



J.W. Steel.

1838.

GRAY'S FERRY ON THE SCHUYLKILL.

(a Relic of the Olden Time.)

- See page 12 -

Henry Cox, of Ireland, presented the Library Company with a large number of manuscript volumes relating to the history and progress of his native land. They consist of the original correspondence of James the First with the Privy Council of Ireland.

The Loganian Library, which now adjoins the one of which we have spoken, was transferred to the latter under certain conditions—all of which, up to the present time, have, we believe, been punctually fulfilled. The vast accessions which through various means have been made to the library, have increased it so much that we imagine, should any of its original founders be permitted to "walk again" and revisit the scene of their early trials, they would scarcely recognize the place so thoroughly identified with their names, and history, and memory.

Entering the Library from Fifth street, the first object of curiosity which should attract the attention of the visitor is a famous old clock, still ticking—tick, tick, ticking—and as regardless of wear and age as if it and Time had made a bargain to go on counting each other's minutes forevermore. This clock is said to have been made expressly for Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, and, after passing through many hands, a legacy from one generation to another, it has at last become the property of the Library.

A quiet, congenial retreat, is the Library for the student. No noise, no confusion, to distract the mind from the contemplation of the tomes of wisdom, wit and research, which surround you. At your ease, as long as you like, you can keep the company of sage old Plutarch, admire the subtle logic of Junius, or discourse upon the revelations of Copernicus.

And you can look, too, upon the portrait of James Logan, the founder and donor of the Loganian Library, whose name and memory deserve to live through all time as the pioneer in that benevolent project which has so enriched us, and which has afforded so much pleasure to us, that, forgetful of him, in many instances we have given his praise to a less worthy man. His descendants, in accordance with the conditions of his bequest, still occupy the office of librarian. This portrait, said to be remarkable for its fidelity, is a copy painted by Sully. Above it is the portrait of William Penn, executed by Lambdin, and presented by the last librarian, John Jay Smith, Esq., now the treasurer of the Company. The portrait of William Mackenzie, one of the donors to the Loganian Library, by Sully; the portrait of the Reverend Samuel Preston, painted by Benjamin West, and presented by Mrs. West; that of Dr. Thomas Parke, one of the directors; and that of Zachariah Poulson, for fifty-nine years

(as librarian, treasurer and director), an officer of the company, complete the list of portraits in oil.

The total number of books now in the Libraries, as catalogued, is 64,195, having increased in twenty years nearly thirty thousand volumes.

Of early printed books there are several of the date of 1470, and many without any specific date. Among them may be enumerated the Vulgate Bible, printed at Rome by Sweynheym & Pannartz of Nuremberg, in 1475; and Copeland's edition of Caxton's Recueil of the Histories of Troie, London, 1553, very rare and quaint. In the department relating to America, the two libraries may be said to be extremely rich. The sets of newspapers, from the first numbers of the first paper published in Philadelphia continuously to the present time, include a set of *Bradford's American Mercury*, from 1719 to 1745; *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, complete from 1728 to 1804; *The Pennsylvania Journal*, from 1747 to 1793; *The Pennsylvania Packet*, (afterwards *Poulson's Advertiser*), under various names up to the present time, from 1771; *The Federal and Philadelphia Gazette*, from 1778 to 1843; and the *U. S. Gazette*, now the *North American*, from 1791 to the present time. A rare old work is also here, entitled "Campanius' Kort Beskyrffning om Provincien Nya Sverige callas Pennsylvania," published at Stockholm, 1702, with curiously executed maps and singularly drawn pictures. The above imperfect outline of certain features of the collection, its origin, rise and progress, will serve in some manner to indicate the value of the Philadelphia and Loganian Libraries, as well to the public as to the members of the Company; it being customary to permit persons who are not members to consult works of reference in the rooms without charge. We close this brief descriptive sketch by quoting the closing paragraph in the preface to vol. III. of the catalogue, just published:

"Unfortunately this highly valuable collection is not in a fire-proof building, and the destruction of the Congress Library by fire, and other similar calamities, warn us not to presume too much upon the impunity in this respect enjoyed for more than a century. Moreover, the accommodations in the present edifice will, in a few years, be exhausted, and further room will have to be provided. In view of these facts the directors have decided to make an appeal to the stockholders, and to the citizens of Philadelphia, for contributions to a building fund, to be invested separately until it is sufficient for the erection of a perfectly fire-proof building of dimensions suited to the wants of the Library."

We take this occasion to return our thanks to the Librarian for the very many courtesies extended to us, and assure him that they are gratefully appreciated. May 4-1856-

Library Co. of Phila:

Mr. John J. Smith
in a communication to
the Editor of U. S. Gazette,
among other facts, states:
that "Dr Franklin was
only one of a number to
whom Philadelphia owes
the establishment of a library,
and he notoriously
failed to present the books
which he gave every encouragement
to believe he
would do; in fact, his
whole donation to the shelves
consist of thirteen volumes,
while other individuals
have given and bequeathed
thousands"

See my Com: place book
page 115—also for an original
anecdote given by
Dr. Thomas Parke, at p. 113

C.P.