

they had administered the three institutions to the best of their ability, but progress is not possible without money, and although the Museum, the Library, the School of Engineering, and the School of Art had to grow to keep pace with the growth of the City, the endowment, liberal enough in the first instance, did not increase with the years. In spite of their considered opinion, that the intention of the founders of the endowment was to promote education, the Board had continued to support and maintain the whole of the Public Library. On both occasions, when the financial question was raised, it was the Board that approached the Council. This suggests that the Board had the interests of the Library at heart, and, realizing also the importance of the other institutions depending on the endowment, justifiably considered that the citizens should make some contribution to its upkeep when finances were low. Even if, as was later proved, the Board's position was legally indefensible, they were still, through no fault of their own, in serious financial straits. The Council had, ready to hand, the Public Libraries Act of 1869, if they were worried as to the means whereby they could finance the Library - but made no attempt to implement it. Their attitude, although perfectly legal, both in 1883-4 and in 1908 savours distinctly of shortsightedness. The Council obviously was not prepared to face realities and to realize that, by handing over part of the endowment with the Library, the Board's position was not eased in the slightest. Nevertheless, it hardly seems possible to justify the Board's proposal to transfer money from the endowment for use in establishing a College Library, which could not, by any