

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

PHILANTHROPIC FIRE SOCIETY :

INSTITUTED JANUARY, 1811.

TO WHICH ARE ANNEXED

***MEMBERS' NAMES, PLACES OF ABODE,
AND OF BUSINESS.***

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1817.

RULES.

ARTICLE I.

THE Society shall consist of a number not exceeding *thirty*, and shall meet on the second Tuesday in *January, April, July, and October*, annually, at such place, and hour as the Standing Committee shall appoint.

ARTICLE II.

FOR the good order of the Society, a President shall be chosen by ballot, on the second Tuesday in *January*, annually; whose duty it shall be to preside at all its meetings. He shall also be chairman of the Standing Committee, but have no vote unless they are equally divided. No member shall be eligible to the office of President two successive years.

ARTICLE III.

THERE shall be chosen by ballot on the second Tuesday in *January*, annually, a Standing Committee of five members (in addition to the President, who is chairman thereof,) whose duty it shall be to meet fourteen days previous to each regular quarterly meeting; decide upon the validity of disputed fines; examine the Secretary's accounts, and report the state of them at the annual meeting of the Society in *January*; and transact all necessary business not otherwise provided for.

ARTICLE IV.

THERE shall be a Secretary, whose duty it shall be to be present at every meeting, and keep a fair record of all the

transactions of the Society, which records he shall deliver, in complete order, to the Standing Committee, together with all papers and property belonging to the Society, at least three days previous to the annual meeting in January, under penalty of *one dollar* for neglect in either particular. He shall, at least five days previous to any meeting, leave, or cause to be left, at the dwelling-house of each member, a written or printed notification, stating the time and place of meeting, the sum he may owe the Society, the names of the candidates proposed to the Standing Committee for admission, and the removal of members, under penalty of *one dollar* for every omission in notifying ; and *twenty-five cents* for each other particular. He shall notify one quarter of the members (who shall be determined by lot at the annual meeting in January,) to accompany him, five days at least before each quarterly meeting, to examine the buckets, bags, &c. of each member, under penalty of *fifty cents* for each omission. Any member neglecting to attend, after one day's notice, shall pay a fine of *one dollar*. If the Secretary, from sickness, or any other necessary cause, be unable to attend to the duty of examination, he shall appoint a member to officiate in his stead. He shall notify new members of their admission into the Society, who shall be allowed two months to furnish themselves with buckets, bags, &c. He shall demand and collect all fines and assessments, and report those members to the Standing Committee (at their next meeting) who neglect to pay, together with the amount they owe the Society. Should he be unable to attend any meeting of the Society he shall give the President a reasonable notice, who shall appoint a Secretary pro tempore ; and if the member so appointed refuse to serve, he shall forfeit *one dollar*, and if the Secretary neglect to give the President such notice, he shall incur the same penalty.

THE Secretary shall be Treasurer, but pay no demands upon the Society, except by order of the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE V.

THE office of Secretary shall be put up at auction, by the President, at the annual meeting in January, and be struck off to the member who will take it on the lowest terms.

ARTICLE VI.

Each member shall constantly keep together, in good order, in his dwelling-house, two leather buckets, two canvas bags, and a bed-key. The buckets to be painted in uniform with those of the Society. The bags to be one and a half yards in length, and three quarters in breadth, with strings at the mouths. Buckets and bags to be marked with the owner's name. There shall be a fine of *fifty cents* for each particular missing at the quarterly visitation: and if it appear that either of the above articles have been used otherwise than at a fire, the owner shall forfeit for each offence the sum of *fifty cents*; and if at a fire any member lose his buckets or bags, he shall make diligent search therefor, for a reasonable time on two successive days, and if, in the course of thirty days, the buckets or bags, so lost, shall not be found, they shall be replaced by the Society, provided the owner shall (at his own expense) have advertised them, in one of the publick prints, within four days after the fire.

ARTICLE VII.

THERE shall be a *watch-word*, whereby the members of this Society may know each other at a fire; and if any member reveal the word to any person, not a member, he shall forfeit *two dollars*. And if, during a meeting, any

member does not whisper it to the Secretary, when challenged by him, he shall pay a fine of *twenty-five cents*.

ARTICLE VIII.

EACH member on notice of a Fire, shall repair with his buckets, bags, &c. to the place where it happens, and if the dwelling-house, store, or shop of any of this Society be in danger, he shall proceed thereto with his bags and bed-key, and use his best endeavours, under the direction of the owner if present, to preserve and secure all property. And should any member be then absent, or appear there without his bags and bed-key, he shall forfeit for absence the sum of *two dollars*, and omission of bags and bed-key *one dollar*, unless he can offer a reasonable excuse.

ARTICLE IX.

THE roll shall be called by the Secretary, twenty minutes after the time appointed for the meeting; any member then absent shall pay a fine of *twenty-five cents*, if absent the whole evening *fifty cents*; or if any member withdraw before the meeting is adjourned, without the consent of the President, he shall incur the like penalty.

ARTICLE X.

ANY person wishing to become a member of this Society, shall be balloted for, after having been proposed to the Standing Committee. Two votes in the negative shall prevent his admission.

ARTICLE XI.

ANY member removing his place of residence or business shall, within ten days, give notice thereof to the Secretary, under penalty of *one dollar*.

ARTICLE XII.

SPECIAL meetings of the Society shall be called, on application of five members (in writing) to the Standing Committee, stating their particular reasons therefor.

ARTICLE XIII.

No person shall be admitted to any of the Society's meetings, who is not a member.

ARTICLE XIV.

ANY member who refuses to pay his fines or assessments, or absents himself three successive regular meetings, without giving a satisfactory excuse, or shall otherwise conduct in a manner unworthy a member of this Society, shall be expelled, provided, that upon the question of expulsion, two votes shall not appear in the negative.

ARTICLE XV.

ALL fines and assessments are for the use of the Society, and the funds shall always be at the disposal of a majority thereof, and such proportion, and amount shall be assessed on new members, on their admission, as from time to time may be thought just and expedient.

ARTICLE XVI.

EVERY member shall be provided with a printed copy of these Rules, to which shall be attached, on distinct pages, the name, place of abode, and place of business of each member, which shall be produced at every regular meeting, under penalty of *fifty cents*; and if it be found that any member has neglected to correct his book, before coming to the meeting, according to the notice given him, by the Secretary on his notifi-

cation, he shall forfeit *twenty-five cents* for each particular neglect, and if any member lose his book, he shall pay the Secretary *fifty cents*, and receive another.

ARTICLE XVII.

If any member die, leaving a widow, she shall, while remaining his widow, be entitled to the assistance of the Society, in the same manner her husband was, by giving information of her removals to any member, whose duty it shall be to inform the secretary thereof.

ARTICLE XVIII.

As it has been the uniform custom of Societies of this description, to have occasional festivals, there shall be at such time and place as the Society shall appoint, an annual supper, the expenses of which shall be assessed equally on the members.

ARTICLE XIX.

No proposal for alteration or amendment of these Articles shall be considered except at a regular meeting. Two votes in the negative shall be sufficient to reject any motion of this nature.