

past, had been of service in this, that the cost of erecting the building, by reason of the great fall in prices, would be perhaps one-half below what it might have been ten years ago. Still it would not have been wise to trust to this condition of things lasting for any long period. With the revival of business, a fresh rise in prices was to be expected.

The directors, therefore, proceeded forthwith to get plans and estimates from competent architects, and after due consideration selected those of Mr. Frank Furness, and then obtained tenders from contractors for the different portions of the work. This is now begun, and it is expected will be completed, and the building ready for occupancy, before the end of the year.

The elevation or outside plan of the building is now exhibited in the present Library. It is to be of brick with Hummelstown brown-stone trimmings; and will be entirely fire-proof. The cost of the structure itself will be about \$34,750. The shelving, fitting up, and outside work will make an aggregate of \$46,000 for the whole work; a sum less than the present cash assets of the building fund, leaving \$3000 to \$4000 for contingencies. None but the most responsible as well as competent contractors have been selected, and as the contracts specify distinctly the work to be done under each, and its cost, there is every reason to believe that the estimates will not be exceeded.

The front part of the building, seventy-six feet front by thirty-two feet depth, is to be occupied by the offices of the company, and by rooms for ladies; the rear will be composed of a single reading-room fifty-nine feet four inches square, which will be on the floor entirely unobstructed, leaving ample space for readers. Around this will be shelves for books, without any alcoves. Above will be a gallery surrounding the room, on which there are to be alcoves as well as shelves. This contemplates