



at least, greatly diminished. I take it for granted, that the fines now collected are not to be put into competition with the privations & inconveniences that are felt under the present system; & I would also premise, that it is better to prevent delinquencies, than to punish them: especially, too, as it may frequently happen, that the fault is of a venial nature; perhaps, arising from the treachery of memory.

Suppose, then, that provision was made for serving notices on all who did not return the books which they borrowed within one week after the stipulated times for which they were loaned; & that, if the same were not returned within days from the date of service of such notice, the books so kept back were charged to those who detained them.

This to be distinctly stated in the notices; which, perhaps, had best be circular. The expence of service, in addition to the usual fine, to be charged to the persons to whom they were addressed. These ^{notices} might easily be conveyed thro the medium of the post office - Only, in that case, it might be proper for the person who puts them into the office to be prepared to prove that he had done so.

By this plan, books which might be detained,