

but was acquired chiefly by persons of wealth from the neighboring republic.

How few among us have the combined courage and generosity exhibited by His Lordship Bishop Kingdon of Fredericton, who has recently donated the greater part of his fine collection of books to Trinity Church, Saint John. How much more wisdom is displayed in such a course, than in leaving their disposition to some individual, who, by reason of his own activities in life, or lack of interest, gives but a half-hearted attention to the wishes of a dead friend.

If any criticism of Bishop Kingdon's action were permissible, it would only appear to the writer to be in the nature of a feeling of regret that this magnificent donation might not have been committed to the custody of the St. John Public Library, safe-guarded by certain conditions, where in a specially constructed building, proof, as far as is practicable, against the ravages of fire and dampness, and under the management of a group of trained custodians, its benefits would not have been confined to any one portion or section of the community.

By the provision of a separate room for this particular collection, where the books would have been available for reference only, the individuality of the collection might have been maintained just as fully as under the conditions as now arranged for. This custom of maintaining smaller collections within the limits of greater libraries is a common one in older communities, from the magnificent library of Peter the Great to be seen in the national museum at St. Petersburg, down to the less pretentious collections to be seen in the public libraries in London, New York and elsewhere.

Possibly even yet, Trinity Church, with the consent of the donor, might be willing that some such plan should be considered, pending the construction of a