

at this stage it will be observed that the College only controlled the library. It was not until after the abolition of the provinces in 1876 that the College gained possession. The Governor of New Zealand, in whom, as the Queen's representative, all public property was vested by the Abolition Act of 1876 conveyed by deed, bearing the date stamp of July 25, 1878, the Public Library to Canterbury College.

In the interim there were two important developments. At a cost of £2579, the Provincial Government, in 1875, erected the present circulating library facing on Cambridge Terrace as a new wing to the existing building, ⁽⁴⁹⁾ while, in the following year the Provincial Council Library, consisting of 1212 volumes, was transferred to the Public Library as a result of the abolition of the Provinces. We have witnessed in this chapter an heroic struggle of fourteen years' duration during which the Mechanics' Institute and later the Literary Institute fought against insurmountable financial difficulties in an attempt to provide Christchurch with a library in keeping with its position in the country. The wonder is, not that they failed, but that, with such inadequate means at their disposal, they achieved so much. However, the odds were too great and it was probably inevitable that the public library should become public property. But it is very doubtful if it was foreseen that possession of the institution would soon pass to Canterbury College. It will now be necessary to see what degree of success or failure attended the efforts of this body to improve and enlarge upon the work of its predecessors.

49. L.T. January 31, 1882.