

tion of materials for the formation and elucidation of the history of the town and country in which such institutions may be formed.

It seems almost needless to remark, that a liberal spirit should characterize the management of such an institution, by the admission as Honorary Members of such men of scientific and literary attainments as might, being so admitted, be the means of conferring respectability on the society, by their acceptance of the privilege; and also by hospitality being exercised in its most extended and noblest form, that of the intellect, by affording the stranger free access to its stores.

These views, it may be observed cannot well be entertained or forwarded, except by selecting for the management of the institution, those of its members who may be generally considered the best qualified from literary ability or attainment, properly to estimate their value; and just so far, and so far only, as these qualifications are regarded in their selection, will be the success attending the undertaking.

A general view of the objects to be attained, and the requisite mode of management having been thus premised, we will proceed to consider their execution somewhat more in detail.

Works of amusement, if merely such, though most called for, should be sparingly introduced, and carefully selected, (not collected). If a work of injurious tendency should find its way into the collection, for mistakes will occur in selection, by the best informed committee, it should forthwith be suspended from circulation, and if a case be clearly made out, destroyed without the name being published: and this for obvious reasons.

With regard to works of instruction, little need be said; general report quickly, and for the most part accurately, decides upon their intrinsic merit; and little else requires attention in their selection than the fact of their being what is styled 'Standard,' and on the other hand, their novelty, in order to have the latest discoveries; which is of the first importance where *science* is in question.

We come now to consider a most important part of the projected collection; and that is the class of Books of reference, and those which without being strictly such, it may be desirable to have, as being above the means of purchase of a private individual.

In connexion with this part of the subject, it may be observed, that the history of his own country, according to the nation which he belongs to, is a subject of which no well educated man, can creditably remain in ignorance. To an Englishman the study of that of his own country, as being that of a great and illustrious nation ought to be at all times peculiarly interesting. For this reason, we might wish and expect to find in a public collection, such works as the voluminous *Chronicles* in which the contemporaneous History of our country is recorded in detail; also such works as *Rymer's Fœdera*; and the great public Records containing *Dooms-Day Book*, and other documents of the highest antiquity and greatest importance, which, till very lately remained buried in Manuscript,