

unately, the secretary, in reporting the gift, was obliged to add the following memorandum—"but the library being entered by some thief (as supposed) last night, he carried off all the coins and tokens, together with some change which was left in the drawer." Mr. Pole, however, received the thanks of the directors, and the articles were advertised, but never recovered.

1774. On the 31st of August, 1774, it was, "upon motion, ordered that the librarian furnish the gentlemen who are to meet in congress in this city, with such books as they may have occasion for during their sitting, taking a receipt for them." Congress enjoyed this privilege during the whole period of its sittings in Philadelphia, and the members experienced much inconvenience from the want of a similar institution for reference after removing to Washington, before a good library had been collected in the capitol. The members of the legislature of Pennsylvania likewise enjoyed the use of the books for a long period, free of charge.

1776. In May, 1776, an advertisement appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette, and other journals, requesting a general meeting of the company, in order to consider of the propriety of empowering the directors to remove the books and effects of the company in case any event of the war should make that measure necessary. Two attempts to get together enough members to pass such a law failing, the books remained, and were unmolested.

The British army had possession of Philadelphia from September 26, 1777, to June 18, 1778, but it does not appear that the company sustained any loss from those who composed it. The officers, without exception, left deposits, and paid hire, for the books borrowed by them.

1777. In 1777 the library room was occupied by the sick soldiery, and Messrs. Alison, Jones, and Hughes, were "appointed a committee on the 11th of March to wait on General Gates, commanding officer in this city, in order to procure, if possible, an order for their removal." During the whole progress of the war, the importation of books was of course suspended. The funds thus accumulated were expended, on the conclusion of peace, in a large importation of the standard works which had appeared in the interval. By the will of the Honourable William Logan, the institution received this year a very handsome bequest of books of ancient authors, being a more extensive and valuable gift than any heretofore received. They may all be traced in the catalogue by the *L* attached to each.

1778. In November, 1778, the following minute occurs: "The directors taking into consideration the high prices of firewood, candles, &c., agreed that the library be opened during the winter season only upon Wednesdays and Saturdays, from two o'clock till eight."

1779. Jno. Todd, librarian, received £100 per annum and a share.

1781. On the 4th of May, 1781, the directors agreed to receive 30 shillings state money in lieu of a bushel of wheat, by which the annual payments were the previous year directed to be made.

1783. The committee on importations remitted £200 sterling to London on the 10th of June, 1783, nine years having elapsed since their last order. Jos. Woods and William Dillwyn were selected as proper agents, from their well known attachment to literature, and knowledge of books; they acted during the remainder of their lives to the satisfaction of the directors, and Jos. Woods's son is now the agent. In their letter the committee of correspondence state, "we shall confide entirely in your judgment to procure us such books of modern publication as will be proper for a public library, and though

we would wish to mix the utile with the dulce, we should not think it expedient to add to our present stock any thing in the *novel* way." This has been the uniform plan pursued, with the exception of a few of the best class of novels and romances; the consequence has been that, with the very great increase of the number of volumes, the shelves are supplied with books of real merit in most other departments, and are not lumbered with the temporary trash so greedily devoured by the sickly taste which procures its mental supplies from circulating libraries.

1783. November, 1783, Dr. Franklin presented six volumes of the natural history of the south of France.

In 1784 the librarian was removed for his inattention to the duties of his office—this is the only record of a defalcation among any of the officers of the company; he was succeeded by John Todd, Jr. In April of this year occurs the first notice of the plan, soon after carried into execution, of uniting, in the same building, the library known by the name of Loganian, an invaluable collection made by the Hon. James Logan, the confidential friend of Penn, and governor of the province. The Philosophical Society having digested a plan for building, determined to petition the legislature for a lot on the state house square. They wished the Library Company to join in the application for a similar site, and appointed a committee to confer with a committee of the library board, and, jointly, a petition was drawn up and presented, in which it is stated that the increase of books, and the union with the Loganian institution, would require a large building to accommodate them. The plan proposed and petitioned for was this, viz. that "the Philosophical Society should have eighty feet front by forty feet deep, on Sixth street, midway between Walnut and Chesnut streets, and to the said library a like space of ground on Fifth street, and directly opposite the former, for the purpose of erecting buildings thereon, at the expense of said societies respectively." The plan contemplated having the two buildings to correspond to each other in an uniform style of architecture as to their external appearances, so as to make them ornamental to the square, without taking any material space from the walks, &c., and it was naturally believed that these buildings, thus commodiously situated, would have a tendency to bring together and unite gentlemen of science, and thereby more effectually promote the respective designs of each institution; and that, moreover, they would be particularly convenient to the members of the legislature for reference, or as a pleasing retreat during the intervals of business, and that such a mark of liberality would not fail to do honour to the state in the eyes of foreigners. The legislature, however, adjourned without taking the prayer of the petitioners into consideration; and a second committee being appointed to unite with the Philosophical Society in another application at the next term of meeting, reported that the petition had been drawn up by the members of the latter society, petitioning to be located on the east side of the square, fronting on Fifth street; that as a committee they could not unite therewith, as it varied from the plan originally proposed. The board were of opinion that the locality of Fifth street was far more desirable for an institution resorted to (daily) by such numbers of individuals, and requested their committee to have another conference with the committee of the Philosophical Society, who reported in January, 1785, that they had met, and were informed that the society adhered to their determination of applying for a lot on the east side of the square; and had since been informed that a petition had been carried into the house, by the said Philosophical

