

sons from the direction of the Library Company. It is from the quiet, unostentatious, and disinterested character of its directors, and of their management, that I have drawn the motives which induced me to choose the Philadelphia Library Company as the heir to my estate; and I would add a very influential consideration, that, having always conducted its affairs with prudence and foresight, it has never, by living beyond its means, in collecting more books than it has room for, been brought to the disgraceful pauper condition of those institutions which are constantly begging for thousands, and drawing upon the public purse by fairs and lotteries, in order to erect splendid buildings, or to pay debts rashly and inconsiderately incurred.

*Second.* I have in my will limited the extent of the lot to be purchased for the library building, as well as its locality; but as I desire that it shall have not only strength, durability, and accommodation, but also be of sufficient magnitude for any future or contingent, but not an ambitious or competing, increase of the library; in order to prevent, if possible, its being torn down in twenty years, and the lot sold at a speculative profit to suit the hyperbole of the times, I authorize and allow my executor, under a broad and thoughtful foresight, to increase the size of the lot, and select any situation he may deem most expedient, without regard to any provision of my will or codicils. I know that an ostentatious library, to keep up with the progress of our country, collecting too many books, may be like an avaricious man who accumulates money to the ruin of both his modesty and his intellect. But I have a forlorn hope that the mind may yet be improved beyond a patronage or even a toleration of those crowds of graver or more puerile fictionists who mislead the idle, and of those garbling compilers who overlook or corrupt the truth of fuller and more useful works by purloining from their pages, in attempting to abbreviate and render them popular for their own advantage.