

Museum - a Reference Library?; or was it a Public Library of a comprehensive character, general as well as scientific, supplemented by private effort as far as necessary?; and was the Library in Hereford Street that Library? He opined that the two latter questions must be answered in the affirmative, and, in reply to Mr. Montgomery's memorandum of March 12,<sup>(30)</sup> he stated that the report of the Committee of the Provincial Council in 1870 seemed to show that the idea of the Library being simply of a scientific or reference nature was only by way of a beginning. The memorandum continued ...

"I know of no authority, so far as the appropriation of the endowments is concerned for separating the Library into a 'Reference Library', so called and a 'Circulating Library', and a 'Reading Room'. All three seem to me to come within the scope of a 'Public Library' and the extent to which each branch may be entitled to a share of the funds available, is one for determination by the Board ... I do not think it can be reasonably contended that the Literary Institute would have given up its trust except on the undertaking that all its functions would be carried on as previously. The Reading Room and, unless I am mistaken, the Circulating Library were the principal features of the Institute. The Provincial Council Library was certainly handed over to the Public Library without any idea of a possibility of separating it into popular and scientific departments, and removing the latter. It appears to me, from a perusal of the reports of the College Governors, that no question has till lately been raised by them as to their responsibilities in respect to the Library. It is only recently that financial difficulties seem to have arisen in providing adequately for all three institutions - the Museum, the School of Technical Science and the Public Library. The conclusion to which I have come is that so far as endowment is concerned the three institutions have undoubtedly a proportionate claim upon the funds arising from the reserves as to what that proportion should be I am not prepared to express an opinion."

This opinion is both moderate and well reasoned, and, coming from a man so intimately connected with the situation, should command a

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30, vide supra p. 26.