London, also gave books. At present, the collection amounts to about three thousand volumes; includes many books of high value; and extends over most of the classes usually comprised within a Library of the seventeenth century. But the additions to it have been trivial. There is, in fact, no fund for purchases. Among the MSS. are the *Psychomachia* of Prudentius, a finely illuminated volume of the eleventh century; the *Versarium* of Fortunatus, of similar date; and some Biblical codices, amongst which is an imperfect copy of Wycliffe's Bible. These MSS. are about seventy in number. The general condition of the Library has been greatly improved by the exertions of the Rev. Philip Hale, the present Librarian; but the one practical step which alone will vivificate and fructify Archbishop Tenison's bequest has yet to be taken. Here, as in many other parishes and towns of Britain, clergy and people will have to ponder and discuss Thomas Cromwell's suggestion of the sixteenth century,—that "the charges shall be rateably borne,"—and to bring to the consultation the experience and the legislative appliances of the nineteenth.

Exertions of
Thomas Bray,
D.D., for the for-
mation of
Parochial
Libraries.

In the reign of William and Mary, Dr. Thomas Bray (the founder of the well-known Society for the propagation of the Gospel) commenced the strenuous exertions for the preservation and increase of Parochial Libraries which in his lifetime were attended with con-

¹ Vestry Reports of the Parish of St. Martin's in the Fields (1835); Catalogue of the MSS. in Tenison's Library by S. Ayscough, among the "Additional MSS." in Brit. Mus., No. 5017; *Statutes at large*, I. Annæ Reg. (1702); MS. Correspondence.

siderable success, and have ever since been systematically carried on, although with somewhat less breadth of view than his own. A man of great energy and insight, he was not slow to perceive that the true way to magnify his office lay in redoubling clerical labour, rather than in retaining a surplice, or lighting up an altar, or even in composing elaborate treatises on the "apostolical succession." He saw that for parish work a goodly series of shelves filled with well chosen books were better auxiliaries than the most imposing array of singing-boys that were ever set to chant without knowing how to read. He knew that an unlearned clergyman was nine times in ten an unsuccessful clergyman, and very often an indolent one; that for ministerial work the full head must accompany the soft heart.

Circumstances, not of his own choice, gave a colonial direction to his first conspicuous labours in forming Parochial Libraries. The Commissaryship of Maryland had been pressed upon him. Before accepting the office, he represented to the Bishops, "That none but the poorer sort of clergy could be persuaded to leave their friends, and change their country for one so remote; that such persons could not be able sufficiently to supply themselves with books; that without a competent provision of books they could not answer the design of their mission; that a Library would be the best encouragement for studious men to undertake the service." The great inducement to himself to go, he added, was that he might do as much good as he could: and that, "if they thought fit to encourage and assist him in providing Parochial Libraries, he would then accept the

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Commissary's office." In his labours to this end, he was not unfrequently met with a remark, the force of which he well knew already: "We have poor clergy in England; we want parish Libraries here. Why not begin at home?" He determined to do his utmost for both objects at once. Before setting out for Maryland, he had been the means both of improving old Libraries and of founding new ones in various parts of Britain. Happening on his outward voyage to be driven by stress of weather into Plymouth Sound, he turned the detention to good account by recovering from dust and neglect an old Library¹ in that seaport, which contained, and—probably as the result of what he then did—still contains, some valuable MSS.

Library at Whit-
church, Hants.

In several other instances after his return from Maryland, Dr. Bray augmented church collections which had been founded long before. This, for example, was the case at Whitchurch in Hants, where part of the Library of the old family of Brooke—one of whom was the host of Charles I., at an early stage of the great Civil War,—subsequently augmented by a Vicar of the parish, had been preserved. At one time it included some rare books, but of these few now survive. There is still a valuable assemblage of good divinity and Church History; and not a few curious tracts. The collection extends to 750 volumes, and has been carefully catalogued. It is placed in a vestry, over the door of which is this

¹ A reader desirous of information about this old Library would turn in vain to the marvellous farrago, printed in 1853, and entitled *Catalogue of the Ancient and Modern MSS. in the Public Library, Plymouth*. Notwithstanding its title, no intelligible sentence on the subject is there to be found.

inscription: "For any book borrowed out of this place, the full value thereof shall be laid down in money, untill the same is returned safe and unblemish'd. 1725."

This was five years after the augmentation from Bray's fund, which consisted chiefly of the British divines of the seventeenth century, as Tillotson, Whitby, Blackhall, Dr. Henry More, and the like. Whitchurch Library has long been safe from the grosser injuries which had befallen it in other times; but there is no present prospect of its enlargement. That slenderly endowed vicarage is one of many illustrations of the sad consequences which have followed the spoliation of the national church for the aggrandizement of lay impropiators.

I do not know whether Dr. Bray—himself a Shropshire man—had or had not any direct connection with the foundation, in 1697, of a Parochial Library by Gervase, Lord Pierpoint, who, by an indenture, dated the 23d October in that year, granted certain rents and tithes to Trustees, and, amongst other covenants, directed that the Minister of Tong, for the time being, "might hold and enjoy a certain chamber in Tong Castle, as the same was then furnished with presses and books, together with the free use of the said books, and of such other books as he, the said Lord Pierpoint, should appropriate to the use of the said Minister and his successors." Another deed of 14th August, 1725, sets forth that Evelyn, Duke of Kingston, "hath built a house in Tong ... with a convenient room for a Library. ... And hath caused a catalogue to be made of the books remaining with the Minister, and hath delivered

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the said books to him for the use of himself and his successors. The catalogue thus referred to contained 554 volumes. The Charity Commissioners of 1820 state that "the Library is understood to have been augmented by Mr. Peitier, a former incumbent. It was removed several years ago to the vestry-room. Some additions are occasionally made to it, ... but it does not seem heretofore sufficiently secure against losses."¹

Library of All
Saints Church,
Maidstone.

Maidstone possesses a Library of some antiquity, preserved in the vestry of All Saints Church. At Dr. Bray's death, it was notified that his valuable collection of the works of the Fathers would, in accordance with the direction of his Will, be presented to any town in England, where, within three years after his death (which occurred in 1730), a sum of fifty pounds should be collected for its augmentation. This condition was fulfilled at Maidstone. A catalogue of the collection was made, and published shortly after the receipt of Bray's bequest, which appears to have increased the number of volumes to about eight hundred. Amongst them were *two* copies of Walton's Polyglott Bible.² Here, too, I regret to add, the losses appear to have been very serious.

In the aggregate, sixty-one Church Libraries in England and Wales had been either founded or enlarged by Dr. Bray in his lifetime, with the help of the associates who had joined him in this work, and in that of the American and West Indian missions. To secure the perpetuity of these collections he had induced Lord Chancellor King to prepare and to carry into law an

¹ *Report of the Charity Commissioners*, iii, 258-261.

² *Notes and Queries*, vi, 559.

Act of Parliament “*for the better preservation of Parochial Libraries in that part of Great Britain called England* (7th of Q. Anne c. 14, 1709). The preamble recites that...

“several charitable and well-disposed persons have ... erected Libraries within several parishes and districts in England and Wales, but some provision is wanting to preserve the same, and such others as shall be provided in the same manner, from embezzlement.” Amongst the enactments to this end are the exaction of security from incumbents, and of inspection from the Ordinary; the making of systematic catalogues, and the provision of powers for the recovery of books withheld, or their value.” But the Act leaves these Libraries just as it found them, in respect to that best security of all,—when conjoined with due publicity,—the provision, namely, of some permanent means of increase, the one condition of continued usefulness.

The “Associates of Dr. Bray” continue to be a Corporation. They possess £7500 in the funds, and an estate in Philadelphia. In 1850, the annual income was £454, the greater part of which was applied to the maintenance of colonial schools. At this date, the total number of those small Church Libraries which had been founded or enlarged was one hundred and forty-four.¹

One of the most extensive and efficient Parochial Libraries now in existence, is of comparatively recent foundation. A Countess of Bridgewater (the widow, I

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Act for the pre-
servation of Pa-
rochial Libraries,
1709.

¹ *Statutes at large* (Raithby's edition), iv, 18, 19; Smith, *Life of Thomas Bray, D.D.*, passim; *Report for the year 1850 on the institutions established by the late Dr. Bray and his Associates*, passim; MS. Correspondence.

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Library at Whit-
church, Salop.

believe, of John, third Earl, who died in 1701) purchased what Mr. Botfield describes as "a beautiful Library, from one of the Prestons, and left it as an heirloom to the living." This collection was largely augmented by Francis Henry, Earl of Bridgewater (the donor of the "Egerton MSS." in the British Museum), who, at his death in 1825, bequeathed to the Rector of Whitchurch, in Shropshire, for the time being, the printed portion of his valuable Library; together with the proceeds which might accrue from the sale of the wines in his cellars at Whitchurch, and a further sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to be invested in the name of such Rector, and the dividends expended in the augmentation of the Library. "It consists," wrote the Rev. W. H. Egerton, Rector of Whitchurch," in 1849, "chiefly of Divinity, although there are many valuable works in History, Biography, etc. The Library is not accessible to the Public, except by permission of the Rector, who would probably always rejoice in the circulation of the books among those who would make a careful and proper use of them." The number of volumes is now between three thousand and four thousand (nearly a thousand of these folios), and among them are books of great value.¹

The Library of
Bamburgh
Castle, founded
by Nath. Crewe,
Bishop of
Durham.

Upon a famous spot on the rock-bound coast of Northumberland, there is a Library of considerable value which is accessible to all householders within a district some twenty miles in breadth. Bamburgh Castle stands upon a rugged triangular rock which rises a hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea, and is

¹ MS. Correspondence; Botfield, *Notes on Cathedral Libraries*, *ut supra*, preface.

richly bestrewn with lichens. A place of great strength both from natural position, and skilful fortification, it is on many accounts memorable. It was vainly besieged by William Rufus; was chosen by Edward II. for the hiding-place of Gaveston; was the object of a terrible assault after the battle of Hexham; and was the scene of some of the plottings which resulted in the futile Rebellion of 1715. In recent times, it has been devoted to the shelter and solace of shipwrecked mariners, and to other good works, by the bounty of its last owner, Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, who was Bishop of Durham at the epoch of the Revolution of 1688, and held that See until 1721.

It should, perhaps, rather enhance than lessen the respect due to the public-spirited foundations of this Prelate that they may, to some extent, be regarded as an atonement for serious errors in political conduct during those critical times which preceded the Revolution. Not only did Lord Crewe offer no resistance to the mad projects of that consummate Stuart, James II., but he lent them active furtherance. He had, however, wisdom enough to bend timelily before the storm, and to turn the comparative quietude of his remaining days to better account. He became a munificent friend to Oxford. He set a worthy example of openhanded beneficence and forethought to his successors in the See of Durham. By the purchase of Bamburgh Castle, when forfeited by Thomas Forster, he secured the preservation of an interesting monument of our national history, and connected it for ever with works of civilizing charity.

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Description of
that portion of
Lord Crewe's be-
quest which re-
lates to the
Library.

But here, and now, we have to do only with the literary part of Bishop Crewe's foundations. By his last Will, dated 24 June 1720, he bequeathed his manors at Bamburgh and Blanckland, then of the yearly value of £1312 13s. 5d. (but in 1830 producing a net value of £8126) to Trustees, for various educational and charitable purposes. In the year 1778, the then Trustees under this Will laid the first foundation (according to their own statement) of the Library of Bamburgh Castle, by the purchase of the entire collection of the Rev. Thomas Sharpe, curate of Bamburgh, then lately deceased; and were thus enabled to offer to the neighbourhood, and particularly to the clergy, the use of a considerable number of books in all branches of literature. This purchase was made at the expense of £360, and a Librarian was afterwards appointed, as well for the care of the books as to attend to such applications as might be made for them. Some additions were occasionally made in subsequent years, by the gifts of the Rev. Dr. John Sharpe; but it was not until after his death, which happened April 28, 1792, that the trust acquired the largest and most valuable part of this literary treasure.

Acquisition of
the Library of
Archbishop
Sharpe.

In this liberal donation (then valued at £808 16s. 9d.) is comprehended the most valuable part of the Library of John Sharpe, Archbishop of York. Besides a very comprehensive collection of the most esteemed works in Theology and Ecclesiastical History, the best editions of all the classic authors and of our own historians, it contains a very curious assemblage of tracts and pamphlets, chiefly historical and

controversial, during a period of more than thirty years.

Dr. Sharpe by his Will, dated April 19, 1792, bequeathed his Library in the following terms: "I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Nathaniel, late Lord Crewe, all my books in my Library at Hartburn, and in my house at Durham (excepted as before and hereinafter excepted), which contains the most valuable part of my grandfather's collection, to be kept in Bamburgh Castle. As also all music-books which shall be found at Hartburn and Durham at the time of my decease."

The Regulations for the extension of the use and benefit of the Library at Bamburgh Castle, published about 1810, state that every book may be consulted or read in the room, on the day and within the hours limited for that purpose. No book shall, on any pretence, be lent out of the room to any person who is not qualified as hereafter mentioned; viz. "A well-known housekeeper, usually residing within twenty miles of Bamburgh Castle; a clergyman of the Church of England, dissenting minister, or Roman Catholic priest, appointed to serve any church, chapel, or place of worship within the said distance, though such clergyman, minister, or priest should not be a housekeeper. Every book lent out shall be subject to the demand of any of the Trustees.... All books not demanded shall be returned on or before the 1st of November in every year."¹

¹ *Catalogue of the Library at Bamburgh Castle* (Durham 1810), preface; *Twenty-third Report of the Charity Commissioners*, 130-148; Hutchinson, *History of Durham*, i, 560; *An examination of the life of Nathaniel, Lord Crewe*, passim.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE HISTORY OF THE "PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS" OF 1850 AND 1855.

A willing Legislature could say very many things . . . with effect. And to whatsoever vested "Interest," or such like, stood up, gainsaying merely "I shall lose profits,"—the willing Legislature would answer "Yes; but our sons and daughters will gain health, and life, and a soul."

CARLYLE. *Past and Present*. 355.

Our Ancestors legislated; we write Treatises on Legislation. Without knowing how, they made laws which lived for centuries, and promise to live for centuries to come. We know how,—at least, we do not doubt it,—and yet one seldom expects that any law enacted during the last Session will escape without either revision or repeal the next; beyond which it would be invidious to ask how many members of our Legislature project their minds.

HARE, *Guesses at Truth*, ii, 10.

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Acts.

By the middle of the nineteenth century it had come to be obvious to many minds that if the advantages of Public Libraries were really to be popularized in Britain, some new machinery must be employed. Three hundred years had elapsed, since Bishop Bale's lament that there was not in each English shire, at least one Library "for the preservation of noble works, and preferment of good learning." Another century passed on

with all its mighty changes, but in this particular the most competent witness of that generation had still to note that “we in England are so defective of good Libraries, both ‘among the gentlemen and in our greatest towns,’ that ‘Paris alone, I am persuaded, is able to show more than all the three nations of Great Britain.’” These, it will be remembered, are the words of John Evelyn. Yet another hundred years roll on; by that time, many Englishmen had become great collectors; but again a man whose life had been devoted to books, Thomas Carte, prefixes to one of the chief fruits of his long labours the earnest record of his regret that “there is scarce a great city in those parts of Europe, where learning is at all regarded, that is so destitute of a good Publick Library as London. . . . For the most opulent city upon earth . . . to labour under a defect of this kind looks as if Learning, the friend and the support of Liberty, met here with little encouragement from the Public, however it may be cultivated by private persons.” At this time, the foundation of many private Libraries of the first rank had been begun. Not many years afterwards that of the British Museum was laid by the aggregation of some of these, but the superstructure was of tardy growth. It led to no emulative exertions in the other cities of the realm. It was for the greater part of a century managed after a very drowsy fashion. Most people looked on it as a sort of show-place, amusing and respectable, but of little public moment. Long after its establishment, Edmund Gibbon complains that the writer who “undertakes to treat any large historical subject,” is still reduced to the

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Concurrence of
testimony from
16th to 19th cen-
turies of the pau-
city of Public
Libraries in
England.

necessity of purchasing from his private funds “the books which must form the basis of his work,”—and he registers on an enduring page his opinion that “the greatest city in the world is still destitute of a Public Library;” in the sense, at all events, which he attached to that designation.

We have seen that many Englishmen in all ranks of life had perceived, more or less fully, the importance of such public institutions; had been ambitious of founding such; had been hopeful that those who came after would not be loth to build on their ground-work. We have also seen that not a few, whose projects were bound up with those great Universities which were and are amongst the proudest glories of our land, had had good reason for the hopes they cherished. To what, then, must we ascribe the almost uniform infelicity of so many founders of Libraries in our towns and parishes? Small, as usually were the beginnings they laid; beginnings still smaller had, both in other countries, and in our own under other circumstances, expanded into enduring usefulness. Here we seem to have in presence two groups of facts, closely akin, but of conflicting aspects.

Plausible explanations are not far to seek. But some of them, possibly, are plausible, and nothing more. Silence is often wiser than stuttering speech. One cause of many, however, can be unhesitatingly suggested for what it may be worth. Grand things have been said of Commerce, and things not more grand than true. But the good servant sometimes makes a bad master. The

predominance of the trading instincts is not and cannot be, in the main, favourable to that far-seeing public spirit which looks before *and* after. Mere wealth can command many things, but it cannot, of itself, command either insight or foresight. Without some considerable amount of honest reverence for antiquity, no man ever formed a Library worthy of the name. Without some assured provision of the means of continued increase,—as well as of simple preservation,—no man ever secured to posterity the true advantage of a public Library.

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To those persons, therefore, who took thought of such matters, two principles to start with seemed plain. The one, that the new Libraries should be formed in a Catholic spirit. The other, that they should be freed from all dependence, either on gifts or on current “subscriptions” for their permanent support. The first principle involved the corollary that the new institutions and their management should stand entirely aloof from party influences, in Politics or in Religion. The days of “Church and King Libraries” were as plainly gone by as those of “Calves-Head Clubs.” The second principle involved the corollary that the maintenance must be by rate, levied on the whole tax-paying community, and administered by its elective and responsible functionaries. Both principles, in common, involved a third conclusion as obvious and inevitable as the other two: The new Libraries must know nothing of *Classes* in the community. Supported alike by the taxation of the wealthiest capitalist, and of the humblest ten-pound-householder, they must be so formed, so augmented,

Fundamental
principles of
Town-Libraries.

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and so governed, as to be alike useful to both. They must be in no sense "Professional Libraries," or "Tradesmen's Libraries," or "Working Men's Libraries," but TOWN LIBRARIES. To that end, they must contain, in fair proportions, the books that are attractive to the uneducated and the half-educated, as well as those which subserve the studies and assist the pursuits of the clergyman, the merchant, the politician, and the professional scholar. They must be unrestrictedly open to every visitor. They must offer to all men, not only the practical science, the temporary excitements, and the prevalent opinions of the passing day, but the wisdom of preceding generations; the treasures of a remote antiquity; the hopes and the evidences of the World to come.

Responsibilities
involved in the
opening of large
Libraries to all
classes.

This last clause does not close the sentence by way of a rhetorical flourish. To any man who can think soberly, the sight of a Free Library in a populous town, offering with open doors its thirty or forty thousand volumes to all who choose to enter, must surely at some time suggest the reflection that within those walls many a youth will receive impressions which, by the necessity of a God-appointed law, shall determine his character, and his influence upon the characters of others, during all time and all eternity. If this be a truth, there flows from it the direct contradiction of what has been repeatedly asserted and applauded as a sound principle in the management of Libraries to which the "working classes" are to have access, namely, that "Politics" and "Theology" should be *excluded*; or that, if they cannot be absolutely excluded, at least they

should be kept in the utmost possible degree of subordination.

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It is obvious, I may presume, that when this subject was at length, in 1848, brought under the notice of Parliament, it was ripe for legislation, as well as for historical and statistical inquiry. In truth, it is a marvel that amidst the multifarious investigations by Parliamentary Committees which had been so freely set on foot, especially during the preceding forty years, this matter escaped. It had scarcely been even glanced at, save in regard to an individual institution or two. The notice for a Select Committee was given in the House of Commons, by Mr. William Ewart, Member for the Dumfries Burghs, in the autumn of 1848, for the coming Session. Returns were also moved for in relation to those Libraries which were partially supported by the Copy-tax.

Select Committee
appointed to in-
quire respecting
Public Libraries.
(1849.)

During a long parliamentary career, Mr. Ewart had uniformly evinced a keen interest in questions of social science, and had already conferred eminent services on the Public in respect to not a few such. Three years before, he had carried a Bill, enabling Town Councils to maintain (although not to form) Museums of Science or Art. To the Libraries question his attention had been drawn more especially by a paper prepared for the Statistical Society of London in 1847, and printed in its *Journal*, of March 1848, under the title of *A Statistical View of Public Libraries in Europe and America*. In this paper a view of the national deficiencies on this head which had been previously enforced by a concurrence

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of unexceptionable testimony from eminent authors, was thrown as much as possible into the plain language of figures. Crude in method, and very imperfect in detail, the statement fully answered its purpose by arousing more attention to the subject than had ever before been given to it in England. It was followed up by the circulation in all parts of the United Kingdom, as well as in the chief cities of the Continent, of a series of questions respecting the management, funds, extent, and results of Public Libraries, which were responded to by a mass of information that far exceeded the hopes of the seeker. The facts thus collected were laid before Mr. Ewart's Committee in the spring of 1849.

Terms of Reference to Libraries Committee of 1849, as originally proposed.

The proposed terms of reference to that Committee were thus framed by its mover: "That a Select Committee be appointed on existing Public Libraries in Great Britain and Ireland, and on the best means of extending the establishment of Libraries freely open to the Public, especially in large towns." Sir George Grey advanced certain objections to the words "existing Public Libraries in Great Britain and Ireland." He professed his acquiescence in the more general inquiry, but was pleased to criticize the mover's speech in a style which is unquestionably his own, whatever the objections may have been: "*Nothing could be worse than the extremely vague and indefinite manner in which the Honourable Gentleman had spoken of these institutions.*

Objections of the Home Secretary to the proposed terms, as framed by Mr. Ewart.

I do not collect from his remarks any definition of what should be considered a Public Library, and what should not. The Hon. Gentleman has referred to the Advocates

Library of Edinburgh; the Bodleian Library, at Oxford; and to the Deanery and Parochial Libraries, but *I do not think that either of those which he has enumerated comes within the definition of Public Libraries.*"¹

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That it should have been made clearly apparent that the great National Library was not properly within the scope of Mr. Ewart's motion, was for the public advantage. To many, the exception appeared self-evident, since the existence of the Royal Commission on the affairs of the British Museum was matter of public notoriety, and had been officially announced to the House of Commons. It was obvious that no real benefit could result from inquiries by a Parliamentary Committee into matters which at the same moment were under the investigation of the Queen's Commissioners. For the same reason it was undesirable to discuss the management of the English University Libraries, except as respected the working of the Copy-tax.

But what ground was there for excluding, or attempting to exclude from the inquiry the "Library of the Faculty of Advocates," or the "Cathedral and Parochial Libraries" of the country? To the former every author and every publisher in the United Kingdom is a contributory by law. Many of the latter were expressly devoted by their founder to public uses. How little ground there was for assuming beforehand that "Parochial Libraries," for example, were under such good management as to need no examination, may be made apparent (if it be not already apparent) in few words, by the independent testimony of many recent witnesses of their

Proofs of the
groundlessness of
the proposed ex-
emption from in-
quiry of
Parochial
Libraries.

¹ Hansard, Third Series, ciii, 751. (Debate of 15 March 1849.)

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condition, each speaking of some church or parish with which he is familiar:—

Swaffham
Library.

“About seven years ago,” wrote a correspondent to the editor of *Notes and Queries*, “I found the collection of books at Swaffham, in Norfolk, in a most disgraceful state, covered with dust and the dung of mice and bats. Many of the books were torn from their bindings.”¹ “About ten years since,” writes another cor-

Reepham
Library.

respondent, several works with the inscription ‘*Reepham Church Library*,’ were sold indiscriminately with the Rector’s books.”² Speaking of the Parochial Library at

Boston Library.

Boston, in Lincolnshire, “I have been informed,” says the Rev. Thomas Collis, “by a gentleman that he remembers two or more cart-loads of books being sold by the Church wardens... at waste-paper price.”³ The

Beccles Library.

room, says Mr. Rix, in which the Beccles Library was kept “was used as a repository for discarded ecclesiastical appliances and, latterly, for charity blankets during summer.”⁴ Of about 800 volumes in the Parochial

Maidstone
Library.

Library at Maidstone “no less than one-eighth were missing or decayed.”⁵ Finally, Dr. Maitland, who had taken unusual pains to make himself acquainted with the contents and condition of Church Libraries, said, in 1849: “There are [or were] books up and down the country, . . . thousands of books, which . . . have been lying rotting, and have been destroyed, and made away with, in a great many instances, by those who did not

¹ *Notes and Queries*, vii, 438.

² *Ibid.* 392.

³ *Ibid.* vii, 507.

⁴ *Ibid.* viii, 62.

⁵ *Ibid.* vi, 559.

know their value.”¹ What sort of immunity was due to the managers of the old Town Libraries at Norwich, Leicester and Bristol, has been sufficiently shown already.

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Under the modified terms of reference, however, the Committee was appointed. The Inquiry began on the 19th April 1849, under the presidency of Mr. Ewart (who had been called to the chair at the preliminary meeting of the 30th March). The examination of witnesses continued until the 12th of June. To give even the briefest analysis of the evidence would occupy too much space for the present purpose. It must suffice to sum up the results in the words of the Report; premising by way of an illustration of the acumen of Sir George Grey, that Her Majesty’s Solicitor General for Scotland, a Member of the House, thought it so important *not* to exclude from the Inquiry the management of the “Library of the Faculty of Advocates” that he volunteered his own evidence on that branch of the subject. “It has always,” he said, “appeared to me to possess one very important characteristic as a *public* Library, insofar as it enjoys a public right in the privilege of Stationers’ Hall.”²

Course of the
Inquiry of 1849.

In abstracting the leading points established by the evidence, the Committee reports that of the very numerous Continental Libraries “it may be generally stated that admission is granted unrestrictedly; to the poor as well as to the rich; to the foreigner as well as to the native. We have, it is stated, only one Library

The Committee’s
Report.

¹ *Minutes of Evidence taken before the Commissioners on the British Museum* (1849), 502. Q. 7826.

² *Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Public Libraries* (1849), 93.

in Great Britain equally accessible with these numerous Libraries abroad. ... Nor is this contrast displayed by the European Continent alone. Our younger brethren, the people of the United States of America, have already anticipated us in the formation of Libraries ... entirely open to the Public... Every witness examined on the subject has given an opinion favourable to the grant of assistance on certain strict .. conditions, by the Government, for the formation of Public Libraries. This is one of those cases in which a comparatively small aid may accomplish a large portion of public good. ... The principle is recognized in our votes for Schoolhouses, and for Schools of Design. ... Your Committee further recommend that a power be given by Parliament, enabling Town Councils to levy a small rate for the creation and support of Town Libraries.... Your Committee feel convinced that the people of a country like our own,—abounding in capital, in energy, and in an honest desire, not only to initiate, but to imitate, whatsoever is good and useful,—will not long linger behind the people of other countries, in the acquisition of such valuable institutions as freely accessible Public Libraries. Our present inferior position is unworthy of the power, the liberality, and the literature of the country.”¹

On the 14th of February, 1850, Mr. Ewart moved the House of Commons for leave to introduce *A Bill for enabling Town Councils to establish Public Libraries and Museums*, by levying a rate not exceeding one halfpenny in the pound, on the general assessmount of the town.

¹ *Report of the Select Committee, etc. ut supra. iv-xiv.*

The Bill was introduced accordingly, and reached its second reading on the 13th of March. The debate at that stage was as curious a senatorial exhibition as the most devoted frequenter of "Mr. Speaker's Gallery," or the most patient reader of *Hansard*, could well light upon. Its cream was furnished, as might have been anticipated, by the Goulburns, the Sibthorps, and the Spooners. A little space must needs be accorded to the oratory elicited by a legislative proposal, which at this distance of time seems to have had at least the merit of inoffensiveness. Poor Colonel Sibthorp, whose like, in the House of Commons, "we ne'er shall look upon again," began the opposition by expressing his conviction that "however excellent food for the mind might be, food for the body was now most wanted for the people. *I do not like reading at all, and hated it when I was at Oxford, but I cannot see how a halfpenny in the pound will be enough to enable Town Councils to carry into effect the immense power they are to have by this Bill. I strongly object to the clause enabling them to borrow money on the credit of the Borough Rates. . . . I should be very glad to give my mite to provide the City of Lincoln [for which he sat] with the benefits of a Library;*" thereupon he moved the rejection of the Bill, and was seconded by Mr. Buck, who assured the House that "the additional taxation which the Bill proposes *at a time when the nation is so generally impoverished*, is considered a great grievance by the manufacturing as well as the landed interest of the country." Mr. Goulburn kept up the ball by telling the House that "as an innocent man," he certainly had thought

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Debate on second
reading of Public
Libraries Bill.
(March 1850.)

Specimens of the
Logic of the Op-
ponents. (Debate,
March, 1850.)

that "books always formed part of what was necessary for the enjoyment of a Library.... All that the fund would be able to provide would be the daily and weekly newspapers, and the Library would thus become a mere news-room which only those well-to-do people who had plenty of leisure ... would be able to avail themselves of; although the poorer rate-payers, who would have either no time for reading or might live at a considerable distance, ... would yet have to bear their full share of the expense." "But again," pursued the Rt. Hon. Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, "suppose the Town Council had a small sum to purchase books with, who is to have the power of selection? *Shall there be an unrestricted preservation of all those publications daily emanating from the press which certainly are not calculated to promote the preservation either of public order or of public morals?* Or was there to be supervision of the different works to be introduced, thereby introducing a *kind of Censorship?*" In a word, Mr. Goulburn objected to the Bill, because it did not give sufficient powers really to form a Library, and added that he should object to it still more strongly if it did. Mr. Bernal chimed in with his fellow-obstructives by remarking that the Bill would "enable any Town Council, desirous of carrying into effect the views of any small section of the inhabitants, to tax the general body of rate-payers for an institution which might soon degenerate into a mere political club."

The distinguished statesman who at present (April, 1858) presides over the "Office of Works," Lord John Manners, assured the House that he "had himself been

desirous to introduce a Bill for providing *Greens* and places of amusement for the Public," but could not support the proposed 'Libraries Bill,' because he "thought it would impose an additional tax upon—the *agricultural labourers, whose wages had been decreased by recent legislation.*" Mr. Spooner's benevolent anxieties on the other hand, were chiefly aroused on the behalf of "Farmers and other out-residents in a borough, who could not use the Library, but would be taxed for its support;" and "he almost feared that by the institution of lectures hereafter, these Libraries might be converted into Normal Schools of Agitation;" and in this fear, Sir Robert Harry Inglis expressed his participation. Finally, Mr. Roundell Palmer was "most apprehensive that the moment the *compulsory* principle was introduced, a positive check would be imposed upon the voluntary self-supporting desire for knowledge which at present existed amongst the people." After this brilliant exhibition of Parliamentary logic, a division was taken. The Ayes were 118; the Noes 101.¹

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On the motion for going into Committee (10th April), another division gave 99 Ayes, and 64 Noes; Mr. Buck having previously announced that "if the Bill proceeded, he should certainly demand the exemption of the Agricultural Interest from the liabilities it created."² The opposition was pertinaciously continued at every subsequent stage, but the patience of the reader need scarcely be further taxed with its dreary jargon. That of the promoters was sorely tried. The Bill did not

Further Debate.
(April 1850.)

¹ Hansard, cix, 838-851.

² Ibid., cx, 154-164.

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pass the House of Commons until the end of July. Four additional divisions were taken (making six in all), and several modifications were thrust into the Bill (some of which, as we shall see, had to be removed by subsequent legislation). The measure, however, went at length to the House of Lords; passed that House without opposition; and received the Royal assent, on the 14th of August. In all respects it was a law simply permissive.

The working of the new Act will form the subject of the following chapter. Here, it may suffice to say that, with all its imperfections, it was the germ of much good. The most glaring omission, that namely, which left the formation of the Library to chance gifts by precluding the purchase of a single book with municipal funds, whilst the guardians of those funds were permitted, if they pleased, to incur a lavish expenditure for buildings and bookcases, was, sometimes, (as respects individual towns,) remedied by the obtainment of special powers under Local Acts. The remedy, of course, was both clumsy and costly. But it was felt that the Libraries Act, however crude, contained the seeds of a wiser legislation for the future; of a legislation, in a word, that sooner or later would place rate-supported Schools, side by side with rate-supported Libraries and Museums.

Connection of the
principle of the
Libraries Act
with the Educa-
tion Controversy.

It was needless, and would have been injudicious, under such circumstances, to have widened the discussion to its true dimensions. But save on the hypothesis that some of the opponents perceived the bearings of the Libraries Bill on the bitterly contested question of

National Education, the pertinacious obstruction of an enactment which simply *permitted* the burgesses of a Town to maintain a Library, out of their own funds, by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority, would scarcely be intelligible. If, however, a rate for Libraries should in its working prove a wise and beneficent measure; could a rate for Schools be the reverse? If, on the other hand, it be right to keep our Schools in the murky atmosphere of a narrow and jealous Sectarianism, why should our Libraries be brought into the free air of a broad and trustful Catholicism? This, in truth, was the question which tacitly underlay the whole controversy.

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The only main points in the machinery of the Act of 1850, not already indicated, are these:—(1.) The initiative was left in the hands of the Town Councils who, giving proper notice and complying with the prescribed forms; could poll the burgesses on the question: ‘Will you adopt the Libraries Act,—Aye or No?’ (2.) The amount expended in any one year must not exceed one halfpenny in the pound “on the annual value of the property in the borough rateable to the borough-rate.” (3.) The Town Councils might borrow money to buy lands or erect buildings, on the security of the borough-rates.

The most prominent defects in the Act were these:—
I. The narrow limits assigned to the rate: (1.) in its maximum point; (2.) in its application; II. the restriction of the Act to Corporate Towns; III. the further restriction of it to such Corporate Towns only as contained a population of 10,000 inhabitants.

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Discussion on
Second Libraries
Act (for Eng-
land), 1850.

On the 20th March 1854, Mr. Ewart moved for leave to introduce a "Bill to amend and extend an Act for enabling Town Councils to establish Libraries and Museums, freely open to the Public;" but various delays and difficulties prevented the successful prosecution of the measure until the next session of Parliament. When the discussion was then resumed, the tone of official men was singularly changed. Sir George Grey was silent. The Rt. Hon. President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Cardwell) expressed his conviction that "the whole country was greatly indebted to the Hon. Gentleman for the pains he had taken with this subject." The Rt. Hon. President of the Poor Law Board was of opinion that "these institutions had been most beneficial;" and added that his constituents "were extremely anxious for the extension of the principle." Mr. Lowe gave similar testimony. The active opposition was almost confined to Mr. Spooner and to Mr. Buck. The latter resisted any reduction in the limit of population. The former characteristically opposed the extension to "newspapers" of the powers of *purchase* proposed to be conferred on Town Councils by the new Bill. It might have, he said, a "tendency to convert the Libraries into mere Newspaper Reading-Rooms and Sedition Shops." On this objection a division was taken. The Ayes (in favour of the Bill as it stood) were 64; the Noes 22.¹

The new Act received the Royal assent on the 30th of July 1855. It is entitled; *An Act for further promoting the establishment of Free Public Libraries and Museums in*

¹ Hansard, cxxxviii, 207-221.

Municipal Towns, and for extending it to Towns governed under Local Improvement Acts, and to Parishes. This Act applies (first), to all Municipal Boroughs in England, the population of which, at the latest Census, shall have exceeded *five thousand persons*; (secondly), to all Districts possessing a Board of Improvement Commissioners, or any body of Trustees, by whatever name they may be designated, acting in the execution of any statute for cleaning, paving, lighting, or other similar purposes, and having a like population exceeding 5000 persons; (thirdly), to any parish having such a population; and (fourthly), to any two or more neighbouring parishes having an aggregate population exceeding five thousand persons, the vestries of which parishes may choose to unite for the purpose of establishing a public Library. It repeals the preceding English Act of 1850, but enacts that all Libraries founded under that Act shall be maintained under the provisions of the present Act.

In order to the adoption of the Act in any such Borough, District, Parish, or union of Parishes, a public meeting,—in Boroughs, of the burgesses; in Districts, of the persons assessed to the Improvement Rate; in Parishes, of the persons assessed to the Poor Rate;—must have been duly convened, after at least ten days' notice (by the Mayor, Commissioners, or Overseers of the Poor, as the case may be,) and the proposition for its adoption must have been voted for by at least *two-thirds* of the persons then present. Immediately after such a vote, duly recorded, the Act comes into operation. If the decision of the meeting be adverse, one year

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Principal Provisions of the
Present Public
Libraries Act
(for England).

must elapse before the re-mooting of the question; but, whatever the decision, the expenses of the meeting are to be defrayed out of the Borough Fund, Improvement Fund, or Poor Rates, respectively.

The Act having been adopted in a Borough or Improvement District, the Town Council or Improvement Board may defray the expenses of carrying it into execution out of the Borough Rate or Improvement Rate, or they may levy a separate Rate, to be called the "Library Rate," provided that in either case such expenses, or such separate Rate, shall not exceed *One Penny in the Pound* on the rateable value of the property assessed. If the Rate be a separate one, the modes of levy, appeal, and recovery, are to be subject to the Clauses of the "Towns' Improvement Clauses Act" of 1847. In all cases the Library accounts must be separately kept, and be publicly accessible.

When the Act shall have been adopted in a Parish, the Vestry must appoint not less than three nor more than nine rate-payers, to be Commissioners for carrying the Act into execution, and such Commissioners become a body corporate, and are designated "*The Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the Parish of ——*." One-third of such Commissioners must go out of office yearly by ballot, but are re-eligible. They must meet monthly, must keep minutes and accounts, which latter must be duly audited and reported to the Vestry. For defrayment of the expenses, the vestry must levy a Rate (not exceeding One Penny in the Pound) in like manner as a Poor-Rate, but with a proviso that occupiers of lands used solely for agri-

culture shall be rated only for one-third part of the net annual value. If adopted by the Vestries of two or more contiguous parishes, no more than three Commissioners shall be appointed for each parish.

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The general management and control of Libraries and Museums thus established, and all real and personal property therein, are, in a Borough, vested in the Council; in a District, in the Board; in a Parish, in the Commissioners. The Council, Board, or Commissioners may delegate their powers to a Committee (the members whereof may or may not be members of such Council, &c.) "who may from time to time purchase Books, Newspapers, Maps, Specimens of Art and Science, Fuel, Lighting, and other similar matters," and may "appoint salaried officers and servants, and dismiss the same, and make Rules and Regulations for the safety and use of the Libraries and Museums, and for the admission of the Public," which admission, however, must be "free of all charge." Powers are also given to rent or purchase lands (subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Treasury), to erect new buildings, or to purchase, adapt, and fit up old buildings for the reception of books or other collections; and to borrow money on mortgage in order thereto; subject to the provisions of the "Companies Clauses Consolidation Act," 1845. And there is a further clause making special provision for the adoption of the Act in the City of London, with the sanction of a meeting duly convened (by the Lord Mayor) of all persons rated to the Consolidated Rate, out of which rate all the expenses of carrying the Act into execution are to be defrayed.

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How these Acts of 1850 and 1855 have borne the tests of time and experience, and what results have, thus far, accrued under their operation, it will be the purpose of the succeeding chapter to indicate.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE WORKING OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS OF 1850 AND 1855.

Separation between "Class" and "Class" is the great curse of British society; for which we are all more or less, in our respective spheres, responsible. It is more complete in Manufacturing than in Agricultural districts. . . . But I am afraid we all of us keep too much aloof from those beneath us; and this encourages them to look upon us with suspicion and dislike. . . . The great want of English society is the mingling of class with class; the want of sympathy.

TALFOURD (*Charge to the Grand Jury at Stafford* [at the moment of his death], 13 March 1854.)

In educational matters, it is the best economy in the end to make "Saving" not the principal but a secondary consideration. - A man, whose mind is always bent upon "Saving," will be sure to do things imperfectly and insufficiently; to leave errors and arrears; and to provoke a certain re-action towards lavish expenditure.

THE TIMES (23rd March 1857).

§ 1.—GENERAL VIEW OF THE RECEPTION OF THE ACT IN ENGLISH TOWNS.

THE first Library established under the "Public Libraries Act," of 1850, was that of Manchester. The preliminary subscription towards the expenses of its foundation had been set on foot, whilst the Bill was still pending in the House of Commons, by Sir John Potter, now one of the Representatives of the City, of

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First steps taken
towards Free
Libraries, in
1850.

which he was then Mayor. Small but useful collections of books had previously been formed, chiefly by donation, at Warrington and at Salford (both in Lancashire), as appendages to Museums maintained under the provisions of the "Museums Act" of 1845. The Town of Warrington adopted this Act in 1848, and obtained the transfer to the Corporation of a Museum of Natural History, and of a small Library (formed in 1760), both of which had belonged to Societies. The Borough of Salford adopted the Museum Act in 1849, mainly at the recommendation of its late esteemed Member, Mr. Brotherton, who from the first had taken a keen interest in the inquiries of the Public Libraries Committee, of which he was an assiduous member. Mr. Brotherton wisely thought that whether it were, or were not, strictly legal to maintain, for a time, a Library out of the Museum rate, it could not be wrong to lay a foundation, the means for building on which were sure to come ere long. And his project was warmly supported and efficiently carried out by the Mayor and Council of the Borough, with the help of a liberal public subscription.

Liverpool speedily followed the example of its neighbours. Here, the Town Council took the initiative, by granting on the motion of Mr. J. A. Picton, a Committee "to inquire into and report on the propriety of establishing a Free Public Library in the Town of Liverpool." Here, also, a subscription was raised under the auspices of the Town Council, with a view to opening and maintaining the Library under "Ewart's Act" of 1850. But in the mean time, the munificent bequest by Edward, thirteenth Earl of Derby, of a Museum of

Natural History, rendered it desirable to obtain larger powers. The Local Act, known as the "Liverpool Library and Museum Act," was therefore obtained in May 1852, and under its provisions, the *Library* was formally opened on the 18th of the following October. The *Museum* was opened on the 8th March 1853, the centenary of the birth of William Roscoe, a celebration which will not easily be forgotten by those who had the gratification of taking part in it.

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The first English city, out of Lancashire, in which the adoption of the Act of 1850 was proposed, was Norwich, where a poll was taken on the 27th September in that year. The votes for the adoption of the Act were 150; the votes against it, 7. A few months afterwards, a similar proposal was made in another Cathedral City,—Exeter. The Burgesses were polled on the 27th of March 1851, when 971 votes were recorded; of which 118 were in favour of the adoption of the Act, and 853 were against it. The proposal was therefore negatived by a majority exceeding seven to one.

In the course of 1851 and the subsequent years, the Burgesses of the following Cities and Towns (with those of some lesser places) were polled upon the same question:—Winchester; Sheffield (twice); Cambridge; Birmingham; Bolton; and Oxford. The poll at Manchester was not taken until August 1852, when a Library of 21,000 volumes had been gathered, chiefly by purchase, and was in complete working order. The several results of these polls will be most compactly shown in a tabular form, which may include those already mentioned. The statement will then run thus:—

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Comparative
statement of the
Polls taken under
the Libraries
Acts.

POLLS TAKEN ON THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE ACT OF 1850.				
Date of Poll.	Name of City or Town.	Votes taken:—		
		For.	Against.	Total.
September 27, 1850	NORWICH	150	7	157
March 27, 1851	EXETER	118	853	971
. 1851	WINCHESTER	337	13	350
. 1851	SHEFFIELD	104	294	398
March 26, 1852	BOLTON	662	55	717
April 7, 1852	BIRMINGHAM	363	534	897
August 20, 1852	MANCHESTER	3,962	40	4,002
March 1, 1853	CAMBRIDGE	873	78	951
. 1853	OXFORD	596	72	668
October 6, 1853	SHEFFIELD [2. Poll]	838	232	1,070
October 17, 1854	HERTFORD	62	4	66
February 26, 1856	KIDDERMINSTER	108	11	119
May 19, 1856	ST. MARGARET & ST. JOHN WESTMINSTER	81	3	84
December 15, 1856	LEAMINGTON	94	20	114

Under the Act of 1855, a poll is not necessary to the legal decision of the question, "Shall the Act be adopted?" The vote of a duly-convened meeting is sufficient. But the former is the preferable mode, and it is now evident that on this point the alteration was no improvement. By such a vote,—that is, by simple show of hands, the several proposals to introduce the Act into the City of London; into the Metropolitan Parishes of Islington, Paddington, and Marylebone, and into the Borough of Chettenham, have been, for the time, negatived. As respects the City of London, the failure of the proposal, in the hands which then dealt with it, was inevitable. Great lack of judgment (not to say, with some, mere puerile vanity,) led to the proposal being thrust upon the citizens during the last four days of a Mayoralty,—that of Sir F. G. Moon,—

Obstruction of
the proposal to
introduce the Act
into the City
of London.
(5 Nov. 1855.)

without the employment of the most ordinary means of arousing opinion amongst the Livery, of securing the expression of that opinion in the Common Hall, or even of ensuring the attendance there of any adequate number of the prominent citizens, known to be friendly to the measure. In a word, had the "arrangements" been an "invention of the enemy," they would have merited eulogy for skilful adaptation to their end. Amongst the arguments adduced by the opponents, the following is noticeable.—Mr. Alderman Sidney "feared that the rate of £4000, if levied, would not benefit 2000 persons, as all the literary institutions hitherto established in the City had been signal failures. *The fact was that the Working Classes required no patronage from the Middle or any other Class, and would be best pleased in being permitted to act independently for themselves.*" Here we have but a reproduction, with variations, of "arguments" which had been previously ventilated in a more conspicuous assembly.

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Untruthful objections to good measures have not infrequently vitality enough to do harm, even when they have failed of their immediate purpose. As far as concerns those large towns in which the Libraries Act is, for a long time to come, likely to have its chief influence, no misrepresentation could be more certain to impede its efficient working than this. To trick it out as a measure of "patronage" and "gratuity," was at once to arouse class jealousies, and to strike at the root—the common advantage, namely, of *all* classes—which can alone permanently vindicate such legislation. Under any circumstances it would have had to stand

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the brunt of the dislike of the smaller shopkeepers (often really struggling under heavy local burdens), and of the still more inveterate aversion of a majority of the owners of what is termed, in many places, "cottage property." This last-named section of the Community is usually, and in the main, the implacable opponent of every thorough-going sanitary or educational improvement; the sure stronghold of ignorant prejudice and obstinate donothingism. To add to this adverse influence, so powerful in itself, another in the shape of the reasonable dislike of the artisan population to be "patronized," was an effective combination. It was occasionally aided by the mistakes of some good friends to Free Libraries, whose zeal had not been sufficiently seconded by mature reflection.

Principles which
must govern the
levying of a
Library Rate.

It cannot be too often repeated that the levying of a Library rate on the whole body of rate-payers, for the benefit of one section only of that body, would be unsound in principle. Such a measure can be permanently justified solely on the ground that the existence of Town Libraries is for the benefit of the whole body of townspeople; that a rate is the cheapest, the fairest, and the most enduring method of support; and that to prefer to it the old system of proprietary shares and annual subscriptions, or of those mingled (as in the case of so many "Literary Institutions," and the like,) with occasional appeals to private bounty, is a conclusion which is already in a fair way to be esteemed a mark of as wise a love of "independence," as would be evinced in trusting our street-paving to voluntary contributions, and exchanging our system of gas-lamps

for a few charitable lanterns. It is from this point of view that I believe the proviso which requires a majority of not less than two-thirds of all who vote, before the Act in question can be adopted, to be a judicious one. The step once taken cannot be retraced. It ought not, therefore, to be taken by a mere surprise, or piece of temporary adroitness; but should be a deliberate act, adopted after ample discussion. The necessity of obtaining a very decided majority will usually prove an excellent stimulus towards the creation of an enlightened public opinion.

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Subsequently to the adverse decision in London, the Libraries Act has been adopted at Lichfield, Birkenhead, and Leamington. At Hull its proposed adoption was negatived in a very turbulent meeting, where great use was made of "arguments" closely resembling those employed by Mr. Alderman Sidney. At Preston (Lancashire), preliminary steps for the introduction of the Act have been taken.—"At the present time," wrote the Town Clerk, in April 1857, "the inhabitants of Preston have raised, by voluntary subscriptions, upwards of £2000, and as soon as the sum of 3000 is raised, it is intended to take some steps under the Public Libraries Act."

On the whole, therefore, it will appear that the Act has been already adopted in seventeen towns, including our greatest seaport, our largest inland City, and both the old University-Towns of England. Its adoption has been negatived in eight. The Libraries established under it in Manchester, Salford, and Liverpool are con-

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siderable enough to warrant some special details. How the infant Libraries of other towns have worked, thus far, may be briefly indicated by a few sentences, chiefly from returns recently laid before the House of Commons:—

Testimony as to
the working of
the smaller Li-
braries estab-
lished under the Act.

At Cambridge the "Committee of the Town Council have every reason to be satisfied with the general results which have been obtained. They contemplate the formation of a Lending Library in addition to the present Library of Reference." At Oxford, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Alderman Sadler, says: "I have pleasure in declaring that the establishment of the Free Public Library has, in my judgment, proved of more real benefit, and has rendered more solid advantages, . . . than any other measure which has been adopted during the forty years of my public life." "We need in Oxford," writes also a distinguished member of the University, Dr. Acland (Radcliffe Librarian), "nothing more at present, in this respect, except increased space for the City Library, and the further developement of its resources."¹ "The general results of the establishment of the Library," says the Corporation of Bolton, "have been most satisfactory, and the increased provision lately made by the Legislative will be of great advantage." And that of Sheffield: "The results hitherto have been most cheering and satisfactory." And again that of Hertford: "The results have been favourable; the attendance in the reading-room large; and the demand for books very general. It is proposed as soon as possible to construct a suite of rooms for the purposes of the Library."

¹ Acland, *Memoir on the Cholera at Oxford*, 152 (4to, Oxford 1855).

§ 2.—THE CITY LIBRARY OF MANCHESTER.

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The public subscription which was raised for the *foundation* of this Library, and for placing it in a freehold building, fully adapted for its purpose, and in working order, amounted to £12,823. Of this sum nearly £5000 was raised by the personal exertions of Sir John Potter, and £2000 was contributed by the Overseers of the Township of Manchester, being part of a larger sum which had accrued in their hands from interest-monies on unexpended balances. The subscription-list included persons of every degree in the Community and neighbourhood, and sums which varied from five hundred pounds to one shilling. Clergymen and Dissenting Ministers of all denominations lent their aid to the project, which from the first had also enlisted the earnest advocacy of the local newspapers of all shades of opinion, without exception.

Almost the first step taken was the purchase of a suitable building and site, for the sum of £2147 (which was somewhat less than the estimated value of the "chief" or ground-rent). The cost of adapting it to its new purpose was £3700, and that of supplying it with shelves and furniture, nearly £1200. The total original expenditure, under these heads, amounted to £7013.

The building chosen possessed a curious history. It, too, had been raised by a large subscription; chiefly amongst artisans and mill-workers, in those palmy days of "Owenism," when the old Christian world was about to give place to a "New Moral World," constructed on the unpatented inventions of Robert Owen. Mr. Owen

Curious history
of the Library
building.

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himself had laid, with great solemnity, its foundation-stone. In those days, we were gravely assured that Commerce would speedily make way for Communism; an imperfectly developed Christianity for an avowedly anti-christian but enlightened pursuit of self-interest. Ultimately, all men were to live in strict equality, in "parallelograms," built after one pattern, and differing only in being dotted more or less thickly over the length and breadth of the country. Vice was to disappear simply by improving men's "circumstances." Churches were to become superfluities; Libraries to be restricted within very small dimensions. In a word, the Past was to be forgotten; and the Future to take care of itself.

In Manchester, as elsewhere, this marvellous scheme of social polity had an existence noisy but brief. The temple of the "New Morals" soon fell into bad hands, and was applied to practices involving gross immorality, and unhappily of an antiquity but too notorious. When acquired for the proposed Library, it had become an almost intolerable public nuisance.

Character and
 cost of the books
 purchased in
 1851.

The number of volumes purchased out of the original fund as the nucleus around which the future Library was to be gathered, amounted to 18,028. Their cost was £4156, a sum which in the opinion of competent judges would have fallen far short of acquiring so valuable a collection, but for the marked effect produced on the book-sales of 1851, by the engrossing interest of the "Great Exhibition." It included an extensive series of works on British History; sets of the chief political and literary journals in the English language; an excellent selection of books on the literature of Com-

merce, and about two thousand volumes of "Voyages and Travels." In every other department of literature and science, it had but the mere rudiments of a collection.

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From the first there was an earnest effort to make the new Library pre-eminently strong in the department of "Politics," using that term in the expanded sense which includes "Commerce" as one of its branches. Besides the vast importance of this subject, and its bearings on the staple pursuits and prominent interests of the Community immediately concerned, the choice was a right one also on the ground that no class of literature had been so little cared for in the pre-existing Libraries of the Town. Marked as "the Manchester School" of Politics,—if I may use a phrase very popular, but not very accurate,—had recently become, there were not many places in which it was so hard a task, a few years ago, to meet with political information. Occasionally, the hasty pursuit of knowledge "under difficulties" might there have been curiously illustrated.

Some favourable opportunities offered for the collection, in and after 1851, not alone of the political literature of our own day, but of that of past generations, and more especially for gathering the materials of that future "History of British Commerce," almost every chapter of which has yet to be written.

About a century and a half ago, there came to London an industrious Dane, with very few pence in his pocket, but with a good head on his shoulders, and with habits of steady perseverance in work. Mr. Nicholas Magens prospered in his commercial enterprises, and studied commerce, both as a calling and as a science.

The Magens
Commercial
Library

He assisted in the formation of the well-known *Commerz Bibliothek* at Hamburgh. At his death, he left to his heirs a considerable fortune, and also a considerable commercial Library, rich in those ephemeral tracts which throw light on some of the problems and obscurities of history, and which, if not cared for, when to common eyes they seem worthless, are usually lost for ever. This collection continued in the family, by way of heir-loom, until the death of the late Mr. Dorrien Magens, a well-known banker. The bulk of it was then acquired for the City Library of Manchester. The exception consisted in a few extremely curious tracts on the colonial affairs of British North America, which were now to travel thither, as so many of their companions had already done.

To this foundation were added considerable selections of political tracts from the Library of Mr. Thomas Harrison, a late Commissioner of Inland Revenue; of Lord Langdale, the late Master of the Rolls; of Mr. Drummond Hay; of Mr. Francis Place; of Mr. James Thomson, of Clitheroe; and from some minor collections.

Since the transfer of the Library to the Corporation, advantage has been taken of every opportunity of increasing this tract collection, that came within the scope of the small means which alone were available for the purpose. But in this direction, even slight funds, if combined with constant watchfulness, may do much. The collection in question has been nearly trebled within the last five years; selections having been made from the Libraries of the late Lord Bexley (for many years Chancellor of the Exchequer); of John Percival, second Earl of Egmont (the eminent politician of the middle

period of the "Georgian era"); and of some other statesmen and financiers. It now includes upwards of 13,000 distinct pieces, bound in 2086 volumes (exclusive of printed collections on similar subjects); the arrangement of which is as follows:—

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COLLECTION OF POLITICAL TRACTS.		(JANUARY, 1858.)	
No. of the Section.	---Subjects:	No. of Vols.	No. of Tracts, or separate works.
....	1.—General Treatises on GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, or POLITICAL ECONOMY	79	122
....	2.—Constitution, Functions, and Privileges of PARLIAMENT	45	315
....	3.—LAW and LAW Reform	94	395
....	4.—CRIME, Police, and Punishment	46	190
....	5.—TRADE and COMMERCE:—		
....	1. General Treatises.....	78	178
....	2. Agriculture and the Corn Trade.....	76	485
....	3. Coal and Iron Trades, Mining, etc.....	12	125
....	4. Cotton, Woollen, and Silk Trades	36	215
....	5. Fisheries	8	61
....	6. Other Branches of Trade and Commerce	127	840
....	7. Wages, Combinations, and Regulation of Labour	14	129
....	8. Industrial Exhibitions	16	536
....	6.—ANNUITIES, Assurances, Savings Banks, and Provident Societies	17	120
....	7.—CURRENCY, Banking, Interest of Money, etc.	98	560
....	8.—CHURCH Affairs	13	737
....	9.—MUNICIPAL and Local Affairs	33	373
....	10.—POOR and POOR LAWS	80	307
....	11.—EDUCATION AND PUBLIC CHARITIES	140	780
....	12.—ARMY and NAVY; PEACE and WAR.....	56	267
....	13.—PUBLIC WORKS and SANITARY AFFAIRS	70	578
....	14.—Affairs of IRELAND and SCOTLAND in particular	51	274
....	15.—COLONIES and Dependencies:—		
....	1. Affairs of British India	138	545
....	2. Colonial Affairs, generally	78	340
....	3. Slavery	33	215
....	16. REVENUE, Taxation, and Public Debts	142	738
....	17.—FOREIGN Affairs	160	769
....	18.—Miscell. Treatises on Polit. Questions and Public Affairs (other than those specially enumerated)	346	2,255
	Total of Volumes and of separate Tracts in the Class POLITICS	2,086	12,449

The Free City
Library of
Manchester

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It may not, perhaps, be without utility to subjoin an abstract of the expenditure of the whole of the original establishment-fund. It runs thus:—

Abstract of the
expenditure of
the original fund.

I. BUILDING:—		£
	Purchase Money	2,147
	Repairs, Fittings, and Furniture	4,866
II. BOOKS:—		
	Purchases	4,156
	Binding	140
III. EXPENSES OF FORMATION AND ARRANGEMENT:—		
	Salaries and Wages	665
	Printing and Stationery (including Account-Books)	357
	Petty Expenses	433
	Total	£12,764

Books presented. About 3200 volumes of books were presented by various donors. The most valuable of these were gifts from Public Boards and Departments, and from Learned Societies, amounting to 500 volumes. Of the remainder, four-fifths were of very small value. The whole experience of this Library in that respect, as of so many more, tends to confirm the opinion elsewhere expressed that casual Donation is a totally untrustworthy source for the formation of Public Libraries, under any circumstances.

The Manchester Library was not only the first Library established under “Ewart’s Act,” but was the first Institution within the United Kingdom, however supported, which combined a Free Library of Reference, open to all comers, with a Free Library of Circulation, open to all persons whose responsibility was sufficiently vouched for. The 21,000 volumes with which the Institution opened were thus distributed between the two Departments:—

CLASSES:—	No. of Volumes in Reference Department.	No. of Volumes in Lending Department.	Volumes in the Aggregate.
I., II. Theology and Philo- sophy	655	169	824
III. History	6,707	2,187	8,894
IV. Politics	2,705	266	2,971
V. Sciences and Arts ..	1,310	394	1,704
VI. Literature and Poly- graphy	4,626	2,289	6,915
Totals....	16,003	5,305	21,308

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Classification of
the books with
which the Libra-
ry opened.

During the five years that have elapsed, the 21,000 volumes have become 36,000; and 9,000 additional volumes have been purchased towards the formation of three Branch Lending Libraries in various parts of the City. The classification of the contents of the Chief Library runs thus:—

Increase during
the five years
1853-57.

CLASSES:—	Volumes in Reference Department.	Volumes in Lending Department.	Aggregate No. of Volumes.
I., II. Theology and Philo- sophy	1,626	340	1,966
III. History	9,422	3,672	13,094
IV. Politics	6,560	779	7,339
V. Sciences and Arts ..	2,297	733	3,030
VI. Literature and Poly- graphy	5,953	4,505	10,458
Totals....	25,858	10,029	35,887

It will be seen that in the recent accessions the pre-dominating character of the Reference Library, as mainly one of History and Politics, has been well preserved. Only in this way of selection can anything be achieved, with small means, which in time will deserve to be

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called a "Library,"—a collection of books, namely, tending to *make* students as well as to serve them.

Issues from the
Library, 1852-57.

From the 6th of September 1852, the day on which the Library was first opened, to the 31st of December 1857, a period of five years and a quarter, the aggregate number of volumes issued, both to Readers in the Reference Department, and to Borrowers from the Lending Department, was 864,104; or on the average of the whole period, 523 volumes daily for each day during which the Library has been open to the Public.

Of this large issue, 409,908 volumes have been delivered to Readers in the Reference Department. Their classification is as follows:—

Classes.	Volumes.
I. Theology	9,676
II. Philosophy	7,488
III. History	111,014
IV. Politics	51,276
V. Sciences and Arts	50,253
VI. Literature and Polygraphy	180,201
Total . . .	409,908

In this department of the Library, the principle I have advocated as that which ought to be fundamental in our free Town Libraries,—namely, that they should be made alike useful for *all* classes of the community,—has been to a large extent realized in practice. It is habitually frequented by persons of all social grades, from those of least up to those of greatest education. Merchant and Artizan, Mill-worker and Clergyman may be seen reading at the same tables; and as this is (in

Britain) the most novel, so assuredly will it prove, in its ultimate consequences, to have been one of the most pregnant results of Rate-supported Libraries. In these days, many causes are at work which tend rather to widen the social gulfs of separation than to bridge them over. Mammonworship, indeed, has met with sad discredits, but it is very tenacious of life, and very Proteuslike in its disguises. One good safeguard against its evil consequences will be to enlarge that PUBLIC DOMAIN in which some of the noblest results of genius, of persevering toil, and of wisely expended wealth, are placed within the reach of the poorest, not by charity, but of right; not by the accidents of bounty, how praiseworthy soever, but by the farsighted provisions of public opinion, deliberately resolving to do at the common charge and for the intellectual culture what has long been done (more or less thoroughly) for many of the corporeal accommodations of the Community. In establishing Rates for Libraries, we are, after all, but halting far in the rear of other Englishmen who two centuries ago set us the example in Massachusetts by levying Rates for Schools. The recent experience of Manchester shows that true liberality will never find itself restrained by acts of prudent foresight on the part of a Community which it designs to benefit. To give to the Public, (as has been done, once or twice at least,) the sweepings of our private collections is no act of generosity. To bequeath to the Public a collection which it has been a man's pride to gather, and his happiness to use, has often been and will yet often be the impulse of liberal minds. Nor is it easy to imagine

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any institutions which are so likely to commend themselves to such liberality, as Libraries which have already a sure maintenance, by the regular payments of all classes, for the permanent use, the mental delight, and the spiritual elevation of them all.

The Working of
the Lending De-
partment of the
Manchester
Library.

The *Lending* Department of the Manchester Library opened (as has been shewn) with 5300 volumes, and now contains 10,000. This Department was wisely made as attractive as possible to persons hitherto cut off from such advantages, except in the poorest and least satisfactory form. It has been in practice largely used by artizans, mill-workers, and by "operatives" (to employ the local term) of all sorts, and their families. Probably, such readers form a majority which comprises more than three-fifths of the entire number. Shopkeepers, clerks, pupil-teachers, professional students, boys at school, and persons not in any employment make up the remainder. During the first five years 13,484 tickets of admission were issued. The general character of the books issued will be seen by a glance at the following table, which records and classifies the issues of four years and a quarter (1852-3; 1854-5; 1855-6; 1856-7):—

Classes.	Volumes.
I. Theology.. .. .	5,159
II. Philosophy.....	2,255
III. History.....	85,269
IV. Politics	3,271
V. Sciences and Arts.....	18,296
VI. Literature and Polygraphy....	261,819
Total of four years and a quarter..	
	376,069

There is here a great contrast, in character, with the above-recorded issues of the Reference Department of the Library. The first five classes speak sufficiently for themselves. The sixth will be better appreciated by the help of sub-division. The issues in this class are somewhat more than two-thirds of the aggregate issue. Taking, for the sake of brevity, a period of only half-a-year, I find the deliveries of books classed as "Literature and Polygraphy" to have been 31,838 volumes. Of this number, 21,450 volumes were "Novels and Romances." It appears that 2437 other volumes were popular Magazines the staple of which is also Fiction in prose. It follows that of the issues to borrowers, in the Class "Literature and Polygraphy," more than four-fifths were "Novels and Romances." Of the aggregate issues in all the classes, collectively, such works form nearly five-eighths

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Popular demand
for Works of
Fiction.

It will, perhaps, be almost superfluous to say that the works of Fiction which have been placed in the Lending Department of this Library usually rank amongst the best of their class. They comprise all the standard master-pieces of British Novelists, and many works of recent date which will hereafter take rank as classics in this kind. It may, too, be truthfully said that at no previous period in the history of English literature has Prose-Fiction been made in so great a degree as of late years, the vehicle of the best thoughts of some of the best thinkers. Nor, taking it as a whole, was it ever before characterized by so much general purity of tone or loftiness of purpose. But, whatever weight may fairly attach to considerations like these,

it is still the fact that reading of this class is, in the main, reading for mere pastime.

Careful observation and inquiry have made it evident that the chief obstacle which impedes the Lending Departments of our Free Public Libraries in effecting their due share in the work of popular education, is the utter insufficiency of that amount of command over the mere implements of education which is commonly imparted in popular schools. A large proportion of the *borrowers* at the Manchester Library are youths and boys who still attend schools of some sort, or who have but just left them. It is by their good effect in course of time upon such that the best fruits of Popular Lending Libraries should display themselves. But in very many cases it is found that the outcome of the "schooling" has been a bare ability to read, and even that but stumblingly, with an utter absence of the mental training which turns the power to good account. Youths, with a taste for reading, are attracted by the titles of good books; ask for them; soon bring them back; and limit their future demands to the flimsiest "light-reading" the collection may afford. Their schooling has failed to give the habit of intellectual application, or even to create that moderately discriminating mental appetite, to which perpetual novel-reading would become nauseous, as surely as a table spread every day with confectionery, and with nothing else, would pall upon the healthy appetite for food.

But even at this early stage of their history, these Lending Libraries have done much good. They have placed in the hands of hundreds of Artizans and others, not only

the books which solace the intervals of toil, but those which put new meaning in the toil, and new life in the toiler, by disclosing its principles; facilitating its improvement; lighting up its before unseen relations with other work, and remote workers. They have done better still, in many cases, by arousing attention to interests and realities which reach beyond this world. They have brought for the first time into hundreds of homes such books, as Milton has called "the life-blood of master spirits, stored up on purpose to a life beyond life."

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§ 3.—THE FREE BOROUGH LIBRARY OF SALFORD.

This Library opened in 1850 with barely 7000 volumes. It now possesses 20,503 volumes, of which 13,750 form the Reference Department, and 6753 the Lending Department. They may be classified thus:—

The Borough
Library of
Salford.

CLASSES:—	Reference Department. Volumes.	Lending Department. Volumes.	Aggregate. No. of Volumes.
I. Theology and Philo- sophy	587	396	983
II. History	4,689	1,449	6,138
III. Politics	2,363	48	2,411
IV. Sciences and Arts....	3,385	697	4,082
V. Literature and Poly- graphy	2,726	4,163	6,889
Totals....	13,750	6,753	20,503

In Salford, the levying of the Rate for the support of the Museum under the Act of 1845 was the first step taken. The maintenance charges of the Library have always been defrayed out of the proceeds of this Rate. For the enlargement of the building, the purchase of

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books for the Library, and of specimens for the Museum, a public subscription was raised which eventually amounted to £6677. A Lending Department was formed in May 1854. The total issues in both Departments, up to the 31st of October 1857, amount to 579,788 volumes; namely, from the Reference Department 400,063; from the Lending Department 179,725.

In its latest Report, the Committee of the Borough Council records the gratification experienced at "the continued prosperity and progress which have been manifested during the past year, both in the Library and Museum," and rejoices to "find that the appreciation by the Public of the instruction and important advantages thus afforded, has been evinced in a most gratifying manner, far surpassing all former experience in the history of the institution."

§ 4.—THE FREE TOWN LIBRARY OF LIVERPOOL.

Free Library of
Liverpool.

The Free Library of Liverpool was opened to the Public on the 18th of October 1852, with about 12,000 volumes. The first Rate was levied prior to the opening. A further sum of £1400 was raised by subscription. One year later, two Branch Lending Libraries were established in opposite quarters of the town, with about 1000 volumes in each. In October 1857, the Reference Library had grown to 24,000 volumes, and the Lending Libraries, collectively, to 17,000 volumes. In the first year of the working of the Reference Library, the aggregate issues were 128,628 volumes. In the fifth year they were 166,346 volumes. The issues

from the Lending Branches were in the first year 35,978 volumes, and in the fourth year 308,200 volumes.

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The books which form these several Libraries may be thus classed:—

Classes:—	Reference Library. Volumes.	Lending Libraries. Volumes.	Aggregate No. of Volumes.
I. Theology and Philo- sophy	1,538	750	2,288
II. History	6,902	4,435	11,337
III Politics	2,439	207	2,646
IV. Sciences and Arts	3,411	1,064	4,475
V. Literature and Poly- graphy	9,698	10,546	20,244
Totals....	23,988	17,002	40,990

The aggregate issues during the whole period (18 Oct. 1852 to 31 Aug. 1857) have amounted to 1,382,609 volumes; namely, from the Reference Library, 710,062; and from the two Lending Libraries, 672,547. Those of the last year (ending 31st Aug. 1857) may be clas- sed thus:—

Classes:—	Reference Libra- ry (one year). Volumes issued.	Lending Library (one year). Volumes issued.	Aggregate issue of Volumes.
I. Theology and Philo- sophy	6,581	8,723	15,304
II. History	22,240	48,561	70,801
III Politics	1,923	1,416	3,339
IV. Sciences and Arts	15,889	13,244	29,133
V. Literature and Poly- graphy	119,713	236,256	355,969
Totals....	166,346	308,200	474,546

The predominating character of the issues to readers differs a good deal, it may be noticed, from those of

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Distinctive
character of the
issues from
Liverpool
Library.

the Manchester Library. This is partly the result of the different composition of the Library. In Liverpool, no less than 4000 volumes of "Novels and Romances" form part of the Reference collection. In Manchester, just one tenth of that number. On the other hand, the Liverpool Library has greatly the advantage in books on the Fine Arts, and on Natural History. In illustrated works generally it is very rich; and, as a whole, has been collected with great judgment and liberality. In both Libraries special attention has been bestowed on the collection of the local Topography. In this section, Liverpool is especially rich, having had the good fortune to obtain a private collection which was the fruit of the persevering researches of twenty or thirty years.

Munificent gift to
Liverpool of Mr.
W. Brown, MP.

The rapid growth of the Library, and the extraordinary extent to which it is used by the Public, have rendered a new and much larger building indispensable. By the munificence of a Liverpool merchant, Mr. William Brown, (one of the Members of Parliament for South Lancashire,) a noble edifice, capable of affording ample accommodation both for the Free Library, and for the Derby Museum, is in course of erection at his sole charge. This building will cost at least £25,000. The site for it has been provided by the Corporation. And there is abundant security that when completed, it will be well-filled. The able Chairman of the City Council Committee, Mr. J. A. Picton, possesses just and vigorous conceptions of what the collection ought to become. At a recent public Meeting, (20 February 1858,) he "took occasion to correct a mistake which some

“persons had fallen into . . . that it was principally a
 “Library for the ‘Working Classes.’ That never had
 “been the idea of those who had taken a great interest
 “in the establishment of the institution. From that
 “time to the present, the desire and aim of the Com-
 “mittee had been to make it *a Library for all classes, and*
 “*that it should contain the best works to be obtained on*
 “*every subject of human inquiry.* It would be quite a mis-
 “take to suppose that in these matters the Community
 “could be parcelled out into ‘Classes.’ . . . We are all
 “part of the great Republic of Letters.” In Liverpool,
 as elsewhere, it is seen that right conceptions on this
 point have become vital to the true usefulness and en-
 during prosperity of the new institutions.

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To sum up, in few words, the first results, apparent at a glance, whilst these Libraries are still in the cradle:—In the nine or ten towns, in which the Act has been not only adopted, but already fairly set to work, 150,000 volumes of books have been permanently secured for public use; with ample funds for their preservation, increase, and well-ordering, and also for the replacement, from time to time, of such as become worn out. These books have been made thoroughly accessible, under proper regulations, to every respectable inhabitant of the towns to which they belong; are actually used to so large an extent that, on the average, each volume of the 150,000 is either delivered to readers, or lent to borrowers, (as the case may be,) ten times within each year. The management of these Libraries has been made wholly independent of sect,

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party, or clique, in Religion or in Politics. Their permanence has been made in like manner independent of charitable gifts, or of fluctuating subscriptions. They may be governed without noise; used without favour; maintained and improved without claptrap appeals to public benevolence, or compulsory recourse to ephemeral excitements. Their truest work will lie in helping to educate the Educators; and in facilitating the placing of Rate-supported Free Schools, side by side with Rate-supported Free Libraries, throughout the country. The best fruits of that work will not be seen until those who have striven earnestly to initiate and to carry into effect the Legislation which alone has made such institutions possible in England, shall have been long in their graves. But those labourers will take with them the sure confidence that—

“No earnest Work
Of any honest Worker, howbeit weak,
Imperfect, ill-adapted, fails so much
That 'tis not gathered, as a grain of sand,
To enlarge the sum of human action used
For carrying out God's end.”

APPENDIX TO VOLUME I.

- I. PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT.—ENGLAND. (18^o & 19^o Vict. c. 70;
30 July, 1855.)
- II. PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT.—IRELAND. (18^o & 19^o Vict. c. 40;
26 June, 1855.)
- III. PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT.—SCOTLAND. (17^o & 18^o Vict. c. 64;
31 July, 1854.)
- IV. DUBLIN NATIONAL GALLERY AND PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT.
(17^o & 18^o Vict. c. 99; 10 August, 1854.)

The above are the Acts now in force, in each Country, respectively.

ANNO 18° & 19° VICT. CAP. LXX.

An Act for further promoting the Establishment of Free Public Libraries and Museums in Municipal Towns, and for extending it to Towns governed under Local Improvement Acts, and to Parishes.
[30th July 1855.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and extend the Public Libraries Act, 1850: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

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I. The Public Libraries Act, 1850, is hereby repealed; but such Repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything already done in pursuance of the same Act, and all Libraries and Museums established under that Act or the Act thereby repealed shall be considered as having been established under this Act, and the Council of any Borough which may have adopted the said Act of One thousand eight hundred and fifty, or established a Museum under the Act thereby repealed, shall have and may use and exercise all the Benefits, Privileges, and Powers given by this Act; and all Monies which have been borrowed by virtue of the said repealed Acts or either of them, and still remaining unpaid, and the Interest thereof, shall be charged on the Borough Rates, or a Rate to be assessed and recovered in the like Manner as a Borough Rate to be made by virtue of this Act.

13 & 14 Vict.
c. 65. repealed.

II. In citing this Act for any Purposes whatever it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The Public Libraries Act, 1855."

Short Title of
Act.

III. In the Construction of this Act the following Words and Expressions shall, unless there be something in the Subject or Context repugnant to such Construction, have the following Meanings assigned to them respectively; that is to say, "Parish" shall mean every Place maintaining its own Poor; "Vestry" shall mean the Inhabitants of the Parish lawfully assembled in Vestry, or for any of the Purposes for which Ves-

Interpretation
of Terms.

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tries are holden, except in those Parishes in which there is a Select Vestry elected under the Act of the Fifty-ninth Year of King *George* the Third, Chapter Twelve, or under the Act of the First and Second Years of King *William* the *Fourth*, Chapter Sixty, or under the Provisions of any Local Act of Parliament for the Government of any Parish by Vestries, in which Parishes it shall mean such Select Vestry, and shall also mean any Body of Persons, by whatever Name distinguished, acting by virtue of any Act of Parliament, Prescription, Custom, or otherwise, as or instead of a Vestry or Select Vestry; "Ratepayers" shall mean all Persons for the Time being assessed to Rates for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish; "Overseers of the Poor" shall mean also any Persons authorized and required to make and collect the Rate for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish, and acting instead of Overseers of the Poor; "Board" shall mean the Commissioners, Trustees, or other Body of Persons, by whatever Name distinguished, for the Time being in Office and acting in the Execution of any Improvement Act, being an Act for draining, cleansing, paving, lighting, watching, or otherwise improving a Place, or for any of those Purposes; "Improvement Rates" shall mean the Rates, Tolls, Rents, Income, and other Monies whatsoever which, under the Provisions of any such Improvement Act, shall be applicable for the general Purposes of such Act.

Town Councils
of certain
Boroughs may
adopt this Act
if determined by
Inhabitants.

IV. The Mayor of any Municipal Borough the Population of which, according to the then last Census thereof, shall exceed Five thousand Persons, shall, on the Request of the Town Council, convene a Public Meeting of the Burgesses of the Borough, in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the Municipal Borough, and Ten Days Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of the Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the Borough, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the Borough, Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two Thirds of such Persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the Borough, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come into operation in such Borough, and shall be carried into execution in accordance with the Laws for the Time being in force relating to the Municipal Corporation of such Borough: Provided always, that the Mayor, or, in his Absence, the Chairman of the Meeting, shall cause a Minute to be made of the Resolutions of the Meeting, and shall sign the same; and the Resolutions so signed shall be conclusive Evidence that the Meeting was duly convened, and the Vote thereat duly taken, and that the Minute contains a true Account of the Proceedings thereat.

Expenses of
carrying Act into

V. The Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act

into execution in such Borough, may be paid out of the Borough Fund, and the Council may levy by a separate Rate, to be called a Library Rate, to be made and recoverable in the Manner herein-after provided, all Monies from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses; and distinct Accounts shall be kept of the Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities of the Council with reference to the Execution of this Act.

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execution in a
Borough to be
paid out of the
Borough Fund.

VI. The Board of any District, being a Place within the Limits of any Improvement Act, and having such a Population as aforesaid, shall, upon the Requisition in Writing of at least Ten Persons assessed to and paying the Improvement Rate, appoint a Time, not less than Ten Days nor more than Twenty Days from the Time of receiving such Requisition, for a Public Meeting of the Persons assessed to and paying such Rate in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for such District, and Ten Days Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of such Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the District, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the District, Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two Thirds of such Persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the District, the same shall thenceforth take effect, and come into operation in such District, and shall be carried into effect according to the Laws for the Time being in force relating to such Board.

Board of any
District within
Limits of any
Improvement
Act may adopt
this Act if de-
termined by
Inhabitants.

VII. The Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution in any such District, shall be paid out of the Improvement Rate, and the Board may levy as Part of the Improvement Rate, or by a separate Rate to be assessed and recovered in like Manner as an Improvement Rate, such Sums of Money as shall be from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses; and the Board shall keep distinct Accounts of their Receipts, Payments, Credits, and Liabilities with reference to the Execution of this Act, which Accounts shall be audited in the same Way as Accounts are directed to be audited under the Improvement Act.

Expenses of
carrying Act
into execution
by Improvement
Commissioners
to be charged
on Improvement
Rate.

VIII. Upon the Requisition in Writing of at least Ten Ratepayers of any Parish having such a Population as aforesaid, the Overseers of the Poor shall appoint a Time, not less than Ten Days nor more than Twenty Days from the Time of receiving such Requisition, for a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the Parish; and Ten Days Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of the Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the Parish, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or cir-

Certain Parishes
may adopt this
Act, with the
Consent of Two-
Thirds of the
Ratepayers.

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The Vestry to
appoint Com-
missioners for
carrying the Act
into execution,
who shall be a
Body Corporate.

culated within the Parish, Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two Thirds of the Ratepayers then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for such Parish, the same shall come into operation in such Parish, and the Vestry shall forthwith appoint not less than Three nor more than Nine Ratepayers Commissioners for carrying the Act into execution, who shall be a Body Corporate by the Name of "The Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the Parish of _____ in the County of _____", and by that Name may sue and be sued, and hold and dispose of Lands, and use a Common Seal: Provided always, that in any Parish where there shall not be a greater Population than Eight thousand Inhabitants by the then last Census, it shall be lawful for any Ten Ratepayers to deliver a Requisition by them signed, and describing their Place of Residence to the Overseers or One of the Overseers of the said Parish, requiring the Votes of the Ratepayers at such Meeting to be taken according to the Provisions of the Act passed in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Third, Chapter Sixty-nine, and the Votes at such Meeting shall thereupon be taken according to the Provisions of the said last-mentioned Act of Parliament, and not otherwise.

One-Third of
such Commis-
sioners to go out
of Office yearly,
and others to be
appointed, but
those retiring
may be re-ap-
pointed.

IX. At the Termination of every Year (the Year being reckoned from and exclusive of the Day of the First Appointment of Commissioners) a Meeting of the Vestry shall be held, at which Meeting One Third or as nearly as may be One Third of the Commissioners, to be determined by Ballot, shall go out of Office, and the Vestry shall appoint other Commissioners in their Place, but the outgoing Commissioners may be re-elected; and the Vestry shall fill up every Vacancy among the Commissioners, whether occurring by Death, Resignation, or otherwise, as soon as possible after the same occurs.

General and
Special Meetings
of Commis-
sioners.

X. The Commissioners shall meet at least once in every Calendar Month, and at such other Times as they think fit, at the Public Library or Museum or some other convenient Place; and any One Commissioner may summon a Special Meeting of the Commissioners by giving Three clear Days Notice in Writing to each Commissioner, specifying therein the Purpose for which the Meeting is called; and no Business shall be transacted at any Meeting of the Commissioners unless at least Two Commissioners shall be present.

Minutes of Pro-
ceedings of Com-
missioners to be
entered in
Books.

XI. All Orders and Proceedings of the Commissioners shall be entered in Books to be kept by them for that Purpose, and shall be signed by the Commissioners or any Two of them; and all such Orders and Proceedings so entered, and purporting to be so signed, shall be deemed to be original Orders and Proceedings, and such Books may be produced and read as Evidence of all such Orders and Proceedings upon any judicial Proceeding whatsoever.

XII. The Commissioners shall keep distinct and regular Accounts of their Receipts, Payments, Credits, and Liabilities with reference to the Execution of this Act, which Accounts shall be audited yearly by the Poor Law Auditor, if the Accounts of Poor Rate Expenditure of the Parish be audited by a Poor Law Auditor, but if not so audited, then by Two Auditors not being Commissioners, who shall be yearly appointed by the Vestry, and the Auditor or Auditors shall report thereon, and such Report shall be laid before the Vestry by the Commissioners.

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Distinct Ac-
counts to be
kept by Com-
missioners, and
duly audited.

XIII. The Expenses of calling and holding the Meeting of the Rate-payers, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution in any Parish, to such Amount as shall be from Time to Time sanctioned by the Vestry, shall be paid out of a Rate to be made and recovered in like Manner as a Poor Rate, except that every Person occupying Lands used as Arable, Meadow, or Pasture Ground only, or as Woodlands or Market Gardens, or Nursery Grounds, shall be rated in respect of the same in the Proportion of One Third Part only of the full net annual Value thereof respectively; the Vestry to be called for the Purpose of sanctioning the Amount shall be convened in the Manner usual in the Parish; the Amount for the Time being proposed to be raised for such Expenses shall be expressed in the Notice convening the Vestry, and shall be paid, according to the Order of the Vestry, to such Person as shall be appointed by the Commissioners to receive the same: Provided always, that in the Notices requiring the Payment of the Rate there shall be stated the Proportion which the Amount to be thereby raised for the Purposes of this Act shall bear to the total Amount of the Rate.

Expenses of
executing Act in
any Parish to be
paid out of Poor
Rate.

XIV. The Vestries of any Two or more neighbouring Parishes having according to the then last Census an aggregate Population exceeding Five thousand Persons may adopt this Act, in like Manner as if the Population of each of those Parishes according to the then last Census exceeded Five thousand, and may concur in carrying the same into execution in such Parishes for such Time as they shall mutually agree; and such Vestries may decide that a Public Library or Museum, or both, shall be erected in any One of such Parishes, and that the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution with reference to the same shall be borne by such Parishes in such Proportions as such Vestries shall mutually approve; the Proportion for each of such Parishes of such Expenses shall be paid out of the Monies to be raised for the Relief of the Poor of the same respective Parishes accordingly; but no more than Three Commissioners shall be appointed for each Parish; and the Commissioners so appointed for each of such Parishes shall in the Management of the said Public Library and Museum form One Body of Commissioners, and shall act accordingly in the Execution of this Act; and the Accounts of

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or more neigh-
bouring Parishes
may adopt the
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the Commissioners shall be examined and reported on by the Auditor or Auditors of each of such Parishes; and the surplus Money at the Disposal as aforesaid of such Commissioners shall be paid to the Overseers of such Parishes respectively, in the Proportion in which such Parishes shall be liable to such Expenses.

Rates levied not
to exceed One
Penny in the
Pound.

XV. The Amount of the Rate to be levied in any Borough, District, or Parish in any One Year for the Purposes of this Act shall not exceed the Sum of One Penny in the Pound; and for the Purposes of the Library Rate all the Clauses of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to the Manner of making Rates, to the Appeal to be made against any Rate, and to the Recovery of Rates, shall be incorporated with this Act; and whenever the Words "Special Act" occur in the Act so incorporated they shall mean "The Public Libraries Act, 1855;" the Accounts of the said Board and Commissioners respectively with reference to the Execution of this Act shall at all reasonable Times be open, without Charge, to the Inspection of every Person rated to the Improvement Rate or to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish, as the Case may be, who may make Copies of or Extracts from such Accounts, without paying for the same; and in case the Board or the Commissioners, or any of them respectively, or any of their respective Officers or Servants having the Custody of such Accounts, shall not permit the same Accounts to be inspected, or Copies of or Extracts from the same to be made, every Person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds.

Accounts of
Board and Com-
missioners to be
open to In-
spection.

Power to
Council, &c.
to borrow on
Mortgage.

XVI. For carrying this Act into execution the Council, Board, or Commissioners respectively may, with the Approval of Her Majesty's Treasury, (and as to the Commissioners, with the Sanction also of the Vestry and the Poor Law Board,) from Time to Time borrow at Interest, on the Security of a Mortgage or Bond of the Borough Fund, or of the Rates levied in pursuance of this Act, such Sums of Money as may be by them respectively required; and the Commissioners for carrying into execution the Act of the Ninth and Tenth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter Eighty, may from Time to Time advance and lend any such Sums of Money.

Provisions of
8 & 9 Vict. c. 16,
as to borrowing,
extended to this
Act.

XVII. The Clauses and Provisions of "The Companies Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," with respect to the borrowing of Money on Mortgage or Bond, and the Accountability of Officers, and the Recovery of Damages and Penalties, so far as such Provisions may respectively be applicable to the Purposes of this Act, shall be respectively incorporated with this Act.

Lands, &c. may
be appropriated,
purchased, or

XVIII. The Council of any Borough and the Board of any District respectively may from Time to Time, with the Approval of Her Majesty's Treasury, appropriate for the Purposes of this Act any Lands vested, as

the Case may be, in a Borough, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and in a District in the Board; and the Council, Board, and Commissioners respectively may also, with such Approval, purchase or rent any Lands or any suitable Buildings; and the Council and Board and Commissioners respectively may, upon any Lands so appropriated, purchased, or rented respectively, erect any Buildings suitable for Public Libraries or Museums, or both, or for Schools for Science or Art, and may apply, take down, alter and extend any Buildings for such Purposes, and rebuild, repair, and improve the same respectively, and fit up, furnish, and supply the same respectively with all requisite Furniture, Fittings, and Conveniences.

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rented for the
Purposes of
this Act.

XIX. "The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," shall be incorporated with this Act; but the Council, Board, and Commissioners respectively shall not purchase or take any Lands otherwise than by Agreement.

Provisions of
8 & 9 Vict. c. 13
incorporated
with this Act.

XX. The Council, Board, and Commissioners aforesaid respectively may, with the like Approval as is required for the Purchase of Lands, sell any Lands vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, or Board, or Commissioners respectively, for the Purposes of this Act, or exchange the same for any Lands better adapted for the Purposes; and the Monies to arise from such Sale, or to be received for Equality of Exchange, or a sufficient Part thereof, shall be applied in or towards the Purchase of other Lands better adapted for such Purposes.

Lands, &c. may
be sold or ex-
changed.

XXI. The general Management, Regulation, and Control of such Libraries and Museums, Schools for Science and Art, shall be, as to any Borough, vested in and exercised by the Council, and as to any District in and by the Board, and as to any Parish or Parishes in and by the Commissioners, or such Committee as such Council or Board may from Time to Time appoint, the Members whereof need not be Members of the Council or Board or be Commissioners, who may from Time to Time purchase and provide the necessary Fuel, Lighting, and other similar Matters, Books, Newspapers, Maps, and Specimens of Art and Science, for the Use of the Library or Museum, or School, and cause the same to be bound or repaired when necessary, and appoint salaried Officers and Servants, and dismiss the same, and make Rules and Regulations for the Safety and Use of the Libraries and Museums, and Schools, and for the Admission of the Public.

General Ma-
nagement to be
vested in Coun-
cil, Board, or
Commissioners.

XXII. The Lands and Buildings so to be appropriated, purchased, or rented as aforesaid, and all other Real and Personal Property whatever presented to or purchased for any Library or Museum established under this Act, or School, shall be vested, in the Case of a Borough, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, in the Case of a District in

Property of Li-
brary, &c. to be
vested in Coun-
cil, Board, and
Commissioners
respectively.

- Appendix to
Volume I.
18 & 19 Vict.
Cap. 70.
- If any Meeting
determine
against Adoption
of Act, no other
Meeting to be
called for a
Year.
- Act may be
adopted in the
City of London
if Two-Thirds
of Persons rated
to the Consol-
idated Rate, as-
sembled at a
Public Meeting,
assent.
- Museums to be
free.
- Extent of Act.
- the Board, and in the Case of a Parish or Parishes in the Commis-
sioners.
- XXIII. If any Meeting called as aforesaid to determine as to the
Adoption of this Act for any Borough, District, or Parish shall deter-
mine against the Adoption, no Meeting for a similar Purpose shall be
held for the Space of One Year at least from the Time of holding the
previous Meeting.
- XXIV. The Lord Mayor of the City of *London* shall, on the Request
of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in
Common Council assembled, convene a Public Meeting in manner herein-
before mentioned of all Persons rated and assessed to the Consolidated
Rate in the City of *London*, in order to determine whether this Act shall
be adopted in the said City; and if at such Meeting Two Thirds of such
Persons then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted
for the City of *London*, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come
into operation in the City of *London*, and shall be carried into execution
in accordance with the Laws for the Time being in force relating to the
City of *London*: Provided always, that the Resolution of such Public
Meeting, signed by the Lord Mayor, shall be reported to the said Lord
Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, in Common Council assembled, and
entered on the Minutes thereof, and that such Entry shall be Evidence;
the Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether this
Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into
execution in the City of *London*, shall be paid out of the Consolidated
Rate, and the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of *London* may levy
a Part of the Consolidated Rate, or, by a separate Rate, to be assessed
and recovered in like Manner as the Consolidated Rate, all Monies from
Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses, and distinct Ac-
counts shall be kept of the Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities of the
said Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons with reference to the Execu-
tion of the Act.
- XXV. The Admission to all Libraries and Museums established under
this Act shall be open to the Public free of all Charge.
- XXVI. This Act shall not extend to *Ireland* or *Scotland*.
-

ANNO 18 & 19° VICT. CAP. XL.

An Act for further promoting the Establishment of
Free Public Libraries and Museums in *Ireland*.

[26th June 1855.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Act of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and one, and to give greater Facilities for the Establishment in *Ireland* of free Public Libraries and Museums or Schools of Science and Art: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

Appendix to
Volume I.
18 & 19 Vict.
Cap. 40.

I. The said Act of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and one, and Section Ninety-nine of the Towns Improvement Act (*Ireland*), 1854, are hereby repealed; but such Repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything already done in pursuance of either of such Acts; and all public Libraries and Museums established in *Ireland* under either of those Acts shall be considered as having been established under this Act.

16 & 17 Vict. c.
101. and Sec. 99.
of 17 & 18 Vict.
c. 103. repealed.

II. In citing this Act for any Purpose whatever it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The Public Libraries Act (*Ireland*), 1855."

Short Title.

III. In the Construction and for the Purposes of this Act (if not inconsistent with the Context or Subject Matter) the following Terms shall have the respective Meanings herein-after assigned to them; that is to say, "Town" shall mean and include any City, Borough, Town, or Place in which Commissioners, Trustees, or other Persons have been or shall be elected or appointed under the Act of the Ninth Year of King George the Fourth, Chapter Eighty-two, or the "Towns Improvement Act (*Ireland*), 1854," or any Local or other Act or Acts for paving, flagging, lighting, watching, cleansing, or otherwise improving any City, Borough, Town, or Place, for the Execution of any such Act or Acts, or super-

Interpretation of
Terms.

Appendix to
Volume I.
18 & 19 Vict.
Cap. 40.

intending the Execution thereof, and in which there shall not be a Town Council or other such Body elected under the Act of the Third and Fourth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and eight, or any other Charter granted in pursuance of such Act, or any Act passed for the Amendment thereof; "Town Commissioners" shall mean the Commissioners, Trustees, or other Persons for the Time being elected or appointed under any such first-mentioned Acts as aforesaid; "Town Fund" shall mean the Town Fund, or the Rates or Property vested in and under the Control and Direction of any Town Commissioners, and applicable to the Purposes of any such Acts; "Town Rate" shall mean the Rate or Rates authorized to be levied by any such Town Commissioners; "Mayor" shall include Lord Mayor; "Clerk" shall mean, as regards an incorporated Borough, the Town Clerk of such Borough, and as regards a Town in which there shall be Town Commissioners the Clerk appointed by the Town Commissioners; "Householder" shall mean a Male Occupier of a Dwelling House, or of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within any Town or incorporated Borough, and entitled for the Time being to vote at Elections of Commissioners, Aldermen, or Councillors in such Town or Borough.

Act may be
adopted in any
incorporated
Borough or any
Town.

IV. The Council or Board of Municipal Commissioners of any incorporated Borough in *Ireland* regulated under the said Act of the Third and Fourth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and eight, or any Charter granted in pursuance of such Act, or any Act passed for the Amendment thereof, the Population of which, according to the then last Census thereof, shall exceed Five thousand Persons, or the Town Commissioners of any Town in *Ireland* having such a Population as aforesaid, may, if they think fit, appoint a Time for a Public Meeting of the Householders of the Borough or Town, as the Case may be, in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the Borough or Town, and Ten Days Notice at least of the Time, Place, and Object of the Meeting shall be given by affixing the same on or near the Door of every Church and Chapel within the Borough or Town, and also by advertising the same in One or more of the Newspapers published or circulated within the Borough or Town Seven Days at least before the Day appointed for the Meeting; and if at such Meeting Two Thirds of such Persons as aforesaid then present shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the Borough or Town, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come into operation in such Borough or Town, as the Case may be, and shall be carried into execution, in accordance with the Laws for the Time being in force relating to the Municipal Corporation of such Borough, or relating to such Town.

Expenses of
carrying Act into
execution in

V. The Expenses incurred in calling and holding the Meeting, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the Expenses of carrying this Act into execution in such Borough, shall be paid out of the Borough Fund,

and in such Town out of the Town Fund; and the Council, or Board of Municipal Commissioners, or Town Commissioners, may levy as Part of the Borough Rate or Town Rate, as the Case may be, or by a separate Rate to be assessed and recovered in like Manner as the Borough Rate or Town Rate, all Monies from Time to Time necessary for defraying such Expenses; and distinct Accounts shall be kept of the Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities of the Council with reference to the Execution of this Act.

Appendix to
Volume I.
18 & 19 Vict.
Cap. 40.

a Borough or
Town to be paid
out of the
Borough Fund
or Town Fund.

VI. Such Accounts shall be audited in the same Way as all other Accounts of such Borough or Town respectively are audited, and the said Council or Board or Town Commissioners shall, within One Month after the same shall have been audited, transmit to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* for the Time being a true and correct Copy of such Accounts; and shall also within the Time aforesaid cause a Copy of such Accounts to be deposited in the Office of the Clerk; and the said Accounts shall be open to the Inspection of all Householders of such Borough or Town respectively, and Copies thereof shall be delivered to any such Householder applying for the same, upon Payment of a reasonable Charge for the same, to be fixed by the Council or Board or Town Commissioners, as the Case may be.

Accounts to be
audited, and sent
to Lord Lieuten-
ant, &c.; to be
deposited and
open to In-
spection.

VII. The Town Commissioners of every Town adopting this Act shall for the Purposes thereof be a Body Corporate, with perpetual Succession, by the Name of "The Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums for the Town of _____ in the County of _____," and by that Name may sue and be sued, and hold and dispose of Lands, and use a Common Seal.

Commissioners
of Towns adopt-
ing this Act to
be incorporated
for Purposes of
Act.

VIII. The Amount of the Rate to be levied in any Borough or Town in any One Year for the Purposes of this Act shall not exceed the Sum of One Penny in the Pound, and in any such Borough shall be assessed, raised, collected, and levied in the same Manner as the Borough Rate, and in any such Town shall be assessed, raised, collected, and levied in the same Manner as the Town Rate.

Rate not to ex-
ceed One Penny
in the Pound.
Houses and lands
to be differently
rated.

IX. The Council or Board of any Borough and the Town Commissioners of any Town respectively may from Time to Time, with the Approval of Her Majesty's Treasury, appropriate for the Purposes of this Act any Lands vested, as the Case may be, in a Borough in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and in a Town in the Town Commissioners, and may also, with such Approval, purchase or rent any Lands or any suitable Buildings, and the Council or Board and Town Commissioners respectively may, upon any Lands so appropriated, purchased, or rented respectively, erect any Buildings suitable for Public Libraries or Museums

Lands, &c. may
be appropriated,
purchased, or
rented for the
Purposes of this
Act.

Appendix to
Volume I.
18 & 19 Vict.
Cap. 40.

or Schools of Science and Art, or both, and may apply, take down, alter, and extend any Buildings for such Purposes, and rebuild, repair, and improve the same respectively, and fit up, furnish, and supply the same respectively with all requisite Furniture, Fittings, and Conveniences.

Provisions of
8 & 9 Vict. c. 18,
incorporated
with this Act.

X. "The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," shall be incorporated with this Act; but the Council or Board, and Commissioners respectively shall not purchase or take any Lands otherwise than by Agreement.

Lands, &c. may
be sold or ex-
changed.

XI. The Council or Board and Commissioners aforesaid respectively may, with the like Approval as is required for the Purchase of Lands, sell any Lands vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, or Board, or Town Commissioners respectively, for the Purposes of this Act, or exchange the same for any Lands better adapted for the Purposes; and the Monies to arise from such Sale, or to be received for Equality of Exchange, or a sufficient Part thereof, shall be applied in or towards the Purchase of other Lands better adapted for such Purposes.

General Ma-
nagement to be
vested in Coun-
cil or Board,
or Town Com-
missioners.

XII. The general Management, Regulation, and Control of such Libraries and Museums or Schools of Science and Art shall be, as to any Borough, vested in and exercised by the Council or Board, and as to any Town, in and by the Town Commissioners, or such Committee as they respectively may from Time to Time appoint, who may from Time to Time purchase and provide the necessary Fuel, Lighting, and other similar Matters, Books, Newspapers, Maps, and Specimens of Art and Science, for the Use of the Library or Museum, and cause the same to be bound or repaired, when necessary, and appoint salaried Officers and Servants, and dismiss the same, and make Rules and Regulations for the Safety and Use of the Libraries and Museums or Schools of Science and Art, and for the Admission of Visitors.

Property of Li-
brary, &c. to be
vested in Coun-
cil, Board and
Commissioners
respectively.

XIII. The Lands and Buildings so to be appropriated, purchased, or rented as aforesaid, and all other Real and Personal Property whatever presented to or purchased for any Library or Museum or School of Science and Art established under this Act, shall be vested, in the Case of a Borough, in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and in the Case of a Town in the Town Commissioners.

If Meeting deter-
mine against
Adoption of Act,
no fresh Meeting
to be called for
One Year.

XIV. If any Meeting called as herein-before provided to consider as to the Adoption of this Act for any Borough or Town shall determine against such Adoption no Meeting for a similar Purpose shall be held for the Space of One Year at least from the Time of holding the previous Meeting.

Museums to be
free.

XV. The Admission to all Libraries and Museums established under this Act shall be open to the Public free of all Charge.

XVI. Upon the coming into operation of this Act in any Borough it shall, as regards such Borough, be incorporated with the said Act of the Third and Fourth *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and eight, and upon the coming into operation of this Act in any Town it shall, as regards such Town, be incorporated with the Act or Acts in force therein relating to the Powers and Duties of the Town Commissioners.

Appendix to
Volume I.
18 & 19 Vict.
Cap. 40.

This Act to be
incorporated
with Local Acts
in force in Bo-
ro gh or Town.

17° & 18° VICT. CAP. LXIV.

An Act to amend an Act of the last Session for extending the Public Libraries Act, 1850, to Ireland and *Scotland*. [31st July 1854.]

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18 Vict.
Cap. 64.
Present Act ex-
tends to *Scot-*
land only.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Act of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and one, so far as the same relates to Scotland, and to give greater Facilities for the Establishment there of Public Libraries and Museums: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:—

Interpretation of
Terms.

I. In the Construction of this Act the following Words and Expressions, shall have the Meanings hereby assigned, if not inconsistent with the Context or Subject Matter; that is to say, the Expression "Parliamentary Burgh" shall mean a Burgh or Town to which Magistrates and Councils were provided by the Act of the Third and Fourth Years of King William the Fourth, Chapter Seventy-seven; the Expression "Occupier of Premises" shall mean a Male Occupier of a Dwelling House or other Heritable Subjects of the yearly Value of Ten Pounds or upwards, not being a Lodger or a Party in the Occupation as Tenant of a Furnished House let for a less Period than One Year but in such Case shall mean the Party by whom such House is so let.

So much of
16 & 17 Vict. c.
101. as relates
to Scotland
repealed.

II. So much of the said Act of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and one, as relates to Scotland, is hereby repealed, but such Repeal shall not invalidate or affect anything already done in pursuance of such Act: and all Public Libraries and Museums established in Scotland under the Act shall be considered as having been established under this Act.

Short Title.

III. In citing this Act for any purpose whatever, it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The Public Libraries Act, (Scotland) 1854."

IV. Upon the Requisition in Writing of the Magistrates and Council of any Royal Burgh, Parliamentary Burgh, Burgh of Regality, or Burgh of Barony in Scotland, whose Population according to the then last Census shall exceed *Ten Thousand Persons*, the Chief or Senior Magistrate of such Burgh, or in the Case of a Burgh not being a Royal or Parliamentary Burgh, the Sheriff of the County in which such Burgh is situated, shall, within *Ten Days* after the Receipt of such Requisition, convene a Meeting of the Occupiers of Premises in such Burgh, or in such Part thereof within which it may in such Requisition be proposed to adopt this Act, for the Purpose of considering whether this Act shall be adopted for such Burgh or such Part thereof, such Meeting to be held in the Town Hall or other convenient Place on a Day not less than *Twenty one Days* or more than *Thirty Days* after the Receipt of such Requisition, and Notice of the Time and Place of such Meeting to be given by affixing the same upon the Doors of the several Parish Churches within such Burgh *Fourteen Days* preceding the Day of Meeting.

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18 Vict.
Cap. 64.

Meeting to be
called for con-
sidering the
Adoption of this
Act in any
Burgh or Town
or Part
thereof.

V. For the Purpose of deciding as to the Adoption of this Act, all Occupiers of Premises in such Burgh or in such Part thereof as aforesaid, as the Case may be, shall be entitled to vote, and Companies or Copartnerships occupying Houses or other Heritable Subjects above the yearly Value of *Ten Pounds*, so as to afford more than *One Qualification* of *Ten Pounds*, may grant Authority in Writing to any one of the Partners of such Company or Copartnership to vote, but such Company or Copartnership shall not so authorize or have Right to vote by more than *One Partner* in respect of each Qualification of *Ten Pounds* afforded by such Premises; and any Dispute as to the Qualification or Identity of any Occupier of Premises shall be decided by such Senior Magistrate or Sheriff, as the Case may be, whose Decision shall be final.

Qualification of
Voters.

VI. If at such Meeting it shall be determined by a Majority of *Two Thirds* of the Votes of the Occupiers of Premises present that the Provisions of this Act shall be adopted in such Burgh or in such Part thereof respectively, then the same shall from thenceforth come into operation therein, unless a Poll shall be demanded in Writing at such Meeting by any *five Persons* present and qualified to Vote, and in that Case the Meeting shall be adjourned to a future Day for the Purpose of declaring the Result of the Poll.

Act may be
adopted at the
Meeting unless
Poll demanded.

VII. When such Poll shall be demanded, such Magistrate or Sheriff as aforesaid shall appoint the necessary Number of Clerks, and cause proper Poll Books to be prepared, and such Poll shall be proceeded in within such Period as he shall determine, not exceeding *Two days* from the Day of the holding of such Meeting; and the Poll shall be kept open for *One Day* at the Places fixed by him commencing at *Nine of*

Poll to be open
for *One Day*,
and state of Poll
to be ascertained
and declared.

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18 Vict.
Cap. 64.

the Clock in the Forenoon and ending at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon; and as soon after the Close of the Poll as may be, the Poll Clerks shall transmit to such Magistrate or Sheriff the state of the respective Polls, who shall sum up the same, and openly declare the Result of the total Poll at the adjourned Meeting.

Majority of Two-
Thirds necessary
for Adoption of
Act.

VIII. If it shall appear by the Result of such Poll that Two-Thirds of the Votes given have been given in favour of the Adoption of this Act, then the same shall from thenceforth come into operation in such Burgh or such part thereof as aforesaid; and in all Cases of the Adoption of this Act the same shall be put into execution by the Magistrates and Council of the Burgh.

Assessments may
be levied to the
extent of One
Penny in the
Pound for de-
fraying Ex-
penses.

IX. For defraying the Expenses incurred in calling, the Meeting and in taking such Poll, whether this Act shall be adopted or not, and the expenses of carrying this Act into execution, the Magistrates and Council of such Burgh shall yearly assess all Occupiers of Premises within the Burgh, or within such Part thereof where it may have been decided to adopt this Act, in the sums necessary for defraying such Expenses, but in no case to any Amount exceeding One Penny in the Pound of the yearly Rent of such Premises; and such Assessments shall be made, levied, and recovered by the Magistrates and Council of such Burgh or Town in such and the like Manner, from the same Descriptions of Persons and Property, and with and under the like Powers, Provisions, and Exceptions, as the general Assessments leviable under the Act of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Years of Her present Majesty Chapter Thirty-three, for Police and other Purposes, are authorized to be made, levied, and recovered, and as if such Magistrates and Council were Commissioners elected under that Act, and the said Assessments were Part of the general Assessments authorized to be thereby made.

Account of Ma-
gistrates and
Council in rela-
tion to this Act
to be open to
Inspection.

X. The Magistrates and Council shall provide and keep Books in which shall be entered true and regular Accounts of their Receipts, Payments, and Liabilities with reference to the Execution of this Act, to be called 'The Public Libraries Account,' and such Books shall at all reasonable Times be open to the Inspection of every Person liable to be assessed by virtue of this Act, without Fee or Reward, who respectively may take Copies of or make Extracts from such Books, without paying for the same; and in case such Magistrates and Council or any of them respectively, or any of their respective Officers or Servants having the Custody of such Books, shall not permit the same Accounts to be inspected, or Copies of or Extracts from the same to be made or taken, every person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds.

XI. The Boundaries of Parliamentary Burghs, Royal Burghs, Burghs of Regality and of Barony, shall for the Purposes of this Act be the same as the Boundaries declared for such Burghs by and for the Purposes of the said Act of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Years of Her present Majesty, Chapter Thirty-three.

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18 Vict.
Cap. 64.
Boundaries of
Burghs, &c.

XII. The Magistrates and Council of any Burgh may from Time to Time appropriate for the Purposes of this Act any Land or Building vested in them, and also purchase, feu, or rent any land, and may, upon any Land so appropriated, rented, feued, or purchased respectively, erect any Buildings suitable for Public Libraries, or Museums, or both, and may alter and extend any Buildings for such Purposes, and repair and improve the same respectively with all requisite furniture, Sitings and Conveniences.

Lands may be
appropriated,
purchased or
rented for the
Purposes of this
Act.

XIII. All the Clauses and Provisions of the "Lands Clauses Consolidation Act (Scotland), 1845" with respect to the purchase of lands by agreement and with respect to the Money or Compensation coming to Parties having limited Interests, or prevented from treating, or not making a Title, and also with respect to Conveyances of Land, so far as the same Causes and Provisions respectively are applicable to the Cases contemplated by the last Section, shall be incorporated in this Act; and the Expression "the Special Act," used in the said Clauses and Provisions shall be construed to mean this Act, and the Expression "the Promoters of the Undertaking" used in the same Clauses and Provisions, shall be construed to mean the Magistrates and Council of the Burgh in question.

Certain clauses
of 8 & 9 Vict. c.
19. incorporated
with this Act.

XIV. The Magistrates and Council of any Burgh may sell any Lands vested in them for the Purposes of this Act, or exchange the same for any Lands better adapted for the Purposes; and the Monies to arise from such sale, or to be received for Equality of Exchange, or a sufficient Part thereof, shall be applied in or towards the Purchase of other Lands better adapted for such Purposes.

Lands, &c. may
be sold or ex-
changed.

XV. The general Management, Regulations, and Control of such Libraries and Museums shall be vested in and exercised by the Magistrates and Council of the Burgh, or such Committee as they respectively may from Time to Time appoint (the Members whereof need not be Magistrates or Councillors), who may from Time to Time purchase and provide the Necessary fuel, Lighting and other similar Matters, Books, Maps, and Specimens of Art, and Science, for the use of the Library or Museum, and cause the same to be bound or repaired when necessary, and appoint salaried Officers and Servants, and dismiss the same, and make Rules and Regulations for the Safety and use of the Library and Mu-

General Ma-
nagement to be
vested in Ma-
gistrates and
Councils.

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18 Vict.
Cap. 64.
Property of Li-
brary, &c. to be
vested in them.

seum, and for the Admission of Visitors; and the Lands so to be appropriated, purchased, or rented as aforesaid, and all other Real and Personal Property whatever, presented to or purchased for any Library, or Museum established under this Act, shall be vested in such Magistrates and Councils.

Admission to
Museum to be
free.

XVI. The admission to all Libraries and Museums established under this Act shall be open to the Public free of all Charge.

17° & 18° VICT. CAP. XCIX.

An Act to provide for the Establishment of a National Gallery of Paintings, Sculpture, and the Fine Arts, for the Care of a Public Library, and the Erection of a Public Museum, in Dublin.

[10th August 1854.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish a National Gallery of Paintings, Sculpture, and the Fine Arts in Ireland: And whereas it is also expedient to render Archbishop Marsh's Library more conveniently accessible than it now is to the Inhabitants of Dublin: etc. etc.

Appendix to Volume I. 17 & 18 Vict. Cap. 99.

IV. It shall be lawful for the Governors and Guardians of Archbishop Marsh's Library (anything in an Act of the Parliament of Ireland, intitled An Act for settling and preserving a Public Library for ever in the House for that Purpose built by his Grace Narcissus now Lord Archbishop of Armagh, on Part of the Ground belonging to the Archbishop of Dublin's Palace near the City of Dublin, passed in the Sixth Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, or otherwise, to the contrary notwithstanding,) to cause the said Library to be removed to the said Building so to be erected, as soon as the said shall be completed and in a Condition to receive the said Library: Provided always that the said Governors and Guardians shall approve of the Plan and Arrangements of that Portion of the said Building to be appropriated to the Reception of a Public Library.

Governors or Guardians of Marsh's Library empowered to remove the Library to the new Building.

V. It shall be lawful for the Governors and Guardians of the said Library, at any Time after the said Library shall have been removed to and deposited within the said Building so to be erected as aforesaid, from Time to Time to alien, sell and dispose of the several Buildings, Grounds, Gardens, Courts, and Premises now vested in them by virtue of the said last-mentioned Act of Parliament, or otherwise or any of them, or any Part thereof respectively anything in the said Act or

Governors, &c. of Marsh's Library empowered to dispose of their present Premises after such Removal.

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18 Vict.
Cap. 99.

otherwise to the contrary, notwithstanding: Provided always, that the Proceeds of all and every such Alienations, Sales, and Dispositions shall be applied by the said Governors and Guardians to make such Compensation as they shall think fit to any Officer or Officers for any Loss which such Officer or Officers shall have incurred by reason of the Removal of the said Library as aforesaid and to the Objects of their Trust, and not otherwise.

Governors, &c.
of Marsh's Li-
brary to retain
their exclusive
Control over
the Library.

VI. The Governors and Guardians of Archbishop Marsh's Library shall continue to have the same exclusive Control over the said Library which they at present possess, and shall have the entire and exclusive Possession, Occupation, and Control for the Purposes of their Trust of those Portions of the said Building so to be erected as herein-before mentioned which shall be upon the Completion of the said Building set apart by the said Building Trustees for the Accommodation of the said last-mentioned Library.

.....

After the com-
pletion of the
Building, &c.
the National
Gallery, and the
Governors, &c.
of Marsh's Li-
brary to be a
Body Corporate,
as Trustees of
the Building
for ever.

X. The Persons who for the Time being shall compose the said respective Bodies Corporate, that is to say, the Governors and Guardians of the National Gallery of Ireland, and the Governors and Guardians of Archbishop Marsh's Library, shall be One Body Corporate, under the name of "The Joint Trustees of the National Gallery of Ireland and of Marsh's Library," and so soon as the said Building so to be erected as aforesaid shall have been completed the said Building Trustees shall declare it to be so by an Instrument under the Hands of them, or of any Three of them, and thereupon, the said Building, together with the Ground whereon the same shall have been erected, shall become and be vested in the said last-mentioned Body Corporate for ever, subject nevertheless to the exclusive Possession, Occupation, and Control of those Portions of the said Building respectively to be occupied by the said Governors and Guardians of the National Gallery of Ireland, and the said Governors and Guardians of Archbishop Marsh's Library, for the Purposes of their respective Trusts as aforesaid.

.....

Power to Go-
vernors, &c. of
Marsh's Library
to admit any
other collection
of Books into
the same Build-
ing.

XIV. It shall be lawful for the Governors and Guardians of Archbishop Marsh's Library to admit into that Portion of the Building to be erected as aforesaid which shall be appropriated to the Reception of a Public Library any Books which any public Body or private Individual or Individuals may desire either to present or give to the said last-mentioned Governors and Guardians, or may desire to deposit there for the Use of the Public, upon such Terms nevertheless as to the Arrangement of such Books, the Mode of Access thereto, the Accommodation of

Readers, and the Management and Control of said Books, as may be agreed upon between the said last-mentioned Governors and Guardians and such public Body or private Individual or Individuals so giving or depositing such Books as aforesaid: and all such Books as shall be so given presented or deposited shall until Parliament shall otherwise provide be and remain under the Care and Management and in the Possession of the said last-mentioned Governors and Guardians, and such other Person or Persons as shall be agreed on between them and the Body or Bodies, Individual or Individuals, giving, presenting or depositing such Books, or in such other Care, Management, and Possession as shall be agreed on between the said last-mentioned Guardians and such Body or Bodies, Individual or Individuals, so giving, presenting, or depositing as aforesaid.

Appendix to
Volume I.
17 & 18- Vict.
Cap. 99.

END OF VOLUME I.