

collecting this sum for seventeen years, with the interest, of course, added."

"Do you think the library company will accept the terms of the executor?"

"I think it will depend altogether upon circumstances. When Mr. Williams' building is put up somebody will have to manage the Ridgway branch of the Philadelphia Library. This company might as well manage it as any one else if they keep their own library elsewhere. It would be possible to have a library of reference at Broad and Christian streets, and a circulating library at a more central point. On the other hand, however, the executor of Dr. Rush takes the view that the books cannot be separated, and that we will have to put all our books down there or none. If that view is sustained there is little doubt but that the company will reject the thing altogether."

"Will that question come before the court?"

"That is not certain. However, it is looking too far ahead. The time to make the opposition will be when the Ridgway branch at Broad and Christian streets is completed and tendered to the company. I understand Mr. Williams is going on at once to make the contracts for the building."

"Do you think it would be well to remove the entire library to Broad and Christian streets?"

"It would never do to take the library down there. It is a library of circulation. A library of reference might do there, if it were amply endowed. The original purpose of this library was for circulation, and in that sense, as a circulating library, its usefulness would be nearly destroyed by a removal."

"Will the company put their collection of books in the building at Broad and Christian streets?"

"The library company will never put their collection there as a whole. They might accept the trusteeship of the Ridgway branch, and might put certain of their old books of reference there, but the modern books, or circulating library proper, will never go there."

"What is the opinion of the stockholders?"

"The opinion of nine-tenths of the stockholders is the same as what I have given you as my own. The main object of Dr. Rush was to secure this valuable collection of books from destruction by fire. It was because the directors thought the principal intention of the testator was not being carried out by a removal to Broad and Christian streets that they filed this bill in equity to restrain the executor. But the court has decided against them."

"If you do not accept what does the company propose doing?"

"The idea is to put this valuable collection in a fire-proof building as soon as we can do so. As soon as the question is definitely settled as to our acceptance or rejection of the Rush bequest an appeal will probably be made to the public for means to complete our fire-proof building on the lot purchased out of the building fund, at Locust and Juniper streets."

"What is the size of that lot of ground?"

"The size of the lot is 110 by 234 feet. It is ample for the existing library and for its increase for hundreds of years."

"What would the building cost?"

"I think a structure such as we would desire, thoroughly fire-proof, would cost about \$300,000. This sum would also furnish it properly. The location is a very central one, and convenient for our stockholders."

"The Broad and Christian streets location would not have this advantage."

"It would be so much out of the way at Broad and Christian streets that its utility would be nearly gone. It might be admissible to put such a thing there if there were ample funds to keep it up. Under the will of Dr. Rush all the money must be spent on the building, with the exception of about \$150,000, reserved to pay annuities. There is so much left to the executor that it is difficult to know what will be done until the building is finished and we know what funds are left to keep up the Ridgway branch. Under his will Dr. Rush calls his institution the Ridgway branch of the Philadelphia Library, and therefore it might be in a separate place."

