

suggested to his Executor, will require a lot with a front of at least 220 feet.(d)

The proper site for the building occupied his thoughts for many years. Even in his will, adequacy of dimension appears to be his chief anxiety—an anxiety that increased, as the Codicils show, with reflection. Centrality of location, unattainable without an outlay of some \$350,000, though of course desirable, was incompatible with the gratification of this wish.

In his lifetime he directed his Executor, and Mr. Thomas Craven—the gentleman named in his will as Mr. Williams' successor—to make inquiries for a lot. They divided their duties, and Mr. Williams confined himself as nearly as possible within the limits originally named. The prices asked for lots within those limits, of sufficient size, were so extravagant that he could find none suitable. Mr. Craven, however, found one on Broad Street, 300 feet front and 540 feet deep, bounded by Broad, Thirteenth, Carpenter, and Christian Streets, purchasable for \$130,000. Dr. Rush and Mr. Williams agreed as to its suitability, and it was immediately bought by the former, through the agency of the latter, for the purpose of locating thereon the Library building.

During the time that Mr. Williams was pursuing these inquiries, he was also acting with Mr. Henry Wharton and Colonel Alexander Biddle, as a committee of the Library Company, appointed "to make inquiry in regard to the purchase of a lot for the erection of a fire-proof building," at a special meeting of the Directors, who were "authorized to purchase a lot in the city of Philadelphia, on the best terms they can procure."(e) This committee had sufficient

(d) Answer, page 7.

(e) Examiner's Report, pages 111 and 112.

