

the books in the Library, as the sum assessed on the citizens was more than eaten up by the then running expenses.

It was soon evident that the rooms in which the Library had been installed were inadequate for the purpose, and the Commissioners cast about for a more suitable location. The large room in the Germain street end of the Market building was not regarded with favor but a handsome suite of rooms were discovered in the Masonic Hall. This was in 1885, and the Council was induced to increase the grant to \$750, which was an advance of \$250, which paid the rent. When the Library was closed for the summer vacation in 1885 the books were removed to the Masonic hall where they were to remain for 19 years, and in September of the same year the rooms were thrown open to the public. A special effort was made by the ladies committee that year, and large additions were made to the Library.

When No. 5 company of the Volunteer Fire department disbanded, after the present fire department was brought into existence, their company had quite a balance in the hands of the treasurer which was still to the credit of the company with its accumulations of interest. The surviving members were called together and it was decided to make a free gift to the Library of the funds on hand, amounting to \$500 and also to make the Library Commissioners the custodians of a handsome silver trumpet which had been presented to the company by Robert Rankine & Co., for services at a fire at their wharf. The cash was invested in books and the trumpet is one of the decorations of the reading room. This was in 1888 and was the largest donation the Commissioners had received up to that time. The trumpet which is solid