

purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity."

The Act of May 14, 1874 (P. L. 158), passed to carry into effect this constitutional provision, provides that "all churches, meeting-houses, or other regular places of stated worship, with the grounds thereto annexed necessary for the occupancy and enjoyment of the same; all burial-grounds not used or held for private or corporate profit; all hospitals, universities, colleges, seminaries, academies, associations, and institutions of learning, benevolence or charity, with the grounds thereto annexed, and necessary for the occupancy and enjoyment of the same, founded, endowed, and maintained by public or private charity," together with public school-houses, court-houses, jails, &c., are hereby exempted from all and every county, city, borough, road, and school tax, with a proviso that the exemption shall not extend to property not in actual use for the purposes specified, and from which any income or revenue is derived.

This is the legislation, constitutional and statutory, by which this case must be decided. The constitution does not, of itself, exempt any property; it merely permits the Legislature to do so within certain limits. The first question, therefore, is whether the complainant's case is within the Act of 1874, and this we think so clear that it may be considered and dismissed briefly. The complainant is an "association or institution of learning." 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

