

responsibility of disposing of his effects, of which they were to be ultimately the residuary legatees, when they perfectly well knew I had no legal right to do so. Their assent, without releasing from the former, which I was aware was not in their power, would have relieved me from the latter, which I did not choose to assume.

I do not see what construction I could put upon their silence, except that they declined acceding to my request, nor do I know how I could have "advised them of the facts" more fully than I had done by my statement at the Board.

Under these circumstances, I informed Dr. Rush's family that, although I could not carry out his instructions as he designed, yet I could dispose of these articles at private sale, and that they could have all or any of them at their appraised values. Some of them accepted this offer, and have received and paid for their intended gifts—others declined it.

The matter has thus been settled for about a year, and I not only do not desire, but I am entirely unwilling, to disturb it. It must rest as it is. I have, however, the consolation of knowing that it was not from any omission of mine that Dr. Rush's kind intentions have been frustrated.

My object in referring to this subject in my last letter was only to inform the Board of the course which the want of action on their part, formal or informal, had compelled me to pursue.

Very truly and respectfully,

HENRY J. WILLIAMS.

W. E. WHITMAN, Esq., *Secretary*.

CHESTNUT HILL, January 16, 1871.

On the 19th of October, 1869, the stockholders at a meeting convened for that purpose agreed to the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Stockholders of the Library Company of Philadelphia do hereby accept the legacy of Dr. James Rush, according to the terms expressed in his will.

