

with the Associated Library Company and the Amicable Company; by a bequest in the year 1804, by John Bleakley and the Rev. Samuel Preston; by the bequest, in the year 1827, of the Mackenzie Library; and by numerous other gifts and bequests of books from time to time, none of them very large, but together forming a valuable collection which for nearly one hundred and fifty years has been freely open to the citizens of Philadelphia.

The number of books thus belonging to the Library Company now exceeds one hundred thousand volumes.

The corporation is composed of members, and is maintained by their annual contributions and from the income derived from such property as has been given to it, and from fees paid for the use of the books from persons not members.

All the profits and income of the corporation, after defraying the necessary expenses of maintenance, are applied to the purchase of books. The institution is managed by twelve directors, annually chosen by the members, who receive no compensation for their services, and the use of the books is given—

1. Without charge or compensation to all persons using them within the library building;
2. To all members, with certain usual limitations as to the number of volumes that may at any time be taken for use without the building;
3. To all persons, for a small compensation, who wish to use the books without the building, and give security for their return.

The original purpose for which the corporation was created was the collection and use of books by the members at their homes, as a circulating library. It was the

