The history of Pennsylvania has been written from various aspects, but her early libraries have received little attention. The earliest institution of the kind is the Library Company of Philadelphia. "The mother of all the North American subscription libraries," Franklin called it, which, he added, in 1771, are "now so numerous." Its history has been too often referred to to need more than a mention here.

The others, "so numerous," are the objects of the present research. A few survive; some may be jetsam, forever lost to history; those whose stories are here to be sketched are chiefly—to use the language of salvage—ligan: "sunken deeply in the seas of oblivion * * * yet * * * to each one of them is made fast a line * * * wherewith * * * the long submerged story may be drawn upward once more to the light of day." The principal line that in this study converts jetsam into ligan is the newspaper.

In a book published in 1766 is said, that Pennsylvania had "distinguished herself in her attention to public
Libraries, there not being less than four in the Metrop-
olis, and in almost every Town of Note, one."

The metropolis, Philadelphia, was at that time about
as populous as Lancaster to-day—a city of 20,000 in-
habitants—and probably much smaller in extent. "All
the plans of Philadelphia," Gov. Pownall wrote in 1754,
"represent it as extending from the River Delaware to
the Schuylkill. This was, indeed, the original plan laid
down on paper, and held out to the first settlers * * * That
this town should ever have such extent is almost
impossible; it does not extend one third of the way:"

Four (or more) libraries in this little city gives a ratio
of people and libraries disproportionate in the view of
even their most ardent advocate to-day. The reason
for these many organizations attempting to cover the
same ground may be surmised from a notice published
by the Library Company:

"The Library Company of Philadelphia, Incorporated by charter,
and the first institution of that sort set on foot in this city, having
hitherto computed the value of a share in the said company's books
and effects, by adding the payment of Ten Shillings per annum, since
their first establishment, to the original subscription money, by which
computation the price of a share amounted to upwards of Twenty One
Pounds, whereby many persons, desirous to become Members, were
discouraged on account of the expence; Have taken this matter into
consideration, and lately enacted a law for reducing and fixing the
purchase money of a share at Ten Pounds, Pennsylvania Currency. * * *
Francis Hopkinson, Secretary."

As the other libraries modelled themselves after the
Library Company, each in turn may have discouraged
persons desirous of becoming members. Yet the diffi-
culty individuals experienced in acquiring books
spurred them to interest others to cooperate in form-
ing new public collections. The letter Isaac Norris
wrote to his brother Charles, then in England, speaks

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1 *The Charter, Laws, Catalogue of Books, of the Juliana Library-Com-
pany. Preface, ix.
2 *Penna. Gazette. no. 2048. March 24, 1768.*
of the buying of books in Philadelphia as almost an impossibility: "When in London, I lent Mr. Osgood Gee a Latin book by Musaeus; ask it from him, and send it to me; tell him it is hard to take a book from an American, when he lives so near the fountain-head, and may get them every day, which is not our case; we may want and can't purchase books here at any price, except by accident." Therefore those who wanted to read or study longer than the brief afternoon when the books of the Library Company were accessible, and who could not afford to become members of the Company, organized similar institutions.

It was fifteen years after the establishment of the Library Company that the Union Library sprang into existence. Its bookplate preserved in some volumes now in the Library Company, reads: "Belonging to the Union Library Company of Philadelphia, began in the year 1746." Its "Articles of Agreement Indented made Concluded & fully Agreed upon This" 16th day of May, 1747, were signed by twenty-six members, namely: William Sitgreaves, John Durborow, jr., John Stow, Jonathan Shoemaker, James Whiteall, Richard Wistar, Benjamin Price, William Ransted, Joseph Shewell, Reuben Haines, Silas Crispin, James Chattin, Stephen Stapler, George Owen, William Clampfer, Evan Evans, Jeremiah Elfreth, jr., Thomas Williams, Robert Parrish, William Fussell, James Willson, John Hughes, William Ball, Daniel Durborrow, Phineas Roberts, and one name which is undecipherable.4

4 William Sitgreaves was a shop keeper at the corner of Water and Arch sts; John Durborow, jr., son of a broker or freight agent, who kept shop on 3d St.; John Stow, brass founder, 3d St. above Market St.; Jonathan Shoemaker, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Roberts Shoemaker, married Sarah Lownes; Richard Wistar, son of Caspar Wistar, moved from his father's house to Market St. next to Sign of the Spinning Wheel in 1752; Benjamin Price, attorney, 2d St. near Baptist Meeting; William Ransted, teacher of navigation; Joseph Shewell, biscuit baker,
This parchment concerns itself with the practical workings of the Library, principally the duties of the clerks. The Articles, dated the 30th day of March 1751, are much more lengthy and elaborate: "We who have hereunto subscribed our Names and affixed our Seals, desirous to advance and promote Knowledge and Literature in the City of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, having placed together several Sums of Money wherewith to form a joint Stock for the Purchasing a Collection of useful Books to compose a Library in the said City of Philadelphia, of which Money We of the Number of the first Twenty-seven Subscribers, have advanced Three Pounds a Piece, and each of the Rest of us, the several Sums set to our Names hereunto subscribed respectively, Do hereby mutually convenant and agree * * * In witness whereof, We the said Partners in Company have in Manner aforesaid subscribed our Names and affixed our Seals unto these Presents, the same being contained in Five Sheets of Paper, made up in the Form of a Book and connected together with a Label under our common Seal aforesaid."

Front St.; Reuben Haines, warden of Phila. in 1778; James Chattin, scrivener, printer, formerly apprentice to Benjamin Franklin; Stephen Stapler, cooper; William Clampfer, shop keeper, 2d St.; Jeremiah Elfreth, jr., goldsmith; Thomas Williams, hatter, 2d St.; Robert Parrish, carpenter; John Hughes, baker, 1748, in firm of Standley & Hughes, 1755; William Ball, goldsmith, Front St.; Phineas Roberts, cooper, 4th St. opposite Indian Queen.


* Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Union Library Company. 1754.
In the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of May 9th, 1754, is the first public notice: "The members of the *Union Library Company of Philadelphia*, are desired to meet on the 16th inst. at the Library-room, in Second-street, to choose Directors, a Treasurer, and a Clerk, and to make their ninth annual payment. By order of the Directors, James Chattin, Clerk."

Probably at this meeting they decided on the printing of *A Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Union Library Company of Philadelphia*. The Library then had 317 books. The Articles of 1751 above mentioned were prefaced to this *Catalogue*. The number of subscribers was limited to one hundred, the partnership was to last one hundred years, a treasurer and five directors chosen from the members were to direct its affairs, and a clerk, either one of the members or a person hired for the purpose, was to act as librarian. Some of the Directions for the Clerk are: "I. He is required to attend at the Library Room every Seventh Day Evening, from the Hours of Six, until Eight, from the First of the Month called October, to the First of the Month called March; and from the Hours of Seven until Nine, from the First of the Month called March, to the First of the Month called October. II. He shall let to any Person, not a Member, any of the Books of the Library * * * upon his giving his Note, payable to the Clerk, with a penalty of double the Value of the Book, or Set of Books * * * to return the Book or Books undefaced."

In 1755 they moved to "Chestnut-street, next door to Thomas Stretch's," (Watson's *Annals of Philadelphia* says it was "in Chestnut street, in the second house from Second street, south side. They went up stairs by a flight of steps on the outside.") where they remained for five years. The following notice appeared in November 1759:

"The honourable William Denny, Esq; Lieut. Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, &c. having granted a Charter to the Union Library
Company of Philadelphia, and hath incorporated them into a Body politic; The Directors of the said Company do appoint Fifth Day, the 22d of the 11th Month next, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, for the Members of the said Company to meet at their Library Room, in Chestnut-street, in order to form such Laws, and agree on such Regulations, as shall be best for the Benefit of the Company, agreeable to Charter.”

This Charter of Incorporation, dated 6th Day of October, 1759, granted under “Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of New castle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware,” to the gentlemen who “have, at great Expence, purchased a large and valuable Collection of Useful Books in order to erect a Library for the Advancement of Knowledge and Literature in the City of Philadelphia,” was printed by Henry Miller in the Catalogue of Books belonging to the Union Library Company of Philadelphia, in 1765. The seal which was adopted July 2, 1764, represents “a book opened, over which are engraven the Words, Read but chuse, below two Hands joined, and an Inscription round the Edges, Union Library Company, Philadelphia.”

Before the Catalogue of 1765 was published however, they had settled in the building at the corner of Third and Pear streets (now Chancellor St.). In 1761 had appeared a notice: “The Members of the Union Library Company of Philadelphia, are desired to meet at the Court-House, on the 18th Day of June next, at Two o’Clock in the Afternoon, to acknowledge a Deed granted by said Company to David Evans. By Order of the Directors.”

The advertisement of the 17th annual meeting (May 17, 1762) calls for it to be held “at the New Library, in Third street,” and appends the note, “The Cellar under said Library is to be lett, enquire of David Evans, next Door,” (or, as the address is elsewhere

*Preserved at the Library Co. of Phila.
given, "David Evans, at his House adjoining the Union Library, at the Corner of Pear and Third-streets, Philadelphia."

On the arrival of John Penn, as Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania, in 1763, the Union Library Company offered an address of welcome to him:

"To JOHN PENN, Esq;
"Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware,
"The ADDRESS of the DIRECTORS of the UNION LIBRARY COMPANY of Philadelphia.

"May it please the GOVERNOR,
"To the general Expressions of Joy, on thy safe Arrival, and Accession to the Government of Pennsylvania, We the Directors of the Union Library Company of Philadelphia, think it our Duty to add our unfeigned and respectful Congratulations.
"We render them with the greater Pleasure, as it is to a Branch of that worthy Family, from whose Wisdom and Benevolence are derived the many constitutional Advantages which this Province enjoys, beyond any other within our Knowledge.
"We presume to hope, as public Libraries are of singular Use to the Community, that the one we are appointed to the Care of, which is founded on the same Plan as that of the other incorporated Company of this City, will share thy Patronage and Protection.
"We sincerely wish that thy Administration may be as happy, as every Endeavour that we can contribute to make it so will be cheerful, within the narrow Sphere of our Concernments.

"Signed by Order of the Directors,
"George Dillwyn, Secretary.

"To which the Governor was pleased to give the following ANSWER.

"GENTLEMEN,
"I thank you for these Expressions of Joy, on my Arrival and Accession to this Government.
"It gives me Pleasure to find that public Libraries increase and flourish in this Province; and I assure you, that the one under your Care shall not want my Protection and Countenance."

"The other incorporated Company of this City," refers to the Library Company of Philadelphia, which

a month before, and presented their Address to the Hon. John Penn. But there were other libraries then existing, libraries which also called themselves companies: the Amicable Library and the Association Library. Their first advertisements had appeared within a week of one another in 1757. On April 14th:

"The Members of The Association Library are desired to meet at their Library Room, in Letitia Court, on Monday, the second Day of May next, to choose Directors, a Treasurer and Clerk, for the ensuing Year, and to make their first annual Payment.

"By Order of the Directors. Samuel Massey, Clerk."

On April 21st:

"The Members of the Amicable Library Company, of Philadelphia, are desired to meet at the Library Room at the House of Thomas Gregory, in Third-street, on the tenth Day of May next, at 4 o’Clock in the Afternoon, there to choose five Directors, a Treasurer and a Clerk for the ensuing Year."

On April 27th, 1758: "Notice is hereby Given, to the members of the Amicable Library Company of Philadelphia; that they are to meet pursuant to their articles on the Tenth day of May next, at Four o’Clock in the afternoon, at their Library Room, there to choose their directors &c. and make their first annual payment."

If the first payment was always made at the conclusion of the first year, the Association Library had a year’s seniority. All the records indicate its greater wealth and prosperity. Its Articles are dated the 2d day of February, 1757: "* * * we who have here unto subscribed our names and affix’d our seals, desirous to advance and promote knowledge and literature in the city of Philadelphia in the province of Pennsylvania, having plac’d together several sums of money where-with to form a joint stock for the purchasing a collection of useful books, to compose a library in the said city of Philadelphia, of which money, we of the number of the first forty-five subscribers have advanced twenty
Colonial Libraries of Pennsylvania. 201

shillings a piece, and each of the rest of us, the several sums set to our names hereunto subscrib’d respectively; do hereby mutually covenant and agree * * *’

The number of subscribers was limited to two hundred, the annual payment was ten shillings, the term of the partnership was one hundred years; there were to be not more than ten directors: ‘‘* * * the committee of directors * * * shall have the chusing of books for the library, the renting of a house or place for the service of the library, the furnishing the same with presses, shelves and other things necessary and fit for the binding of books, the appointing securities for the return of the books to the library, and the prices of the loans, the printing and dispersing of catalogues, * * * Moreover the committee of directors are hereby invested with a discretional power to make suitable returns (in behalf of the company) unto such benefactors as shall honour them by donations or otherwise.’’

The Articles are signed by 107 names, viz.,

Benjamin Mifflin      John Wharton      Josiah Sherald
John Mifflin           John Leacock       Richard Jones
Francis Holton         Joseph Davis       William Jackson
Joseph Coleman         Benj. Betterton    William Ghiselin
William Williams       Moses Forster      Samuel Bonnel
John Jones             Thomas Parker       Owen Biddle
Thomas Moore           William Read       Aquilla Jones
Thomas Hough           James Steel        James Stevenson
Thomas Carpenter       Patrick Tommins    Samuel Hasell
Robert Tuckness        Joseph Jacobs      Lewis Jones
Benjamin Condy         George Bullock     Jesse George
Benj. Marshall         George Sharpless   Thomas Tilbury
George Jenkins         James Child        James Carmalt
Davis Basset           William Bedford    William Johnson
Hudson Emlen           Zacharias Neiman   David Hall
Francis Trumble        James Wharton     Thomas Dicas
Andrew Bankson          Thomas Wharton    James Gillingham
This was printed in *A Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Association Library Company of Philadelphia*, published by William Bradford in 1765. There are 570 titles of books in this catalogue, “Alphabetically digested.” The prosperity of the Company is indicated by the large number of books accumulated in these seven or eight years, as well as by the announcement made in 1764:

“The Members of the Association Library Company, are desired to meet at their Library Room on Monday, the 25th Inst. at 3 o’Clock in the Afternoon, to agree, if they think it necessary, to an Article whereby more Members may be admitted, the Number fixed by their present Constitution being compleat; and to determine whether some Proposals then to be laid before them will be of advantage to the Library.

“By Order of the Directors, Nathaniel Lewis, Secretary.”

In 1766 they advertised, as had the Union Library in 1764, for missing books, mentioning that "The Books had the following printed Label on the Inside of the Binding, BELONGING TO THE ASSOCIATION LIBRARY." In this year appeared the notice that the meeting would be held "at their New Library Room, in Chestnut-street." This may have been a room rented in the house of the then clerk, William Crispin, who was "living in Chestnut-street, between Front and Second-streets."

During this time the Amicable Library still existed at its "Library Room, in Third-street, near Arch-street." They advertised every year, but so far as we know did not print any catalogue, and probably gradually diminished. It may have been with some idea of reawakening interest and inducing new members to join than in 1765 they announced that on "The Evening of the * * * Day [of the election] (if the Air is clear) will be read, a Lecture on Electricity, accompanied with suitable Experiments, for the Use of the Members only"—electricity then being the subject of popular curiosity.

That the Amicable Library was a humble one may be inferred from their mentioning an addition of "Forty Shillings unto each of our Shares, to enable us to unite with another Library Company." The advertisement of the Union Library Company appearing April 3, 1766, is suggestive in this connection:

"The Members of the UNION Library Company of Philadelphia, are desired to meet at their Library, on the 24th Instant, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, to consider of the Expediency of reducing the Price of Admission into the said Company, and to form such a Law as may be necessary for that Purpose.

"By Order of the Directors, William Gallagher, Librarian."

The following week appeared the last advertisement of the Amicable Library:


*Pennsylvania Gazette.* no. 1946. April 10, 1766.

"The Members of the AMICABLE LIBRARY are desired to Meet at their Library Room, on the Twenty-first Instant, between the Hours of Four and Seven o'Clock in the Afternoon; to consider of the Expediency of adding Forty Shillings unto each of our Shares, to enable us to unite with another Library Company; at which Time and Place, every Member is required to deliver into the Library, such Books as he hath belonging to said Company; and every Person who hath any Books which are hired of said Company, are desired to return them on the Nineteenth instant.

James Pearson."

Had it been possible for them to have retained their subscribers while they filled their shelves with the output of their neighbours' printing presses—Messrs. Dunlap, Bradford, Franklin & Hall—their expenses for books would probably have been less than a tithe of the cost of the imported books, whether bought in England or from David Hall in Philadelphia. But England was regarded as home. Philadelphians were less curious to read of local news, than of the things they had left across the ocean or the books in which the home people were interested. The attitude of the libraries was consistent with the custom regarding the newspapers: "generally speaking, the little concerns of individuals ought not to fill up the useful pages of a newspaper." So The Holy Bible in Verse, God's Mercy surmounting Man's Cruelty, or Serious Considerations on the present state of the Affairs of the Northern Colonies, were to them little concerns which should not fill their catalogues.

"What things there are,  
Most abject in regard, and dear in use!  
What things again most dear in the esteem,  
And poor in worth!"

As has been stated, in 1766 the Union Library reduced the cost of a share, and thereby added to itself the nine years accumulation of the Amicable Library.

The following letter from William Strahan to David Hall gives proof that they still bought books in England:

"London, Novr. 10, 1768.

"Dear Davie * * * The Omissions in the Order of the Union Library shall be supplied next Vessel; but what they seem most angry at my having omitted, viz. the fifth Vol. of Lardner's Jewish and Heathen History, was never printed, there being only four."

In 1768, "The Directors of the Association Library Company, apprehending an Union between them and the Union Library Company, may be of public Utility, request the Attendance of all their Members, at their Library Room, on Friday, the 6th of January next, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, in order to take the same into Consideration, and determine thereon. By Order of the Directors, John de Mauregnault, Clerk."

Thereupon the Union Library announced, January 19th, 1769: "The Directors of the UNION LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, having received from the ASSOCIATION LIBRARY COMPANY, Proposals for an Union of the two Libraries—The Members of the said UNION LIBRARY COMPANY, are therefore desired to give their Attendance on Monday, the 30th of January instant, at 3 o’Clock in the Afternoon, at their Library, near St. Paul’s Church, to judge of such Proposals, and if approved of to vote an Union; Also to make and pass such Law or Laws, as may be requisite for accomplishing and confirming the same. By Order of the Directors, John Murgatroyd, "Secretary."

The suggestion was approved. Before continuing the history of the now greatly augmented Union Library, the names of some of the officers of the late

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12 Correspondence between William Strahan and David Hall. Penna. Magazine of History & Biography. X. 462.
Association Library may be inserted: Samuel Massey, Clerk, 1757; George Jenkins, Clerk, 1758–1762; John Armitt, Clerk, 1763; Daniel Hewes, Clerk, 1764; William Crispin, Clerk, 1766–1767; John de Mauregnault, Clerk, 1768; Joseph Jacobs, Treasurer.

A certificate of membership issued by the Union Library upon the absorption of the Association Library was printed in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography for 1910. It certifies that "for and in Consideration of his Share and Property in the Books and Effects of the said Association Library, delivered unto the Directors of the said Union Library Company, and also the Sum of Twenty Shillings, paid into the Hands of James Whiteall the said Company’s Treasurer * * * is Hereby admitted a Member of The Union Library Company of Philadelphia * * *." This particular transfer took place the 17th of February, 1769.

Three days before however, that is February 14th, the idea had been broached of combining all the resources of the different libraries into one library, the Library Company having, as before stated, in March 1768, proposed the reduction of the cost of its shares.

"The Members of The Union Library Company of Philadelphia, are desired to meet, at their Library Room, on Tuesday, the Fourteenth Day of March next, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, to consider the Utility of conveying their Estate to, and becoming Members of, The Library Company of Philadelphia; and to pass a Law for that Purpose. * * * Francis Hopkinson, Secretary."

And the Library Company advertised:

"The MEMBERS of the LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, are desired to meet at the Library Room on Monday, the 13th of March next, at 3 o’Clock in the Afternoon, in order to consider, whether it will be agreeable to them to unite with the UNION LIBRARY COMPANY of this City; * * * Francis Hopkinson, Secretary."

This was likewise approved; and the members of the Union Library were "desired to call at John

13 Penna. Gazette.

Kaighns in Second-street before the first of May next, for certificates of their admission into the Library company of Philadelphia.\(^{15}\) "* * * it appeared more conducive to the interests of literature, to be possessed of one large, than of several smaller collections of books, coalitions gradually took place among them, till the Amicable, the Association and the Union Companies were blended with the Library Company of Philadelphia."\(^{15b}\)

Thus the Library Company which had the "dignity of temporal precession," in addition to its own books, philosophical apparatus, coins, and "a convenient lot of ground, in Chestnut-street," became the owner of the books, &c. of the other libraries, and of the building at 3d and Pear Streets. In Caspipina's Letters, about this date, there is the remark: "You would be astonished, my Lord, at the general taste for books, which prevails among all orders and ranks of people in this city.—The librarian assured me, that for one person of distinction and fortune, there were twenty tradesmen that frequented this library."

The four subscription libraries being merged into one, there was yet another, but not a subscription, a free library in Philadelphia. This was the one founded by James Logan. In 1732 when the Library Company had but just begun, a rule provided that no one not a subscriber should take books from the library room, "Mr. James Logan only excepted."\(^{16}\) The courtesy thus offered to "a Gentleman of universal learning, and the best judge of books in these parts,"\(^{17}\) was in recognition of his kindness in advising them in the choice of books. This privilege may have been as coals sent to New Castle, for his own library "would have

\(^{15}\) Penna. Journal. no. 1377. April 27, 1769.

\(^{15b}\) Catalogue of the Library Co. of Phila. 1807. p. x.

\(^{16}\) George M. Abbot, Short History of the Library Co. (1913.) p. 7.

\(^{17}\) Ibid. p. 5.
been worthy of note as the collection of a private scholar of limited means in Europe.” This, “consisting of a very valuable and chosen collection of books * * * chiefly in the learned languages,” he finally decided to leave to the City of Philadelphia on his death.

Richard Hockley writes as early as December 5, 1743: “Mr. Logan has given the Corporation his lot opposite the Governor’s garden, and books to the value of £1000, and intends a building 60 ft. front to put the books in for the use of the city.” William Black, in his Journal, 1744, states: “We got to Mr. Logan’s * * * After the Tea Table was remov’d we were going to take leave, but it appear’d we must first view his library, which was Customary with him, to any Persons of Account. He had really a very fine Collection of Books, both Ancient and Modern, he seem’d to Regrate that none of his Sons knew how to use them, and that he design’d them as a Legacy to the City when he Died.

This pride in his books is shown also in his Will: “In my library, which I have left to the city of Philadelphia, for the facilitating and advancement of classical learning, are above one hundred volumes of authors, in folio, all in Greek, with mostly their versions; all the Roman classics, without exception; all the old Greek mathematicians, viz., Archimedes, Euclid, and Ptolemy, both his geography and almagest, which I had in Greek (with Theon’s commentary in folio, above 700 pages) from my learned friend, Fabricius, who published fourteen volumes of his Greek Bibliotheca in 4to., in which, after he had finished his account of Ptolemy, on my inquiring of him at Hamburgh,

39 Andrew Burnaby, Travels through the Middle Settlements. (1798.) p. 60.
40 Charles P. Keith, Provincial Councillors of Penna. (1883.) p. 13
in 1722, how I should find it, having long sought for it in vain in England, he sent it to me out of his own library, telling me it was scarce, that neither prayers nor price could purchase it. Besides, there are many of the most valuable Latin authors, and a great number of modern mathematicians, with all the three editions of Newton, Dr. Halley, Wallis, &c.

"I have built a library-room, and endowed it for ever with £35 sterling per annum for a librarian; he to advance £18 yearly to buy books.

"The room, books, and salary, I cannot value at less than £2000, solely designed for the use of the public, in order to prevail on them (having such assistance) to acquaint themselves with literature." 22

The building, "a one story brick building, shaped gable end fashion in the front," was erected on the west side of Sixth Street north of Walnut Street, and surrounded by a "post and rail fence." 23 The deed for it was afterwards cancelled by Logan preparatory to putting the trust in different terms. This was not completed at the time of his death, December 31, 1751. 23a

Franklin wrote to Peter Collinson, June 26, 1755:

"The Heirs of our Friend Logan have honourably settled the Library agreeable to their Father's Intention. I am one of the Trustees. The Books are now plac'd in the Library House he built and gave for that purpose. They deserve Praise for their Conduct; for some Children would have taken Advantage of the Settlement not being perfected by the Father, and refus'd to comply with it." 24

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22 First Suppl. to the Catalogue of Books belonging to the Loganian Library. (1867.) p. x.
23a Owing to the early method of reckoning the months, the date is sometimes given as October 31. Armitage's Life of Logan says 10th mo. 31, 1751.
24 Smyth's ed. of Franklin's Writings. III. 267.
Vol. XLII.—14
Though the building had been erected many years, and it and the lot on which it stood had been deeded August 28, 1754, to the trustees, the opening of the Library was deferred until 1760: "Notice is hereby given, That the Loganian Library, founded by the late James Logan, Esq; deceased, for the Use of the Public, situate in Sixth-street, between Chestnut and Walnut-streets, behind the State house Square, will be opened on Saturday, the 8th of November, where Attendance will be given every Saturday, from the third Hour in the Afternoon until the Seventh Hour following, in the Summer time, and so long as one can see to read in Winter, by Lewis Weiss." A catalogue, *Catalogus Bibliothecæ Loganianæ: being A choice Collection of Books, as well in the Oriental, Greek and Latin, as in the English, Italian, Spanish, French and other Languages Given by the late James Logan Esq; of Philadelphia for the Use of the Publick* * *, was published in this year, 1760.

A manuscript account of the Library written before 1776, reads: "The Loganian Library, has its name from the founder James Logan. this Gentleman was a native of [Ireland], & came over to Pennsylvania with the first Proprietor William Penn in 1699, in the capacity of his Secretary altho (by the various publick employments he Sustain'd in that province during a long Series of years) he was almost constantly immers'd in affairs of a Political nature his Turn of mind was notwithstanding enclin'd to learning & chiefly in the Mathematical Sciences & the languages of which he was reckon'd a Master. he collected near three Thousand volumes in almost all Sciences arts & languages, not without a considerable expence & by his will bequeath them to the city & county of Philadel-

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Philadelphia for ever. He chose trustees out of various denominations of Protestants to avoid all partiality. He gave a lot of ground & had a long room built upon it to serve as a repository for his books. He left a yearly income of £[35] Phil. Currency 20 pounds of which to be applied to an under Librarian & the remainder of the sum to be employed to the purchase of new books to the encrease of the library, the books to be lent gratis signing a note of four times the value of the book lent, to the under Librarian the library to be open every Saturday in the year from two o'clock in the afternoon till sun set. The trustees were Mr. William & James Logan Sons to the founder Mr. John Smith of Burlington his Son in law, Benjamin Franklin, Israel Pemberton, William Allen, & Richard Peters, Mr. William Logan is Librarian so appointed by his father & provides an under librarian. The political disputes which for some years have raged in this province, have been a great hindrance to the meeting of the trustees for the benefit of that institution. Some of them being irreconciliable on account of their politics. This the old gentlemen could not foresee. The building was erected by some body employ'd by the owner not in the center of the lot high & dry & free from the dust of the road, but on the very edge of the road so that in summer unless the windows & door (for they are all fronting the street) should be kept shut up, the dust make it a most uncomfortable situation & at the same time injure the books greatly. By the shallowness of the building almost the whole lot is left empty which may in time be improv'd to make money by other ways than what the donor design'd it for. The building is neither elegant nor convenient. As for the books they are pretty much in statu quo, no additions having been made to it since the founder's death altho' years ago, but to the contrary many of them stolen privately & others very much the worst for

wear, but as they mostly consist or treat upon Subjects out of the reach of the generality of people this library has but few visitors, most of that Small number com-
po'sd of obscure mechanicks who have a turn for mathe-
matics the rest being a few ignorant people who flat-
ter'd with the hopes of reading books for nothing, think they'll find always Sufficiently to amuse them in Such great number but are commonly disappointed.’”

However lacking in appreciation this account is, we cannot help feeling that the writer, Pierre Eugene Du Simitiere, a man of intelligence, interested particularly in natural science and the history of the New World, would have made an excellent under librarian. “If he did not keep a circulating library,” Mr. William John Potts says in his Life of Du Simitiere, “his note book shows he endeavoured to create a taste for literature by lending his books, the borrowers being many mem-
ers of Congress, the officers of the army, and other distinguished visitors.”

A few months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on October 23th, 1776, William Logan, the first librarian died. In 1777 Gen. Gates ordered the building taken as a store or magazine for ammunition; the books were not acces-
sible to the public again until 1792.

Though in 1770 there was one public subscription library and one free library in Philadelphia, there was demand for more, or at least private subscription libra-
ries found means to exist. The Library Company had stated that it was “designed for promoting knowl-
edge” and that it afforded “instruction on the most easy terms to all who are desirous of improvement. The opulent friend to learning may be furnished with authors not generally found in private collections; whilst the genius which might languish and be discour-

aged for want of proper opportunities, may have access
to many volumes, containing the experience of past
ages and the present times. When men thus possess
the means of being acquainted with the arts and sci-
ences, it may justly be expected that important en-
quiries will be prosecuted, and the good of society in-
creased.”

But the class who were not friends to
learning, who were not geniuses, who cared little to in-
crease the good of society, who enjoyed reading for
amusement and entertainment only, these found little
to their liking in either of the public libraries: Logan’s
bequest being principally classical books, and the
Library Company classifying, thirty years later, only
eighty-one titles out of eight thousand volumes as
“Fiction Wit and Humor.”

These readers found their mental pabulum at the
private subscription libraries, which offered “a con-
siderable List of Novel Writers, whose depictive Tal-
ents tend to dignify the human Mind, by an Abundance
of recreative and instructive Entertainment, calculated
to guide the Youth of both Sexes through the dangerous
Whirlpool of agitated Passions.

“Learn to be wise from others Harm,
And you shall do full well.
Old English Ballad.”

Then—as now—they were constrained to justify them-

selves by claiming a kind of katharsis, which however
would not have been sanctioned by Aristotle.

In 1767 “Proposals,” were printed, “For opening on
Monday the 14th of September, a New Circulating
Library, by Lewis Nicola, in Second street, between
Race and Vine streets, who besides between two and
three hundred volumes of History, Poetry, Plays, Voy-

28 Charter &c. of the Library Co. of Phila. (1770.) p. 3.

ages, &c. had received by the Ellis, Capt. Egdon, from London, above one hundred volumes of new books, among which are,—Female American, Emera or Fair American, Pittborough, Neck or Nothing, Byron’s Voyages, Sharp’s Travels, Smollet’s Travels, Memoirs of the Duke of Cumberland, Hogarth’s cuts with explanations, which are to be augmented by every opportunity, with such books as shall be published from time to time.

“Subscribers to deposit three pounds, and pay three dollars a year, each subscriber to receive a catalogue, to be enlarged as new books will be received. Non Subscribers to deposit the value of the book taken, and pay six pence per week. The Library to be open every day in the week except Sundays. No person on any account to take more than one volume at a time.”

From the fact that he calls this enterprise “a New Circulating Library,” we may infer that it was not the pioneer in this field. His shop—for he also kept a general store—and circulating library were moved the following March “to the sign of the blue stocking, next door but one to the Indian Queen tavern, in Market-street.” These businesses, shopkeeping and library-keeping, not being sufficient for the energies of the venturesome Nicola, the next year he branched out into a literary field.

“Magazines being the taste of the age, and found to possess many conveniences, such as gratifying the curiosity of the public, and serving as a repository for many small, tho’ valuable pieces that would otherwise be lost to the world, Lewis Nicola proposes publishing such a work monthly, under the title of the AMERICAN MAGAZINE.”

His time probably was so occupied by the magazine that he was forced to announce his intention of “quit-
ting the branch of business," as dry goods merchant, still keeping however "Wines: Rum: Tea: Dye Stuffs: Salt: Spirits: Molasses: Sugars: Lamp Oyl: Rice:" in conjunction with the library. But this continued only until December, the 10th of that month being the limit of time allowed "persons indebted to him, either for goods or books hired out of his library to pay their respective debts."

On the 14th of December is advertised: "The Circulating Library lately kept by Mr. Lewis Nicola is removed to the corner of Lawrence's Court in Spruce Street, between Second and Third Streets, where due attendance will be given from ten o'clock in the morning till eight in the evening.

"The Library consists of upwards of 500 volumes of the most approved authors in History, Poetry, Novels, and other works of entertainment, likewise some well chosen French Books. Additions will be made every opportunity of the newest and most celebrated Works. Terms as usual."

The terms of the General Circulating Library, as it was called under the new management, were announced in January, 1770: "1. Yearly subscribers to pay the small sum of Two Dollars; half yearly Ten Shillings, and quarterly Six Shillings; the money to be paid at the time of subscribing. 2. Weekly readers to pay Six Pence per week, and deposit the value of the work, if required. 3. The hire always to be paid at the expiration of the week, as no credit can be given. 4. No person to take out more than one volume at a time, which may be exchanged once a day, if more, to pay in proportion. 5. No person to keep a book longer than four weeks; such as do, to pay One Shilling per week, over the term of twenty-eight days. 6. Any person losing or damaging any book, or volume of any set of

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"Penna Journal. no. 1380. May. 18, 1769."
books, shall pay the price annexed in the catalogue, and also what hire is due on it.’’

Subscriptions were taken there for Wyndham Beawes’s *Dissertations on Spain and Portugal*. It was “removed” in 1771, “to Third-street, three doors below Spruce-street,” when it “consisted of upwards of one thousand volumes.”

A circulating library kept by Thomas Bradford, “at his house in Second-street, one door from Arch-street,” was opened September 21st, 1769; the catalogues of which, probably printed by W. and T. Bradford, were “given away at said Library.” The two advertisements next following, one published in 1771, the other in 1773, may refer to Bradford’s library:

“All persons who have any Books belonging to the Circulating Library in Second-street, are desired to return them immediately.”

The various libraries belonging to special foundations, such as churches, the Pennsylvania Hospital, the English academy now known as the University of Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society, not being public, are not included in this sketch; although another is mentioned, which to a certain extent is specialized. The Assembly Library, also known as the State Library, the City Library, the Pennsylvania Library, was kept in the State House, or Independence Hall. For a time there were two libraries in that building: “one,” Andrew Burnaby wrote in 1760, “belonging to the province, the other to a society, which was

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\[\text{Penna. Gazette.} \quad \text{no. 2193. January 3, 1771.}\]

\[\text{Penna. Journal.} \quad \text{no. 1398. September 21, 1769.}\]

\[\text{Penna. Journal.} \quad \text{no. 1474. March 7, 1771.}\]

\[\text{Penna. Journal.} \quad \text{no. 1594. June 23, 1773.}\]

incorporated about ten years ago." The latter was the Library Company, which occupied the "upper room of the westernmost Office adjoining to the State House" from 1740 to 1773.

The first mention of books for the Assembly Library was on the 5th day of the 12th month, 1745, when it was "Ordered, That the Clerk send to England for the best Edition of the Statutes at large, for the Use of the House, and also for some large Maps (one of North America) to be hung up in the Assembly Room."

On the 22d of August, 1752, according to the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives, £170 was paid to Isaac Norris, "towards purchasing Books and Window glass." And on the following 16th of January, "The Speaker and Benjamin Franklin are requested to procure such Books and Maps as they may think suitable and necessary for the use of this House; and it is

"Ordered, That the Trustees of the Loan-Office do supply them with such Sums of Money as they may require for that Purpose; which shall be allowed by the Committee of Accounts, on their next Settlement with the said Trustees." As a sequel to this order, in the Treasurer's Accounts is the statement: "[Cash] paid Isaac Norris, to purchase Books for the Use of the Assembly,—£850 0 0."

By that time there must have been a good number of books, and the question of a caretaker arose. On December 26, 1754, "A Petition from Charles Norris, of the City of Philadelphia, was presented to the House and read, setting forth, that the Petitioner is informed that some of the Members of this House have lately represented the Necessity of having a Person to take

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"Andrew Burnaby, Travels through the Middle Settlements. (1798) p. 60.

"Penna. Gazette. no. 592. April 17, 1740."
Care of the Library belonging to the Assembly; the Petitioner therefore begs Leave to offer himself for that Service.

"And the House taking the same into Consideration, "Resolved, That Charles Norris be Keeper of the Assembly Library, and that he shall observe such Directions therein as shall be hereafter given him by this House."

This arrangement seemed to prove satisfactory, for there is no further mention of the library until after the death of Charles Norris about the beginning of 1766.9

A year later "Upon Motion, "Ordered, That the Clerk [Charles Moore] do cause a fair Catalogue to be made out of all the books belonging to the Assembly Library, and order the said Books to be stamped with the Words Assembly of Pennsylvania, in gilt Letters on the outside of the Cover of each Book;"

By this time with the increase of the number of the books, troubles seem to have begun. "The Committee appointed by the late House to revise the Laws and Votes of the Assemblies of this Province," were, on January 6th, 1773, "Ordered," to "prepare and bring in a Draught of Rules for better regulating the Use of the Assembly Library." Though their "Essay for that Purpose" was twice read and "some Time spent therein," no record remains that anything was accomplished.

Contrasting the sums stated above as spent on books, with the £45 Stg. sent to London with the first order of the Library Company, the probable £100 of the Union Library, the probably £70 or £80 of the Association Library, the Assembly Library should have merited greater praise than that given it by the Marquis de
Chastellux: "the library is pretty large, but far from being filled; the few books it is composed of appear to be well chosen." 

A plausible explanation of the lack of books may be that the members of the Assembly had borrowed them for reference; this explanation is corroborated by a note in the newspapers: "Whereas divers Books belonging to the State Library are missing, and there is reason to apprehend, that the same are in the hands of persons who have had recourse to the said Library, and who have neglected to return them." 

In 1774 the Library was kept in the room adjoining the East room, according to an essay by a scholar of Robert Proud's Latin school: from the Assembly room, he wrote, "you go through a back door into the Assembly's Library, which is a very elegant apartment. It is ornamented with a stucco ceiling, and chimney places. Round the room are glass cases, in which the books are deposited. These books consist of all the laws of England made in these later years, and besides these history and poetry. The Assembly only have recourse to this Library. There is likewise deposited a most beautiful bust in wax of Thomas Penn Esqr, one of the Proprietors of the Province, which was sent as a present to the Assembly by Lady Juliana Penn." 

Leaving Philadelphia, it was "In the Sixteenth year of the reign of George the Second of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith," that the first library in the Colony outside the city, was formed. "In the township of Darby, several have joined together and signed articles of agreement, pretty much like the Library Company at Philadelphia," John Bartram wrote to Peter Collinson in 1743. 

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*Chastellux, Travels in North America. (1787) I. 223.*  
*Penna. Gazette. no. 2550. April 28, 1779.*  

miles southwest of Philadelphia, was settled principally by Friends. There were in 1797 only 50 houses and a Meeting-house, all built on one street.

Twenty-nine men in this little community, on March 10th, 1743, "Being Desireous to Propagate Usefull Knowledge both Religious and Civil," met and agreed to subscribe 20 shillings each and pay five shillings a year to buy books to form a library. A few days later the Secretary wrote the following letter:

"Darby, ye 14th of 4th Month, 1743." 

"Friend Peter Collinson:

"There is a small number of us in Darby, near Philad, who have formed ourselves into a company, in order to purchase a small set of books for our use; with well-grounded expectations of our number increasing in a little time, and being advised by our frd and neighbour, John Bartram, to apply to thee to purchase the sd books, and in confidence of thy good disposition and from ye character he gives of thee to encourage such a decision, have thought fit thereupon to send to and desire thee to do such an office of kindness for us; but as our number is but small, so is the sum of money, amounting only to fourteen pounds. * * * We also send herewith a catalogue of such books as our Company approved of, requesting thee to be so good as to buy so many of them (taking them in order as they stand on the list) as the money will extend to pay, reserving sufficient to satisfy thee for thy trouble with the cost of Insurance here. And when the books are purchased, please to ship them of pr the first opportunity for Philad., in such a manner and with such directions as appears to thee most convenient, either for John Bartram or the subscriber hereof. Be so good also as to get the Books lettered on ye back, if that can be done without much trouble or cost, or as many of them as conveniently can be. We also desire thee to send the price of each book purchased, that being necessary for us to know in pursuance of our agreement. Thy answering our requests will much oblige us, who, with due respect, are thy unfeigned friends. Signed in behalf of said Company, By Joseph Bonsall, Secretary."*

Before the books arrived the Articles of Agreement were signed, May 1st, and May day was chosen for the future annual elections. The Articles state: "That whereas it is found by long experience that no number of People will at all times keep in a regular, Decent

Decorum, without Some Necessary forms & Rules to walk & Act by, And Suitable Persons Authorized to Put those Rules in Execution," therefore they had officers, a Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and four other persons for assistants (or directors) elected yearly. At the Annual Elections, "The Secretary with the Assistants and Library Company then Present, shall Seat themselves in a Sober, Decent Regular manner such as becomes Christians and Students."

It took about twenty weeks for the books to arrive. On September 5th, at a special meeting of the Company, the boxes were opened. Each member who took out a book gave the librarian a promissory note for its cost, to insure its return; this explains the necessity the Secretary mentioned in his letter of their knowing the price of each work. In 1746 the committee appointed to buy books, reported "that they could not purchase such books in this Province as was voted for; and that bills of exchange and insurance run so high, and the danger of the sea so great at this time, that they judged it might be to the advantage of the Company not to send it until further orders."

In 1754, when some booksellers and printers were established in Philadelphia, the committee were instructed to purchase the books wanted as far as possible in the Province, sending to England only for those not procurable here. The books accumulated slowly; the Company possessed 230 volumes in 1761. A bookplate was printed, which reads simply "Darby Library." The officers of the Company during the Colonial period were: John Pearson, librarian from 1743 to 1761, and Jesse Bonsall, librarian from 1762 to 1784; the Secretaries were Joseph Bonsall, from 1743 to 1761, and Isaac Pearson from 1762 to 1783.

"The chief claim of this Library to distinction," says its historian, Charles Lloyd Serrill, "rests in this, namely, that it was founded at such an early day, in the
face of great difficulties, and that it has been perpetuated until this time, without the omission on the part of the Managers, of a single stated meeting, unscathed through the Revolutionary War, * * *” etc.

The first library formed among non-English speaking settlers was in Germantown. The Germans, thrifty and independent, kept to themselves, thereby occasioning some distrust on the part of the English colonists towards them, chiefly because they were not English. Benjamin Franklin wrote: “Measures of great Temper are necessary with the Germans; * * * Few of their Children in the Country learn English. They import many Books from Germany; and of the six Printing-Houses in the Province two are entirely German, two half German half English, and but two entirely English. They have one German Newspaper, and one half-German. Advertisements, intended to be general, are now printed in Dutch and English. The Signs in our Streets have Inscriptions in both Languages, and in some places only German. They begin of late to make all their Bonds and other legal Instruments in their own language, which (though I think it ought not to be) are allowed good in our Courts, where the German Business so increases, that there is continued need of Interpreters; and I suppose in a few Years they will also be necessary in the Assembly, to tell one half of our Legislators what the other half say.

The German newspaper referred to was established in 1739 by Christopher Saur; who also in 1743 published the first Bible printed in a European language in America. It does not seem strange that in a community where letters were so early encouraged, a library company was formed. Its seal gives the date 1745; it

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44 Charles Lloyd Serrill, *Historical Address at the 150th anniversary.* (1893)
45 Letter to Richard Jackson. Smyth's ed. of Franklin's *Writings.* III. 139-140.
Colonial Libraries of Pennsylvania. 223

"contains the sun above open volumes and other devices, and the inscription 'Scientiae Literatura Resplendent.'"46

In 1753, the same year in which Franklin wrote the letter quoted above, appeared in Franklin's paper the first advertisement of the Library: "The members of the Germantown Library Company are desired to meet at their Yearly-meeting, on Monday, the 7th of May, at 2 a clock in the afternoon, at the house of Daniel Mackenet, jun. where said Library is kept.

George Palmer, Secretary."47

The following year the notice is so worded that it corroborates the date on the seal: "The members of the Library Company of Germantown, are desired to meet on Monday, the 6th Day of May, at the House of Daniel Mackenet, to choose three Directors and a Treasurer, and to make their tenth annual payment."

Except for the advertisements in the Pennsylvania Gazette, little is known of the Library.47a The notices of their annual meetings give the places in which the books were kept from time to time. The library room was at Daniel Mackenet's until 1758.48 In 1758 and 1759 it was "in the House of James Delaplain, in Germantown."49 Christian Lehman was then Secretary.50

In 1760, "The Members of the Germantown Library Company are desired to take Notice, that they are to

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46 S. F. Hotchkin, Ancient and Modern Germantown. (1889) p. 94.
47 Penna. Gazette. no. 1268. April 12, 1753.
47a In The Records of the Orphans' Court (Collections of the Genealogical Soc. of Penna. v. 245) the Estate of John White, dec'd. is stated to be debtor to the Germantown Library, 1749.
48 Penna. Gazette. nos. 1322, 1373, 1426, 1477. The Mackenets kept the Green Tree Tavern, No. 5067 Germantown Ave. Daniel Mackenet presented bills to the Assembly for the maintenance of Indians and Frenchmen, 1759.
49 Penna Gazette. nos. 1529, 1583. James Delaplain lived Germantown Ave. north of Church Lane. (Hotchkin.)
50 Notary public and surveyor, lived 4818 Germantown Ave. See Penna. Magazine of History & Biography. VI. 393-394.
meet at the house of Wollere Ming, * * * to make their sixteenth annual Payment." The books had probably been moved to the house in which the meeting was held. Wollere (or Ulric) Ming, son of Christopher and brother of John Melchior Meng, was secretary from 1759 to 1763.\(^5\)

Christian Lehman, the former secretary, succeeded him. In 1764,

"The Members of the Germantown Library, are desired to attend their annual Meeting, on Monday, the 7th Day of May next, before 6 o'clock in the Afternoon, at their Library Room in Germantown, at the House of Christian Lehman, in order to choose their Directors, &c. for the ensuing Year, and to make their 20th annual Payment. By Order of the Directors,

"Christian Lehman, Secretary."

At this time, they purchased books from a publisher and importer of English books:

"German Town, Sept. 22, 1764.

"To Mr. David Hall,

"Sir,

"Enclosed you receive the order of the Directors of our Library upon our Treasurer Balltes Reser\(^5\)\(^a\) for the Payment of the sum Due for the Books they lately bought of you for our Library.* * *

"Christian Lehman,

"Secretary to Library."

Christian Lehman remained secretary until 1770. The last advertisement of the Company reads:

"Germantown Library, April 11, 1771.

"The Members of the Germantown Library, are desired to meet on Monday, the 6th day of May next, between the hours of 2 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon, at their library room, at the house of John Johnson, jun. in Germantown aforesaid, to choose their directors, treasurer and

\(^5\) Peninsula Gazette. nos. 1583, 1634, 1686, 1738, 1701. Also no. 2423.

\(^5\)a Heute vor 14 tagen starb zu Germantaun, etlich und 50 jahr alt, Mr. Balthes Reser, ein vieljähriger einwohner und gerber daselbst, und wurde Donnerstags darauf auf dem dasigen Quäkerbegräbnissplatz zur erden bestattet. (Der Wochentliche Pennsylvanische Staatsbote. 4 Jenner, 1774.)

secretary for the ensuing year, and to make their twenty-seventh annual payment.

By order of the Directors,
"Anthony Johnson Treasurer."

Then the notices abruptly cease.
That the "narrow sphere" of the concerns of a library should occupy men's minds when, as Bartram wrote, "We are now in a grievous distressed condition:" is surprising; "the barbarous, inhuman, ungrateful nations," he continues, "weekly murdering our back inhabitants * * * O Pennsylvania! thou that was the most flourishing and peaceable province in North America, are now scourged by the most barbarous creatures in the universe."53

Ten days however after Braddock's defeat, a meeting of conference was held at Hatborough, a village about 16 miles north of Philadelphia, in what is now Montgomery County, "when a particular plan for erecting and establishing" a public library of select books was "fully and unanimously agreed and concluded upon. Public notice was given to all persons willing and desirous to promote and forward a library, that they should meet at Mr. David Rees's at Crooked Billet, the 2d day of August," 1755."54 The Instrument of Partnership of the "Union Library Company of Hatborough, in the Mannor of Moorland, in the county of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania" is dated the 2d day of August "in the twenty-ninth year of the Reign of our Sovereign, Lord George the Second."

At the first annual meeting, November 1st of the same year, £44. 7s. was given to Rev. Charles Beatty, with instructions to send it with a list of books ordered to a

54 Charter and Laws of the Union Library Co. of Hatborough. (1858) p. 4.
London stationer. The books when they arrived were placed in a room rented in the house of the Secretary, Rev. Mr. Joshua Potts, before the directors' meeting on the 14th of August, 1756. A year later John Lukens was authorized to purchase books to the extent of £10. —possibly the entire amount of the annual dues, of 10s. a member.

They advertised in October, 1758; "Notice is hereby given to the Members of the Union Library Company of Hatborough, that they attend their Annual Meeting, at the Library Room, on the Fourth Day of November next, between the Hours of Twelve and Four in the Afternoon, in order to choose Directors, Secretary and Treasurer, for the ensuing Year, and to make their third Annual Payment. By Order of the Directors,

"Joshua Potts, Secretary."

In the spring of 1760 labels for the books were ordered to be printed, and in the fall the notice of the annual meeting reads:

"Moreland, October 17, 1760. Notice is hereby given to the Members of the UNION LIBRARY COMPANY of the Manor of Moreland, that they are desired to meet at their Library Room, at David Reese's, on Seventh-day, the first of November next, precisely at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, to choose Directors, Secretary, and Treasurer, for the ensuing Year; and to make their fifth annual Payment.

David Reese, Secretary."

David Reese made the generous offer that for 10 shillings he would give a year's attendance as librarian (who was required to attend every other Saturday afternoon) and do the advertising, on condition that the directors would speedily secure a bookcase for the books. Under his energetic management a catalogue was prepared, for now their books numbered 125. The advertisement inserted in the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1761, was the last which appeared in colonial times, as
well as the last Reese was to write, for on May 31, 1762, at the early age of 49 he died.\textsuperscript{55}

In November, 1762, the books were moved to the house of the new secretary, Jacob Tomkins. From this time to 1775 the Company met regularly and purchased books, but apparently ceased their activities during the Revolutionary War. The interest shown in the Library however, is indicated by the notice of Hatborough in Scott's Gazetteer of 1795: "It contains about 20 dwellings, and a handsome library containing upwards of 1,000 volumes."

"Lancaster, a pretty considerable town, encreasing fast, and growing rich"—this was in 1754. "And which had the reputation of possessing the best and most intelligent society in America."\textsuperscript{56} Ten years later it could boast of 600 houses, seven churches, three fire companies, a grammar school, and last but not least, a library company.

"In the Year 1759, three of four Persons of the Borough of Lancaster, considering the great Advantages of public Libraries, conferred together, and engaged to sollicit Subscriptions, to establish one in that Town.

"Their Proposal was so well received, that a few generous Gentlemen immediately subscribed, and paid Ten Pounds each, towards promoting this Useful Design. * * * The Number of Subscribers soon amounted to 58; and the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds Sterling was raised."\textsuperscript{57}

A notice was published in March the following year:

"All the Members of the Lancaster Library Company, Are desired to meet on Thursday, the 27th instant, precisely at two o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Matthias Slough, to subscribe their

\textsuperscript{55} Theodore W. Bean, History of Montgomery Co. (1884) p. 726.
\textsuperscript{56} Penna. Magazine of History & Biography. XXII. 453.
\textsuperscript{57} Charter, Laws, Catalogue of Books, of the Juliana Library Co. (1766) preserved at the Historical Society of Penna.
articles, and transact other business necessarily requiring their attendance.

"By Order of the Committee of Directors,
"Samuel Magaw, Librarian."\[58a\]

In 1761 they rented a room in Benjamin Price’s house in Queen Street.\[58b\] The *Short Account of its Institution* continues: "The Honourable Thomas Penn, Esq; one of the Proprietaries of this Province, to whom the Company are much obliged for the kind Notice he has been pleased to take of them, upon being made acquainted with the Design of erecting a public Library here, wrote the following polite Letter to the Directors thereof.

"Gentlemen,

"I Received a very sensible Pleasure in being informed by Mr. Barton, that a Number of the principal People of Lancaster, and the Country about that Town, had entered into an Agreement, and had remitted so large a Sum of Money to purchase Books, in order to form a Library to be established there.— This Undertaking, so useful to the Country, could not but meet with my Approbation, and be entitled to my Assistance, which I shall be ready to give it, whenever it can promote its Utility; and am

"Gentlemen,
"Your affectionate Friend,
"Thomas Penn."

"London, Feb. 11, 1762.
"To the Directors of the Library Company at Lancaster."

The advertisement of the fourth annual meeting in 1763, was the last under the name of the Lancaster Library Company. "In Honour of Lady JULIANA PENN, and as a Testimony of the high Obligations they are under to her, the Company desired to be, and were incorporated by the Name of the JULIANA LIBRARY COMPANY IN LANCASTER." The Charter of Incorporation, granted by James Hamilton to the 77 members then composing the Company, was

\[58a\] The Rev. Samuel Magaw taught school in Lancaster under the Society for the Education of Germans. He received his degree of Master of Arts from the College of Philadelphia in 1760.

\[58b\] Ellis & Evans, *History of Lancaster Co.* (1883) p. 429.
dated the 22d of October, 1763, and recorded November the 28th. The Company had received from the Hon. Thomas Penn, and his wife, Lady Juliana, an orrery, a pair of globes, and a reflecting telescope, besides five books, *The Whole Art of Husbandry*, *Account of the Solar System*, Hartlib’s *Legacy of Husbandry*, Bell’s *Travels to Asia*, and *Systemae Agriculturae*.

Following the fashion of the day, the Company sent an address of welcome to John Penn, on his arrival in Pennsylvania:

“To the Honourable
JOHN PENN, Esq;
“Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware.

“The humble ADDRESS of the Directors of the JULIANA LIBRARY COMPANY, in Lancaster.

“May it please your Honour,
“Among the many useful and public spirited Institutions, which the happy Establishment of Pennsylvania, and the Liberality of its Proprietaries, have promoted and encouraged, public Libraries have shared the Attention of the People.

“Knowledge and Literature are the natural Fruits of Liberty, and have been patronized and cherished in every free and well regulated Community—On all moral and civil Considerations whatever, they are the highest Blessing, in Value and Importance, that we can enjoy; and therefore to their Interest the virtuous and patriot Heart has ever been a Friend.

“To a GENTLEMAN so nearly related to this Province, and its first great Founder and Legislator, the Directors of the Juliana Library Company, in Lancaster, esteem themselves happy in being enabled, as a Body Corporate, to pay their Address; and to join the public Voice, in congratulating your Honour upon your Accession and safe arrival to the Government thereof.

“The Library, of which we are honoured with the Direction, is yet in its Infancy; but through the generous Encouragements it has received from your Honourable Family, and late worthy Predecessor, it has raised its Head, and flourished: And from our View of it, in its present State, we indulge the pleasing Expectation, that to us and our Posterity it will afford such Advantages as may render us more happy and serviceable to ourselves, and beneficial to our Country.

“We flatter ourselves, Sir, that you will deign to favour this Infant Institution with your Countenance and Protection.

“May your Honour live long among us, distinguished as the Patron of Virtue and Letters!—Easy and happy in the Discharge of the great
Duties of your exalted Station!—And may you, through Life, enjoy the glorious Opportunity of diffusing the Blessings of a just and equitable Administration among all who are committed to your Care.

"Signed, by order of the Directors, by "

"Caleb Sheward, Secretary."

The notice of their sixth annual meeting, to be held September 16th, 1765, states, "Each Member will then receive a printed Copy of the Charter Laws, and a Catalogue of the Books belonging to the Library." This pamphlet, The Charter of the Juliana-Library-Company in Lancaster: and the Laws Of the said Company. Together with A Catalogue of the Books, and the Prices thereof, with the Numbers as they stand in the Library Room, was printed by James Adams in Wilmington, Delaware. The books are here listed by brief titles. In the Catalogue published by Hall & Sellers the following year, (The Charter, Laws, Catalogue of Books, List of Philosophical Instruments, &c. of the Juliana Library-Company, in Lancaster. To which are prefixed, Some Reflections on the Advantages of Knowledge; the Origin of Books and Libraries, shewing how they have been encouraged & patronized by the Wise & Virtuous of Every Age. With A Short Account of its Institutions, Friends & Benefactors) full titles are given. This edition is dedicated to Lady Juliana Penn:

"To the Right Honourable Lady Juliana Penn,

"The following Laws, Catalogue of Books, List of Philosophical Instruments, &c. of the Juliana Library-Company, in Lancaster, as a Mark of the great Veneration and Esteem which the directors thereof bear for her Ladyship's Merit and Character; and as a Testimony of their Gratitude for the kind Notice, and generous Benefaction, with which her Ladyship has been pleased to honour this infant Institution, are humbly presented, by

"Her Ladyship's most obedient,

"Much obliged,

"And very respectful humble Servants,

"The Directors."

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60 *Penna Gazette.* no. 1825. Dec. 15, 1763.

60 Copy preserved in the Historical Society of Penna.
The preface states: "The Juliana Library in Lancaster, is yet in its Infancy, and has nothing to boast of, except the Notice and Encouragement it has received from Persons, whose Names would do Honour to any Institution;—and that the Means of Knowledge are thereby brought the nearest Westwardly, of any that we know of, to the Borders of Error and Barbarity." Its seal represents "Minerva leading an illiterate Person with one hand, and pointing with the other to a Shelf of Books, and a Pair of Globes—with the Motto, Ecce Comites Itineris; and round the Margin this Inscription, Seal of the Juliana Library, Lancaster." The books, numbering 481 in 1765, and 510 in 1766, and its "philosophical, mathematical instruments, fossils, telescopes, quadrants, forestaff, camera obscura and magic lanthorn" (let out on the approval of the Directors) were kept in a rented room, where attendance was given on Saturdays from 4 to 7 P. M.

After Caleb Sheward, William Henry succeeded as Librarian, a room in his house on E. King Street being rented as the Library room. He probably held the position until the outbreak of the Revolution. William Atlee was Secretary for the same period. They advertised frequently, and evidently prospered, for in 1772 they said, "The late frequent applications for admission into this company have enabled the Directors (in a manner, much to the advantage of the company) nearly, if not fully, to compleat the number heretofore agreed on to be admitted. The value of the company's effects, by several late importations and generous donations, is greatly increased."

At the same time they "Resolved that, in Testimony of the great Affection and Esteem which this Company bear to the Right Honourable Lady Juliana Penn, her

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61 Ellis & Evans, *History of Lancaster Co.* (1883) p. 430.
Ladyship be addressed and requested to permit Mr. West to take her picture to be placed in the Company’s Library Room.

"Resolved that Benjamin West Esqr of Pennsylvania now resident in London, be requested to wait on Lady Juliana Penn for Permission to take her Portrait, of the Size commonly called ¾ Size, for the Juliana Library Company at Lancaster, and at their expense. * * * •••««

After the notice of the annual meeting of 1775, "The books and apparatus belonging to the Company" were "cased up, and not opened for the perusal and inspection of the members from the year 1776 till the year 1784 inclusive."64

The Friends who settled in Merion in the Welsh tract, were well educated people, few of whom did not possess his own library. "The Merion meeting in conjunction with those of Radnor and Haverford early took in hand the formation of a circulating library. * * * We know certainly that it was in operation probably before 1697."65

This of course was a library limited in its activities to members of the Meetings. No public library was attempted for more than sixty years. In the Pennsylvania Gazette of March 25, 1762, appears a notice: "The Members of the Blockley and Merion United Library Company, are desired to attend at the Library Room in Blockley, the Fifth of April next, between the Hours of Three and Six in the Afternoon, to choose Directors, and a Treasurer, and make their first annual Payment.

"Richard George, junior, Clerk."

And a similar notice was inserted the next year.

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64 Penna. Gazette. no. 2835. Oct. 6, 1784.
How long Richard George, Jr. remained Clerk or librarian we do not know, for the notices for 1764 and 1765 are signed by J. George and Joseph Tunis respectively as secretaries. Abraham Kite was librarian in 1766 and Richard George, Jr. secretary in 1767, Abraham Kite succeeding him to that office in 1768.

The notice for the 10th annual meeting, 1771, stated that it was to be held "at the Library in Merion School House." This announcement was signed by John Roberts, who was probably the noted Tory in the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He was succeeded by Isaac Warner, of Blockley, Colonel of the 7th Battalion of Philadelphia County Militia during the War. Lewis Jones was secretary in 1772, and Thomas Roberts, of Blockley, in 1773.

Possibly partisan feeling ran too high to maintain the library as the "times that try men's souls" approached, but the newspapers after the announcement of the 12th meeting, 1773, contain no further mention of this Library.

Chester, a township in Delaware County, 16 miles from Philadelphia, was 200 years ago said to be inaccessible from that City, "by reason of Rocks and Mountains." Possibly this inaccessibility was the reason that the idea of a library came to this, the oldest town in Pennsylvania, so late in the Colonial period.

"A number of the most considerable Inhabitants of the Borough of Chester having from Time to Time had in Consideration the good Consequences that would result from the Erection of a public Library in the said Borough for the promotion of useful Knowledge did at length proceed to enter into Articles for the forming themselves into a Company for that purpose agreeable to which Articles they met on the tenth day of May

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66 Ibid. p. 108.
67 Minutes of the Provincial Council of Penna. III. 106.
Anno Domini 1769 in order to pay in the Sum of money proposed to be advanced by each Member and to elect and chuse proper Officers for the more effectual carrying their design into Execution at which Time were chose,

"Directors, Henry Hale Graham, Elisha Price, David Jackson, Nicholas Fairlamb, Thomas Moore, Treasurer Thomas Sharpless, Secretary Peter Steel."

The Directors held the first meeting on May 13th, 1769. The next year they advertised in the Gazette: "The Members of the Library of Chester, are desired to meet at the Court-House, on Thursday, the Tenth of May, in order to chuse Directors, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, for the ensuing Year, and to make their annual Payment, agreeable to their Articles. By Order of the Directors, Peter Steel, Secretary."

And again in 1773:

"Chester, October 16, 1773. Public Notice is hereby given to all those who have a Share in the Chester Library, and have been deficient in their annual Payments for two years or more, that unless they pay off their respective Arrears to the Treasurer, on or before the first day of January next ensuing, they will absolutely forfeit their said shares, and be excluded from any Right or title to the said Library. By order of the Directors. John Flower, Secretary."

To some of the libraries here mentioned the Revolution brought the end of their activities, but the majority reopened their doors under the Federal aegis, a few existing to the present time, in spite of "crooked eclipses" that gainst their glory fight.

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"Copy at Library Co. of Phila."