Public Library, but the Board contended that the reference was to
the Library of the School of Technology - purely a reference library,
an adjunct to the Museum.[27] Assuming both of these points of view
to be incorrect, it may have been that the library referred to was
the reference department of the existing Public Library.   After a
lengthy dissertation on the subject the Editor discounted the last
two alternatives and expressed the opinion that it was the existing
Public Library which was meant by the 1870 Ordinance.   In his
following "leader", he suggested that subscriptions should be such
that the Circulating Library should be self supporting, and that the
Free Public Library, stipulated in the deed of transfer in 1873,[28]
was obviously the present Reference Library, which was most certainly
entitled to a share of the endowments even if the Circulating Library
was not.   In conclusion, he emphasised three salient facts,- that
the Board had acknowledged its inability to manage the Library and
had offered to hand it over to the City; that, because of this, it
could be concluded, that so long as the Library remained in the hands
of the Board it would receive nothing from the public by way of deed,
of bequest, or in any other manner; that the Library was entitled to
a share of the College endowments.

27. It is impossible to accept the validity of this assumption,
as the "Lyttelton Times" of March 13, 1884, reporting on a meeting
of the Board, states that in reply to a question as to whether or not
he had received any legal opinion as to the appropriation of funds to
the Public Library, the Chairman stated, that Mr. Cowlishaw (a former
Provincial solicitor) had informed him that the Board might consider
the Reference Library as the Public Library which it was bound to
establish.   However, this erroneous assumption on the part of the
Editor does not otherwise destroy his hypothesis but merely reduces
the possible libraries from three to two.

28. Appendix C. p.140.