

South Danvers, Oct. 15, 1866.

To the

Trustees of the Peabody Institute,

Gentlemen:-

The rare advantages conferred on our community by the establishment of the Peabody Library, are fully appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by all who have been privileged to enjoy them. Having had favorable opportunities for observing its beneficent results hitherto, I could but cherish a deep interest in its continued prosperity and success. This interest has ripened into a feeling akin to personal affection, through recollection of the delight and improvement which its treasures afforded to my dearly beloved son, now deceased, Eben Dale Sutton.

As a memorial of this departed son, I have desired to make to the Institute some offering, which should permanently connect his name with this noble public benefaction.

Having received from Mr. Peabody a kind and cordial approval of my plan,

I propose to present for your acceptance, as Trustees of the Peabody Library, the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars, for the furtherance of the objects had in view by its founder.

In making this gift it is my wish not to trespass upon the ground already so successfully occupied by the present library for circulation.

I desire that it may be invested as a permanent fund, to be called the Eben Dale Sutton Fund, the income of which, as it accrues, shall be devoted exclusively to the establishment of a Reference Library; that the books purchased for it shall be of enduring value, and such only as are desirable and indispensable for the use of scholars; that they shall be substantially, and as far as is practicable, uniformly bound, and shall be kept together in some room of the Institute Building especially assigned for their accommodation, from which they shall never be loaned nor taken.

It is not my purpose to attach any onerous conditions to this donation; but at a future time, should my proffer be acceptable



to you, I will express more fully my wishes and plans for its disposition and management.

I shall place this gift in your hands, Gentlemen, associated as it is with tender memories, with full assurance that it will be wisely administered, and will prove a lasting blessing to the present, and to future generations.

Yours respectfully,

Eliza Sutton

Mrs Elizabeth Weston's letter to  
the Trustees  
Oct. 15. 1866.