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In the spacious lobby the throng separates into four distinct parts, one of which goes into the newspaper room on the first floor, where are to be found newspapers printed in many languages. Part of the crowd go into the periodical room, where the magazines of the world are to be found. Ascending the wonderful staircase to the upper floors, are found Sargent's famous pictures of the prophets.

A large number of people stop on the second floor and go into the quiet reading room, known as Bates' Hall, named for one of the founders of the library, or into the rotunda, to consult the catalogue, or into the vast hall where books are called for and returned. Here are the famous frescoes of the Holy Grail by Abbey. Every year in this hall a million and a half books are given out to be taken home, for in Boston, books and "Juno may be had by the poorest comers." On this floor also is the children's room, which is perfect in its way.

The wonderful growth and success of this institution constitute it an object lesson which many communities are happy to study. Its character was largely determined by such men as George Ticknor and Edward Everett, members of the first Board of Trustees.

In a previous article, the writer recalled the fact that the Mayor and Town Council of Boston secured the passage of an act allowing the town to tax itself to support the library. The Mayor, J. P. Bigelow, gave the first money (\$1,000) given by a private citizen and forever blessed is his name in Boston. Small gifts of books entirely unsuited to popular tastes were received, and stored in the attic of the City Hall. The endowment of a great library in New York, by the John Jacob Astor bequest in 1848, and much talked about, and the men of forecast began to see that be placed, and it is gratifying to know to New York in letters, as well as commerce. Much laborious and disinterested work was done by these men, work on which no money value can be placed, and it gratifying to know that the Bostonian of today honors the names of these as much as the name of Mr. Joshua Bates, whose munificence came like a great flash of light in upon their faint hopes, in a time of discouragement and dark days. This was a gift of \$50,000.

As he saw the library growing, the pride and patriotism of Mr. Bates became more and more aroused, and in a short time he gave \$50,000 more. All through his life and at his death the library received help from his hands. It became the largest in this country, and continued to be for many years until the Congressional gradually assumed its present dignity and size.

To the library influences of Boston and Harvard, must be given the credit for developing the schools of writers that flourished in New England, and embellished American letters a generation ago. And to the dearth of these great literary centres in the South, may be traced the sad lack of the South in great magazine literature, and in a sustained literary activity. But in these days of educational and educated philanthropy, in out part of the country, this condition will pass away, and those who heard Professor Metcalf and Mr. Kennedy, in their optimistic speeches at the meeting of the Virginia Library Association a few days ago, think that the change is not far away.

The city of Boston spends a quarter of a million dollars a year of its administrative expenses, but the public spirited citizens support this more gladly than any other burden, knowing that the library is the most effectual weapon against alcoholism and crime, against corruption and discontent, and that the republican form of government can flourish only when the people are educated.