

**ORDER OF THE
CLASSIFICATION
OF SION COLLEGE
LIBRARY, LONDON**

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Order of the Classification of Sion College Library, London by Wm. H. Milman

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WM. H. MILMAN

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SECOND AND ENLARGED EDITION

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

IN the compilation of this Order of Classification for Sion College Library, I have made free use of the *Table Méthodique* of Brunet's *Manuel du Libraire* and of Melvil Dewey's *Decimal Classification*. I am also deeply indebted to my friends Dr. Simpson and Mr. Tedder for many valuable suggestions.

WM. H. MILMAN,
Librarian.

2nd August, 1886.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE issue of a new and enlarged edition of the "Order of Classification," an edition which at any rate for some years to come must be considered as final, seems to require that to facilitate its use I should give a somewhat fuller explanation than I gave in the Preface to the "List of Additions to the Library 1886-7" of the general principles upon which the "Order" is compiled. In so doing there may be some repetition of what I there wrote, but this can scarcely be avoided. As in the few lines of Preface to the first edition I made due acknowledgment of the sources whence I drew the first idea of these principles, I may here go on at once to give as clearly as I can such an account of the way in which I have adapted these general principles to the special circumstances of our Library as may render the "Order" readily serviceable to all who frequent it. I propose to add further such information as to the distribution of the books in the large Library and in the subordinate Book-rooms, as shall make it easy, for those who seek, to find the particular spot in the Library devoted not only to all the principal divisions, but to every subdivision, and even to the group in which they will be able to lay their hand upon the volume of which they are in search.

Before doing this I may be permitted to say that in this second edition there is no departure from the principles upon which the first was constructed; those principles by the arrangement of the books in the Library now all but completed have been tested and found not to be wanting; they have proved fully adequate to discharge the functions they were relied upon to discharge.

Where changes have been made it has been with a view to apply the principles more thoroughly, to work out in greater detail the divisions and sections, subsections and groups, whilst still further to facilitate the use of the "Order," an Index has been appended to it, of which more later on.

Every large library—and the Library of Sion College already consists of about 68,000 volumes—requires to be classified upon some set principles or other; the only question is what principles shall be adopted.

Though unable from the special character of Sion College Library to adhere to the sequence of subjects recommended by Mr. Melvil Dewey, in many respects his system of decimal classification, or perhaps it should rather be called decimal press-marking, commends itself to me for at least three reasons. First, it gives special facilities for bringing together the books upon particular subjects. Secondly, it enables additions to be worked into any division or subdivision without altering any press-marks. Thirdly, where the principle is adopted the work of press-marking once done is done for ever. Should it become desirable to remove a whole subject from one part of the Library to another, or into a new building, the removal can be made without the alteration of a single press-mark. I will show how this press-marking works in

practice, after premising a word or two upon the sequence of subjects adopted for the classification of the Library.

The special character impressed upon our Library from its foundation makes it inevitable that the first place in it should be assigned to Theology. The other faculty in which it has a really fine collection is History. In the remaining departments it is less complete. In devising a scheme of classification it was therefore necessary to recognize this fact, and give the first place to Theology, the second to History. It occurred to me that I might justify this sequence and the coordination of the other main divisions under it adopted in the "Order" by considerations such as these :—

The subject which seems earliest to attract the mind of man is Religion in some form or another—Theology therefore occupies the first place. Next, men make some kind of record of what befalls themselves and others, and this becomes History. Later on men speculate and theorize upon the facts thus accumulated, and so we come to Philosophy. Philosophy, speculative at first, tends to become practical, and to apply itself to regulating the conduct not only of individual life but of the life of communities, and so we arrive at Social Science. Then by degrees men, instead of simply theorizing about facts, or rather what they assume to be facts in the natural order, begin to observe facts accurately, and thus we get to Natural Science. We arrive next at the record under the heads of Useful Arts and of Fine Arts, of all that the manual skill, guided by the wit of man, has produced of what is useful and what is beautiful, or both. Language remains to be dealt with : (1) In its origin and rules ; (2) in the more or less beautiful forms in which it has enabled men