

RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY.

A FIRE CLUB,

INSTITUTED AT BOSTON, JANUARY, 1811.

Perform and Persevere.

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.....
1811.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY.

THE Subscribers, Printers, Bookbinders and Booksellers, for their mutual assistance and benefit, when endangered by Fire, do hereby form themselves into a Society to be called

THE CONSERVATIVE SOCIETY.

And do agree to the following Rules and Regulations :

ARTICLE I.

THE number of members shall not exceed thirty.

ARTICLE II.

New members shall be proposed at a meeting previous to that at which they are to be

voted for; and shall be admitted only by a unanimous ballot of the members present.

ARTICLE III.

ANY member who shall refuse to pay his fines, or assessments, or who shall absent himself from four meetings, successively, shall be considered as having quitted the society.

ARTICLE IV.

EVERY member shall constantly keep together, in the most suitable place in his house, two Leather Buckets, two Canvas Bags, and one Bed Key: The buckets and bags to be uniformly painted, agreeably to the direction of the society.

ARTICLE V.

IF a building, occupied by any member of the society, be in danger from fire, every other member shall immediately repair to such building, with his buckets, bags and bed key, and use his best endeavours to preserve the building, and to remove and secure the goods and effects.

ARTICLE VI.

THE society shall have a watch word, which shall be altered at pleasure.

ARTICLE VII.

BUCKETS, bags, or bed keys, which shall be lost at a fire, shall be replaced at the expense of the society:—Provided the member losing the same shall advertise them within four days after the fire at which any of said articles shall be lost.

ARTICLE VIII.

THERE shall be four meetings of the society in a year, viz. on the last Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October. At each meeting a Moderator shall be chosen by ballot.

ARTICLE IX.

IT shall be the duty of the moderator to preserve order, to state questions, and determine votes; and to decide any question on which the other members present shall be

equally divided. Every member, in delivering his sentiments, or in making a motion, shall address the moderator.

ARTICLE, X.

At the meeting in January, annually, a Clerk shall be appointed, who shall be designated in the following manner:—A committee of two, chosen for the purpose, shall write the names of the several members on slips of paper of equal size, and put them into a hat; and into another hat shall put an equal number of slips, of equal size; these last to be blank paper, except one, on which shall be written the word “clerk.” The hats shall be shaken and held up by the moderator, one in each hand; when one of the committee above mentioned shall draw out, one by one, the slips on which are written the names of the members; and the other shall draw against them the slips of paper from the other hat; and that member against whose name shall be drawn the slip on which shall be written the word “clerk,” shall serve as such for one year, or pay a fine of

two dollars; after which he shall not be again liable to serve, till every other member shall, in like manner, have served one year as clerk, or paid his fine. The drawing to be repeated, till a member shall be designated, who will consent to serve; unless, previous to drawing, or during the progress of drawing, some member, at the request of the society, shall declare himself willing to discharge the duties of the office.— The clerk shall be exempted from the ordinary assessments of the expenses of the society; and receive a salary of *ten dollars* a year.

ARTICLE XI.

It shall be the duty of the clerk to make and keep a fair record of the proceedings of the society:—To keep an account of all moneys received for fines and assessments, and of whatever shall be paid for expenses:—To demand and collect all fines, and to apportion and collect all assessments:—To notify all meetings, by leaving, or causing to be left, notifications at the houses of the

several members, one day previous to that of meeting:—To minute on each notification all removals of which he may be informed by the members; the names of all candidates for admission; and whatever fines shall be due by the individual to whom the notification shall be addressed. The clerk shall also appoint the hour and place of each meeting; and demand the watch word of every member. He shall likewise attend the quarterly committee when examining the buckets, &c.

ARTICLE XII.

At each quarterly meeting a Committee shall be chosen, by ballot, to visit the house of every member, at least once during the quarter, and examine the state and situation of his buckets, bags, and bed key. They shall require the attendance of the clerk, and consult with him respecting the most convenient time for performing this duty: they shall report at the succeeding meeting, the condition of the buckets, &c. The committee for the quarter immediately preceding the January meeting, annually, shall, within

five days before said meeting, examine the clerk's accounts and records, and make report to the society. The quarterly committee shall also be the advisers of the clerk on all questions respecting the prudential concerns of the society, the expediency of occasional meetings, &c. No member shall be required to serve on this committee more than two quarters in one year.

ARTICLE XIII.

If any member die, and leave a widow, she shall, while remaining his widow, be entitled to the assistance of the society in the same manner her husband had been, by giving information of her place of abode and removals to any member of the society; and it shall be the duty of such member to inform the clerk.

ARTICLE XIV.

It shall be the duty of every member, whenever he shall change his place of business or abode, to inform the clerk within five days thereafter.

ARTICLE XV.

EACH member shall carefully keep a printed copy of these Rules and Regulations, with the names, dwellings, and places of business of every member, written therein; and shall produce the same, in a correct state, at every meeting. Printed copies of the Rules and Regulations are to be provided and lodged in the hands of the clerk, who is to deliver one copy to each original member, and also to each member who shall hereafter join the society; the latter paying fifty cents therefor.

ARTICLE XVI.

THE roll shall be called in thirty minutes after the hour fixed for any meeting.

ARTICLE XVII.

ALL fines shall be appropriated to defray the expenses of the society; and whenever they prove inadequate, an equal apportionment of the remaining expenses shall be made by the clerk, and paid by the several members.

ARTICLE XVIII.

WHENEVER the clerk shall fail to attend any meeting, a member shall be appointed to fill the office during his absence, who shall keep correct minutes, and deliver them as soon as may be to the clerk.

ARTICLE XIX.

THE society may remit fines, whenever, in their opinion, reasonable excuses shall be offered.

ARTICLE XX.

THE foregoing Rules and Regulations, when adopted by seven-eighths of the original subscribers, shall be binding on all the members, and subject to no alteration, except by the unanimous concurrence of the members present. The alterations to be proposed at a previous meeting, and mentioned on the notification for the meeting at which the subject is to be acted upon.

FINES.

Clerk, for every neglect of duty,....	\$1 00
Quarterly Committee, for every omission of duty,.....	1 00
Member, being absent at roll call,.....	0 25
.....absent whole evening,.....	0 50
.....not having books, or having them incorrect,.....	0 25
.....neglecting to notify his removal, or the removal of a widow,.....	0 50
.....neglecting to have his buckets painted in conformity with those of the society,.....	2 00
.....for every article out of place when visited by quarterly committee,...	0 25
.....refusing to serve on the quarterly committee,....	1 00
.....for neglecting to attend a member in danger,.....	2 00
.....for inability to give the watch word,.....	0 25