

Report of Library Committee

on the 23^d February 1861

The undersigned on behalf of the Committee on the Library, has
pleasure to present to the Trustees of Vassar Female College, the
following thoughts and suggestions as their first and preliminary
Report.

They presume that the magnitude of the interest and at
times of a good Library to such an Institution as ours can hardly
be overestimated. That this branch of our apparatus is only second
to the living teachers the Faculty of the College and greatly assistant
to that end. But on this part of the subject - so obvious must it
be to every member of the Board they will not at all enlarge -
Contenting simply with the facts of this case, as they lie before
them, the undersigned have supposed that for the present the
following outline may be satisfactory.

First Source may be relied on for securing an extensive
and valuable Library for the College. At the devotion of the
liberal funds of this great enterprise, and 2^d the portion of the
donor's endowment, held apart by his own designation for this purpose.
Until the former edifice shall be nearly completed, and the library
built to it nearly completed as to allow books to be safely received
and arranged for use, perhaps no appeal to the public for donations
to the Library would be regarded as reasonable. But such
enquiries and private solicitations as each Trustee and friend of
the Institution may be able to make among their personal friends
& in the circles where they have most influence, would admirably
aid in preparing the way for future success in gathering from
these sources, the generous offerings of liberal donors to the Library.

In this way we cannot doubt that many thousands of valuable books may be secured gratuitously. It is desiring of special regard, that such gatherings, however numerous, would from the nature of the source prove very miscellaneous and incomplete. Whereas the idea of a College Library for such an Institution as ours will ultimately demand that in each of the more important departments of Study and of Scientific and literary research as much completeness and perfection as possible should be secured; not indeed by gathering all the books extant on each branch, but the best which are attainable. To secure such completeness in each department of Knowledge seems to be undesigning the great and leading object, in the Outlay to be made from the \$10,000 Dollar fund, understood to have been set apart by our Munificent donor, in the endowment of the Institute. If that comparatively small sum with its annually accumulating interest can be sacredly regarded as set apart for this express purpose, to be judiciously applied only so far and so far as the more pressing demands require, it may be reasonably hoped that a foundation will be laid for a Library of greater relative gain, than the Outlay of a far larger sum without regard to System could ever secure.

Tempting opportunities for making cheap investments may and no doubt will very often occur; but the hope may be cherished that such a Board as yours will guard for the most part against such solicitations for squandering the limited means at their disposal. If these are carefully preserved for the present, and wisely allowed to accumulate till near the time of opening the Institution, and then the aid of the Professors in each department be secured in selecting the best books, most necessary for the teachers and