

square, the value of property in that part of the town was likely to rise. Another advantage was, that, while very near the principal thoroughfares of the city, it was not exposed to the dust and noise which are inseparable from them.

The size of the lot, which is one hundred and ten feet in front on Locust street, by about two hundred and fifty feet in depth on Juniper street, was a further inducement. Should the company be forced to give up the building at Broad and Christian streets, the lot in question would be ample for its present collections and their extension for an indefinite period of years.

The expediency of the removal to a new site was, as has been said, endorsed by an unanimous vote of the shareholders in 1869. During each succeeding year, the risks to which the Library has been exposed have caused growing anxiety to the directors. Fire might at any moment destroy a priceless collection of books accumulated during a century and a half. And the present location has become more and more unsuitable to the class of readers to which the members belong, especially to ladies. But before the settlement of the questions in regard to the acceptance of Dr. Rush's bequest, and the obligations it imposed, it was impossible to act. Until then, the size and character of the building could not be determined, nor was it certain that, after such acceptance, a separate library building could be erected, consistently with the provisions of the will. And if not, what could be done with the building fund?

When these questions, therefore, were settled last summer in a manner which left liberty of action to the board, they felt that they must assume at once the responsibility of that action, which had been too long delayed. Fortunately the very delay, the risk being now almost

