

Name of Town.	No. of Libraries.	Aggregate No. of Volumes.	Population of each City or Town.	No. of Vols. to every 100 persons.
Milan . . . . .	2	250,000	171,268	146
Padua . . . . .	3	177,000	45,000	393
Prague . . . . .	3	193,000	107,358	184
Venice . . . . .	4	137,000	97,156	141
Vienna . . . . .	3	453,000	360,000	126
Heidelberg . . . . .	1	200,000	13,430	1,500
Munich . . . . .	2	800,000	106,537	751
Nuremberg . . . . .	2	46,000	40,000	115
Brussels . . . . .	2	143,500	134,000	107
Copenhagen . . . . .	3	557,000	119,292	467
Montpellier . . . . .	3	100,000	33,864	295
Paris . . . . .	9	1,474,000	920,000	160
Hamburgh . . . . .	6	200,367	128,000	156
Naples . . . . .	4	290,000	350,000	82
Bologna . . . . .	2	233,000	69,000	337
Rome . . . . .	6	465,000	152,000	306
Berlin . . . . .	2	460,000	290,797	158
Breslau . . . . .	4	370,000	88,869	416
Petersburgh . . . . .	3	505,900	469,720	107
Genoa . . . . .	4	120,000	97,620	122
Dresden . . . . .	4	340,500	69,500	490
Leipsic . . . . .	2	192,000	47,514	404
Madrid . . . . .	2	260,000	170,000	153
Stockholm . . . . .	2	82,000	83,885	97
Upsal . . . . .	1	150,000	4,500	3,333
Florence . . . . .	6	299,000	97,548	306
<b>BRITISH, &amp;c.</b>				
Aberdeen . . . . .	2	46,000	64,779	78
Cambridge . . . . .	5	261,724	25,000	1,046
Dublin . . . . .	4	143,654	238,531	60
Edinburgh . . . . .	3	288,854	138,182	209
Glasgow . . . . .	3	80,096	300,000	26
London . . . . .	4	490,500	2,200,000	22
Manchester . . . . .	1	19,900	360,000	54
Oxford . . . . .	8	733,300	24,000	1,547

These figures but too faithfully represent the meagre supply of books for the free use of the people of this country compared with continental States. Even Oxford and Cambridge, which at first sight may strike us as being redeeming exceptions to the rule, yield up their solitary glory on the slightest examination. The books are solely appropriated to the use of the *literati*, and students connected with the universities. They repose from year to year upon their stately shelves, in solemn and unruffled quietude, unquestioned by the eager lips and eyes of the outside multitude. Speaking of the Cambridge libraries, the Rev. J. J. Smith, librarian at Caius College, remarked that they were confined to the respective bodies in the University. The same witness, referring to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, stated that their system is much more restricted. For example, no Master of Arts, even belonging to the University, either resident or non-resident, can take any book out. He must use them in the building, from which they are never suffered to be removed. No under-graduate is even suffered to read the books in the Bodleian collection.

The following list exhibits the principal libraries of the several European capitals, arranged in the order of their respective magnitudes. Those before which an asterisk appears, are *lending* libraries:—

Name of Town.	Name of Library.	Vols.
Paris . . . . .	*National Library . . . . .	824,000
Munich . . . . .	*Royal Library . . . . .	600,000
Petersburgh . . . . .	Imperial Library . . . . .	446,000
London . . . . .	British Museum Library . . . . .	435,000
Copenhagen . . . . .	*Royal Library . . . . .	412,000
Berlin . . . . .	*Royal Library . . . . .	410,000
Vienna . . . . .	*Imperial Library . . . . .	313,000
Dresden . . . . .	*Royal Library . . . . .	300,000
Madrid . . . . .	National Library . . . . .	200,000
Wolfenbuttel . . . . .	Ducal Library . . . . .	200,000
Stuttgart . . . . .	Royal Library . . . . .	187,000
Paris . . . . .	Arsenal Library . . . . .	180,000
Milan . . . . .	*Brera Library . . . . .	170,000
Paris . . . . .	*St. Genevieve Library . . . . .	150,000
Darmstadt . . . . .	*Grand Ducal Library . . . . .	150,000

Name of Town.	Name of Library.	Vols.
Florence . . . . .	Magliabecchian Library . . . . .	150,000
Naples . . . . .	*Royal Library . . . . .	150,000
Brussels . . . . .	Royal Library . . . . .	133,500
Rome . . . . .	Casanati Library . . . . .	120,000
Hague . . . . .	Royal Library . . . . .	100,000
Paris . . . . .	*Mazarine Library . . . . .	100,000
Rome . . . . .	Vatican Library . . . . .	100,000
Parma . . . . .	*Ducal Library . . . . .	100,000

It may be interesting to our readers, whilst treating upon these magnificent institutions, to put them in possession of a few curious particulars relative to their privileges, their antiquity, the causes that have contributed to their progressive increase, and the munificent funds that have been appropriated to their sustentation and enlargement.

The majority of the libraries specified above, are entitled, by law, to a copy of every book published within the States to which they respectively belong. This privilege is enjoyed by the national libraries of Paris and Madrid; the royal libraries of Munich, Berlin, Copenhagen, Vienna, Naples, Brussels, and the Hague; the Brera library, at Milan; the Magliabecchian, at Florence; the Ducal Library, at Parma; together with the library of the British Museum. Exclusive of England, the practice prevails nowhere to so great an extent as in Lombardy and Venice, and in Parma. In Belgium and France, three copies are exacted; in Austria, Denmark, Naples, and Geneva, two copies; in Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria, Holland, Tuscany, Sardinia, Portugal, Hungary, Bohemia, and the United States, only one copy. In several of the Swiss cantons, copies were formerly exacted; but when the censorship of the press was abolished, that exaction ceased.

In France, according to Monsieur Guizot, the bookseller is required to transmit three copies of every work published to the office appointed, upon failure to do which he becomes obnoxious to prosecution. This exaction extends to every successive edition of a work, and also includes those of a costly description. But the government frequently subscribes towards productions of a high and expensive character, in order to facilitate their publication.

In some parts of Germany, it is compulsory that every author shall give to the library under the special patronage of the State, one copy of his work; in others it is not compulsory, but it is always done, as a sort of traditional civility. It is not customary, however, to present a specimen of every reproduction, unless important alterations have been made. Mons. Libri, an Italian *literateur*, who has had great experience in the management of public libraries, esteems the usage a hardship and injustice to authors. It has been stated that at least 25,000 volumes are missing in the Depot Legal of France, the establishment to which the editors are obliged to consign copies.

In Belgium, likewise, the law compels the producer of a book to send three copies of every edition to the municipal council of the town in which it is published, and which thus becomes a guarantee for his copyright. In that country there are very few works toward which the government does not subscribe for a number of copies, thus affording a stimulus to literary enterprise, and placing itself in a position to distribute some copies to the libraries in the provinces, thereby encouraging the establishment and extension of such depositories. All the libraries have become municipal since the time of the French republic; those of Liege and Ghent were ceded to the Universities, but with this restriction that they should always remain the property of the town; in consequence of which the government have sometimes, within a period of twenty years, spent some £12,000 on the enrichment of these noble institutions. Although the Chamber ordinarily only votes a grant of 65,000 or 70,000 francs for the Royal Public Library of Brussels, yet whenever there occurs a large sale of books, a special grant is made for the purpose. It recently happened that one of the most choice and curious public libraries had been announced for sale; a bulky catalogue, occupying six volumes, had been printed; the government immediately came forward, bought the entire collection for about £13,000, and added it to the royal library at the capital. They did the same thing also at Ghent. The library bought at Ghent consisted of about 20,000 vols., and that in Brussels of about 60,000.

In many of the Continental States, where the governments watch all the publications emanating from the press with great jealousy,