

buildings were built in which those who desired could pursue and advance their studies. Of these buildings none are better known than the Alexandrian library, which was built near the great harbor. The exact date of its founding is not known, but it was during the reign of Ptolemy I. and it was extended by both Ptolemy II. and III. Ptolemy I. did all in his power to enlarge the library. All manuscripts of the ancient writers that could be obtained were procured: the Alexandria seamen were instructed to purchase all the old manuscripts they could find, and where money would not avail to use force. So eager were they to have correct copies of the original manuscripts that often, on having the privilege of copying an original, they would retain the original and give back the copies. At the time of Ptolemy's death this library contained fifty thousand volumes, which had increased to seven hundred thousand volumes by the time of Cæsar. These volumes consisted of manuscripts written on papyrus or parchment each end of which was fastened to a roller. That those who attended the library should have all the advantages and instruction, required professors and teachers were kept at the public expense. It is said that at one time fourteen thousand were in attendance. Probably no other school of learning ever exerted so wide an influence, most of the distinguished men at that time were educated in this school, which many of the ancients loved to call "the divine school of Alexandria."

If these buildings had been allowed to stand we would know a great deal more in regard to the literary institutions and of the Greek and Latin and more ancient literatures of which we now have but fragments.

The statements in regard to the destruction of this great library, vary so as to leave us undecided as to which is truth. Whether it was during Cæsar's Alexandrian war or whether it was at the time of the surrender

of Alexandria to Omar in A. D. 640, we are not certain. Critics, however, give the preference to the latter.

After the surrender of Alexandria a certain grammarian, who had listened to the philosophical discourses of Amru, said to Amru, "Thou hast examined all the storehouses in Alexandria and hast sealed the contents of the same. As to these things, since they can be of no benefit to me, I will say nothing; but that of which thou canst make no use." Amru asked, "What is that of which thou hast need?" To which the grammarian replied, "Of the philosophical works in the royal library." Amru said, "I have not the disposal of these things until I have obtained permission of Omar." Omar sent the following reply to Amru's request: "If these writings agree with the Koran, they are useless and need not be preserved, if they disagree they are pernicious and should be destroyed." This sentence was executed by Amru, who ordered the manuscripts distributed for heating the baths and it is stated that they supplied the heat in the four thousand baths of the city for six months. Thus perished the most valuable library in the world, and one that would be of inestimable value to us in determining many points in ancient history, philosophy and literature, that are now, and will ever have to remain uncertain. M.

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SATURDAY vs. MONDAY.

THERE is at present much agitation in the collegiate world in regard to having college work on Saturday, and none on Monday, thus changing the present system. Several colleges and universities have already made this change, and many are considering the advisability of an alteration. In all colleges, where it has been adopted, it has proven more satisfactory than the prevailing arrangement.

That a change is needed, or at least something to insure better recitations on Mondays,