

EXHIBIT B.

CHESTNUT HILL, Dec. 30th, 1870.

MY DEAR DOCTOR: I did not intend my note of the 17th instant to be a formal reply to the resolutions of the directors of the Library Company, nor to prevent the committee from having the conference they requested. So far from it, that I mentioned both time and place at which I would have been happy to meet them. I cannot, however, conceal my conviction, that nothing they could say would change my intention of placing the Ridgway branch of the Philadelphia Library on the lot purchased by Dr. Rush for its site; and after all that has taken place, I must confess I am a little surprised that they should again ask me to do so. Judge Hare and yourself must both be fully aware (for I have stated them, I believe, both orally and in writing) of the circumstances connected with the selection of that lot for this purpose; but, as Mr. Lea, one of your committee, is a new member, I shall repeat them, even at the risk of being unnecessarily tedious in my answer; for I cannot believe the directors could expect *me* to make the change they desire, if they fully appreciated my position.

Some weeks before Dr. Rush's death he was very anxious to have the location of the intended building finally fixed and settled; and he desired me to ascertain the size and cost of all the vacant lots on Broad Street, on which street he desired it to be placed. I procured statements of the sizes and prices of all I thought at all suitable, from Vine to South Street, but he was satisfied with none of them. Another gentleman brought him a plan of the lot on Christian Street, and he was so much pleased with it that he directed me to buy it at once. I did so; and when the contract was signed and a part of the consideration paid, he expressed great pleasure that it was concluded, as it relieved his mind from all anxiety. Some days after, he recurred again to this subject, as it had probably occurred to 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

