

Synopsis of Annual Reports of Executive Committee

Twenty-ninth Report—January 2, 1883

The managers and friends of the Society should be thankful that better and safer apartments are being provided by the State for its large and rapidly augmenting collections. While we do not get all we asked for, yet what we do get is a decided step in advance. In our memorial a year ago to the Legislature, we plead for a *separate* and *isolated* building, with ample grounds for future building expansion, as the exigencies of the Society should from time to time require.

Had the whole of the south wing been designated for the Society's use and occupancy, it would have been none too much for our present and future wants. We should then have been less crowded in the internal arrangements, with more shelving space and more reading-room accommodations. As it is, with two stories assigned us for Library and reading-room purposes, and yet another, the upper story, with its sky-light provision, for our picture gallery and cabinet, we should have considerably more than double the shelving capacity we now have; and hence, apparently, provision for some twenty years accretions to the Library, supposing our growth should be no greater than the average of the past few years.

This, however, is not a proper guide; for we have reason to believe, as other great public libraries are frequently receiving large book and money bequests, so our Society is