

him that he had given me an absolute discretion as to the situation of the library by the terms of his will, and that I might be induced to overrule his decision after he was gone. He called me to his bedside and asked me to give him a promise that I would *build the library on that lot and nowhere else*. I gave him this promise as fully and solemnly as language could express it, and he then thanked me and said he could now die in peace. Now, do you think it would be at all consistent with truth and honesty for me voluntarily to violate a pledge given under circumstances which render it as sacred as an oath, and made to a dying man who had confided to me the management of his whole estate? Would you, with your well-known delicacy and sensibility to all honorable engagements, feel yourself justified in doing so, were the case your own, and should I not lose your respect and regard (which I value very highly) were I to hesitate for a moment as to what was my duty?

And what is the reason assigned why I should do this?—"to gratify the wishes of the shareholders." But have these shareholders shown such an appreciation of the magnificent gift of Dr. Rush (which is only subject to their future acceptance) as to render his representative very desirous to comply with their wishes, in opposition to the repeatedly and earnestly declared intentions of Dr. Rush, and to his own deliberate judgment? When the question was first presented to them, these shareholders, by a majority of five, accepted his bequest, but, by a very much larger majority, refused to pass a resolution expressing their gratitude for his gift. True, at a subsequent meeting they adopted such a resolution, but it was only on second thoughts; and it may be doubted whether it was not agreed to because of the extraordinary position in which they would be placed, if they were to take his money and refuse to admit they were obliged to him.

I have said that to assent to the wishes of the shareholders would be in opposition to my own deliberate judgment, and I mean this in its fullest extent. I think that, considering its size, its price, and the description of library Dr. Rush intended

