"The Library" Redivivus.

I THOUGHT I had done my share of work for the Library cause, and that when I retired from the Hon. Secretaryship of the Library Association, I might also finish the LIBRARY and leave the field free for its active young offspring, the *Record*, for "The Library Association Record" has been a part of the LIBRARY for the last ten years, and it is high time it made shift for itself. But the new year was ushered in with a volley of appeals that I should "not let the LIBRARY die," that there was "plenty of room for it," and that "nothing was likely to fill its place." This last month I have been withered with a fusillade of such appeals, more insistent than at first, and—weakly, perhaps—I have agreed. I have been encouraged to do so by the suggestion, that, freed from official trammels, the LIBRARY may be made a big living force in the library world. While it was the official organ of the Library Association I was compelled to print everything the Council accepted as a paper, good, bad, or indifferent. Many papers are worth reading at a meeting for the sake of the discussions they may evoke, which are utterly worthless as printed contributions to knowledge, and everyone with experience of societies knows how often a paper is accepted, not because of its worth, but because "there is nothing for the next meeting." In conducting the new series of the LIBRARY there will be none of these drawbacks. *If I have nothing worth printing I won't print.* In short I propose to try a new experiment in periodical publication. The new LIBRARY will be a *Quarterly*, and I think enough *good* stuff can be got together to make a respectable number every three months, *but if I have not got it I'll wait till I have.* My readers will get value for their money and will not be put off either with sufficient quantity but poor quality, or good quality with short quantity, *and they will only pay for what they get.*

As life is short and good paper and printing dear, it will eschew mere gossip and the *Tit-Bits* order of literature. What

appears in the LIBRARY will be written for it, and it will abstain from reprinting shreds and patches of gossip and thin jokes that have already been printed elsewhere and were never worth printer's ink, but it will try to tell its readers of the newest efforts in library work, and will chronicle failures as well as successes.

The LIBRARY in its new form will have three distinct sides—Practical Librarianship in its modern and best sense, Bibliography both archaic and modern, and Literature, in the shape of careful notices of books suitable for libraries.

For the bibliographical section of THE LIBRARY in its new form Mr. Alfred Pollard, the Editor of *Books About Books* and *Bibliographica*, has promised to give his help, and he hopes to secure the services of most of the writers by whose aid *Bibliographica* achieved its great success. It is not intended, however, that the bibliography of THE LIBRARY should be exclusively or mainly antiquarian. The history and art of books of the nineteenth century are as worthy of study as those of the fifteenth, and arrangements are already being made for papers to illustrate them, as well as for others on interesting points of bibliography in its wider sense.

It will make an entirely new departure in its treatment of important subjects connected with library work, and the development and extension of public libraries of all sorts. Instead of a series of random articles and papers on libraries and their management, written in an aimless, *dilettanti* fashion, the LIBRARY will try to procure for its readers a complete series of illustrated monographs on every department of practical librarianship, and these will be published in systematic order, so as to present the most advanced views, as well as everything of historical value. By this means a complete encyclopædia of library practice will gradually be built up, forming a valuable and indispensable body of information on every conceivable point, which no librarian can afford to ignore. American, Colonial, and Continental librarians of eminence will be enlisted in the work, as well as the leading British librarians and writers, in order to obtain the fullest and best opinions of representative men in all countries. In this way, the LIBRARY, emancipated, and free from control or official bias, will be the medium of library thought and progress for librarians of all kinds and every nationality. It is impossible in a brief announcement like this to do more than outline the principal topics on which monographs

will be published, but the following list of subjects will give an idea of their extent and variety:—

Library History.

- „ Legislation.
- „ Architecture.
- „ Government.
- „ Cataloguing.
- „ Classification.
- „ Formation.
- „ Management.

Each of these main subjects will be treated in great detail, each sub-division being dealt with minutely by several experts to display the topic from every standpoint. Thus, under the heading Library Classification will be considered the history and development of Schemes and their notations; Shelving problems; Shelf and Book-marking; Shelf Registration, and a general view of the theory and practice of classification.

All subjects connected with the popularisation of libraries will also be considered, and the relations between libraries and schools, museums, lecture courses, art galleries, library associations, &c., will be fully treated. Each volume of the new series will be about the same size as those already issued, but instead of being made up of twelve parts at 1s. each, they will be made up of four at 3s. each.¹ These will be issued quarterly, with the reservation that, as the magazine will not be a news budget, I will not publish merely for the sake of appearing on a given day, and it may be that more than three months may sometimes come between number and number, but each subscriber will get four full numbers, complete with title and elaborate index. An order form is enclosed herewith, and more can be had by applying to my secretary, M. Williamson, 20, Hanover Square, London, W.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER.

¹ Price per number, 3s. *nett*, or 10s. per volume, *in advance*. Until April 15th, members of the Library Association and of the Bibliographical Society may purchase Volume XI. for 9s. *nett*. Foreign and Colonial members will be allowed a reasonable extension of time.