

- (c) That adultery is not the greatest breach of matrimony. That there may be other violations as great.
- (d) The matter of divorce is not to be tried by Law, but by conscience . . .
- (e) Marriage is not a mere carnal condition but a human society.

In *Areopagitica* Milton expounds the most fundamental principles of free publication and open debate as guarantees of civil liberty. But Milton's impulse to write *Areopagitica* is incomprehensible without the contextual study of the seventeenth century book trade and its products. As an example of its projective force in the present, one could develop from *Areopagitica* a defence of the physical book—in contrast to the mechanics of information retrieval. Pre-selected, institutionally controlled, commercially directed and ephemeral 'information' is no more accessible to the individual than authority, short-time storage, and sophisticated technology (beyond the means of any individual) will permit. The portability and thoughtful privacy of the physical book, its hospitality (unlike VDU screens) to the formal shaping of consecutively presented thought, and even the coarse and publicly overt means required to suppress, censor or frustrate the adequate housing of *physical* books,* make it a surer defence against institutional secrecy and its attendant, political tyranny.

I have left myself too little time to testify to the excellence of Miss Coleridge's scholarship. If I say that we know one another very well, and that it's a great source of pleasure and pride to me to claim her as a former student, there will be no risk of anyone under-estimating my admiration for her scholarship. It's scholarship of the best kind—modest, unassuming, 'enabling', for it puts at others' service, with dedicated accuracy, the information they need to train their own minds, and to add their mite to the elucidation of Milton's. In the words of *Areopagitica*, she is one of that 'free and ingenuous sort of such as were evidently born to study, and love learning for itself, not for lucre or any other end, but the service of God and of truth, and perhaps that lasting fame and perpetuity of praise which God and good men have consented shall be the reward of those whose published labours advanced the good of mankind'. This book will give Turnbull's library a life beyond these shores, a distinction for Milton scholars surpassed only by the British Library in London and the Bodleian Library in Oxford. It is with affection, admiration and gratitude that I mark its publication here today.

*The New Zealand Cabinet had recently declined to proceed at once with the next stage of the projected National Library building (*Ed.*).