

Second report to the Radcliffe Trustees, on the progress of the Radcliffe Library at the Oxford University Museum / by Henry W. Acland.

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SECOND REPORT

TO THE

RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES,

ON THE

PROGRESS OF THE RADCLIFFE LIBRARY

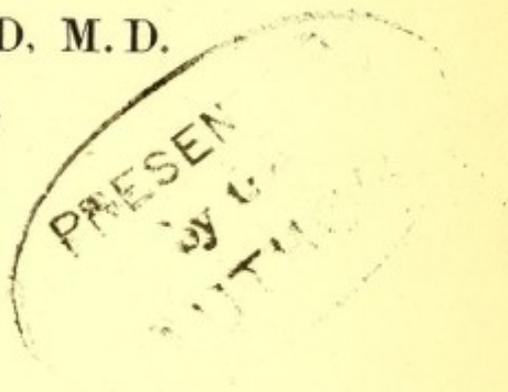
AT THE

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM.

BY

HENRY W. ACLAND, M.D.

RADCLIFFE LIBRARIAN.



Oxford:

PRINTED FOR THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES.

1863.

OXFORD:

BY T. COMBE, E. PICKARD HALL, AND H. LATHAM,
PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

REPORT TO THE RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES.

Oxford, March 10, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE, MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to report to you on the progress of the Radcliffe Library during the last six months; and I do so at an earlier period than is usual, because a change has taken place in the relation of your Library to the Bodleian Library, such as to require that a detailed statement should be laid before you.

The following Memorandum from myself to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, read on November 7, 1862, to the Bodleian Curators, will best explain the circumstances:—

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR,

I BEG leave to call your early attention to the following statement concerning the future relations of the Bodleian and Radcliffe Libraries one to the other, to the University, and to the Literary Public.

In consequence of a request of the Professors of the University Museum, I laid before the Bodleian Curators, March 4, 1862, a list of Periodicals and Transactions which the Professors informed me they would wish to be maintained at the Museum for the prosecution

of their Scientific work. The List accompanies this Memorandum, and is marked List A.

The object of laying this document before the Bodleian Curators was, I was directed to state, to learn which of these Transactions and Periodicals the Bodleian Curators would be pleased to transfer to and maintain in the Museum in conformity with the Statute of Dec. 1861: "Porro, libros de scientiis in Museo Academico tractatis "Curatoribus liceat in Musei Academici Bibliotheca asservandos "collocare."

The Professors did not venture to suggest which of these series the Curators might be disposed thus to lend and maintain, nor did they attempt to define the exact conditions or regulations under which the transfer should be made.

The Curators referred the whole matter to a Committee, consisting of Professors Pusey, Price, and Müller.

As the Professors of the Museum have in various ways pressed me for an early solution of a question which to them is of much consequence, I venture to call your attention to the subject, by committing to writing, for your information, the main points of the subject which I stated orally or referred to at the meeting of the Curators above alluded to.

In the first place, the principle upon which the request of the Professors was made is one which has long occupied the attention of persons interested in the Literary resources of Oxford, and in the sound administration of its Libraries.

The subject of the best mode of arranging the Scientific Literature in Oxford for the convenience of Readers was publicly discussed by Professor Strickland in the year 1850. It is well known that he had paid great attention to this question, and indeed that there has been neither before nor since any sounder judgment on this subject than was his.

As his evidence to the University Commission has been so long before the Residents in Oxford, it has, no doubt, been fully considered in reference to the present question, and therefore need not be quoted at length.

The essential points involved are, 1st, That in the state of knowledge at the present day *a large Scientific Library* is required in Oxford. 2. That it will be advantageous to the University that the Radcliffe Library should be so considered. 3. That the Bodleian Library should in such ways as it can, aid it (the Radcliffe) in becoming so; with advantage to the funds of the Bodleian as well as to those of the

Radcliffe. 4. That the want of such friendly relations between the two Libraries has been, and is injurious to both institutions, both in respect of their funds, and of the convenience to their Readers.

In support of these propositions, I will refer to Mr. Strickland's evidence, p. 103, University Commission Report, 1850; to my own Report to the Radcliffe Trustees, Nov. 1856, reprinted in a Report addressed to them in 1861; to the Memorial of the forty-six eminent persons which accompanied the Report of that date (1856); and, lastly, by implication, to the Statute of the University authorizing the Transfer of Books to the Museum, 1861.

Any person after the perusal of the above-named documents will probably conclude that it will be to the advantage of Oxford if the Radcliffe Library be made as complete a Scientific Library as is possible; and that the Bodleian Library should not expend its resources in competing with the Radcliffe in the purchase of costly Scientific Books, which will be rarely if ever called for in the Bodleian, which must be in the Radcliffe Library if maintained as the Scientific Library.

Two arguments have lately been alleged, as I have understood, to show that such a cooperation between the two Libraries is undesirable.

1st, That it will be injurious to Literary Readers in general, if the Bodleian be not complete in purely Scientific Literature.

2nd, That it is more convenient to Scientific Readers to read at the new Reading-Room of the Bodleian than at the Museum.

They who accept the first argument are bound to oppose the loan of any Scientific Transactions and Periodicals, and to prevent if possible all cooperation between the Libraries.

They who accept the second must deplore the removal of the Radcliffe Library to the Museum, and look forward to the restitution of the Radcliffe Books to the old Building, and the devotion of the Museum Library to other objects.

Having been compelled to consider the whole question as far back as the year 1847, and having then concluded that it was to the interest of Oxford to have as complete a Scientific Library as possible adjoining the Scientific Collections, I have steadily kept in view the idea advocated by Professor Strickland, and held by so many persons, of a cooperation between the two Libraries.

As Curator of the Bodleian Library, I can never consent to anything by which the utility of that Institution is shown to be really diminished. As Radcliffe Librarian, I desire to make the Radcliffe Library as useful to the Scientific persons who frequent it as the

means at my disposal will allow. Now all the information I have obtained convinces me, 1st, That the Bodleian will not suffer if it keep up a large portion of its Scientific Periodicals in the Library at the Museum, which is distant about five hundred yards from the Bodleian ; and, 2ndly, that if the Scientific Literature be really not more convenient to those who need it near the Scientific Collections than in the Bodleian Library, then the Radcliffe Library need not be kept up at the Museum to even its present condition ; for to have two complete Scientific Libraries in Oxford, one at the Bodleian, one at the Museum, is certainly unnecessary ; and if even the Bodleian and Radcliffe funds were inexhaustible, it would be a wasteful application of them respectively.

It is admitted that £500 per annum will barely maintain the Scientific Library. If the Bodleian Curators be prepared to furnish that Library, they must devote that amount to this special purpose. If they do so, it cannot be expected that the Radcliffe Trustees will provide the same works in duplicate at the Museum.

The consequence will, it is to be feared, be a Library at the Museum every year less fit to meet the growing requirements of the period, and less worthy of the Founder and of the University.

It has been suggested, as I have said, that, in truth, it will be more convenient to maintain the chief Oxford Library of Physical Science at the Bodleian rather than at the Museum. If this opinion be correct, then certainly the request of the Professors that the Bodleian Curators should lend, under conditions, Transactions and Periodicals is inopportune, and the removal of the Radcliffe Library from its old site not well advised. Should this opinion prevail, unfortunate as is the logical sequence, I fear the return of the Radcliffe Scientific Library to its old quarters in the immediate proximity of the Bodleian should be taken into consideration—that done, a fresh attempt at harmonious action between the Libraries might be contemplated.

But this is not all ; wherever the Scientific Library is, arrangements should be made at that place for the comparison of specimens of all kinds ; and if the Bodleian Curators should decide on not availing themselves of the permission granted by the Statute of 1861, to cooperate with the Radcliffe Trustees for the purpose of securing a thorough Scientific Library at the Museum, it is to be hoped that they will either make proper arrangements for the comparison of objects with their books, in the Bodleian itself, or for the transfer of any of the Scientific books to the Museum, for comparison with the objects there collected.

I cannot however conclude this *résumé* of the question submitted to the Bodleian Curators without adding how earnestly I hope that the Curators will be able to find some way of aiding the Scientific Library without practical injury to the wants of General Readers at the Bodleian.

That way might possibly be found by depositing on trial, for five years, the Periodicals named in the List, marked List B, appended to this Memorandum; by keeping regularly posted in the Bodleian a list of the volumes so transferred; and by stipulating that these volumes may be recalled for use at the Bodleian on due notice.

It will be no small boon to the Public if the Bodleian Curators, in addition to the magnificent Reading-Room which the Radcliffe Trustees have enabled them to throw open to the Literary Public, also aid the endeavour of those Trustees to make accessible in Oxford a complete Scientific Library, under the same roof with the Scientific Collections, now first placed together for mutual reference. When, indeed, I reflect on all that the Trustees have done for the University, I cannot but hope that the Bodleian Curators will be willing to make the experiment now proposed; since, being for a limited period, it cannot permanently affect the Bodleian—since, as the books can by this proposal be brought back to the Bodleian, when required, they will be nearly as accessible, even at the Bodleian, for *bonâ fide* use, as they are under the present arrangements; and since, by this timely concession, it will be conclusively shown which method is the more advantageous to the University, and which, after the year 1868, that is, after five years, is that which should in future be continued.

I am, Mr. Vice-Chancellor,

Your faithful Servant,

Oct. 25, 1862.

HENRY W. ACLAND.

The Curators of the Bodleian Library having maturely deliberated on the subjects of the above Memorandum, Resolved,

“That the Periodicals in the annexed List, to which ‘Yes’ is affixed, be deposited in the Library of the New Museum, under Regulations to be sanctioned by the Bodleian Curators.

“That the Bodleian and Radcliffe Librarians be requested to make a draft of such Regulations, to be laid before the Curators at their next meeting.”

The two Librarians agreed upon the following Report, which was approved, and the Rules adopted by the Curators.

Report to the Bodleian Curators concerning the Loan of Books from the Bodleian to the Radcliffe Library.

The Bodleian and Radcliffe Librarians, having conferred together, recommend that the Books, according to the List prepared by a Committee of the Bodleian Curators, and approved Nov. 7, 1862, be transferred to the charge of the Radcliffe Librarian, at the Museum, under the following Regulations.

1. That, by written order from the Bodley Curators, they may, on a week's notice, be at any time reclaimed.
2. That, by written order from the Bodley Librarian, any part of them may be removed for use in the Camera Bodleiana, for one week, they being taken thither by the servants of the Curators, and to the Museum by those of the Radcliffe Trustees.
3. That they be accessible to all Members of the University whenever the Radcliffe Library at the Museum is open.
4. That a written or printed List of the Books so transferred be kept in a conspicuous place in both Libraries.

H. O. COXE, Bodley Librarian.

HENRY W. ACLAND, Radcliffe Librarian.

Oxford, Nov. 29, 1862.

It is not perhaps worth while to trouble you with a List of the Periodicals and Transactions thus ordered to be transferred. It comprises Journals and Transactions on

Mathematics.

Chemistry and Physics.

Natural History in General.

Zoology.

Medicine.

The List of Transactions to be thus maintained by the University at the Museum might with advantage to the general interest have been, in the judgment of some persons, more extensive. But this opinion is not material. The principle is now acted upon, that certain Scientific Periodicals and Transactions are to be maintained by the University at your Library in the Museum under the charge of your Librarian. Time only will show how the class of works in question can be divided between the two Libraries, most conveniently for the needs of literary and scientific persons. Such works as are by practice found to be required at the Museum rather than at the Bodleian, and vice versâ, will no doubt be maintained in each respectively.

Whenever also it appears that certain *mixed* Transactions are frequently called for in both Libraries, it may be perhaps desirable to maintain them at both ; one set by yourselves, one by the University.

This subject has been fully laid before you, because you will be, I hope, thereby satisfied that your generous loan of the Library to the Museum is fully appreciated, and that the University is in earnest in endeavouring to aid the studies which your Library is maintained to illustrate.

At the same time I am bound to say that the very efforts made by yourselves in these arrangements, and now supported by the University, serve only to bring out more strongly any deficiencies of your Library.

Many of the Serials which in 1841 were wholly stopped will, it is true, now be completed up to the present time—but this cannot compensate for the loss of more than half the income of the Library from 1841 to 1862. In 1841 it was thought that a grant of £500 a year was unnecessary on account of the little interest the University took in Scientific Literature : no such reason, as you are well aware, exists now for limiting your grant to the smaller sum of £200. Although

the deficiencies which result from the curtailment of the Library Grant from £500 to £200 for twenty-one years will not be entirely remedied by a present restoration to its old income, yet the largest proposition which I venture now to submit to you is, that you should be pleased to restore to the Library the income it had prior to 1841.

I might be tempted to represent to you, that on account of the great increase of Scientific Literature, this sum may now be insufficient—or I might urge that on account of the earnest endeavours of the University to make up for lost time in its Scientific Institutions, you might perhaps grant a large part of the deducted £300 a year for these twenty-one years. But neither of these do I feel disposed to press. Many books in which the Radcliffe Library is deficient are at the Bodleian. Many which would have been bought in the above-named period are now useless, because recent works or newer editions have superseded them. Although I do not say that the Library will meet all the wants of Professors and of Students without a special retrospective grant, yet it will be enough that they be assured that you so far appreciate the altered state of Scientific Education in Oxford, as to apply to it no longer the special punishment inflicted, it might almost be said, on our Academic fathers in 1841.

I venture to make this proposition, because no persons have more steadily maintained the interests of Science in Oxford than yourselves; as the Annals of the Library, the Observatory, and the Infirmary, amply testify.

The question therefore for your consideration is, whether a reasonable ground has been shown for a return to your old Grant. After what has been said little need be added by way of argument. Oxford has undergone changes in the last few years, as a place of National Education, such as she had not undergone before. A few years since attainments in the *Literæ Humaniores* and *Disciplinæ Mathematicæ*

offered the only roads to honour or maintenance here. By the pursuit of Physical Science a way is now opened to distinction; and honours and emoluments may be obtained by successful application to the discipline and knowledge which Bacon opened to the use of mankind. The University has steadily added to the Educational Machinery, with which the Nation has entrusted her, means for the practical study of the most important departments of Science. You have joined the movement by placing your Library under the same roof with the Collections and Laboratories, and it remains only to bring up that Library to the level of wants which till now did not exist; but, now existing, cannot be supplied with the means at our command.

The Residents in Oxford, who look to you for this aid to their work, feel that the progress of Education in Oxford is well worthy your consideration. It may be that those whose lot is to take part here in the Scientific Education of youth are placed in a narrower sphere than belongs to such as have daily access to the national treasures in London—and it may be that, debarred from some advantages which that access implies, they may be forced to admit that our Collections, our Laboratories, our Libraries, existing chiefly for Educational purposes, are more limited in extent than some of the splendid establishments that are properly Imperial and maintained by Imperial Grants. But if we supply educational wants adequately, we shall not envy that wealth and splendour; nay, for educational purposes perhaps a more limited field may have its advantages. Only we should desire and endeavour that it should be such that our Students may be well prepared here to use with advantage all further opportunities which may fall in their way; to give to our younger Clergy the means, while they yet have leisure, of acquiring sympathy with the scientific progress of the day; of being inspired by that love of truth, for its own sake,

which belongs to the scientific aim ; and of sharing that humble trust in the Will and Wisdom of the Creator, which characterizes all who love material Nature as the Visible Work of Infinite Intelligence and of Supreme Will.

We have indeed comparatively little care whether there be here many or whether there be few Students of the new Knowledge : we care only that they who come shall not acquire views so narrow or partial as to make satisfied sciolists ; that they be not sent away with prejudices which shall mar their candour ; and, that in these respects, they do not become unfit to grapple with the intellectual and moral questions that are thickening about us.

But to secure this sound preliminary training for youth, who are to become Gentry, or Statesmen, or Clergy, or Professional men, or Merchants of England, it is necessary to keep the Literature, as well as the Collections of Science, more or less near the level of the age. Without the Literature at hand, Illustrative Collections of an advanced order can be neither made nor maintained. Even with your former munificent grant, and with the supply of Periodicals from the Bodleian, this cannot, without much circumspection, be done for the ten departments now existing in the Museum. To do it *completely* belongs to the British Museum alone. To do it *effectually* here will be easy on one principle, which is this—to maintain in the Library the books really wanted by true Students, young or old, and not to expend Funds on rare books, valuable only for their curiosity, and which may or should be found at the Bodleian or British Museum. Proceeding on this method, I have no fear but that your grant of £500 will suffice to keep up the Library as you would desire it to be kept.

It remains for me to say, that the Library is now thoroughly warmed, and the arrangements of the Reading-Room, so far as I know, give satisfaction. As the old Library, now attached to the Bodleian, is open daily till ten o'clock at night, there seems to be no reason for opening yours in the evening for more than two days in the week during Term. If it be found that Evening Lectures, or Evening work, spring up in the Museum, as has, from time to time, been the case with Professorial Lectures in Oxford, you might probably wish your Reading-Room to supply whatever demands in this direction may be created. Our Ashmolean, or Literary and Scientific, Society, meets every other week at the Museum, in the evening, and during its session the Library is open.

I will only add that the Loan of your old Building to the Bodleian has proved most valuable to many Readers. It must surely ere long become a source of convenience to the Literary world in general, when it is known that so near the Metropolis all the Treasures of the Bodleian, always liberally and courteously available to those who need them, are accessible daily for twelve hours, in a sumptuous apartment, of pleasant temperature, and capable of perfect ventilation.

It may not be improper that I should take the present opportunity of acquainting you with the satisfactory progress of the New Ward at the Radcliffe Infirmary, to which you contributed the sum of £1500. It is rapidly approaching completion, and will in conjunction with the Out Patients Department, built by General Subscription, prove a great addition to a Hospital which your Predecessors erected in 1770.

As soon also as your arrangements for granting the

ground required for a Chapel to the North-east of the Hospital are completed, MR. COMBE, the generous donor, will commence this much-needed Edifice. In his skilful hands it is likely to be a structure not less beautiful in itself than it will be beneficial to the true interests of the House.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient and faithful Servant,

HENRY W. ACLAND,

Radcliffe Librarian.

To the RT. HON. THE EARL BATHURST, &c. &c.

W. DUGDALE, Esq. &c. &c.

THE RT. HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P. &c. &c.

THE RT. HON. T. SOTHERON-ESTCOURT, M.P. &c. &c.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, &c. &c.

RADCLIFFE TRUSTEES.

*At a Meeting of the Radcliffe Trustees, at the Residence
of the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer,
March 16, 1863,*

Present :—

MR. DUGDALE,

EARL BATHURST,

RT. HON. W. E. GLADSTONE,

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,

Resolved :—

“ That the Grant for Books to the Library be £500
a year until further orders.”

