

monument which I hope will prove more durable than any other grateful record I could make, and be infinitely more useful to the community. As it was from them I derived the greater part of my property, which (under the special and prudent management of faithful and trustworthy agents) has enabled me to devote happily, and undisturbed, the latter part of my life to pursuits of scientific inquiry, which I have designed to be more beneficial than the more common enjoyment of an ample fortune, it is both just and proper that I should thus employ it, the more especially as Mrs. Rush had led me to believe that, if she had survived me, she would have applied it to a similar purpose. Now, in order to carry out this intention in a public and permanent form, I direct my executor to have a marble slab with the following inscription on a plain ground, with a border of simple moulding, without any surrounding ornaments, placed and maintained on some appropriate part of one of the interior rooms of the new library building, in which my private library and other personal effects are to be preserved:—

THE RIDGWAY BRANCH  
OF THE  
PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY.  
A MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF  
JACOB RIDGWAY  
AND OF HIS DAUGHTER,  
MRS. PHOEBE ANNE RUSH.

"*Second*.—I direct my executor to have inserted in the act of Assembly, which will be required to carry out the provisions of my will and codicils, clauses enacting—

"1st. That not more than one-fourth of the directors of the Library shall belong to any one of the three learned professions, of law, theology or medicine. This clause is, however, not intended to exclude any of the present members from re-election.

"2d. That the number of shares in the Library shall be limited to those actually issued at the time of my death. But the managers, by their by-laws, shall have the authority to allow any respectable person, depositing an amount and paying an annual sum to be fixed by the Board of Managers, to have the full and free use of the Library, as completely as if they were shareholders.

"3d. That the Library shall not connect themselves with any other body, corporate or politic; my residuary estate will form a large fund for the use of the Library, and I wish them to be free from every inducement to go beyond what I consider the legitimate objects of a Library Company.

"*Third*.—I will add that my reasons for choosing the Philadelphia Library Company for my residuary legatee and devisee are because it has always been conducted quietly and unobtrusively, steadily pursuing the appropriate objects for which such libraries were established, keeping entirely aloof from the excitement of politics and of other means whereby public bodies so frequently seek to obtain an evanescent and mischievous notoriety, and because during my early life I derived great pleasure and advantage from the use of its books, and from the readiness and civility with which they were always furnished me.

"*Fourth*.—I understand that the Managers of the Library Company have never applied any of its funds to defray the expenses of the very simple refreshments of which they are accustomed to partake at the monthly meetings of the board, but have invariably paid them from their own personal means. I highly approve of this course, which I fear is not very usual, and in order that their example may be followed by their successors, I direct that no part of the funds of the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library shall ever be used or expended in providing refreshments, lunches (so called), feasts or entertainments for managers, visitors, shareholders or for any other persons whatever.

"*Fifth*.—I do not wish that any work should be excluded from the library on account of its difference from the ordinary or conventional opinions on the subjects of science, government, theology, morals or medicine, provided it contains neither ribaldry nor indecency. Temperate, sincere and intelligent inquiry and discussion are only to be dreaded by the advocates of error. The truth need not fear them, nor do I wish the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library to be encumbered with the ephemeral biographies, novels and works of fiction or amusement, newspapers or periodicals, which form so large a part of the current literature of the day. The great object of a public library is to bring within the reach of the reader and student works which private collections do not, and cannot contain, and which in no other way could be accessible to the public. Its excellence will depend—not upon the numbers of its volumes—but upon their intrinsic value, and I wish the principle to be carried out by the managers, who, I will hope, will never be influenced by the too common ambition for mere numerical superiority.

"*Sixth*.—I give and bequeath all my pictures, my private library, my manuscripts, copyrights and papers, and also those of my father, Dr. Benjamin Rush (in my possession), to the Library Company, to be by them placed in a room in the new building, and there safely kept. The books may be used as the other books of the Library Company, but this room is not to be opened to gratify idle or objectless curiosity.

