

I believe that the class of books, magazines and periodicals on the shelves and on file are the best that could be selected for the manifold wants of the numerous classes of readers, the tastes of a wide range of individuals having been respected.

I feel that we have great reason to congratulate ourselves on the result of our labors, and that we have discharged the trust reposed in us, as it should have been discharged, for the best interests of all concerned.

We have reason to regret that we did not originally ask the city to place at our disposal the sum of \$60,000, instead of \$50,000. The result is that our financial position is not as good as it ought to be or as good as we would like to see it, our bank account being overdrawn. Our fault was in being too modest. We thought we could purchase a site, erect a suitable building and furnish it for \$25,000, and still have \$25,000 to purchase books. We very soon found that public opinion, which we were constrained to follow, demanded a structure of a kind quite beyond the funds at our disposal, and in consequence and in view of the fact that we could not by law obtain any further sum on capital account, we concluded to make the expenditure for such a building the first claim upon the whole sum of \$50,000, trusting to the city authorities for an additional grant. In pursuance of such a course, an application was made to the City Council for a grant of \$10,000 in the fall of the year 1889; but that body at that time, owing chiefly to the fact that they had in several departments large overdrafts in excess of the appropriations for the year, found themselves unable to accede to our request, but recommended that an application should be made at a later date. In default of such assistance the Board of Management have been driven to call for nearly the full statutory allowance, in order that the necessary and proper additions to the Library may be made. If this grant is obtained from the city, the necessary yearly expenditure might, I think, be kept very nearly within the limits of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mill, or at any rate within the limits of  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a mill. The city this year will make new financial arrangements; it will be in a position to throw off the great incubus it has carried for so many years (its city debt bill). This is an opportune time to again apply to the city for a grant, so that we can pay off our