

### III

which could not otherwise be as well obtained, and which exceeds that which is afforded by the best educational institutions this Commonwealth has as yet been able to give.

That, as above appears, the Library Company was in its origin created and endowed from motives of pure public advantage, so they aver it has ever since been carried on in the same spirit; and that which has been contributed in money by the now long series of its members, has always resulted far more in that public advantage than in benefit to themselves; indeed, not at all to them, except as part of the public.

That in all times and in none more than in the present, the distribution of useful knowledge, the dissipation of ignorance and error by proper culture, the substitution of refinement and serious study for material pleasures, and that training of the intelligence which produces able-minded citizens, have been considered to be of not less importance to a State than the care of its bodily sick and poor and feeble, and when the means to secure these ends have been given gratuitously, to be equally within the scope of any true definition of charity.

That the new Constitution of this Commonwealth, in prohibiting the legislature from passing any law exempting property from taxation, except (among other cases which do not concern your memorialists) those of "institutions of pure public charity," must, as your memorialists submit, have had in view no such narrow test of charity as would exclude institutions like their own, for so to do would have also excluded universities, colleges, scientific bodies, indeed, every benevolent and beneficent body in the Commonwealth, except hospitals and almshouses.

That the Legislature of this Commonwealth, acting on a wide and sensible interpretation of the words of the Consti-

