

Museum and Library Ordinance 1870. Finally, he proposed that the Board of Governors be requested to hand over the control and management of the Public Library to a board consisting of twelve members, to be elected, on the basis of population, by the City, Borough, and County Councils of Canterbury, and to be incorporated by an Act of Parliament. These proposals had two main weaknesses in that, as the Board had persistently maintained that the Library was not endowed, it was hardly likely that they would approve of the second proposition. Even Rolleston had agreed that the proportion of the endowment due to the Library could only be decided by the Board. Although the Mayor's final suggestion was no doubt inspired by the highest motives, it was open to the charge of trying to parcel out the expense among the smaller provincial towns, which not only would not benefit greatly by the arrangement but also could ill spare the necessary finance, because of the economic depression.

As may be imagined, the Board declared that it had always been anxious to do the best it could for the Cambridge Terrace Library but that it was still of the opinion that the Library was not endowed. To complicate matters, the Chairman stated that there was, unfortunately, a danger in bringing the question before Parliament, as, if they took the initiative, they felt that they may lose the endowments. (37) He further pointed out that, whereas the Council had only the Library to consider, the Board had also to watch over the Museum and School of Technical Science, and that, of

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37. The General Government was intent on confiscating all the Provincial land it could in order to acquire the land revenues.