My dear Sir,

I have been unwell for the last week or two and cannot attend the library meeting on Wednesday. The object of it, I understand, is to ascertain what is the debt of the institution and how it is to be paid off. We were supposed to have a surplus within the last twelve months and a committee was appointed to select books. Nothing could show more clearly the necessity for ascertaining exactly the position in which we stand with a view to a cautious expenditure. The debt of things is about £12. Unpaid subscriptions of the last or former
Ten shillings was the actual subscription and all beyond a gift — for no one, unless he chose, need pay it. But the contributions generally been withdrawn and the subscriptions along with them — and hence the present want of funds. As the public take so little interest in the library it is unsafe to assume that any will continue to contribute £1 a year. We are trifling at least that part of them that is likely to be paid. I have booked the subscription list on the board for this year and should not consider it worth above £8 or £9. Buckley says he is the only subscriber at Doddington and I certainly don't expect he will pay the sum with which he is credited — £2. Dr. Pilgrim's subscription again, according to the Rule, is only 5/- but his name is down for £1 annually. I don't know him acquainted with those Rules. For there is no reason why he should pay four times the requisite amount. I suppose a dozen persons paid £1 annually some time after the institution was opened.
The Mercury ought to be retained. Peaceto it— if they can be paid for, I should place the Illustrated London News into the Sunday Magazine. The above is simply my opinion which might have been altered on some points if I had attended the meeting. But the debt under any circumstances I consider it a questionable