

was the opportunity to introduce the Public Libraries Act of 1869,<sup>(13)</sup> but nothing was done in this direction and as a result the whole future of the Library was jeopardised. The stumbling block was then, as again in the future, the question of the endowment.

In his letter to the City Council in November 1883, Mr. W. Montgomery, Chairman of the Board of Governors, declared that there were no reserves of land or other endowments for the Library in question.<sup>(14)</sup> Mr. Montgomery elaborated this statement in a memorandum of March 12, 1884 in which he argued that, when the Library became the property of the Board in 1878, the Reference Library had already been formed, and it was hoped, as it would not be necessary to buy many new books annually, that the expenditure would be kept within the limit of the means at the disposal of the Board which had never recognised the Circulating Library as having any claims on the endowment.<sup>(15)</sup> The intended interpretation of the 1870 Ordinance has already been explained<sup>(16)</sup> but it is now apparent that this interpretation was not acceptable to the Board of Governors which chose to ignore the explanatory memorandum prepared by the Committee responsible for formulating the Ordinance. This recommendation suggested that "a beginning could be made by the loan or deposit, under proper restrictions, of some libraries" then existing in the Province "so as to make it a library of reference

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13. Vide supra p. 24.

14. L.T. April 1, 1884.

15. *ibid* March 13, 1884.

16. Vide supra Ch. 1. pp. 16-17.