

With all due respect to the Editor of the "Times", these statements serve to confuse rather than to clarify. His conclusion declared the Public Library to be entitled to a share of the endowment, yet, in his previous paragraph, he had opined that the Circulating Library should be supported by its subscriptions and that the Reference Library was entitled to a share of the endowment, even if the Circulating Library was not. These statements are obviously contradictory. Moreover, in his first leader, he had discounted the possibility of the Reference Library being that library referred to in the 1870 Ordinance, yet, in his second, he readmits the possibility. If the Editor of the "Times" was so confused on the subject, it is understandable that the people of Christchurch were in an even worse plight.

The gentleman most directly concerned in the history of the Library from 1870 to 1876 was the Hon. W. Rolleston, who during that period, was Superintendent of Canterbury. When on a visit to Christchurch, he was approached by the Mayor as to the right of the Public Library to a share of the disputed endowment. He did not, at the time, consider it advisable to express an opinion, until he had had an opportunity of checking his recollections by a perusal of the documents. The resultant memorandum received by the Mayor was placed on the table for discussion at a special meeting of the Council on March 25, 1884.<sup>(29)</sup> As seen by the Hon. W. Rolleston, the question appeared to be threefold. Was the Public Library contemplated by the Ordinance of 1870 merely an adjunct of the

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29. L.T. March 26, 1884.