

overdraft, and I would urge on the members of this Board to apply to the City Council for a grant that will put our Library in good financial standing.

We have received many valuable donations in books and works of art and hope to continue receiving them. We are especially indebted to the Hon. W. E. Sanford for having donated to us on the anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday, two very valuable oil paintings, "St. Peter in Tears," a copy of a painting by Carlo Dolci, the original of which is in Pitti's Gallery in Florence, and "Faith," an original painting by Professor Annibale Gatti, an Italian Artist of the modern school of painting. These paintings were hung in the Reading Rooms by the donor, where they can be seen by all classes of the community. I trust that the act of this public-spirited gentleman may stimulate others to follow his example.

The Library and Reading Rooms continue to grow in favor, and are patronized by all classes of the community. Books are taken out at about the rate of one every minute during the hours that the Library is open. New books are constantly being added, of all the latest and best publications, great care being taken that no books are admitted that are not instructive, moral and of high tone.

We frequently hear deprecatory remarks regarding the large proportion of works of imagination and fiction, compared with those of other departments of literature, in public libraries. I recently read an address made by Mr. Alexander Ireland, which so nearly agrees with my own views on that question, that I cannot do better than reproduce them, "Now, a man reads either for entertainment or instruction. I would counsel him to mingle both, not allowing entertainment to absorb too great a portion of his leisure hours. But to works of imagination I attach very high importance. 'The function of imaginative literature,' says John Morley, 'is to awaken the sympathies, to quicken the moral sensibilities, and enlarge our moral vision. The sympathies and imagination of those who are engaged all day long in dull and often wearysome work, and whose surroundings it is not in their power to vary, are apt to flag and become languid. To persons in this jaded condition of mind, nothing is more refresh-