

E. The safe keeping of his pictures, library, &c., in one of the rooms of the new building. (Codicil, p. 14.)

He also directed, that after this building had been finished, and all the preliminary conditions complied with, the residue of his estate should be conveyed to the said Company upon the trusts in his Will and Codicils set out. (Will, p. 6.)

He further provided:—

"If the Philadelphia Library Company should omit or decline to accept my residuary estate on the terms and conditions in my Will and Codicils contained, or fail to comply with any of the preliminary stipulations and directions therein mentioned, then I give and devise the whole residue of my estate, real and personal, whatsoever and wheresoever the same may be, after paying and securing all legacies, &c., * * * unto Henry J. Williams, my executor, in my said last Will named, his heirs, executors, and administrators, in trust, therewith to found and endow a public library entirely distinct from, and independent of, the Philadelphia Library Company, to be named and called the Ridgway Library." (Codicil, p. 14-15.)

This Will was proved on the 31st May, 1869, on which day I took an oath to perform my duties as executor in accordance with law. I have, from the outset, acted under advice of counsel. Until his appointment to the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Hon. William Strong was one of my legal advisers. I have never, since assuming the executorship, in act or thought, done anything contrary to what I believed to be my legal duty, as such executor, and I have taken no important step without first obtaining the advice and approbation of my counsel.

The testator knew that the Library Company had, for very many years, been striving to secure funds sufficient to erect a fire-proof building large enough to contain all their books, and their probable increase, and his provision that such a building should be erected in accordance with his views, was, with him, a favorite and constant matter of thought.