

not to take over the Library, and suggested a conference with the Board of Governors concerning an endowment for the Public Library. It would, therefore, be reasonable to assume that the Board's terms were in keeping with the stand taken by the Chairman two months later. (19) This assumption is strengthened by the Board's reply to the Council's request for a conference. A special meeting of the Board in February 1884 (20) was called to discuss library matters and it was agreed that the following reply be sent to the City Council,

"That as the Library Committee have no doubt of the state of the law on the subject whether any of the endowments of the School of Technical Science are applicable to the Public Library, they think no good purpose can be served by the appointment of the Committee as suggested by the City Council."

Furthermore, the Board adopted the proposals of the Library Committee that the subscription to the Circulating Library be increased to £1 per annum; that the Circulating and Reference Libraries should be open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily; the Reading Room from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and the whole Library closed on Sundays.

Here the matter may well have rested if it had not been for these new and irksome restrictions which inflamed public opinion. On February 16 the "Lyttelton Times" printed a letter from "Biblion" protesting against the curtailment of the Library hours without published reasons. But, once the matter was brought to public notice, it was not the restricted hours that aroused interest and opposition but rather the attitude of the College authorities to

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19. Vide supra p.26.

20. "Press", February 15, 1884.