

one. It only remains to be seen whether the members of the Library Board can work together harmoniously enough to carry it to the success it should become. Their squabbles so far augur anything but well, and it is to be hoped they may henceforth sink their differences in the common benefit. The building is admirable for the purpose, and the gentleman at the head—ex-Alderman Hallam—is an energetic worker. The opening will be given more *eclat* by the urban semi-centennial to-morrow, and the auspicious event will be suitably ushered in with the salvos of guns.

In your next issue I can perhaps tell you more of the occasion.

Yours faithfully,

ALUMNUS.

PROFESSOR HAECKEL IN CEYLON.

NEXT to the Singhalese and Malabars the Indo-Arabians or moormen, form, according to number and influence, the most important part of the native population of Ceylon. They number perhaps 150,000, or one-tenth the number of Singhalese. They are descended from those Arabs who, more than 2,000 years ago, gained a firm foothold in Ceylon, as well as in other parts of southern and south-eastern Asia, and who, between the eighth and tenth centuries (until the arrival of the Portuguese) conducted the principal commercial interests of the island. The entire retail as well as a great part of the wholesale trade of Ceylon is still in the hands of these active and enterprising sons of the desert, who, by their speculative wisdom, craft, and pre-eminent skill for money-making, here play a similar role to that of the Jews in Europe. In many other respects they are like their remote kinsmen in Europe, who have no representatives in Ceylon.

The language spoken and written by the moormen is a mixture of Arabian and Tamil. They are chiefly Moham-medans and Sunnites. Their complexion is a brownish-yellow,