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The case attracted wide attention, owing to the magnitude of the interests involved, and especially because the result seemed to show that so astute a lawyer as Mr. Tilden was incompetent to state his intentions so that they could be properly carried out. In a learned article from the pen of one of the law professors of Harvard, is given the reason for the miscarriage of the Tilden trust. "It may be ascribed to defects in the legislative and judicial system of New York, by which public bequests are deprived of that protection accorded them in other States."

But all of Mr. Tilden's relatives were not content to see his apparent intentions frustrated. One of them, a niece, Mrs. William A. Hazard, decided to the executor her entire right in the property, estimated at over two millions of dollars, for the purposes of establishing the Tilden Library.

The consolidation of these three libraries was effected in 1895. And the present building occupies an entire square. It is one of the architectural masterpieces of modern New York, and its interior is said to leave nothing to be desired from the librarian's point of view. It cost \$2,500,000.

It has an invested endowment of \$4,500,000, and Mr. Carnegie has recently given \$3,000,000 to endow its system of branch libraries in the city. This library is now eleventh in number of books in the libraries of the world.

Mr. Melvil Dewey, the greatest library authority in the world, belongs properly in the foreground of any view of the library interests of New York State and city. While student-librarian in the grand old college li-

brary of Amherst College, Massachusetts, he devised the scheme of classification which has made his name famous. This is known as the Decimal System. He has been the leading spirit of the American Library Association, and organizer and promoter of the traveling library system. An extract from one of his talks to young librarians will illustrate his mind and methods: "When I began this work in New York there were forty free libraries and forty thousand safoons, so that by the law of averages, a boy leaving home in the evening, would pass 999 open doors with a cordial welcome to the worst influences, to every one door inviting him to the companionship of wholesome books. I began to realize that if librarians were to do their best work they must have the aggressive spirit, and adopt the aggressive methods of those who make other enterprises most successful."