

adopted, by which, after reciting that "the present accommodations of the Library are entirely insufficient for the preservation of the present number of books, without reference to any prospective increase, and the building fund has become very considerable in amount," it was enacted that the directors should have full power and authority, when they should think proper, to purchase a lot in the city of Philadelphia on the best terms they could procure.

A committee was appointed by the directors to carry into effect this resolution, and they had made some progress in their inquiries, when, within a month after the resolution had been adopted, the death of Dr. Rush occurred. His will, the clauses and objects of which have been the subject of much discussion, need not be referred to here, as they are familiar to the members. It is sufficient to say that they were of such a nature that the directors hesitated to recommend the acceptance of his bequest until the building proposed was, as the testator had provided in terms, completed and tendered to the company; for until then the obligations, pecuniary and otherwise, which such acceptance would involve, and which were very uncertain in themselves, could not be determined. The matter, however, was left to the vote of the members, who, by a very small majority, agreed to accept in advance.

This, though showing, so far as it went, the wishes of the members, was not conclusive, because, though there was a majority of the votes actually cast, it was in fact much less than a majority of the whole number of the members, counting in those who were absent or who abstained from voting. The objects proposed, however, required an alteration of the charter, to be ratified at a special meeting afterwards called for the purpose, and at this the real majority might turn out to be the other way. In order to bring this to the test, the directors