

## A University Librarian 250 Years ago.

THE subjoined statement may be read with some interest by librarians of the present day. It sets forth the agreement made between the Aberdeen Town Council and Mr. Robert Downie with regard to his duties and emoluments as librarian of Marischal College and University (Aberdeen), in 1632. The stipulation with regard to the "tables and indices" of the books is particularly interesting.

"The said Mr. Robert sall hold the dore of the Librarie patent and oppin four dayes of the weeke the whole yeir alsweill in tyme of vaikance as at vther times To wit, Monon-day, Wedinsday, Fridday and Saturday everie ane of these dayes in Sommer frome Sevin hors till elewin in the foirnoone and twa till fyve in the eftirnoone And in the winter from nyne till twelff in the foirnoone, and from twa till foure hors in the eftirnoone. And Siclyk he sall admitt no schollar to be ane ordinar Student within the said librarie without ane subscrywit warrand frome the Magistrattis and counsall of Aberdene And these quha salbe deputt be thame. Quhilks students at thair entrie to the said Librarie sall giwe thair aithes that they sall not tak out ane book furth thairrof nather sall they blott any booke nor teare the leaff of ane booke nor fold the leaf of ane buik quhairin gife thay contravene they sall pay the triple of the price of the buik . . . Item he sall not lend furth ane buik to any man of quhat estate or degrie soewir he be Item he sall make tables and indices of the haill buiks within the said librarie ordine alphabetico of ewerie science be thame selffis for the commodious vse of the saidis schollars Item he sall keip the saids buiks frie from dust and corruptionn, and sall have a fyre for that effect as necessitie requyres. Item he sall subject himselff to all these conditiones and quhatsoewir els salbe thocht fittinge be the counsall of Aberdene for the tyme to be sett doune heirefter for the weill of the saids students buiks and Bibliothek For the quhilks caussis the saids Prouest Baillies and Counsall of the said burt Bindis and obleissis thame and thair successors in tyme comeing To thankfullie content pey and delywer to the said Mr. Robert Downye yeirlic and ilk yeire during all the dayes of his lyftime, The soume of Sex hundreth merks money foirsaid. . ."

A. W. ROBERTSON.