

remaine in our said Library at St. James, in the custody of the said Patricke Young, until our further pleasure bee knowne. And that y^e said Sir Simonds D'Ewes have free liberty from time to time to take into his own custodie and keeping, such and soe many of them as hee shall have occasion to make use of, hee giving under his hand a note for the true & faithfull restoring of the number received. Given under our Royall hand at Newport in the Isle of Wight this 19th day of October, in the foure and twentieth yeare of our Raigne. [1648].—(Additional MSS., No. 6,988. fo. 216.)

Sir Simonds d'Ewes, Knight and Baronet, was an eminent historian and antiquary, who lived 1602—1650. He was a burgess for Sudbury in the celebrated Long Parliament; but his sympathies inclining to the Court, he was one of the members "purged" on the 6th December, 1648. He then retired to his antiquarian studies and pursuits, and we are told that he formed a noble collection of Roman coins.

Patrick Young, a Scotchman by birth, (born 1584, died 1652), was appointed the first librarian of the English Royal Library after its complete settlement. He was also a prebendary and treasurer of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Having premised these facts, which will be found in the "Biographia Britannica," I will now give, from the same source, a short account of the proceedings taken by the Commonwealth with regard to the Royal Library at St. James's. It was first seized by the Parliament in August, 1648, and committed to the trust of Hugh Peters, who preserved the library and coins for three or four months, when he delivered up the keys and custody of them to Major-General Ireton. The well-known and enlightened Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, fearing that these national treasures might be sold to foreigners, and so lost to the country, and at the instance of the learned John Selden, undertook the care of them in July, 1649. He appointed, in the same year, John