

the expenses of the very simple refreshments of which they are accustomed to partake at the monthly meetings of the board, but have invariably paid them from their own personal means. I highly approve of this course, which I fear is not very usual, and in order that their example may be followed by their successors, I direct that no part of the funds of the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library shall ever be used or expended in providing refreshments, lunches (so called), feasts, or entertainments for managers, visitors, shareholders, or for any other persons whatever.

*Fifth.* I do not wish that any work should be excluded from the library on account of its difference from the ordinary or conventional opinions on the subjects of science, government, theology, morals, or medicine, provided it contains neither ribaldry nor indecency. Temperate, sincere, and intelligent inquiry and discussion are only to be dreaded by the advocates of error. The truth need not fear them, nor do I wish the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library to be encumbered with the ephemeral biographies, novels, and works of fiction or amusement, newspapers or periodicals, which form so large a part of the current literature of the day. The great object of a public library is to bring within the reach of the reader and student works which private collections do not, and cannot, contain, and which in no other way could be accessible to the public. Its excellence will depend—not upon the

