

the decision which they are then to make in reference to Dr. Rush's magnificent gift. Indeed the coolness, and I may say indifference, with which it has been received, almost leads me to hope that it may be rejected, and the Ridgway Library be established wholly independent of the Philadelphia Library. I inclose you the opinion of Judge Strong which I beg you will lay before the Board. It was given in answer to written questions, of which I also send a copy, without any argument, suggestion, or intimation of my wishes or opinions, and as I believe it to be correct, I shall be governed by it.

I certainly did expect that I should have been cordially aided in the administration of this trust by the Board of Directors, and that they would have taken pleasure in assisting me to carry out the instructions of one whom I thought was a benefactor of the Library Company. I have been disappointed; and I shall now probably have to depend entirely upon myself; for I shall not consider the Library Company in any way interested in Dr. Rush's estate until the members accept in the terms of his will the conditions imposed by it. If this is declined or delayed I shall be compelled to proceed without reference to the wishes or opinions of the Board, and exercise my best judgment in the construction of the building entirely independent of them. I shall, no doubt, make many mistakes, and imperfectly accomplish the work before me; but I will do the best I can, and if I fail for want of the counsel and advice of the Board it will be because they have been unwilling to put themselves in a condition to give it.

With regard to the claim of the heirs of Dr. Rush to the surplus of his estate beyond the annuity fund, if the Board choose to raise their hopes by intimating a doubt as to their own right to it, I have nothing to say. The provision made for some of them is so slight that they will probably eagerly catch at any proper means to increase it. I am trustee for those who are entitled to that surplus, and if the Board sug-