

Government which had been requested to contribute their official publications to the Library, and with directions to put myself in communication with them for the purpose of receiving any works which it might be in the power of Her Majesty's Government to bestow.

The Offices enumerated in my letter from the Colonial Office were the following, viz:—

The Admiralty,
The Board of Ordnance.
The Board of Trade,
The Board of Health.
The Treasury,
The Rolls House,
The Foreign Office, and
The British Museum.

I will now proceed to state the result of my applications to these several Offices.

From the Secretary to the Board of Admiralty, I received a most valuable collection of Maps and Charts of all parts of the Globe, selected by the Hydrographer of the Admiralty for the use of the Library. These I afterwards caused to be carefully arranged, mounted upon linen, and bound in twenty-three large folio volumes. From this Department I was also presented with fifty-four volumes of Sailing Directions, and other official publications of the Board.

From the Board of Ordnance, I was presented with the entire series, so far as has yet been published, of the Maps of the Ordnance Survey of the several Counties of *England, Scotland and Ireland*. The magnificent scale upon which this work has been executed is that of one inch to a mile. It already extends to 2,736 separate sheets, and it is still far from completion. The cost of these maps, if bought at the publisher's, would exceed £470 sterling. Feeling that this series from its vast extent, would be quite unmanageable for reference, unless suitably arranged, and would be liable to injury if not properly preserved, I have caused the sheets to be mounted on linen, and classified according to Counties, and have directed presses to be made, with sliding shelves, each marked by a descriptive letter piece, in order to insure the preservation of this important collection, and to afford every facility to those who may desire to refer to it.

By the Secretary of the Board of Trade, I was presented with the official publications of that Department, comprising a valuable series of Statistical Tables of *Great Britain* and its dependencies, from 1820 to 1853, in forty-six volumes, and with various works emanating from the Museum of Practical Geology, and presented by Sir *Roderick Murchison*, Director General of that Institution.

The Board of Health presented me with copies of all their official publications. These works, though few in number, and mostly included in the annual series of the Sessional Papers of the House of Commons, are, nevertheless, very important, and form a consecutive series of much interest in sanitary investigations.

My application at the Treasury was met, at the outset, with a difficulty arising out of certain regulations which the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury had found it needful to establish with regard to the disposal of works published at the public expense, including the Ordnance Maps, the publications of the Record Commission, and State Papers, forbidding the gratuitous presentation of these works in future; nevertheless, after an interview with *James Wilson*, Esquire., M. P., one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, and in consequence of the strong recommendations in favour of the Library by the Colonial Secretary, Sir *C. E. Trevelyan* wrote to the Colonial Office, under date of the 17th October, 1855, in the following terms:—"While the Lords of the Treasury would feel bound, in all ordinary cases, to abide by those regulations, they regarded the circumstances affecting the present application as justifying them in making an excep-