
REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

The joint committee on the State Library, beg leave to report:

That they have minutely examined the account of expenditures as presented to them by the Librarian in his report which accompanies this, and find it to be strictly correct. In accordance with the suggestion of the Librarian, that the few numbers of the public documents now ordered for the Library are insufficient, the committee respectfully present for adoption the accompanying resolution.

Public Libraries have been from time immemorial, objects of great care and attention to every nation desirous of preserving accurate accounts of their early history, the promotion of science and diffusion of useful knowledge. Their successful establishment evidences an advance in civilization, and a progress in refinement and taste. To the student and the man of letters their treasuries of science and literature are invaluable, forming as they do a safe depository for the literary wealth of the world. Hence we discover that since the invention by Cadmus of the letters of the Alphabet, that all nations not over-run by barbarism, have given great attention to the collection of books for the purpose of forming large and valuable public libraries.

The origin of libraries, is generally ascribed to the Hebrews, from whom it is supposed the Egyptians took the hint, for according to Diodorus we find that Osmanduas, one of their kings, had a library built in his Palace, with this very suitable inscription over the door, "Food for the Mind."

Libraries were established in Athens by the tyrant Pisistratus; and Plutarch informs us that under Eumenes there was a library at Pergamus containing two hundred thousand volumes. The fate of the celebrated library at Alexandria is well known; it was supposed to contain seven hundred thousand volumes, and was burnt by the brutal soldiery of Cæsar.

In the time of Constantine the Great, there were not less than thirty public libraries at Rome; she well might boast of her Ulpian, her Palatine, as well as those of Paulus Æmilius, Lucillius La-