

Mr. J. MURRAY—Mr. President, I rise to second the resolution moved by Mr. Taylor. He has gone so fully into the subject, that I shall confine my remarks to a simple explanation of the manner in which the newspaper was introduced into the News Room. The paper was not forced on the institution by Unitarians. The circumstances were those. Sometime last summer,—in August I believe,—a member met me in the street and enquired of me why we had no Unitarian newspaper in the room as we had those of other denominations. I replied that the Association was too poor, upon which he asked if we would receive a newspaper provided it was gratuitously presented. I replied, that I did not think there would be any objections, that I had none, but that he must not receive my reply as official permission, which I suggested he should seek from the Board of Direction. Shortly after this conversation the *Christian Inquirer* was presented to the Association. I do not think that anything like a desire to force the paper on the institution has been exhibited by the Unitarians.

Mr. T. P. ROE—Mr. President, we are met this evening not for the purpose of opening afresh, the wounds that trouble us, but for the avowed purpose of consulting the best interests of the Association, and in so doing it is clear to us all, that we must stifle some of our own feelings for the general good. If we expect to be borne with, we must on our part forbear, and not allow our prejudices to interfere with the carrying out of the object for which the Association was formed. I need not waste your time by pointing out the great benefit that we individually and as a community reap from the Mercantile Library Association, or the effect that the breaking up of it would cause. It is clear to all that this would be a great evil, and I am sure that you will all agree with me that any proposition "the adoption of which" would avert this dreaded catastrophe should meet with the cordial support of all the well wishers of this Association, of which I am happy to see not a few present. I have accordingly prepared an amendment, which will, I trust have the desired effect—that of pouring oil on the troubled waters, and again restoring that harmony which has, for a season, been interrupted. I beg to move, seconded by Mr. WINN:—

"That we deeply regret that a Resolution of the late Direction Board, hastily drawn up, not intended for publication, nor designed to have been sent to any one, should by inadvertent transmission have given cause of offence to some of the members and friends of our Association, and for the offence thus unintentionally given, we sincerely apologize. That we concur in the opinion of the present Directors that it is not expedient to add the "*Christian Inquirer*" to the number of newspapers received into our rooms."

The amendment is now before you, and I would earnestly implore all present to consider that the probable existence of the Association may depend upon its rejection or adoption.

Mr. WINN said he came forward after a long period, during which he had not appeared before the Association, to take part in warding a blow, which, if it took effect, might destroy the Institution. The feeling already excited was sufficient to convince any one, that unless this unfortunate business were gently handled, the Association might be expected to dwindle till it perhaps became extinct. It was not necessary to say anything to increase the warmth of feeling and cordiality entertained by every member of this body for the Institution. Nor was it necessary to dwell on the fact of its being highly calculated to build up and form an enlightened taste among the young men of the Library Association. The literary character of the city in fact depended upon this Institution. Those who moved that amendment, came forward with a desire to suppress all unkind feelings; not to advocate any intolerant views of their own; but to make peace between those who differed, and he would desire all to recollect, as religion had been spoken of, that the religion in which they all believed, pronounced a special blessing on the peacemakers. He would say nothing in disparagement of the excellent Mr. Perkins, on whom the mover had passed, he had no doubt, a well deserved eulogy; nor would he attempt to diminish the respect, which all felt for commercial pursuits. But he desired the Association to adopt such a view of this case as would end all hostility, and with this object, he came forward. What did the Board allege? They said that on the spur of the moment, individual members of the Board had drawn up the minute relative to this paper, which was never meant to be made public, and which, as gentlemen, they would have cut off their heads rather than have sent to wound the feelings of any professor of the Unitarian faith. The resolution, however, by mistake was sent to a gentleman holding that creed, who was the agent for the "*Christian Inquirer*," and he confessed, that that gentleman could not help considering it as a studied insult. But this having been done, should they now shirk the responsibility of the act,