

arts that embellish the character by improving the perception of the beautiful and the true and which by habituating the mind to the contemplation of the best works of genius render it more friendly and generous towards the success of deserving artists in their early endeavors after fame.

Mr. Peabody's first letter.

For the fulfilling and preserving of the trust I have confided to you, my wish is that you, gentlemen, or as many of you as may except this appointment, will meet together at as early a day as may be convenient for you, and take such measures for your own organization and government as you may find necessary, making a record of your acceptance and of all proceedings you may adopt. That if your full number of twenty-five should be rendered incomplete by the refusal of any of you to accept the appointment, you will as soon as practicable, fill the same by the selection of the necessary number from a list of two hundred names selected from the ranks of your most worthy fellow citizens, which I herewith furnish you, and which list I desire you to enter upon your record for future use.

I also desire and request that if, at any time hereafter during the life of the present generation, vacancies should occur in your number of twenty-five, by death, resignation, incapacity to serve or removal from the State, you and your successors shall fill such vacancies, by judicious selection from the list above mentioned of such person or persons therein named as may then be living and may be qualified, by capacity and good standing in the community, to perform the duties required; and when in after time, this generation shall have passed away, I desire that your succession may be preserved by the appointment to vacant places in your board, of such of your sons, or the sons of those on the list I have given you, as may then be accessible to the choice of your successors, and may be worthy, from their personal qualifications and good répute in Baltimore, to assume the charge of the Institute. And finally, when these sources shall fail, I desire that the succession in the Board of Trustees shall be ever maintained by the careful selection from time to time, of such eminent and capable citizens of Baltimore, as may be willing to ad-