purchase or otherwise a suitable place for keeping the library; to appoint the time for keeping the library open or for taking out and returning books; to fill up vacancies that may happen in their own body between two annual elections; to levy and collect fines and forfeitures; and to determine upon, do, and transact all business and matters appertaining to the said corporation and library, agreeable to the rules, ordinances, and by-laws thereof during their continuance in office: *Provided*, That no less than a majority of the said directors be a quorum to do business; that no rule, ordinance, or by-law be made repugnant to the laws of the District of Columbia or of the United States.

Election of Directors.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That an election for seven directors of this corporation shall be held on the first Monday of April next and on the first Monday in April annually thereafter at the library-room, under the direction of such persons as the present directors and their successors may appoint, which appointment shall be at least ten days previous to the day of election. They shall also publish the names of the persons so appointed to hold the election, in some paper published in the city of Washington, at least three days previous to such election's being held, the polls for which shall be kept open from three to nine o'clock, P. M. And no person shall be eligible as a director, or have a right to vote for a director, who is not at the time of voting or being voted for, a member of the Columbia Fire Company of the city of Washington, or who shall be in arrears to the said library for any annual contribution, fines, or forfeitures; all persons qualified to vote, may vote either personally or by proxy, by ballot.

This act may be altered, &c.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That this act may be repealed, altered, or amended at any time by the Congress of the United States.

Directors individually responsible.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the directors of this library for the time being shall be responsible for the debts and liabilities thereof which may have been created or incurred during their respective continuance in office as such directors.

Secretary of Interior to furnish the laws and public documents.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to furnish to said library bound copies of the laws of the United States. And to furnish annually thereto a bound copy of all documents, journals, laws, and State papers which shall hereafter be published by the authority of Congress.

This act not to authorize issue of currency.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the said corporation to issue any note, token, device, scrip, or other evidence of debt to be used as a currency in this District or elsewhere.

Debts not to exceed capital, and stockholders individually responsible.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the debts and liabilities of the said corporation, shall not at any time exceed the amount of their capital, and that each stockholder shall be held liable, in his or her individual capacity, for all the debts and liabilities of the corporation, however incurred or contracted, to be secured by suit, as other debts and liabilities in any court, or before any tribunal, having jurisdiction of the case.

APPROVED, August 11, 1856.

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Aug. 11, 1856.

CHAP. LXXXIX.—*An Act to establish a Library for Young Men in the District of Columbia.*

Columbia's Library for young men incorporated.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That James Dunlop, chief justice of the circuit court in the District of Columbia; John T. Towers, mayor of the city of Washington; Henry Addison, mayor of the city of Georgetown, Joseph Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, John S. Meehan, librarian for Congress, and their successors in said respective offices; with such person as the mayor of Washington may designate; and with such person as the mayor of Georgetown may desig-

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nate; are hereby created a corporate body forever, under the name of "Columbia's Library for Young Men," and in that name to sue and be sued, in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Power to hold property.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That said corporation may receive and possess property, real and personal, not exceeding in value one hundred thousand dollars, for a library, for the purpose aforesaid. If a lot and house shall be granted, or devised for said library, and the same shall be accepted by said corporation, no sale thereof shall be made without the consent of Congress.

Corporate powers.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That power is given to said corporation to appoint needful officers, messengers, and laborers, and to compensate them; to pass such by-laws, rules, and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect this act; to alter, amend, or revoke them; to limit the ages within which the young men of said District may be entitled to the benefit of this act; to diffuse knowledge among them in such ways as shall be best calculated to instruct them, to elevate their morals, and fit them for usefulness, and to receive assurances of permanent aid from the corporations of Washington and Georgetown, and either of them, to sustain said institution by annual or other aid.

Presiding officer.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the corporations may elect a presiding officer from one of their number. If this shall be omitted, the person holding the office first named shall preside, if present, and in succession, in case of absence in the order of the offices designated in the first section.

Meetings.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the meeting to organize may be held at such time and place within said District, as a majority may designate, having given notice in writing three days to all the members. Semi-annual meetings to be held at the library room, on the first Mondays of January and July. All votes, resolutions, by-laws, regulations, and other proceedings to be recorded, and subject to the inspection of each of the corporations of Washington and Georgetown, or committee of either.

Records.

Property exempt from taxes.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the property of said corporation shall be exempted from all public assessments and taxes so long as the same shall remain dedicated to the purposes of a library.

Term of office of appointees of the mayor.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That each person designated as provided by the mayor of Washington or Georgetown, may hold his appointment two years, and until his successor shall be appointed.

This act may be altered, &c.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for Congress at any time hereafter to amend or repeal this act.

This act not to authorize the issue of currency.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize said corporation to make, issue, or put in circulation, any bill, draft, check, promissory note, or change ticket, or any thing else promising or agreeing to pay money intended to circulate as money, or the tendency of which shall be to circulate as money or currency. And the violations of any one of the provisions of this section shall be a forfeiture of the charter herein granted, and a fine of fifty dollars against each one of the directors voting for the same.

Penalty for violation.

Liabilities not to exceed capital, and stock holders individually responsible.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the debts and liabilities of the said corporation shall not at any time, exceed the amount of their capital, and that each stockholder shall be held liable, in his or her individual capacity, for all the debts and liabilities of the corporation, however incurred or contracted, to be recovered by suit, as other debts and liabilities, in any court, or before any tribunal having jurisdiction of the case.

APPROVED, August 11, 1856.