

newly settled country like New Zealand, it was suggested that such an institution might aid geological research and provide the means of mutual information on its geography, climate, and natural history. As in similar societies in England, religious and political questions were to be completely excluded. A society of this nature was more likely to provide a library service for Christchurch than was the Colonists' Society; but although it attracted eighty three subscribers and set itself the primary object of erecting a £200 building it passed into oblivion after publishing a further statement emphasising its exclusively literary and scientific interests.⁽⁶⁾ Hostility and lack of support apparently contributed largely to its demise.

For almost seven years the citizens of Christchurch were silent on the question of a library and it was not until the matter was taken up by the Editor of the "Lyttelton Times" that any further developments took place. He said:

"Some efforts have been made in Christchurch for the establishment of a Mechanics' Institute and of a Book Club, in connection with it. Both of these objects are so important that any steps to be taken in the matter ought to be carefully considered. To establish such an institution, capable of meeting the requirements of the community, would be a heavy tax on Christchurch alone, and if it be wished that the institution should receive support from other quarters, it must provide advantages for all subscribers, whether residents in Christchurch or not. It appears to us that, especially with a view to founding a good library, it would be important to enlist a very general interest in the proposed work.

The most important desiderata to be first attended to would be the Library and Reading Room; and to get the full benefit of these advantages the individual use of a room and the individual attention of a clerk would be required. For this reason we are inclined to doubt the expediency of the proposed Town Hall plan.

6. L. T. August 7, 1852.