

A. Understanding your question to be, in case the Philadelphia Library does not accept this bequest, and the Ridgway Library is established by itself,—it would not make the same practical difference that it would if combined with a stock library; still, I think any library would be better in the heart of the city.

Q. Your knowledge upon the whole subject is derived, is it not, from your connection with the Mercantile Library, which is, as you have said, a circulating and popular library?

A. My principal knowledge is derived from that source.

Q. What great libraries have you visited in this country or other countries?

A. None in other countries; many of the principal libraries in this, I think, such as the Boston Free Library, the Astor Library, and others.

Q. Which of those that you visited in this country are at or near the centres of population and business?

A. Nearly all. The Boston Free Library, opposite the Common; the Mercantile Library of New York, within a quarter of a square of the business part of Broadway, near Stewart's upper store, near Ninth Street; the Astor Library, a square or two from the Mercantile.

Q. How far is the Astor Library from the centre of business in New York?

(Objected to, as leading into examination of the question: "What is the centre of business in New York," which may admit of different answers for different purposes.)

A. At present I think it is very near the centre of the retail business of New York.

Q. Are you able to say whether the lot owned by the Philadelphia Library Company, on Locust east of Broad, is adequate for the erection upon it of such a building as is contemplated by the directions in Dr. Rush's will?

A. As to dimensions I should think it was.

Q. What are the dimensions of that lot?

A. 110 feet by 240, as I find by referring to my examination in chief.

