

## EARLY LOUISVILLE LIBRARIES

had, at the outset, 217 members, ten of whom were designated at a general meeting to sign the articles of incorporation. These were the Rev. John H. Heywood, Alexander G. Booth, J. M. Wright, Louis N. Dembitz, Russell Houston, Dr. J. Lawrence Smith, W. B. Caldwell, I. M. St. John, W. H. Walker, and John H. Ward. Under the rules, each member was to contribute \$30 in cash or twenty volumes acceptable to the directors, who must have had some difficulty avoiding duplications.

The library was located first in the second floor of the building at the northwest corner of Third and Walnut Streets, remaining there until January, 1876, when it was removed to the building at Fifth and Walnut Streets on the present (1942) site of the Kentucky Hotel. The first president was Alexander G. Booth, who remained in office until his death in October, 1876, when he was succeeded by Alexander P. Humphrey. He in turn was succeeded by William R. Belknap in January, 1880. Fellow-directors of the latter were Udolpho Snead, J. W. Holland, O. A. Wehle, A. V. Gude, John H. Ward, and J. M. Wright, with Robert Cochran as treasurer and James S. Pirtle as secretary.

In 1876 the directors were able to accumulate an endowment of \$10,000 subscribed by members and others, the income from which was devoted thereafter to the library's operating expenses. Members paid \$6.00 annual dues, subscribers \$1.00 a quarter or \$3.00 annually. On January 1, 1882, there were 97 active members, 173 subscribers, and 14 life members who paid no dues. In 1881 the library contained 8,136 books.