scientific attainments. The ample fortune which he enjoyed gave him the opportunities of indulging his tastes fully. He says in his will: " My property has enabled me to devote, happily and undisturbed, the latter part of my life to pursuits of scientific inquiry, which I have deemed to be more beneficial than the mere common enjoyment of an ample fortune." In his researches in the paths of science, even in the line of his own profession, it is not unlikely he fully realized that the conventional opinions of yesterday may not be those of to-day, and are not likely to be those of to-morrow. He possibly remembered that when he commenced the practice of medicine a patient burning up with fever was not allowed a breath of fresh air or a drink of cold water ; that bleeding was resorted to in almost every disease ; that the introduction of anæsthetics was by some regarded as impious and unscriptural, and, on the part of females, an attempt to defy the primeval curse ; that before his day Harvey's theory of the circulation of the blood was treated with derision and cost that eminent physician a large portion of his practice, and that Jenner's discovery of vaccination was denounced by his own profession as empirical and by the clergy as wicked. And outside of his own profession, in science, government, theology and morals, he would have seen substantially the same thing ; one discovery treading quickly upon the heels of another ; one conventional opinion after another giving way before the spread of learning and the advance of science. From his own experience in his various researches the testator probably realized the importance and value to educated men of a public library which would place within their reach such books as are not readily accessible. With a desire to promote temperate, sincere and intelligent inquiry and discussion, he imposes no restriction upon the character of the books, except that they shall not contain either ribaldry or indecency. He would make his library a place where the student, whether of