

To The Honourable the Senate & House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General assembly
met,

The memorial of the Directors of the Library Company of
Philadelphia, Respectfully shews,

That the Philadelphia Library since its institution in
1731, in conformity with the liberal design of its founders, has
been devoted to the dissemination of pure morality, sound literature,
and useful science, among the Inhabitants of this Common-
wealth, and all the annual income of the Company from every
source, has been applied to the increase of its literary treasure,
or to the discharge of the very moderate expenses incurred in
giving facility to the public and the contributors in the use
of its Books. Although sustained by private contribution, it is
essentially a public library, all persons having access to its
books in the Building where they are kept, with comfortable
accommodations for using them, and the Directors moreover
being in the established practice of affording to public bodies
convened in the City of Philadelphia, a still larger access to
the Books, without any charge.

That in connection with the Philadelphia Library so
called, another large and valuable library, called the Loganian

Library, contained within the same building, has been, since the year 1792, held by the Directors of the Philadelphica Library Company and others as Trustees, which library is altogether publick in its destination, no discrimination being made between the citizens in the use of it, except that a By-Law provides for a more extended use in point of time by persons residing in the country, than by such as are inhabitants of the city and its immediate vicinity.

That the funds set apart in former times for the maintenance and annual increase of these Libraries, an of very moderate amount, and the whole annual income from all sources is inadequate to meet, as fully as the Directors wish and as the public good requires, the purchase of new Books.

That from the time of the Institution of the Library under the auspices of Wth Franklin and other eminent men, at the early day before stated, down to a recent period, the Real Estate belonging to the Company, was not assessed and taxed for either County or City purposes, it being regarded as devoted to public uses, and therefore to be favoured as such. But a different practice having been introduced a few years ago, your Memorabils applied to the Legislature for relief, and on the 29 March 1826 an Act was passed, exempting from taxation for seven years, the Building & Lot of ground in Philadelphia, ~~and~~ where the Libraries are kept, and the Books and other property therein.

That the said term of exemption having expired, the said

real estate has again been assessed, and your Memorialists are again called upon to pay the taxes, which are of such magnitude as to be more oppressive than they were before the Act of 1826 was passed, and materially to diminish the amount which the directors hoped to apply to the purchase of Books.

Wherefore your Memorialists, representing it to your Honorable Bodies as an unquestionable fact, that every dollar which they are compelled to pay for Taxes is so much taken from the purchase of books devoted to public improvement & instruction, do humbly request the Legislature as the patrons of useful learning in the Commonwealth, to pass an Act exempting their said Real estate & Books from Taxation, and as indulged, bound, they will be.

Signed by order & in behalf of
the Directors of the Library Com-
pany of Philadelphia.



