

conversation passed between Dr. Rush and Mr. Williams as to whether the Library Company would approve of the location: (Mr. Williams' testimony, page 197 Examiner's Report.)

After this conversation, and in consequence of it, as it would seem, Mr. Williams called upon Mr. Henry Wharton and Mr. Alexander Biddle to obtain their views on the subject.*

These gentlemen are all of the highest character. There can be no doubt what each says he believes to be the exact truth.

They failed to understand each other, owing, probably, to the fact that the conversation was hurried, and Mr. Williams and Mr. Wharton, at least, were looking at the matter from different stand-points, and were on an unequal footing so far as their knowledge of Dr. Rush's will was concerned.

Mr. Wharton, under the impression that the lot at Broad and Christian streets was to be given for the building, with a large endowment fund to extend and increase the library (meaning the books), expressed it as his personal opinion that the Directors ought to advise the stockholders to accept this gift, rather than that such a munificent gift should be lost to the City of Philadelphia. (Examiner's Report, p. 22.)

Mr. Williams, knowing the contents of Dr. Rush's will, and what he himself intended to say, had a different impression of the conversation, and takes the result of the conversation to be an absolute approval by Messrs. Wharton and Biddle of the projected purchase (Examiner's Report, p. 207), and on the strength of that conviction, reported the conversation in that sense to Dr. Rush.

Mr. Biddle's recollection of the conversation is given at page 222 of the Examiner's Report.

* Mr. Williams, as a Director of the Library, had, on the 24th of April, 1869, preceding, been appointed, with Mr. H. Wharton and Mr. A. Biddle, a committee of three to select a suitable lot for a library building. On the 4th of November, 1869, this committee seems to have been changed for another, consisting of Messrs. Wharton, McCall, and Morris Waln, whose action resulted in the purchase January, 1870, of a lot on the N. W. corner of Locust and Juniper streets, 110 feet on Locust street by 185 feet in depth. [Examiner's Report, pages 142, 143.]

