

South Danvers, Jan. 28, 1867.

To the

Trustees of the Peabody Institute,
South Danvers.

Gentlemen:-

Through a committee of your Board, Hon. A. A. Abbott and Dr. George Osborne, I have received your formal acceptance of the gift, which, on the Fifteenth of October last, it was my happiness to offer you in trust, for the foundation and establishment of a Reference Library, as a department of the Peabody Institute.

In fulfillment of my offer made at that time, I herewith hand you Twenty Thousand Dollars in City of Boston Bonds, principal and interest payable in gold, together with the interest accrued since the first day of that month.

As regards the disposition and management of this gift allow me to repeat what I have already expressed in my former letter to you, together with a few other suggestions.

I desire that it may constitute a permanent fund, to be called "The Ebon Dale Sutton Fund", the income of which, as it accrues, without any abatement, shall be paid to the credit of the "Lyceum and Library Committee" of the Institute; and that it shall be by them wholly expended in the purchase of books of practical and enduring value, together with charts, maps, diagrams, models, and such other helps to the acquisition of knowledge, as are to be found in the best libraries established for the use of students and scholars, and in defraying such incidental expenses as may become necessary for the preservation and perpetuation of the books and apparatus constituting the library; and for no other purpose. I desire that the books may be substantially, and as far as practicable, uniformly bound; and that they be kept together in a room of the Institute Building especially assigned for their accommodation, from which they shall never be loaned nor taken.

It is my wish that there shall be affixed to the inside of the cover of each volume placed in the library, an impression from a plate which I will provide and hand to you, bearing the seal of the Institute and the following words: Peabody Institute. From the Ebon Dale Sutton Fund. Purchased A. D. — and

figures indicating the year in which it was purchased.

It seems to me so important to prevent the accumulation of the interest of this fund, and to ensure the application of it to the end in view, that I am led to make it a condition of this gift, that at no time shall the Lyceum and Library Committee hold in their hands, unexpended, more than the income of one year.

Whenever the contemplated changes in the Institute Building shall have been made, and a suitable room appropriated to the Reference Library, should it be agreeable to your Board, it will afford me pleasure to furnish it, at my own expense, with whatever may be necessary to render it convenient and attractive.

This library is designed primarily and chiefly for the use and improvement of our own townsmen; but I trust that in its management a liberal policy will be pursued toward those not resident within our borders; so that whatever treasures of knowledge it may at any time contain, may be easily accessible to any one desirous of profiting by their use.

I am aware that the value and usefulness of this foundation must depend mainly upon the intelligence and rectitude of those who shall be charged with its administration; and that in the hands of a competent

and conscientious Board of Trustees, the less it is cumbered with conditions, the more efficient it will prove. To the few, therefore, stated above, I have none to add.

The good judgement and fidelity which have characterised the direction of the affairs of the Peabody Institute since its establishment, will not, I am sure, be diminished by added years of experience; and I do not, therefore entertain a doubt of its continued and increased success.

During the remainder of my life, it will be to me a source of happiness, that it has been my fortune to unite with the liberal-minded founder of the Institute, and with you, gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, in efforts for the wider diffusion of sound learning; and the institution under your care will continue to be to me an object of interest and affection.

Thanking you for the kind and graceful terms in which you were pleased to signify your acceptance of this gift, and reciprocating your expressions of personal regard,

I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Eliza Sutton