

that the new Institute would meet with a much greater measure of success. But disillusionment came on November 12, 1869 when the committee, in view of the unsatisfactory state of the Society's affairs, agreed, by motion, to adopt the only alternative of handing over the deeds, books, building, and all other property to the trustees. (6) Following this startling disclosure, the committee resigned in a body leaving a debit balance of about £10. Ironically enough the Christchurch Institute still continued to exist, although, admittedly, its financial position was precarious.

After a lull of just over a year, a public meeting was held in the Reading Room, on December 28, 1870 to reorganise the Society by electing new officers. (7) It would appear from the Minute Book that a continuous existence was maintained from this date. This is substantiated by a letter to the Editor of the "Times" in July 1873, (8) which expressed surprise at a proposal, brought forward at a meeting of the St. Albans Wesleyan Church, to establish a library for the district in a building used for the district school, which was soon to be vacant. The writer declared that, for six years past, St. Albans had boasted a public library, in a room built by the Mutual Improvement Association, which had received two liberal grants from the Provincial Council. On the following day J.L. Wilson, one of the promoters of the new scheme, wrote denying the existence of a public library in St. Albans, declaring that the existing institution was in Knightstown. (9) In order to prevent confusion, it is advisable to clarify the nomenclature question now. Knightstown was merely a

6. Minutes of St. Albans Mutual Improvement Association. November 12, 1869.

7. *ibid* December 28, 1870.

8. L.T. July 7, 1873.

9. *ibid* July 8, 1873.