

regard to the proceedings complained of, I hope that the members present will excuse me if I trespass upon their time a few minutes, in order to offer an explanation of my conduct.

[Mr. C. here yielded the floor to give the Chair an opportunity to decide the point of order, which was ruled against the amendment.]

Mr. LEEMING made a slight verbal alteration in his motion.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN—Does Mr. Leeming mean to insult our intellects, by trying to make us pass that, as in order, which we have declared not to be so, merely by the addition of a few words of form. The amendment was considered out of order, on account of its subject matter, and not of its form, and the words which Mr. L. has inserted in the beginning of it, do not alter its offensive part. Besides, I must continue to oppose the reception of this amendment, upon the grounds which I stated a few minutes ago, that we are not come here prepared to decide the question which it raises. It is, therefore, unfair to press it.

Mr. CANTWELL—I believe the motion of Mr. Leeming to be out of order. The principle of that motion is not the principle which we have met here to-night to consider and decide; and, according to the clause of the constitution just quoted, the proposition must be overruled. But if it be not thus disposed of, I am still prepared, upon its merits, to give it all the opposition in my power. No religious papers ought to be excluded from our Rooms, for this reason, if for no other, that they not unfrequently contain the most important disquisitions on semi-political subjects. I do not doubt that there are many members of this Society, who, like myself, would find it highly inconvenient to subscribe for all those sectarian journals which they might find it necessary to read. The object of this Institution is plainly to prevent such inconveniences. Let free admission, therefore, be conceded to the organs of all varieties of political and religious opinions; and let us by the vote we are about to give, declare our given determination to maintain inviolate the principles of perfect toleration.

Mr. J. J. DAY considered that it was shirking the question for which he had met; a course which he considered unfair to the Unitarians.

Mr. JOHN YOUNG thought it was out of order, and read from the constitution the paragraph read by Mr. Lowe.

The PRESIDENT ruled the amendment out of order.

Mr. J. BOYD—Mr. President, in justice to myself, and a number of the Members of the Board of Direction, I wish to say a few words in explanation of the course adopted by me when I voted at the meeting of the Board of Direction "not to receive the *Christian Inquirer* into the rooms, on the ground of expediency." The members of the Board now present must remember at the first meeting of the new Board, the question regarding the expulsion of the *Christian Inquirer* came before them for action. After a great deal of discussion, it was moved by Mr. Chamberlin and seconded by myself, and carried by a majority.\* That the "*Christian Inquirer*" be received and placed upon the tables of the Mercantile Library Association.—The principle upon which I voted was this,—the Mercantile Library Association is not a religious Institution, merely a commercial and literary one, consequently the various religious papers received, cannot be received except in accordance with the wishes of the members of the Association. Therefore, as the Unitarian Members of the Association require the reception of their paper, they have a right to have their request granted. Immediately after the motion alluded to was carried, the propriety of putting out all the religious papers was discussed; this question with the motion were laid on the table for further consideration at the next meeting of the Board. At the next meeting of the Board the discussion of this question was resumed. I advocated the principle of toleration as forcibly as I could, I was thoroughly opposed to the rejection of the *Christian Inquirer* as I held that its rejection would be unjust. I come now to explain how it was that I gave my vote not to receive it. It was represented upon good authority (authority such I could, and cannot doubt) that if the paper were received some thirty members were prepared to leave the Association. It was ascertained from the canvassing of the Directors for subscriptions that six or seven Unitarian members would leave if the paper was not received. Now, I ask the members of the Association how was I to act in such case? I reasoned with myself thus "here is a paper" will its reception benefit or injure the interests of the Association, on one hand I find thirty members prepared to leave if it is received, on the other hand six or seven if it is not received, keeping strictly in view the interests of the Association,

\* There is no record of this resolution on the Minute Book.