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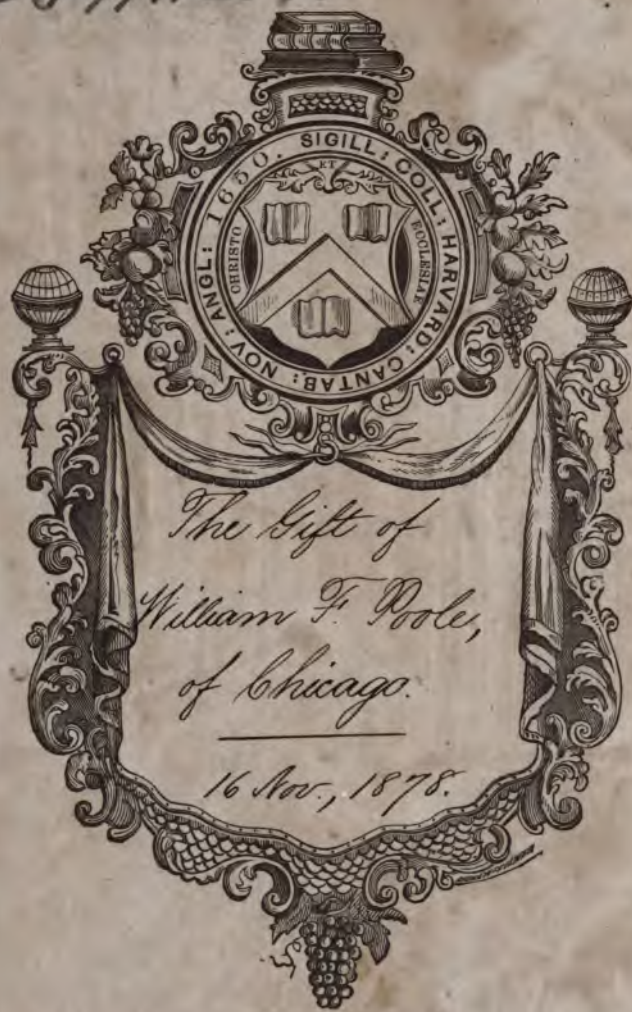
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HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
ORIGIN AND FOUNDATION
OF THE
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

COMPILED FROM THE ORIGINAL
DOCUMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTEMPORARY
PUBLICATIONS—AS THE SAME HAVE BEEN
PRESERVED IN THE HANDS OF
THE COMPILER,

THOMAS HOYNE.

CHICAGO:

BEACH, BARNARD & CO., LEGAL PRINTERS, 104 RANDOLPH STREET.

1877.



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Introductory.

The foundation of the Chicago Public Library will always be considered as an event of so much importance in our municipal history, that for future use the facts concerning it should be placed beyond controversy.

The time for doing this is now propitious. The proper data can all be reached, and living witnesses be found, to verify or contradict any statements uttered or published. And fortunately the compiler of the following pages was himself made an active agent in carrying forward the work from the beginning. As such agent he has become possessed of nearly all the original correspondence, the documents and contemporary accounts published or recorded of the first meetings of the citizens, the organization of the first Library Board, and the passage of the Public Library Bill, under which the Directors of the Library organized. He has for some time considered it a duty, if undertaken by no one else, to reduce all this matter to some permanent, enduring form. It would seem a debt of justice that this should be done as an acknowledgment of the distinguished services rendered, and the valuable contributions made by the many friends which the project of establishing such a Library found, active and enthusiastic in its behalf, in Europe, as well as America. Some recognition of these services is especially due to friends abroad, as from them proceeded—after the fire—the first movement which resulted in the execution of the design. It is eminently fitting that a Public Library should have a *record of such names* as ought to be readily recalled in connection with such services.

The writer had hoped that this labor could have been under-

taken under the supervision of the Library Board, but from some indications he has become satisfied that this cannot be immediately realized. Rather, however, than the duty should be neglected, the writer prefers assuming the cost of this publication as a private citizen. His compensation may have been anticipated by the honor he enjoyed, as being chosen the *first* President ever elected by the Board of Directors, for which he is more grateful than if he had been elected to a seat in the National Congress.

And let me add in this connection that there was a peculiar significance in the two contemporary events of the destruction of Chicago by fire, and the foundation of the Public Library. Together, they constitute an epoch in our progress! The latter will ever be held to illustrate the civilization of the period, while the rebuilding of the city will illustrate the spirit and courage of the people! In this sense, the present generation will leave a monument to posterity, more durable than any whose remains now record the memorable glories of the past!

Among those to whom the people of this city should be grateful, in view of what has been done in this undertaking, is the Hon. JOSEPH MEDILL. Mr. Medill had been elected as Mayor of the city in November, immediately after the fire in 1871. He was elected irrespective of party, and as the "*fire-proof candidate.*" The appeal to found the "New Library" in Chicago had been issued by Mr. Hughes, in England, and his associates. Mayor Medill promptly entered upon the work here, while overwhelmed by the cares of a municipality *in ashes!* and all the functions of its administration in a state of confusion. He called the first meeting of citizens, and appointed the first Committee of those who took upon themselves all the necessary work of organization. But more especially is it the duty of the writer to chronicle the fact, that it was *his fertility of resource* and *zealous co-operation* in the work, that as soon as the Library Law had been passed, devised the means of placing at the service of the first Board of Directors the accommodations necessary to begin the work at once. He drafted the first ordinance, which at his request the Common Council passed, establishing

the Library under the act. He improvised the celebrated "Iron Tank or Cistern" in which the first contributions of books from England and Germany were stored and sheltered for safety—until time elapsed, under the operation of the law, when the tax to be levied could be made available.

It is not too much to state, and the writer takes upon himself the whole responsibility of the statement, that had the municipal administration which followed that of Mayor Medill been then in power, such a work would never have *been undertaken!* The appeal so nobly responded to among the masses of English people, to found a new Library in Chicago, would have fallen upon but few sympathetic ears in our *public* councils! The whole effort would have failed, to the disgrace of our people in Chicago. Private citizens would, no doubt, have come forward to save our honor, and voluntary associations would have followed. But there would not have been, as *there is now*, any foundation based upon public law, assured of *permanent support*, and maintained at the cost of the people.

It will be always a source of satisfaction that our city proved equal to the occasion—that she took the proper steps adequately to receive and provide for the safety and use of all the rich historical and literary treasures donated abroad for the foundation then laid; and when we now go through the Library, what citizen does not rejoice that the papers sent by the British Museum, the University of Oxford—the files of the English papers, and the vast and costly collection of over 4,000 volumes sent to the city by the English Government itself, have been made the special object of all the care and attention which it was in the power of the City or the State to exercise?

It was certainly a rare concurrence of events, never again possible of recurrence, that brought about the foundation of the Library. As such, it would deserve more than ordinary notice. The writer would like, did time permit, to extend this introduction, so as to include the numbers of other contributions, and also the contributors who zealously helped on the Directors at the time, and co-operated in their labors. To any one who will hereafter follow up the investigation, there will be found at his

hand, valuable material to complete what the writer has only entered upon, by bringing some material upon the ground, and clearing up the foundations.

Among those whose assistance contributed most effectually were the entire body of gentlemen at that time connected with the Chicago press. Day by day they chronicled the advance made, and encouraged those more immediately engaged by a proper and intellectual appreciation of the labors they were engaged in. Among them Hon. James W. Sheahan, of the Chicago Tribune, should be named, as the first Secretary of the Board of Directors, of whom he was a member. He performed all the duties of Secretary *without reward*, until Mr. Wickersham was secured at a salary of \$1,200 per annum.

The Foreign Departments of the Library, (such as the German, French, &c.,) is under peculiar obligations to Mr. Herman Raster, the able conductor of the *Staats Zeitung* newspaper, and Mr. Julius Rosenthal. Both being gentlemen of the finest culture, and possessing a comprehensive and intimate acquaintance with the best scientific and literary publications and writers of continental Europe, rendered services of inestimable value to the first Board, of which they were members.



History of Chicago Library.



THE first really effective movement ever made towards the foundation of a free Public Library in Chicago arose out of the very memorable desire of Thomas Hughes and his distinguished associates in England, to found a "New Library" in Chicago, as a "mark of English sympathy," immediately after the great fire of October, 1871.

A full account of this movement will be found in the first public address, made at the formal opening of the library reading room on the first day of January, A. D. 1873.

The Reading Room itself, it will be remembered, was a rudely improvised structure, secured through the active and ever zealous co-operation of the Mayor, Hon. JOSEPH MEDILL. It was raised in technical violation of the city ordinances, over the present City Hall, in which is now accommodated the library of the Law Institute. Its construction in that locality was suggested by Mayor MEDILL, because of its immediate connection with the so called "Iron Tank," 60 feet in diameter, by an elevation of 30, supported on top of a stone tower 100 feet in height, which had long before been disused as a distributing water reservoir in the South division of the city. Its security against fire was deemed impregnable. In this, as a depository, or vault, for safe keeping, was collected and arranged on shelving, during the years 1872-73, some 12,000 or 13,000 volumes of the books received from the English contributions and elsewhere. The Library proper was finally opened about the first day of May 1874, in the then new building upon the Southeast corner of Wabash Avenue and Madison streets. Every possible means had been used to make the opening a success. The services of Mr. Poole, the librarian, had been secured, and a por-

tion of the first library taxes collected, had been expended in making additions to the books on hand, but still the greatest number of the books then on the shelves were made up of foreign and home donations.

The first step in all this progress was taken by the Mayor, Hon. Joseph Medill, in January, 1872. He had been notified that a circular had been issued in London, by Thomas Hughes M. P. and others, immediately after the great Chicago fire, and that to it was attached the names of the leading publishers, authors and statesmen of Great Britain, including that of her Majesty, the Queen. It was in the nature of an appeal to the English people, to found a New Library in Chicago as a mark of their sympathy on account of the fire. The appeal and correspondence ensuing out of it, between these leaders of public opinion in England, soon found its way into the public press of this country as well as Great Britain. A copy of the circular itself was received here and should be inserted at this place, but it has been lost out of the hands of the compiler.

Among the many strong utterances in which the enterprise was commended are the following:

“The Library to be established would be regarded as a *token* of that sentiment of kinship which, independently of circumstances, and independent of every other consideration, must ever powerfully effect the different branches of the English race.” It continues by saying, “that while the home literature of the present day and the last hundred years will form an important portion of the New Library, the characteristic feature of the gift will consist in sending to the Americans works of the thirteen preceding centuries, which are the common inheritance of both peoples.”

How well this promise has been kept will appear in the sequel.

It will be interesting to note the *first* letter, and the accompanying package which was received from *Glasgow*, under date of December 4th, 1871, and must in itself be always considered a most interesting memorial. It contains a *list of the works* sent, among which, are the life and works of Burns,

Lectures in reply to Renan by the sender, "*and some fly leaves of Poetry for Clydeside men at Chicago,*" which will be inserted aback of this pamphlet.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CHICAGO, Jan. 29, 1872.

Dear Sir:

Some weeks ago the Mayor received the enclosed letter advising him of the shipment of some books for the free Library; but the parcel itself has not come to hand. I know of no better disposition to be made of the communication than to place it in the hands of the Committee of which you are Chairman.

Respectfully,

M.,

For MAYOR MEDILL.

To Hon. THOMAS HOYNE.

ELM GROVE PLACE, GLASGOW, }
December 4th, 1871. }

THE HON. R. B. MASON, Mayor of Chicago :

Sir: I observe that among other great losses occasioned by the recent conflagration at Chicago, the destruction of the Public Library is one, and being informed that donations of books to renew the collection are being forwarded from this country, I have to beg your acceptance of a few volumes, at my own and my publisher's hands, as a small contribution towards that object.

A parcel containing the books has just been dispatched to your address, through Messrs. Handyside & Henderson, of this city, and a list of the contents is subjoined.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. HATZ WADDELL.

To renew Lost Library at Chicago, with sympathy and best wishes.

From Editor and Publisher :

Life and Works of Robert Burns; Critical and Analytical edition, - 2 vols

From Author :

Psalms intil Scottis, - - - - - 2 copies.

Christ of Revelation and Reality, - - - - - 2 copies.

Lectures on Burns, - - - - - 2 copies.

Lectures in reply to Renan, - - - - - 2 copies.

Flyleaves of Poetry (copies of enclosed) for Clydeside men at Chicago, 18 copies.

With kindest remembrance.

The HON. R. B. MASON, &c., Mayor of Chicago.

The Mayor, Hon. Joseph Medill, in compliance with a request made upon him in a call, which *he* had suggested, called the first meeting ever held on the subject, at Plymouth Congregational Church, (now St. Mary's Catholic Church,) at the corner of Wabash Avenue and Eldridge Court, on the evening of January 8, 1872. The Mayor on taking the chair stated that his defect of hearing and business engagements would prevent his giving such attention to the business of the meeting as its importance would require, and requested Mr. Hoyne to take the chair, which he did. He made no speech, but Mr. Larned and some others did. Resolutions were adopted, and the Mayor was requested to appoint a Committee of so many citizens as he should think proper, to take into their charge the immediate organization of a *Public Library*.

On the day after this meeting the Mayor sent the following communication to Mr. Hoyne, and enclosed a list of names of citizens which will be found in the accounts of proceedings thereafter published and taken:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CHICAGO, Jan. 10, 1872.

HON. THOMAS HOYNE.

Dear Sir: In virtue of the resolution adopted by the free Public Library meeting on Monday evening, I have appointed the following gentlemen as the Committee to carry out the wishes and instructions of said meeting,—you being Chairman.

You will please notify them of the time and place of meeting.

There is a Council Committee room in the City Hall which is at your service.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH MEDILL, Mayor.

The contemporary publication of the "Chicago Librarian," a monthly serial, now carries forward the accounts of all the successive steps taken, as well as the names of the citizens engaged, down to the first day of January, 1873, when the Reading Room of the Library was first opened to the public—at the "Tank."

[*Extracted from the Chicago Librarian.*]

THE FIRST MOVE.

The Great Fire of Oct. 9, 1871, having destroyed all the large libraries of the city, a number of Chicago's more intelligent and enterprising citizens conceived the idea of making a movement looking toward the establishment, upon a broad and liberal basis, of a Free Public Library, similar to those enjoyed by most other large cities. In accordance with this desire, the following paper was presented to the Mayor on Wednesday, January 3, 1872 :

HON. JOSEPH MEDILL, *Mayor of Chicago:*

The undersigned respectfully request that you call a public meeting of the citizens of Chicago with reference to the establishment of a free Public Library in Chicago, to be held at Plymouth Church, corner Wabash avenue and Eldridge court, on Monday, the 8th inst., Jan., at 7½ P. M., and that you preside over said meeting.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Geo. S. Bowen, | N. S. Bouton, | Rev. W. H. Ryder, | Wm. Bross, |
| Philip Wadsworth, | Charles L. Wilson, | T. D. Lowther, | Enos Brown, |
| Henry M. Sheppard, | Marshall Field, | Isaac N. Arnold, | J. V. Farwell, |
| Gilbert R. Smith, | L. Z. Leiter, | Rev. W. A. Bartlett, | John K. Harmon, |
| Wirt Dexter, | W. E. Doggett, | A. H. Winslow, | C. H. McCormick, |
| N. K. Fairbank, | F. A. Eastman, | O. S. Hough, | Andrew Shuman, |
| C. G. Hammond, | C. M. Henderson, | Horace White, | Thos. Hoyne. |
| E. C. Larned, | C. C. P. Holden, | | |

THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING.

In accordance with this request a meeting was called and held in Plymouth Congregational Church on the evening of Monday, January 8, 1872, when the following named gentlemen were appointed a committee to prepare such legislation as might be needful for the purpose of establishing a Free Public Library in Chicago, and to report such a bill at the earliest moment to a public meeting, to be called by them for that purpose :

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Thos. Hoyne, Chairman, | D. L. Shorey, | Judge Henry Booth, | John V. Farwell, |
| W. E. Doggett, | J. M. Walker, | Levi Z. Leiter, | C. H. McCormick, |
| E. C. Larned, | W. B. Ogden, | Geo. Schneider, | Julius Rosenthal, |
| S. S. Hayes, | Henry Greenebaum, | Edwin Lee Brown, | J. Y. Scammon, |
| James Warrack, | Geo. S. Bowen, | Wm. Bross, | Carter H. Harrison. |

THE COMMITTEES.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, 1872, the committee before mentioned held a meeting for the purpose of drafting the required legislative bill, and produced as the result of their labors three bills differing but slightly from each other, all of which were referred to a sub-committee composed of Messrs. Thomas Hoyne, E. C. Larned, J. M. Walker, D. L. Shorey, S. S. Hayes, and Judge Henry Booth.

The sub-committee met on the afternoon of January, 18, 1872, and reported a bill modeled in its main provisions after the Boston Public Library law. This bill was adopted by the special committee and reported at the

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING,

called by them and held in the City Hall, on Saturday evening, January 20, of which Hon. Thomas Hoyne was Chairman, and D. L. Shorey, Secretary.

The bill having been submitted to the meeting, met with a unanimous approval, and the expressed wish that the Legislature would immediately pass the same, which was subsequently done. The following is

THE FREE LIBRARY BILL

as finally approved, March 7, 1872, by the Legislature :

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CITIES, INCORPORATED TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly,* That the City Council of each incorporated city shall have power to establish and maintain a Public Library and Reading-Room for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of such city, and may levy a tax of not to exceed one mill on the dollar annually; and, in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants, not to exceed one-fifth of one mill annually, on all the taxable property in the city—such tax to be levied and collected in like manner with other general taxes of said city, and to be known as the "Library Fund."

SEC. 2. When any City Council shall have decided to establish and maintain a Public Library and Reading-Room under this act, the Mayor of such city shall, with the approval of the City Council, proceed to appoint a Board of nine Directors for the same, chosen from the citizens at large with reference to their fitness for such office; and not more than one member of the City Council shall be at any one time a member of said Board.

SEC. 3. Said Directors shall hold office, one-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years, from the first of July following their appointment; and at their first regular meeting, shall cast lots for the respective terms; and, annually thereafter, the Mayor shall, before the first of July of each year, appoint, as before, three Directors to take the place of the retiring Directors, who shall hold office for three years, and until their successors are appointed. The Mayor may, by and with the consent of the City Council, remove any Director for misconduct, or neglect of duty.

SEC. 4. Vacancies in the Board of Directors occasioned by removals, resignation, or otherwise, shall be reported to the City Council, and be filled in like manner as original appointments; and no Director shall receive compensation as such.

SEC. 5. Said Directors shall, immediately after appointment, meet and organize by the election of one of their number as President, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations, for their own guidance, and for the government of the Library and Reading-Room, as may be expedient, not inconsistent with this act. They shall have the exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the Library Fund; and of the construction of any Library building; and of the supervision, care, and custody of the grounds, rooms, or buildings constructed, leased, or set apart for that purpose:

Provided, That all moneys received for such Library shall be deposited in the Treasury of said city, to the credit of the Library Fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from other moneys of such city, and drawn upon by the proper officers of said city, upon the properly authenticated vouchers of the Library Board. Said Board shall have power to purchase or lease grounds, to occupy, lease, or erect an appropriate building or buildings, for the use of said Library; shall have power to appoint a suitable Librarian and necessary assistants, and fix their compensation, and shall also have power to remove such appointees; and shall, in general, carry out the spirit and intent of this act, in establishing and maintaining a Public Library and Reading-Room.

SEC. 6. Every Library and Reading-Room established under this act shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants of the city where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Library Board may adopt, in order to render the use of said Library and Reading-Room of the greatest benefit to the greatest number; and said Board may exclude from the use of said Library and Reading-Room any and all persons who shall willfully violate such rules.

SEC. 7. The said Board of Directors shall make, on or before the second Monday in June, an annual report to the City Council, stating the condition of their trust on the first day of June of that year; the various sums of money received from the Library Fund and from other sources, and how such moneys have been expended, and for what purposes; the number of books and periodicals on hand; the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise, during the year; the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books, with other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest. All such portions of said report as relate to the receipt and expenditure of money, as well as the number of books on hand, books lost or missing, and books purchased, shall be verified by affidavit.

SEC. 8. The City Council of said city shall have power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing injury upon such Library, or the grounds or other property thereof, and for injury to, or failure to return, any book belonging to such Library.

SEC. 9. Any person desiring to make donations of money, personal property, or real estate for the benefit of such Library, shall have the right to vest the title to the money or real estate so donated in the Board of Directors created under this act, to be held and controlled by such Board, when accepted, according to the terms of the deed, gift, devise, or bequest of such property, and, as to such property, the said Board shall be held and considered to be Special Trustees.

SECTIONS 10 and 11 do not relate to city libraries.

SEC. 12. Whereas, all the libraries of Chicago were destroyed by the recent fire in that city, and large donations of books have been made to found a Free Library; and, whereas, no suitable building or organization exists to receive or preserve them; therefore, an emergency exists that this law shall take effect immediately; therefore, this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

THE CITY ORDINANCE.

In conformity with the requirements of the bill, on Monday, March 18, 1872, Mayor Medill sent an ordinance to the Common Council establishing The Chicago Public Library, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Council. This committee reported favorably upon the ordinance at a meeting of the Council held on the evening of April 1, 1872, when it was unanimously passed and the Library thereby established under Act of Legislature here given. The ordinance was signed by the Mayor, April 3, 1872.

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

On April 8, 1872, the Mayor presented to the Common Council the names of the following gentlemen to constitute the first Board of Directors, the nominations being confirmed by the Council:

Thomas Hoynes, S. S. Hayes, R. F. Queal, J. W. Sheahan, D. L. Shorey, Herman Raster, Williard Woodard, Elliott Anthony, Julius Rosenthal.

In this Board, each division of the city, each occupation, and each leading religious denomination is fairly represented.

On the afternoon of Thursday, April 11, 1872, the Directors met and took

the required oath of office, and arranged for their respective terms of office, as follows :

One year, Messrs. Hoyne, Queal, Shorey.

Two years, Messrs. Woodard, Anthony, Rosenthal.

Three years, Messrs. Raster, Sheahan, Hayes.

Thomas Hoyne was elected President of the Board, and it was arranged that the Board should hold semi-monthly meetings, which has been done regularly up to the present time.

STANDING COMMITTEES, 1872-'3.

Buildings and Grounds.—Messrs. Queal, Hayes and Shorey.

Library and Reading Room.—Anthony, Raster and Sheahan.

Finance.—Hayes, Raster and Queal.

Administration.—Rosenthal, Woodard and Sheahan.

By-Laws and Regulations.—Shorey, Anthony and Woodard.

LOCATION OF THE LIBRARY.

The Library now being fully organized, and intelligence received by the Directors that large donations of books were being made in London, and elsewhere, it became necessary to provide some suitable room where the books could be safely shelved and made available to the public. To meet this requirement the Common Council authorized the Board of Public Works to construct a large room in the second story of the temporary City Hall, on the south-east corner of LaSalle and Adams streets, to be used as a reading-room. This room is adjoining and connected with the fire-proof brick structure heretofore known as "The Tank," which has been fitted up and furnished as a library-room, and where the books are to be kept until rooms are constructed for their accommodation in a suitable Library building. "The Tank" has a capacity of 18,000 volumes.

THE OPENING.

The formal opening of the reading-room of the Library took place with appropriate exercises at 11 o'clock on Jan. 1, 1873, a large number of Chicago's most prominent citizens being present. Promptly at the hour mentioned, the large assemblage of people were called to order by the President of the Board of Directors of the Library, Hon. Thomas Hoyne, who, in connection with his Honor, Mayor Medill, delivered the main addresses of the occasion.

ADDRESS

—(OF)—

Hon. Thomas Hoyne.



Prayer having been offered by the Rev. Dr. Ryder, Mr. Hoyne spoke as follows :

GENTLEMEN : The Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library have thought the New Year's Day of 1873 an appropriate time upon which they might congratulate the "City Fathers" and the general public on so important an event as the opening—to the free use of the people, for the the first time—the Reading-Room of this new municipal institution. Those among us residing here since the year 1837, when the city was first organized under a municipal charter of government—have witnessed during that time a marvelous development. The city, from a population of some three thousand souls, has reached four hundred thousand ! It has advanced from a village site to a great metropolitan city. During this interval we have been frequently called upon to witness or inaugurate some of those single enterprises through or by means of which all of this has come to pass. We have seen mile upon mile of level swamp and prairie land raised up to town grade, many feet above the original level, transformed into miles of paved streets ; the waste places covered with palace shops, costly mansions, and mammoth stores and warehouses. Ten thousand miles of railroad have been rapidly concentrating at our doors the commerce, the traffic, and the products of tens of thousands of square miles of territory which the commercial position of the city so naturally commands. Along all the great rivers to the two gulfs, and upon our great lakes, between the two oceans of our "Ocean-bound Republic," the very spirit of the Great West, (using the language of a late number of the *Financier*), "like morning light, is polarized at Chicago."

The great local calamity which, a little more than a year ago, drove into the street more homeless families and destroyed more property in buildings, than had ever before signalized the occurrence of so fearful an ordeal, seems to only demonstrate how this veritable spirit of the Great West can rebuild a better city now, within a year after the calamity, than had been built within the thirty years of municipal existence that preceded that event.

And yet, gentlemen, in view of all the material and commercial progress, I venture to say that, in inaugurating this enterprise of a Free Public Library and Reading-Room to-day, we are introducing a more powerful and important agency of

moral and intellectual progress, and adding more to the true advancement of our civilization as a people, than we have yet done by any single, it may be all the works in which the city has yet been engaged. It may be well for me here to recapitulate briefly the steps of our progress in this enterprise. It is nearly a year since a few gentlemen addressed a request to our Mayor, in writing, to call a public meeting of citizens at Plymouth Congregational Church, on Wabash avenue, with a view to immediate adoption of some measures to establish a Free Public Library in Chicago.

Mr. Medill, the Mayor, at once called the meeting, through the newspapers, for the evening of the 8th of January, 1872. At this meeting a resolution was passed authorizing the Mayor to appoint a committee of at least fifteen persons to prepare the necessary legislation for the purpose, and, as soon as practicable, call another meeting, at which the Committee was to report.

The Committee was appointed, consisting of some twenty-two persons, and after maturing the plan of a law or bill, by modifying one which was then pending before the General Assembly of the State (introduced by the late Mr. Caldwell, from Peoria)—reported the draft of a bill, as amended, to a meeting of citizens called at the present City Hall, on the 20th day of January, 1872. The Chairman of that meeting (Mr. Hoyne), who was also Chairman of the Committee that had been appointed, was authorized to send a Committee to Springfield to secure the passage of the bill into a law as soon as possible.

The bill matured (in concert with the Committee on Education of the Lower House of the Legislature, and the Chairman of the Committee of citizens, who made a journey to Springfield)---became, and was finally passed into a law, which took effect on the 7th day of March last.

On the 7th day of April, the Common Council, upon a report of the Mayor, adopted an ordinance declaring in accordance with the act, "That there shall be, and there is hereby established a Free Public Library and Reading-Room for the use of the inhabitants of the City of Chicago, to be known as the 'Chicago Public Library,' and that there should be provided and set apart, under the direction of the Board of Public Works, a room for the reception of any books that may be donated or procured for such Library, until a permanent location be otherwise provided.'"

On the 8th day of April, 1872, at the next meeting of the Common Council, the Mayor appointed the first Library Board of nine Directors under the act, in which appointment the Council concurred, and they at once entered upon the discharge of the trusts assigned to their care by law. On the 11th of April, the Board assembled for the first time, and organized by electing a President, and Mr. Sheahan was appointed Secretary, to act until a permanent one could be paid and selected. As may be supposed the very first difficulty with which they contended was the need of proper rooms or funds to provide even temporary quarters. As you are aware, the act authorizing cities and towns to establish and maintain free public libraries and reading-rooms, provides that the Council may levy a tax of not to exceed *one-fifth* of a mill on a dollar annually, in all cities of over one hundred thousand inhabitants, on all the taxable property of the city, to

be collected in like manner as all other taxes of said city, and to be known and set apart as the "Library Fund," to be exclusively under the control and to be expended by the Library Board. But it required a year to elapse before this levy of a fifth of a mill could be made available by collection. The annual lists of 1872 are only now beginning to realize some portion of this fund in the City Treasury.

But, fortunately, your Board have not been entirely without resources. The invention of the Mayor came to our aid. And it was found that by his co-operation with the Board of Public Works, library quarters might be improvised out of the abandoned, and, for some years, useless iron water-tank built some years ago on this lot as a distributing reservoir for the South Division of the city. Being sixty feet in diameter, thirty feet in height, circular in shape, and constructed of iron, it was capable of becoming a fire-proof rotunda, with room to arrange 1,800 volumes of books on shelves; and, as such, it has been transformed into a library by roofing and shelving. If the objection be made by some that it is placed too high up into the air for convenience—standing as it does upon a solid brick and stonework of rather ostentatious masonry; about thirty-five feet high,—yet it towers above the City Hall, a stern and dark-looking dome of no mean proportions, and when considered in connection with its object, it may be regarded as a beacon light upon a hill; a new reservoir of knowledge, instead of water, shedding light and wisdom upon the counsels of the City Fathers. Taking it, however, as it is—a really safe fire-proof receptacle or vault for the keeping of books, and in connection with this large room of 54x50, also constructed for us by the Board of Public Works—we have every reason to be thankful for the present temporary quarters.

Indeed, we may congratulate ourselves that within a year after the first meeting of the citizens,—in eight months since the passage of the law, and in less than *seven months* since our own appointment,—we are thus able to present, on this happy New Year's day of 1873, the temporary quarters we now occupy. Without as yet any money resources, except such as we have been able, through the kindness of Comptroller Burley, to anticipate or borrow, we have drawn upon the future, and ventured to open at once the Reading-Room of what will soon be the great Free Library of the People.

These rooms will be furnished with many of the leading publications issued abroad and in this country. They will comprise, during the first six months, magazines or newspapers from England, Germany, Ireland, France, Spain, Scotland, Italy, Norway, Bohemia, beside a large number of American publications.

Any account I could give of our progress would be noticeably incomplete without a reference to the generous and noble contributions known as the English foundation "for a new Library at Chicago."

It will be remembered that long before the first meeting of our citizens, already referred to, in this city last January, as the origin of the present movement,—that immediately after our great fire in October, 1871, an appeal was sent out in the nature of a circular from Thomas Hughes and his associates at London to the effect that, as a mark of sympathy, the people of England should present a new Library to the afflicted people of Chicago. A correspondence found its way into all

the public prints of the British Empire—among distinguished living writers, statesmen, publishers, and book men—warmly seconding this movement.

A copy of the printed circular, in the nature of an appeal, has come to hand. It bears the leading and influential names of Her Majesty, the Queen of England, the Premier, Gladstone, the present Lord Chancellor, Sir Roundell Palmer, the Duke of Argyle, and the no less distinguished, although untitled names of such great writers as Carlyle, Disraeli, and others.

In this circular the work is urged upon the ground "that the *new* Library of Chicago is to be a mark of sympathy now, and a token of that sentiment of kinship which, independently of circumstances, and independently of every other consideration, must ever powerfully affect the different branches of the English race."

"Accordingly," it says, "while the home literature of the present day, and of the last hundred years, will form an important portion of the new Library, the characteristic feature of the gift will consist in sending to the Americans works of the thirteen preceding centuries, which are the common inheritance of both peoples."

It then concludes by requesting "the authors, writers, and publishers of books—the heads of colleges and societies of the United Kingdom, and the representatives of historic and distinguished names, to send in such works illustrative of early English history as may be of rare merit, or difficult to find outside of their respective collections."

Under this call for the new Library of Chicago, books rapidly began to accumulate on the hands of the gentlemen who organized the enterprise at London. This Board, soon after their appointment in April last, learning that Mr. John Robson, (a resident of this city, and formerly the Librarian of the "Library Association," which was lost in our great fire,) was in London, and that he had volunteered his own services to relieve those gentlemen of the labor of receiving and taking charge of the books,—this Board appointed him their agent to receive all contributions coming in under the call; and to secure and ship to this city all contributions made toward this endowment.

Among other contributions, is a large sum of money placed at the disposition of our agent—the special gift of Thomas Hughes and his associates—to purchase such works of general interest and value as he might deem best suited to supply the immediate demand of the Chicago public. Mr. Robson is exercising this discretion, under the supervision of this Board, to whom he recently submitted a catalogue of 1,100 volumes to be purchased for our shelves. The list has been returned, with some modifications, and the order will be executed according to our suggestions.

The Board cannot yet, with any approach to accuracy, state the entire number of volumes which they are to expect from the English Donation. Mr. Robson writes that he is making a catalogue, which he has promised to send us as soon as practicable. In the mean time, he is packing up and shipping the books from the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, near London, where they are being sent in and collected. We have received, per ocean steamers, some nine cases, and we are advised by Mr. Robson that he has already shipped some nine cases more, not yet received. We have put upon our shelves, of this collection, in all, some 1,200 volumes.

Among this number are 287 volumes received direct from the great publishers, McMillan & Co., of London. Among these are included special gifts of their works, donated by English authors, among whom are Bright, Huxley, Kingsley, Maudsley, Vaughan, Touge, and others.

Among other donors of the books received are: John Murray; The Royal Scottish Society of Arts; the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford; the works of J. Stuart Mill, presented by himself; Sir Charles Lyell; Samuel Smiles; Professor Layard; Arthur Burgher Stanley; Proprietors of the *Athenaeum*, 28 volumes; Wesleyan Missionary Society, 136 volumes; and the *Art Journal*, 23 volumes.

We have from the Master of the English Rolls, 182 volumes of the most valuable collection, perhaps, ever published in Great Britain, under an Act of Parliament passed many years ago. They comprise the British calendar of State papers, containing all the early correspondence of the English Court with foreign countries,—constituting the best sources of authentic history from the earliest periods.

There is included 112 volumes of the chronicles and memorials of the earliest times of which any account or record can be found, in relation to Great Britain and Ireland,—among them the copy of the celebrated “Domesday Book,” the first record of the lands of the Kingdom, and copies of all original records in the Norman-French and Early Saxon, as well as English languages. These all are the gifts of the English Government, presented through the Master of the Rolls, under whose direction they were published.

Besides there, we have been presented with complete sets from the Royal Commissioners of the English Patent Office, including 70,000 plates of specifications, comprising 2,800 large quarto volumes of the English Patent Office Reports, which have been printed at a cost of £2,600, making, in gold, some \$13,000. The gift includes the addition of the volumes to be issued in every year ensuing, equal to an addition of some 140 volumes in each year. By a rule of the Commissioners, it is required in the few instances when the Government makes such donations as this to go out of the Kingdom, that the volumes shall be bound for preservation before leaving London. Accordingly, we have given our directions to Mr. Robson as to binding this large donation, of which there are only five or six complete sets in the United States, besides the Astor Library copy, in New York.

Including this 2,800 volumes of Patent Office Reports, it is probable that we shall receive from England, towards the foundation of our Free Library, at least 6,000, and probably it may be 8,000 volumes.

The volumes already received all bear neatly printed labels inside the first cover of each book, indicating the object, as it is expressed, thus: “Presented towards the formation of a Free Library at Chicago, since the great fire of October, 1871, as a mark of sympathy,”—by the author or publisher of the book, whose name, or autograph, is usually written into a blank space left for that purpose.

Hence, among the collection, will be found the autograph signatures of Gladstone, John Bright, Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill, Lord Romilly, Disraeli, Carlyle, Arthur B. Stanley, Smiles, Layard, Kingsley, Maudsley, Huxley, Murray, Lyell, Freeman, Rossetti, Markham, Masson, Reynolds, Todhunter, Vaughan, be-

sides officers of British Museum, and collections from Oxford and Cambridge, all the Anglican and religious societies; and we are informed by Mr. Robson that the Irish and Scotch Members of Parliament are collecting, to send in from those countries, the works of their best authors.

Nor is the German collection to be omitted. It has been presented to the Board through the kindness of the distinguished publisher at Leipsic, Alexander Adelman. He inaugurated the collection upon the appeal which was sent out from this city after the fire by our German fellow-citizens, Messrs. Kiholtz and Dyrenfurth, with whom Mr. Adelman has been in constant correspondence. The collection embraces some 800 volumes, besides a large number of pamphlet publications. A committee of two of the Board, Messrs. Rosenthal and Raster, have been appointed to prepare such of the most valuable portion of this collection as come to hand unbound for appropriate binding.

Besides these works, the Board have anticipated their resources so far as to order from Leipsic an entire copy of 1,249 volumes of "Tauchnitz Edition" of German (translated) and English publications, neatly bound, which, with the duties remitted as provided on all cases of importation made for public libraries, will give us the whole 1,249 volumes at a cost of less than forty cents for each volume, or about \$500 for the entire set.

I have to add that, since the writing of this report, we have been favored with a great many additional contributions from our own citizens. We shall have, at the close of this day, if we have not already, 3,157 volumes upon our shelves. Among the donors from the city are the following: Mayor Medill, Robert Hervey, Julius Rosenthal, Elliott Anthony, Robert F. Queal, J. L. Pickard, Joseph Huhn, Adolph Moses, Rev. Walter Forsyth, John H. Small, Professor Fisk, Miss A. Brown, Professor Delano, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Colwell, Edward A. Hill, Mrs. O. A. Hoge, Charles F. Jilson, H. W. S. Cleveland, E. M. Goodrich, (set of *Harper's Magazines*,) Dr. Willard, J. S. McIntire, **Rev. H. N. Powers**, Samuel Thornton, Edward F. Williams, W. H. Zarsum, Gen. Stiles, L. B. Jameson, Thomas Wilce, J. E. Otis, W. H. Clarke, B. B. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Leander Stone, James W. Sheahan.

I have also to state that Dr. Andrews, the President of the Faculty of the Chicago Medical College, proposes to turn over the entire collection of the medical works of the institution, with the only condition that they shall be retained in the library room as books of reference. A large number of citizens who are present this morning have also donated books, but the Secretary having been unable to record their names, they will be published hereafter.

Thus we may expect to have on our shelves, within the next three months, some ten or twelve thousand volumes of works donated or purchased. It is probable that after our tax of the first year, 1872, is realized, we may have \$50,000, and after providing for the necessary expenses of running the institution, and after reimbursing the money already drawn by way of anticipation, that the Board will be enabled to spend about \$25,000 the present year, in the purchase of such a number of useful and popular works as may enable us to open the Library in connection with the Reading Room.

In respect to all the books already received, or to come in as gifts from abroad,

it will become an important question, which the Board has not yet decided, whether they should be permitted to go beyond the room of the Library for use after it is opened. It will be necessary to consider the character and circumstances of such endowments. And, considering the number of important works received directly from the hands of some of the greatest writers of the country, containing their autograph signatures, they should ever be preserved and set apart as *souvenirs* of that great sympathy which so moved the universal heart of mankind after the fire to relieve our distress, inspiring us with new courage in face of one of the most appalling disasters, and making the restoration of Chicago a fact even more noticeable than its destruction.

The Board is cautiously, and it is hoped, successfully, feeling its way, and it has incurred no unnecessary expense, and, so far, it has retained only two assistants besides the efficient and able Secretary, Mr. W. B. Wickersham, who, for the time being, also acts as our Librarian.

THE BENEFITS. At the risk of uttering very much that may be considered trite and commonplace, I cannot close these remarks without a word or two in estimation of the great benefits expected to accrue to every class of our people from the establishment of a great Free Library upon such a basis as will insure it at all times a reliable and permanent support. It opens to a large and unprovided class in every great city like our own the means, and, in some instances, the only means, of moral and intellectual improvement. An access to good libraries, as we know, cultivates the higher tastes, and develops powers in human nature which might otherwise remain dormant. A large class of those whose hours might otherwise be wasted in vice or folly, will soon find how much better they can employ that time in pursuits which, while they afford the highest pleasure, are not only harmless, but purifying and elevating.

We should, indeed, congratulate ourselves that, for the first time in our municipal history, and I believe in the history of this State, that a public law secures to the masses of the people, and that reliable means are to be provided for the support and maintenance of free library and reading-room advantages.

It is true that before our great fire the generous and public-spirited portion of the citizens had succeeded, by taxing themselves, in establishing many useful means of general instruction. We had an Academy of Sciences, and an Academy of Design, filled with valuable collections. The city had a Historical Society, with a large and valuable collection of original and curious documents, illustrative of all that connected itself with the history and development of the Great West. It had, besides, the collections of the "Healey Gallery" that were hung in its halls, whose place can scarcely be filled with works of more exceeding merit.

We had the "Library Association," with its reading-room and valuable, though limited collection of books. The Young Men's Christian Union; the Catholic, Baptist, and other literary associations of great utility, all endeavoring to fill the place that must eventually be filled by some one large and complete collection of books, free for the use of all sects, and schools, and classes. But without regular and permanent income, or means of support, the success and progress of all voluntary effort or association must, in the nature of things, be always attended with

uncertainty. Properly managed, there is no reason to doubt that this institution can bring to this city within a short period the best works of ancient and modern literature and art from all countries. It will secure a free access to all works of the human intellect in all the fields of thought. There can be no exclusion or seclusion. Free to every reader, it will also be free to their books. Neither nationality, party, or creed can take offense, because the shelves are ready to receive the books of all creeds and schools that may be sent here, or which the means of the Board will enable them to purchase. "Error (a great statesman has said) may always be tolerated wherever truth is entirely free to combat it."

Except as to works of a positively vicious character, no work should be excluded from the library intended for the use of all classes, and maintained by a tax upon the property of the people. Every Church, creed, philosophy, profession, or school may, and in time no doubt will, have its own best representatives on our shelves. And every disciple of each faith or profession may here seek its most eloquent expounders.

In this respect the Board will not only follow the spirit of the law itself, but also the experience and example of all great public libraries in Europe and America. It is hoped by the Board that the time may soon come when on the shelves of the Chicago Public Library every scholar may find whatever work that has ever been published which can afford useful instruction or harmless amusement.

And not alone is it expected that mere text books shall be found in our rooms, but other publications illustrative of the arts, as well as works of art themselves, so that art lovers may find means of cultivating the higher tastes of the respective professions to which they belong. In this way it is hoped that the young metropolis of the West, from this day forward, will form herself according to higher standards of excellence than hitherto in all that sphere of commercial progress, and material and moral achievement, within which she now appears as the great central figure of the American continent.

Our much-respected Chief-Magistrate, Mayor Medill, said a few weeks ago, in his address at the opening of the new Chamber of Commerce (the first anniversary day of the great fire), that "after all, our great fire may prove to be a blessing in disguise." I am a convert to his doctrine, and the establishment of this Library is not the least of the blessings which the fire so providentially has been a proximate cause of producing.

The new Chamber of Commerce, begun the day after the fire, was finished within the year. It is in itself a beautiful monument to the enterprise of the great commercial spirit that moves our business in Chicago, while it illustrates the genius of our artisans and workmen in rebuilding our desolate places in such a manner as surprises even the denizens of Chicago. Yet we may doubt whether the greatness of all the commerce which in London surrounds the "British Museum" is at all equal in value to the vital effects produced by that institution upon the commerce and structure of our social organization. Such centers of learning—collecting, as into a common reservoir, all the knowledge of mankind, the experience of ages, and the use of the arts—is to our civilization what the Sun is in the economy of Universal Life. Let its light be withdrawn, and a darkness must succeed more perilous to all

the interests of our common humanity than would the destruction of all the centers of trade in Christendom.

The long night of what is known in history as the "Dark Ages" soon ensued upon the destruction, by an Arabian conqueror in the seventh century, of all the works collected in the Alexandrian Library. The "revival of letters" followed very soon upon the discovery of the art of printing, which soon brought again to the knowledge of mankind "the lost arts." The increase of books not only recovered what had been lost, but added a new stimulus to the discovery of the thousand useful inventions which now so materially advance the happiness of our race, and add to the progress of our modern civilization. Commerce cannot afford to be indifferent to the library and the reading-room. She, more than others, needs the help of science, which has constantly opened up the paths of her progress and glory. The city has cause to congratulate itself, that to-day she crowns her other labors of the rebuilding of her vacant sites since the fire, by this work of founding a great public library. This alone gives promise of greater security to property, while it assures in greater measure the intellectual and moral improvement of all her inhabitants in the future.

IN CONCLUSION. I cannot close this address without expressing to the Mayor, the Board of Public Works, the Comptroller, and members of the Common Council the acknowledgments of our Board of Directors for the generous and prompt spirit with which they have so far seconded their efforts in the progress already made. To the Mayor we owe especial thanks for the useful zeal and intelligent counsel which he has always placed at our service. "His own work will praise him in the gates of the city," and he scarcely will ever need any other eulogist.

Gentlemen, I conclude as I began, dedicating this hall and these rooms to the uses of the people. I wish you all the greetings of the season.



Address of Mayor Medill



AT the close of his remarks, Mr. HOYNE introduced Hon. JOSEPH MEDILL, Mayor, who delivered the following address:

FELLOW CITIZENS: When I received an invitation from the Chairman of the Board of Directors to be present on the occasion of the inauguration of the Chicago Free Library, I accepted it with the promise that I would make a few extempore remarks, limiting myself, I believe, to ten minutes. The Chairman of the Association said that perhaps there would be no formal speeches or prepared remarks, and on this understanding I promised to come. The fact of the matter is, that I had no time that I felt that I could spare to prepare such an address as the occasion really deserved; but I learned last night, somewhat to my surprise, that the President of the Board had prepared a formal, able and eloquent speech to deliver, and that other gentlemen who would follow me would come equally well prepared. I was obliged, therefore, to hurry to my desk last evening, and put together as best I could what I proposed to say upon this occasion. If my remarks fall short of your expectations, you must attribute it to a lack of time in which to prepare myself. Without further preface I shall now enter upon my subject, which is, "The Chicago Free Library—its uses and usefulness."

Solomon declares that "to everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." One year ago a few public-spirited citizens came to the conclusion that the time had come for founding a public library for the people of Chicago. The fire had consumed all the association libraries, and cleared the ground for building up an encyclopædian library in keeping with the character of the city and equal to its future wants. Acting on that thought, they called a public meeting, to be presided over by the Mayor, to consider the proper steps to be taken to carry that purpose into effect. What you now see accomplished is the result of the resolutions adopted by that preliminary meeting. But right here let me accord honor where honor is due, for we owe to our English friends, under the lead of Hon. Thos. Hughes, M. P., the first suggestion for founding a Chicago free library, and also the first contribution of books thereto, all of which has been duly explained to you in the address of the Chairman, Mr. Hoyne.

There would be much more progress to exhibit if the Board of Directors, when they organized on the 11th of April last, had found any means at their disposal for providing suitable rooms for the reception of books, and for their procurement. But they were obliged to begin business without a dollar, or even a room in which to

meet for consultation. The appropriation ordinance was not passed until the 1st of July, 1872, and then there was no money in the treasury subject to the order of the Board, because tax-paying time had not arrived. However, "by hook or by crook," enough was squeezed out to fit up the reservoir for the reception of books, and to build this reading-room, and to provide it with furniture. The place for shelving the books is believed to be safe from fire, as it is substantially a great vault, constructed of iron and brick, with a roof of cement and glass. Within the ensuing six months the tax revenue of the Board will be \$56,000, from which deduct say \$16,000 already expended in providing these accommodations, and other expenses, and there remains about \$40,000 to be applied in the purchase of books, and handling them for the use of the public.

With the foreign and home donations to be received, I shall be disappointed not to find 30,000 volumes in the possession of the Board before the end of this year; and on their records, at least half that number of names of regular readers. From now forth there will be a visible daily increase of books. The library will not be of slow, sickly, or doubtful growth; but it will progress with rapid strides, because, like the sun, it will shine for all.

This enterprise has enlisted the hearty sympathy, and has behind it the solid support of the whole people of Chicago. The ways and means will therefore be forthcoming for its expansion and maintenance. The pride of the city is touched, and nothing short of the greatest popular and standard library on the continent will satisfy the ambition of Chicago. It will be cosmopolitan in its composition. Every element of which our population is composed will find the literature of the land of their birth and mother tongue on the shelves of this library, and free as the air they breathe to all readers.

Great as are the anticipated results from this institution, the cost of it will never be felt by the tax-payers. We collect and expend now, for all purposes, over \$5,500,000 per annum. The assessment for the support of this library is not one-hundredth part of this sum. We are spending now nearly \$1,000,000 a year in the building of school houses and maintenance of schools, attended by 28,000 or 30,000 children. But, never since the city was organized, has it spent a dollar to furnish a book for the instruction and enlightenment of persons past the school age.

The time has now come to turn over a new leaf in this matter. There must be something more and better offered to our tens of thousands of young men than billiard tables, dance-houses and tippling shops, for their instruction and amusement. (Applause.)

Mere material pursuits have engrossed the thoughts of our citizens too intently and fully. Men were not intended to devote their whole time, mind, strength and affections to money-getting, to rearing magnificent palaces for trade and commerce or private habitation, and filling them with costly fabrics and furniture. Other objects than commerce, manufactures, castles, money and merchandise should have a place in the thoughts of sensible men and women.

The wise man says, "get wisdom, get understanding, and forget it not." "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting get understanding." "Take fast hold of instruction; let it not go; keep it, *for it is thy life.*"

The life of one man is greater than another in proportion to his superiority of knowledge. If he knows nothing, he is an idiot; if only a little, he is a savage or a barbarian, and generally a serf or a slave. Instruction is the food of mental life. The more it is partaken of, the clearer, brighter, greater is that life.

The mind of the untutored man may be likened to a taper in the dark, casting feeble rays scarcely an arm's length around. But as he increases in knowledge his light shines brighter and penetrates the darkness further. His mental life grows and expands with his increase of information. And as the flame of a Drummond light overpowers and obscures that of a taper or candle, so does that of a great and highly-educated brain bear sway over the ignorant, and enjoy a sweep and range of thought and understanding utterly beyond the comprehension of the illiterate.

We send children to school to study books, to store their minds with useful primary information, and learn how to think and reason. But education should not end with school days, but should be continued through life. Schoolhood should only be the opening chapter and preface of the volume of life.

Man must depend on study, not on instinct, for knowledge and wisdom. Ideas are not innate, but are the product of previous information obtained by perception and study. The brain, when untaught, is a blank. It lies inert or dormant, and must be roused to action by external application and internal effort. We can think correctly only within the circumference of our information. Outside of that all is error, guesswork, superstition, and vain imagination. Books are magazines or storehouses of matured thought and information. Education is the process of transferring the ideas, facts, and knowledge contained in books to the mind of the learner or student. He that has transferred none is an ignoramus; he that has transferred much is a scholar; and he that has transferred a little is a smatterer. The power of thinking and reasoning depends upon this absorption of thoughts evolved from the brains of others. We light our lamp from theirs, and increase its flame in proportion to the material we draw from them for the support of the mental combustion. For the mind may be compared to stores of oxygen lying inert, and which will only give forth light and heat by contact with carbon. This carbon is the thoughts of thinkers brought in contact with the brain, and producing the sparks and flame we call ideas and reason. To increase these sparks and brighten this flame, we must bring the mind into continual contact with the produced thoughts of others. There is no limit to the strength and size of the flame of thought that may be thus evolved. The less we know, the nearer we approach the plane of the beasts and birds; the more we know, the nearer we approach the plane of angels and our Maker. The power of man over nature and his accidents is in proportion to his mental development.

The influence and power of a city, state, or nation, is not measured by its numbers, but by its enlightenment, by its thinkers. If it be said that the wealth of a city or nation measures its power or influence, I reply that its wealth is the product of its intelligence. An ignorant nation is never rich, and what riches it may possess, it knows not how to use to secure influence or command respect. Truly, knowledge is power—power for every purpose. An educated people are always a free people. They can never be conquered or deprived of their liberties. Their resources for de-

fense against attacks are infinite, and their courage never fails. It is the ignorant who are cowards in a struggle for the preservation of liberty and independence, for they do not appreciate the value of freedom, and they do not know how to defend it. An educated people are temperate and virtuous, decent and industrious, respectable and energetic, benevolent and wealthy. They are free from want, and escape the pangs of poverty and the woes of wretchedness. Invention and improvement and labor-saving machinery are the products of intelligence. Whatever, then, increases the stock of knowledge in a community, adds to the thinking power of that people, and just in proportion to this thinking power will be their wealth and prosperity, their influence and authority in the world. (Applause.)

Now, I hold that no single agency will contribute more to this most important desideratum than a great public library, amply supported and comprehensively conducted—a library where books will find their way into every household, and their contents into every mind. You want a central library of standard and reference volumes, covering the whole domain of higher literature, art and science, with reading-rooms which will accommodate hundreds of persons at the same time. And you must establish branch libraries in various parts of the city for the convenient distribution of books. Every inducement and temptation should be held out by the management to the young people of the city to patronize the public library and its branches. There should be a course of *free* lectures given every winter on all useful, interesting and instructive subjects. And our own scholars and thinkers should be induced and encouraged to address these audiences, and they should be compensated therefor.

There are growing up in this city thousands of neglected young men of immature and inchoate minds. They are looked after by the caterers of licentiousness and dissipation, and are rapidly graduating into roughs and rowdies and *grog-shop* habitues. They learn to read at the public schools, but since leaving them, nothing has been placed in their hands in the shape of a decent or moral book or periodical, and they have made no advancement in useful information, and without some external influence is brought to bear upon them, which will change their thoughts into better channels, they will drift farther and farther from the walks of virtue and knowledge, under the influence of the low and vicious temptations of city life. I have strong hopes that our public library, when well established and its books well circulated, will be the means of rescuing many young men from the downward road they are now traveling, and preventing thousands of others from entering upon paths of vice and dissipation. This library can be made the literary headquarters and intellectual focus of our city and the Northwest. It should become the most attractive resort for strangers sojourning among us.

A book is an author talking to a reader, telling what he knows about a particular subject, and in the best style of expression. The address is to the eye instead of the ear, and through that sense the thoughts of the author are conveyed to the mind more accurately and connectedly, and leave a deeper impression than when transmitted orally, because the attention is not hurried, and portions of the sense lost, as in verbal delivery. A great library contains myriads of these fleshless lecturers, who are never sick, absent or die. The body of the author may have crumbled into the dust long ago, but his thoughts still live. Here you can sit down amid the great

masters of reason, poetry, fiction, history, physics, and hold converse with them. You can ask an audience with Homer, Virgil, Plato, Demosthenes or Confucius. You may travel over the ancient world with Herodotus, study the exact sciences with Euclid and Archimedes, and moral philosophy with Socrates, or, descending the stream of time, enter the Inferno with Dante, or penetrate the inmost recesses of the heart with Shakespeare, Goethe, and Racine; or range through the starry vaults of heaven, and study the forces which control the universe with Newton and Kepler, or investigate the anatomy of the earth with Lyle, Hitchcock, Miller and Murchisson, or the composition of its materials with Davy, Liebig, Lavoisier, Scheele, Faraday, Huxley and Tyndall. And to indicate other fields of thought searched by brilliant intellects I have only to mention such names as Bacon, Locke, Paley, Montesque, Hallam, Gibbon, Grote, Carlyle, Schiller, Whewell, De Tocqueville, Humboldt, Agassiz, Buckle, Leckey, Cuvier, Comte, Mill, Darwin, Spencer, Scott, Macaulay, Dickens, Irving, Milton, Moore, Goldsmith, Pope, Franklin, Greeley, Emerson, Burke, Gratton, Webster, Jefferson, Hamilton, Longfellow, Motley, Bancroft, Channing, Beecher, Tennyson and Bryant.

But I must venture no further in the catalogue of mighty thinkers, and in calling this roll of fame, for their name is legion, though it is a tempting path to tread, as such names, when suggested, bring back to memory the great thoughts of those great men; and I must bring these remarks to a close.

When a list of books is presented to the reader, the titles of many or most of them may be strange and new to him. But his curiosity is excited to find out something about them and to discover how they discuss some topic with which he is more or less familiar, or with which he desires to become acquainted. Thus, when the opportunity of finding any author on any subject is presented, it is embraced by multitudes of persons who otherwise would never have known anything of either subject or writer. Hence it is that a free library creates readers, and remarkably extends the general information of the community, and perpetually increases the taste and desire for reading, and with them the power of thinking and writing.

Few persons have the means to purchase, or the ability to select an extensive private library. It seems like dead capital; it is liable to be destroyed by fire or water, and scattered or lost by death or debt of the owner. Then, again, it is only read by one man or family, and most of the books are rarely and many of them never opened. Large private libraries are nearly always idle books; nobody is reading them, and they are doing little good. But put them together in a public library, to be owned and perused by the whole city and its visitors, and they become like money in active circulation, doing good daily. And this is a bank whose vaults are stored with the treasures of thought richer and better than greenbacks, or gold. It may be checked upon without fear of breaking or embarrassing it; and the more its treasures are borrowed the richer in thought and purer in morals its customers become. It charges no interest for the use of its loans, and no repayment for the ideas and facts derived therefrom. (Applause.)

For all practical purposes the public library will be the private property of each citizen, for if each person owned a duplicate copy of its contents he could only spend his spare time in reading them, and that he may do hereafter with the books of the

public library. And then he has this great advantage: he is not subjected to the expense of taking care of them, providing a place for them, or purchasing the new books and periodicals as fast as they are issued.

A great public library with its branches is like a great public park, with its connecting smaller parks. The parks are for the recreation and enjoyment of the whole people, for the improvement of their health and promotion of their happiness; so the public library will be for the improvement of their minds and promotion of their intellectual enjoyment, with this superiority over the parks, that in improving and developing the mind of the masses it adds to their strength and power to meet and surmount the ills of life, to banish misery and poverty, to open up higher and better opportunities for success, and to rescue its votaries from vice and vulgarity, sin and ignorance. (Applause.)



NOTE.—There is or should be one explanation made in justice to a gentleman since deceased.

It is stated that the Public Library Bill was modeled after the Boston Public Library Bill. The truth is, that the Public Library Law of Illinois is due to a Mr. Caldwell, member of Peoria in the lower house of the General Assembly, two years before our events occurred. He had introduced the bill which in our Committee was so amended as to adapt itself to our wants, and it was found to be pending before the House on its passage in January, 1872, when we entered upon our labors. It will be easily understood how much the work of Mr. Caldwell had facilitated our own work, in accomplishing a speedy passage of his bill into the law as it now stands.

When the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hoyne, visited Springfield for the purpose, as he did, of advocating its speedy passage, he had no difficulty with the Committee on Education in obtaining a favorable report, upon which the bill of Mr. Caldwell, who was then ill at Peoria, became the Public Library Law of Illinois, under which not only the CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, but many others in the State, have since been established.

Correspondence with friends in England.

JANUARY 29, 1872.

THOMAS HUGHES, Esq., M. P.

Dear Sir: I take great pleasure in enclosing you an extract from a newspaper containing an account of the proceedings of one of our late meetings held for the purpose of establishing a free Public Library in Chicago. Our people in the city have noticed with feelings of profound gratitude the efforts of yourself and generous associates to furnish them one of the noblest of foundations.

Under whatever circumstances, such efforts must have deeply affected us, but coming as your beneficence now does under many deprivations, the city has been at a loss as to the form in which the token of their sentiment ought to be expressed or acknowledged. For the moment, however, our people have taken it as granted that you would think it more appreciated to discharge the first duty which your beneficence imposes by providing the necessary means of security to forever conserve, while accepting the contributions you have been securing for our use.

Sir, there is no earthly doubt that the time chosen, the names of the distinguished authors and contributors, including that of the Queen herself, and the great calamity which has called forth this spontaneous outburst of sympathy on the part of your people, are all of such significance in illustrating the civilization of the age, and creating ties of association and friendship between our respective nations, that they cannot fail to impress themselves upon the "Chicago Free Public Library," with the interest of an historical epoch in the progress of the city, the destruction and restoration of which it is forever to commemorate. In this connection the names of our English benefactors can never be forgotten.

With sentiments of gratitude and respect, believe me I feel deeply,

Your obedient friend and servant,

THOS. HOYNE.

APRIL 18th, 1872.

JOHN ROBSON, Esq., 136 Strand, London.

Dear Sir: The first Board of Library Directors organized under the recent Law by electing me as President. The Mayor, Hon. Joseph Medill, has handed me the correspondence between yourself and the Mayor since you were authorized to act in behalf of the city in behalf of the efforts of our generous English friends in donating a new Library to Chicago. Let it become my first duty to thank you for the success and zeal manifested in the result of your industry.

It is hardly the time to yet attempt any suitable acknowledgment of the efforts made by the generous and noble hearted donors who, amidst the ruins and ashes under which so much of our worldly treasures lie buried, first conceived to at once execute the plan of restoring in so grand a form as that of a Free Public Library the loss of all library advantages whatever.

I doubt if we shall ever be able to make any acknowledgment at all adequate to the occasion; certainly we never can adequately express the feelings of our people. The whole world nearly have been manifesting a sympathy without precedent in history in the supply of our physical wants. The noble founders of this intellectual charity are entitled to claim a peculiar precedence by contributing the treasures of English science, history, and intellect to supply the wants of our civilization. But the donors themselves express their intention in more modest phraseology. They say, "it is intended to be a mark of sympathy now, and a token of that sentiment of kinship which independently of circumstances and irrespective of every other consideration, must ever powerfully effect the different branches of "the English Race." This sentiment will remain inscribed on the hearts of our people long after the inscriptions which may be inscribed on any building of stone, brick or marble that may be raised shall have perished. The Library is a most graceful as well as an enduring monument of the feeling which our great fire called out, and will be as long remembered as the imperishable memories of the Fire itself!

It is hoped that such a fire as ours will never again occur in the history of our race, and it is probable that no library will ever again be founded in connection with associations and an origin so remarkable.

We would not like to abridge your labors, but as soon as a proper fire-proof structure can be prepared—which we are now doing—we shall desire your attention to other work here. I have no doubt other members of the Board feel as I do, and we shall act upon a Librarian as soon as we can get located.

Will you please send us for newspaper consumption a full report of the number of volumes in all, their value, and general classification, and say how much more you expect. Give as full a report as possible, and much oblige,

Yours very respectfully,

THOS. HOYNE,

President Board of Directors of Free Library.

Letter to THOMAS HUGHES, Esq., M. P., London, Eng., dated July 5th, 1872, announcing the passage of the Library Bill, the organization of the Board of Directors, the provision made by the act for the support of the Library, and then follows:

At the last meeting of this Board, held the 15th of June, they expressed the thanks and obligations of the city and people to yourself and other leading representatives of the people and government of England (including Her Majesty, the Queen), for the interest you have manifested in aiding them to found a Free Public Library in Chicago. The resolutions have been enclosed to Mr. John Robson, with a request that he would communicate them to yourself and colleagues in such manner as Mr. Robson may think appropriate.

I can only add my personal expression of the gratification I feel in being made so honorable a medium to officially transmit you the sentiments of our Board. And I may add the assurance that while the Directors formally discharge only a duty that a

sense of justice and obligation alike require at their hands, the entire community express their sentiments in accents of gratitude and esteem.

I have, with great respect, the honor to remain,

Your most obedient servant,

THOS. HOYNE,

President Board of Directors Chicago Public Library.

 CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY ROOMS, }
 AUGUST 31ST, 1872. }

BENNET WOODCROFT, Esq.,

Clerk of Commissioner on Patents, London.

Dear Sir: As President of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, I had the honor of receiving your favor of June 14th, informing me that the Commissioners of Patents had made a grant of a complete set of their works to our new Library, and that they would be delivered to any agent we might appoint.

Enclosed you will receive a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the Library at their last meeting, and appointing Mr. JOHN ROBSON, now in London, specifically as agent, and for which he has the necessary instructions in respect to binding the numbers as requested.

It only remains for me to say that any formal acknowledgment of the splendid and valuable gift made by the Honorable, the Commissioners of Patents, will or can but feebly express the sentiment of gratitude which the generosity of the People of England has awakened and excited in the hearts and minds of our whole people. In the almost entire destruction of all our library and art treasures in the great fire of October last, we found cause to congratulate ourselves that our generous and noble English friends so soon after inaugurated a movement to found *a new Library* in the interest of our common civilization. It is hoped that in the value and character of the works already contributed, there will be founded in this great city of the future,

a Library such as, while it will illustrate English sympathy, will forever remain a memorial of one of the greatest calamities which ever befell a great populous city. Indeed our whole community now feel as if the great disaster which swept away many homes as well as fortunes, is to be *compensated* in the sentiment of the English People and Government which selects *our* city as the depository of what our English friends designated in their circulars as the great international token of the civilization which unites the races of the two kingdoms—England and the United States.

Mr. Robson will present his authority as authorized agent to receive the works.

With great respect, hoping the Board of Commissioners will accept thanks, we are, as I subscribe myself for the Directors,

Gratefully yours,

THOS. HOYNE.

No. 6 STRAND, LONDON, }
APRIL 21ST, 1872. }

Dear Sir: I send a communication to the executive of the new Library, which I hope you will approve, and if you do, kindly present. Donations are still coming in. I have just got a complete set of the "Saturday Review." The Duke of Wellington gives a set of his father's despatches, and the Unitarian Body will give 30 or 40 volumes this week.

I remain, yours most respectfully,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HONORABLE,
THE MAYOR OF CHICAGO, ILLS.

[Private.]

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
AUGUST 7TH, 1872. }

Dear Sir: I send with this a short report for the Board, and by the same mail a letter of acknowledgment to Mr. Sheahan, Secretary, of the receipt by me of the resolutions of

the Board. I am sorry to trouble you on money matters, but I am without money to pay the unavoidable expenses in packing and sending off the books, and I will take it as a great favor if you will bring it before the Board, as I will, until I hear from you, have to get assistance to pay the above. Permit me to draw your attention to the necessity of an early acknowledgment of Mr. Woodcroft's letter; he desired me specially to do so, and that my name be filed as agent for you whilst I remain in London; as I left with him my appointment of June 15th, by the Board, he will treat me as your agent until your specific acknowledgment comes, but he considers it requisite, as that resolution was passed before the Board knew of the grant of the Patents, and does not name them in it. He *wishes* one sent specially naming the gift and that you wish me to act for you until a permanent arrangement is made.

I remain, yours truly,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE,

PRESIDENT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CHICAGO.

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
SEPT. 10TH, 1872. }

Dear Sir: I am glad to be able to report that I have got the last samples of binding, and that I send a full report upon the matter as to cost, style, and time required. Permit me to request that this report *be not published* as to make it of any use. I have to give many and the fullest particulars to the Board in it. The publication, therefore, in Chicago would not be long in being communicated here, and be the cause of much inconvenience, both now and in future. I advised you of having sent three boxes of books, and have now sent two more, making five in all, and expect to send off five more this week. As in the first three, a full catalogue has been made by myself of the contents of each, which I am having copied for transmission. It will therefore be better the boxes should not be opened until they come. A present has been made by a member of Trinity Col-

lege, Cambridge, of a photograph of one of the bronze gates of the Baptistry at Florence, which was executed by Ghiberti. It is a magnificent specimen of art, executed in sections, and put together and mounted very correctly and carefully by one of the best photographers in Florence. It is nearly five feet deep, and about three feet wide. I have an appointment with the donor, who, I understand, wishes to give a photograph of the second gate.

I hope to hear soon from the Board on the questions I put before them. I wish to again repeat that in getting the prices of binding I have not compromised the Board in any respect, and hope when they see the report they will feel that neither the labor or time I have taken to get all the particulars for them, or the samples, have been injudiciously spent, as I think I have got more information than is usually obtained.

I remain, your obedient servant,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOMAS HOYNE.

N. B. The report and other two enclosures is in another envelope. The name of the donor of the Photograph is R. Cracroft, M. A., Trin. College, Cambridge.

The bills of lading to-morrow.

J. R.

NO. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
SEPT. 17, 1872. }

Dear Sir: Yours with enclosures of the resolutions of the Board to hand, and shall have my immediate attention, as regards Mr. Woodcroft and the patent office, but hope the Board will approve of delay in taking action on the binding until they have considered my report, as in the meantime nothing will be lost by the delay, as it will take you three months to get the specifications sought out. I send a report with appendices on the binding, in which I have embodied all the information I could get with relation to it. I also send the list I named in a former letter, of books proposed to be bought by Mr. Hughes and a

few friends as THEIR GIFT. I send this for two reasons: If any of the Board wish to suggest any work not in the list I will insert it before putting it into the hands of Mr. Hughes; and also to show the price of books here. I took great pains and went to many places before I saw what I liked, at prices I thought moderate, as I wished to combine value, number and moderate prices. I also send a list of the parliamentary reports and papers I am asking for, the value of which I am sure the Board already know. I have only asked for some, so that I may not get a refusal, and will get such as the Board may afterwards at any time desire. I have sent off *six large cases*, making seven in all. There are *five more* nearly ready, and exclusive of Mr. Hughes' case, I think there will be *seven or eight more*—that is without the parliamentary papers and the patents. I have had all removed from the Crystal Palace, for easy repacking, as going down there was a loss of time and money. The catalogue of the boxes I will send as soon as compared with the donor lists. May I ask the Board to consider the "Binding Report and Appendices," for them only, and not the public, as it mentions names and prices.

I remain, your obedient servant,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE,
PRESIDENT CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
SEPT. 16TH, 1872. }

Dear Sir: Having procured and forwarded four sets of samples of arranging the specifications of patents for public use, I will proceed to give the Board a report on the subject.

* * * * *

I trust the importance and magnitude of this business will be my justification with the Board for taking so much trouble and time to get the best information I could for them. I have taken more time than I expected, but trust it will be the means

of saving a large sum of money to the Library, and produce a superior system of keeping a set of records so valuable to all classes of the community; especially in a country like the North-western States, so famed for inventive genius and enterprise. And I feel I would not have done my duty without I had done all in my power to get the Board the means of coming to a decision on this question.

I remain, your obedient servant,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOMAS HOYNE,

PRESIDENT OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

NO. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
SEPT. 17, 1872. }

Dear Sir: Yours of the 31st August, with one enclosure, being resolutions to bind the Patents, and one authorizing you to write to Mr. Woodcroft, to hand yesterday morning. I will see Mr. Woodcroft without delay, and attend to your wishes. I am glad you have got the Macmillan case, and six more which I send will be with you before this letter reaches you. I send with this a report for the Board on the binding, a list of books I prepared on parliamentary and other subjects, which Mr. Hughes promises to get from the Queen's printer. They are the basis of the legislation for the past 70 years. I was afraid to ask for more, but thought it better to ask for a few, and the Board would see what they were like, and if they choose can ask for the remainder after. Not only are they of value for history past, but they give the progress of the nation and the success of all the great changes made during the past 30 years. I also send a list of books I made out for Mr. Hughes and friends, their "private gift." I have endeavored to combine value, number of volumes and moderate prices. I took great pains in hunting up the books in this list. Should there be any the Board think of, by letting me at once have their names, and I will try and substitute them. I put the prices opposite each

book; many of them are new, and most as good as new. I will write regularly to you for the Board. The actual sample of binding the text and plates separate will be with you before or about the time you get this letter, and as appendices to my report I send, arranged, the actual statements of cost I got. The board has read the offers wrong, unless they mean that the text is to be bound and the plates to be kept in boxes. Please let this point be cleared up. I shall feel very much obliged by the receipt of a remittance; it will not come a day too soon, as I dislike to be indebted to strangers, however kind, as I am now. I have not the pleasure of knowing Mr. Forbes, but will make a point of seeing him and giving him your message. Independent of the seven cases, there are five more large ones, and the case of books, a list of which I send; the patents, the parliamentary books, with at least seven more now in small cases of about 16, which when repacked will, I think, be seven good sized ones. These last named were at the Crystal Palace, I have had moved to London to be repacked, as the expense and loss of time to go there was no little, besides there not being a place to do it in except an open warehouse. The catalogues will come without delay after they are compared. I will not lose a day in sending them. I hope to be able to report that packing and shipping is near an end very soon, and I will write from time to time what progress I am making, and hope soon to hear from you. In case you think of any books please send me a list with a short description how you would like them bound; cloth, boards, or leather.

Hoping soon to hear from you, I remain,

Yours respectfully, JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE, CHICAGO, ILL.

 No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
 FEB. 25TH, 1873. }

Dear Sir: I duly received your kind letter of the 3rd of February, for which I am much obliged. I personally thanked Mr. Hughes as near as possible in the words of your letter, and

left the paper with him. He was very much gratified, and expressed his feelings of respect to you for your (as he thinks, overhigh) appreciation of his services. I send to-day a letter to Mr. Wickersham, with the shipping note of Kelley's sample of binding. When you see it I think you will like it, as being cheap, practical and yet good binding. I do not hesitate to say to you that if the Board orders them to be done this way it will have a finer set of books than we have either in the English Patent Office, the British Museum, or the South Kensington Museum. However this is for the Board to decide. I have taken great pains, and perhaps too much time, some may say, to get material for their decision. I hope, however, I shall be justified in this when the sum of \$12,000 to \$15,000 is the difference saved. I send also case M, with the books I have been getting bound. I leave them to speak for themselves. I will have them all sent off without delay. I am trying to fill up the set of the Chaucer Society Early English Text and Ballad Societies where we are deficient, and also such of the periodicals as we are short of. Many of the presents were all the Societies had themselves, being out of stock. Do you think the Board wish the Chaucer Early Text and Ballad Publications to be continued? This can only be done by *subscribing annually in future*. They *presented all they had*—and in their department *are very valuable*. There is a Paris periodical, two or three numbers a year, called the "Revue Cellique," one number of which was given with some others. It contains some valuable papers on Ireland, its arts, literature and science in early days. I think it should be got. Perhaps, however, you would like to have a list of these, as the Board does not intimate that they wish my opinion upon any subject. I took the liberty of naming this to you, and some offence can be given if it is not wanted. The "Hughes" fund is now within a very small compass. I hope on Thursday to send off *another box*, and indicate what is not *yet complete*.

Again thanking you for your kind communications, I remain,
Yours respectfully,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE, CHICAGO, ILL.

P. S. Permit me to point out a slight error. I did not "volunteer my services" to Mr. Hughes in January, 1872. He asked if I *would help him*. As I had not authority from the city I then declined. In February when I got Mayor Medill's letter, and I got another request from him, backed by a unanimous resolution of the Committee, I then took hold of the work. It is of not much consequence, but I do not wish credit I do not deserve.

J. R.

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, {
MARCH 1ST, 1873. }

Dear Sir: I see I neglected to answer that part of your letter relative to a publication of the proceedings at the opening of the Library, as you will see by my letter to Mr. Wickersham. I will meet Mr. Hughes and his Committee on the completion of my work; in the report of that I will see that an account of the opening with your address shall be inserted. This will give it greater freshness to the public here. I shall be glad to have the decision of the Board as to binding the Patents, so that I may close the business to the satisfaction of all concerned.

I remain, yours respectfully,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE, CHICAGO, ILL.

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, {
MARCH 5TH, 1873. }

Dear Sir: I hope before you get this you will receive the sample of Kelly's binding, and the Board will settle the question soon, as it is desirable that before I leave London arrangements should be made for the correct and certain completion of the work, whoever has to do it. I have got "Punch" and the "Builder;" the first the present of Mr. Tom Taylor, who may visit Chicago in a few months; the latter from Mr. Cracroft, who has acted like a prince towards the Library. The British Museum books are very fine and valuable. There are still



some we have not got, such as the books of the Cuneiform Inscriptions, the fac simile of the Codes, Smaiticus and others. The fac simile cost the Museum £18 per copy, and others in proportion. Besides there are several catalogues of Music, Books, &c., invaluable to literary men and scholars. These can only be got by personal application and quiet working; the same way with the Record Office, Learned Societies, and others. Booksellers will not do this kind of work, as it is their business to buy. I give these hints as a guide for the future. The books from the Museum are partly in cloth; these are in box V, with the "Builder" and "Punch;" a list of them I have sent this post. Several, about 60, are in paper; these I have put in hands to be put in cloth, so as to be uniform. The engravings of the ancient marbles will have basil backs, as they are worth this care. In the case of the Chaucer Early Text Books and Ballad Society's publications, I have not bound these, but have put them into cases, which will hold them well, and be ornamental on the shelves, and which I judge your good taste will approve of. The reason for doing so I will give after. In addition to these which are lettered Chaucer, &c., I have got a few extra cases made, in which the proceedings sent you of various societies can be kept clean and be accessible, and which will always be useful in future for pamphlets received until arranged and bound. The reason I adopted this course in the Chaucer works is, first, we did not get all they published—some are out of print, and it will be some time before they are got. In some cases the works are not complete in one year, therefore to have bound the set would have injured it very much, and the injury would have been still greater if sent loose. The cost of each case is 5s. 6d. complete, and will last for years. To give you an idea of the cost of binding, and which has been done, on trade terms, I enclose the accounts of Mr. Bell, who did above 60 volumes, and the account of Mr. Kelly for those done and sent in cases V and M; and what are yet to be done will, I expect, amount to about £30, or a total of £60. As it is desirable that this should be paid without delay I shall feel obliged if you will remit it in the shape of bills payable to themselves, and I will pay it over to

them and take their receipts. Each book is marked outside "Chicago Public Library," as also the cases, I may name that in the case of the Patents. I will get the United States shield put on as well as the crown. I did not like the style of those I saw, but will get a good one. I wish it to be borne in mind that the best materials and workmanship are on these books, and the prices are very moderate indeed; all that have been bound were in paper or boards and would have had to be bound. Some, such as the "Methodist Magazine," were not complete, and the numbers could only be got here, and that with great searching; the same in respect to the British Quarterly, one of the most valuable of that class. I wished to do my work well, and have received thanks for what I have done from Mr. Hughes, as having done it to *his entire satisfaction* in the face of very great difficulties, as I named in my letter to you. I hope when you see all the collection I will have your approval. In addition to the present, I have opened up a future prospect for the Library here for which I should have willingly worked if I could, but permanent personal employment is waiting for me for which I must start without delay. I beg to thank you for steady kind letters and friendship, and remain,

Yours respectfully,

JOHN ROBSON.

TO THE HON. THOMAS HOYNE,
PRESIDENT CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
MARCH 11TH, 1873. }

Dear Sir: Yours of the 13th came duly to hand, but too late to carry out your directions to the letter, but in the remaining cases they shall be scrupulously attended to. Before leaving the subject I would like briefly to name how the cases were sent by Allan's People's Line at first. 1st, they were 50 per cent. cheaper than was asked by the No. Atlantic Express at *first*. 2nd, they promised to send them direct to Chicago, and gave me a circular containing extracts from all the Chicago

papers praising the facilities they gave. 3d, my experience when in Chicago led me to avoid if I could the shipment by New York as expensive and troublesome, and attended with great delay,—the last books the Library had being there for nearly two months from the importunity of the No. Atlantic Express. I sent some cases by that line and I could not get any letters answered as to when the cases were shipped out, indeed there seemed to me to be more talk than work,—the remaining cases will soon be ready however, and be sent as you direct by them, as your desire is my law on all occasions. I have written to Mr. Wickersham this post. The receipt of the parliamentary papers will close the Hughes collection, which, though not so good as it might have been, is in every respect a very creditable donation. I only got two copies of the “Chicago Librarian,” the paper had burst and there were only two,—these, however, I have disposed of to donors—the pattern from Kelly I hope will be in your hands before this reaches you. You speak of a missing case, which is it? I have sent all I have advised, and sent bills of lading or delivery receipts. Please let me know and by whom it was shipped, Allan & Co., or the North Atlantic. I have named several subjects upon which I wished to know the decision of the Board or their views, but not hearing from them I presume they do not meet with approval. I trust my course relative to the North Atlantic will meet your approval, as I always think that when two parties are equally responsible, but one asks a much lower rate, he should have the service. As I named to you in my last, the receipt of the parliamentary papers will close the “Hughes” donation fund, except in as far as his and his friends’ gift of books is concerned; on the receipt of the decision of the Board relative to the binding of the patents and the packing of the parliamentary papers, I will therefore proceed to wind up matters here, and make my report to Mr. Hughes and Committee—would you therefore kindly press the Board a little on this: 1st, the binding of the patents. 2nd, the binding or otherwise of the parliamentary papers. I also asked you about subscribing to the Caxton and

other kindred Societies. If this is wished, I will do it and leave all as smooth and straight for my successor as I can. Thanking you for your kindness always shown to me in your correspondence, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

JOHN ROBSON.

TO THE HON. THOMAS HOYNE,
PRESIDENT CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

MARCH 28TH, 1873.

JOHN ROBSON, Esq.

My Dear Sir: Please accept my kind acknowledgment for several favors of February 25th, March 1st & 5th, and March 11th inst. We are all well pleased at the progress you have been making. I no longer doubted after a knowledge of your difficulties as explained some time since, that you had done and were doing more than mere novices could do, and as much as any effort could realize under the circumstances. You will be able to make allowances (having lived among us) for the natural *restiveness* of our people. The sample of the Kelly binding has come to hand, but the Board will not be able to definitely act upon it until the meeting of the 5th April proxo. I proceeded to call a special meeting, but found the chairman of the committee to whom the entire matter of examination and binding was referred was sick and could not possibly attend before the meeting of the 5th of April.

To-day we mail you the amount of the bills of Messrs. Kelly and Bell, £30, or \$183.26, as you requested, in Bill of Exchange to pay them and take their receipts.

As soon as the meeting of the Board takes place, I will see to it that each one of the subjects to which you call my attention shall be acted upon at once. You will remember that we have been waiting for other specimens of binding which you advised us were sent, but which through some casualty or negligence have never been received.

We have had Mr. Kelly's specimen of binding the patents

which you have sent us, examined by a practical bookbinder (*retired from business*), and he condemns the material in the back as no better than paper,—not so good as the cloth covering, and certainly the paper on which the plates are attached look as if they would not bear rough handling. The expert, the binder, says also that for the number of vols. to be bound the price in this country would be regarded as high.

I think I know the extent of our obligations to you personally and you may rest assured of the kind wishes and regards of a large number of American friends here, with whom you have left recollections of a high attainment, not only in the skill you professed as a Librarian, but also of a high reputation for integrity and usefulness in the works of your daily life. It was among others my own misfortune, now I find, not to have intimately known you.

Please receive assurance of my esteem always, and believe
I am,

Truly your friend,

THOS. HOYNE.

NO. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
MAY 9, 1873. }

Dear Sir: As I thought you might wish to have a copy of my first report to refer to, I send one enclosed, and wish to say that I have changed my opinion as to the number of specifications that can be put into a volume. I think not more than 66 or 70 can be bound in a volume, you will see I at first said 99 or 100. I am convinced by careful inspection of the works themselves that my estimate above is nearer the mark. I asked when at the Patent Office this week when I expected they could deliver them, as they were in the way, of course you know the stipulation they made—that they were to be bound in England. I name this to prevent mistake, as I was reminded of it at the same time. I remain,

Yours truly,

JOHN ROBSON.

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE,
PRESIDENT CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

No. 136 STRAND, LONDON, }
MAY 9, 1873. }

Dear Sir: I had scarcely posted my report and letter to you until I got Mr. Wickersham's letter founded on my report of September, 1872. I at once communicated with the binders and send enclosed their replies, which I send open, so that you may read them. I hope to close the shipments on Tuesday or Wednesday, and hope before then to get some settlement as to the proffered gift of Mr. Hughes and friends.

Yours respectfully,

To the HON. THOS. HOYNE, JOHN ROBSON.
PRESIDENT CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

(Please write to 80 Park St. W.)

ATHENEUM CLUB, }
OCTOBER 19, 1874. }

Dear Sir: Mr. Isaac Arnold wrote to me two months ago, saying he had communicated to you my message (that we have a balance of some £30 odd here, on the Chicago Free Library account and wish to know how to invest it) and that I might expect to hear from you on the subject. As I have heard nothing I venture to write to you direct, as it is time the accounts were closed and our committee here dissolved. I was very glad to hear from him so good on account of the progress of the Library in which I naturally take a very keen interest. I expect some day to have to come to your city and *others* in America to help me with the building of our working men's college here—we are half finished, being unable to build our hall and museum over our class-rooms, and I begin to despair of getting the funds over here. However, I won't trouble you with this now, as it will be quite time enough when I have quite settled what to do.

I am not surprised, but I need not say much pleased to hear from my brother who has just been in Chicago, how splendidly the City has been restored since the fire.

Pray remember me to Mr. Arnold, Mr. Lincoln, and any other friends who are about, and believe me,

Very truly yours,

THOS. HUGHES.

MARCH 18, 1874.

THOMAS HUGHES, Esq.

Dear Sir: Your kind favor of the 19th inst., has been received.

Mr. Arnold did deliver your message. The Board of Directors had no meeting for several weeks, and it was overlooked when laid before them. Your recent letter has been referred to the Library Committee with instructions to select such works as they may think proper, and communicate our thanks and acknowledgments to yourself, to whom the Chicago public owe so much already. I have no doubt that in a few days you will hear from them.

The Library, which since the fire owes its foundation to the efforts made by you, in conjunction with other English friends, is meeting with the only difficulty that our books are not increasing in number sufficiently rapidly to supply the demands of readers. Our average issue for last week amounted to some 1,450 vols. per day. Our highest issue upon one day has reached nearly 2,400 volumes. We have as yet secured only about 31,000 volumes, although we are still receiving several additions which will increase the number to some 40,000 volumes. We opened our rooms last May, and if the proportion of readers to books should continue increasing, I do not know how the problem is to be solved, or what we may one day be compelled to do for the purpose of solving it. Our librarian says our growth is without a precedent, and that we now, after *six months'* existence, issue more books to readers than any library in the world. This sounds American, i. e., no contracted powers, but the spread eagle style. He has compiled figures to show it however.

You hint an intention to come to America. In that case, you will find our city a Home. The name of "Tom Brown and his School Days," are as well known as any household words in the language. The *first book drawn out*, on the *first day* of the *opening* of our *Library*, was "Tom Brown's School Days," and by your humble servant — of which "*make a note of it.*"

You certainly have a claim upon our people for whatever you may need, and your name is one of those identified with the rise of the New City, upon the ruins of the Old !

Your brother, I dare say, has spoken no more than the truth—I wish I could have seen him while here, and shown him how your fame had been cared for. The Library, as it becomes equal to the demands of the City, will be a rising shaft in any monument hereafter erected. I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. HOYNE.

OCTOBER 8, 1873.

WM. F. POOLE, Esq.,
Librarian, &c., Cincinnati.

Dear Sir : If you have no objection, in confidence between us, I would like you to state whether it would be a practical thing for us to obtain a librarian in your city to place in charge of our new enterprise, in relation to which you are fully posted. We have a committee, of which as President of the Board, I am chairman. You well know the importance and the delicacy of the task with which such a committee is charged. It is the success or failure of the scheme which is involved in the taking up the man, and that must be the "*right man in the right place.*"

As I am not authorized to assure anything except a sacred regard for the pledge, that what you might say would be held a secret among the committee of two persons besides myself, I can only ask this as a favor, which may result in offers to yourself?

Very sincerely yours,

THOS. HOYNE,

President, &c.

MARCH 1, 1873.

Hon. J. B. BRADWELL.

My Dear Sir : As I am a tax payer, and also interested in their collection, from my connection with the Public Library, to which is appropriated and set apart one-fifth of a mill of the

amount collected, in order to support it, let me say a word in favor of expediting by some law a speedy collection of our city taxes.

It seems that of four millions levied in 1872, only some \$400,000.00 are yet paid, and the Mayor and Comptroller say there is some doubt whether they can enforce any collection without the legislation they ask.

Will you permit me therefore as an old friend of your late father and yourself, to urge upon you the great necessity for prompt action and prompt means of making the collection of taxes a sure thing. Now you know we have among us the same greedy classes of men to be found in all our large cities, who would never voluntarily pay one dollar to the support of public order or a public institution, and that the strongest penalties or proceedings authorized by law, are always required to make the drones of the hive bear their share of the public burdens. I have no doubt your own good sense as well as experience, have led you to the conclusion I have stated, but you justly differ with some as to the means of remedying the evil.

I have looked at the Bill pending, and I see no objection to the compulsory sections. They mean nothing to men who intend paying taxes—but to those who do not intend, in case they can avoid it, they ought to mean such consequences in case of failure, as will constrain them. You must excuse me if I appear officious, but I have thought a few words might not be deemed amiss, to one with whom my relations have been always of the most interesting character. Very sincerely, always,

Your friend,

THOS. HOYNE.

Hon. J. B. BRADWELL,
SPRINGFIELD.

JUNE 27, 1874.

MESSRS. SOTHERAN & CO.

Gentlemen : I have the honor of having received your favor of the 13th inst. I have the pleasure of acknowledging many former favors as the person you suppose.

I have carefully read over your communication and shall lay it before our Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, at their next meeting, on the 3d prox.

I will merely reply to one or two points in your communication. We have never had but one agent abroad until recently. Mr. Robson was appointed to take care of the munificent and generous gifts which your grand people sent us, as a mark of their sympathy after our fire, towards the foundation of a free library. Now, Mr. Robson has been paid not only his compensation for services, but also his expenses.

We know very well the inestimable services performed by your Senior and others, in procuring for us the collections which we value as Scotland values her "Crown Jewels," and England the treasures of her "museum," such as we should feel at a loss how to remunerate or reciprocate. We have expressed our gratitude in our public and private communications, and I fear too many times. As to kindnesses rendered Mr. Robson, we sincerely trust he has spoken in his own behalf.

Another point you make is, that the "Chicago Public Library" has severed connection with the old "Library Association." The latter was a mere voluntary, but incorporated body of gentlemen, and had no other than a voluntary support as a public institution. The present Library is organized under a "Free Library Bill," passed since our fire, supported by a tax on property, and is a department of our municipal or city government.

One more point. Our Board have acted in perfect good faith by supposing Mr. Robson was so acting. He sent us specimens of binding for patents, and finally made the contract with Matthew Bell, which our Board approved. We have settled with Mr. Robson, and employed Mr. Stevens to make our purchases of English books, and we believe he has already purchased bills at your house. Allow me to tender my sincere regrets that any misunderstanding should occur. I write now merely to correct a flagrant misapprehension, which would ex-

pose us if true, to the severest censure. Your whole statement shall go before our Board.

Very sincerely and gratefully yours,

THOS. HOYNE,

President of the Chicago Public Library.

**THE OLD CUSTOM HOUSE and U. S. POST OFFICE BUILDING
EXCHANGED FOR THE USE OF THE LIBRARY.**

As much controversy has recently taken place in certain quarters about the object of the exchange made between the City of Chicago and the United States, by virtue of which the City became the owner of the Custom House site and walls as they were left standing after the fire, and the United States became the owner of the City Bridewell lot, it may be well to state that all the testimony of the persons concerned in making the exchange, including the Hon. Thomas Drummond, U. S. Judge, The Hon. Sec'y of the Treasury of the U. S., Boutwell, Mayor Medill, and those who were then members of the Board of Education, that the exchange could never have been effected or thought about with the United States had not all parties been pledged on behalf of the City, that the building and site would be dedicated to the special purpose intended. The whole movement was undertaken upon the faith that such a site as the one proposed, was not only the best located, but that the blackened walls of the building, stained by smoke and flame, whose strength had withstood the fury of the conflagration that had reduced the City to ashes, would, in the possession of the New Library, be a perpetual memorial of the foundation of the one, and rebuilding of the other—such as no other generation had ever left behind it of a like calamity.

We again compile from the Chicago Librarian of May, 1873, page 6, vol. 1, No. 3.

THE LIBRARY'S NEW BUILDING.

When the smoke had cleared away after the memorable fire of October 9, 1871, and it was discovered that a new Post

Office and Custom House must be built, Congress decided that the new building should be of larger dimensions and grander proportions than the old one; and as the old building covered most of the lot on which it stood, to accommodate a larger edifice a new site must be selected. As soon as it was known that the old site of the Post Office would not be re-occupied by the Post Office Department, the friends of the library movement, and especially the committee appointed to draft a bill for the Legislature, in reference to the establishment of public libraries, through its chairman, Hon. Thos. Hoyne, commenced a correspondence with the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, proposing to buy, lease or exchange the old Post Office building and site for library purposes. This correspondence did not at first meet with much favor at the Capital, and before Messrs. Parwell and Logan could get a bill prominently before Congress that session terminated, and the project was allowed to rest, so far as appearances were concerned. But the Board of Directors of the new Library, headed by his Honor, Mayor Medill, and seconded by the friends of the movement in the Common Council and Board of Education, quietly worked on and prepared maps and charts, procured signatures and evidence, and at the opening of the third session of the Forty-Second Congress had their bill ready, which, as all are aware, resulted in the exchange of what is known as the "Bridewell lot," corner of Fifth Avenue and Polk street, for the Post Office site, including the remains of the Post Office building, north-west corner Dearborn and Monroe streets. This building and lot, when the exchange is completed, will belong to the School Fund of the city, as the land exchanged for it belonged to that Fund.

The bill relating to the transfer, approved March 3, 1873, is as follows :

An Act to Authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to dispose of the old Post Office property in Chicago.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and is hereby, authorized to exchange with the City of Chicago the piece of land, with the remains of the old Custom House and Post Office building thereon, at the corner of Monroe and Dearborn streets, in the City of Chicago, Illinois, said land fronting one hun-

dred and ninety feet on Dearborn street, and ninety feet on Monroe street, or thereabouts, for the piece of land, the property of the School Fund of the City of Chicago, at the corner of Polk street and Fifth Avenue, fronting three hundred and eighty feet on Polk street, and one hundred and ninety-eight and one-half feet on Fifth Avenue, or thereabouts; the difference in value between such pieces of land to be ascertained by a commission to consist of five persons, two of whom shall be appointed by said Secretary of the Treasury, two by the municipal authorities of the City of Chicago, and the four commissioners so selected shall choose a fifth, and that upon the receipt of the report of such commission, or of a majority thereof, and its approval by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Government of the United States, or the City of Chicago, as the case may be, shall pay to the other in money the difference so ascertained in the value of said land; and any money which the United States may be required to pay is subject to future appropriation by Congress.

Provided, That the State of Illinois shall cede to the United States its jurisdiction over the property thus acquired by the United States, together with the right to tax or in any way assess said land, or the property of the United States that may be thereon, during the time that the United States shall be or remain the owner thereof.

Before the exchange could be completed the two stipulations in the Bill must be carried out, viz: ceding jurisdiction to the United States over the land acquired by the exchange, and appointing commissioners to appraise the respective lots for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of difference, if any, in the valuation of the same. The former has been accomplished by an act of the General Assembly, as follows, entitled:

A Bill for an Act to Authorize the United States to acquire certain Property, etc.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.,* That the United States of America, may, pursuant to an act of Congress, entitled "An Act to Authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to dispose of the old Post Office property in Chicago," approved March 3d, 1873, acquire the following described property, situated in the City of Chicago, in the county of Cook, and State of Illinois, at the corner of Polk street and Fifth avenue, fronting 380 feet on Polk street, and 198½ feet on Fifth avenue, being the property of the School Fund of the City of Chicago. And when the United States shall so acquire the same, the State of Illinois hereby cedes to the United States of America jurisdiction over the property thus acquired by the United States, together with the right to tax or in anywise assess said land or the property of the United States that may be thereon, during the time the United States shall be or so remain the owner thereof.

SEC. 2. WHEREAS, owing to the burning of the public buildings in Chicago, and the need of public buildings, an emergency exists requiring this act to take effect immediately, from and after its passage; therefore, this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

The Bill was approved April 4, 1873.

A certified copy of this bill was immediately sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, who, upon its receipt, appointed as commissioners Hon. Norman B. Judd and Judge Thos. Drummond to act for the United States, and, on April 28, 1873, the Mayor appointed, and the Common Council confirmed, Hon. Thomas Hoyne and Hon. E. L. Sheldon, as commissioners, to act for the City of Chicago in appraising said lots.

Although the different acts necessary to effect the exchange do not mention the use to which the city will put the newly acquired property, yet it is the general understanding that it is to be fitted up in the most approved style for the use of the Chicago Public Library.

The Board of Directors of the Library are already discussing plans informally, and the work of refitting will be commenced as soon as a satisfactory plan is adopted.

The walls of the old building are said to be entirely safe, and the fire marks on the west wall will undoubtedly remain as a most interesting memento of the scourge of '71.

APRIL 17, 1872.

HON. G. S. BOUTWELL,
SEC'Y OF THE TREASURY,
WASHINGTON.

Dear Sir : As President of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Free Public Library, just organized under the laws of this State, I am requested to ascertain if possible upon what terms the Board can purchase or rent the old Post Office site and building (as the building now stands) for the use of a public library ?

We do this because of the pressing emergency which requires some place of custody which can speedily be adapted and fitted up as fire-proof, to receive some *ten or fifteen thousand volumes*, the contributions of the English people, towards the foundation of a great free Library in Chicago since the fire.

The circular issued in England, signed by the Queen, as well as her Premier, Gladstone, and the greatest of her writers

and statesmen, put this magnificent work of raising such a foundation upon the *National* ground that the "New Library to Chicago is intended to be a mark of sympathy now and a token of that sentiment of kinship which, independently of circumstances, and irrespectively of every other consideration, must ever powerfully affect the different branches of the "English Race."

This is enough to show the interest that must attach itself to the object entrusted to our hands to be accomplished. Now we have no building to shelter the elegant books to be immediately sent us. The writer was informed by Mr. Mitchell, Supervising Architect, recently, that the old Post Office building, at a comparatively small cost, could be fitted up and made a first-class Library Building in a very few weeks. It is just the *site at present* which would accomodate the great mass of our people.

I have had consultations with our city officers. They seem to think, and authorize me to state that if the United States will accept or take in exchange some 200 feet of ground on the South Branch, by 400 feet deep, for the proposed new Custom House stores that Mr. Mitchell is estimating upon, the transfer can be at once made, letting any difference of value abide a fair appraisement of the lots to be exchanged. It will greatly contribute to the immediate establishment of the Library, if we can hope for your own kindly co-operation in this matter. Any assistance rendered us now is more than twice rendered. "*Bis dat qui cito dat.*"

I shall therefore hope for some speedy reply. At any rate the Board will purchase or lease the old site and building at reasonable rates, if they can be had at once.

With most earnest assurances of highest respect, I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. HOYNE,

President of the Board, Free Library.

APRIL 17, 1872.

Hon. C. B. FARWELL.

My Dear Sir: Enclosed please find copy of letter this day mailed to Hon. Sec'y of Treasury, Boutwell, for the carrying out of which we ask your special interposition. It is as you see, of the greatest importance to at once secure a place for the large and valuable collections of books now on their way to us, and your constituency are all anxious that this great public measure may be properly consummated. The great Public Library, which the measures are to inaugurate, is not second in importance to any other movement which has appealed to the patriotism of the statesman or citizen since our great fire. I remain, with great respect,

Very sincerely yours,

THOS. HOYNE.

APRIL 30, 1872.

Hon. W. A. RICHARDSON.

My Dear Sir: I greatly fear that I have labored under some misapprehension with respect to yourself, which I hasten to correct. Indeed I know by a letter received a day or two since, written by my friend A. B. Mullett, Supervising Architect, that I have done you a gross injustice, in rather hastily assuming, from a merely formal official note, that you were in opposition to our Free Library plan, of securing if possible, by any fair exchange or purchase, the old Post Office site and building from the Government.

While I feel pained at my own recollection of the discourtesy, yet I cannot feel otherwise than greatly pleased at the intelligence which my friend Mr. Mullett communicated, and that instead of opposition, we should have your cordial support and sympathy.

I presume you are aware that the Library project has to some extent been forced upon our people (who would otherwise never have moved especially to be taxed) by the generous and noble impulse of the public, writers, and publishers of England

after our great fire. The result however *has been* that a law has been passed not only to found, but support, by regular annual levies of taxes, free Public Libraries throughout the State, when the people demand them.

Our greatest need is now that with a collection of about 10,000 volumes, the rarest gifts in the way of literary productions ever issued from the foreign presses, ready to be now shipped, are demanding shipment, we have no *appropriate* or *safe* place in which even to store them. This was our necessity for speedy and prompt action. And let me hope you will excuse the zeal which betrayed me into this error, which I write for the purpose of retracting.

I will take some further occasion to personally pay you my regards, and let me in the meantime now subscribe myself,

Contritely, your old friend,

THOS. HOYNE.

TREASURY DEP'T, OFFICE SUP'G ARCHITECT, }
APRIL 25TH, 1872. }

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 22d inst., to Hon. W. A. Richardson, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, is received. Permit me to say that you have done both yourself and Judge Richardson injustice in writing the letter. Had you known him as I do, I assure you that you would not have so misunderstood him. I would also say that the letter in question was not prepared by the Judge, but was dictated by the Secretary. I can say further that the Secretary did not intend to be either discourteous or to slight your wishes or those of your association. His position is, however, somewhat peculiar. He has positively refused to recommend any additional buildings to Congress at the present session, and is therefore unable to take any action in the matter. I do not, however, believe that he has any objection to your project, or that he will oppose it before Congress in the slightest degree.

I can also say that the letter to you is almost a transcript of

several others asking communications in regard to public buildings. For myself I should be very glad to do all within my power, consistent with my duties and the views and instructions of the Secretary.

Allow me to suggest that if you will come on here I feel sure that there is no person in the City of Washington, outside of your delegation in Congress, who could sympathize more with you in your endeavors, or who would be willing to give you more assistance than Judge Richardson, who is a gentleman of the highest literary culture and artistic taste.

I would suggest also, in conclusion, that you address a communication to the Judge yourself, and feel assured, as I said before, that you have done both him and the Secretary injustice.

Very respectfully,

A. W. MULLETT,

Supervising Architect.

THOMAS HOYNE, ESQ., CHICAGO, ILL.

TREASURY DEP'T, OFFICE SUP'G ARCHITECT, }
APRIL 23D, 1872. }

Sir: Yours of the 17th inst. was duly received. Mr. Farwell had an interview with the Secretary on the subject, the result of which, you have probably been advised ere this. If you intend to do anything in the matter it will be necessary for you to obtain the co-operation of Mr. Farwell, of whose views on the subject I am not advised, never having had an opportunity to talk with him in regard thereto.

You may rest assured that I shall be glad to do all I can consistently, to oblige your institution.

Very respectfully,

A. W. MULLETT,

Sup'g Architect.

THOMAS HOYNE, ESQ., CHICAGO, ILL.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Chicago:

The Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library beg leave to herewith present to your honorable body their

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

The Act of the General Assembly of the State, passed March 7th, 1873, by virtue of which the Public Library has been established (Sec. 7), requires that the Board shall make on or before the second Monday in June of each year an Annual Report to the City Council, "stating the condition of their trust on the first day of June of that year, the various sums of money received from the library fund and from other sources, and how such moneys have been expended, and for what purposes; the number of books and periodicals on hand, the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise, during the year; the number lost or missing; the number of visitors attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books; with such other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest."

The Board of Directors in accordance with the statute above named has compiled for the purpose, the statistics as reported by the Standing Committees, and statements prepared by the Secretary of the Board, showing in detail the progress the undersigned have been making in regard to the trust assigned them by your selection.

As individuals, the members of your body need little information as to the widely published fact, that the Reading Room of the Library was opened to the people on the first day of January last, but in making this first official communication it is only proper that the public record should show what has been officially done. The undersigned, therefore, beg leave to state that as soon as the Board of Public Works proceeded under the ordinance of April, 1872, passed by your body, establishing the Chicago Public Library, and set apart the rooms now occupied as temporary quarters, the Board made the necessary preparations to open a public Reading Room. Accordingly a catalogue was prepared of some of the leading publications in Europe and America, consisting of periodical, magazine and newspaper issues, with which to furnish the visitors. The cost incurred was equal to an annual rate of about \$2,600; in making which they were assisted by the Comptroller, Mr. Burley, in anticipation of the receipt of moneys to be collected from the tax of 1872, and to be set apart under the law as a library fund, and which is to be expended under the direction of the Board. As soon, therefore, as the rooms provided were turned over to this Board, and at as early a day as the same could be done, the Reading Room was thrown open, and the first day of January, 1873, will always be remembered in the annals of our city as a day from which will date a broader intellectual culture of the masses of our population.

The accompanying papers appended of the statistics of the Library, prepared by the Secretary, Mr. Wickersham, will show that since the opening of the Reading Room the total number of visitors has been 50,038; that the number has reached a

daily average of 331 visitors, a weekly average of 2,319, and a monthly number, or average, of 10,007, up to the first day of June. The whole number of issues of periodicals to readers has been 33,986; the number of daily issues has been 225, weekly issues 1,575, and monthly issues 6,797.

It should be noted as a fact in favor of the success attending this movement so far, that the work has more than realized the expectations of the most sanguine advocates of the Free Library in large cities as an educational institution. In no single instance, within the knowledge of the Board, has a citizen visited the reading rooms since the opening, without some expression of his surprise and gratitude at the manifest beneficence of which this municipal liberality is to be an inexhaustible source. It is supplying to thousands of the young and old of both sexes in the city, the opportunity of that mental improvement denied them by a hard fortune, or extreme penury. To the working man of the city it affords opportunity and means of employing idle time in the gratification of the most laudable inclinations, and the essential character of the beneficence will always be in this, that its blessings are distributed among the very classes, who, often thrown upon the world without other counsellors or friends, than those of books, are easily led aside into the haunts of vice and folly, wasting time in places of ill reputation, contracting habits of crime and ignorance, such as disgrace our modern civilization.

THE LIBRARY.

The Library proper has not yet been opened to the general public. It is open to any visitors, however, who desire to see the progress the Board is making in the accumulation of books. The "tank" is estimated as equal to a capacity of holding 17,000 volumes with the shelves as now arranged.

The number of volumes now on the shelves has reached a total of 6,852. This shows an increase since the first of January of some 4,000 volumes. We have a large number of valuable pamphlets amounting to 3,222, and we have of periodicals and newspapers, 11,822. Of the books the Board has only purchased 978 volumes; the rest, some 5,874 volumes, came as gifts to the Library from the people of England, Germany, France, Ireland, Scotland, and about 2,500 volumes are nearly all gifts from citizens of Chicago. From England we have received of the national collection, there set on foot after our great fire, some 3,530 volumes. There is still to be received a special contribution of some 1,000 or 1,200 volumes, the gift of Hon. Thomas Hughes, M. P., and a few friends. The English Patent Office Reports, which have been presented by the English Patent Office Commissioners, number some 2,800 volumes, the binding of which in London, this Board has ordered through its agent, Mr. John Robson, at a cost of about \$8,000. We are not in possession of any precise data for estimating the number of other volumes in the collection made for the foundation of this Library in England, but we are advised that several cases shipped by our agent, Mr. Robson, are now on their way to Chicago. It is probable that the whole English gift will, when all the books are received, amount to, at least, 7,000 volumes. These, with the number of books in the German collection, as well as those received from other sources, will make a grand total of some 10,752 volumes. And here would be an appropriate place to formally express

to all contributors abroad, for their efforts in founding this Library in Chicago, since the fire, "as a mark of their sympathy," the profound sense of gratitude so generally felt by all classes, had it not been already done as well by this Board as by the Chief Magistrate of the city, Mr. Medill. It is for the Common Council to say what other recognition or acknowledgment is proper under the circumstances. We think we may safely assert in respect to all this collection, that rarely if ever has so large a number of books been secured of rarer merit or greater value, than those now brought together in the "Iron Tank," improvised into a temporary place of reception, under circumstances which give to the collection an interest never before associated with the foundation of a public library.

The Board of Directors in estimating the commercial value of the books already on our shelves, for the purpose of insuring against fire, has directed a policy of fire insurance to be taken out for \$10,000. The probable value is \$15,000 or \$20,000. But the principal value of many of the works will scarcely bear any pecuniary estimate. Some are editions or works of which no duplicate exists to be purchased. Thus the English Government sends 212 volumes, large octavo size, of their Memorials and Chronicles, and Calendars of State Papers, including correspondence and public transactions, with all the civilized countries of the globe, from the earliest period of their history. These published by the Master of the English Rolls, under authority of a special act of Parliament, passed in the year 1800, have occupied hundreds of transcribers and translators in all languages, at a cost of time and money, which precludes the utter possibility of such a thing being ever undertaken as a private enterprise.

The complete set of the English Patent Office Reports, with some 77,000 specifications, in 2,800 volumes, besides the annual addition of 140 volumes each year, can scarcely ever go into a private owner's or publisher's hand, and there are but three or four complete sets in the public libraries of this country. The University of Oxford, that most ancient seat of English learning, has made up and sent to Chicago a collection of books which, aside from the literary merit of the works sent, are in style of binding and typographical execution and workmanship, of a value which for the same number of books, could scarcely be replaced in case of loss. The Board feels, in view of all that has been thus done for the city by strangers, in respect to the Library, great anxiety as to what is yet to be done by ourselves. The real work of opening this Library has yet to be accomplished, both as to books and building. Before the Library can be opened so as to distribute books and become a lender to thousands who will become readers of them, a large sum of money, say, at least, \$10,000, must be expended in purchasing, to place upon the shelves, some 10,000 volumes of the prose works of writers of tales and novels, of biography and history, or in other words, the cheaper popular literature of the day. These works, according to the experience of other public libraries of this country, constitute 76 to 78 per cent. of all the works called for, and that are taken to be read by the masses of a city population. Of such works we have as yet comparatively few; we are fortunate however, in having already secured more in the value than in the quantity of the works accumulated. In such a library as we are establishing, the character of the

books already on our shelves is a proper nucleus in the formation of a great metropolitan library, and a necessary foundation upon which the walls of the future edifice should be raised.

THE NEW BUILDING.

Before the Board can open the Library to the general public even for the purpose of reading the works in the rooms, a new building with more ample accommodations is a necessity which the public must accept as inevitable. Fortunately the difficulty of providing for this want, will probably be solved as soon as the funds can be found to purchase the books necessary to begin its operations in lending out to borrowers. The Board have acquired sufficient knowledge of the workings of other libraries at Boston and Cincinnati to be satisfied from their experience, that very different accommodations will be required for assistants from those furnished by the Board of Public Works in the present temporary quarters.

It is a fortunate circumstance in all this progress we have been making, that public opinion from the very first indicated the old Post Office site as a proper location, and the building itself as being in dimensions and symmetry of style and architecture, adapted to the requirements of a new Public Library building. Upon an examination of the condition of the walls and foundations, they were found equal in strength to a restoration of a building in style and proportions the same as before. The United States, after selecting another site for its future use, had no need of the one abandoned except for an appraiser's warehouse or store for goods, and this required for convenience a river or water front. The suggestions of the public mind were at once acted upon and conveyed to the United States Treasury Department, by some citizens of Chicago, who at once opened a correspondence with the Secretary of the Treasury, with the object of accomplishing what was desired. The effort in which the members of your honorable body united with the Mayor, Mr. Medill, the members of the Board of Education, and also this Board of Directors in an application to Congress for an exchange with the United States of the late Bridewell lot, on the Chicago river, for the Post Office site and building, on the corner of Monroe and Dearborn streets, resulted, as your honorable body is probably aware, in the passage of the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1873, authorizing the exchange to be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, and the appointment of a commission to ascertain the difference in the value between the two pieces of ground. Jurisdiction having been ceded to the United States by an Act of the Legislature of this State, according to the conditions of the Act of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury appointed Hon. Thomas Drummond and Norman B. Judd the Commissioners on behalf of the Government, and the Mayor appointed with your concurrence, Thomas Hoyne and Edwin H. Sheldon on the part of the city. The four Commissioners thus appointed chose as the fifth person, Hon. John G. Rogers, who then organized, and the first step was taken in the proceedings. This commission after several sessions, and the careful examination of several experts in knowledge as to the value of real estate in Chicago, recently submitted their full report, in writing, to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and the same is now before him subject to his approval. The Board does not entertain a doubt but that the Secretary will accept the

judgment of the Commission appointed to ascertain the value of the property. And thus it will be settled that the exchange intended by Congress and municipal authorities, as well as the whole municipal public of Chicago, will soon follow in full consummation of these proceedings. The two acts, the act of Congress and the act of the General Assembly of this State, in furtherance of the general object, are about to be ratified by a concurrence of diverse interests, in which there seems to have been from the first a unanimity of action rarely attained.

This Board entertains the most reasonable and well grounded confidence that, for several years at least, with a proper adaptation of the area of space contained within the present walls of the old Post Office site and building, its restoration can be made to furnish ample and convenient accommodation for all the business to be done, and for business assistants, besides allowing for the necessary halls, alcoves and galleries in which the shelves and books of the Library can be arranged. But while expressing this opinion as to what may be done for some years to come, let us not be understood as saying that with a well arranged reading room equal to the present demand, fitted up for the general public on the main floor of the building, that there is any more room at present than what may be needed, taking into account the nature of the work to be done within the first one or two years in preparing the general Library, with a view to the extent of the public demands, and the accession of new matter within that time.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE LIBRARY.

The Board now calls the attention of your honorable body to the subject of the financial condition of the trust.

The law requires we should state the various sums of money received from the library fund, and how the same has been expended.

Briefly we may state that the Board has drawn from the Library fund, for all expenses, up to June 1st, including costs of the purchase of books, \$7,204.44, and they have expended the same amount. The Report of our Secretary accompanying this report, will show all the different items of this expenditure.

As your honorable body is aware, the future success of the Library in a great measure will depend on the levy and collection of the tax provided by law, not to exceed the one-fifth of a mill upon the valuation of the taxable property of the city, and to be collected and set apart annually as a "Library Fund." As a result of the first year (1872,) since the act took effect, the tax should produce the sum of \$56,839.49, on a total valuation of city property equal to \$284,197,430.00, as shown by a report of our Committee on Finance.

The amount actually collected on the first year (1872,) and credited to

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| Library Fund by the Comptroller, to June 1st, is | - - - - - | \$20,907.71 |
| And deducting our Expenses, | - - - - - | 7,204.44 |
| There should be a balance now in the Treasury, subject to the order | | _____ |
| of this Board, of the sum of | - - - - - | \$13,703.27 |

But the City Comptroller feels compelled under the order of your honorable body, passed some time ago, to charge against this balance to our Library fund some \$14,428.62, leaving a present balance against our fund of \$725.35. This charge

against the Library fund is to reimburse the city the expense incurred in fitting up the present temporary quarters occupied in the "tank," and over the temporary City Hall, for reading rooms and Library purposes. The sum thus deducted and charged against this fund at any other period in the existence of the institution could be borne with less detriment than at this early stage of its progress, but now it proves a matter of serious embarrassment. The same sum expended in books for the Library at this time, if the building were ready to afford the necessary accommodation, would enable the Board to open and put the books of the Library into circulation.

The Board deems it necessary to a proper discharge of the trust reposed in them, to here interpose definitely their objection to this charge.

In doing so, it desires to impute no blame to any officer of the city or your honorable body, in respect to the manner in which it has arisen. The whole enterprise of the Library from its first inception has received the most cordial support of all branches of the City Government, and to the Mayor especially, the Board of Public Works, and the City Comptroller, for their promptitude of spirit and fertility of resource in promoting this work to the utmost extent of their ability, this Board now expresses its profound sense of the obligations under which it has been placed as to the success that has so far attended its efforts.

The question is one arising out of the peculiarity of circumstances in which the city found itself placed. The honor and credit of the municipal government was necessarily engaged to accept the munificent gifts offered by a foreign people and government to establish a free library in Chicago after our great fire. The organization of the Board after the movement abroad had been set on foot, and its importance understood, was a way out of the difficulty, and the Free Library Law was enacted as the work of the people. By reference to the Ordinances of April 1st, 1872, establishing a Free Library under the State law, it is expressly declared "that there shall be provided and set apart under direction of the Board of Public Works a room for the reception of any books that may be donated or procured for such library, until a permanent location be otherwise provided."

It will be found that this Board is vested by the law of its organization (Sec. 5,) "with exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected to the credit of the library fund and the construction of any library building;" and the section declares that "all moneys received for such library shall be kept separate and apart from the moneys of such city, and drawn for by the proper officers of said city upon the properly authenticated vouchers of the Library Board."

In a simply technical and legal point of view the Board cannot recognize a charge or expense which was never incurred by them, as a Board, in the construction of either a library building, or the accomplishment of any other one of the several objects within the letter or purview of the statute. This Board does not feel authorized to assume a charge against their trust in violation of law, nor any charge unless the clearest authority exists to authorize it.

The Committee on Finance, through Hon. S. S. Hayes, to whom was committed the special examination of the subject, as Chairman, has reported against it, and we trust that under all the circumstances the whole charge may be paid out of the general treasury.

In view of what has already been said in this report as to the need of a "New Library Building," the probability of an early abandonment of the present "temporary quarters," and that the city corporation can take the building (the ground upon which it stands belonging to the city,) and make the property and rooms now occupied by this Board available for other purposes, it would seem as if the charge was one of peculiar hardship. This Board is without either the authority to act or the means of making either land or improvement useful to the Library. Upon this latter fund the whole \$14,000 capital expended falls as a dead loss, without the return of a cent on the investment. And it is under such circumstances as these that this Board submits it as a question of law as well as equity, whether the whole expense of the temporary quarters, fitted up by the Board of Public Works, according to the express language of the City Ordinance, as "a room for the reception of any books that may be donated or procured for such Library," shall now fall upon the Free Library Fund or remain as it has hitherto remained, the gift of the corporation in behalf of the general object.

And even if this be not a free gift, it is at most a question of rent that should be charged for the temporary occupation of city property; and with this expression of the views entertained by the Board, the whole question is respectfully submitted for your consideration, as one vitally affecting the constituency you represent.

In conclusion, it may not be considered improper to say that while this is the first official report ever made by this Board to the City Council, it may be the last in respect to the official existence of some of its members. According to the Constitution of the Board the terms of office of three of its members are about to expire on the first day of July next. We cannot close the connection that has existed without a tender of our congratulations, that such an institution as the Public Library has been founded by your efforts. The present administration of our Municipal Government coming in immediately after the great fire of 1871, had it no other claim upon the gratitude or remembrance of posterity, will always remain associated with the origin and establishment of the most imperishable memorial of our present civilization, as well as the spirit and energy of our sorely chastened and ever beloved city.

Lamartine, twenty-five years ago, writing in utter despair of the condition of the working men of France, on account of their low tastes and imperfect intelligence, cries out: "Libraries for the people are wanted! Books in the hands of the women, the girls, and the children, by each fireside! Books to be made the visitors, the hosts, the guests, and the friends of the workman's home! Books in every home—in rain and in winter—making home the center of affection and virtue! Pleasing communion must be found with the great minds, who in all ages have best understood, felt, written, or sung the human heart! To do this, books must be made cheap and cost little," etc.

Thus, what this good man and great writer proposed to accomplish by cheapening the cost of publication of books in France, will soon be accomplished in this city by the Free Library Law, without any cost whatsoever to the people. The treasures of all knowledge contained in books will be dispensed in free and equal abundance to all, the same as the sun dispenses its light, and the infinite magnificence of

heaven is within the reach of all eyes, and every human intelligence is blessed under that of God's.

THOS. HOYNE, *President.*

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| ELLIOTT ANTHONY, JULIUS ROSENTHAL, JAS. W. SHEAHAN, SAMUEL S. HAYES, ROBERT F. QUEAL, HERMANN RASTER, DANIEL L. SHOREY, WILLARD WOODARD, | } | <i>Board of Directors.</i> |
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CHICAGO, June 4, 1873.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1874.

To the Mayor and Common Council of Chicago.

GENTLEMEN: The Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library respectfully beg leave to lay before your honorable body their Second Annual Report.

In accordance with the provisions of the Free Library Bill, this report is required to show —

1. The condition of this trust on the first day of June of the year when it is made.
2. The various sums of money received from the Library fund, and from other sources; how such sums were expended, and for what purpose.
3. The number of books and periodicals on hand; the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise; and the number lost or missing.
4. The number of visitors attending, the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books, with such other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest.

CONDITION OF THE TRUST.

And first, in regard to the general condition of the trust, the Board beg leave to say: That the Board, by unanimous vote, expressed an urgent request, in the form of an invitation to your honorable body, on the 18th of May, that you would visit the Library and Reading-Room, at such time as you might think proper. This invitation, it was hoped, would secure not only an official recognition, but a personal examination by the members of your honorable body, that they might observe the arrangements now made to secure all the advantages of this great trust to the general public. The request was made, not more with a view to the exercise of the supervision reposed in you by law, than to the voting of such an amount of money (not exceeding the limit to which taxation for this special object is restricted) as is absolutely necessary for the support, if not the progress, of this, the youngest, the least costly, and certainly not the least beneficent or promising among the several departments of our municipal government.

We may be allowed to say that the most gratifying evidences of success have so far crowned the efforts to establish this institution. Since the Library proper was opened to the public for the circulation of books, on the 1st of May last, in connection with the reading-room, the number of visitors has increased, and the number of registered book-borrowers has reached, within one month, 2,524 persons, while the aggregate number of visitors in the reading-room during the past year has been 133,017 persons, and the issues have been 88,682.

The Common Council will remember that when the first annual report was made, one year ago, the Library was occupying temporary quarters assigned to it by the city in the "Tank," over the present City Hall. We then had on the shelves some 6,852 volumes. Of these, 3,374 volumes had been received from the English, German and other donors abroad, while 2,500 volumes were given by our own citizens.

It will now be found that the number of books has risen to an aggregate of 20,000 volumes; and the periodicals and newspapers to 437; while the number ordered abroad of foreign publications will, when received, increase the number of books to an aggregate of 36,000 volumes, not including the British Patent Office publications, some 2,800 volumes more.

One year since, when our first annual report was made, the Board had not opened the Library. The reading-room had been formally opened Jan. 1, 1873, in the presence of the Common Council, the Mayor, and a large number of citizens. The number of visitors had then reached the large daily average of 331. The visitors were furnished with 437 European and American magazines and newspapers. We had under pay at that time a Secretary and four assistants, at an aggregate annual cost of \$3,000, while the list of magazine and newspaper issues was furnished at an annual cost of some \$2,400. The progress of the work, as then stated by the Board, left upon their hands, yet to be accomplished, the substantial objects of this trust, namely, the organization and opening of a large circulating library to the general public. The Board then rendered an account of the large English and German contributions which had come and were coming forward as a mark of sympathy, and a memorial of the kind feeling for Chicago after the great fire of 1871; and among all such tokens there was not one which bore a more grateful significance to the public heart or mind than did this effort towards the foundation of a great free library in the City of Chicago. It will certainly remain one of the most enduring memorials of that universal sympathy that no less distinguishes the mankind of this century than the calamity itself distinguished the city which became the occasion of calling it forth.

The gift-books from abroad, we believe, have all now reached our shelves, with the exception of the British Patent Office Reports and Specifications, which will be coming forward as fast as the bookbinders, Bell & Co., in London, with whom the Board contracted, can execute their contract of binding. It will be remembered that, in the few instances where the English Patent Office Commissioners make such donations, they require as a condition the binding of copies before leaving England.

THE OLD POST-OFFICE.

The Board of Directors found, very soon after entering upon the discharge of this trust, that more ample room and more convenient access were needed, than could be found in the City Hall, if, in addition to the support of a reading-room, accommodations were provided for a large circulating library, open to the inhabitants of the whole city. To meet this want, the former Mayor, Mr. Medill, aided by your ready co-operation, together with that of this Board and the Board of Education, sought an exchange of properties, which would place under the control of the city the former United States Post-Office Building, the walls of which were left standing in good condition after the fire, and could be finished up and occupied as the permanent Public Library Building.

A detailed account of the several steps taken, the law enacted by Congress, and the law of the Illinois General Assembly, together with the proceedings taken by a Commission appointed in behalf of the General Government of the United States and of the city, were spread before you in our first annual report. But all these proceedings resulted in a failure of accomplishment, from causes over which this Board had no control, and for which it is in no wise responsible. This one thing only seemed obvious and inevitable to this Board. Under the Library Bill, a great trust was charged upon whomsoever might be Directors of the Library. To discharge that trust faithfully, required that the public should have, at the earliest possible moment, the use of the books donated and received, and the application of the funds collected by the city for this special purpose. Delays of uncertain duration would not be long patiently endured, and the nature of the negotiations with the Board of Education at length took such a form that no certain time could be specified for even placing the building in a state of repair that it could be occupied. The Board of Education, while expressing their desire to accomplish what seemed to be the public expectation, yet had no money. The Board of Library Directors made an offer of \$10,000 on account of rent in advance payment, to supply the want of money. At length the only remaining solution of the difficulty was in either denying the use of the Library to the masses of the people, which the public voice then demanded, or in going forward at once to supply this demand, leaving all other questions open for future determination.

THE NEW ROOMS.

The latter alternative was the policy adopted. The future site, as well as the building both of the principal and branch libraries, is an open question. The committee of this Board having the matter in charge are continued to negotiate with the Board of Education for reasonable terms, as well as permanent occupation, of the late United States Post-Office Building, according to all the conditions implied by the exchange made between the City of Chicago and the United States Government.

In the meantime, and until the condition of this trust admits of the use of funds to erect commodious and proper buildings, the Board think they have been fortunate in finding ample, well-lighted, and conveniently located-rooms, near the great centers of street-railroad transit, at the south-east corner of Madison Street and

Wabash Avenue. For a rental of \$5,000 per annum, and with the privilege after one year of three years more, they have secured the whole of the second story, 96 feet front on Wabash Avenue by 140 feet in depth on Madison Street, in the Herrick Block. Besides these are included the half of the third and fourth stories of the same block. One-half of the second floor, lighted the whole length of Madison Street, is assigned and fitted up for the visitors to the reading-room. The other half contains the alcoves, counters and delivery-room of the Public Library. The present shelving capacity of this room is 64,000 volumes, and additional cases may be added, when they are needed, to contain 15,000 more volumes. The delivery-room is divided by a light rail into two separate compartments — one for gentlemen and the other for ladies. These quarters were first occupied about the 16th day of last March. The Library Department was first opened to the public on the 1st day of May, 1874. Within one month after the opening, the number of persons registered as borrowers of books has reached 2,524, and the number of volumes issued was 7,679. During the year, the Reading Room has been visited, as will be observed by the statistics, by some 134,000 visitors.

THE LIBRARIAN.

Before taking the very important step of opening the Library to the public, the Board were constrained to secure the first essential preliminary — the employment of an experienced and competent Librarian. Being without sufficient experience themselves, and there being no city experience in regard to the management of a Public Library, the Board were necessarily compelled to seek information in cities where the practical workings of such institutions could afford the necessary data of arriving at correct conclusions, and we secured the services of Mr. William F. Poole, who has long been engaged in the organization of libraries, and has a national reputation as a Librarian.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The Library Law requires from this Board an account of the various sums of money received from the Library Fund, and from other sources, and how such sums have been expended, and for what purposes.

In view of the proposed very unexpected and greatly reduced estimate of the City Comptroller of the amount to be raised in the new tax-levy, being less than one-half of that of 1872, and greatly below what the act authorizes, this question of finance has come to the Board this year as the most vital of all others. It may really be said to involve not only the question of further progress, but of existence itself.

To comprehend fully the financial situation of the Library requires a brief summary of the principal figures on the account, and details are given, which will be verified in accompanying reports and documents, and by the books in the City Comptroller's office.

STATEMENT OF RESOURCES.

The Board first beg your attention to the total amount of available resources from the Library tax, raised or levied for the years 1872 and 1873, the latter not yet collected :

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| The tax list of 1872 made | - | - | - | - | - | \$56,839 00 |
| The tax list of 1873 figures | - | - | - | - | - | 49,931 00 |
| | | | | | | <u>\$106,770 00</u> |
| The gross sum for the two years of '72 and '73 is therefore | - | - | - | - | - | 106,770 00 |
| But this sum is subject to certain deductions, viz : | | | | | | |
| (1) The deficiency charged against this fund on account of defalcation of D. A. Gage, late treasurer, | - | - | - | - | - | \$6,308 00 |
| (2) The deficiency of non-collection on list of '72, | - | - | - | - | - | 5,907 00 |
| (3) The probable or estimated deficiency of taxes of '73, say | - | - | - | - | - | 7,500 00 |
| There being \$30,000 as yet remaining uncollected. | | | | | | <u>19,715 00</u> |
| | | | | | | <u>19,715 00</u> |
| | | | | | | <u>\$85,055 00</u> |

This Board had drawn its funds to June 1, 1873, \$7,204.44, and from June 1, 1873, to June 1, 1874, \$32,980 00, making the sum total of all expenditures to June 1, 1874, \$40,184 44, which includes some \$12,000 paid for books, nearly \$7,000 for furniture and fixtures of new rooms, \$2,199 for periodicals and newspapers — being more than half the whole amount. The details of all the other items are given in the reports of the several Committees, and of the Librarian and Secretary.

It will be seen, therefore, that the total amount expended from the Library fund will leave only a balance of net available resources of \$46,630.86, including \$30,000 yet to be collected on the tax list of 1873.

LIABILITIES.

Against this balance of \$46,630.86 is to be placed the amount of our liabilities incurred under orders heretofore made for the purchase of books at home and abroad, that is to say, about \$30,000, the approximate estimate of our foreign purchases now coming forward, and \$8,000, the estimated price of binding the British Patent Reports, making a total of \$38,000.

If we deduct this last sum from the balance of our aggregate resources of \$46,630.86 on the 1st of June, it will be seen that this Board will have a clear balance at that date of \$8,630, or, in round numbers, \$9,000. This last sum may go so far toward the sum needed to be raised on the tax of 1874; and shows that the Library, up to June 1, 1874, has kept its liabilities within the amount raised, besides having a balance to its credit of \$9,000. But the current expense of keeping up the Library has been increased to \$27,500 per annum, and we need \$25,000 more for the purchase of books, making a total of \$52,500; and, deducting the \$9,000 surplus, still leaves the amount of \$43,500 to be raised if our needs for 1874 are to be regarded. The experience of the fiscal officers of the city shows that it is impossible to realize the full amount on a levy or appropriation in time to make it available in cash for purchases of books for the Library, which needs cash on hand to obtain the advantage of the market. In order, therefore, to purchase books and pay our running expenses, we think \$50,000 an absolute necessity for the year 1874. With a view of carrying forward the work, it is proposed to raise \$25,000 — less than half the amount the law authorizes the Common Council to raise for this purpose — to pay our expenses and increase the efficiency of the Library for 1874-5. We respect-

fully represent that, in view of the fact that our expenses are \$27,500 annually, and that there will probably be a deficiency in collection on the tax list of 1874 of some \$5,000, leaving only \$20,000, with a probable balance of \$9,000, there will still be \$1,500 surplus of actual money to be collected, which would not leave a single dollar for the purchase of new works for the Library after the payment of contingencies.

The Library Committee, in their report to this Board, estimate that a sum of \$25,000 annually should be set apart and held for the purchase of the current publications, and to supply the increased demands of borrowers. What the probable demands of book-borrowers will be, may be inferred from the statistics given in the report of the Librarian, to which we call attention.

RETRENCHMENT.

The Board make this showing of the financial condition of the trust they are managing, from no desire to appear in conflict with the policy of retrenchment that may be wisely and necessarily urged as to some branches of expenditures of our municipal government, but from a sense of duty towards the trust they were appointed to guard. Retrenchment, applied to cutting off abuses where they exist, may be the most salutary of correctives, restoring vigor and health where disease is making sure progress against the life of the subject. But where, as in infancy, no abuses of habit have crept in, and the amount of sustenance is barely sufficient to develop progress and growth, the normal condition of infant life, retrenchment then of the means of support may end in paralysis and death.

This kind of retrenchment applied to the Library at the present period of its early existence — indeed, any ungenerous treatment, may, we fear, be attended by like results, which we greatly deprecate.

The Board has not been guilty of extravagance, nor overdrawn its accounts with the Comptroller, nor anticipated its actual means. On the contrary, this Board has frequently complained that the Library bill, which provides “that the tax collected for the use of the Library shall be kept separate and apart from other moneys of such city, and be only drawn upon by officers of the city when authenticated vouchers of the Library Fund are furnished,” has been violated by a former administration, in suffering this fund, sacred to the masses of the people, to become the victim of the defalcations, overdrafts, and deficiencies of other municipal departments.

THE LIBRARY.

The number of books now on hand is 18,183 volumes, of which there have been added during the past year 11,331 volumes. We had on hand before receiving the new books ordered to open the Library, 9,279 volumes, of which number 4,669 volumes were received by donation from England, Germany and other countries, and some 2,500 volumes from our own citizens.

The total number of volumes ordered in anticipation of the opening of the Library, was about 27,000 volumes, nearly 10,000 of which have been put upon the shelves. These are nearly all the American publications ordered by contract with Keen, Cooke & Co., of this city. The whole number of volumes, when all the

works now ordered are on our shelves, will foot up nearly or quite 37,000 volumes.

The report of the Librarian, accompanying this report, shows that since the opening of the Library we have registered 2,573 borrowers — 1,905 males and 668 females. We have issued 7,659 books to readers, and the circulation for the week ending May 30, 1874, was 2,623 volumes — about one-ninth of the whole number of volumes on our shelves.

The circulation of fiction and juveniles' literature is probably ten per cent. higher than it would be if the other departments of the Library were as complete as this.

Your honorable body will observe, from the figures extracted from the detailed reports of the Reading Room and Library accompanying this report, that in one month since the opening of the Library to borrowers, the number already registered is 2,573, and that at this rate of increase it would at the end of twelve months become an aggregate of 30,876 — about 10,000 in excess of the number of volumes now on the Library shelves. In the Boston Public Library, including its branches, there are 60,000 borrowers against about 300,000 volumes, and in Cincinnati some 20,000 borrowers with 60,000 volumes. The Common Council will, in view of such figures, surely become satisfied that an annual allowance simply by way of increase of the number of books, corresponding to the probable increase of borrowers, is as much a necessity as that of water according to the number of population depending on the city for a supply of that beverage.

READING ROOM.

The number of periodicals now received in the Reading Room from all countries is 314, and of newspapers 123, and these include the leading newspapers and periodicals published in every part of the globe. Their cost was \$2,199. In this item the Committee of Finance recommend a reduction, and that the list of newspapers be reduced in number and cost.

The number of visitors to the Reading Room for the official year ending May 31, was 133,017. The average weekly number was 2,272, and the daily visitors were 367. The average number of Sunday visitors was 423. The particulars as to the number and class of periodicals issued to readers, will be found in the accompanying reports.

HARMONY IN THE BOARD.

The Board beg the Common Council to take notice that neither inside the present Board of Directors, nor among them as individuals, has there ever existed any differences of opinion about the selection of books or any other subject.

The public are reminded of the declarations made at the opening of the Reading Room, on the 1st day of January, 1873. Perhaps a citation or two in this report may be proper in this connection :

“ The Library is to secure a free access to all works of the human intellect, in all fields of thought. There can be no exclusion or seclusion. Free to every reader, it will also be free to their books. Neither nationality, party, or creed can take offense, because the shelves are ready to receive the books of all creeds and schools that may be sent here, or which the means of the Board will enable them to pur-

chase. Except as to works of a positively vicious character, no works should be excluded from a library intended for the use of all classes, and maintained by a tax upon the property of the people. Every church, creed, philosophy, profession, or school, may, and no doubt in time will, have its own best representatives on our shelves; and any disciple of each faith and profession may seek its own most eloquent expounders.

“ It is hoped by the Board that the time may come when on the shelves of the Chicago Public Library every scholar may find whatever work has ever been published affording useful instruction or harmless amusement.”

IN CONCLUSION,

this Board beg that your honorable body will consider the necessity, which they urge, of an increase of the amount which is proposed to be levied for the support of the Library, out of the tax of the year 1874, to the sum of \$50,000.

It will be found that \$25,000 is an inadequate sum even for payment of the annual expenses which the Board has incurred and the opening of the Library has made necessary. We have estimated that the sum of \$25,000 is only a reasonable provision, merely to meet the increasing demands of the people for books and new issues, if we would keep up any measure of increase in proportion to the demand of the public.

The great importance of the library to the moral, literary and scientific progress of our city is already being developed. The comparatively small amount of the maximum percentage which it is allowed — one-fifth only of a mill annually — is, even at its full rate, the cheapest price ever paid for such a public boon as this Library.

Comparing it with any other city improvement for which our people are taxed, how infinitely greater is it in point of advantage! and, as a mere moral agency, how far does it exceed all others!

Lord Macauley says that the vicinity of a good library in itself produces a perceptible improvement upon all who have access to its shelves. Who that enters such a place, that does not leave it with improved trains of feeling or thought? What man is there that does not carry from a good collection of books some moral aid against some temptation to follow in the lower courses of vice that in all large cities lead men down the depths of crime and infamy?

The end of all government is the protection of life and property and the promotion of the general welfare. One way to this end is helping men to be wiser, better and happier. Another way is by punishment. Macauley asks the question, if the magistrate should have the right to hang a man, and yet neglect the means of preventing the crime and averting the punishment?

It is in estimating the value of free libraries in large cities that the people of England and other countries have come to estimate their value as great moral and intellectual agencies. The civilization of the age demands them, and, as an educational institution, the Free Library is more efficacious, as a means of diminishing

the number of crimes and criminals than the best-disciplined and best-paid police agencies of this state.

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|---|---|---------------------------|
| THOS. HOYNE, <i>President</i> , ELLIOTT ANTHONY, ROBERT F. QUEAL, HERMANN RASTER, JULIUS ROSENTHAL, DANIEL L. SHOREY, GEORGE MASON, WILLIAM J. ONAHAN, | } | <i>Board of Directors</i> |
|---|---|---------------------------|

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Common Council of Chicago :

The undersigned has the honor of submitting to your consideration a copy of the third annual report of the Library Board, which is due, under the law, on or before the second Monday in June, the 14th inst.

It was deemed important, in view of your proposed action this evening on the financial estimates of the year 1875, from which the Library has been omitted, that the inclosed and principal report should be laid before you at the present meeting.

In connection with the inclosed, you will also find a copy of the financial statement furnished us by the City Comptroller, showing that there is now against our credit account, some \$4,000; while the estimated amount of \$20,000 to be received from the tax levy of 1874, as yet uncollected, would leave to the credit of our fund only \$16,000 of actual cash balance to run the Library upon, until the levy of the next year (1876) could be realized, which will not be till the end of that year.

With great respect, I am, your obedient servant,

THOMAS HOYNE,

President of the Board of Library Directors.

Monday Evening, June 7, 1875.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Common Council of Chicago :

The undersigned, Directors of the Chicago Public Library, in discharge of the duties assumed by them under their appointment to take charge of this trust, in accordance with the provisions of the Free Library Act, respectfully beg leave to submit this, their third annual report.

Since the report of last year, the Board have moved the Library to the Dickey Building, on the south-west corner of Lake and Dearborn streets. With a view of economizing in the annual amount of rent, as well as securing a more central location and an increase of space and light, they have leased the third and fourth stories of said building, with one large room on the second floor, for a term of five years from the 1st day of May, 1875, at an annual rent of \$3,500, which is a reduction of \$1,500 per annum on the amount of rent paid for the rooms recently occupied. Upon a careful estimate, made by the Committee on Buildings and Grounds, it is confidently believed that a further sum will be saved in heating and lighting the new rooms.

Besides the considerations already named, special accommodations will be afforded to visitors who desire to consult, in the Library, works of reference, of which there is now a large collection. These books are too valuable for circulation, and yet they may now be used in connection with whatever branch of learning, history, philosophy, science or art the reader may desire.

It will be remembered that in March, 1874, the Library was removed from the "Tank," where the nucleus of the present Library was formed. The books then on hand being chiefly donations made abroad, numbered 9,279 volumes. The Library was opened to the public May 1, 1874, with 17,355 volumes; on the 1st of December last, it had 32,197 volumes, and the present number of volumes is nearly 40,000.

Considering the shortness of the period elapsed since the Library was first organized in May, 1872, this would seem a very rapid, and, under some circumstances, a very satisfactory condition of progress. But when it is taken in connection with the extraordinary demands made by our own citizens upon its resources, the liberal sympathy of the people abroad and at home who generously contributed towards its foundation, and the ready co-operation which, immediately after our great fire and during the year 1872, all our public authorities, State and municipal, lent to the inauguration of the enterprise—this Board confess to a feeling of disappointment in the lack of financial means for enabling them to meet the just expectations of the general public, and for providing books sufficient to supply the demands of borrowers and readers.

This increase has been without parallel in the history of American libraries. Mr. Poole, the Librarian, in a recent circular to the public, makes the statement that:

"The other large public libraries of the country have been years in developing what has been done in Chicago in a few months. The Boston Public Library, at the end of its fifth year, had a less number of book borrowers, and one-fourth as many books taken out, as our Library had at the end of its fifth month. The Cincinnati Public Library, at the end of its sixth year, with twice as many books, had only half the circulation of the Chicago Public Library at the end of its sixth month."

The Librarian's report, accompanying the present document, and exhibiting in detail the condition of the Library, will show that the number of books taken out for home use since the 1st of June, 1874, the date of our last report, has reached the total aggregate of 399,156 volumes, while at the beginning of the year, there were on the shelves only about 18,000 volumes. This number has been increased by purchases during the year, until the whole number of volumes now on our shelves is about 40,000, and the number of borrowers has increased to nearly 24,000.

It was in view of such progress as this that the Board solicited from your honorable body the full amount of the fifth-of-a-mill tax last year, which the Library Bill provides may be levied on the valuation of property in all cities of the State of over 100,000 inhabitants, in which the City Council has established a public library

for the use of its inhabitants. This would have put to the credit of the Library Fund a sum, last year, of nearly \$60,000. Instead of this, the appropriation was limited to \$25,000. It was well understood that our operating expenses would exceed that sum. The Board had opened the Library to the public on the 1st of May, 1874, in anticipation of the receipt of the levy authorized by law; and were greatly disappointed on finding that they were to receive less than half that sum, and that your honorable body refused your concurrence in what they conceded then to be an urgent public demand.

This limited appropriation compelled the Board to arrest the execution of orders already sent abroad, and the binding of more than 3,000 volumes of the British Patent Office Reports, under a contract made in 1873, with Bell & Co., of London. The Board also reduced the number of newspapers and periodicals in our reading room, and, according to the statement in the report of the Library Committee, "came to a halt along the whole line." If readers do not find in the Library all they had reason to expect, and especially in the line of recent publications, the explanation must be found in the low condition to which this action of the Common Council last year reduced the finances of the Library.

And here we may also be excused for pleading, in behalf of this trust, against the injustice of charging to the Library Fund a portion of the Gage defalcation. It now appears that the Gage defalcation, which, against our repeated remonstrances, was charged in the comptroller's office to the extent of over \$6,300 upon our Library Fund, took place before the organization of this Board, or the levy and collection of any portion of the taxes raised for its maintenance and support. We again urge that in this matter our account with the city may have the proper credit on the books of the corporation.

In connection with the present Comptroller, this Board, while expressing their gratification at the liberal advance which he has made on his estimate of last year, yet submit whether the Library Act, in allowing the Council to levy not more than one-fifth of one mill for the support and maintenance of a free library, did not intend and require that this whole sum should be raised whenever it was needed. We respectfully insist that this need now exists, and that the \$50,000 recommended for the present year (1875), as an appropriation, is insufficient to provide payment on the contracts deferred, the increase of the Library, and the general increasing public demand.

The Board has been furnished by the Comptroller with a financial statement of the resources now to the credit of the Library Fund. By this statement, it would appear that while there was a balance to our credit of \$32,771.65, yet, as a matter of fact, there is only a cash credit of money on hand subject to draft, of \$2,500, the rest being uncollected taxes for 1872, 1873 and 1874. This credit, however, is over-balanced by the proportion of the Gage defalcation charged to the fund of \$6,308, leaving the balance against the Library Fund on the books to date of \$4,134.66.

In this connection, however, it should be stated that, of the tax levied or sum appropriated for 1874, there is yet remaining uncollected about \$20,000, from which sum, when the present balance against the credit is deducted, it will appear that

there will remain only a prospective cash income of \$16,000 until the levy of 1876 can be made available at the end of next year.

The running expenses of the institution, if the circulation of books be maintained, cannot be less than \$25,000, and may reach \$30,000. Any calculation we are able to make, based upon the receipts of a smaller annual revenue than \$30,000 for expenses, and \$20,000 more to make what we consider indispensable purchases, will materially cripple the Library, while it will effectually put an end to its further progress. It can readily be seen from the ratio of our increase, that the time is coming, and that speedily, when the number of book borrowers will be greater in number than the books now on the shelves.

To your honorable body, therefore, this Board now appeals, as the legitimate representatives of the people of Chicago, in behalf of that people, for the amount necessary to keep open this institution.

We entertain no shadow of doubt but that when our actual condition is properly understood, you will do so. Let there be, if possible, no misapprehension. For if we are correctly advised as to the reason of the limited and inadequate appropriation made last year, there was a mistake made in regard to the amount of actual resources subject to our disposal. The failure of this, the first Free Library established in this city, or in Illinois, under the "Free Library Act," would not, we respectfully insist, be creditable to Chicago. On the contrary, it would be a deplorable occurrence.

The Board, during the past year, have drawn against and expended of the Library Fund, \$58,708.31, of which \$28,410.63 has been paid on the purchases made of books ordered prior to December last, when it was deemed prudent to decline all further acquisitions in view of the insufficiency of our fund. The Secretary's statement attached, will give all necessary details as to the sums paid out on account of salaries, newspapers and periodicals, book binding, furniture, fixtures, stationery, heating, insurance, rent and printing. A very satisfactory item will be found in the fact that the Secretary has received on account of fines from book borrowers, the sum of \$2,648.72, while we have paid out for re-binding the books only \$1,991.80.

The Library now contains 39,236 volumes. The accessions the past year have been 21,053 volumes; 969 of these have been donations, and 20,122 acquired from purchases. The total number of pamphlets now on hand is 7,803, of which there were received from donations last year 1,943. We refer to the Librarian's report accompanying for all details under this branch of our report.

The Board call your special attention to that branch of this report, in which we are required to give the number of visitors to the reading room, the number of issues, etc. The whole number of visitors to the reading room during the year has reached 236,021. The issues of periodicals have been 135,355, and the books issued in the reading room numbered 21,994. The average of daily visitors has been 647, and average issue of periodicals 371, and of books 91. The circulation of books issued for home use has approximated 400,000 volumes, or, to be accurate, 399,156 volumes. The largest number of volumes issued in one day (which was

March 6) reached 2,452 volumes, while the smallest number issued in one day was 329. The Librarian has given all the details in this branch of the service, and a statement of all the facts, which his great experience and skill enable him so well to handle. His views on the progress which the Library has made, and is making, will be found to have a peculiar interest.

The Board submit the above facts, of which they are cognizant, believing that the strongest argument to be made in favor of the Chicago Public Library is to be derived from its own history of progress.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOS. HOYNE, *President*.
 ELLIOTT ANTHONY,
 ROBERT F. QUEAL,
 JULIUS ROSENTHAL,
 DANIEL L. SHOREY,
 GEORGE MASON,
 WILLIAM J. ONAHAN,

Board of Directors.



In what has already been published of the circumstances attending the origin and foundation of the Public Library of Chicago, I hope it is made sufficiently clear, that it does not owe its origin to any single individual, founder or donor; or to any specific number of donors, founders or individuals. Nor can it be claimed as the offspring of any sect, creed, clique or society. Nor does the CREDIT of establishing this work belong alone to the city, or people of the city, because before the city came to act upon the subject the law itself was passed by the representatives of the State in the General Assembly or Legislature.

The *first conception* of the present Library, as already shown, sprung out of and took shape immediately after the Great Fire in 1871. The germ from which it sprung was the *first generous* impulse of mankind, stirred into action by the most extraordinary of human calamities! The spontaneity of the movement was quickened by the suddenness of the *moral shock*, produced over the whole earth, such as is at times experienced in man by a cry of human agony or despair. It was soon understood abroad that all urgent physical distresses could be relieved out of the abundance at our own doors! But not so the mental. The loss of all books, libraries, works of science,

art, history and fiction had left a half million of people no resources of a literary kind to console mental anxiety under a depression aggravated by the most deplorable losses of fortune.

What therefore came from Mr. Hughes as a suggestion in England, was seized upon elsewhere. The result proved as had been expected. The people of Chicago raised their hands in appreciation of the project. They rejoiced at an opportunity to acquire a foundation in which posterity could not fail to recognize one of the most honorable as well as signal achievements of this generation. Under such auspices the glory and success of the scheme could not long remain a matter of doubt in Chicago. It was from the beginning among the "city elders" an assured success. But in all this complication of motives, considering the number of people engaged, it could never have been supposed that so public and general an undertaking could become dwarfed into the proportions of a local achievement. That any personal considerations could appropriate the honors of the enterprise. No! It should be remembered that the "CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY" is of national and international origin and fame, and that it is the offspring of whole masses of people on opposite sides of the globe! It is a testimonial of the spirit manifested in a city, which showed herself equal to that high destiny as a metropolis, to which Chicago had always aspired.

Entertaining such views as these, which the writer has always entertained, and supposed all others likewise to do, the writer hopes that the public have not obtained any impression from what has been said in public, that the writer ever put forward any claim upon his own part as a founder, or the renderer of valuable service.

If any such impression has been so obtained, he now desires to correct it as a *mistake*. The writer is very sure he is entitled to no such credit. The whole extent of the writer's connection with the Library *was that of a mere agent* endeavoring to *carry out the purposes of those who appointed him to his position*, and executing with others the general plan of the work to be accomplished. In this agency the writer had assigned to his care necessarily the performance of many duties. The duties per-

tained to the positions he held; *first*, through the kindness of Mr. Medill and his fellow citizens, and *secondly*, through the kindness of the first Board of Directors, who elected him the first President of the Board. If the writer has acquitted himself of his duties without the censure of his fellow citizens, he will be entirely satisfied, and he hopes to be allowed to wear that honor in unobtrusive retirement. The duties referred to being necessarily attached to the positions he had accepted were of the same value and dignity only as those of *any* faithful hireling; such as a Secretary, Librarian, or Clerk; merely omitting the compensation,—which may be set down as in the nature of a credit.

As to any claims for **DISTINCTION**, the writer thinks that donors of the books contributed may have some claim in this regard to be considered. The citizen who is merely from interest advocating a project like a public library is merely serving *himself* and *his family* in the advantages of a *free library*, and he may economize and save the money that otherwise would have to be expended for his own use. I have not been indifferent to such considerations or claims. I made my own contribution in a complete set of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. This, as is well known to several readers, was the *first Magazine* ever issued, and comes down in volumes well bound, from the year 1731 to 1850. Say, in all about 200 volumes.*

* The two gentlemen who engaged in a controversy with that distinguished wit "Eli Perkins," last summer during the writer's absence from Chicago, will I trust be satisfied that Mr. Hoyne is not ambitious to appropriate to himself any of the credit which belongs to those gentlemen —— in common with hundreds of other friends, to whom the Chicago public is as much indebted. To enumerate the latter, is to go through as the compiler has done, the progressive steps taken; such as—first, the English movement; second, the Chicago movement; third, the law of the General Assembly, which, as has been shown, was first introduced a year previously to the fire, by Mr. Caldwell, of Peoria; fourth, Mr. Hoyne's position as Chairman of a Committee secured to him the privilege perhaps of a hearing at Springfield before a Committee of the house, at which time he certainly did speak in advocacy of the measure, and the measure was passed; fifth, we then have an ordinance of the Common Council, drawn in consultation with the writer, by Mayor Medill, at whose instance it was passed by the Council. But we should not omit the *credit that is due*, to the body of the taxpayers of Chicago who consented to the

tax that *supports* the Library; and *finally*, let us not *overlook the generous donors* of many valuable contributions in books, which in our own city as well as abroad, furnished the chief motive to the whole undertaking. Among so many sources of good, it would be ungracious to *individualize*. "In our aspirations to be great let us recognize the kindred stars," but inasmuch as "*one star differeth from another in glory*," it would be well enough that Mr. Burnham (Dearborn Observatory) should prepare a "*Star Catalogue*" for Library uses. In that case, the writer will be "*beneath the stars*," an observer, but so remote in distance that he hopes to be found *outside* the sublime sphere of those gentlemen's observations, who so lately introduced him before a newspaper public.

In 1874 the bad administration of Mr. Colvin took charge of the city government. While every corrupt device was used to increase the burdens of the people, to raise exorbitantly the rates of taxation, while numbers of useless offices were increased and their salaries raised, with characteristic meanness it cut down the appropriations of the Library to \$25,000 in 1874 and 1875. This amount was barely sufficient, as urged time and again by the Directors, to meet the current expenses, while nothing would be left to make additions to the Library, and meet the rapidly increasing demands of the readers. Besides this, the Library had been charged with a part of the Gage defalcation, to which it was not liable, that having occurred before any Library fund had been collected from the tax appropriated. Every appeal made proved fruitless.

Below will be found a special circular, sent out by the writer, drawn up under the direction of the Board of Directors in the early spring of 1875, embodying the resolutions passed by the Directors, and showing to what a reduced condition the policy of Colvin and his Council had brought this institution. The circular was also the means of drawing together a meeting of a large body of the leading tax payers who consulted as to measures for finding some means, by private subscriptions, that could be used, until such time as the city administration or policy could be changed. (See circular below.)

In the meantime the writer became as a citizen somewhat prominent in his political opposition, in denouncing the atrocious abuses of the "Colvin crowd." This in a President of the Board of Directors gave a pretext to allege a *want of con-*

fidence in the management of the Board on the part of the demagogues around the "City Hall." And hence, the appropriations had been reduced. Finding that the pretext proved some obstacle, and that the writer's power to serve the Library was thus affected, he determined on a prompt withdrawal.

He did this by writing a letter of resignation to Mayor Colvin as a Director ; and he took especial leave of the Board of Directors in a second letter,—both these letters are copied herein and will further speak for themselves.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Chicago, in Common Council:

According to a resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Public Library, I beg leave to make known to your honorable body, and through you to the people at large, the urgent and immediate financial needs of this important educational and literary department of your municipal charge.

With a view to a full understanding of the situation in which the Board of Directors find themselves, I have thought it to be necessary to have a copy of the Report of the *Committee on Finance*, presented by Mr. Raster, Chairman, at the last meeting, appended to this communication, to which I direct special attention.

On the exhibit made of the resources upon which the directors can rely to meet accruing expenses—as carefully detailed in that report—the Board felt painfully constrained, under the circumstances, to adopt the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That owing to the reduced state of the finances, as appears from the Finance Committee, henceforth no books shall be purchased under any powers heretofore given to the Library Committee or the Librarian, or both, until the further order of the Board."

The gravity of the consequences apprehended from this action consists in this: That the Board, on account of want of funds to authorize any further purchases of books—the failure

to keep pace with and meet the daily increasing demands of borrowers—will necessarily compel them, within the next *nine or ten* months, to *close the library* to the public. According to the present ratio of increase in the number of borrowers within the time mentioned, there will be MORE BORROWERS THAN BOOKS; the circulation of books must altogether cease, or become subject to a *partial mode* of distribution, and only the reading-room of the institution can continue open to the people!

This *failure* of our municipal government, in a matter of so vital importance to our intelligence and character as a people, and the comparatively small cost when computed in dollars, as respects the blessings secured—*the fact*, that after our great fire, the foundation of the *Free Library* was laid in the public sympathy of people abroad; in the generous and princely efforts of the people of England, to which the *German, French, Irish* and *Scotch* people so largely contributed—all, every consideration of pride in the citizens, justice and benevolence, alike combine to regard such a disappointment as the close of this institution *now*, or a *year hence*, as most humiliating and *unfortunate*.

In order that the individual members of your Board may comprehend and possess a knowledge of the figures upon which our estimates are based, and the unparalleled rate of progress the library has been making, the librarian has furnished the following data, at my request:

“The other large public libraries of the country have been years in developing what has been done in Chicago in a few months. The Boston Public Library, at the end of its fifth year, had a less number of book borrowers, and one-fourth as many books taken out, as our library had at the end of its fifth month. The Cincinnati Public Library, at the end of its sixth year, with twice as many books, had only half the circulation of the Chicago Public Library at the end of its sixth month. This rapid development will be seen in the following statistics of the library concerning books, registration of book-borrowers and circulation.

BOOKS.

“ On the 16th of March last, when the books were removed from the Tank to the present library rooms, they numbered 9,279 volumes. The library, on May 1, when it was opened for circulation, contained 17,355 volumes. On the 1st of December it had 32,197 volumes.

BOOK-BORROWERS.

“ The registration of book-borrowers, July 1, when the library had been opened two months, was 5,130. It is now 16,819, showing an average monthly increase of 2,338, and an average daily increase of 90. At this rate of increase, the library will have, May 31, the close of the official year, 25,717 book-borrowers, and three months later there will be more book-borrowers than the present number of books in the library.

CIRCULATION.

“ The increase in the circulation of books within the short period of seven months has been without a parallel in the history of American libraries. The daily average of books taken out in May was 305; in June, 661; in July, 810; in August, 1,081; in September, 1,229; in October, 1,397; in November, 1,617. The largest number issued in one day was 2,539. There is no other single library in the country which has a daily average of 1,000 volumes. There is no indication as yet that this increase may not go on, provided that books are furnished to meet the demand. With this immense issue, there is no appreciable loss of books. The volumes are carefully read, and generally promptly returned. As every borrower is guaranteed by a responsible surety, the fines of delinquents and the accidental loss of books are readily adjusted.”

It is thus made to clearly appear, on the above intelligent estimates of the librarian, that the FAILURE to support and maintain this department of your city government cannot be ascribed to the *ignorance*, or *lack of appreciation*, or interest, on the part of the people themselves, as to the advantages *intended to be secured* in the enactment of the Free Library bill. But, on the contrary, these results prove that it has realized in full measure

the predictions of the most sanguine of its early friends or projectors.

In the last and Second Annual Report made by this Board to your honorable body, as will appear by reference to copy on file, this Board took occasion to strongly complain and remonstrate against the small estimate of \$25,000 recommended as a sufficient appropriation by the Comptroller for this department, in his last annual report of estimates necessary to run the different departments for the present year. The Board insisted upon the full fifth of a mill, which is the *maximum* rate allowed by the Library bill, on the total valuation of city property listed, or about \$56,000 to \$60,000, as a small price to be paid for so great a boon to the public and poorer classes of the people as this great beneficence. And the Board urged that \$50,000 was the *least sum* for which (having opened the circulating department before notice of this intended or proposed reduction) the current expenses then incurred could be met and paid, and leave *any balance* adequate to make the necessary purchases of books, to keep up with the increase of the number of borrowers.

The Board of Directors at that time thought they expressed and appreciated the spirit of economy that then seemed to animate all branches of the city government; but they urged then, as now, that the *ratio of the increase of book-borrowers*, estimating from a single month following the opening of the circulating department, there would, within the year, be an *excess of ten thousand borrowers* over the number of volumes *then on the library shelves*. This, it now appears, was rather *under* than *over* this estimate. The number of volumes on the shelves on the 1st of June last was 18,183 volumes, while on the 1st of *this month* (December) the borrowers already number 16,819. This Board also urged in favor of the demand that the maximum rate of tax should be raised—that we were then the youngest of the municipal departments, costing less for our support than any other—that we had not imprudently used nor squandered a dollar, neither were our accounts overdrawn; nor had we been guilty of *extravagance in any single respect*. On the contrary

we expressed our opinion that the balance on hand, of our moneys, remaining from former years, and which we had husbanded for an *emergency like this*, had been subjected to the defalcations and overdrafts of other departments, and that the "Free Library Bill" required it to be scrupulously kept separate and apart from all other city moneys, and that a former administration had not exercised that jealousy or care proper to so sacred a trust fund of the people.

The Board, it will be recollected, pleaded *most earnestly*, as well in the report as by appeals to the Comptroller and Finance Committee of the Council, that *retrenchment* in this department was equivalent to refusing the means of actual subsistence, where, as in infancy, such parsimony would end in paralysis and perhaps death!

The directors had not then, as they have not now, any desire to appear in conflict with the policy of any individual, or party, or class in the Council; but then, as now, they appeared as executors of a great public trust, protesting, in its name, and in behalf of the whole people, against the injustice which they saw threatened. In case the institution fails, with the city representatives, of that recognition and support which the law intended, the individual directors desire that no responsibility shall attach to them for such a failure. It is in this spirit, and to avert the catastrophe by anticipating it, that we bring the whole library subject now before your honorable body.

It is not within our province to say how means may be raised to provide the necessary supply of books for the constituency you represent. We shall be glad to co-operate in any plan your wisdom may suggest. Perhaps an appeal to the general public and individuals will bring out corresponding offers, as some have heretofore been made by individual citizens of wealth.

The object of this communication is to lay before you, as the honored guardians of the public property, now included in this Library, and as the authority ultimately responsible for even the failures of the Directors. I have chosen, under the authority vested in me by them, this mode of laying the whole matter before you.

It is, we think, made entirely clear, by the facts presented, that a problem exists that must soon meet with some solution. How is a public library successfully to be run when the book-borrowers greatly exceed the number of books?

THOS. HOYNE,
President Board of Directors Public Library.

OCT. 9TH, 1875.

HON. H. D. COLVIN, MAYOR OF CHICAGO.

Dear Sir: I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, to take effect immediately.

In doing so allow me to call attention to two vacancies recently created, which in effect remain as if no appointments had been made to fill them. It seems that Mr. Billings and Dr. J. B. Walker have been appointed to fill the places made vacant by Messrs. Hayes and Rosenthal, but that neither of these gentlemen has as yet attended a meeting of the Board; and one of them, I am credibly informed, declines to be qualified; and yet refuses to resign, holding over to the exclusion of some active and efficient member of the Board.

In regard to my own action I might have declined explanation, since my appointment came from your honor's predecessor, Hon. Joseph Medill. I feel considerable satisfaction in knowing that I assisted him and other good citizens in the passage of the Free Library Bill, and organizing the Chicago Public Library under it. But it seems as if under your administration I had accomplished all it was possible for me to do in this direction. I am not sure that *my resignation* may not remove an obstacle from its progress.

In behalf of the great public trust which the law places under your care, let me call attention to the many urgent appeals which the Board of Directors have made within the last two years for a more generous treatment, and for more adequate support than the present Common Council, in conjunction with yourself, have conceded. The truth is, that the "Library Bill" was only intended to limit the raising of the tax at one-fifth of a

mill, annually, on all taxable property. It never was *intended* to *diminish* the amount to be raised, *below this sum*.

Since your advent to the Mayoralty, however, the Common Council has cut down the amount to less than one-half what the law has granted.

Now with 26,000 book-borrowers, who are increasing daily, and 300,000 annual visitors to the reading-room, there should be appropriated at least \$20,000 to the purchase of books, and the expenses of management \$30,000 or upwards. Total, \$50,000, is necessary; while only \$25,000 during the last two years has been appropriated. The Board could only make additions from what had been raised during the two previous years under Mayor Medill; all the rest are donations from abroad and the free gifts of our own citizens.

Suggesting that the vacancies may be filled by candidates *friendly* and not *inimical* to the enterprise, the institution may survive your administration, if friends of the Library can be found among supporters of the present administration.

Truly yours, obediently,

THOS. HOYNE.

OCT. 16TH, 1875.

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHICAGO.

Gentlemen: You are, no doubt, aware that I have tendered my resignation as a member of your Board to the Mayor, and that necessarily my office as President of your Board (for which I am indebted to your kindness) will also be vacated.

You may conceive that I could not have taken such a step without considerations of a controlling nature. You certainly can understand how sincerely I must regret a rupture of the many ties that had united us so long in those relations of official and personal courtesy and kindness which had never suffered from the slightest misunderstanding during our entire connection of years.

You will understand that on taking a step like this, considerations of prudence often restrain a full expression of all the

circumstances entering into the conclusion upon which we act.

If you will allow me a brief reference to one matter of interest in the history of the Library, I think there will appear to be no impropriety in my statement that it bears directly upon my own action.

It is within the recollection of all the members of the Board that when on the first day of January, A. D. 1873, the Reading Room of the Library was first opened to the public at the "Tank," that the enterprise was inaugurated by the Mayor of Chicago, in the presence of the Common Council, the city officers, and a large concourse of the leading property owners, and of citizens distinguished in all ranks and professions, from our population. The Free Library Bill of the State had been made a demand of this city, and passed with an "emergency clause," because of the sympathy which had taken possession of the public mind of Europe after our fire. One result of which in England took shape in the foundation of a "Free Public Library" in Chicago, and accordingly provision had to be made to receive the books contributed towards this foundation.

No taxpayer or property owner had complained, or had any one been ever heard to complain, that for the purpose of maintaining a Library thus founded, *one-fiftieth of a cent, or one-fifth of one mill*, was too much of a burden on the taxable value of his property for this purpose. The enterprise had the active support and the good will of the city officials. During the years 1872 and 1873 the Library enjoyed the favor to which it was entitled as an institution. The proceeds of the tax during those years was sufficient to warrant the Board in responding to the general demand that the Library should be opened to the public, and accordingly, as a means to this end, the services of the present Librarian were secured, and large purchases of books made, and everything promised that the "Chicago Public Library" would be at least commensurate with the intelligence and character of the city. But all this was based upon the assurance that the income of the Library would never *certainly* be less, but *probably more* than the law establishing it had provided.

It was not believed that any hostility could exist, or hostile disposition be manifested, either in the Common Council or elsewhere, to diminish instead of increase this income, effectually crippling its usefulness.

In the fall of 1873 a new Mayor, a Comptroller, Common Council, and other municipal officers, were elected. Since that time the Library has encountered enmity where it should have found friendship. Its income has been reduced below the annual amount of its running expenses. No appeal or solicitation that the Board seems capable of addressing to the city government, the present Mayor, or Comptroller, avails us to overcome this hostility. We all know that the unparalleled progress of our Library in one direction by the increase of readers, has been arrested on the other by the failure of their representatives to even execute the law by making adequate appropriations to support the Library. At a loss to account for such opposition I have questioned persons and motives. I was confidentially told that my persistence had provoked opposition in some persons who had influenced the city administration. Whether this be so or not, it suggested the removal of an obstacle in the way. I feel as if a protest should be made in behalf of the Public Library against this city administration to the people of Chicago, and against the conduct of our *municipal representatives*. Free from all restraint, I can make such protest better *outside* than *inside* your *Board*. Any personal consideration I do not consider. I consider *the Public Library paramount*, and its legal support of the first importance. I gladly yield personal feelings, however treated, if I can contribute towards the prosperity and success of our great enterprise.

In parting from you as a colleague, let me assure the members of the Board individually, of my profound regard for each, and that I feel towards him a friendship that I shall always cherish to the end of my days.

I have the honor to be, yours truly,

THOS. HOYNE.

The following article from the *Daily Tribune*, of date Dec. 15, 1874, illustrates the earnest manner in which the interests of the "Library" were advocated by the Hon. JOSEPH MEDILL, at a time when every effort was being made by the Common Council and Mayor to destroy its usefulness by refusing necessary appropriations :

THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

If there has been one public trust in this city more neglected and abused by the Council than any other, it is the Public Library during the last year; and this, in spite of its great intrinsic merit, the fidelity and excellence of its management, the wide-spread interest which the public feel in it, and the close personal attention that has been given it by the Board of Directors. But the City Government, under the miscalled "People's Party," instead of regarding the Public Library as an important element in our educational system, has set it aside as an insignificant attachment to the body politic which must take care of itself if it hopes to keep alive. The Legislature has authorized the city to appropriate one-fifth of a mill of the taxes assessed to the use of the Library, which, at the present rate of taxation, would give it about \$60,000 a year. At the last annual appropriation, the Library Board asked the amount to which it was entitled, on account of the urgent demands of the public for an increased number of books, and in order to sustain the early usefulness of the institution, and thereby assure a permanent usefulness in the future. But, in the face of the meritorious representations the Board were able to make, the Mayor and Comptroller, in behalf of popular ignorance, recommended a reduction of the appropriation to \$25,000, and the Council fixed it at that figure. The Library Board had no contract to let, no jobs to offer, no commissions to pay. In one word, there was "no money in it," and the city officials agreed with a remarkable unanimity to cut the institution off at the lowest figure that would not kill it outright.

Mr. Thomas Hoyne, the President of the Library Board, has made an earnest appeal to the new Council to supply the deficiency in the appropriation made by its predecessor. The institution needs no other commendation than that which its own record shows. It has exhibited already a progress which is simply unparalleled in the history of free libraries in this country. It has accomplished in a few months what has required years to attain in other cities. At the end of five months it had a larger number of borrowers of books than the Boston Library had at the end of five years. The Cincinnati Library, after an existence of six years, and with thrice as many books, had but half the circulation of the Chicago Library at the end of six months. The destruction of all the public and private libraries of this city in the great fire of 1871, accounts to some extent for this extraordinary demand—this thirst for books. The spirit shown by the Chicago public in this matter, is one that ought to be encouraged in every possible way as a matter of public polity. Instead of doing this, the Board has been obliged to adopt a resolution not to buy any more

books, for want of money. The number of volumes now belonging to the Library is 32,197; the registration of book-borrowers now shows that there are 16,819. There has been a monthly increase since the opening of the Library of 2,338, and a daily increase of 90. At this rate, the number of borrowers will actually exceed the number of books in a very few months if no more volumes are added. It is impossible to increase the number of books under the present appropriation. The following exhibits the available resources for the year :

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Net credit, Dec. 1, 1874, (deducting warrants not yet paid and proportion of Gage's deficiency)..... | \$ 5,491 04 |
| Expected cash proceeds of the unpaid taxes of 1872 and 1873..... | 5,000 00 |
| Expected cash proceeds of \$25,000 appropriation of 1874..... | 21,000 00 |
| Total..... | <u>\$31,491 04</u> |

It will require about \$8,000 to cover outstanding orders, and this will leave only about \$24,000 to meet the running expenses of the year 1875, which amount to \$30,000. Thus, without adding one book, actual bankruptcy and starvation stares this flourishing institution in the face within less than a year; and, if nothing more is done for it, it will be obliged to close its doors.

Such a result as this would be an everlasting disgrace to the City of Chicago and disaster to the people. We might just as freely contemplate the closing of a number of our public schools. The result in the one case would be as damaging to public welfare as that which would follow in the other. When we remember that the full amount of money to which the Public Library is fairly and equitably entitled under the law is insignificant as compared with the money appropriated to every other public service, the present Council ought to see the injustice of the appropriation made by the last Council; and, in view of the threatened calamity of closing the Public Library, it ought to make adequate restitution for the year to come.

THE CHARIOTS OF GOD:

AS MEN MAY SEE THEM.

THE chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of Angels; the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. Ps. lxxviii.

Who maketh the clouds his chariot. Ps. civ.

VIEWLESS they wheel on the floor of the ocean,
 Silent they mount with no visible motion;
 The breath of a zephyr can marshal and range them,
 The touch of a sunbeam to glory can change them:
 The Lord God of Light takes his station among them.

Softly they wend on the path of the morning,
 Dew from their axles the hill-tops adorning;
 Closely they muster, their shadows extending,
 To shelter the desert from noon-tide impending:
 The Lord God of Peace is reposing among them.

Swiftly they sweep over forest and prairie,
 Lightly they roll over battlements airy;
 Gulfs they surpass on cerulean bridges,
 'Twixt Grampian, Apennine, Lebanon ridges:
 The Lord God of Battles is hastening among them.

Portentous they gather—'tis night all around them:
 Heretic hosts, this array shall confound them!
 Deep unto deep at their passage is calling;
 Hail from their hollows, like millstones, is falling:
 The Lord God of Hosts is commanding among them.

Fast on the ether His ministers bind them;
 Thick fly his arrows before and behind them;
 Long roll their terrors, the echoes renew them;
 Loud screams the trumpet of triumph all through them:
 The Lord God of Might is prevailing among them.

Bright they defile through the portal of Even,
 The many-ribb'd archway between earth and heaven;
 Their train, as they pass, in a flood is descending;
 Their wheels, in a blaze, with the rainbow are blending:
 The Lord God of Grace is repenting among them.

See them to Tabor resplendently turning!
 Angels around, on the summit, are burning;
 Mortals, asleep, in their circle are walking;
 Moses, Elias, and Jesus are talking:
 The Lord God of Glory is shining among them.

Quick they disperse, and round Olivet wheeling,
 Settle in troops amid seraphim kneeling;
 Cherubs, in harness, above them are flying;
 Man has been freed from the terror of dying:
 The Lord God of Life returns heavenward among them.

Yet comes the day when this planet shall tremble—
 Far from the uttermost blue they assemble;
 White winged souls, on their pathway collecting,
 Shout their hosannas, His advent expecting:
 The Lord God of Love shall come reigning among them.

P. H. W.

TO COATFELL, ARRAN:

ON FIRST SEEING IT FROM THE SHORE.

[AT BRODICK.]

Born of earthquakes, lonely giant,
Sphinx and eagle couched on high;
Dumb, defiant, self-reliant,
Breast on earth and beak in sky:

Built in chaos, burnt-out beacon,
Long extinguished, dark, and bare,
Ere life's friendly ray could break on
Shelvy shore or islet fair:

Dwarf to Atlas, child to Etna,
Stepping-stone to huge Mont Blanc;
Cairn to cloudy Chimborazo,
Higher glories round thee hang!

Scottish Sinai, God's out-rider,
When he wields his lightning wand;
From thy flanks, a king and spider
Taught, and saved, and ruled the land!

Smoking void and planet rending,
Island rise and ocean fall,
Frith unfolding, field extending--
Thou hast seen or felt them all.

Armies routed, navies flouted,
Tyrants fallen, people free;
Cities built and empires clouted,
Like the world, are known to thee.

Science shining, love enshrining,
Truth and patience conquering hell;
Miracles beyond divining,
Could'st thou speak, thy tongue would tell.

Rest awhile, the nations gather,
Sick of folly, lies, and sin,
To kneel to the eternal Father--
Then the kingdom shall begin!

Rest awhile, some late convulsion,
Time enough, shall shake thy bed:
Rest awhile, at Death's expulsion,
Living green shall clothe thy head.

P. H. W.

Lagg Cottage, June 20, 1871.

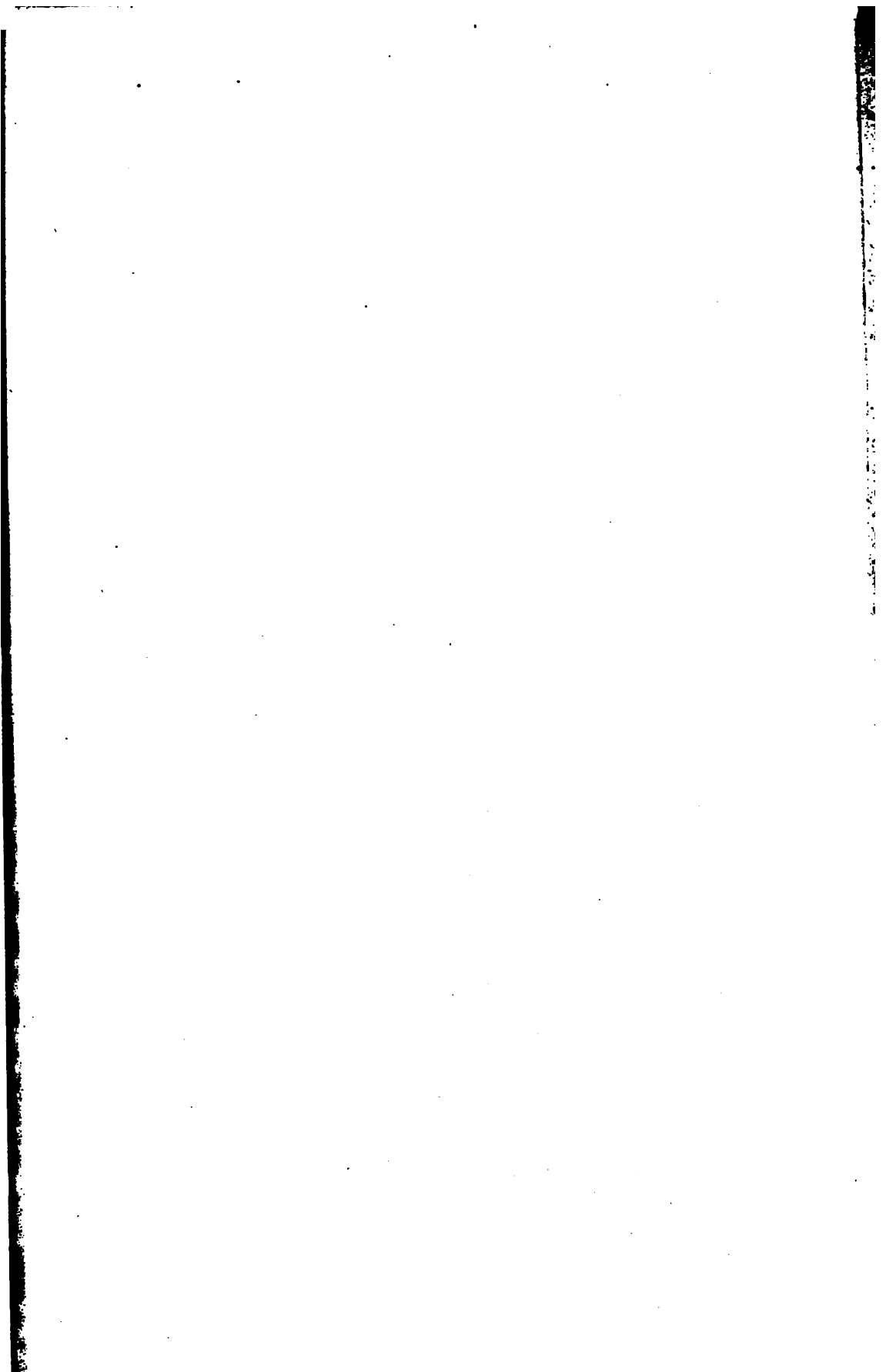
[*Extracted from Glasgow Herald.*]

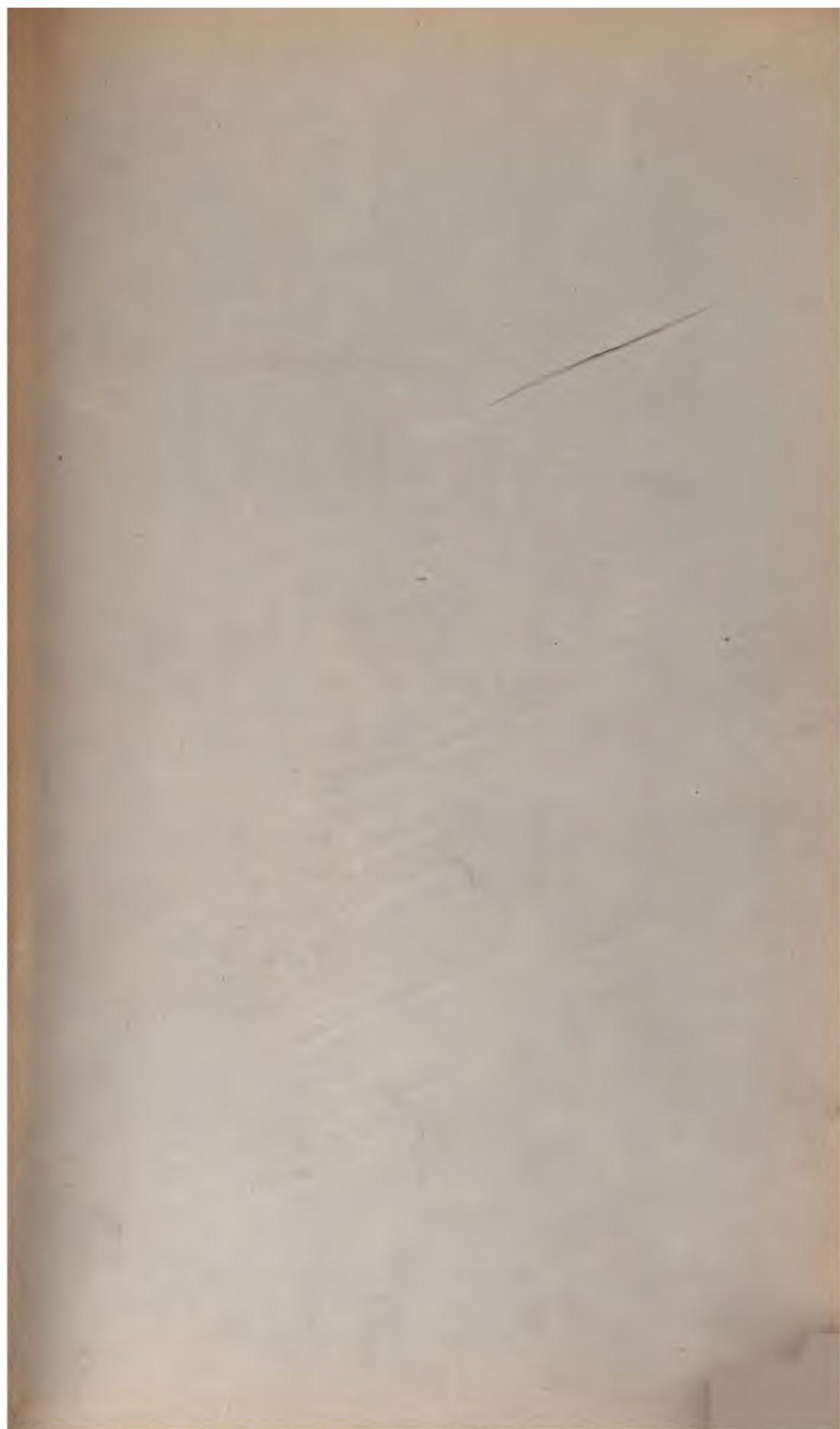
The HON. R. B. MASON, Mayor of Chicago.

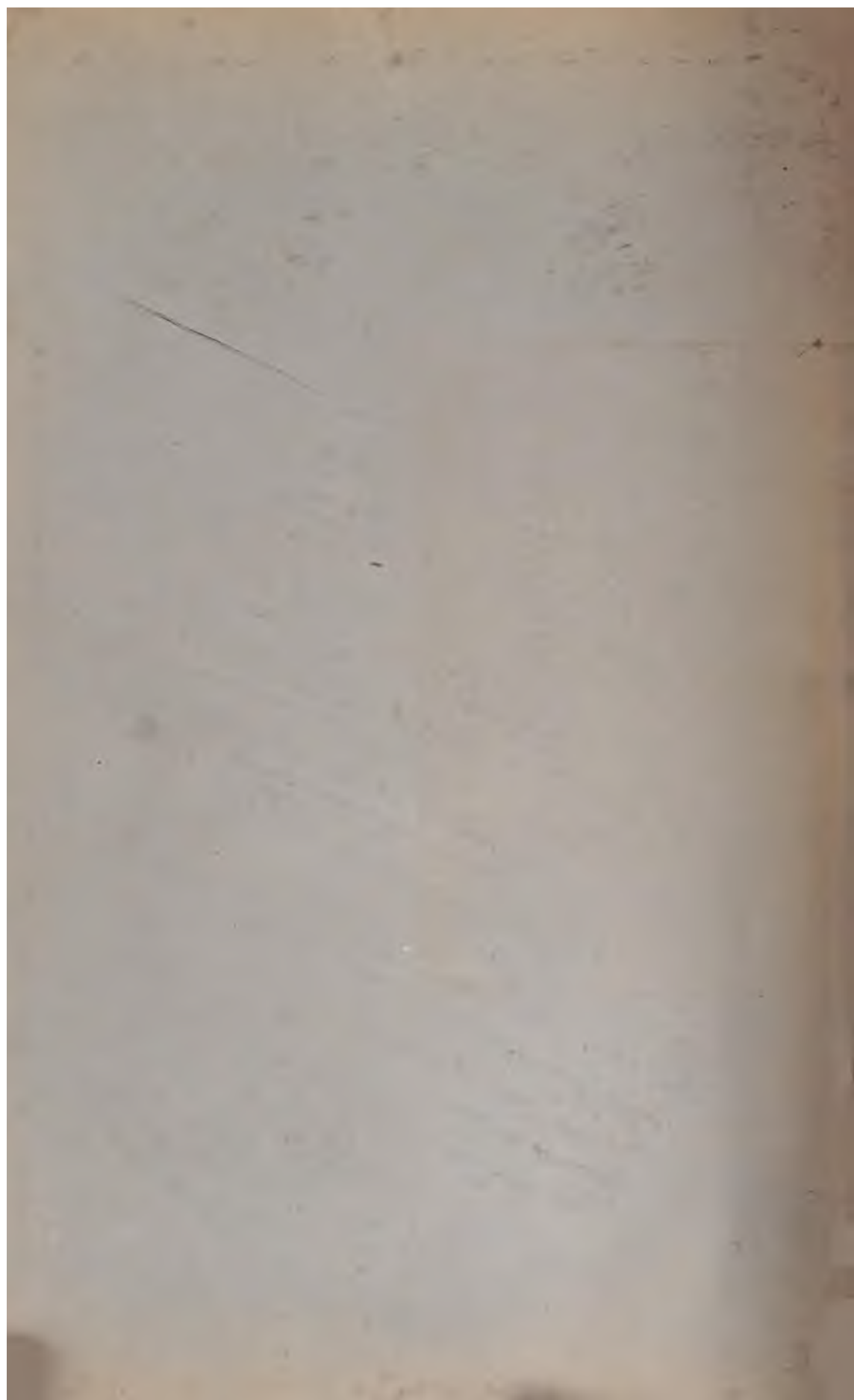
With REV. DR. P. HATZ WADDELL'S Compliments.

Dec. 4th, 1871.



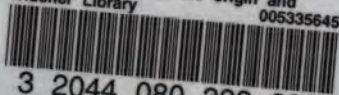






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Historical sketch of the origin and
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