

and, in particular, the want of a fire-proof building, to be erected in a location more central, and therefore better adapted to the wants of the community, has received the serious attention of all persons interested in the library. To this end, subscriptions have, during the last ten years, been received from a number of persons, and the sums so received, together with the proceeds of a legacy of about fifty thousand dollars, specifically bequeathed for the same object, have been invested, and now form a fund amounting to about ninety thousand dollars, which, by the terms of the said subscription and of the said bequest, it is the duty of your orators, as trustees, to apply to this particular purpose.

VII. Among the shareholders of the Library Company aforesaid was Dr. James Rush, a native and resident of Philadelphia. He had been himself an author; he had taken an active interest in the affairs of the library, and was well acquainted with its objects and purposes, and, in particular, with the anxiety that its books and manuscripts should be safely lodged in an appropriate fire-proof building, to be erected in some central location, and of the fact that such subscriptions and legacy had been so made and received.

VIII. For the purpose of carrying out that end, he conceived the munificent design of providing such a building for the said libraries as would enable your orators both to preserve their collections and increase their usefulness to the community; or, to use the very words of his will, hereafter to be referred to, "to make provision for the preservation, extension, and free and convenient use of a public library, without any ambitious or pretentious display." With this purpose another was subsequently blended. The testator was without children, and had survived his wife. The latter had been one of the daughters of the late Jacob Ridgway, Esq., and had received, under his will, a large fortune, which she had left, by her will, unreservedly to her husband. The testator, therefore, desired, while providing for the future of the library, to acknowledge the source