The Philadelphia Library.

To the Editor of the Evening Bulletin:—It is a lamentable fact that, as a general rule, stockholders take but little interest in the affairs of an institution until the time of danger, and then they find, sometimes too late for remedy, that the power given to the managers has no check in the constitution. It is the inside ones that makes doubtful the future of the L. brary Company; and it is for the purpose of endeavoring to excite the attention of the shareholders to consider the subject now in question, and which is so vital to the interests of the Company, that these views are presented.

The Library Company was established by Dr. Franklin and his associates in 1731. It procured the favor and patronage of the Proprietary Governor, who gave it a charter of incorporation in 1742. For the purpose of enlarging its sphere of usefulness, it was, in the year 1790, united with the Union Library Company, and thus obtained nearly three hundred new members, and at the present time it has about nine hundred and fifty shareholders; and to this number, at the outside, it must be forever limited if the bequest of Dr. Rush be accepted. Dr. Rush, by his will made in 1890, gives his residuary estate to his executor, Henry J. Williams, "in trust, to build a *purchase a lot of ground* not less than one hundred and fifty feet square, situate between Fourth and Fifth streets, and Race and Vine streets, in the city of Philadelphia, and thereon to *erect* a fire-proof building sufficiently large to accommodate and contain ALL the books of the Library Company of Philadelphia (whose library is now at the corner of Fifth and Library streets), &c." AND UPON THIS TESTATOR THINKS, as soon as this building is completed and ready for occupation, *then* in trust to convey the same, with the lot whereon it is erected, unto the Library Company of Philadelphia aforesaid, and their successors, for the use of *their* library, and for no other use or purpose whatever—*provided*," &c.; and here he recites the conditions upon which the bequest is permitted to make a conveyance. By a codicil to his will, dated May, 1807, he authorizes his executor to "to select any situation he may deem most expedient." In the same codicil, after reciting that his Executor shall erect a building for the Library Company of Philadelphia, not any heir-presumptive, but also their probable increase for many years to come," he directs his Executor, after erecting the whole remainder of my estate in the purchase of a lot and the erection of the library building, construction, &c., aforesaid—and leaving the said company only an income sufficient to defray the customary and usual appropriate expenses of such an institution." It will thus be seen that all his estate, excepting legacies of annuities amounting to but about $8,400 per annum, *must* be expended on the building, and that the interest on the amount for the new and larger building will make heavier expenses. There are other restrictions not now necessary to be stated, but sufficient the time has not come for action, and the attempt to re-organize at this fair distance is the most unaccountable. The Executor, though invested with the right to select *any* location, insists upon a lot at Broad and Carpenter streets, which is far west of the present location. Before Dr. Rush's death, as was explained at the meeting of shareholders, and *which Dr. Rush never saw*, the location was changed, and are opposed to this location, and yet it is attempted to be forced upon the bequest. The Executor's duty is plain, not to make an effort to coerce acceptance at this time—but to proceed and erect the building; *then*, and not till then, if the Legislature will make the necessary alterations in the charter, and the company will accept these changes, to convey it to the company. The Executor may rest assured that whatever may be the action, there will be found *then* some prepared to reject the gift and to endeavor to prevent such legislative action as is prescribed; and the right to accept or reject belongs to those who may be shareholders then, and not those who are so now.

Present action will not bind nor prevent future, and of a different kind; and certainly it is better to await the chapter of accidents, take all chances and see the building erected according to the Executor's will and penance, before it is determined to accept it, especially as nothing is gained by present acceptance. The fund of nearly $100,000, so long accumulating, the Building Fund, to which the late Mr. Fisher made a large contribution, must be surrendered and returned to the original donors; for law, as well as honor, will prevent it from being used for any other purpose than erecting a library building.

The resolutions to be voted upon by the stockholders on the 19th are:

Firstly—To accept the bequest.

Secondly—To retain the present collection of books in the present building.

Thirdly—To appoint a committee to convert with Dr. Rush's executor, and carry the resolutions into effect.

Fourthly—Or return thanks; and

Fifthly—To unite the two first resolutions, so that they must stand or fall together.

The writer is of opinion that the provisions of the will are obligatory; that a branch of the Library cannot be maintained in its present location, and *the Executor has never said otherwise*, and while the acceptance would (or might) be binding, the second proposition would be negatory and invalid. If those who presented these resolutions are sincere in their belief and purpose—if they think that a branch may be retained in its present location—there can be no objection to the fifth proposition. So that, whatever may be the vote on the first three, it is perfectly safe to vote "aye" on the last. A negative vote on the others will make the postponse action till the building is erected, when eyes and ears can help the judgment; though in case the negative should not prevail, the vote to refer on the fifth resolution will be calculated to promote the interests of the Company and the harmony of its members.

A SHAREHOLDER.

A Plumber's Reply.

To the Editors of the Evening Bulletin—We cannot believe that the wholesale imputation of frauds, which your article on the "systematized imposition" and "systematic overcharges of plumbers contains, is intended to apply to the whole craft, or that you would intentionally wish to vilify the character of many respectable citizens, whose integrity of character and reputation for fair dealing is dear to them as they are to the gentlemanly merchant princes of our city, the manufacturer, the doctor, the lawyer, the editor, or even the poor printer. Therefore, on behalf of some who cannot but feel abused at your sweeping assertions, it seems right to make a moderate reply.

Your quotation from the London *Times* very forcibly illustrates the whole idea, which we cannot but wish were otherwise, viz.: "That something unintelligible was like a plumbers' bill, which nobody could understand, &c." This is the gist of the whole matter. If plumbing-work and plumbers' bills were understood by *everybody*, least "disagreeable surprises which every householder experiences" would not be so common.

To a person initiated, it is the greater mystery to know *what a great mystery* the details of the business are to the general public. This is a fact which cannot be controverted, and which will probably long exist until all the community are plumbers. This ignorance of the business, and the necessary high cost of everything connected with it, is what makes the generality of bills seem extravagant.

It would not be possible in an article like the present to institute a just comparison with other trades, the carpenter, the bricklayer, &c. Any reflecting mind ought to see as a glance the difference, where a large amount of comparatively is put upon plain materials of comparatively low cost, requiring very little thought or exertion to procure, and the comparatively small amount of labor upon articles of high cost, requiring the greatest experience and knowledge to know amongst the infinite variety of materials needed, just what to procure for each particular job and to put it together and know the proper manner of adjustment; so that when complete, the work is durable, especially as it is in every respect answer its purpose, free from danger of leaks, overflows and stoppages and annoyances of various kinds, which no other work is liable to.

That the business can be improved cannot be questioned, for in such a progressive age it would be folly to claim perfection; but one or two statements which we know are not exaggerated cannot should be alluded to.

There is now in existence an organization of plumbers combined to resist the purchasing of materials by owners, notwithstanding the publication of proposals for a meeting of plumbers, as such—some plumbers, at least, being of the opinion that the Company would monopolize the purchase of materials by those on whose judgment they are depending for the execution of their work, and would rather pay a profit, *mate profit*, for the proper selection of only such articles as are fit for the purpose required; to take the business out of the plumber's hands, waste their own time, and run the risk of getting stuck by poor work.

If you, Messrs. Editors, or any of your friends, have been unfortunate enough to pay rates ranging from sixty to one hundred and fifty per cent., the sooner you change your journeymen the better. If you have not got some honest men left, and you would do well, we would be glad to assist them in extending their well-earned bills, rather than still more embarrass them in carrying on a really vexatious and troublesome business.

VERITAS.

CITY BULLETIN.

—Fire Marshal Blackburn investigated the fire at the grocery store of John L. Carney, at the corner of Second and Federal streets yesterday, and caused the arrest of Carney. At the hearing before Alderman Beitler, it was shown that the police were attracted to the house by cries of murder and fire, proceeding from the interior of the roof, and finding the lower part fastened up, the doors were forced open. They then discovered the fire in the rear part of the store as well, the flames, in their opinion, having been kindled in both at about the same time. In making the fires kindling-wood seemed to have been used, as the ashes were plentiful. The Fire Marshal testified that defendant had obtained an insurance in the Southern Fire Insurance Company of $600 on the stock; on the fixtures, $200; on the furniture, $500, and $500 on the liquors, and that the policy of the village fire in the store was not worth the fixtures; the furniture was not worth $200, and the stock and fixtures not worth half the amount of insurance. After hearing the testimony, the Alderman held the accused for his appearance at Court to answer the charge of setting fire to the premises with intent to defraud the Jefferson Insurance Company.

—A meeting of the organization of plumbers combined to resist the purchasing of materials by owners, notwithstanding the publication of proposals for a meeting of plumbers, as such—some plumbers, at least, being of the opinion that the Company would monopolize the purchase of materials by those on whose judgment they are depending for the execution of their work, and would rather pay a profit, *mate profit*, for the proper selection of only such articles as are fit for the purpose required; to take the business out of the plumber's hands, waste their own time, and run the risk of getting stuck by poor work.

—Wm. T. Pierce and Walter Bayne had a hearing at the Central Station yesterday, upon the charge of conspiring to vote illegally at the second election held in the Seventh ward. It was alleged that Bayne offered to vote in the name of John White, residing at No. 104 Mary street, and stated after his arrest that the real defendant, Pierce, had taken him to the poll to vote, Bayne being a resident of the Fifth ward. They were held to appear at court. Bayne, who had a black jack on him, was held in addition to answer the charge of carrying a concealed deadly weapon.

—William Campbell was seriously stabbed behind the ear by a man named James Lafferty, at Twenty-ninth and Filbert streets, yesterday afternoon. Campbell was removed to his home, and Lafferty was taken into custody. A political dissension originated the difficulty.

—John Desmond was before Alderman Kerr yesterday on suspicion of having broken into the saloon of G. Mirabello, No. 83 South Third street, on Sunday last, and stolen a gold watch and other articles therefrom. He was held for a further hearing on Saturday next.

—A match game of base ball between the Athletic, of this city, and Brandywine, of West Chester, played yesterday afternoon on the grounds at Seventeenth street and Columbia avenue, resulted in favor of the Athletic by a score of 70 to 29.

—The store of Samuel Bowers, clothes renovator, No. 1 North Eleventh street, was robbed of nine pairs of pants, five coats, and three vests yesterday.

—John L. Hill, Esq., Chairman of the Republican City Executive Committee, was last evening the recipient of a serenade at his residence, No. 1220 Filbert street.

NEW JERSEY MATTERS.

THE ELECTION.—The election in Camden county, which occurs on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, begins to assume importance, and it involves principles which no Republican should overlook or ignore. Particularly is this the case, from the fact that an ill-timed effort has been made to organize a third party with assumed republican characteristics, solely for the purpose of aiding the Democratic candidates, and to satisfy the personal animosity or ambition of a few disappointed local malcontents. The whole force of this movement has been aimed at the Hon. Edward Bettle, and has been conducted in such a style as to be calculated to mislead the unwary. The Fox hunt was evidently instituted for the purpose of creating the impression that