

be by law annually entitled; and if those annual commissions should not equal the amount of such annuity, it shall be taken and considered as full payment thereof.

*Sixth.* I desire to express still more emphatically than I have yet done my wish and direction that the Library Company shall never make any efforts to rival the other libraries of America or of Europe in the mere number of volumes they contain. If the amount of books in the Philadelphia Library is simply recorded in its catalogue, it will be sufficient for every useful purpose; and what ever its number may be, it need not be held in the gloom of discontent at its inferiority to others, nor in a prideful exultation at its excess above them. Let it rest in a modest contentment in the useful quality of its volumes for the benefit, not the amusement alone, of the public; nor let it, over an ambitious store of inferior printed paper, flap its flimsy leaves, and crow out the highest number of worthless books. Let it be a favor for the eminent works of fiction to be found upon its shelves; but let it not keep cushioned seats for time-wasting and lounging readers, nor places for every-day novels, mind-tainting reviews, controversial politics, scribblings of poetry and prose, biographies of unknown names, nor for those teachers of disjointed thinking, the daily newspapers, except, perhaps, for reference to support, since such an authority could never prove the authentic date of an event. In short, let the managers think only of the intrinsic value of the additions to their shelves; for I hope (yet fearfully) that the streams flowing into the library will be clear, pure, and deep, diffusing healthy, truthful, and valuable information throughout the community, and not to be overborne by a common flood of cotemporary literature, that may sweep off the firm foundations of knowledge, and leave no high places for a useful intellect to rest upon, to extend its bounties, and to be secure.

To assist in accomplishing the purposes of instruction above declared, let the contributors strive to elect to the management, if they can be found, at least one or two persons of *general*

