

in the county of Burlington, to be called the township of Lumberton."

Mr. Dobbins offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Stationery be instructed to furnish Jesse R. Mills with a pocket knife.

Which was read, and on motion of the same gentleman, was adopted.

Mr. Marsh, in pursuance of notice heretofore given, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill entitled "An act to confirm certain deeds made by Joseph L. Cory, surviving executor of Joseph Line, deceased."

On motion, the title of the bill was taken for its first reading, and it was accordingly read a first time, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Bond moved that the following resolution, viz :

*Resolved*, That the Speaker be directed to issue a writ of election, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. Joseph Harker, of the county of Gloucester,

Be taken from the table.

Which motion was agreed to.

Whereupon Mr. Bond moved that the resolution be adopted.

Which motion was agreed to.

The Speaker laid before the House the following report of the State Librarian :

*Gentlemen of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey :*

As State Librarian, I respectfully report, that the increase from the various sources, both by purchase and donations, of last year, gives in the aggregate nine hundred and ninety-eight volumes applicable to law, documents, and general literature, with the addition of one hundred and forty-seven copies of miscellaneous publications in the pamphlet form, showing an accession far in advance of any preceding year.

During the existence of the State Library, for a general information, we rejoice to mention the interchange with the several States and Territories of the Union is fully established with a manifest and growing desire freely expressed by correspondents, that a mutual exchange should be unimpaired, with the request however that we are restrained in a more suitable manner to reciprocate the favor of several States who have in an especial

form enhanced the value of the miscellaneous department of your Library. In the past year a partial distribution of documents was entrusted to our care, and directed to all the States and Territories, giving the assurance that such are received with interest and gratification, advising us with a knowledge of a foreign exchange, fully suggest that more and much more may be gained by additional and liberal terms of reciprocity as could reach the great depositories of Europe, wherefrom volumes of extended science, and publications of highest literature would follow in bountiful return, adding to and materially elevating the standard of this institution in the greater attainments of information and general knowledge. By the annual appropriation of an amount of means in money, the commissions directed purchases to be made both of law and miscellaneous reading, to which such selections as have been made are of standard and popular publications, intended for the taste and notions of a professional, mechanical or agricultural tendency, having gained the approbation and commendation of enlightened and intelligent readers. No one, with a proper idea of appreciating an accumulative policy, having the evidence of a very combustible framework constituting the cases, frames and shelves as surrounds so much of value, but indulges freely in the expression that protection against fire is of the first importance, associated with the equally important consideration that a room of greater capacity is indispensable to these reflections.

We cannot do less than ask, and respectfully urge your favorable conclusion to the speedy erection of an edifice, noticing the modern structures properly adapted to the necessities of a State Library.

Allow us further to notice the removal of many documents, law reports with maps, &c., from one ante-chamber to another by the direction of the late Executive of the State, which mass of confusion at the time you will find carefully and compactly arranged for a ready reference, and to which we respectfully invite your inspection and examination.

In the report of last year your attention was directed to the catalogue as arranged 7 years since—at that time, properly adapted to the classification and contents of the Library, but is now, of necessity, by change of books, and shelves materially altered, leading to a difficult apprehension, and can only be relieved in a revision of the entire whole, because, as was expressed in the remarks of an experienced Librarian: "A good catalogue is a

prime necessity in a well conducted library," and as has been further noticed, "to a national library." Indeed all sorts and varieties of books are welcome, because even the trash of one generation becomes the highly prized treasure of another. What a "Bodley," at the end of the sixteenth century calls "Riff Raff," which a library keeper should disdain to seek out to deliver to any man, a "Bodley" librarian has to buy almost for its weight in gold at the beginning of the nineteenth century, for by that time it comes to be apparent that the most obscure pamphlets or the flimsiest ballad may throw a ray of light upon some pregnant fact of history, or may serve as a key to a mystery in some life career which gave to an age its very "form and pressure." Since the plan of stamping books has been adopted, nothing of any importance in value has come to our notice, as actually as lost with the remark, that occasionally we evidence a breach of privilege in a displacement of books, which in common, sooner or later, by a manifest sense of conscious rectitude of the individual, are restored by an opportunity equally artful as actuated the first transgression—an occurrence that cannot be avoided despite the best care and caution put into exercise—a success in some degree to command our admiration, when we contemplate the enumerative number of visitors, having been in the past year little less than eight thousand; but not so in an act of recent date, applicable to the volume of Revolutionary Correspondence, containing the only autograph signature of Patrick Henry, written during his office as Governor of Virginia, and dated, "Richmond, February twenty-third, seventeen hundred and eighty-six," being compelled to charge some one with the flagitious act of tearing off said signature from a letter of correspondence under the foregoing date, the only letter as property of the State, of which nefarious deed we admit the utmost indignation in the deprivation of a sign manual surrounded by the glory of him who, in seventeen hundred and sixty-five, proclaimed liberty or death for American Independence.

Your servant,

C. J. IHRIE.

Which was read, and on motion, was referred to the Committee on Library.

The Speaker laid before the House the following report of the Trenton Savings Fund Society: