

The Juliana Library.

The library in Lancaster, known as the "Juliana Library," was established in 1759, under the name of "The Lancaster Library Company." It was the third subscription library established in Pennsylvania. In 1763 it was chartered, and, out of compliment to Lady Juliana Penn, daughter of the Earl of Pomfret, and wife of Thomas Penn, one of the proprietors of the Province of Pennsylvania, it was called the Juliana Library. This step was evidently taken to secure her assistance and favor. She did donate a few books, but, so far as can be ascertained, perhaps not nearly so many as was expected. It is the common belief that she was the founder and patron of the library. She was a patron to a limited extent, but it had an active existence four years before it took on her name.

The library at one time had about 800 books on its shelves, and was fairly prosperous. Its most flourishing period was from 1760 to 1775. Its history from that time until its final sale and dispersion, in 1843, is not well known, there being no minutes to tell us what was done. In all, only a few pages of the minutes kept of the Library Company's proceedings have survived the wreck of time. The one printed below has just been found among the papers of a descendant of the Secretary of the Library, and is offered as a valuable addition to what has already been put on record.—Ed.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Juliana Library Company, at their Library Room, on the 17th Day of January, 1775.

Present—Edw. Shippen, Esq., Rev. Mr. Thos. Barton, Adam Simon Kuhn, Esq., George Ross, Jasper Yeates, Wil-

liam Atlee, John Hobson, William Bowman, Barnard Hubley.

Adam Simon Kuhn, Esquire, was chosen Chairman.

Mr. Henry, being possessed of "London and Its Environs," with copper plates, in 6 vols. 8 mo., and being willing to dispose of them to the Library at the price of £3.0.0, it is agreed that they be taken into the Library at that price.

The Directors now agreed that the following Books should be immediately purchased for the use of the Library, viz.:

.....
And Mr. Atlee is requested to write to Mr. Hall and inclose him a copy of the List, and request of him to inform him as expeditiously as possible which of them he can furnish or procure for us, with the price annexed that he can furnish them at, and at the same time inform him that if the prices suit the Books will be immediately sent for and the cash forwarded to pay for them. And Mr. Atlee will mention to Mr. Hall that the Company have dealt chiefly with that house in the life of his father, and had his offer to supply the Company from time to time at £110 with such new Books as they should want.

An Extract of a Letter from the Honorable Lady Juliana Penn to the Rev. Mr. Barton being received in the words following, to wit:

.....
The Directors, highly sensible of the favor and kind patronage of her Ladyship, request that Mr. Barton will present the warm acknowledgments of the Company to her Ladyship for the generous Notice she hath condescended to take of this Institution, and will forward a Catalogue of the Books and Instruments of the Library to her, agreeable to her desire, with a Copy of this Minute.

"Leeland's History of Ireland," lately

published at Philadelphia, being subscribed for for the Library, and being taken in since the last meeting, is now produced, and ordered to be placed in the Library.

Ordered that Edward Shippen, Esq., the Rev. Mr. Barton, Jas. Yeates and Wm. Atlee be a Committee to complete the Catalogue of Books belonging to the Company, and that one Catalogue be neatly bound in Morocco and Gilt, to be forwarded to Lady Juliana Penn.

Author: Atlee, Edwin Augustus.

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