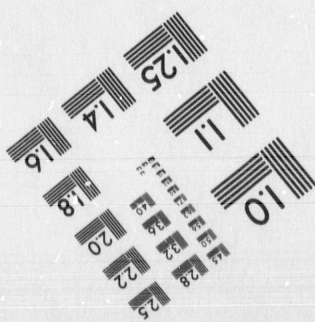
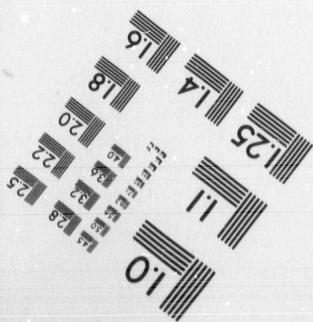
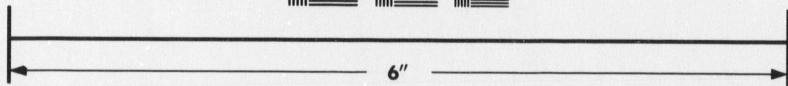
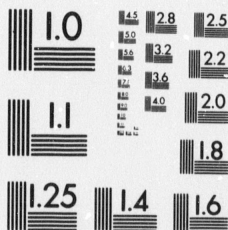


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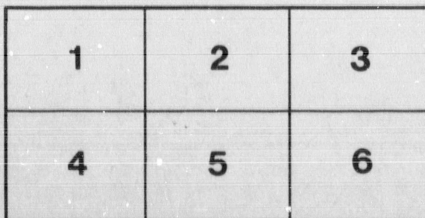
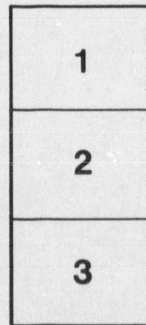
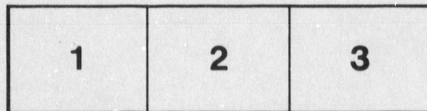
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Testimonials

OF

JOHN T. BULMER.

"The true University is a collection of books.

CARLYLE.

"I love the man who strives after the impossible."

GOETHE.

"Une bibliothèque est un acte de foi,
Des générations ténébreuses encore,
Qui rendent dans la nuit témoignage à l'aurore."

VICTOR HUGO.

HALIFAX, N. S.:

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Qualifications of Librarians.

I certainly have feelings of strong condemnation against making the office of librarian the reward of favoritism, or the haven for incompetents, however deserving morally or politically.—*Justin Winsor, Librarian Harvard College.*

Librarians occupy the same relations to the republic of letters as the commissariat to the rest of the army—their business is not to fight themselves, but to put others in a condition to do it. * * * * Library administration actually is a science, and library administration a department of the public service.—*Mr. Garnet, British Museum.*

A librarian who does not understand several languages besides his own will find himself constantly at a loss, and as to his knowledge he cannot be too catholic. They ought to be good administrators, to be prepared to exercise a superintendence over the library staff, and to give their attention to details however ordinary or minute. This attention to details (which was one of the secrets of the Duke of Wellington's success in his military operations) will amply repay all librarians who exercise it.—*J. Winter Jones, Lib. British Museum, L. J., vol. ii., p. 99.*

I need not say to you that a library is on the whole what the librarian makes it. Panizzi created the library of the British Museum. * * *

A librarian should be a veritable *helluo librorum*; a devourer of literature from his youth up, consumed by an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and interested in a wide range of subjects. He should be not only a walking catalogue but a living cyclopædia, and should always be able

to answer off-hand the two questions which meet him at every turn—"Where can I find such and such information?" and "What is the best work on such and such a subject?"—*Lloyd P. Smith, L. J.*, vol. i., p. 70.

The best librarians are no longer men of merely negative virtues. They are positive aggressive characters, standing in the front rank of the educators of their communities. * * * Unfortunately the opinion has been largely prevalent that a librarian was a keeper only, and had done his full duty if he preserved his books from loss. * * It is not now enough that the books are cared for properly and well arranged, are never lost. It is not enough that the librarian can produce any book when called for. It is not enough that he can, when asked, give advice as to the best books in his collection on any given subject. * * * * The time is come when we are not astonished to find the ablest business talent engaged in the management of a public library.—*Melvil Dewey, Library Journal*, vol. 1, p. 5-6.

However modest the library may be in its extent and character, the librarian ought to be a man who has experience in his work. The necessity for this qualification, of course, increases with the extent and importance of the collection. A librarian cannot know too much, or be too catholic in his knowledge. Devotion to a particular branch of study is a rock which he ought to avoid; and this ought to be borne in mind by those who select him, for it is not given to many men to be able to resist the temptation to follow a favorite pursuit in order that they may devote themselves to the multifarious details of a librarian's office. The man who purposes to himself to be a good librarian must be satisfied with knowing an infinite variety of things; he must be content with a general insight into the various particulars, but must not endeavour to be great in any.—*J. Winter Jones, Lib. British Museum.*

The ideal librarian must be a man of rare and almost superhuman gifts. It is little to say he should have the

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learning of a Casaubon, the bibliographical knowledge of a Magliabechi or a Mabillon, and the organizing faculty of a Panizzi. A man might have all these and yet be as studious as the first librarian we have mentioned, and therefore neglect his proper functions; as untidy and as unmethodical as Magliabechi; as imperious and as impracticable as even Panizzi could be at times. To these qualities and attainments of the head, the librarian must at least add the patience of a saint and the manners of an ambassador. The chief of a great library should be the friend and equal of scholars, a recognized leader in the world of learning, a man who moves freely, and as an equal among the great aristocracy of letters.—*London Times*.

In 1876 the librarians of the United States formed themselves into an association, known as the American Library Association. The year following the librarians of the British Islands formed themselves into another association, known as the United Kingdom Association. The co-operation thus secured, and by meetings, papers, reports, discussions, tests of appliances and examination of methods, has revolutionized library work, and it remains to be seen if we in Canada are to stand still. A high professional standard among the librarians of Canada is one of the great wants of our time, as the librarian of the future must be a thorough and systematic worker, one eager to avail himself of every new professional contrivance, and above all, a man whose principal aim shall be that readers and students may derive the utmost benefit from a collection it is his pride to keep in a state of the utmost efficiency.—*J. T. Bulmer, Inaugural Address*.

Testimonials from the United States.

BOSTON ATHENÆUM,

Beacon Street, Sep. 27, 1882.

MY DEAR MR. BULMER,

Your letter of August 17th reached me to-day; where it has been in the mean time I do not know. I am very sorry to hear that the Commissioners have adopted a course of such obvious injudiciousness; but one cannot expect men who know nothing of library management to understand that cataloguing is above the capacity of any otherwise incompetent person. * * * *

With the hope that you will be able to resume your library career so important to the history of the Province, I remain,

Yours very truly,

C. A. CUTTER.

Mr. Cutter is Librarian of the Boston Athenæum, one of the founders and organizers of the American Library Association, and the managing editor of the Library Journal, devoted to Library Economy and Bibliography. He edited the second part of the official report of the United States Government published in 1876, and now widely known as the Cutter Rules for Cataloguing.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND,

September 1, 1882.

I am personally acquainted with Mr. J. T. Bulmer, and in a conversation with him in this city, found him very familiar with books, and with a great knowledge of bibliography.

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Aware of Mr. Bulmer's work in Nova Scotia in organizing Historical Societies, and the valuable services rendered by him while Provincial Librarian in collecting newspapers and books for public institutions, I take pleasure in recommending him as a gentleman possessing the qualifications necessary to make him an efficient librarian.

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT.

John Russell Bartlett is an American author and writer on ethnological and philological subjects; was one of the commissioners for determining the Mexican boundary line, and for many years was Secretary of State for Rhode Island. He has either edited or assisted in publishing most of the State Records. He is best known as the author of the Catalogue of the John Carter Brown Library, in four volumes, one of the finest contributions to the bibliography of America yet published.

NEW YORK, *September 21, 1882.*

My attention having been directed to the character of the work done by Mr. J. T. Bulmer in connection with the Nova Scotia Historical Society. I take pleasure in expressing my sense of the importance of such undertakings, as he appears to be peculiarly fitted for carrying out, and should be glad, as a student of history, to see his services duly appreciated by placing him in a position to accomplish still further services.

B. F. DECOSTA.

B. F. DeCosta is the managing editor of the Magazine of American History, the best publication of the kind in the United States. He is widely known as a cartographer, and for his extensive and accurate knowledge on all subjects connected with the discovery, settlement, and history of America.

CLINTON, WIS., U. S.,

September 11, 1882.

I am happy to give my testimonial to the enthusiasm and organizing capacity of my friend J. T. Bulmer. It is

gratifying to find anyone unselfish enough to undertake the establishment of historical societies, or the organization of public libraries, for it seems to me that the materialistic sentiment and the money-making habits of the present day do not favor such things, and that it is the work of self-sacrificing benevolence when anyone undertakes them.

Respectfully yours,

S. D. PEET.

Stephen D. Peet is the editor of the American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal, a periodical of great merit, published in Chicago, U. S., and devoted to Classical, Oriental, European, and American Archeology.

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON,

September 29, 1882.

DEAR MR. BULMER,

I think the proposal you name (to build up a great collection of Canadian literature) is one that should commend itself most heartily to every patriotic resident of the Dominion. The experience you have gained and the natural taste and tact of which you have given such abundant evidence, point to you as one pre-eminently fitted for undertaking so great a work. Your energy and enthusiasm would be a guarantee of the success of such a work if entrusted to your care.

Yours most cordially,

C. B. TILLINGHAST.

Mr. Tillinghast is the Librarian of the Massachusetts State Library, and well and favorably known among the State Librarians in the United States.

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ALBANY, *September 21, 1882.*

J. T. BULMER, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—

I regret to learn that you are no longer the Librarian of the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia. The very active interest you took in the matter of exchanges while you were the Librarian, which resulted in placing many volumes of Nova Scotia publications upon the shelves of the New York State Library, in return for like publications of New York, is highly appreciated by the citizens of our State. It is a misfortune to any library to lose the services of one who so thoroughly understands the secrets of library growth and usefulness.

Very respectfully yours,

STEPHEN B. GRISWOLD.

Stephen B. Griswold is the Librarian of the Law Department of the New York State Library at Albany, one of the most complete and best equipped law libraries in the world.

ALBANY, N. Y., *September 20, 1882.*

J. T. BULMER, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—

I have learned with great regret from the public press, that you have found it necessary to sever your connection with the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia. The record of your life bears abundant evidence that the interests of Nova Scotia must suffer from this separation more than can the interests of a single individual. The world cannot fairly call upon any man to sink his personal and professional pride to the last degree, in order that he may have a chance to work out for it some good. One can only hope that the men of education and culture among you, who already so highly estimate your invaluable services, may spontaneously be led to bring their influence to bear upon others,

and redress the evil that is being done ; for men so intelligently persistent and effective in preserving the history of a country are among the rare gifts of providence.

I am, dear sir,

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY A. HOMES.

Henry A. Homes is the Librarian of the New York State Library at Albany, the largest, as it is the best State Library in the United States. In 1876 he assisted in the publication of the Government Report on the Libraries of the United States, and a few years before prepared one of the best Subject Catalogues ever printed. For a quarter of a century he has been among the first librarians in America.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY,

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., *September 21, 1882.*

DEAR SIR,—

* * * * It has been gratifying to me to notice in our papers and periodicals from time to time the commendations of your library labors. No persons but such as have the experience as I have had have the remotest idea of the qualifications for a librarian, and of the innumerable ways in which he, if he cares about the office, will bring together books, pamphlets, and newspapers which may appear worthless at the time, but which will be of immense value to posterity. In preparing my Harvard Graduates, my authorities at the end of the several lives show how important the little things which most persons would have burnt or thrown away as worthless have been to me. Your labors for the Historical Society and Library have been so good and comprehensive, and your enthusiasm and success so great, that you ought to have a large field of usefulness in which you can give yourself exclusively. * * * * Your reputation, and what I incidentally learn from various sources, lead me to put you among the best, if not the *very best*, of the men in the Provinces to be encouraged to give yourself to such work. There is a great deal in beginning early in such a

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work. * * * * I hope to hear before I die of your being in some position which will be to your liking, and that you are prospering in it, with the probability of laying the foundation of a reputation that shall be as great as that of our Thomas, Prince, and others. * * * * *

Respectfully yours,

JOHN LANGDON SIBLEY,

Librarian Emeritus of Harvard College.

John Langdon Sibley is the venerable Librarian Emeritus of Harvard College, and the author and editor of many works, the most important among them being the Harvard Graduates. For over forty years he has been connected with the library of Harvard College, twenty-one years of that time being Chief Librarian. By his devotion to the College he added to the collection over 100,000 separate works. He retired in 1876, and has since been engaged on his Harvard Graduates. He is the father of the library profession in America.

CITY OF BOSTON,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *Sept. 1, 1882.*

MY DEAR MR. BULMER,

I have read in the public journals with much regret that you have given up your position as Librarian of the Provincial Library. Your extensive work in that capacity is well known to me, and I consider it a loss to the historical and antiquarian world that you are no longer to serve the public in that important office. It is always difficult to find a man who has the zeal of a collector and the knowledge of a scholar, which qualities are essential for the successful librarian. I feel sure that some higher position will fall to your lot, and with my warmest wishes that it may soon come, I am

Yours sincerely,

SAMUEL A. GREEN.

Dr. S. A. Green is a trustee and ex-librarian of the Boston Public Library, a model institution for the world. He is a trustee of Harvard College and the Peabody Museum, and Librarian of the Massa-

chusetts Historical Society. During the present year he is Mayor of the City of Boston. He is more favorably and widely known than any librarian in America.

SOCIETY'S HOUSE,
18 SOMERSET STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

The undersigned respectfully and most cordially recommend Mr. J. T. Bulmer, of Halifax, N. S., as a gentleman of remarkable abilities in matters concerning the collecting and arranging materials for history, relating in particular to the Dominion of Canada; and we are of opinion that an institution under his direction would be highly creditable to any government. The work which he has accomplished in the last few years in this direction for the various Historical Societies of Canada, is indeed wonderful; it has required energy, activity, and historical research, such as few persons possess. In a position of prominence we think his services would be invaluable, and we know of no person so well qualified as Mr. Bulmer to organize and carry forward an undertaking of this character.

JOHN WARD DEAN,
Librarian.

JEREMIAH COLBURN,
Lib. Committee.

September 6, 1882.

John Ward Dean is the Librarian and Secretary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and editor of the *Register*, a quarterly, devoted to gathering up and placing in permanent form the scattered and decaying records of the domestic, civil, literary, religious, and political life of the people of the United States.

Jeremiah Colburn is a well-known worker in all subjects connected with library growth and progress. He is a member of many learned societies, and the editor of the *American Journal of Numismatics*.

Letters from H. B. Dawson, editor of the *Historical Magazine*, New York; A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress, Washington; Hon. L. C. Draper, founder of the Wisconsin Historical Society, have also been received.

PORTLAND, ME.,

October 11, 1882.

J. T. BULMER, ESQ.,

Sir,

We beg to assure you that your work in Nova Scotia and the other provinces of Canada is well and favorably known in this State. It has often occurred to us as unfortunate that library growth and progress should be so slow in the Queen's Dominions in North America, and that there should be so few men taking an interest in work of this kind. While you were never wanting statesmen, orators, lawyers, journalists, authors, and merchants with a widely extended reputation, such a person as a librarian or bibliographer was seldom heard of, and we began to think that in Canada these were lost arts. Of course to this there were happy exceptions, notably that of the late Mr. Faribault, the author of a work of unquestioned merit on the bibliography of Acadia, Canada, and Louisiana.

That there should be even a temporary interruption to the good work in Nova Scotia is a matter of regret, especially that portion of the work which contemplated at an early day the complete documentary history of Acadia. Such a work, if published as proposed, would be not only the monument of the man who prepared and edited it, but of the government that defrayed the expenses of its publication.

Government libraries are worked under great difficulties, and too often, when a librarian is to be appointed, instead of the government ascertaining and appointing the man best fitted for the place, they ask, To which one of our supporters shall we give the office? The applicants are always legion, made up of politicians, lawyers, newspaper men, clergymen, etc., each one of whom thinks that were he appointed he could perform the duties of the office with acceptance; each one of whom forgets, if he ever knew, that the chief librarian of any considerable collection must have experi-

ence, technical knowledge, and an aptitude by nature, the want of which neither training, knowledge, nor experience will ever make up. Men of this kind, through the mistaken sympathy of their friends, force themselves into libraries, either as superintendents or chief librarians. The result is that collections which, if properly officered, would be first-class, go on from year to year dragging out a third or even fourth rate existence. Occasionally, by accident, by the force of public opinion, or by the presence in the government of a man who knows the wants of the public service, and insists that they shall be filled, we get a man for librarian who honors the office, and in turn is honored by it. But of late years public opinion points in the direction of appointing none but the best men, and we have every reason to hope that the time is near at hand when all government libraries, both in Canada and the United States, will enter on a course of usefulness hardly dreamed of, because keepers have been exchanged for librarians.

The application of the above remarks to your position in the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia will readily occur. The success with which you have carried forward library work in the Dominion in the last four years is the best augury we can have that it will continue, and that Canada will equal, if not surpass, the United States in library work.

That you may be the hope of

J. W. BRADBURY,
Prest. Maine Hist. Society.

H. W. BRYANT,
Librarian and Rec. Sec.

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Canadian Testimonials.

I have been acquainted with J. T. Bulmer, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, late Librarian of the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia, for the last eight years, and during that time have received great assistance from him in the work of the Record Commission. By a diligent perusal of the public archives of this country, and extensive reading on colonial history, Mr. Bulmer has acquired a fund of information relative to the history of America, and particularly of the Acadian provinces, which, added to his careful study of library work, renders him eminently qualified to collect and take charge of a library of British Colonial literature.

I very much regret his having resigned his position of Provincial Librarian and Corresponding Secretary of the Historical Society, both of which positions he filled with credit to himself, and I do not know any person in the province whose services can be obtained so well qualified for positions of that kind as Mr. Bulmer.

THOS. B. AKINS,

*Commr. of Public Record of N. S., and
President of Hist. Society.*

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.,

October 6, 1882.

JOHN T. BULMER, Esq.,

My Dear Sir,

I feel like offering a word of explanation in reference to the unfavorable turn which matters have taken here in relation to our Historical Society. The real difficulty with us has been the want of a man whose services could be secured

as Librarian, and who possessed the aptitude and training suited to the work. It is a great pity indeed that the work which you started amongst us should be interrupted, even for a short time, and I feel that in allowing it to drag that we have but ill repaid you for the great interest you have taken in library work in Prince Edward Island.

I need not tell you how sorry I was to hear of your retirement from the Library of Nova Scotia, and I sincerely hope that you may still be induced to take up library work either in your own Province or in a larger field within the Dominion. I do not wish to flatter you, but I must say that it would indeed be a public loss if you should finally give up a work for which you have shown such high qualifications. Any collection with which you may be identified will command the sympathy and support of the people of Prince Edward Island.

I am, yours, &c.,

DONALD FERGUSON.

[Hon. Donald Ferguson is the Provincial Secretary and Treasurer of Prince Edward Island.]

From time to time, we have noticed with great pleasure, the efforts put forth by the Historical Societies of the neighboring republic, in gathering up and preserving the books, papers, and pamphlets, relating to the several States of the Union. In 1878, a similar society was formed at Halifax, and in the short space of three years they have revolutionized the ideas of the Province as to the leading events of their history. There is now at Halifax the finest collection of books, papers, and pamphlets anywhere in the Maritime Provinces.

A short time ago, a similar society was instituted at St. John, but owing to the fire, and the consequent confusion, etc., following it, the Society has not made the progress its founders expected. There are many reasons why such a society should be instituted in this city. The archives of the Province are here, and it is well-nigh impossible to pre-

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pare papers on the early history of the Province without consulting them. We have also the Legislative Library, as well as the Documentary Library of the Government, all three of which are incentives to the formation of such a society, and guarantees that, if instituted, it may be a great success. For our own part, we desire to see such an organization at the earliest day possible.

We have been induced to make the above remarks from having received a call from the founder and Corresponding Secretary of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, J. T. Bulmer, Esq., who is now in the city. We trust that our patriotic and spirited citizens will avail themselves of Mr. Bulmer's experience and assistance, and form at once a society of the kind indicated, for Fredericton.—*Capital.*

At a meeting in the Council Chamber, presided over by the Mayor of the city, and attended by the leading citizens of Fredericton, N. B., the Hon. J. J. Fraser, the Attorney-General, said:—

“It is with more than ordinary pleasure that I arise to move that the thanks of this meeting be extended to Mr. Bulmer for the great assistance he has rendered the Government, the people of this city, and of the province generally, in coming at this inclement season of the year to organize an Historical Society, as well as to examine the condition of our records and the legislative library. However, we were not altogether unprepared for a visit from him, and most of us had heard of his works in the neighboring provinces, and the success which always follows tact, energy and enthusiasm. As a member of the Government I can say that I have greatly profited by his advice, and shall, when we move into the New Provincial Building, endeavor to carry out his suggestions; but he must remember that if we fail to carry out his programme in its entirety, the fault is with the instrumentalities with which we have to work rather than our intentions. The programme which he has laid down for us, to be carried out successfully, requires a master like himself, and I ask where in this small province, or for that

matter in the Dominion, are we to find such a man? The Province or Government which is able to secure his services at any price, is to be congratulated. There is one thing we can promise him, that is our sympathy and support in his self-imposed task of founding libraries, organizing societies, and preserving the records of our country."

The resolution was spoken to by Dr. Rand, Mr. Lugin of the *Herald*, and others, and passed unanimously.—*Capital, Dec. 1881.*

The Commissioners submit their report as evidence that the library entrusted to them has been carefully attended to, it being evident therefrom that it only requires the continued support and encouragement of the Legislature, with efficient management, to place this institution on a footing of perfect equality, at least, with the best Provincial Libraries of the Dominion, as it already holds the third place among the libraries of Canada.

In recognizing the necessity of "efficient management," the Commissioners would be remiss if they did not advert to the valuable services of their Librarian. They cannot too highly commend the zeal and diligence which he has brought to the performance of his duties. It is to his exertions, chiefly, that the reduction to systematic order of the Library, and the classified arrangement of the books are due; the purchase of a large number of bound volumes, the collection of numerous files of the earliest as well as the more recent newspapers of the province, and numerous pamphlets published within it, on every variety of subjects, are entirely his work, under the approval of the Commissioners. This officer, although appointed by the Commission, is dependent upon an annual grant of the Legislature, and the Commissioners are quite unanimous in the opinion that his services are inadequately remunerated by the present salary. They believe that the future of the Library depends in a great degree upon the Librarian, and that the services of Mr. Bulmer should be retained if possible. They, there-

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fore, respectfully invite the attention of the Legislature to the circumstances, with a view to realize this desirable object.

In the first place they would refer to the great accession of valuable books obtained from various legislative bodies and public libraries, which would not have been obtained except under the favorable circumstances of the united libraries being under the patronage and control of the Provincial Government. * * * * A private individual would be obliged to give many hundred dollars for some of the books which have * * * * been sent in response to an official letter from our Librarian.

The Commissioners think that the accessions since 1878 are fully of the value of \$10,000.

* * * * The Commissioners desire to bring to notice the amount of work which has been performed by the indefatigable Secretary during the several years he has held the office, and to ask the members of the Legislature to take into consideration the fact that special qualifications should meet with corresponding remuneration. Ordinary work can be obtained for ordinary pay, but work of a peculiar character, such as is performed by the Librarian, can only be performed by a man who, like him, has a special tact and aptitude for it. The Commissioners would repeat the language of their last Report, and say that they "are quite unanimous in the opinion that his services are inadequately remunerated by the present salary. They believe that the future of the library depends in a great degree upon the Librarian, and that the services of Mr. Bulmer should be retained, if possible."

The above are extracts from the Reports of the Library Commissioners for 1880-1, and which reports are signed by Hon. S. H. Holmes, Premier and Provincial Secretary; Hon. Robert Boak, President of the Legislative Council; Hon. W. J. Almon, Senator; Rev. George W. Hill, D. C. L., Chancellor of the University of Halifax; William D. Harrington, M. P. P.; Jas. S. Macdonald, M. L. C.; Stephen Tobin, Mayor of Halifax, and William Gossip, Esq.

To J. T. BULMER, Esq.,

Sir,—The undersigned, descendants of the French Acadians, and residents of the Maritime Provinces, cannot allow you to retire from the position of Librarian of the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia, without expressing in some way our high appreciation of the great services you have rendered our race, during the time you have been in the Provincial Library.

Too frequently, we have had reason to complain that no account is taken of our language, religion, and laws in the Government of the Province, and that the whole educational outfit of the Province, including the Provincial Library, is English, and English exclusively. So much was this the case, that up to 1878 there was scarce a French book in the library, and no person in the library knew or cared anything about our people—their romantic history, and the terrible events culminating in their expulsion. In the short period of a little over four years all this has been changed, and now we have, thanks to you, French records in the archives, French books, pamphlets, etc. in the Library, and a deep, wide-spread interest in our people everywhere.

We beg to assure you that your efforts in Quebec, Ontario, Massachusetts, New York, Washington, and elsewhere to collect the material of our history are duly appreciated, as also your efforts to interest our people in the great and growing literature of the French in Canada. We are well assured that it will be a long day before a man will be found to fill your place, who will, like you, unite in himself the qualities of the collector, bibliographer, historian, antiquarian and genealogist. While regretting your resignation, and the great loss it is to the Province, we are assured of the purity of your motives, and of your inflexible determination to keep the high art and science of the Librarian above everything which is mean or selfish.

For all you have done for us and our people, we thank

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you, and assure you that our good wishes go with you in your profession, or any undertaking you may engage in.

P. A. LANDRY,

Provincial Secretary, N. B.

ISIDORE LEBLANC, M. P. P.

HENRY M. ROBICHAU, M. P. P.

JOHN LAPIERRE, *Councillor.*

PASCAL POIRIER, &c.

[The above address is signed by many of the representative French Acadians of the Maritime Provinces.]

HALIFAX, *Sept. 29th, 1882.*

I have great pleasure in certifying to Mr. Bulmer's extraordinary aptitude, both natural and acquired, for founding, organizing and managing public libraries. A few years ago he took charge of the Provincial Library, and his genius for the work was seen almost immediately in the manner in which he interested the public in the Library, and the rapidity with which gifts and donations of books, pamphlets, maps and manuscripts came into the library. So valuable and rapid were the accessions that in a little while the Library became the best known in Canada, and readers and students from all parts of the Maritime Provinces, and occasionally the other parts of Canada and the United States, came to consult its treasures. The great strength of the collection was in works relating to the Maritime Provinces and the Dominion generally; and during the time I was Minister of Justice, I had frequently to telegraph Mr. Bulmer for the loan of books not in the library at Ottawa, and which were of great use to me. I learn that other departments of the Government were equally indebted to Mr. Bulmer for similar favors from 1878 to 1882.

His training as a barrister and attorney, added to his knowledge of all publications having any bearing on colonial questions, would make him a most useful official in any state or provincial library; and I can testify that during the

period he was Provincial Librarian, he was of the greatest possible service to the Government, the members, the heads of departments, as well as all persons entitled to the use of the library. To others he may be known as an historian, an antiquarian, or an archivist, but I know him as an invaluable aid to any man or government desiring information, not only on all questions connected with the government of the country, but with the development of its resources and wealth; and his presence in any state or provincial library would quicken and develop in an extraordinary degree the taste of all persons frequenting the library.

JAS. McDONALD,
Chief Justice, N. S.

At a meeting of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, held in the House of Assembly on the 14th March, 1881, Dr. Allison in the chair, His Honor Governor Archibald spoke of the progress which this society had made in building up in so short a time a really great historical library. "If we had hunted the Dominion all over," said he, "we could not have found a man so fitted for his work as the present Librarian, and Mr. Bulmer has done more in two years to put together a great collection of books than any librarian in Canada has done in twenty-five. We have now 671 volumes of bound newspapers, and over 500 unbound—a total of nearly 1200 volumes, nearly all printed in this Province, and covering a period from 1764 to 1881. We have a collection of pamphlets extending from 1772 to date, and numbering over 12,000, and covering almost every public question discussed. We have books printed in Nova Scotia as far back as 1758, and all ever printed since. Our library, from holding a tenth-rate position a little over a year ago, to-day takes rank as the third in Canada, being only surpassed by the great collections in Laval University, and the library at Ottawa. Our province, though small, has a larger and better library than the great provinces of Quebec and Ontario. As to its value, I would say that of the news-

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paper collection alone, it would not be possible for the Local Government, by any sum at their disposal, ever to get together such a collection should the present one be destroyed by fire. These gratifying results have come about through the prodigal enthusiasm, industry, and tact of the Librarian, and I feel bound to say that no man in his day has rendered the Province greater service than Mr. Bulmer."

Remarks were made by the Mayor of Halifax, the Hon. L. E. Baker and others, of an equally complimentary character.—*Morning Herald, March, 1881.*

HALIFAX, *Sept.*, 1882.

The undersigned take great pleasure in certifying that during the period J. T. Bulmer, Esq., was Librarian of the Legislative Library of Nova Scotia, he discharged his duties in a manner altogether above criticism; and from our long and intimate acquaintance with him, we have no hesitation in saying that by learning, by spirit, by love for his calling, he is able to interest the public in libraries, and thus secure gifts and donations to a greater degree than any man we know of in Canada. Wherever he goes, gifts and bequests of great value will follow him, and the public will expect the collection over which he presides to take high rank.

The progress of the Provincial Library has never been equalled by any other collection in Canada, and so far as we know any collection anywhere else. This progress was due almost entirely to the circumstance that Mr. Bulmer was the librarian. To him the Province of Nova Scotia owes a debt of lasting gratitude. By his learning, his sagacity, his energy, and his firmness, he succeeded in the face of great opposition in noting and supplying the enormous deficiencies of the library in works relating to the Maritime Provinces, as well as Quebec and Ontario, and in perfecting the complicated arrangements which so vast a collection entails. It is doubtful if there is another man in Canada, certainly not another in Nova Scotia, possessing the peculiar combination

of powers required for a librarian in an equal degree, the knowledge, the bibliographical lore, the administrative talent, undaunted perseverance, and the ability to expound and enforce his views on all possible questions connected with library growth and progress. He has made the Provincial Library one of the finest in Canada, and, if the opportunities which he took advantage of had been suffered to pass, in all probability no second chance would have ever returned, and the library would have lost the inestimable advantage of his oversight and supervision. No matter whether Mr. Bulmer is at the head of a library, or pursuing his profession, he will by universal acclamation be regarded as the representative of library growth and progress in Canada, and it is greatly to be hoped that some institution in Canada may secure his services, giving his genius and talents ample scope, and our country the immense advantage of his labors.

S. H. HOLMES,

Late Premier and Prov. Secretary.

JNO. S. D. THOMPSON,

Atty.-Gen. (Premier in 1882.)

A. C. BELL,

Prov. Secretary in 1882.

SAMUEL CREELMAN,

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(The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.
Vol. xxxvi., p. 254.)

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY OF NOVA SCOTIA.—We are sorry to learn from an article in the Halifax, N. S., *Evening Mail* of July 31, 1882, that J. T. Bulmer, Esq., Librarian of the Province of Nova Scotia, has recently resigned his office, owing to a lack of co-operation by the Library Commissioners. * * *

Mr. Bulmer had, by his individual efforts, succeeded in collecting a library that was a wonder to all. Lieut.-Gov. Archibald, in March, 1881, stated that Mr. Bulmer had done "more in two years to put together a great collection of books than any librarian in Canada had done in twenty-five." (See Register xxxv., p. 254.) But the number of books which he collected is not his chief merit; it is the large number of rare works illustrating Nova Scotia history which most surprises us. His resignation will be a loss to historical literature.

(From the Charlottetown Examiner, Oct. 14, 1882.)

We are sorry to hear that J. T. Bulmer, Esq., has resigned his connection with the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia, and that there is every probability that he will not again resume library work in the Maritime Provinces. In a new country there can be no such person as a highly trained librarian; the most that can be hoped for is that one may turn up having in some degree a fitness and apti-

tude for that kind of work, and the good luck to tumble into a library. Mr. Bulmer's proficiency and extraordinary success was altogether exceptional, giving himself a reputation thereby the equal of the best in America. While other librarians at the head of great collections in Canada were doing next to nothing for library progress, Mr. Bulmer was studying the best and latest methods, organizing historical societies and record commissions, making collections for his own and other libraries, agitating for trained librarians, and catalogues which would be a credit to our country. How successful he was as a collector is known to many on this Island, and he carried a veritable Moses' rod, and everything he smote poured forth books, pamphlets, and maps, in abundance. The difficulty which led to the resignation of Mr. Bulmer was the appointment, by the Library Commissioners, during his absence from the Province, of a clerk to prepare a catalogue. It appears that Mr. Bulmer was not consulted about the appointment, and as he could not approve of it, he immediately resigned. It is very unfortunate that this difficulty should have arisen, and we are sorry the Library's Commissioners have not found a way to recede from a step they must have taken without due consideration. In this Province we have seen our Historical Society languishing, simply because there was no one connected with it, officially, who was willing to spend and be spent in Library work. No one, in fact, who was in the highest degree enthusiastic in working out the object of the Society. In Nova Scotia, they had a man who was heart and soul devoted to organizing a library, and preserving the records of the Province; but his services are, unfortunately, lost to the public.

(From the Quebec Chronicle, Sept. 15, 1882.)

The Provincial Library of Nova Scotia has been closed since April, the Library Commissioners not having yet appointed a successor to J. T. Bulmer, Esq., so well and

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favorably known in Canada in connection with libraries, historical societies and record commissions. To many in Nova Scotia his resignation will be a matter of profound regret, especially to all who like himself believe in a national literature for Canada, and great collections of books illustrating our history and containing endless material for story and song. The spirited course of Mr. Bulmer in resisting the action of the Library Commissioners is to be commended, and proves that fine sensibilities go hand in hand with that rare combination of qualities—the make-up of the successful librarian. Too often Government officials become so addicted to routine that there is no more life in the performance of their duties than there would be were they hired to cleave the air. In this condition they are interested in nothing but four o'clock and pay day. It is a sign of health and life in the Civil Service of a country when officials are found so spirited and conscientious that they begin their protests against a vicious course being pursued toward their department by instant resignation. The public always appreciate a course beginning in self-sacrifice, and the official who has anything to say to the public is pretty sure of the public ear after it is known that his views were preceded by his resignation.

The Library Commissions are looking for what they will not readily find, viz., a man to fill the late incumbent's place. To do this his successor must be his superior, in order to meet with equal success.

There are few men who, from their position as scholars and thinkers, can survey the whole field of literature understandingly and appreciatively; who know the world and the men of the world; who can estimate the value of books and the uses to which they may be put; and who unite with this knowledge a practical every-day common sense and shrewdness to discern the popular want; who can look out over the multitude and see how the great institution under their charge can be made to minister to the highest growth of the State. Such men are to be sought after, and when found secured, not by such contemptible dealing as in

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this case characterized the action of the Library Commissioners. Unquestionably Mr. Bulmer is a most competent man for any such position, because he has not only proved himself a most successful manager, but a founder and organizer as well.

(From the St. John Sun, July 29, 1882.)

While in Halifax recently we gave the Provincial Library a call for the purpose of noticing the progress made in the work of building up a great library of books, pamphlets, and papers, relating to the old Province of Acadia, and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. A notice on the door informed us that it was "closed by order of the commissioners," and on enquiry we found that during the time of the general election, when the newspapers were wanted most, and after the election, when the law-books were likely to be of service, the public had been carefully excluded from the premises. On getting inside we found that Mr. Bulmer had resigned the librarianship in March last, owing to the hasty and inconsiderate action of the commissioners in appointing a cataloguer during his absence, and without reference to the true interests of the library. We ascertained that the cataloguer was a party who would have done well enough to fill a place in the Civil Service at Ottawa, or perform the difficult work of a locker in the Customs, but who knew no more about the life work of Panizzi, Cutter and Jones than about the curious inscriptions on the pyramids. The catalogue in course of preparation is a marvel, and the commissioners have done well to close the library to the public, and if they are wise they will keep it closed. Like the famous catalogue which it follows, it will be light reading for hot weather, and a worthy twin of its predecessor, which cost a graduate of Oxford a few minutes' thought, and the Province many hundred dollars of money. While in Halifax, we learned that the late librarian, Mr. Bulmer, contemplated a working catalogue for

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the library, which would have been the complete bibliography of the Maritime Provinces, and would have included newspapers as well. Such a work, if published, would have been of the greatest value to the historian, antiquarian and student. For the second time in the history of Nova Scotia, the very men appointed by the Government to look after the library, and assist in building it up, have taken the speediest way to pull it down. A few years ago, the celebrated antiquarian lawyer, T. B. Akin, Esq., expressed to the Government a wish that they would assist him in the work of putting together a great corpus of literature relating to the Maritime Provinces. Accordingly, commissioners were appointed, and for a time the work bade fair to go on; but owing to the insolence of one of the commissioners, the newly appointed librarian soon resigned his charge. The work was not again commenced for nearly a quarter of a century—the second time by a young lawyer born in the county of Cumberland, J. T. Bulmer, Esq., who possessed, in an eminent degree, all the qualities of a great librarian. The growth and progress of the collection under him was a matter of pride and delight to all who took an interest in work of this kind. He wrote, travelled, and rummaged, and the result was a superb collection of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts relating to these Provinces; and Halifax bade fair to become more celebrated for its library and records than anything else in it. But the negative virtues of the commissioners appear to have been fully equal to the task of pulling down what the librarian had built up, and while Mr. Bulmer was at Ottawa last winter, fighting the battle of all the libraries in Canada, by agitating a reduction in the tariff on books, the commissioners appointed a cataloguer. This was done without consulting or referring to the librarian in any way, and the commissioners when accused of making an appointment which outraged the common sense of all having to do with libraries, replied that the cataloguer was getting only \$1.50 per day. Under these circumstances, the resignation of Mr. Bulmer was a matter of course, as no man with a par-

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ticle of sense or spirit would toil at a library, and then assist a day laborer to make a catalogue to it. It is of importance to have books in a library, but it is of far more importance to have a librarian, and if either could be dispensed with it would be the former, and the people of Nova Scotia will, we fear, in time learn that the reputation and usefulness of a library depend far more on the librarian than on the contents of the library.



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