

Cambridge Terrace, for the sum of £262-10-0, and had recommended that funds for a building should be raised by shares and subscriptions. The present public library stands upon this excellent site, which is ideal for library purposes and very close to the centre of the city. Funds were further augmented by a grant of £250 from the Government as compensation for the site originally reserved for the Institute by the founders of the city.<sup>(20)</sup> The Committee recommended that funds for a building should be raised by shares (at £5) and subscriptions. Plans for the building had been drawn by Mr. Farr of Lichfield Street and the tender of Balcke and Broward to build at £1,169 had been accepted. Thus at last, after four precarious years, it appeared as if the future would take on a much brighter aspect. Added to this encouraging statement was a remarkable increase in the number of members to two hundred and thirty-four in the period 1861-62 and to two hundred and eighty in the following twelve months. Although the circulating figures did not show such a rapid increase they at least rose from 2654 to 4000 while 763 books were added to the library shelves.

Naturally such a large undertaking as the building to be constructed was bound to have its financial repercussions on so small a society and when a special general meeting was called on September 4, 1863 it was announced that the Institute had a debit balance of £733. The meeting decided to canvass for additional shares and subscriptions and also to approach the Provincial

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20. *ibid* Aug. 5, 1863.