

costly description, which the funds of the institution would for ever have forbidden being purchased.*

George Campbell was now elected librarian, an office he filled for twenty-three years, during which long period he was never once prevented by sickness from attending to his daily duties, a circumstance almost unprecedented in the annals of a salary officer. Under his charge the institution continued to flourish, and was again enriched, at the period of his resignation, by the bequest from William Mackenzie, of 500 rare volumes, and the purchase from his executors, of the additional number of 1466.

* In 1830, Benjamin West's eldest son visited Philadelphia, with his father's celebrated picture of Christ Rejected.

He gave the writer the following interesting particulars relative to this bequest. Dr. Preston was an intimate friend of the elder West, whose house, when in London, he frequently made his home. Having no descendants, it was occasionally a topic of discussion at the dinner-table, what would be the best disposition of his valuable books. West pressed upon his notice the library at Philadelphia, and finally obtained his promise to will it to the institution, which promise he faithfully kept. On hearing of this, Mrs. West requested the doctor to sit to her husband for his portrait, which was forwarded soon after the books; bearing on the canvass, "a present from Mrs. West to the Library Company of Philadelphia." It is an admirable painting, and has been twice exhibited at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Dr. Preston was a man of great learning.

Since this period about 5000 volumes were purchased, on very favourable terms, from James Cox, an artist since deceased, consisting of many expensive volumes on the fine arts, and miscellaneous books; they supplied a prominent deficiency, and many rarities are among them.

The number of books in the institution is now, 1835, 44,000, making together, decidedly the largest collection in this country; the influence which it exerts on the character of the population of Philadelphia, is highly beneficial; the collection is now so numerous and varied as to have become a library of reference for the literati of all parts of the Union, while the literary taste which it engenders, is highly useful to all classes who enjoy its benefits.

The number of members is now 836, each of whom pays, annually, four dollars, for the support of the institution, and for the purchase of new books, a great proportion of which are imported regularly from London.

The Loganian library attached, was bequeathed and endowed by the Hon. James Logan; its income arises from an extensive farm, occupied by Samuel D. Ingham, late Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and one or two adjoining plantations.*

* I say "bequeathed," for such was the intention of James Logan, but his signature was wanting to the deed; his sons, William and James Logan, John Smith, and Hannah his wife, the surviving daughter of James Logan, however, complied with his intention, and are entitled to remembrance for the free-will act which they were not necessarily obliged to perform.