

One Hundred Years

From the National Gazette of April 27
The Library Company of Philadelphia has now had a successful octave of 100 years, the first meeting having been in 1731. It is an admirable foundation on which to raise superstructure to rival any of the literary institutions of America. This it has long continued to do. The books and funds, accumulated with an extremely limited income, are creditable to the city in which it is located, and the institution is justly the pride of Philadelphia. The annual payment of two dollars is now acknowledged, however, to be inadequate to keep pace with the increase of the productions of the press, or to accommodate the wants of the members. One copy of a popular work is insufficient for 830 persons. Supposing each member to retain a work in universal request only two weeks, the time allowed for an octavo or two duodecimo volumes, it would require at least 31 years before the 830th could procure it from the Library. To obviate this difficulty a plan is proposed and the stockholders will meet on Saturday, the 28th inst., for the purpose of voting an increase in the annual payments of the members to four dollars.

This Library is the only one of any great magnitude in Philadelphia in which ladies are admitted to all the privileges. Is there a father, a husband or a brother in the community who values the happiness and the home enjoyment of his female relatives who would not gladly co-operate in a plan which should increase their mental resources? Is there a single public library, except this, to which ladies have access, and are not those who are deprived by the want of a share in it compelled to resort to the expensive method of purchasing what they require, or to the unfurnished, I will not say trashy, contents of circulating libraries.

The press never was so prolific, and the demands of the age and the improvements in printing are rendering it every day more necessary for a Library to have funds at command. It is not too much to anticipate that when these arrangements are completed the Library will have 2,000 members, for it is well known that the utter impossibility of getting new books has deterred numbers from purchasing shares. In a wealthy city like Philadelphia, with an increasing population of intelligent and educated inhabitants, such a result may be confidently anticipated.

MOTHER NATURE

Mother Nature made her bed.
Smoothed the snow-sheets over;
Then blankets soft and green she spread
Of woven grass and clover.

A dozen colors next she took
And pieced a quilt again;
Her thread was sun and running brook,
Her needles were the rain.

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