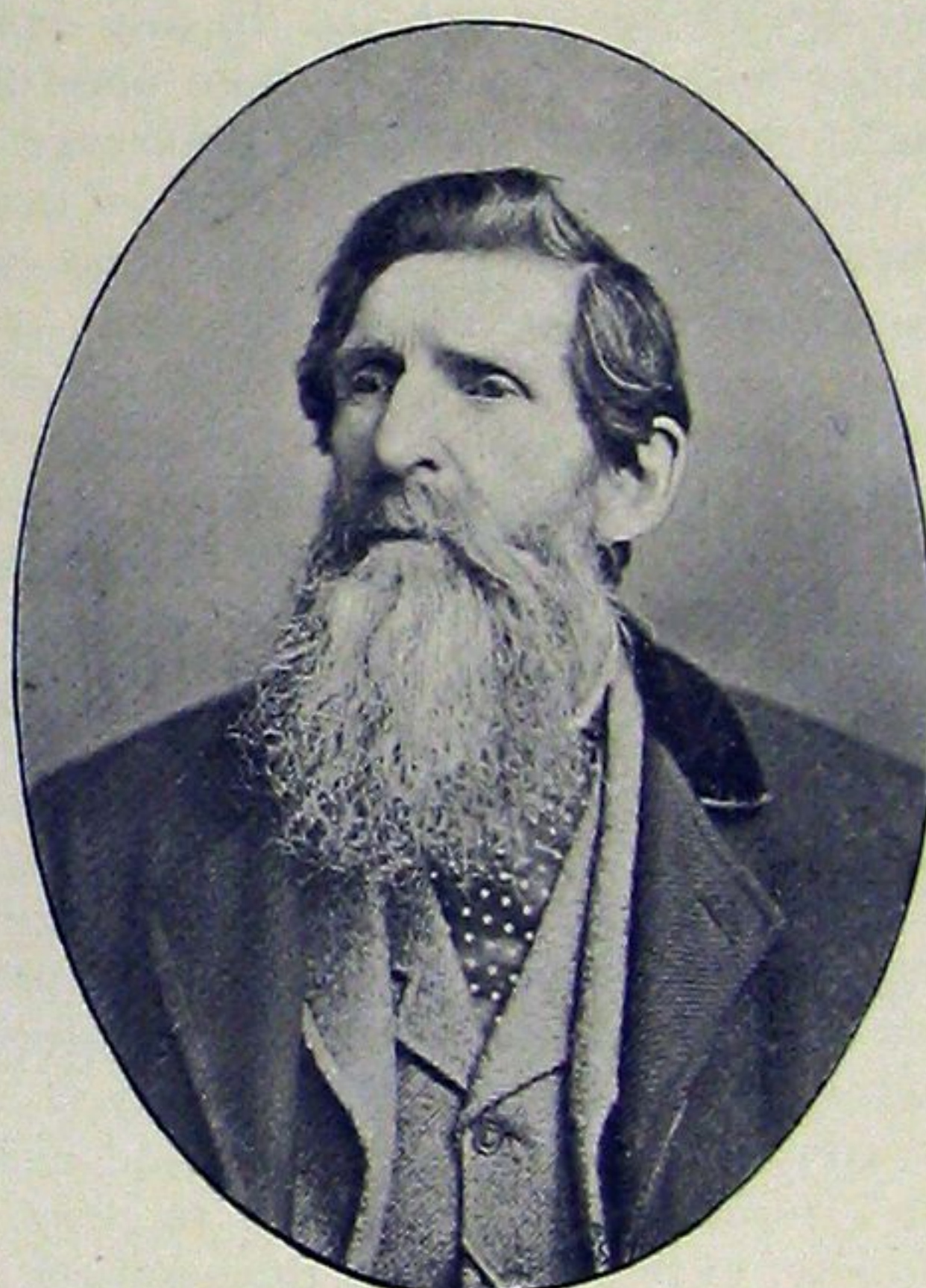
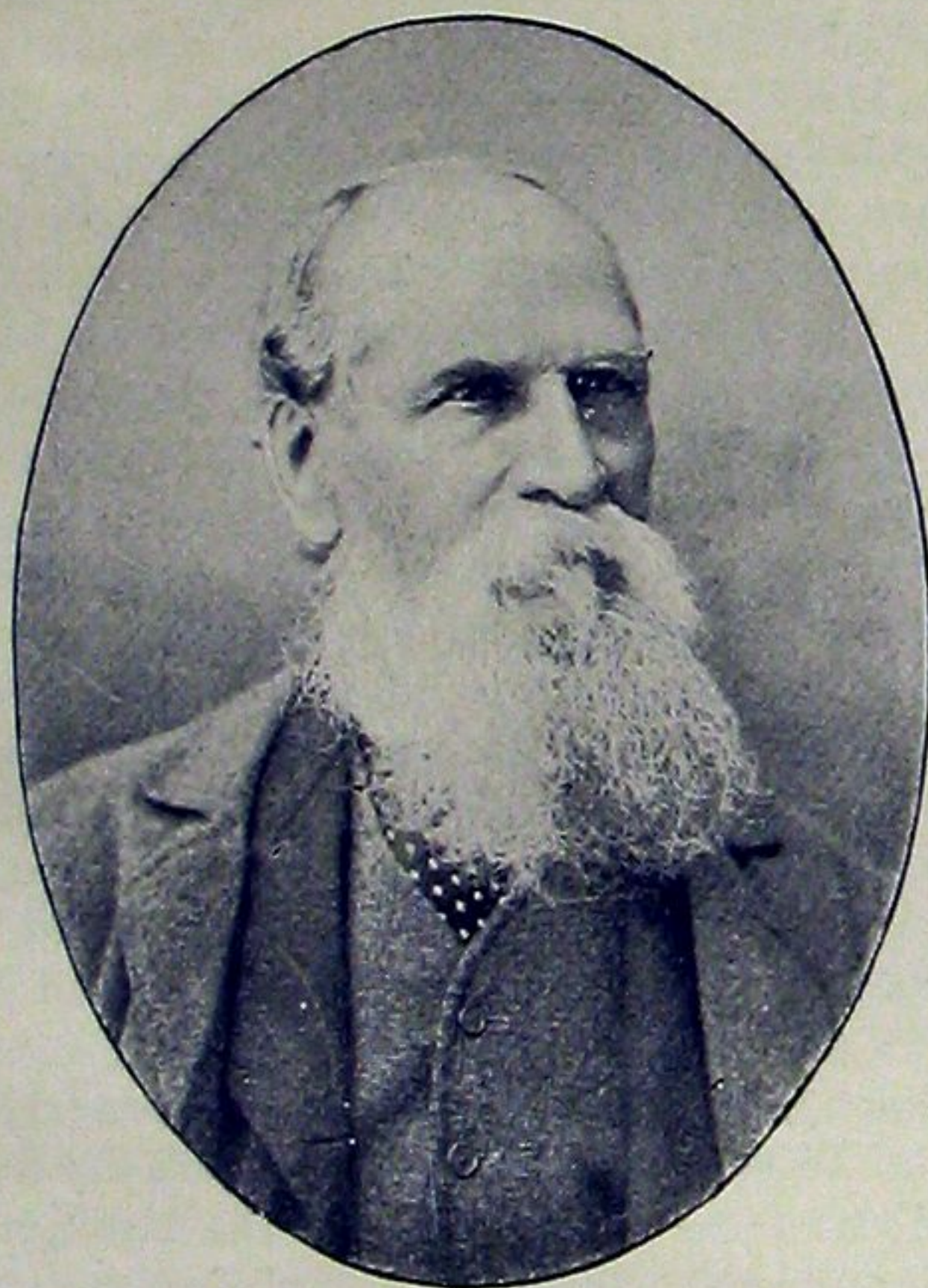


A Guernsey Library.

TOURISTS of literary tastes who may find their way to the pleasant island of Guernsey will be agreeably surprised at the size and importance of the Guille-Allès Library. It is the outcome of the local patriotism of two Guernsey gentlemen, still living, who, as poor boys, went to the States and made their fortunes, and retired in good time to their native island. Mr. Guilles and Mr. Allès resolved to devote their wealth to the creation of an institution that should be a centre of culture in the island. For many years they were eager yet discriminating collectors of books,

which became the nucleus of the present magnificent collection of some 70,000 volumes, housed in a palatial building. On a recent visit to Guernsey, the writer of this note had the pleasure of an introduction to Mr. Guilles, who takes a daily paternal interest in the noble institution. A large and comfortable reading room is filled with the best English, French, and American papers and magazines. A small but well-arranged natural history museum is included in the building, and there is a fine hall for literary and scientific lectures. The founders have made provision for the permanent ample endowment of the institution.



THE QUESTION is occasionally asked by book collectors of themselves and of each other: "Do costly bindings, as a rule, prove to be profitable investments?" In a wide range of argument many theories or speculations are advanced and debated pro and con, but the fact remains that of late years exceptionally fine work of the character named held its price, and quite frequently increased in value. Of course, there is no positive standard of appraisal. Tastes change, reputations decline as well as expand, and preferences are modified or lessened as often as they are accelerated by keen rivalry in this industrial art, where the principles of symmetry are perhaps as much respected as in any class of decoration.

OXFORD INDIA PAPER is a wonderful thing. A strip of it three inches broad has supported a quarter of a cwt. without yielding, and by its use the smallest Bible ever produced has been made. This, distinguished as the "Brilliant Text" Bible, consists of 1,216 pages, including maps, and measures $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{8}$ inches. It weighs $2\frac{7}{8}$ ounces when bound in morocco. With a hand-glass it can be read as easily as any other edition. The "Brilliant Reference" Bible is only a very little larger. Both are likely to be in demand as curiosities, although circumstances can readily be conceived under which the smallness of bulk has advantages overbalancing the inconvenience of the minute print.