To the Members of the Library Company of Philadelphia

In presenting their annual report the Directors would call attention to the fact that on the first day of next July the Library Company will complete the one hundred and fifteenth year of its existence; the Articles of Association, by which it was definitely founded, having been signed on the corresponding day in the year 1731. The present meeting therefore possesses a special interest for the Members, as it may be considered, in a certain sense, as the celebration of a very important anniversary. Did time permit it would be a pleasant task to trace the progress of the Company, not always prosperous, from its modest beginning shortly afterwards in a room over the kitchen of a house, which was situated in Market St. below Second, at that time one of the most eligible positions in the city, and which was the dwelling of Robert Grace, one of its founders and staunchest friends down to the present time. A history such as this would exceed the limits usually allowed to an annual report, and is doubtless familiar to many among you. It has, moreover, been recently written by the Librarian and will shortly appear in a printed form.

The new building after an occupation of a little more than a year has been found in the main to answer admirably the purposes for which

it was designed. Experience has, however, shown the necessity for a few alterations and additions. One of the most important of these was the construction of additional means of drainage. Unfortunately, there is no sewer on Locust St. and the two wells situated on the front of the lot, which it was believed would be a sufficient substitute for it, proved inadequate to carry off all the water coming from the building during the heavy rains which occurred at the close of last winter. It was therefore necessary to dig two more wells. This with the cost of the necessary drain pipe involved a large outlay of money, but the improvement was necessary to prevent the flooding of the cellar with water.

Another alteration, now under consideration, is the opening of a door in the rear wall of the building, directly opposite the principal door of entrance, and the construction of a verandah along a portion of the north front to which this door will give access. This and the covering of a portion of the skylight well, it is thought, conduce very materially to the comfort of those who visit the Library, and especially of those who spend much time in reading there during the Summer months, by rendering the main hall much cooler than was the case last year.

With regard to the pecuniary condition of the Library Company the following statement is furnished by the Treasurer

# Receipts

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance from last Year | 1,707.68 |
| Interest | 206.84 |
| Rent of Land & Buildings | 2,550.– |
| " from Central News Co | 3,000.– |
| Yearly Payments | 7,791.73 |
| " Subscriptions | 184.– |
| Duplicates Sold | 41.07 |
| Legacy from Rev Jas Fraser Dec'd | 1,000.– |
| | 16,481.32 |

## Expenditures

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Books | 3,982.14 | | |
| Binding | 963.02 | 4,945.16 | |
| Salaries | | 3,620.– | |
| Expenses & Repairs | | 1,779.19 | |
| Insurance | | 357.50 | |
| Taxes & Water Rent | | 1,140.92 | |
| Fitting up new Building | | 3,156.22 | |
| Commission on Lease | | 400 | |
| Balance | | 1,082.33 | 16,481.32 |

It will be seen from the above that the income of the Library Company has been materially increased by the rental of the old building on Fifth St. for a term of years to the Central News Company for $4000 per annum, which, after deducting taxes, yields the sum of $3600.

The condition of the Loganian and Ridgway Funds is also satisfactory. The income derived from the ~~former~~ latter has received during the past year a handsome accession in consequence of the death of one of the annuitants under the will of Dr. Rush.

The following is the record kept by the Librarian, of the number of visitors to the Library and readers during the last twelve months

See next sheet etc

# Library Company of Philadelphia.

Report of attendance, Book circulation, &c., for Library year, beginning May 1st 1880, ending April 30th 1881.

No. of days open 306.

Whole number of persons using or visiting the Library:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Members.** | | |
| Males. | 31004. | |
| Females. | 21446. | 52450. |
| **Visitors.** | | |
| Males. | 17851. | |
| Females. | 5960. | 23811. |
| **Messengers.** | | 7156. |
| * | Total | 83417. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Average Daily attendance | 272+ |
| " Monthly " | 6951+ |
| Whole number of books taken out | 34304. |
| Daily average " " " " | 112+ |

*attendance for year ending May 1st 1880 was 77825 difference in favor of this year 5.592

Largest monthly attendance April 1881. 1292.
Smallest " " July 1880. 361.

Largest daily attendance. April 23. 1881. 78.
Smallest " " aug. 25. 1880. 51.

Whole number of books added to Library:-

By purchase 1325.
" gift 184
Total books 1509.
" volumes 1729.

Catalogue cards distributed-

Copied at Locust St. 6975.
" " Ridgway Branch 6921.
Total no. of cards. 13896.

Monthly average 1158.
Daily " 45+.

# Ridgway Branch.

Report of attendance, &c. for Library year beginning May 1st 1880, ending April 30th 1881.

No. of days open 271.

Readers.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 1632. | |
| Female | 224 | 1856. |

Visitors (other than readers)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 4092. | |
| Female | 1829 | 5921. |
| | Total | 7777. |

Daily average (of people) 28+.

Book Circulation -

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Used in building | 5590. | |
| Given out | 1269. | |
| | Total | 6859. |

Daily average (of books) 25+

Books added to Branch:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| By purchase | 35 | Total. |
| " gift | 450. | 485. |

These statistics show a considerable increase in the number of visitors over that of the preceding year. This increase would have been doubtless even larger than it is, but for two circumstances, 1, the exceptional heat of last summer, & the fact that the statistics of last year included the visitors during the months which immediately succeeded the opening of the new building, when an unusually large number were attracted to it by curiosity. It has thus been found that the removal of the Library to its present site has not been attended with the disadvantage it was feared it might by some of its members. Its situation is, however, more remote from the business centres of the city than the former one and to visit it for the purpose of taking out books is, therefore, attended with more inconvenience to a large number of stockholders. This will especially be the case during the summer months when many of them are living out of town and come into the city solely for the transaction of business. It has occurred to the Directors that this inconvenience might be, in fact, at least, overcome by the connection of the two Library buildings with Bell's Telephone Exchange ~~the General Telephone System~~ of the city. As there are few persons who do not have access to a telephone, members will be enabled by this arrangement either to have the book they wish sent to their places of business, or as a trifling charge to save themselves the loss of time in going for a book which may happen to be out

By the will of the late Benjamin Franklin $1000 was bequeathed to the Library Company. This has been paid by his executors within the past year without deduction on account of taxes, and has been appropriated in meeting a deficiency in the building fund.

Under Dr. Rush's will the number of shares is "limited to those actually issued at the time of my (his) death" and since a few shares are forfeited for non payment of dues almost every year the membership will dwindle indefinitely unless they are reissued. Since Dr. Rush's death forty shares have been actually thus forfeited, of which thirteen have been reissued by paying of the back dues. Therefore the Directors ask the members to enact the following by-law

When the fines and dues on any share amount to more than twenty-dollars at any one time, and the holder on being notified thereof shall fail to discharge the same within one month, it shall be lawful for the Directors, instead of forfeiting the share to sell the same at public sale for the account and at the risk of the holder, without further notice, and deduct the amount due out of the proceeds of the sale

The Board sustained during last year a severe loss in the deaths of two of its oldest and most useful members, Mr. Peter McCall and Mr Henry Wharton

Mr. McCall was elected a member of the Board in the year 1857 and during his long term of service was regular in his attendance at its meetings and always cheerfully performed the duties — sometimes not a little onerous — which fell to his lot. While the citizens of Philadelphia in general lament the removal from the community of a gentleman distinguished in his profession, of perfect integrity of character, and remarkable for all the virtues which can adorn a man and a Christian, his friends at this Board will never cease to hold in kindly remembrance the cultivated intellect, the refinement of manner, and the courteous consideration for others which characterized him in social intercourse

It would be almost impossible to place too high an estimate on the services which Mr. Wharton rendered to this Company as a member of its Board of Directors from the time of his election in 1852 until his death in November last he manifested the liveliest interest in its welfare. This interest although never wanting he was specially displayed when as a member of the Committee to whose superintendence the building was erected. The Board feels that in his death the Company has lost a friend and counsellor, to whose sagacity and wisdom is largely owing much of its present prosperity. and hence therefore thought it proper to mark its appreciation of his services by having his portrait painted and hung in a prominent position in the main hall of the Library

The vacancies in the Board created by the deaths of these two gentlemen were filled by the election of Mr. Wm Henry Rawle and Mr Charles Roll

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D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer

Colors by Munsell Color Services Lab

Library Co
of
Phil^a

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