

THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

vs.

DONOHUGH, COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES.

APPELLEE'S BRIEF.

The facts appearing upon the record are briefly these :—

By deed dated the first day of July, 1731, the said Library Company, then an association, was founded at Philadelphia, by Benjamin Franklin, James Logan and others as "an institution for the advancement of learning and the more useful dissemination of knowledge," and the first meeting of the directors thereof was held on the eighth day of November, 1731.

The books composing the library were originally placed on the shelves "of Robert Grace's chamber, at his house in Jones' alley," and the librarian was, by the rules, required to permit "any civil gentleman to peruse the books of the library in the library-room."

On the twenty-fifth day of March, A. D. 1742, John, Thomas and Richard Penn, proprietaries of Pennsylvania, by letters patent, reciting that Benjamin Franklin, and others therein named, had, "at a great expense, purchased a large and valuable collection of useful books, in order to erect a library for the advancement of knowledge and literature in the city of Philadelphia," and "being truly sensible of the advantage that may accrue to the people of this Province by so useful an undertaking, and being willing to encourage the same," incorporated "The Library Company of Philadelphia," aforesaid.

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