

(Copy, made for Sir George Grey
Sept. 10/75. of one of the last letters
addressed to the S. A. Public Library Committee.)
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5 March 1875.



Gentlemen,

Last year, when I reported to you that the portion of the detailed Inventory comprising the Old Manuscripts was nearly ready to be printed, and also informed you of the approximate costs of its being printed as then estimated, you communicated to me a resolution that for the present a fair copy of the Inventory should be bound up for reference. As no fair copy of this part of the Inventory as yet existed, I was unable to carry over this resolution, and as Mr. Allmann, who had by your direction been copying some portions of the Inventory, left, only a portion of the whole Inventory has as yet been copied, viz. No. 1275—2164 and No. 3000—3778. Among the portions of the Inventory not yet copied is not only that of the ancient Manuscripts (about 414 numbers), but also the latter part of the Inventory of the books in, or referring to African languages.

languages, of which the earlier part was copied by Mr. Allmann, whose copy has just been revised by me.

May I therefore propose to you, Gentlemen, that as soon as it is convenient you will kindly provide some assistance for copying the still remaining portions of the Inventory, and especially to complete the clean copy of the part comprising books in African Languages, and also to make a fair copy of that of the Old Manuscripts.

Without such fair copies made under my superintendence and revised by me, I fear that a great deal of the labor spent by me on this detailed Inventory to make it correct and full, will be lost (unless it could at once be printed); and the sharp symptoms of illness which incapacitated me for a good portion of last year, shew me too clearly with what little certainty I can reckon upon a prolonged usefulness.

I have the honor to be, -

Gentlemen,

your humble obedient servant

(signed) W. H. J. Bleek

7