

its working, to introduce and perfect such improvements as will render it more decisively what it was in its origin and traditions, an active and living institution; ^{one} of which Philadelphians may ~~well~~ be proud, as they are of the fame of its founder. While every facility in the use of the books is given to the members, our duty to the public, which ~~our~~ ^{an} exemption from taxation enforces, forbids the limitation of its usefulness to those who constitute the corporation itself. Hence the doors of the Library are open to all respectable ^{persons} citizens who desire to consult its collections within its walls, or to take out books, on terms which prescribe no unfair discrimination.

That the change of situation, and the knowledge that the public has gained of the really liberal spirit of our by-laws, have already produced a positive ~~effect~~ ^{result}, will be seen from the following statistics:

During the whole of the past year ending May 1. 1880, the number of persons visiting or using the Library has been 77.825

An account of the number of books taken out was only begun in October last. From that date to May 1, that number was 17.091

Now, distributing these figures into two separate periods, one, while the Library still remained on Fifth Street, and the other since its removal here the account stands thus:

Attendance and service at the old building from May 1. 1879 to Feby. 19. 1880.