

mentioned by the committee, not as part of a matured project, but simply as an indication of the feelings and wishes of those by whom they were appointed. It is a matter about which the committee give no other opinion, than to recommend it to the consideration of the future board of Directors, who will be better qualified to judge of its expediency.

It has long been matter of general regret, as well on account of residents as of strangers, that no extensive collection of foreign books is to be found in our city, and it is with a view to remove this source of self-reproach that the present plan has been suggested. In French literature the deficiency has been most sensibly felt, the fact being undeniable that there is not a complete collection of the French Classics at this time accessible to the public. This remark is not intended, only, or even principally, to apply to the familiar works of French Belles Lettres, which the committee are aware can generally be procured with comparative facility, but to such as may be called the secondary classics, with the merits of which every student is acquainted, and which certainly are not in this country the objects of easy acquisition.

The contemporary publications, forming in themselves a valuable body of historical and polite literature, are scarcely to be found, and when imported always command prices that place them beyond the reach of the generality of readers. The valuable scientific works which the French press is daily furnishing are equally difficult of access. By means of an association like the present, with funds exclusively appropriated to a specific object, purchases may be made to an extent far exceeding that to which individuals can go, and a number of volumes soon procured which will give the institution permanent reputation. Not only may those of the French classics be obtained which are not now in other public institutions, but with the assistance of such an agent as it is presumed can easily be commanded in Europe, a supply of the best contemporary works can always be secured.

The demand for Spanish books is, the committee have every reason to believe, daily increasing in direct proportion to the difficulty of meeting it. The standard productions of Spanish literature, especially the poets and dramatists, are to be rarely met with, and always from their rarity command a high price. In Europe it is believed they can be obtained on much more reasonable terms. As there is comparatively little contemporary literature in the Spanish language, the attention of the company will of course be principally directed to the acquisition of such of the classical works as they can obtain.

There is however one description of contemporary works in the