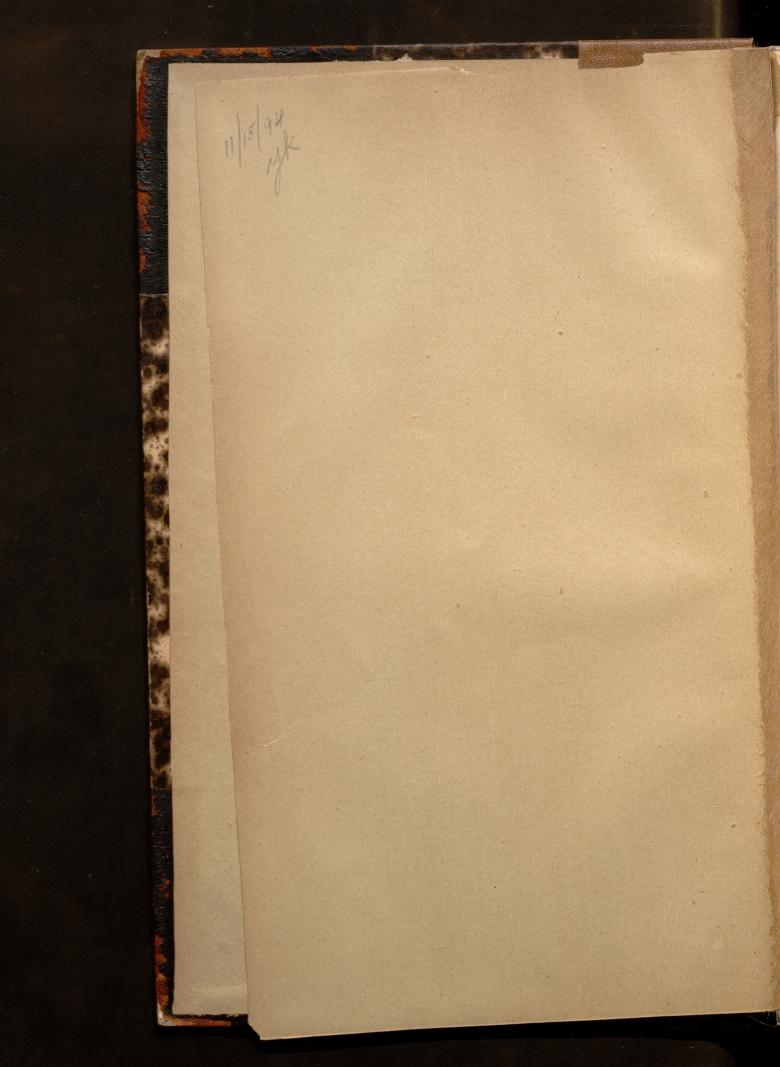
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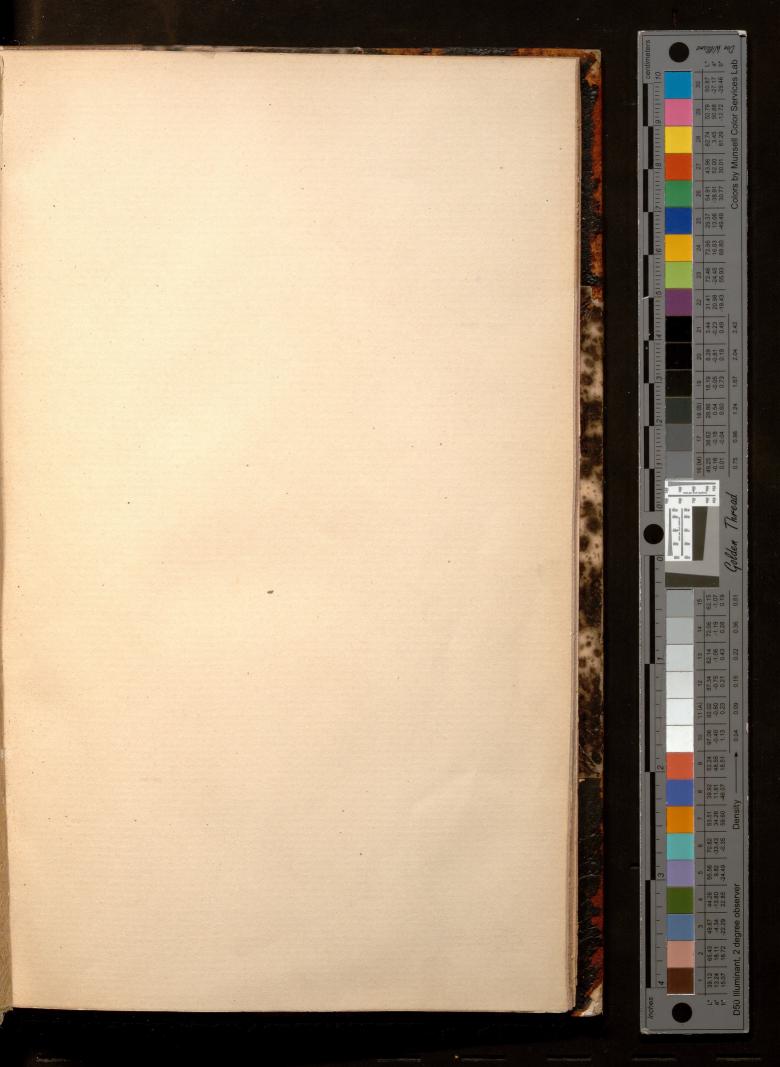


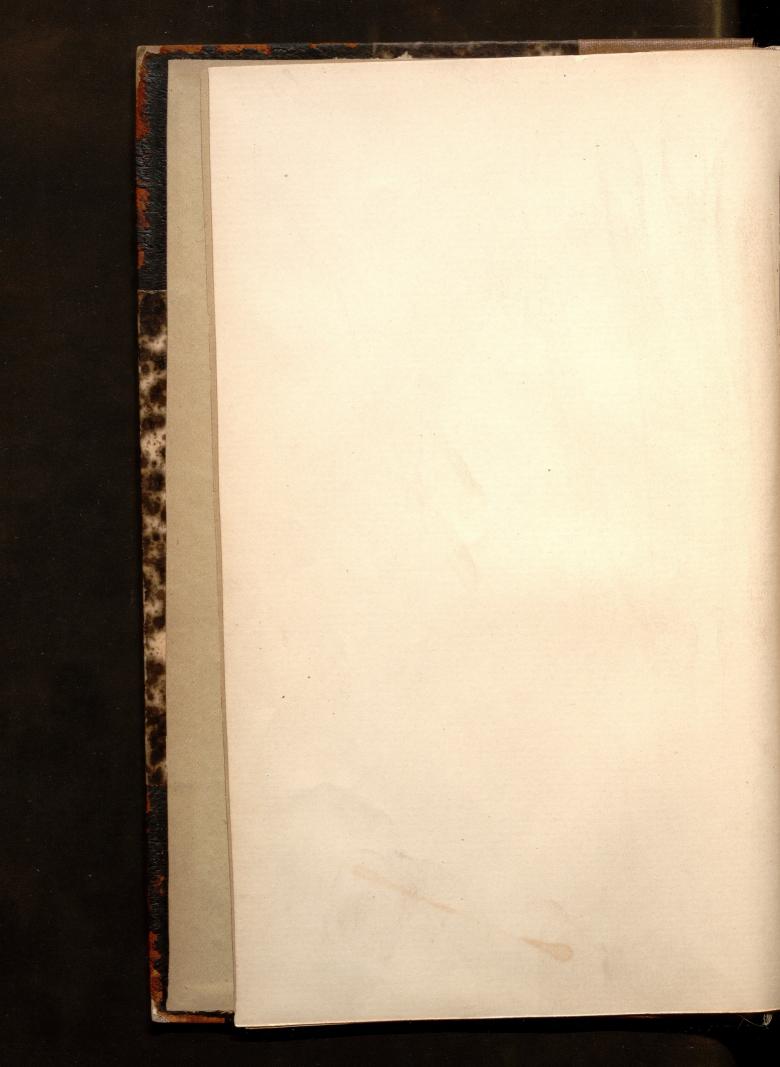
PHILADELPHIA.

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## THE ORIGINAL

# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF THE

# LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA.

NOW FIRST PRINTED:

TOGETHER WITH THE

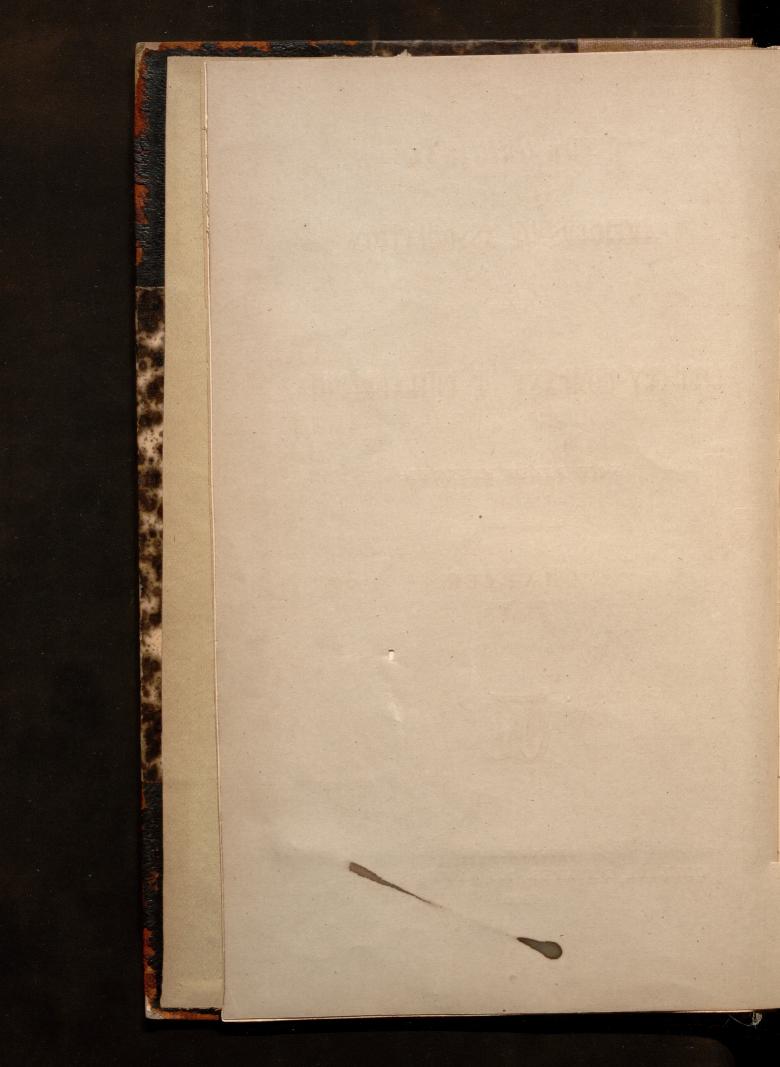
#### CHARTER

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COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
1869.

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### THE ORIGINAL

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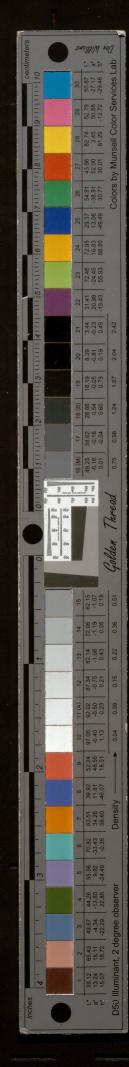
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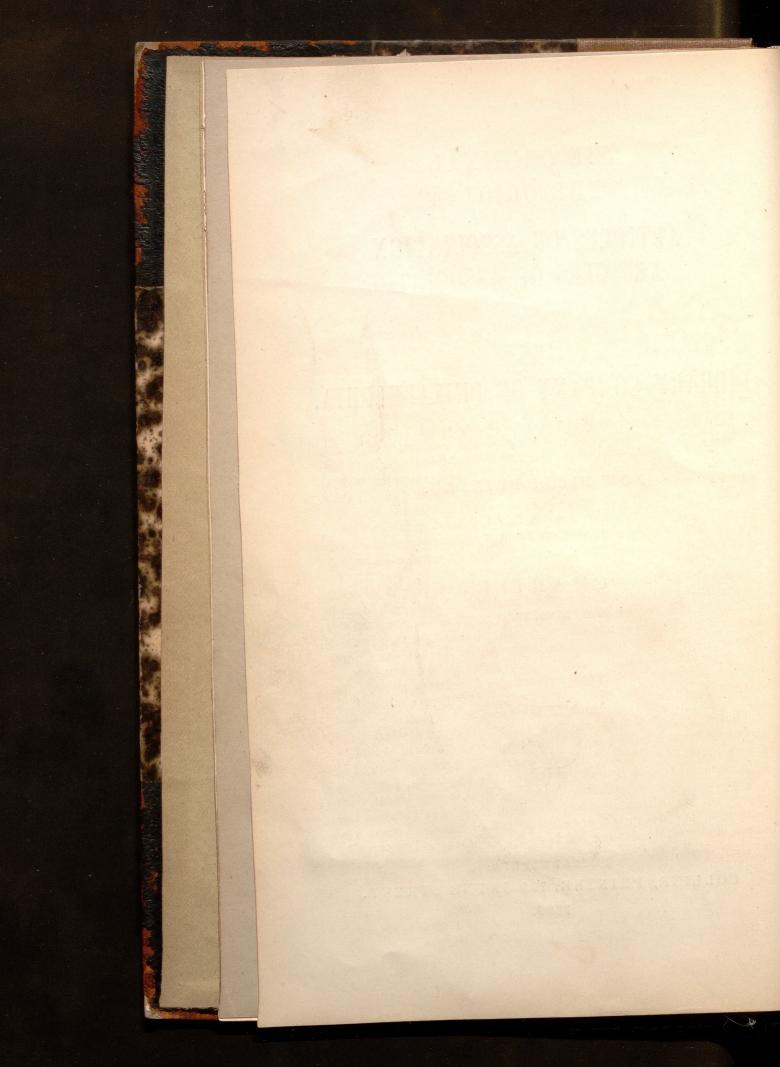
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PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
1869.





## ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

THE first day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-one, and in the fifth year of the reign of George the Second, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c., We, whose names are hereunto subscribed with our seals affixed, for the advancement of knowledge and literature in the city of Philadelphia, in the province of Pennsylvania, having put together several sums of money for a joint stock for the purchasing a collection of valuable books for composing a library in the said city, of which monies we of the number of the first fifty subscribers have advanced forty shillings apiece; and each of the rest of us the several sums annexed to our names subscribed respectively, do hereby mutually covenant and agree each one for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, respectively, to, and with the rest of the subscribers aforesaid, and every of them, their executors, administrators and assigns, by these presents in manner following,

That the monies so by us collected and advanced, and all other monies to be collected and paid for increase of our said library, or the service thereof, shall from time to time be put into the hands of the person hereinafter named to be our Treasurer, or the hands of some other fit person to be elected for Treasurer, as hereinafter mentioned, for the collecting and purchasing of such books, and for such other services appertaining to the library, as the Committees of Directors of the same library to be constituted as here-

inafter mentioned, shall think fit to choose and direct. That no subscription shall be admitted after the first fifty, nor any person entituled to a share in the books and effects in company, nor received as a member thereof, without first being allowed of and received for such by some of the said Committees of Directors, and without first subscribing his name to this instrument, with the sum of his subscription monies added thereto, and sealing the same with his seal in the presence of two or more sufficient witnesses, and paying into the hands of the Company's Treasurer so much or such a sum of money as (the same being added to the value of the whole collection of books and effects, regard had by the presiding Committee of Directors to loss, wear, and unforeseen accidents which is hereby committed to their care and judgment) will at the time of each subscription render the subscriber's share of equal value with any one of the rest.

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That upon the payment of the subscription monies, and all other monies hereafter to be paid for the service of the Library, the party shall receive of the Company's Treasurer a certificate, under his hand and the Company's seal, containing the name of the person, and the sum paid, the time when, and the account or

use for which he paid it.

That for the better preservation of a just equality, which it is hereby agreed shall subsist among the parties hereto, no one person shall pay more or other than such a proportion as aforesaid of the value of the Library, and effects, nor shall he be entituled to more than one or an equal share with one of the rest of the parties in Company aforesaid. Nor shall any one, being so entituled, except of a further bargain, sale, or other conveyance or assurance from another. But if any member in partnership aforesaid shall, as executor or administrator of another, or by any other means, come to a plurality of shares in the books and effects aforesaid, he shall immediately, upon receipt of an order from the Committee of Directors, transfer and convey so much thereof as will reduce his part to such an equality as aforesaid at the rate afore. said, unto some fit person not already entituled to any share, the person to be such as the Committee shall approve of.

That every of our respective executors and administrators shall immediately, upon the receipt of any such order of Committee as aforesaid, also transfer and convey his testator's or decedent's part in Company aforesaid, at the rate aforesaid unto such person as the

same Committee shall approve of.

That the number of subscribers shall not exceed one hundred at any one time in the whole. And that no person shall be of the Company, nor have any right or interest in their Library and effects (whether he come in primarily by paying a part of the subscription monies to the Treasurer, or by purchase of another, which any person may do, but not without the allowance of a Committee of Directors at the rate aforesaid) without first subscribing hereunto as aforesaid in person or by proxy legally and sufficiently authorized.

That the Committee's allowance or approbation of each member into partnership shall be signified by their permitting him to

subscribe hereunto as aforesaid.

That we, the subscribers hereunto, for the increasing our said Library and the service thereof, shall and will each one of us, our executors or administrators respectively, further advance and pay into the hands of the Treasurer ten shillings a year at the day to be appointed by our Committees annually, and so from time to time, until alienation of our respective parts in Company aforesaid, according to the purport hereof.

But if any subscriber hereto, his executors or administrators, shall neglect to pay any of the sums of ten shillings per annum aforesaid, at the day so to be appointed for the payment thereof, such subscriber, his executors or administrators, shall be admitted by the presiding Committee any time within six months next after the day of payment to pay fifteen shillings in lieu thereof. Which, if such person shall longer neglect, or if any person having more than such an equal share as aforesaid shall neglect to comply with the Directors' order for the reduction thereof to an equality with one of the rest by sale as aforesaid, then in every such case the party so neglecting or refusing, his executors, administrators, and assigns, shall from thenceforth forever after be excluded from the said partnership, and from any share, right, or benefit in the Library books or effects aforesaid, and be disabled from making any conveyance thereof afterwards. And the Committee of Directors, causing their Secretary to enter the occasion, the delinquents' share and right in the premises shall become forfeit and devolve upon the Committee of Directors for them to transfer and make over to such person as they shall think fit, the better to keep up the number of the partners at the real value of their shares, to be estimated as aforesaid, and to be paid to the Treasurer for the use of the Library.

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That if any subscriber, for the more expeditious raising a stock for the better encouragement of the ends hereby intended, shall be willing to advance his ten shillings per annum beforehand, for a number of years to come, he shall be permitted so to do, and upon proper entry thereof in the Directors' minutes, and a certificate delivered him by the Secretary, he shall be excused until

such number of years be expired.

That we, the said subscribers, will be and continue in partnership and hold our library of books and effects thereunto appertaining in common for and during the space of fifty-one years

from the day of the date hereof.

That during the same space we will not demand of our Treasurer, hereby nominated, nor of any other person hereafter to be our Treasurer according to this present Constitution, rendition of the monies aforesaid, nor of any monies hereafter to be collected and paid for the common use of the subscribers in Company aforesaid, nor demand or seek to have partition thereof, or of the books and effects to be therewith purchased, but that the same books and effects, and the monies also, after payment thereof to our Treasurer, shall be and remain at all times hereafter, during the continuance of this partnership, the indistinguishable property of all the members of the Company, the subscribers aforesaid, under the order and direction of the Committees of Directors aforesaid. and to and for the several and respective uses, intents, and purposes hereinafter limited and declared, yet subject to the provisoes and conditions herein contained, and to no other use, intent, or purpose whatever.

That when, and as often as any of us, the said subscribers, shall be of a Committee of Directors, or the Company's Treasurer, Librarian, or other their officer, in virtue of these presents such of us so to be constituted, if he accept the office, shall be true and faithful in the exercise of his function and in the discharge of the trust committed to him, every one according to the nature and duty of his office; but more especially in preserving to the utmost of his power unto every one of the subscribers in Company his just right and property in and to the said books and effects in common, under the order and rule and subject to the

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limitations and restrictions in and by these presents established,

limited, and declared.

That for distinction sake, the subscribers in Company aforesaid now and hereafter at all times are and shall be called THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, and shall have a common seal, with this device, two books open, each encompassed with glory, or beams of light, between which water streaming from above into an urn below, thence issues at many vents into lesser urns, and motto circumscribing the whole, comuniter bona profundere deûm est, to be securely kept in the Library, under the care of the Directors, whose Secretary upon the annual expiration of their office, or such other person as they shall appoint, shall deliver up the key of its deposit to the succeeding Committee.

That for the better preservation of order and government amongst the present and future subscribers, and in the use, application and management of the monies, books, Library, and effects aforesaid, they, the said subscribers, shall personally, or by proxy, annually attend at the place of election in the said city of Philadelphia on the first Monday of the month of May in every year during the continuance of the partnership aforesaid; and that as many as so meet and appear to be duly qualified shall proceed to the choice of a person of the number of the subscribers hereto to be the Company's Treasurer, and ten other persons of the same subscribers to be a Committee of Directors for the year next ensuing, and so from year to year during the continuance of the

partnership aforesaid.

The place of election to be agreed upon by the Directors of the current year, and notified by their Secretary ten days before the day of election by printed advertisements, the electors to choose by written tickets, each containing the names of the ten persons voted Directors, and the name of the person voted Treasurer; and the persons of the Company, the subscribers aforesaid, who shall thereupon appear to have a majority of votes shall be the Company's Treasurer and the Committee of Directors, respectively, for the year next ensuing, which Committee of Directors are hereby directed and impowered to nominate some fit person of the Company to be their Secretary for the ensuing year, who shall preside and collect the votes at the elections aforesaid, and shall faithfully enter in a book to be kept for that purpose the names of the qualified electors, and the number of the names of the candidates according to the tickets.

That it shall and may be lawful to and for the electors aforesaid, when met at any time before the hour of three in the afternoon of the day of election, to appoint persons to assist the Secretary in gathering the votes, and entering and numbering the names of the electors and persons voted for, and other service appertaining to the election, and to appoint and direct any method and rule in proceeding to and making the election, so as they appoint or direct nothing to prejudice the authority of any voter, or infringe the constitution hereby established in any of the

branches or parts thereof.

That Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Hopkinson, William Par-

sons, Philip Syng, Thomas Godfrey, Anthony Nicholas, Thomas Cadwalader, John Jones, jr., Robert Grace, and Isaac Penington, they being ten of the subscribers hereto, shall be a Committee of Directors of the Library aforesaid until the first Monday in May, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and thirty-two, that being the first time the election is to be made by suffrage as aforesaid, and that until the same day of election William Coleman, jr., another of the said subscribers, shall be the Company's Treasurer, at which time his place of Treasurer is to be supplied by another, if he be not then re-elected, and that Joseph Breintnall, another of the subscribers hereto, shall be the Secretary of them the said first nominated Directors.

That if any person hereby nominated or hereafter to be elected to be of a Committee of Directors shall refuse to act or shall happen to die or depart this province so as to be absent for the space of two months in any of the first ten months of the year for which he is so nominated or to be elected of a Committee as aforesaid, or if within the same year or term of his office he shall be confined by sickness or otherwise rendered uncapable of executing the office of a Director according to the true meaning hereof the rest of the Directors as often as occasion shall require in any of the cases aforesaid shall proceed in their duty and office without him; or if they think fit they shall nominate some other suitable person to supply his place of a Director until the then next succeed-

ing election.

That if any person so nominated or to be elected the Company's Treasurer as aforesaid shall absent himself from his office for the space of thirty days, or shall be otherwise rendered uncapable, or neglect his office or duty of Treasurer in the judgment of the Committee of Directors for the time being, it shall and may be lawful for the Committee to displace him from any longer continuance in his said office, and the Committee causing their Secretary to make a minute for the purpose, containing their reasons for displacing him; he shall thereupon, and from thenceforth cease to be the Treasurer aforesaid, and shall, upon notice thereof, adjust and settle with the Committee, and pay and deliver the Company's money and effects to such person as the Committee shall order and appoint, and in that case, and so often, and also, if the Treasurer shall depart this life, the Directors shall thereupon nominate another fit person of the Company, the subscribers hereto aforesaid (but not of their own number) to be Treasurer in the stead of him so displaced or deceased, until the next succeeding annual election; but when a new choice is to be made of Treasurer, in any of those cases after the said first Monday in May, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-two, the person who at the then last preceding election had the greatest number of votes next the highest (if alive, willing, and capable), shall be substituted Treasurer to supply the place of such deceased or displaced Treasurer, for which purpose the Secretaries presiding at elections shall preserve the votes.

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That every person so chosen to be the Company's Treasurer, immediately upon entering into his office, shall receive of the pre-

ceding Treasurer, his heirs, executors, or administrators, the Company's Cash and Books of Accounts, giving his receipt for the same, and shall enter into an obligation in double the value that doth or probably may come to his hands during the continuance of his office as near as can be estimated by the Committee of Directors unto the same Directors by their proper names and surnames, conditioned that he will once a month or oftener, if required, well and truly adjust, account, and settle with them for, and concerning all monies that are or shall come to his hands belonging to the Library Company of Philadelphia, or the subscribers hereunto, and that he will well and truly deliver up and pay the balance of the monies remaining in his hands, together with the books of accounts concerning the same, and the Company's papers in his keeping, unto his successor, in the said office, or such other person or service as the Committee of Directors for the time being shall order and appoint, and not otherwise, and that he will observe, do, and execute, all other things as the Company's Treasurer aforesaid, according to the sense and true meaning of these presents.

That all officers and servants belonging to the Company other than their Treasurer, shall be in the choice and under the order and direction of the Committees of Directors, who shall be accountable for their fidelity, and may displace them and appoint others as often as they shall think fit, which Committees shall also have the disposal of the monies subscribed and paid to the Treasurer to and for the use and service of the said Library; they shall have the choosing of books for the Library, the renting a house or place for the service of the Library, the furnishing the same with presses, shelves, and other things, necessary and fit, the lending of books, the appointing securities for the return of the books to the Library, and the prices of the loans, the printing and dispersing of catalogues, the admission of new subscribers, under the limitations and conditions hereby established, the settling accounts with the Company's Treasurer, with the payment of house rent, servants, and officer's wages, and all other incident charges belonging to the Company in partnership aforesaid.

Moreover the Committee of Directors are hereby invested with a discretional power to make suitable returns (in behalf of the Company) unto such benefactors as shall honor them by donations or otherwise, and for the more orderly execution of the duty and trust belonging to the said Directors, the Committees of Directors are hereby required to meet once a month at the place where the Library shall be kept, or some other fit place in the said city of Philadelphia, to confer and conclude concerning the matters hereby committed to them. In every of which meetings of the Directors aforesaid seven of their number met shall be a committee or quorum capable to consult, confer, and conclude of and upon all matters appertaining to Committees of Directors according to this Constitution, and whatsoever six of the number so met shall so conclude shall be deemed and taken for, and as the resolution of the Committee of Directors for the time being.

That this present instrument shall be deposited in the Library

for the inspection and perusal of all persons therein concerned, who shall also have recourse to the journals of the Directors, the minutes and entries of their Secretaries, with the Treasurer's accounts and all other books and papers belonging to the Company, and may, if the Directors think fit, take copies thereof, provided always, nevertheless, and it is hereby further agreed, that no monies hereby agreed to be subscribed and paid, shall be paid, nor any covenant or agreement herein contained shall be of any virtue or force, until such time as fifty persons have subscribed forty shillings each as aforesaid, and if the number of subscribers hereto shall not amount to fifty within six months next ensuing the date hereof, then and thereupon this present instrument shall become null and of no effect, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding; and it is hereby finally concluded and agreed, by and between all the subscribers in Company aforesaid, each one for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators respectively, that if any Committee of Directors hereby appointed or hereafter to be elected as aforesaid, shall think it needful to apply to the Legislature for the better establishment of the Library and Company aforesaid, and the order and government of the same, or to increase the number of the Company beyond the limitations aforesaid, or to enlarge the time and term of their partnership, or to dissolve the same, and make sale and dispose of or divide their Library and effects, or to make any other alteration in this present Constitution; then in any such case, or in any other case of great concernment to the Company, the Secretary, by the Committee's direction, notifying the occasion, shall publish an advertisement for the purpose in the manner before directed for the annual meetings, to the end that all persons concerned may meet if they think fit, and assist the Committee with their advice, and whatsoever appears to the Committee to be concluded upon as the general sense of the meeting, they shall cause to be minuted and entered by their Secretary, and whatsoever shall be so concluded and entered as aforesaid and reported by the Committee shall be conclusive and binding to all persons therein concerned, so as seven-eighths of their number met in person or by proxy, duly constituted, come to some conclusion or agreement to be minuted as aforesaid.

Provided always, and it is hereby further covenanted and agreed, That if, in the judgment of the Committee, the seven-eighth parts at least of the said meeting or assembly agree not to some definitive sentence about dividing the Company's effects or enlarging the term of their partnership at or near the conclusion of the said fifty-one years, the term of this copartnership, then and in that case only the Committee of Directors shall deliver the said library and effects, in whose hands or custody soever, unto such person or persons as the mayor and commonalty of the city of Philadelphia shall direct, by an order of their council in writing, to the use of the corporation of the said city, as their own proper goods and chattels forever, or to such other use or service as the mayor and commonalty of the city of Philadelphia aforesaid shall

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think fit to order and appoint.

In witness whereof we, the said partners in company, have in manner aforesaid subscribed our names and affixed our seals unto these presents, the same being contained in two skins of parchment connected together by a label under our common seal aforesaid.

Be it remembered, that the twenty-fourth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six, before me, William Allen, Esquire, one of the justices of the peace for the city and county of Philadelphia, came Joseph Taylor, of the said city, cordwainer, and Rice Peters, of the same city, shopkeeper, and said that whereas each of the names of them, the said Joseph Taylor and Rice Peters, is twenty times underwritten to the annexed deed or instrument of partnership of the Library Company of Philadelphia, in witness of the sealing and delivery of the said deed by the seventy-two persons whose names are prior to the said witnessing (the name of Charles Willing being the last of the said seventy-two), they, the said Joseph Taylor and Rice Peters, were willing personally to certify the same, and, in pursuance thereof, did further and upon their solemn affirmations severally declare and say that they were present at the said times of sealing and delivery, and did see each of those seventy-two persons seal and as their deed deliver the said annexed deed or instrument; and also that the names of them, the said Joseph Taylor and Rice Peters (so subscribed, each of them, twenty times in witness of such sealing and delivery), are of the handswriting of these affirmants respectively. In testimony whereof I, the said William Allen, have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year above said.

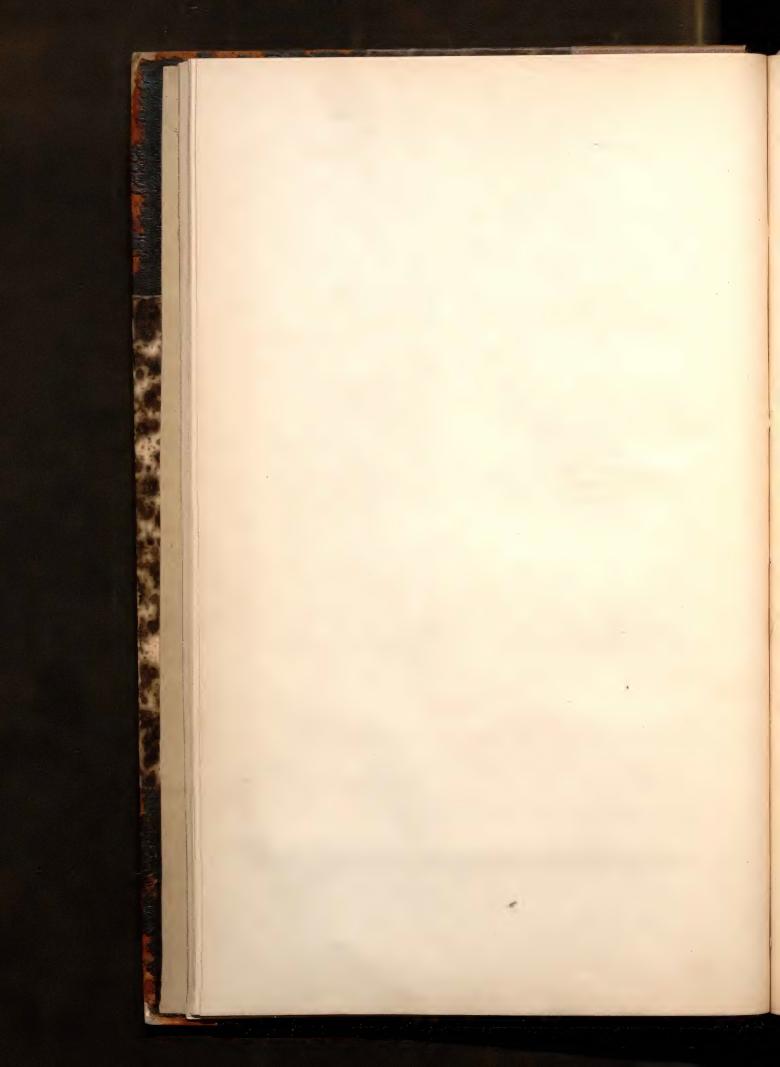
WILLIAM ALLEN.

ROBT. GRACE, C. BROCKDEN, Is. PENINGTON. W. RAWLE, ANTH. NICHOLAS, THOS. CADWALADER, WM. COLEMAN, JR., B. FRANKLIN. THOS. GODFREY, HENRY PRATT, BENJ. PASCHALL, JOSEPH BREINTNALL, JAS. MARK, JOHN JONES, JR., JOSEPH WHARTON, STEPHEN POTTS, SAM. HALE. WM. PARSONS, NICHOLAS CASSELL,

FRAS. RICHARDSON, WILLIAM MAUGRIDGE, NICHS. REDDISH, DAVID BUSH, THOS. HOPKINSON, PHILIP SYNG, JR., JACOB DUCHE, EVAN MORGAN, JOHN LLOYD, JOSEPH STRETCH, JAMES FOX, THOS. EDWARDS, JOHN PASCHALL, NICHOLAS SCULL, THOMAS GREEN, HUGH ROBERTS, BENJ. EASTBURN, GEO. BOON, THOS. POTTS, JR.,

REES LOYD, DAVID FRENCH, Louis Timothée, ALEX. PAXTON, OWEN OWEN, EPH. ANDREWS, ISAAC BROWNE, JOHN ROBERTS, RICHARD STANDLEY, Josa. Rolfe, JNO. NICHOL. JOHN SOBER, CHAS. READ, JR., JNO. TOMKINS, EDWARD EVANS, DANIEL HARRISON, JAMES MORRIS, ANTHONY FURNIS, J. GROWDON, JACOB DURBOROW, THOS. SHAW, JOHN READ, JOSHUA RICHEY, ANTHONY BENEZET, JAMES HAMILTON, WM. PLUMSTED, JOHN SYNG, JOHN V. BARD, JOHN ROBERTS, SAML. MORRIS, JOHN STAMPER, SAM. NORRIS, JOHN MIFFLIN. JOHN LANGDALE,

ROBT. BOLTON. SAML. COATES. SAMUEL RHOADES. JOSEPH KING. ALEX, GRAYDON, JAMES MEREWETHER, A. Morris, Jr., TOBIAS GRISCOM, CHAS. WILLING. ISAAC WILLIAMS, WILL ALLEN. JOSEPH PETERS. RICHARD PETERS. THOS. CLAY, PHINEHAS BOND. JAMES PELLER, ISRL. PEMBERTON, JR., EDWARD SCULL, ROB. GREENWAY, GEORGE EMLEN, WM. CROSTHWAITE, WM. CALLENDER, GEORGE EMLEN, JR., ISAIAH WARNER, TENCH FRANCIS. JAMES BINGHAM, CHARLES MEREDITH. SAMUEL McCALL, Amos Strettell, BENJ. SHOEMAKER, JOSEPH HATTON, ANDREW HAMILTON, TH. BOND, WM. PETERS.



#### THE CHARTER.

JOHN PENN, THOMAS PENN, and RICHARD PENN, Esquires, true and absolute proprietaries of the province of Pennsylvania, and counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Whereas, Benjamin Preamble. Franklin, Robert Grace, Anthony Nicholas, Thomas Cadwalader, William Coleman, Thomas Godfrey, Henry Pratt, Benjamin Paschall, Joseph Breintnall, John Jones, jun., Samuel Hale, William Parsons, Nicholas Cassel, Francis Richardson, William Maugridge, David Bush, Thomas Hopkinson, Philip Syng, Jacob Duché, Evan Morgan, Joseph Stretch, John Paschall, Nicholas Scull, Thomas Green, Hugh Roberts, Rees Lloyd, John Roberts, Richard Standley, John Nicholas, John Sober, Charles Read, Daniel Harrison, James Morris, Thomas Shaw, John Read, Joshua Richey, James Hamilton, William Plumsted, John Bard, Samuel Morris, John Stamper, Samuel Norris, John Mifflin, John Langdale, Samuel Coates, Samuel Rhoads, Joseph King, Alexander Graydon, James Merrywether, Anthony Morris, jun., Tobias Griscom, Charles Willing, Isaac Williams, William Allen, Joseph Peters, Richard Peters, Thomas Clay, Phineas Bond, Israel Pemberton, jun., Robert Greenway, William Crosthwaite, William Callender, George Emlen, jun., Isaiah Warner, Tench Francis, James Bingham, Charles Meredith, Samuel McCall, Hugh Davy, Amos Strettell, Benjamin Shoemaker, Joseph Hatton, Andrew Hamilton, Thomas Bond, and William Peters have, 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; Now know ye, That we, being truly sensible Motives to of the advantage that may accrue to the people of this province grant by so useful an undertaking, and being willing to encourage the same, have given and granted, and by these presents do, for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant, that the said Benjamin Names of the Franklin, Robert Grace, Anthony Nicholas, Thomas Cadwalader, grantees William Coleman, Thomas Godfrey, Henry Pratt, Benjamin Paschall, Joseph Breintnall, John Jones, jun., Samuel Hale, William Parsons, Nicholas Cassel, Francis Richardson, William Maugridge, David Bush, Thomas Hopkinson, Philip Syng, Jacob Duché, Evan Morgan, Joseph Stretch, John Paschall, Nicholas Scull, Thomas Green, Hugh Roberts, Rees Lloyd, John Roberts, Richard Standley, John Nicholas, John Sober, Charles Read, Daniel Harrison, James Morris, Thomas Shaw, John Read, Joshua Richey, James Hamilton, William Plumsted, John Bard, Samuel Morris, John

Stamper, Samuel Norris, John Mifflin, John Langdale, Samuel Coates, Samuel Rhoads, Joseph King, Alexander Graydon, James Merrywether, Anthony Morris, jun., Tobias Griscom, Charles Willing, Isaac Williams, William Allen, Joseph Peters, Richard Peters, Thomas Clay, Phineas Bond, Israel Pemberton, jun., Robert Greenway, William Crosthwaite, William Callender, George Emlen, jun., Isaiah Warner, Tench Francis, James Bingham, Charles Meredith, Samuel McCall, Hugh Davy, Amos Strettell, Benjamin Shoemaker, Joseph Hatton, Andrew Hamilton, Thomas Bond, and William Peters, and such other persons as shall hereafter be admitted or become members of The Library Company of Philadelphia, according to the laws and constitutions of the said company, hereafter to be made, be, and forever hereafter shall be, by virtue of these presents, one body corporate and politic in deed, by the name of The Library Company of Philadelphia; and them by the name of The Library Company of Philadelphia, one body politic and corporate in deed and in name, we do, for us, our heirs and successors, fully create, constitute, and confirm by these presents; and that by the name of The Library Company of Philadelphia they shall have perpetual succession; and that they, by the name of The Library Company of Philadelphia, be, and at all times hereafter shall be, persons able and capable in law to have, hold, receive, and enjoy lands, tenements, rents, liberties, franchises, and hereditaments, in fee-simple, or for term of life, lives, years, or otherwise; and also goods, chattels, and other things, of what nature, kind, or quality soever. And also to give, grant, let, sell, or assign the same lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, and chattels; and to do and execute all other things about the same, by the name aforesaid. And also that they and their successors, by the name of The Library Company of Philadelphia, be, and shall be, forever hereafter, persons able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any of the courts, or other places, and before any judges, justices, and other persons whatsoever, in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, pleas, causes, and matters whatsoever, and of what nature or kind soever. And that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Library Company of Philadelphia, and their successors, forever hereafter, to have one common seal for their use in their affairs, and the same at their will and pleasure to change and alter. And for the well governing and ordering the affairs of the said company, we do, for us, our heirs and successors, further grant that it shall and may be lawful for the said company, and their successors, to assemble and meet together on the first Monday in May, in every year, and at such other times as there shall be occasion, at their library or some other convenient place, due and public notice being given at least twenty days before the times of such meetings, not only of the day, hour, and place of such meeting, but of the cause thereof, and of the matters to be transacted at such meeting. And that they, the said company, or one-fourth part of them at least, being so met, in person, or by proxy duly constituted in writing, shall have full power and

Name of the company.

Power to hold lands, &c.

Power to sue, &c.

To have a common seal.

Power to meet and make laws.

Quorum.

authority, from time to time, to make, constitute, and establish such laws, statutes, orders, and constitutions as shall appear to them, or the major part of them, to be good and useful, honest and necessary, according to the best of their judgment and discretion, for the government, regulation, and direction of the Library Company, and every member thereof; and for the appointing and regulating the election or nomination of Directors, Treasurer, Librarian, Secretary, and such and so many other officers as they shall think fit; and for limiting and appointing their trust and authority; and for the admitting new members; and to do all things concerning the government, estate, goods, lands, revenues, as also all the business and affairs of the said company. All Laws so which laws, statutes, orders, and constitutions, so to be made as binding. aforesaid, shall be binding on every member, and be from time to time inviolably observed, according to the tenor and effect of them, provided that they be not repugnant or contrary to the laws of England or this government. Provided always, That for the increase and preservation of the said library, every member of the said company shall and do pay into the hands of the said company's Treasurer, for the time being, the sum of ten shillings, on the first Monday in May, in every year, forever; and those who neglect so to do, shall pay such greater sum or sums in lieu thereof, at such times, within twelve months then next following, as by the laws of the said company shall be appointed; and that Forfeiture in default of these payments, every delinquent shall forfeit his on default. share in the books and estate of the said company, and be no longer a member. In testimony whereof we have caused the Great Seal of our said province to be hereunto affixed. Witness GEORGE THOMAS, Esq., lieutenant-governor and commander-inchief of the said province and counties, at Philadelphia, the twenty-fifth day of March, in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord king George the second, and in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and forty-two, by virtue of certain powers and authorities to him for this purpose (inter alia) granted by the said proprietaries. GEORGE THOMAS.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE BY-LAWS.

A Law for regulating elections of officers, and declaring their trust and duty.

Members to meet on the first Monday in May.

Treasurer rectors to be chosen.

The choice to be made by written tickets.

cretary, who shall collect the votes,

Electors to sistants to the Secretary, &c.

For the better preservation of order and government among the Library Company of Philadelphia, and in the use, application and management of the moneys, library and effect of the said company, IT IS ENACTED, That the members of the said company shall, in person, or by proxy, annually attend at the place of election in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Monday of the month of May, in every year; and that as many as so meet, and appear to be duly qualified, shall proceed to the choice of a person of the company, to be the company's Treasurer, and ten other persons of the company, to be Directors for the year next ensuing, and so from year to year. The place of election to be agreed on by the Directors of the current year, and notified by their Secretary, twenty days at least before the election, by printed advertisements. The electors to choose by written tickets, each containing the names of the ten persons voted Directors, and the name of the person voted Treasurer; and those who shall thereupon appear to have a majority of votes, shall be the company's Treasurer, and the Directors, respectively, for the year ensuing. Directors to That the said Directors shall, and are hereby required and empowered to nominate some fit person of the company to be their Secretary for the year ensuing, who shall preside and collect the votes at the election aforesaid, and shall faithfully enter in a book to be kept for that purpose, the names of the said electors, and the number of the names of the candidates, according to the

THAT it shall and may be lawful to and for the electors aforesaid, when so met, to appoint persons to assist the Secretary in gathering the votes and entering and numbering the names of the electors and persons voted for, and other services appertaining to the election, and to appoint and direct any method and rule in proceeding to and making the said election, so as they appoint or direct nothing to prejudice the right of any member, or infringe the charter or laws of the company.

THAT if any person elected Director shall refuse to act, or shall happen to die or depart this province, so as to be absent for the space of two months, in any of the first ten months of the year for which he shall be elected Director; or if within the same

Director refusing to act, &c., the rest may nomi-nate another.

year, or term of his office, he shall be confined by sickness, or otherwise rendered incapable of executing the office of a Director, according to the true meaning hereof, the rest of the Directors, as often as occasion shall require, in any of the cases aforesaid, shall proceed in their duty and office without him; or, if they think fit, they shall nominate some other suitable person to supply his place of a Director, until the then next ensuing election.

THAT if any person so elected Treasurer, shall absent himself Treasurer from his said office for the space of thirty days, or shall otherwise his duty, &c. be rendered incapable, or neglect his office or duty of Treasurer, placed, &c. in the judgment of the Directors for the time being, it shall and may be lawful for the Directors to displace him from any longer continuance in his said office; and the Directors causing their Secretary to make a minute for the purpose, containing their reasons for displacing him, he shall thereupon and from thenceforth cease to be the Treasurer aforesaid; and shall, upon notice thereof, adjust and settle with the Directors, and pay and deliver the company's money and effects in his hands, to such person as the Directors shall order and appoint; and in that case, and so often, and also if the Treasurer shall depart this life, the person who at the last election had the greatest number of votes, next the highest (if alive, willing, and capable), shall be substituted How the va-Treasurer, to supply the place of such deceased or displaced be supplied. Treasurer; for which purpose the Secretaries presiding at elections shall preserve the votes; but if the said person cannot, or will not serve, the Directors shall nominate another person of the company, but not of their own number, to be Treasurer until the next annual election.

THAT every person so chosen to be the company's Treasurer, immediately upon entering into his office, shall receive of the preceding Treasurer, his heirs, executors or administrators, the company's cash and books of accounts, giving his receipt for the same; and shall enter into an obligation, with one sufficient Treasurer to surety, in double the value that doth, or probably may come into obligation, his hands during the continuance of his office, as near as can be &c. estimated by the Directors, unto the Library Company of Philadelphia, conditioned that he will once a month, or oftener, if required, well and truly adjust, account, and settle with them, for and concerning all moneys that are or shall come into his hands, belonging to the said company; and that he will well and truly deliver up and pay the balance of the moneys remaining in his hands, together with the books of accounts concerning the same, and the company's papers in his keeping, unto his successor in the said office, or such other person or service as the Directors for the time being, shall order and appoint, and not otherwise; and that he will observe, do, and execute all other things as the company's Treasurer aforesaid, according to the sense and true meaning of this law.

THAT all officers and servants belonging to the company, other Directors to than their Treasurer, shall be in the choice, and under the order of the offer and direction of the Directors, who shall be accountable for their cers, &c.

Directors, their power and duty.

fidelity, and may displace them and appoint others as often as they shall think fit; which Directors shall have the power of calling general meetings, when they judge it necessary for the interest of the company, and shall cause due and public notice to be given of the occasion and design or purpose of such meetings; and shall nominate some discreet member to preside therein, and regulate the debates thereof: they shall also have the disposal of the moneys paid to the Treasurer to and for the use and service of the library; they shall have the choosing of books for the library; the renting a house or place for the service of the library; the furnishing the same with presses, shelves, and other things necessary and fit; the keeping and power of affixing the seal of the company; which seal shall be and remain the same that is now used and affixed to this law, until another shall be appointed; the lending of books; the appointing securities for the return of the books to the library, and the prices of the loans; the printing and dispersing of catalogues; the admission of new members, under the limitations and conditions now or hereafter to be established by the laws of the company; the settling the accounts with the company's Treasurer; the payment of house rent, servants, and officers' wages, and all other incident charges belonging to the company. Moreover, the Directors are hereby invested with a discretional power to make suitable returns (on behalf of the company) unto such benefactors as shall honor them by donations or otherwise.

Directors monthly.

Seven of them a quorum.

AND for the more orderly execution of the duty and trust belonging to the said Directors, they are hereby required to meet once a month at the place where the library shall be kept, or some other fit place in the said city of Philadelphia, to confer and conclude concerning the matters hereby committed to them. In every of which meetings of the Directors aforesaid, seven of their number met shall be a quorum, capable to consult, confer, and conclude of, and upon all matters appertaining to the Directors, according to the laws and constitutions of the company; and whatever six of the number so met shall so conclude, shall be deemed and taken for and as the resolution of the Directors for the time, and accordingly entered in their minutes.

Charter to

THAT the charter granted to the said company shall be deposited be deposited in the library for the inspection and perusal of all persons concerned, who shall also have recourse to the journals of the Directors, the minutes and entries of their Secretaries, with the Treasurer's accounts, and all other books and papers belonging to the company; and may, if the Directors think fit, take copies thereof.

A Law to enable the Directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia to purchase a lot of ground in the City of Philadelphia, to erect a building thereon for the use of the institution, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

In order to accommodate the company with a lot of ground, and a convenient building for the uses of the library, IT IS EN-ACTED by the Library Company of Philadelphia, That the Directors shall have power and authority to purchase a lot in Directors the city of Philadelphia, on ground rent, on the best terms they empowered to purchase can procure, and to cause to be executed, on behalf of the com- a lot. pany, a proper counterpart of the deed to be received for the said ground.

THAT the Directors shall have power to contract for materials And erect a building. and workmanship, and to cause to be erected a suitable building, with cellars, the said building to be two stories high, and of a size sufficient to accommodate and serve the purposes of the library, having regard therein to a gradual increase of books,

and other articles there to be deposited.

THAT in order to defray the expense of the said building, the one hun-Directors shall endeavor to make an addition to the number of dred shares the members, by disposing of shares, and having procured one viously disposed of. hundred new members, they may proceed on the work, and may appropriate the moneys now due, and becoming due, and belonging to the company, as well as the cash in the hands of the Treasurer, reserving enough for the current expenses of the library. And the Directors are hereby empowered to grant, bargain, and Directors sell for the highest price they can obtain, and by deed or deeds, empowered to sell the under the common seal of the company, convey and assure all or real estate any part of the real estate belonging to the company, and to the comappropriate the moneys arising from the said sales to the pur- Pany. poses aforesaid.

It is hereby further enacted, That the Directors for the time And part of being, may sell or let out on ground rent forever, and by deed or the lot which they deeds, under the common seal of the company, convey and assure may pur chase. such part of the lot they may purchase, as they may judge

Enacted at a general meeting, held pursuant to public notice, on Monday, the first day of June, 1789.

W. RAWLE, Secretary.

An act to repeal so much of any law or laws of the Company as authorizes the Directors to dispose of the real estate belonging to the Company.

It is enacted by the Library Company of Philadelphia, That so much of any law or laws as authorizes and empowers the Directors to grant or demise any part of the real estate belonging to the said Company shall be and the same is hereby repealed. Pro-

vided always, nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to restrain the Directors from making leases or agreements relative to the building erected for the reception of the Loganian Library, the cellar under the same, and the cellar under the building in which the Library belonging to this institution is now contained.

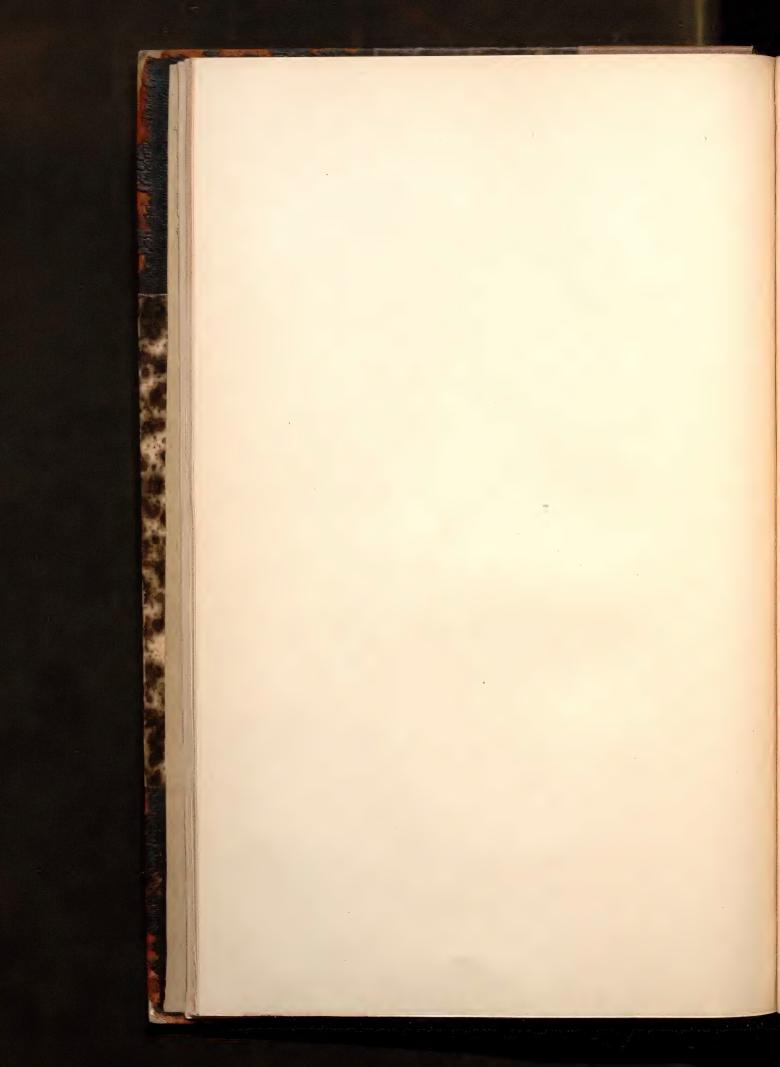
Enacted at a general meeting held pursuant to public notice, on the sixteenth day of March, 1795. BENJAMIN R. MORGAN, Secretary.

At a meeting of the Directors, held October 2, 1806, the following resolution was adopted, to wit:

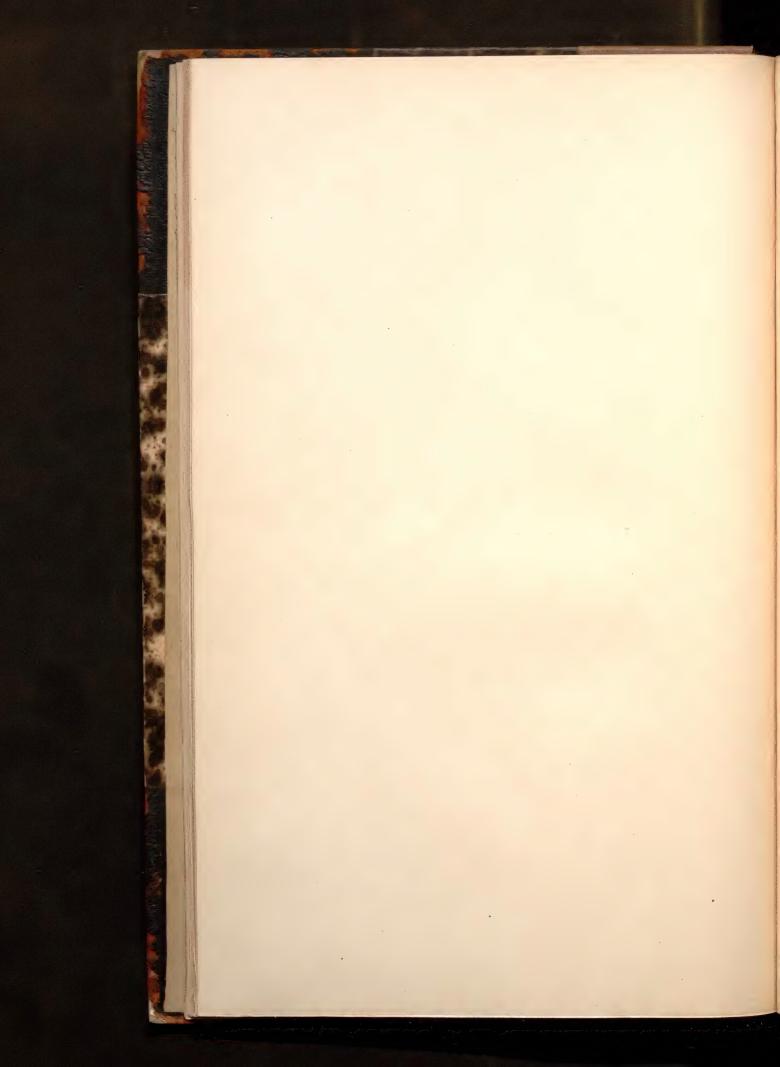
Resolved, That the gazettes or public newspapers belonging to this institution be annually valued by the labelling committee for the time being, and the said valuation placed in the hands of the Librarian; and in case the same or any part thereof be required by any counsel or attorney as evidence in the courts of justice, the person applying for the same shall sign one of the notes usually taken for books borrowed of the Library, which note shall be filled up in the sum at which the whole set of such papers, of which any volume or volumes are required, shall have been last valued, and also that the same shall be returned within one week from the time of borrowing the same, and fifty cents per diem for each volume paid for its use on its being returned. Extracted from the Minutes.

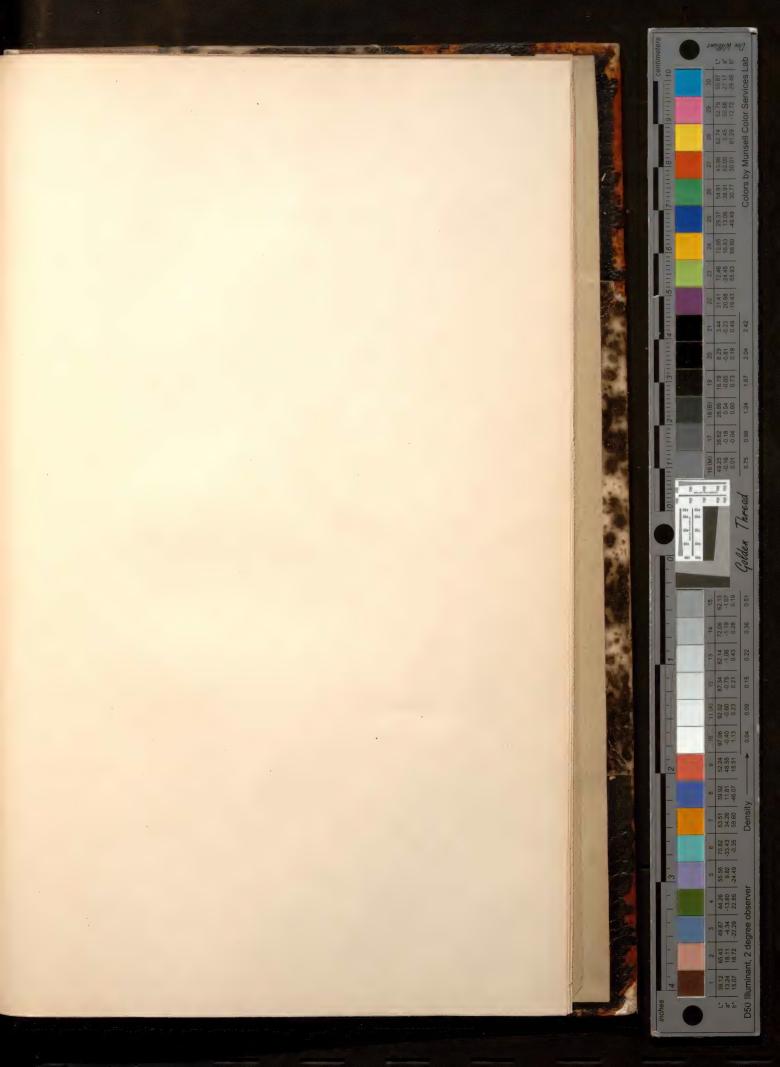
BENJAMIN R. MORGAN, Secretary.









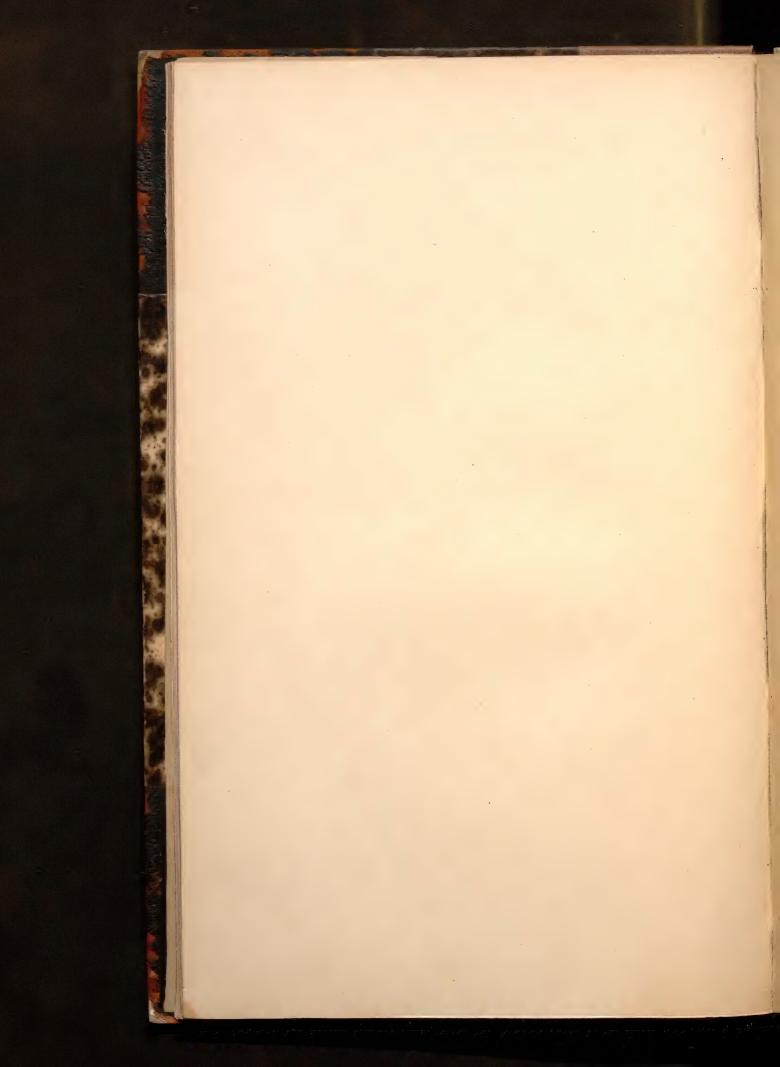














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