

EXHIBIT No. 21a.

CIRCULAR OF STOCKHOLDERS.

The Stockholders of the Library Company of Philadelphia are required, on the 19th of October, to vote on certain resolutions proposed at a meeting of Stockholders, held on the 6th instant.

We beg to call your attention to what we deem the material questions. Every one recognizes the importance of an adequate building for the Library, and also of an endowment for the purchase of books, especially those of the character recommended by Dr. Rush.

If this Company shall fail to accept the provisions of the will, the only consequence will be that a building will be erected, endowed, and administered by persons not constituting the Directors of our Company. Every one will have the same use of the building and books that he can have, if this Company accepts the trust. And unless we are prepared to remove our whole collection to Broad and Christian Streets, we can perceive no one motive for an acceptance. For we must still maintain two establishments; one at which our members can resort, and the other as a receptacle for books not intended for ordinary use, to be kept at the new building, which is to be in a remote place suitable for students to retire to, but so entirely out of the range of common people, as to practically destroy such use of it as we have been accustomed to.

The resolutions, numbers 1, 2, 3, do appear to imply that our acceptance is conditional on our retention of the liberty to maintain a Library at another and convenient place.

But when it was proposed to vary these so far as to make that an express condition of acceptance, it was not agreed to, and we therefore call your attention to the fifth resolution, and ask you to vote for that, if you deem the right to select a location distinct from Broad and Christian, for any purposes, important, and you should think it desirable to accept the trust, before required to do so under the directions of the will.

