

lin's return from Europe he was unanimously re-elected a director by the board to supply the place of Samuel Shoemaker, resigned.

1763. On the 14th February, the celebrated John Dickinson was elected a director. In an address to John Penn, November 21st, 1763, occurs the following paragraph: "The encouragements the library met with in its infancy have had good effects. Many other libraries, after our example and on our plan, have been erected in this and the neighbouring provinces, whereby useful knowledge has been more generally diffused in these remote corners of the earth."

A museum early claimed the attention of the company, and numerous articles of curiosity, but of small value, are noted as having been received—from Indian fishing-hooks to Chinese slippers; it was long the duty of the librarian to exhibit this collection, and the practice was only recently discontinued, since which the articles have lain neglected, and are nearly all in a state of decay. Among the presents for this department I notice the following in February, 1764: "The secretary reported that Messrs. Michael Hillegas and Daniel Williams, two of the county commissioners, had presented the company with the blade of a sword or cutlass, which they found fourteen feet from the surface of the ground in digging the foundation of the new bridge in Second street between the city and the barracks; this blade is marked T. S. and serves to show how great a body of earth must have gathered in the short time since the Europeans first came into America, which is not more than 150 years." John Edwards proving at this time but an indifferent librarian, Francis Hopkinson, the secretary, was appointed, at a salary of £12 per annum. Some dissatisfaction is noted at this period at the new regulations, by which members were prevented from coming into the library and taking down books, in consideration of which it was "Resolved, that the librarian should prepare a bond, which should be tendered to every member who should desire the privilege of entering the library and examining the books there, at the hours of attendance on Saturdays; by which he should bind himself to be answerable for his proportionable part of the loss that may arise from any books being lost or stole out of the library."

This appears to have had the desired effect; as, however anxious members might have been to consult the books, they could not be supposed willing to join in the librarian's responsibility for losses.

1765. It is noted on the minutes, January, 1765, that a rule was still in force, by which, for the better security of the books (wired doors not having yet been procured), no person, except the librarian, was admitted into the library during the hours appointed for letting out books. The directors were in the habit, about this period, of assisting the librarian by turns.

1767. Mr. Hopkinson visiting England, the directors, in order not to lose his services on his return, was allowed to appoint a proxy. He brought home with him a few rare books, purchased by Dr. Franklin, with the company's money, and a present from Benjamin West, "formerly," says the minute, "of this city, but now of London, historical painter; a woman's hand, taken from an Egyptian mummy, in good preservation." This hand, which has sometimes been called Cleopatra's, is still in the building, and, notwithstanding the length of time which it has been exposed to the action of the air, is in perfect preservation.

1768. On the 20th of February, 1768, a law was enacted for admitting new members for the sum of £10.

1769. At a meeting of the directors, February 13th, 1769, the following gentlemen, viz. George Roberts,

Jonathan Shoemaker, James Pearson, Charles Jervis, David Evans, Anthony Morris, Jr. and Moses Bartram, being a committee of the Union Library Company of Philadelphia, waited on the board, to signify their approbation of the plan which had been some time in agitation, of uniting the two institutions. The directors replied "that they thought such a scheme might better answer the intention of public libraries, than if they were to continue in separate bodies;" and on the 13th of March a law was enacted, giving the directors "full power and authority to admit the members of the Union Library Company; and that each member so admitted, shall, by virtue thereof, be entitled to an equal share of all the estate, both real and personal, belonging to the said Library Company of Philadelphia, in common with their other members, and shall receive, accordingly, a certificate thereof, the Union Company previously assigning over, and delivering possession of, all their books, and other property, subject to all such contracts heretofore made and now subsisting between the said Union Library Company and any of their members, as the directors shall deem proper and expedient."

Of the value of this accession of books I have no data to form a judgment. The Union Company owned the house in Third street where their books had been kept, and it was for a considerable period a source of revenue, until sold. Benjamin Franklin, at this time in London, handed the orders for books to Wm. Strahan for shipment.

At the next annual election some change in the direction was made, it appearing reasonable that some of the members of the Union Company should be complimented with a seat at the board. Francis Hopkinson's place as secretary was supplied by John Hughes, Jr. The institution having now acquired additional consequence by the accession of new members, and an increase of books, the board petitioned the assembly of the province for permission to erect on some part of the state house lot such a building as would prove an ornament to the city, and continue to accommodate their rapidly increasing library. This application was refused; and at a general meeting of the company, convened by advertisement, on the 5th of October, 1771, it was deemed inexpedient to build elsewhere, and the project was for the present suffered to rest. It was not till the 25th of September, 1769, that the room was opened three days in the week; these days were Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, for four hours each, and two librarians were then appointed, viz. Jno. de Maurengault and Ludowick Spraggell, at an annual salary of £20 each.

1771. Another junction was formed, in 1771, with the Association Library Company, but there are no data by which to judge of the extent of this institution, it being only incidentally mentioned in reference to a share being granted to Mr. Wm. Attmore in consideration of his services as its clerk. The Amicable Company, also admitted about this time, is only casually mentioned, and the two collections were probably of no great value.

1773. Early in the year 1773, the second floor of Carpenter's Hall was rented, and the books removed from the room in the state house, which was now too small for their accommodation; the library was then first opened daily, from two o'clock till seven, under the charge of Charles Cist, at an annual salary of £60. The books were here first placed behind the protection of latticed doors. The increase of the cabinet of coins seems to have been a favourite project—a great number are noted as having been presented from time to time. In October, 1773, several specimens of minerals, and 53 curious coins were presented by Edward Pole. Unfor-