

great deal of respect. Reference to early College reports shows that in 1881 ⁽³¹⁾ the Chairman stated that the number of subscribers to the circulating department had fallen off considerably, probably due partly to the increase of the subscription from ten shillings to fifteen shillings per annum, and partly to the necessity for economy felt by all classes during the past year. But those reports that are available bear out the ex-Superintendent's assertion, and it is not until the report for 1883 that any mention is made of financial difficulties with regard to the Library. In his report of that year, ⁽³²⁾ Mr. Montgomery informed the Board that, because of the heavy expense incurred in making alterations to the caretaker's house, and also because of the withdrawal of the General Government subsidy in 1881, it had been necessary to overdraw the Library account to the extent of £873. He added that the Library Committee could see no way by which this debt could be decreased except "by larger contributions from some source at present unavailable." The available evidence thus suggests that, when the College authorities found themselves unable to operate the three institutions efficiently on the income from the endowment, they attempted to give up the Library but to retain its share of the endowment.

When, on March 31, a deputation from the City Council waited on the Board ⁽³³⁾ to discuss the position of the Public Library, and, more especially, its claim to a portion of the endowment, Mr. Wynn Williams (who addressed the Board on behalf of the deputation) made

31. N.Z. Appendix to the Journals 1881, E-4, p.3.

32. *ibid* 1883 E-7, p.3.

33. L.T. April 1, 1884.