

"Provided they contain neither ribaldry nor indecency." And yet, according to the plaintiff's interpretation, the directors must exclude a great part of the classical treasures of the present Loganian library, and certainly the works of Plato, Juvenal, Martial, Ovid and Horace; all the Provençal poetry; Shakespeare and certainly his sonnets; Ben Johnson, Milton, Dryden, Rabelais, Cervantes, Voltaire, Dean Swift; nearly all the drama before this century—in a word, the works of all authors who, not sinning against light nor pandering to prurency, simply wrote according to the light of their day and generation.

Between what, according to the plaintiff's contention, should not be *included* and what must be *excluded* from the library, he would bring us to the view of the Caliph Omar when he burnt the Alexandrian library—if the books agreed with the Koran, they were unnecessary; if they differed, they should be destroyed.

Far different was the view of this court, when, a few months ago, in deciding that the Philadelphia Library was, as a "public charity," exempt from taxation, it affirmed the decision of the court below, where it had been said:—

"The educational influence of great libraries has been recognized by all civilized people in all ages. They have been the refuge and preservers of knowledge in the darkest times of ignorance and superstition, the source and rallying point of awakened interest in philosophy and science wherever the human mind has aroused itself to a new search for intellectual light, and the glory and pride of nations, in exact proportion as they have attained a higher plane of enlightened and progressive civilization. It is the concurrent and universal opinion of scholars that no single event in recorded history has been so great a misfortune to the interests of pure learning as the destruction of the Alexandrian Library."

