

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 W. 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 Memorialists 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, ~~on which~~ where the Libraries are kept, and the Books and other property therein.

That the said term of exemption having expired, the said