

every consideration, they do not think that any improvement could be effected without such cost and trouble as the change would ill compensate. Every known form of cataloguing is open to serious objections. "Whatever system you adopt," says a distinguished library scientist, "you will be sorry for it, and wished you had adopted some other." And a writer in the *London Times*, of January, 1886, exhibits a similar view of the question, as follows:—

"Sir Antonio Panizzi, the leviathan of bibliographers, branded catalogue-making as the most difficult and thankless of literary tasks. He emphasized its perplexities before committees, commissions and boards, and the tilt which he ran against the Council and Fellows of the Royal Society, in the year 1837, over the catalogue of their scientific books, which he had then in preparation, was in exasperation at their want of sympathy with the librarian's handiwork. His failure, for such it was, to index the British Museum Library—he stopped short at letter A, printed in 1841—became merely a further illustration of his own views of the impossibilities of perfection in bibliography. This great catalogue, again in the press, after 45 years of revision, at the hands of Messrs. J. Winter Jones, W. B. Rye, Thomas Watts, George Bullen, Coventry Patmore, W. R. S. Ralston, Emanuel Deutsch, G. W. Porter, Richard Garrett, Russel Martineau, and a host of other specialists, is far from satisfying any of the survivors, the incongruities and shortcomings being as thick as the famed autumnal leaves in Vallombrosa. The science of bibliography is still in its infancy, in spite of the avidity displayed by American and English librarians in filling their shelves, during the last 15 years, with treatises on the mystery and art of catalogue-formation."

The system pursued in the Library is as follows:—

The Catalogue of the Library is divided into two sections, one containing works on Law, Politics and Statistics, the other embracing the works on Arts, Literature and Science. All books are classified under their respective subjects, so that for purposes of consultation every work possessed by the Library on any given subject may be found under its general title. As it is with the Catalogue, so it is with the works on the shelves; all those of the same category being placed in juxtaposition. In order to find out the works of any given author, or those on any given subject, it is necessary to consult the two Indexes which refer to the page or pages in the Catalogue where such names or titles are to be found. Thus all works on "Constitutional Law" will be found on pages 21-56 of the Law Catalogue, and all those bearing on the "History of Canada" between the pages 1270-1338. The Index is an unerring guide to the Catalogue, and the Catalogue contains everything that is or ought to be in the Library. It is not to be expected that any person unaccustomed to the system could, without guidance, find his way through the Indexes and Catalogues. There is no Library of any importance conducted in a manner rendering such a feat possible; few Libraries tolerate any indiscriminate handling of their Catalogues, and as a rule only experts or library clerks can successfully cope with the Catalogue of a large library.

It is hoped that the accessions since last year will prove most satisfactory to those who most thoroughly test and enjoy the advantages of the Library. A natural and inevitable demand during prolonged Sessions, for works in which amusement may be found by men fatigued with long sittings and with legal and political studies has induced the Librarians to provide works meeting that demand, but in measured quantity. The works of some standard writers having been worn out, have been renewed, and a considerable number of works of recent fiction have been added. It will be found also that all available recent literature dealing with such questions as the State, Constitutional Law, the Torrens system, Liquor question and Temperance, Railway Commissions and Management, Political Economy, published since last year, or to which, since last year, attention has been directed, has been collected for the Library. The latest editions of the principal legal text-books, especially those which deal with International Law; the most recent volumes on the operation of the Bankruptcy Act of 1881, England, and on the Franchise Act of 1884 in England; a variety of small text-books concerning the working out of the new Election laws