

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

FURTHER RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 21 April 1856:—for,

“RETURN from *Cheltenham*, and *Ennis*, *Cork*, and *Limerick*, in *Ireland*, showing the following Details as to the Establishment or Rejection of any PUBLIC LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, or SCHOOLS OF ART which may have been proposed under the English or Irish Public Libraries Act :—

Name of City, Town, or Parish.	Date of Formation of Library, and of the Poll taken, if any, under the Libraries and Museums Act.	Number of Votes for and against the Adoption of the Act in cases where a Poll has been taken, or Result of Meeting if no Poll.	Whether or not the Library includes separate Departments for Reference to and for Lending out of Books.	Number of Volumes in Library of Reference.	Number of Volumes in Lending Library, if any.	Days and Hours of Public Access.	Number of Volumes issued to Readers in the Reference Library in each Year since the Opening.	Number of Volumes issued to Borrowers from the Lending Library in each Year since the Opening.	Total Number of Volumes issued in each Year since the Opening, and Number of Readers each Year in the Library of Reference.	Amount of Sum, if any, Subscribed for the Formation of the Library, for its Enlargement, or for Building Purposes, independent of the Rate.	Yearly Amount of Borough or other Rate appropriated to Library or Museum.	General View of the Results which have been obtained. Remarks on the Working of the Libraries and Museums Act; with Information as to any contemplated Re-construction, Enlargement, or other Improvement of the Library or Museum.”

RETURN from *Ennis*, *Cork*, and *Limerick*, in *Ireland*, as to the Establishment or Rejection of any PUBLIC LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, or SCHOOLS OF ART which may have been proposed under the English or Irish Public Libraries Act.

C O R K.

1.—Name of City, Town, or Parish?—Cork.

2.—Date of formation of Library, and of the Poll taken, if any, under the Libraries and Museums Act?—None.

12 & 13.—Yearly amount of Borough or other Rate appropriated to Library or Museum? General view of the results which have been obtained. Remarks on the working of the Libraries and Museums Act; with information as to any contemplated re-construction, enlargement, or other improvement of the Library or Museum?—See Note.

Note.—At a public meeting of the ratepayers, held in the City Court House, the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Cork presiding, on the 8th November, 1855, a School of Design was unanimously adopted, and a rate at one halfpenny in the year, in the pound, on the valuation, was ordered for its maintenance. The school was opened on the 8th of January 1856, and is now attended by 170 students, chiefly of the mechanic class, morning and evening; the number has steadily increased, and there is a library of 250 volumes on art, free to those students attached to the school.

John Franklin, Mayor's Secretary.

3 May 1856.

E N N I S.

1.—Name of City, Town, or Parish?—Ennis, county Clare.

2.—Date of Formation of Library, and of the Poll taken, if any, under the Libraries and Museums Act?—16th October 1855.

3.—Number of Votes for and against the adoption of the Act in cases where a Poll has been taken, or result of meeting if no Poll?—No poll taken or demanded. Meeting unanimous for the adoption of the Act.

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. & 10.—Whether or not the Library includes separate Departments for Reference to and for lending out of Books? Number of Volumes in Library of Reference? Number of Volumes in Lending Library, if any? Days and Hours of Public Access? Number of Volumes issued to Readers in the Reference Library in each year since the opening? Number of Volumes issued to Borrowers from the Lending Library in each year since the opening? Total number of Volumes issued in each year since the opening, and number of Readers each year in the Library of Reference?—These queries cannot be

answered at present, inasmuch as there was no suitable place in the town to open a library, and the committee have decided on building for the purpose. This is to be commenced after the summer assizes.

11.—Amount of Sum, if any, subscribed for the formation of the Library, for its enlargement, or for building purposes, independent of the Rate?—A sum of 354 *l.* 2 *s.* has been already voluntarily subscribed within a very short time. We expect to get as much more.

12.—Yearly amount of Borough or other Rate appropriated to Library or Museum?—24 *l.* 14 *s.* — $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

13.—General view of the results which have been obtained? Remarks on the working of the Libraries' and Museums Act; with information as to any contemplated re-construction, enlargement, or other improvement of the Library or Museum?—See answer to No. 3.

26 April 1856.

(signed) *John Burton,*
Chairman, Ennis Town Commissioners.

LIMERICK.

Sir,

Town Hall, Limerick, 26 April 1856.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24th, enclosing a blank return to be filled in, as regards this city, in reference to public libraries; and I have to state that, to this time, no library has been established in Limerick.

A public meeting for the object has been called, and will be held on 8th May, of the result of which I shall take care to inform you.

I am, &c.

(signed) *James Spaight,*
Mayor of Limerick.

To Colonel Larcom, Secretary,
Castle, Dublin.

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OF ART, which may have been proposed under
the English or Irish Public Libraries Act.

(*Mr. Ewart.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
19 May 1856.