

the library buildings in this city, and their position in regard to the payment of taxation, have you not, Mr. Smith?

A. Our own buildings; certainly, yes, sir.

Q. Is there a single library building in the city of Philadelphia which is now taxed?

A. I do not know.

Q. Don't you know the Mercantile Library building is not taxed?

A. I really don't know anything at all about it.

Q. You never heard that they were?

A. I never heard of any other exemptions than our own; not that I recollect.

Q. Have you known of any other being taxed but your own?

A. No, sir; I don't know anything about it. I have a faint recollection of having heard of the Mercantile Library being exempt. It is so indistinct that I could not testify to it one way or the other.

Q. Do you know the general policy through the country on the subject of taxing the library buildings, from your experience as librarian, and in the interchange of views and facts?

A. I know nothing upon the subject; my impression being, of course, that they are generally exempt. In regard to our own, I can testify that at one time they were taxed, and for several years. It was a serious drawback to the Company. About 1826 or 1827, a committee went to Harrisburg and got them exempt, for there was a period when we were taxed.

Q. At the meeting at which Mr. Williams was present a great deal was said that don't appear on any minutes?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. There was a communication and interchange of views of which no memorandum was taken upon the minutes?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. The design of the minutes is to express simply the acts of the Directors as a body?