

C O P Y.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
City of New York,

February 14, 1902.

HON SETH LOW,

M a y o r.

Dear Mr. Low:

My attention has been called by some criticisms in the press, to the terms of a bill to incorporate the Brooklyn Public Library and to permit the other libraries in Brooklyn to convey their property thereto. It was introduced by Mr. Morgan and is known as No. 762. The criticism is against the eighth and ninth sections, sections, I think, which do not appear in the draft which was shown to us last December, and which would permit at least a third of the stockholders of the private libraries to require the City to buy their stock. It would seem to me that the bill ought to be amended so as to provide for a free conveyance of library properties to the City, and that the Brooklyn Library gets sufficient compensation by having eleven out of twenty-two appointed trustees. If I am not mistaken, none of these private libraries are dividend paying stock corporations, so that the stockholders will not lose anything by giving their property to the City.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Edward M. Grout, Comptroller.

Apr. 5-10 am

COPY.

John



Brooklyn, N. Y., March 8, 1902.

Hon. Nevada N. Stranahan,

Chairman Committee on Affairs of Cities,

Senate Chamber, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, trustees of the Brooklyn Library in the Borough of Brooklyn, respectfully request the favorable consideration of your committee upon the bill now in the hands of your committee, entitled "An act to incorporate the Brooklyn Public Library," etc., introduced by Mr. Morgan in Assembly and being known as No. 762. If this bill shall be enacted with the amendments agreed upon at a conference between ourselves and representatives of the Brooklyn Public Library, and which amendments will be presented to you by Mr. Morgan, it is our purpose to transfer to the new corporation proposed in the bill the entire property and estate now held by us as trustees of the Brooklyn Library. This property comprises a library of 160,000 volumes, which has been accumulated during a period of more than forty years, and also a large and valuable block, with the buildings thereon, situated on Montague street in the most valuable center of Brooklyn. We believe our property to be conservatively valued at \$750,000. It is our purpose in offering this gift to make our large and important library a part of the public library system of Brooklyn, so that its valuable collections may be thrown open to the free service of all the citizens of our borough. This library has always been a

subscription library and while its revenues have been sufficient for the maintenance, the fact of a membership fee has necessarily restricted its use to a comparatively small part of our people. The assumption of its maintenance by the public library system of the city will compose but a small annual charge, such as we feel sure the municipal administration will most gladly accord. The action of the board of trustees of this library in making this proposition to the city through his honor, the Mayor, was unanimous and we are glad it has met with the approval of a very large majority of the trustees of the present Brooklyn Public Library.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) James L. Morgan, Acting President.

Theodore L. Frothingham, Recording
Secretary

Frederick A. Ward, Corresponding
Secretary.

Henry Sanger Snow, Treasurer.

A. E. Orr.

Henry W. Maxwell.

Truman J. Backus.

Simeon B. Chittenden.

Frank Lyman.

James Mc Keen.

Sanford H. Steele.

FRANK P. HILL
LIBRARIAN

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 BREVOORT PLACE

RECEIVED
APR 1 1902

*Apr. 5
84
F. P. Hill
Personal*

RECEIVED
APR 2 1902
g. lola

March 27th, 1902.

Very truly yours,

Frank P. Hill
Librarian.

Dr. James A. Canfield,
Columbia University,
New York City.

My dear Doctor,-

By active and persistent work the Morgan bill for the consolidation of Brooklyn libraries has passed the legislature and is now in the hands of Mayor Low. While there is every probability that he will favor the bill still it is best not to leave any stone unturned. The bill, as you know, is on similar lines to the New York Public Library, and the only objection made to it is because of the self-perpetuating feature. It calls for appointment by the Mayor eleven men from the old library and eleven men from the new, with the Mayor, the Comptroller and the President of the Borough ex-officio. As you will see, this gives ample security to the city, particularly as the funds are all to pass through the Comptroller's hands.

You know the value of the Montague Street collection and what it means for the city to get control of it. In addition to the books the library turns over to the new corporation real estate to

Dr. J.A.C. #2.

the value of over \$500,000. It is a gift which cannot be lightly cast aside. The bill has the approval of a large majority of the directors of both libraries. May I ask you to do what you can for us with his Honor, ^{who must sign the bill in order that it become a law} both personally and through others who may have influence with him?

G.A.S.

Very truly yours,

F.P.H.

Frank P. Bill
Librarian.

Respectfully referred to the Mayor.

James H. Conquest

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Apr. 5,

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 BREVOORT-PLACE



#56 Cotton Exchange Bldg.,

Mch. 28th, '02.



Mr. W. J. Moran,

Mayor's Office,

New York City.

My dear Mr. Moran:-

Agreeable to your suggestion as telephoned to-day,
I send you copy taken from a Senate copy of the Brooklyn Consolida-
tion Library Bill, which is from the 19th to the 23rd line of the
printed copy, page '3 , Paragraph 3;

"and the said corporation may, with the consent of
"Andrew Carnegie, or of his legal representatives
"and of the persons heretofore designated by him
"as his personal representatives for the construction
"of free libraries in the said borough of Brooklyn etc."

My desire is to know if the punctuation in the original
bill agrees with the above. The desire of the Carnegie Trustees
was, and the bill was so amended, that whenever a change of the
present contract was deemed advisable it would be necessary to
have the joint consent of Andrew Carnegie and the present repre-
sentatives, now known as the Carnegie Committee.

The seeming omission of a comma between the word repre-
sentatives and the word and would indicate by the present reading

TREASURER'S OFFICE

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 BREVOORT PLACE

W. J. M.

-2-

of the bill that with the consent alone of Andrew Carnegie the present status of the board could be changed. As this was opposed to the wishes of the Carnegie Committee, it is very necessary to compare the above with the original bill.

Hoping to hear from you as soon as possible as to when a hearing may be had on the bill, I remain,

Yours truly,

John W. Dewey
Treasurer



State of New York,
Assembly Chamber.

Albany, 3/29 1901.

New York

TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF.....

SIR:

Pursuant to the Provisions of Section 2, of Article XII, of the Constitution, I transmit herewith a certified copy of Assembly Bill Printed No. 51084
Int. No. 658, entitled "An Act

AN ACT

To incorporate the Brooklyn public library and to permit libraries in the borough of Brooklyn of the city of New York to convey their property thereto, and limiting and defining the powers thereof.

2 4/5

" which was passed by the Legislature, on the 27th day of March 1901.

Please fill out enclosed blank and return to me upon receipt thereof.

Very respectfully yours,

A. C. Baxter
Clerk of the Assembly.

Call *March 10* Library Consolidation. 1902.

It rests now with the Cities Committee of the State Senate to determine whether or not the pending proposition for the consolidation of the Brooklyn Library with the Brooklyn Public Library shall be effected. Everything which the Board of Directors of the two libraries could do to carry out the proposed plan has been done. The corporation of the Brooklyn Library, by a unanimous vote, made its proposition to the city through the Mayor and embodied the plan for effecting it in the bill upon which Senator Stranahan's committee will give a hearing to-morrow afternoon. The directors of the Brooklyn Public Library, on their part, have carefully and thoroughly considered the proposition and have suggested certain amendments to it which have been promptly accepted by the proposers.

The Eagle is informed that sixteen of the twenty-two members of the Public Library board, including all of its officers, have announced themselves in favor of the enactment of the bill with the amendments now agreed upon. The two libraries concerned are, therefore, in substantial accord. Those who constitute these bodies are representative citizens of Brooklyn, thoroughly conversant with library administration, whose conclusion upon such a matter as that proposed should, and, we doubt not, does, represent the intelligent judgment of the people of Brooklyn. It is, therefore, in the power of the Senate committee and of the Senate itself either to give to or to withhold from the people of Brooklyn a great public benefit. The Eagle does not question the conclusion which those bodies will reach after to-morrow's hearing. The bill, with the amendments

upon by the board of the two libraries should be promptly reported by the committee and its speedy passage secured in the Senate.

Andrew Carnegie has given to Brooklyn the opportunity to secure a great system of branch circulating libraries. The Brooklyn Library gives to the people of Brooklyn the opportunity to add to this a great central reference collection, suitably housed, and supplemented by a large and valuable endowment, the proceeds of which will ultimately be available for the permanent increase and enrichment of this central library. Taken together, the gifts of Mr. Carnegie and of the Brooklyn Library will give to Brooklyn one of the largest and best free public library systems of the country. The opportunity to secure the second gift should no more be lost than was that to secure the first. With Mr. Carnegie's well understood desire that this library

consolidation shall be carried out, it would be the sheerest folly to take issue in any conceivable way. The Eagle has not been able to discover any public sentiment in this community in opposition to the plan, and we are convinced that so much of objection as has already found expression will be permanently silenced from the moment when the Legislature stamps so great a public benefaction with the seal of its approval.

The corporation which will administer the new library has been wisely planned, and in its method of organization follows precedents which have long commended themselves to the people of our city. The municipal government will be well represented upon the new board, and it will exercise abundant supervision and control both over the city's appropriations for the public library and over their expenditure. Such amendments to the pending bill as have been suggested by the Controller have been promptly accepted, and the measure in its present form will, in the opinion of that officer, fully protect the public interests. The Eagle hopes that Brooklyn's representatives in Senate and Assembly, irrespective of party affiliation, will use their best efforts to promote the passage of the Morgan bill.

Call *March 27* Pass the Morgan Bill. 1902.

The Morgan bill, for the consolidation of the Brooklyn Library with the Public Library here, has been passed by the Assembly, and is waiting in the Senate Cities Committee for favorable report. Such report is expected by its friends, but the fight which has so far been made against the measure may be renewed in the Senate. If it should be and should win there the effect would be a very serious injury to library interests in Brooklyn. The opponents of the bill insist that the Library Board in Brooklyn shall not be self-perpetuating, although the board of the New York Library in Manhattan with which this is affiliated is to be renewed in that way, and represents in the first place the Astor, Tilden and Lenox foundations, just as this board under the Morgan bill would represent the Brooklyn Library and the Public Library here. The point is a purely academic one, and the opponents of the Morgan bill no doubt think that if they win the trustees of the Brooklyn Library will go on with the consolidation. That, however, is not the fact. These men have built up the library, by endowments and a long course of meeting deficiencies in the yearly income. This property they have created, for the public use to be sure, but for public use under their own supervision. That was the system in vogue when the Brooklyn Library was founded, and these men believe in it and do not choose to depart from it. They have an undoubted right to do with their own as they will. What they will do, if they are denied representation on the Public Library Board, is to sell their building and to turn their collections over to somebody, which will permit their representation on the governing board; either the Long Island Historical Society, where the volumes would be closed against every one save subscribers, or to the New York Public Library. These collections have been made with special reference to Brooklyn. There are packages of clippings about Brooklyn people and Brooklyn affairs which are priceless here, and comparatively useless anywhere else. These the passage of the Morgan bill will secure. Its defeat will scatter them. The bill should be passed.

Call *March 27* Morgan Bill Has Passed. 1902.

The Assembly to-day passed the Morgan bill with the amendments made in the Senate, none of which interferes with the purpose of that measure to secure for Brooklyn the consolidation of the old Brooklyn Library with the public library system, soon to be greatly enlarged here by the Carnegie gift. The bill now goes to Mayor Low and then to Governor Odell. Both of those men appreciate the object and the necessity of the measure and neither of them is likely to be taken in by the specious cry that this bill is dangerous because it places the control of public money in private hands. That cry, in fact, was merely a pretext to serve for the defeat of the bill, while the real objection to it was personal animosity engendered in small minds in the course of a local fight. The real question was not whether these libraries should be consolidated and whether the trustees of the Brooklyn Library, who were ready to turn over their valuable collection of books and documents to the city, ought to have a share in the control of the institution to which their money and their library went. That principle is recognized in making up the boards of trustees of colleges, of hospitals and public institutions everywhere which receive private bequests and also public moneys. It is recognized in the control of the public library in Manhattan with which this library is to be affiliated. On the justice and wisdom of such an arrangement as an abstract proposition practical men are everywhere substantially agreed. Here in Brooklyn, however, the consolidation movement developed a petty personal fight which has injured the management of the public library in other respects than this. The personal ambition of a few men to write a capital-I, or a capital-C, as large as possible on public affairs grew into a determination to force men who stood ready to give a valuable library to the city to take orders from men who gave to the free library movement here nothing but wind and obstruction.

This opposition was so swelled at home through the form of meetings and indorsements that it became dangerous at Albany, through misunderstanding of its real import. That legislators have been made to understand the real animus behind the cry of public control for public funds is due to the activity of Henry Sanger Snow. He has camped on the trail of the campaign of bluff and bluster at Albany and he has beaten it. Next to the men who have built up the Brooklyn Library and now stand ready to turn it over to the city, Brooklyn is indebted to Mr. Snow for the fact that this valuable collection will stay here, that it will become the property of the borough, with free access to it by everybody to whom the collections can be of use.

CITY OF NEW YORK.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

March 31st, 1902.

PURSUANT to the Constitution and Statutes in such case made and provided, I hereby fix April 5th, 1902, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the office of the Mayor in the City Hall in the City of New York, as the time and place for a public hearing concerning the bill passed by the Legislature, entitled

"A N A C T

To incorporate the Brooklyn public library and to permit libraries in the borough of Brooklyn of the city of New York to convey their property thereto, and limiting and defining the powers thereof".

I designate the New York Times and the Commercial Advertiser as the two daily newspapers in which public notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be given by publishing of notice thereof on April 2nd and 3rd, 1902.

John L.

M A Y O R.

M.

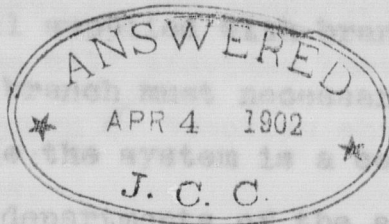
FRANK P. HILL
LIBRARIAN

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 BREVOORT PLACE



April 1, 1902.

Hon. Seth Low, Mayor,
New York City.



Dear Sir;

As librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library I should like to state briefly some of the reasons for the consolidation of the Brooklyn libraries as proposed by Senate bill number 1084. I do this with great satisfaction because a large majority of the Board of Directors voted at a recent meeting to use every effort to secure the passage of the Morgan library bill. I speak in the interests of the people of this borough, and have in mind the future advantages that will accrue to them if the act passed by the Legislature is signed by the Mayor and Governor. And I believe those advantages more than counterbalance the objection (and there is only one) which has been made to the bill.

Naturally I look at the matter from the viewpoint of a librarian. The question, it seems to me, is a practical not a theoretical one. Here is a definite offer to the city of a gift of 160,000 volumes and \$500,000 in money, and all the donors ask is that there shall be some continuity and permanency in the management. This is a universal precaution taken by those who make endowments - and this gift is certainly of that nature.

The value of the real estate is better known to others than to

me, but it is admitted even by the opponents of the bill that it is at least \$500,000.

Brooklyn is well supplied with branch libraries, but the number of books at any one branch must necessarily be small. What it needs now to complete the system is a central library thoroughly equipped in all the departments of the arts and sciences. The Brooklyn Library forms a substantial nucleus for a central reservoir from which the whole community can draw.

The following are a few points in favor of the bill:-

1. So far as the books are concerned the collection represents the accumulation of over forty years. They were selected by broad-minded men who had in mind a library which should be of use to the student of every art and science as well as to the mere novel reader. How well they succeeded may be gathered ^{from} the fact that if the wealth of the city of New York were turned over to the directors the books could not be duplicated in twenty-five years, as thousands are out of print and could be picked up only at second hand dealers or auction sales from time to time, while several hundreds are so unique and valuable as to be almost priceless.

2. The liberal spirit shown by the directors of the Brooklyn Library enabled the people to enjoy the privileges of a public, though not free, library for more than forty years before the free library system was inaugurated. Credit and consideration are due such men for this work; and it seems quite proper that, in turning over their property to the city, the directors should make sure that it would continue to be used for educational purposes as originally

intended, and managed by a somewhat permanent board of trustees such as the bill provides.

3. The interests of the taxpayers and of the city would be protected because the bill provides that the Mayor, Comptroller and President of the Borough of Brooklyn shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees.

4. Both boards of directors approve the bill in all its features, the Brooklyn Public Library Board first investigating the matter thoroughly by visiting some of the leading cities in the country. The investigation proved to them conclusively, after conversation with the trustees and librarians that the self-perpetuating feature of the bill was the safest and best.

Appended are copies of letters prepared by the governing boards and sent to the Cities Committee of the Senate.

5. To my mind, as a librarian, having studied the effect of different forms of library management for the past twenty years, the self perpetuating feature of the bill is a most valuable one, for aside from protecting the interests of both libraries, it insures to the public a stable and safe policy entirely outside of politics. The people are not interested so much in the way the institution is organized as in the way it is managed, and they are served. It is results they are after; and these are secured under the management proposed by this bill.

6. The bill provides for an organization similar to that now governing the New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden foundations. The principle of government is the same even though it has been stated that the public library is a city institution

whereas the New York Public Library was a private corporation at the time the law was passed last year enabling the city to enter into the same kind of a contract which is now proposed for the consolidation of the two Brooklyn libraries.

7. Many libraries and institutions have the self perpetuating feature, notably the New York Public Library, the Utica Public Library, Salem, Mass. Public Library, and in part the Free Library of Philadelphia, Carnegie Library of Pittsburg and nearly every library where a gift of books or money has been presented. Nearly every college and university even though receiving state funds is under similar management. In our own city we have for examples the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Metropolitan Museum, University of the City of New York; and in the state, Cornell University.

8. People who give money to educational institutions desire that the management shall be upon a permanent basis, and that is why large donations are received by universities and libraries in preference to boards of education.

9. Andrew Carnegie upon learning that the directors of both libraries were favorable to the consolidation under the terms of the bill, indorsed the proposition in the following terms:-

"Permit me to say that all parties without exception favor consolidation of libraries in Brooklyn. It seems to all of us most desirable, and I bespeak your aid in its prompt passage."

Mr. Carnegie's attitude in this matter all along has been that whatever the governing parties of the two libraries decided upon would be acceptable to him.

The Clippings are Eagle Editorials voicing the opinion of a large majority of the people.

10. The facts presented in a letter written by Mr. Melvil Dewey to Senator Stranahan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Cities, are worthy of serious consideration. (A copy is appended.)

11. There is a strong probability that if this bill becomes a law the Long Island Historical Society with its valuable collection will be turned over to the new corporation; and there is also a strong probability that unless the bill passes in its present form the books of the Brooklyn Library will be turned over to the Long Island Historical Society and become lost to the general reading public of the city.

12. The Legislature can at any time amend the bill if any feature is not heartily indorsed by the people.

The consolidation of the Brooklyn Public Library and the Brooklyn Library as proposed in this bill will give to Brooklyn the best library system in the country, - better at the moment of consolidation than Philadelphia, Detroit, St. Louis, Pittsburg or Chicago - and destined to outstrip every city in the United States. It is not every community that has such an opportunity, and I trust that Brooklyn will be able to reap the benefits of this generous offer.

I feel justified in asking you to approve the measure as such action would mean so much to the library and educational interests of Brooklyn.

Respectfully yours,

Frank P. Hill
Librarian.

3 enclosures & Clippings
The Clippings an "Eagle" editorials voicing the opinion of a large majority of the people.

April 5



STATE OF NEW YORK.
Assembly Chamber

166 Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

~~Albany~~ April 2, 1902

Hon. Seth Low,
Mayor, City of New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt this morning of a notification from the Assistant Corporation Counsel in the office of the Mayor that a public hearing will be held on Senate Reprint #1084 of my Assembly Bill, entitled

A N A C T

To incorporate the Brooklyn public library and to permit libraries in the borough of Brooklyn of the City of New York to convey their property thereto, and limiting and defining the powers thereof,

and setting down such hearing for April 5, 1902, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

It is with great regret that I will not be able to be present at the time of such public hearing, for I am to go to Gettysburg on that day with a Legislative Committee. This engagement is of some weeks standing and cannot be postponed.

I regret that I will not be present especially because of the misrepresentation and misstatement of facts which have appeared in the public press, not only in regard to the nature and purposes of the bill, but even in some cases, reflections have been cast upon the methods of its passage through the Assembly.

The Bill was sent to me by Mr. Snow, with whom I had had one



STATE OF NEW YORK.
Assembly Chamber.

Albany April 2, 1902

Hon. Seth Low,--2

previous conversation and was introduced by me on February 6th, and took the usual course of local legislation, having its first and second reading and ordered to a third reading upon the day of its introduction.. I received no communication from any person opposing the bill and I was not aware of any serious opposition to the measure until the bill came up for final passage on Wednesday the 19th of February. At that time the bill was attacked by Mr. McKeown the leader of the Brooklyn Democrats in the Assembly. Upon its passage, the next day I communicated with ex-mayor Boody, who had telegraphed me in regard to the measure, assuring him that I would hold the bill in the Senate and make no further move in regard to it until any opposition which there might be to the measure, should have a full and proper hearing. This course was taken and I personally, notified Mr. Eastmond, whom I have understood to be the leader of the opposition of the date of the hearing in the Senate, and I had public notice published in the Brooklyn papers.

A full hearing was held in the Senate where the opposition appeared in force and, after discussion in the Committee, the bill was reported favorably and passed by a vote of 31 to 15. The bill was then returned to the Assembly and certain amendments put in by the Senate, chiefly at the suggestion of Comptroller Grout, concurred



STATE OF NEW YORK.
Assembly Chamber.

Albany April 2, 1882.

Hon. Seth Low,--3

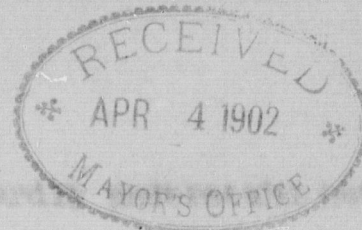
in by the Assembly. I may add that no hearing was ever requested not even upon the day of the first passage of the bill in the Assembly (Feb. 19) when the bill was attacked and when, if a hearing had been requested, such hearing would have been cheerfully granted.

I will not go into a discussion of the merits of the bill because I feel assured that from the interest which it has aroused, both sides of the question will be adequately presented. I believe this measure is for the best interests of the free public library system of the Borough of Brooklyn, and when the dust created by the opposition largely, in my judgment from a misunderstanding of its effects, has settled, that your course in approving this bill, (which I earnestly hope you will) will be heartily endorsed.

Very respectfully yours,

Johnnie Morgan

COPY.



Hon. Nevada N. Stranahan,
Senate Chamber.

Dear Senator Stranahan -

I listened for an hour to the argument of the opponents to the bill for the Brooklyn libraries. I had to say to them that without having heard a syllable from the friends of the bill, their attacks convinced me that it ought to pass and speedily in the public interest. It certainly would be a very great misfortune to lose the consolidation, and the more I think about it the more strongly I feel that the Legislature ought to pass the bill and give those who are trying so hard to afford satisfactory library privileges to the great city of Brooklyn a fair chance. Their hands are tied by present conditions and failure to pass the bill would leave them in a serious dilemma.

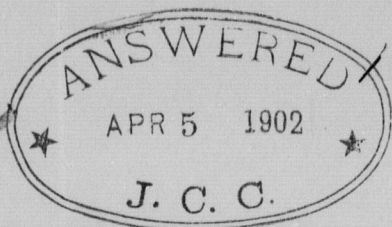
I know you will give weight to my opinion for my life has been spent in the library world, and you know that it will be absolutely uninfluenced by any consideration except public good. In fact, it so happens that the people with whom I am most friendly are unfortunately opposed to the bill and I had to tell them firmly, but kindly, that the best interests of the public require that their arguments be promptly overruled. The objections raised with such vehemence are certainly fanciful. This country has always intrusted its institutions of higher education, which our law says included libraries, to boards of trustees filling their own vacancies. There has been no more honest, economical and efficient

done than by these institutions, and I can hardly understand how any man at once intelligent and fair can pretend to fear for the public welfare because the Brooklyn Library is allowed to be organized like the New York Public Library. All speculation as to the revolutionary character of allowing public property to be in the hands of a board seems to me fanciful and far-fetched. That board is dependent on the public for appropriations and support and is in no more danger of abusing its trust than are the trustees of colleges and universities of the country. In fact, it is much less so because those boards are not dependent on public appropriations and the finger on the purse string is an all-powerful check. I can see no danger whatever in the proposed plan.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Melvil Dewey.

Apr 5
J.C.C.



69 So Elliott Place
Brooklyn.
April 4, 1902

Hon. Seth Low
My dear Sir

As I shall not be able to be present
at the hearing tomorrow in regard to the
Morgan Library Bill - permits me to urge you
to sign it and thus secure to the Literary
of Brooklyn a control and management
in which all citizens, not prejudiced in
favor of political direction of educational
institutions, shall have confidence -

The more complete the severance of our
Library System from politics the better
results may be expected from it -

No heed should be given to the vandal
Home Rule business - Good Citizens, under
the law will be continually in charge

Yours truly
J. C. Cooper

*Apr. 5
10 am.*
Job



The Honorable Seth Low,
Mayor of the City of New York.

We, the undersigned citizens of the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York, respectfully request you to refrain from approving the bill known as Assembly Bill No. 762, introduced by Mr. Morgan and passed by the Senate, and present the following specific objections:---

- I: It proposes to create a self-perpetuating body of control for a public educational institution to be supported out of public funds.
- II: It proposes to convert an institution publicly founded, publicly governed and publicly sustained, into a corporation privately governed in perpetuity but supported by the taxation of the people, thus establishing a precedent which is wholly without parallel in the political history of this or any other state of the Union, and the effect of which is to deprive the community, absolutely and forever, of any control over the policy, purposes or plans of their servants and representatives.
- III: Abuse of its powers by this body will not only be encouraged by this method of control, but may be long concealed and difficult to eradicate, discouraging not only public interest, but individual support.

*Rev. Dr. E. F. Cadman, Horace R. Dresser,
Geo. F. Miller, Walter O. Burton,
Chas. O. Campbell, Edwin Steinbach,
Chas. F. Adams, John G. Hart,
Geo. Prentiss, M. J. Flaherty,
Rev. Dr. Jas. H. Darlington, Richard W. Bainbridge,*

IV: We insist that the cases of the New York Free Public Library, the Brooklyn Institution of Arts and Sciences, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and similar institutions to which reference has been repeatedly made, are in no wise relevant or reasonable, since all of these institutions were founded by private munificence and are still largely maintained by it, and are merely aided and supplemented in their work by the generosity of the ~~state~~ *city*.

V: The method of control of the proposed corporation will inevitably antagonize the very people for whom and in whose interest public libraries are established and maintained: Once let the public feel that it is to have no voice in the management of its own institutions, and all public interest dies as frost melts before the south wind.

VI: We charge this proposed bill with being unrepugnant in principle and undemocratic in practice, and unconstitutional as a matter of law.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bird S. Coler, | Ludwig Nissen, |
| Chas. A. Schieren, | Chas. N. Judson, |
| James R. Howe, | M. E. O'Conner, |
| Rev. Dr. S. P. Cadman, | Horace E. Dresser, |
| Geo. F. Elliott, | Walter C. Burton, |
| Wm. O. Campbell, | Erwin Steinback |
| Chas. F. Adams, | Jos. G. Hart, |
| Geo. Freifeld, | M. J. Flaherty, |
| Rev. Dr. Jas. H. Darlington, | Richard W. Bainbridge, |

Wm. A. Doyle,
James F. Bendernagel,
J. E. Eastmond,
Alexander G. Calder,
J. Warren Greene,
Harry A. Hanbury,
Julius F. Harder
Daniel Moynahan,
Harry R. Chittick,
Chas. T. Hoagland,
Chas. J. Edwards,
Walter H. Bunn,
Wm. McCarroll,
Dick S. Ramsay,
A. H. Eastmond,
Homer L. Bartlett, M.D.
Aug. C. Fischer,
Wm. L. Locke,
Alexander S. Bacon,

Edward M. Bassett,
John J. Williams,
Paul Eugene Jones,
Wm. S. Hurley,
John Harrigan, M. D.
Hugo Hirsch,
H. S. Worthley,
Frederick W. Hinrichs,
Wm. A. Wright,
Jos. H. Hunt, M.D.
William H. Muldoon,
H. A. Metz,
Abner S. Haight,
Chas. F. Phillips,
Dr. Arnold W. Catlin,
Jules A. Guedon,
Wm. A. Fulmer,
Henry Hentz,

COPY.

*filed
Apr. 10*
#5
RECEIVED
APR 4 1902
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Senator Nevada N. Stranahan,

Chairman on the Committee of Affairs of Cities.

Dear Sir;

The undersigned, comprising all the officers, the chairman of all standing committees and sixteen members of the board of directors of the Brooklyn Public Library, respectfully urge the favorable consideration of your committee and of the Senate upon the bill now in the hands of your committee, entitled 'An act to incorporate the Brooklyn Public Library', etc., introduced by John Hill Morgan, and known as Assembly Bill No. 762, with the amendments thereto shown upon the attached copy of the bill as printed in the Assembly.

We beg to assure you that, in our opinion, the enactment of this legislation will serve to a high degree the public library interests of the people of Brooklyn, making available, as it will, for free public library service the large and exceedingly valuable collection of books now owned by the Brooklyn Library, together with its entire real and personal estate, which will also be devoted to free public service. The aggregate value of the property which the corporation proposed to be created under this bill will receive upon this enactment amounts to not less than \$750,000. This gift which the Brooklyn Library proposes to make to the new corporation is hardly second in its value to the munificent gift of ~~the~~ Andrew Carnegie for library service in Brooklyn, and we believe that no action could be taken which would more fully supplement and effectuate

at the purpose of Mr. Carnegie's gift to create here a great free public library system. We believe the bill as now amended provides every reasonable safeguard for the interests of the libraries and of the city in relation thereto and that public sentiment in Brooklyn favors the enactment of this legislation with practical unanimity.

We, therefore, respectfully urge that your committee favorably report the bill under consideration to the Senate and that the same ~~same~~ may be duly enacted by that body.

(Signed) David A. Boody, President.

Daniel W. Mc Williams, Vice-President.

R. Ross Appleton, Secretary.

John W. Devoy, Treasurer.

Franklin W. Hooper.

W. D. Sargent.

Edward Kaufmann.

Henry Sanger Snow.

Andrew D. Baird.

Isaac H. Cary.

Fred Cocheu.

Cyrus B. Davenport.

H. F. Gunnison.

Harrington Putnam.

D. M. Somers.

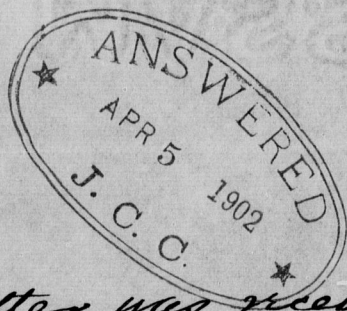
John Kepke.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 BREVOORT PLACE

H. J. Moran Esq

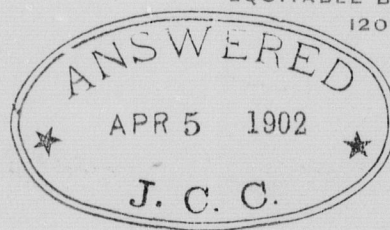
My Dear Mr Moran



The enclosed letter was received
by me from Bishop McDonnell this
morning. Its import is that he
has officially authorized the Rev
Dr M. J. James to act as his representative
in opposition to the Morgan Library bill
as the Mayor was so informed yesterday
& I need thank you to show his
Honor the letter, as it also succinctly
states the Rt. Rev. Bishop's reasons for
objecting to bill. Sincerely, Yours John W. Devoy

Apr 5 1902

Apr 5, 1902.



LAWYERS' CLUB,
EQUITABLE BUILDING,
120 BROADWAY.

Dear Mr. Low,

May I venture to suggest that, in case the "Morgan Library Bill" meets with your approval, such Memorandum of your reasons as you may see fit to make, would doubtless be of material assistance when the measure comes before the Governor.

The opposition to the bill is a vigorous one, and I am anxious to secure for it all assistance which may be properly asked.

Please consider this as a suggestion only, in the sense that the bill commends itself to your judgment.

Wm. Seth Low,
Mayor.

Very truly yours,

Henry August Brown,

CITIZENS' UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN
R. FULTON CUTTING, Manhattan

VICE-CHAIRMEN
J. WARREN GREENE, Brooklyn
FIELDING L. MARSHALL, Bronx
WILLIAM S. COGSWELL, Queens
ARTHUR M. HARRIS, Richmond

TREASURER
E. R. L. GOULD

SECRETARY
THOMAS A. FULTON



Headquarters, 38 to 44 Court Street

(Temple Bar Building)

TELEPHONE, 687 MAIN



BROOKLYN BOROUGH COMMITTEE

J. WARREN GREENE, Chairman
JOSEPH McGUINNESS, Vice-Chairman
F. L. BABBOTT, Treasurer
W. B. VERNAM, Secretary
H. G. SEAVER, Assistant Secretary

Brooklyn, *5 April* 1902.

Hon Seth Low

Dear Sir:

*In regard to the
Morgan Library Bill I am willing to
trust in the characters of the men
who would naturally be directors
in such a Public Library.*

*Especially judging from the career of
of those who have been in the Brooklyn
Library ~~the~~ and created it.*

Henry G. Seaver

SPEAKERS IN OPPOSITION TO THE BILL.
CITY OF NEW YORK,

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.
Mr. Frank Phillips.

April 5, 1902.

Mr. Alexander H. Orr.

10 A. M.

Hearing before His Honor, MAYOR LOW, on
Senate Bill No. 1084.

Mr. Charles Phillips.
THE MAYOR: Public hearing will now be given
on Senate Bill No. 1084, entitled

"AN ACT to incorporate the Brooklyn Public
Mr. Walter C. Burton.
Library and to permit libraries in the Borough of
Brooklyn of the City of New York to convey their proper-
ty thereto, and limiting and defining the powers thereof.

Is there anybody here to speak in behalf of
this bill?

SPEAKERS IN FAVOR OF THE BILL.

Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Snow.

Prof. Hooper.

Mr. Schieren, Ex-Mayor of Brooklyn.

SPEAKERS IN OPPOSITION TO THE BILL.

Mr. Fred Hinrichs.

Mr. Alexander H. Orr.

Dr. A. W. Catlin.

Mr. Charles Phillips.

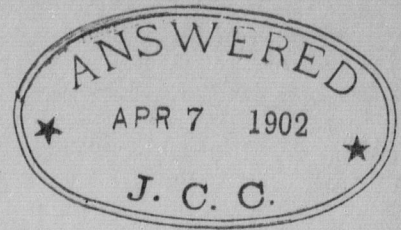
Rev. Dr. Cadman.

Mr. Walter C. Burton.

Mr. George F. Elliott.

Pratt Institute

Brooklyn, N. Y.



April 5, 1902.

The Hon. Seth Low,
City Hall, N.Y.C.

My dear Mr. Low:

Another imperative engagement prevents me from attending the hearing, this morning, before you on the question of consolidating the libraries in this Borough.

I am in favor of the bill authorizing such consolidation, first, because I think it will unify library interests here as nothing else can do. The mutual cooperation of public and private interests in such a work as this is to be greatly desired. Second, because it will bring about not only economy of administration, but a greater usefulness to the community. It would bring to the citizens of this Borough collections which it would not be possible for the public library to duplicate in several generations and which it would be unwise for the public library to duplicate so long as such independent libraries existed here.

Such consolidation would further bring about the cooperation of a strong body of interested, self-sacrificing men, who have given their time and money to the work of developing one of the best libraries in the city.

On the other hand, I cannot see how there would be any greater danger of the directors representing the private library interests abusing their privileges than there would be of such

Pratt Institute
Brooklyn, N. Y.

abuse on the part of the men representing the public library.
Either class, of course, can fail to live up to its trust, whether
elected from the private board or the public one.

Very truly yours,

James B. Pratt

FRANK L. BABBOTT,
846 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK.



New York, April 5th.1902.

City Hall, New York.

Dear Mayor Low;

I was at the hearing on the Morgan Bill this morning, and was surprised at the weakness of the arguments of the opposition. Neither side, strangely enough, said anything about the quality of service that would be rendered to the City by Boards appointed according to the methods that it respectively advocated. This is the crux of the whole question. One of our most prominent Brooklyn men told me recently that he was opposed to the Morgan Bill, but admitted that it would probably secure for the City a better administration of Library affairs than exists under the present method of appointment. I believe this is true, and that it is demonstrated by the lack of interest manifested by so many members of the present Public Library Board in the important work already entrusted to it.

I sincerely hope the Morgan Bill will receive your approval.

Very respectfully yours,

Frank L. Babbott

South Brooklyn Board of Trade

FREDERICK BRUCKBAUER, President
F. W. SINGLETON, 1st Vice-President
WM. E. CLEARY, 2d Vice-President
THOMAS GARVEY, Treasurer
J. A. HAYES, Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

270 Eleventh Street, Brooklyn
New York

April 5th 1902

At a meeting of the South Brooklyn Board of Trade the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and Secretary was instructed to forward a copy of same to Hon. Mayor Seth Low:-

WHEREAS there is now before the Mayor for his approval an act of the Legislature turning over the Brooklyn Public Library to a private corporation consisting of 22 Trustees, eleven of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor from the present Board of Trustees of the Montague Street Library, and eleven from the present board of directors of the Brooklyn Public Library, with power to fill all vacancies, thus perpetuating themselves in control of the entire library system of the Borough, with power to expend public moneys and not in any way amenable to public control: and

WHEREAS, there is also before the Mayor for his approval an act of the Legislature further increasing the great powers now vested by law in the Rapid Transit Commission, a body which is self-perpetuating and non-elective, and

WHEREAS, the creation of commissions or boards exercising control over public moneys and property, while constituted so as to be not immediately accountable to the people or to officials elected by the people, is un-American, undemocratic and subversive of all right theories of popular government; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that we record our disapproval of the two proposed laws above mentioned and urge the Mayor to withhold the sanction therefrom and

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Mayor.

J. A. Hayes Secretary

A. H. EASTMOND

VENEDOME

GRAND AND GATES AVENUES

BROOKLYN-NEW YORK April 5, 1902. 190

Hon. Seth Low,

City Hall,
N. Y. C.

New York.

Dear Sir:-

Herewith I beg to submit a brief consideration of the reasons why you should disapprove of the so-called Morgan Library Bill, as you request in your telegram of this date.

By Chapter 441 of the laws of 1892, the City of Brooklyn, was empowered to establish and maintain a system of free public libraries and reading rooms. The passage of this law and the inception of the public library movement in Brooklyn is due to a faithful band of men and women, probably especially of the latter, who labored day and night for the cause, despite discouragements offered by some of the men who now wish to get control of the Library now that it is successful.

Through the Brooklyn Public Library Association, the Common Council of Brooklyn, on Nov. 30, 1896, was induced to authorize the mayor to appoint a Board Directors, which Board with the exception of a few changes in its personnel, has carried on the work up to the present time. Notwithstanding that some mistakes were inevitable in the commencement, the work has progressed with a very remarkable rapidity, until at present there are a Traveling Libraries Department and seventeen regular circulating branches and reading rooms. Under this publically constituted and mayorally appointed board, in the last year alone, there were established nine of these branches. These libraries are near the people and they have at last become intensely interested in what many of them have in conversations with me pointed to with pride, "that here is a great educational institution which we adults may use with a feeling that it is our own, and not anybody's philanthropic offering".

I beg leave to submit that a growth such as we see here in the public library system is phenomenal when it is considered that practically the whole work has been accomplished in a very little over five years time. And where were the gentlemen who now wish to assume the control of this institution, with its immense future in the way of Carnegie libraries, reading rooms, and meeting halls? You may find, that some of these gentlemen refused to have anything to do with the public library movement or that did they so connect themselves with it, they have invariably attempted to hamper its work in various ways, both in their general attitude toward the subject and by actions within the public library board while they may have been members thereof. These facts are not all public property as much transpired either while the board was in executive session, in committee work, or by individual activity outside the library.

During these five, nay ten years, what have the trustees of the Montague Library done? In that time, if I mistake not, they have indeed had themselves constituted a self-perpetuating board by special act of the legislature, but further than this I am unable to note that any "progress" has been made along any of the true lines anxiously awaiting development. I am reliably informed that their whole real property is not of a value exceeding \$300,000. and that of all other property comprising books &c. the value cannot be as much as nearly half a million dollars which they seem to claim.

Their strongest argument seems to be that the principle of a self-perpetuating board is embodied in some of the most successful institutions in this country. I admit that fact, but it seems to me that it requires no extended investigation to show that the cases of the present library and of Cornell University, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, the Metropolitan Museum, and some others, are in no way analogous. In the first place the inception of these institutions was entirely private and munificent donations from public spirited citizens have sustained them almost entirely.

The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, organization furnishes no criterion. In inception, in maintenance, in the whole character of their work they differ totally from the Brooklyn Public Library. For many years I know there was a grievance felt by the people who have to toil and yet aspire to better things than routine labor, that that the New York Library was not open at such times as they could reap any advantage from its magnificent collections.

The New York Circulating Library, now a part of the New York Library was owned and operated by an association in whom the movement in the old City of New York had its inception. I have never hear any criticism of the way they carried on their work with the means at hand. They were an association which anyone might join and who elected their board of trustees annually, if I remember aright. There was no forcible self-perpetuation about that institution.

Within a year we have seen the New York Library with thirteen branches in Borough of Manhattan, circulate 1,600,000 books, while the seventeen branches of the Brooklyn Public Library circulated to Nov. 1st last, 1,000,000 books, showing an increase in one year in Brooklyn of over half a million volumes. Brooklyn's area and the distribution of its population is ^{uc} such that many more branches are required than in Manhattan.

The Directors of the Brooklyn Public Library have always insisted that where a consolidation was effected that it should be without conditions of any kind, except that relating to the continuance of employees. One of the branches acquired, The Union for Christian Work, had a circulation equal if not exceeding that of the Montague St. Library. The value of the various plants donated was not as valuable in money possibly as that of the proposed "gift", but they gave all they had without quibbling of any kind.

We have in Brooklyn a considerable number of employees, all of whom, with the exception of the Librarian and Asst. Librarian, are under the

protection of the Civil Service laws, which will of course fail to cover them if the proposed bill is placed on the statute books. No reference has been made to this point so far as I know by any of those advocating or opposing the Morgan Bill. This fact should be thoroughly considered in acting on the bill, for it will surely be thought of by the public when they have time to go over the transaction in all its details.

As Professor Hooper who spoke for the bill to-day, very well said, the bill restricts you in the appointment to ~~about~~ ^a "knot" of a few men, of whom at least one half come from the First Ward of Brooklyn, and as a matter of fact, I think you will find that one half of the Montague St. Library ^{Board} reside upon one street not over five blocks long. A mode of selection in this manner cannot by any stretch be called representative either according to population or geographically. The Public Library Board should be representative geographically and also of the various political and religious sentiments of the community, so that each might have a reasonable voice in the management, but that none be dominant. With practically ~~but~~ ^{but} men of ^a single interest in such a board and with the power of self-perpetuation, stagnation is sure to follow in time. The New York Public Library is a comparatively new institution and time may deal with ^{it} also as it has with others; the Erasmus Hall corporation in Brooklyn, with which you may be familiar has been gone over in detail by Dr. Homer L. Bartlett, who was one of its members, and details of its inside workings cannot make converts for the self-continuing theory.

Mr. Carnegie's gift to Brooklyn of \$1,600,000. for twenty libraries reading rooms and meeting halls, imposed ⁵ upon the city an annual expenditure of at least \$160,000 according to the terms of the contract, together with the \$40,000. appropriation made mandatory by Chapter 441 of the laws of 1892, ^{making} ~~making~~ in all an annual expenditure of \$200,000.00 over which the Board of Estimate and Apportionment have no control whatever. Our friend of the other side have said that the people would still maintain

control ● reason of the powers of the Board of Estimate, but to the extent of the sum stated this assertion is a misstatement. ~~Here~~ ^{we} have the great New York Public Library receiving only \$85,000. from the city annually, while the Brooklyn Public Library, ^{et} ~~whether~~ the Montague St Library becomes part of it or not, will annually get in the neighborhood of four times as much, probably \$350,000. Under the tentative Budget for ¹⁹⁰² ~~1901~~ the Brooklyn Public Library receives \$150,000. while the total expenditures of the New York Library was for the last year something like \$199,000., with an income of \$196,000.

It seems to me that with \$595,000. worth of bonds ^{authorized to be} ~~already~~ issued, with \$1,600,000. of the Carnegie funds, with a present plant of over \$300,000 that the Montague St Library is not making much of a gift to the city when by the most reasonable estimates their entire plant is not worth over \$450,000. As a matter of fact the Montague St. Library under the proposed measure makes a gift to itself, for if it does not absolutely control the new corporation forever, my powers of perception are very dull indeed.

What guarantee is there under the proposed merger that the meeting ^{now proposed to be} ~~halls~~, provided by the Carnegie gift, as the contract will probably be amended, shall be managed in a manner both just and equitable?

That the sentiment among the members of the Public Library Directors is not so one-sided for the bill, as the superficial indications would lead ^{one} ~~some~~ to believe, is evident when it is known that already several directors have stated that they were really against the bill, but that having signed in its favor, though by misrepresentation, that did ^{not} ~~want~~ the public to think they had proved such easy dupes in the first instance.

^{attend} Mr. Boody told me but a few days ~~a~~ ^{ago} that he would not go to Albany to the Senate hearing to argue in its behalf because he did not believe in the principles it embodied. It might not be out of place to say, what all cognizant of public matters think, that the apparent double-faced attitude of Mr. Boody is easily explained ~~to my mind~~, when I recall the reasons why I voted ~~for~~ Mr. Schieren for Mayor of Brooklyn instead of

this gentleman with whom I had been formerly associated in reform politics in the Democratic Party.

The number of people at the hearing Saturday ought to be evidence that the proportion of persons opposed to the bill is very much, in fact immeasurably larger, than that in favor of the merger.

No fault can be found with what the present Public Library Board has accomplished in the short time comparatively that it has ~~had~~ had any amount of funds at its disposal. The reasons why this Montague St. Library cannot be turned over without conditions I do not think exist in unsurmountable legal form, but arise from motives with which I hate to think some eminent gentlemen must have become imbued.

I am a thorough believer in having the library board on the same public foundation as is the Board of Education, but could it be shown beyond dispute, which I very much doubt, that the Montague St. Library could not be turned over to the city direct, I think a bill should be framed that while it provided for a corporation, if that be necessary, should have the initial appointments of directors lodged with a public official, the terms say for five to seven years, and reappointments made in the same manner as the initial ones, or if self-perpetuating that the city should not turn its property over to the corporation, but that the Board of Estimate be empowered to make annual contracts with such a body for the library systems maintenance. This would be repugnant to me but it is the very farthest I would be willing to go. I feel that if the private library wants to make their property free to the people they have the right to make terms with the Board of Estimate so that the city may supply funds, if necessary under a special act, so that while it would be free the present board of trustees might still have the honor of running it without any expenses whatever to themselves. As the latter method is such an easy and most natural one, why is it that these gentlemen do not resort to it when the spirit of great beneficence seized them so suddenly.

I am sure there is not in Brooklyn a single person that opposes the consolidation of the two libraries, but I believe the whole sentiment of the community when acquainted with the matter will be that the terms of the bill as it stands are outrageous and unreasonable.

If this measure become law, I can assure you from what I know of the sentiment in Brooklyn, that no one will be able to keep the question of the administrations attitude on it out of political discussion in the next mayoralty campaign, for it is one on which many here feel very deeply

Such a measure as the one before you would never have been presented to a Democratic administration in the City of New York, or if it got as far as the Mayor, would have received scant courtesy, as they are never so callous as to miss the political import of such an enactment.

Not only is the matter one of political importance, but a very large body of the religious community feel strongly that it is a direct effort to exclude them from a fair representation on an essentially public body, because of the restrictions that the law would impose on your appointing power.

I must apologize for the hasty manner in which this is written, but the very limited time at my disposal after receiving your telegram today precluded anything better.

With assurances of highest respect for Your Honor, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

A. H. Eastmond

P.S. Lawyers have informed me that the bill being in the nature of a contract is irrevocable legislation, as well as mandatory

A. H. Eastmond

(Copy)

Brooklyn, N. Y., March 7th, 1902.

Hon. Nevada S. Stranahan,
Chairman Committee on Affairs of Cities,
Senate Chamber,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, comprising all the officers, the Chairmen of all the Standing Committees, and sixteen of the twenty-two members of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Public Library, respectfully urge the favorable consideration of your Committee and of the Senate upon the Bill now in the hands of your Committee, entitled "An Act to Incorporate The Brooklyn Public Library" etc., introduced by Mr. John Hill Morgan and known as Assembly Bill No. 762, with the amendments thereto shown upon the attached copy of the Bill as printed in Assembly.

We beg to assure you that, in our opinion, the enactment of this legislation will serve in a high degree the public library interests of the people of Brooklyn, making available, as it will, for free public library service the large and exceedingly valuable collection of books now owned by The Brooklyn Library, together with its entire real and personal estate, which will also be devoted to free public service. The aggregate value of the property which the corporation proposed to be created under this Bill will receive upon its enactment amounts to not less than \$750,000. This gift which The Brooklyn Library proposes to make to the new corporation is hardly second in its value to the munificent gift of Andrew Carnegie for library service in Brooklyn and we believe that no

2

action could be taken which would more fully supplement and effectuate the purpose of Mr. Carnegie's gift to create here a great free public library system. We believe the Bill as now amended provides every reasonable safeguard for the interests of the Libraries and of the City in relation thereto and that public sentiment in Brooklyn favors the enactment of this legislation with practical unanimity.

We, therefore, respectfully urge that your Committee favorably report the Bill under consideration to the Senate and that the same may be duly enacted by that body.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed by) David A. Boody, President,
Daniel W. McWilliams, Vice-Pres't,
R. Ross Appleton, Secretary,
John W. Devoy, Treasurer,
Andrew D. Baird,
Isaac H. Cary,
Fred C. Cocheu,
Cyrus B. Davenport,
Herbert F. Gunnison,
Edward Kaufmann,
John Kepke,
Harrington Putnam,
Wm. Dunlap Sargent,
Henry Sanger Snow,
Daniel M. Somers,
Franklin W. Hooper.

RT. REV. AS. E. McDONNELL, D.D.,
HONORARY PRESIDENT.

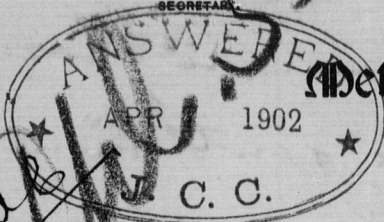
REV. WM. F. MCGINNIS, D.D.,
PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM J. CARR,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

JOHN DEVINE,
SECRETARY.

JAMES A. ROONEY,
PRESS CORRESPONDENT.

FRANCIS C. HEENAN,
TREASURER.



Metropolitan Truth Society,

225 SIXTH AVENUE,

Brooklyn, N.Y. April 7, 1902

Hon. Seth Low, Mayor.

Dear Sir:

I trust that by this time you have concluded that in the interest of the people of this Borough it were best not to sign the Morgan Library Bill. As I informed you last Friday, the Bill is certainly hostile to our Catholic people who number at least 400,000 in this Borough and commissioned by the Bishop I made you acquainted with that fact.

It is, of course, possible, that you may have made up your mind to sign the bill, notwithstanding our protest and that of the citizens headed by Ex-Mayor Schieuan. In this case, might I request you to obtain for us some understanding as to the modus operandi of the new Library system in regard to Catholic interests. The members of the respective Board may not be bigoted, but your

Honor will readily appreciate the fact that we do not wish to be put in the position of supplicants; - begging these gentlemen to put such and such works upon the shelves.

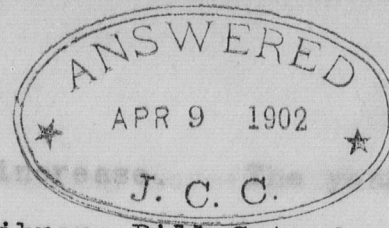
Were there some respectable representation of our people on the Board these interests would not be neglected, therefore before the matter is settled, I would again beg Your Honor, either to veto the Bill or obtain for us some definite assurance that this Society may be officially recognized, that Catholic works recommended by us will be purchased without delay, or whatever just working plan may be possible.

With highest esteem and best wishes for your honest efforts in the cause of good government, I remain, dear sir,

Very truly yours,

Wm. F. Mc Ginnis.

To the Honorable Seth Low,
Mayor, of the City of New York.
Sir:-



At the hearing on the Morgan Library Bill Saturday morning, some things were left unsaid by the opponents of the bill which might have been said, truthfully, and some things were said by the supporters of the bill which were said untruthfully.

1st. A parallel was drawn between the consolidated library which will result from the Morgan bill, and various institutions in New York City. Mr. Orr's speech proceeded on the idea that the New York Library situation was similar to that in Brooklyn.

What are the facts? These:-

All the institutions named by Mr. Snow and yourself were founded by private beneficence and maintained by private means for sometime before the city, in recognition of the public character of their work, granted them a subsidy. The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden foundations, has invested funds to the extent of over \$4,000,000, with an annual income of almost \$200,000. In last year's city budget the amount appropriated for the New York Public Library is stated as \$85,650. Add to this \$100,000 to represent the interest on and provision for the sinking fund of \$2,000,000 of bonds issued for the Bryant Park Building, and you have \$185,650 as the total annual grant from the city to an institution with an annual income of \$200,000 and a plant worth \$4,000,000.

In Brooklyn the grant to the Public Library last year was

\$150,000, and in succeeding years must increase. The year before last it was \$100,000. The Brooklyn Library, in consideration of being allowed to run the Public Library in perpetuity, turns over to the use of the public a plant worth \$600,000, with an annual income insufficient to run that plant, So that the entire institution must be maintained in the future solely out of the city treasury to the extent at least of \$200,000 annually.

| | Value of private property. | Annual income. | Granted by the city annually. | Founded. |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| N.Y. Public Library, | \$4,000,000 | \$200,000 | \$185,650 | privately. |
| Proposed Brooklyn Public Library, | 600,000 | none. | 200,000 | publicly. |

Mr. Snow declared that the New York Public Library was the model on which the Morgan bill was drawn, because the situations were so similar. If there is similarity, Mr. Mayor, you should sign the bill. If not, you should not. Is there similarity? It is this absolute dissimilarity which is the fundamental difference between the New York Library and the Brooklyn Library ^{and} which has been overlooked.

Since it was the supposed precedent of these already existing institutions which furnished the chief argument to the supporters of the bill, the bill should fall with the argument, which is shown by the facts to be no argument.

in its 11 2nd. - A point not mentioned Saturday morning may be worthy your consideration. At present the employees of the public library are governed by the civil service rules of the city and state. In the proposed library made possible by the Morgan bill, they will still be paid by the city, but their entrance and continuance in the library service will be solely governed by the board and its librarian. The nature of the work in the library, and the character of the employees, who are almost without exception women, coupled with the fact that the library will be supported solely by the people's money, demand that the institution be not withdrawn from the operation of the state and city civil service rules. If there is any one set of people who are entitled to the protection of the general civil service law of the state and city, it is the employees of a public library whose salaries are paid by the people.

the people even of the poorest districts, and whose usefulness increases as the humblest more and more realizes that these libraries which is now taking place, is going hand in hand with the idea that are not alone for him but of him. Believe me, the scheme of the they should not only be for the people but of the people. This is Morgan bill is death to the success of this idea which has been shown by the fact that the directors of the majority of the public libraries, including the great Boston Library, are appointed by the

or elected by the people.
Mayor. Where you find otherwise, you will find a situation similar to that in New York. The purpose of the many branches scattered through a large city is that each should be a centre of influence by

the Mayor, 2 from the Brooklyn Library, the 4 Carnegie trustees, and

in its little locality. From some experience in the matter I am able to say that Brooklyn is peculiarly adapted to the working out of this admirable idea, and that insofar as twenty odd branches, established for the most part within the last year, can show anything, they show that unmistakably. If ever the dream of non-partisanship in large municipalities be made a reality, it will be through such means as these. But to command the confidence of the people it must not be administered by the "best" people for the rest of the people. The library question in Brooklyn is not that of the maintenance of a fine reference library alone, but the working out of a novel social experiment, in a place peculiarly adapted to its success, and aided rather than otherwise by the fact that its beginning was entirely public in character. We have now in Brooklyn twenty odd free public libraries that are already in close touch with the people even of the poorest districts, and whose usefulness ^{person} increases as the humblest more and more realizes that these libraries are not alone for him but of him. Believe me, the scheme of the Morgan bill is death to the success of this idea which has been implanted here in Brooklyn.

4th. - And finally, Mr. Mayor, would not the following propositions, everything considered, be both fair and feasible? - The consolidated board to consist, say of 20 men, to be appointed by the Mayor, 8 from the Brooklyn Library, the 4 Carnegie trustees, and

8 from the city at large; the term of office to be 10 years, 2 to be appointed each year, and the longer terms of the first appointees to go to the Heights representatives, all succeeding appointments to be made by the Mayor, 2 each year as the terms successively expire. The library to be recognized as a public institution, as are the schools. The Brooklyn Library people would never lose their representation, for they or those whom they would recommend would be reappointed when their terms expired.

If such a bill had been presented, you would not now be confronted with the unprecedented request to turn over the control of purely public funds to a self-perpetuating ~~party~~ body, one-half the membership of which is not at all proportionate to what it represents.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Samuel
Samuel.

160 Midwood Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

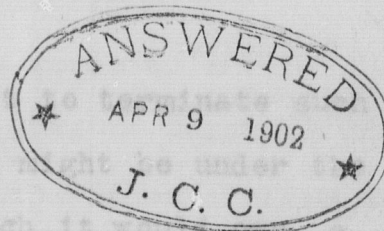
April 7, 1902.

Cornwall
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM.



Brooklyn, N.Y. April 9th, 1902.



Hon. Seth Low,

Mayor.

My dear Mr. Low:

There are one or two points in reference to the "Morgan Library Bill," now under consideration by you, which, by reason of the time limitation placed on me at the hearing last Saturday, I was unable to make and which I think important for your consideration.

The statement was made that, if this Bill becomes law, the arrangement to be entered into between the new library corporation and the city can never be departed from because it will partake of the nature of a contract. That statement is wholly inaccurate. The Bill creates a corporation authorized to administer free public libraries in Brooklyn. It then authorizes and empowers (but does not compel) the city to contract with that corporation for the maintenance of the city's free libraries in Brooklyn, and it authorizes the Board of Estimate to make such appropriation as it deems necessary to carry out the terms of such contract. I see no reason why that contract should necessarily be made otherwise than from year to year and if, at any time, the city is dissatisfied with the method of execution of the contract by the library corporation, there is nothing to prevent it from terminating the contract and arranging for the maintenance of its Brooklyn free libraries through such other agency as it may see fit to provide. The ownership of the free public libraries will still remain in the city where also, of course, the title to the new Carnegie libraries will vest. The utmost that would result, so far as

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the city is concerned, should it at any time see fit to terminate such a contract, would be that the new library corporation might be under the necessity of again making the Brooklyn Library, which it would own, a subscription library in case the termination of a contract with the city should withdraw the funds necessary for its support. The present Bill simply harmonizes the method of administering the public libraries in Brooklyn with that already obtaining in Manhattan.

Secondly, I may call your attention to the fact that this Bill is precisely similar in principle to the Bill approved by your Honor last week for transferring the custody of the Aquarium to the Zoological Society. That body is also a private corporation specially qualified to discharge that special duty and, under the terms of the Bill mentioned, the Board of Estimate is authorized to make an annual appropriation to that corporation to provide for the care and maintenance by it of the Aquarium.

With the ex officio representation which the city has on the Board of the new library corporation; with the absolute control by the city of the terms of such contract as may be entered into; with its control also, annually, of the appropriations for support of the free library, and with the supervision over its expenditures reserved to the Comptroller, it seems to me that, in view of the very great benefit which will ensue to the people of Brooklyn, if the great Brooklyn Library is opened for free public service, the single objection made to the Bill --- that the corporate Directors shall fill vacancies which may arise in the Board --- should not defeat this project. The Brooklyn Eagle and the Standard-Union have declared themselves in favor of the Bill. The Citizen and the Times have

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opposed it. The Eagle especially has, by numerous forceful editorials during the past three months, emphasized the importance to Brooklyn of the proposed legislation. May I add finally that my experience of five or six years as a Director of the Public Library, and for the past three years Chairman of its Administration Committee, has made clear to me the great value which will result to it from the consolidation?

Very respectfully yours,

Mary Tanya How

DAVID A. BOODY.

CHAS. W. McLELLAN.

HENRY T. BOODY.

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Hon. Seth Low, Mayor,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

As the Morgan Library Bill is about to come before you, permit me to say that the Brooklyn Public Library has already approved this measure. I do not know that there remains a single dissenting member. We all hope that the measure will become a law as promptly as possible.

Very truly yours,

Donie A. Bray,
Pres. The Brooklyn Public Library



To His Honor, the Mayor of the City of New York.

Your Honor is respectfully asked to note carefully the following fact, regarding the Morgan Library bill, which is now submitted to Your Honor's consideration for such action as may be deemed necessary in the interest of the community.

1. This bill, which seeks to convert a municipal institution publically founded, publically governed and publically supported, into a corporation privately governed in perpetuity, - though maintained by the taxation of the people, is a measure fraught with the most dangerous consequences to free institutions and to the polity of the State, and would, if it were to become a law, establish a precedent without a parallel in the political history of the country. As the price of a relatively small amount of property, which should come to the public as an unconditional gift, it demands the sacrifice of a principle held sacred by every citizen who recognizes his rights and his responsibilities.

2. This bill, though vitally affecting the present status and future usefulness of the Brooklyn Public Library, was prepared, presented and urged upon its passage without the slightest consultation with the directors of that institution, who, as public officers sworn to the faithful discharge of an important trust, were entitled to the fullest knowledge of all its terms and conditions antecedently to any action whatsoever.

3. When this bill came before the Assembly, the member responsible for it made the statement that it had

received the approval of the directors of the Brooklyn Public Library; but this statement, though it must have influenced the votes of many Assemblymen, was wholly without warrant, and the officers of the Library felt compelled, for their own protection, to warn the legislature, in a message signed by all of them, that the bill had been presented without their knowledge or concurrence.

4. A telegram from Mr. Andrew Carnegie setting forth the fact that he favored a consolidation of the Montague Street Subscription Library with the Brooklyn Public Library was used by the supporters of the bill in such a manner as to create the impression that Mr. Carnegie approved the terms of the bill, whereas Mr. Carnegie has categorically stated that he was wholly unacquainted with its provisions, and that, as an advocate of home rule, he believed that the people should have the fullest part in the government of the institutions supported by them.

5. In the Senate, and subsequently in the Assembly, it was represented by the supporters of the bill that substantially its only opponents were the members of the Brooklyn Democratic Club, whereas the bill is most vigorously opposed, on conscientious grounds, by a large number of the most eminent citizens of Brooklyn, of all parties, creeds and avocations, by the official representatives of the most important local interests and by ~~the~~ vast majority of the voters of the Borough.

6. It has been urged that the Directors of the Brooklyn Public Library, although originally unacquainted with the bill, have since approved it; but it is notorious that fully a third of that body have, in the most earnest

manner, protested against it, and that all of its officers, who are also the trustees of Mr. Carnegie, have stated that the provisions of the bill are contrary to their ^{sentiments} ~~convictions~~ as citizens and as individuals.

7. In both the Senate and the Assembly the passage of the bill was made a party measure, owing to statements which were either unwarranted or unfounded, and was thus aided by many who, had they been rightly informed, would in all probability have opposed it.

8. The nature of the bill is such that if the bill were to become a law it would assume the form and enjoy the prerogatives of a contract, and thus be put beyond the pale of legislative review, to the grave injury of the community.

9. The issue which would be raised by the bill, if it were to become a law, is one which would needs create and maintain patriotic disquietude and political unrest, since its logical conclusion is one which involves the removal of the people from the management of their own affairs and from the administration of the revenues raised by the taxation of their resources.

10. The attempts which have been made to compare the corporation proposed to be created by the bill to certain well known institutions which have been founded by private munificence and are still partially maintained by it, are disingenuous, misleading and unjust, and without foundation in fact.

11. The bill is an affront offered to the whole community, since, by its terms, it announces as a principle that the Mayor of the City of New York, though representing

three millions of freemen, and responsible for their protection and well being, is not capable of permanently naming suitable directors of a public institution, and that the voters by whom the Mayor is elected are not capable of choosing a Mayor who may be trusted with ordinary civic discretion.

12. The public charges that the bill, from the moment of its conception to its present stage has been constantly marked by a procedure at once covert and unbecoming, and that its promoters have acted in a manner disregardful of the rights of the people's representatives and wanting in respect and consideration for those who, in the administration of the important educational institution affected by it, were, above all others, entitled to the fullest knowledge of what was proposed and to a preponderating influence in the determination of what was to be done.

In re Morgan Bill.

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Brief.