

forms the working tools of many well-equipped students and literati.

Time, without doubt, is gradually improving this condition of affairs, and it is not improbable that the middle of the present century will witness in this part of Canada a great awakening along the lines indicated. Fifty years are but as yesterday in the history of a nation, and, glancing backwards for a period of half a century over the history of our own province, it must be admitted that much progress has been made in that time, in the advancement of education and the provision of educational facilities.

The rise and expansion of the public library, such a very noticeable feature upon this continent, has without doubt lessened the necessity for the accumulation of large collections of books in private hands, yet who among us having some little means at his disposal more than sufficient for the bare necessities of life, if at all of a literary bent, does not prefer to have his own private collection, modest as it may be, in the use and care of which he finds a never-ending source of pleasure.

As we have brought nothing into this world, and we cannot, of course, take anything out of it, we must all realize, if we give the subject any thought at all, that some day death will separate us from all our earthly treasures. This being the case, how much wiser the course of the individual, who, while still in the full enjoyment of his faculties, makes provision for the immediate or ultimate disposal of his literary possessions, which have been the best friends of the greater portion of his life.

Some of us who, like Lord Lyndhurst, may still deem ourselves young at ninety-three, and hope to die in harness, possibly prefer to retain the custody of our books until the end.

The fate of private libraries upon the death of the owner, is usually the auction room, and any lover of