

Yesterday in discussing the library proposition, the Journal suggested that there was a question as to whether or not we could afford to comply with the conditions. There is another side to this matter, and that is, can we afford not to do it? There was a time when the Lawrence library was not only the pride of the city, but it was the best in the state. We have no such claim now, although the needs of the city and its people are far greater than ever before. The expense that must necessarily be incurred will be increased somewhat over the present expense, but can we afford to have it said that there is not enough of liberality, enough of public spirit, and enough of love for books and learning in Lawrence to make us feel that we can afford to go to a comparatively small expense in order to have a library and a library building that is an honor and an ornament to the city? We have here each school year more than a thousand students; we owe it to them to provide a public library where they will be welcome, and where they may find aid in the work they are pursuing. We owe it to the coming generations to provide literary advantages for them. And while other towns of less size, and less pretensions are eagerly accepting the same offer made to them by Mr. Carnegie, can Lawrence afford to sit down and say that because the library costs us a thousand dollars a year or so that we cannot accept it?