
THE
CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society.

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CONSTITUTION, &c.

THE numerous advantages which society derives from institutions calculated to diffuse the principles of benevolence, have induced those whose names are hereafter written, to form themselves into a body, by the name of **THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE FIRE SOCIETY** : the design of which is, to relieve such as may suffer by fire ; and to stimulate genius to useful discoveries, tending to secure the lives and property of our fellow men : and in order for effectually carrying our designs into execution, we engage to observe the following Articles, as a Constitution, viz.

A R T I C L E

It shall ever be the object of this Institution, to relieve such persons as may unfortunately suffer by fire, provided this

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Society shall think them deserving of their charity ; and to reward the industry and ingenuity of those who may invent useful machines for extinguishing fire, or make such discoveries for preventing its devastations, as shall be thought worthy of their patronage.

A R T I C L E II.

This Society shall have a Government, consisting of a President, a Vice President, and a board of eight Trustees, a Treasurer, a Recording, and a Corresponding Secretary.

A R T I C L E III.

There shall be two meetings of this Society in every year ; both of which shall be held in the town of Boston ; viz. one, on the Friday next following the last Wednesday in May ; and the other, on the third Wednesday in November.

A R T I C L E IV.

The Government of this Society shall be chosen annually at their meeting in the month of May, by the members at large, and by written votes.

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ARTICLE V.

At any meeting of this Society, or of the Government thereof, in case of the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer for the-time being shall preside : and the President shall not be allowed a vote in any instance, unless there shall be a tie of the other members ; in which case he shall have it in his power to give a casting vote.

ARTICLE VI.

The President shall have power to call special meetings of the Government of this Society, and by their advice a meeting of the Society at large, whenever business, in their opinion, shall be of such importance as to require it.

ARTICLE VII.

Once in every year, viz. on the Friday next following the last Wednesday in May, a Public Discourse, *Expressive of the advantages arising from Charitable Institutions*, shall be delivered before the Society, by some person to be appointed by the Government for that purpose ; at which time a collection shall be made for the benefit of the Society's funds.

ARTICLE VIII.

A record of all the proceedings of this Society, and of the Government thereof, shall be kept by the Recording Secretary, and shall from time to time be laid before the Society at their stated meetings.

ARTICLE IX.

The Government of this Society shall be vested with power to grant premiums, or charitable donations ; and to act on all business pertaining to the Society.

ARTICLE X.

The interest only, arising from the Society's funds, shall be applied to charitable purposes, and the payment of such premiums as are calculated to further the benevolent principles of this Institution.

ARTICLE XI.

The Treasurer shall give good and sufficient bonds, with sureties in such penalty as the Government may direct, for the faithful performance of his duty ; and particularly to account for, and pay over, all monies that may come to his hands : and he shall not
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pay away any of the Society's money without an order from the President, countersigned by the Recording Secretary, directing him so to do. The Treasurer shall keep a true and just account of all the money he may receive, and all that he may pay away, in dollars and cents ; and the same shall be laid before the Society at their stated meeting held in the month of May.

A R T I C L E XII.

No person shall be eligible for the office of Treasurer more than three years successively ; and in case of the removal of the Treasurer from his office, by death, absence, indisposition, or otherwise, the President shall fill the office of Treasurer until his return, or another is chosen.

A R T I C L E XIII.

Any person who wishes to become a member of this Institution, may make application to the Recording Secretary, or either of the Trustees, who shall lay the same before the Government at their next meeting, and his name shall then be recorded, and he shall from that time be considered as a member.

A R T I C L E XIV.

Each member, on being admitted, shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer, *one dollar and fifty cents*, or such *larger sum* as he may please, and at each stated meeting of the Society the sum of *fifty cents*; which shall be appropriated to the benefit of the Society's funds.

A R T I C L E XV.

The Treasurer and Secretaries shall each be allowed such compensation for their services as the Government may think proper.

A R T I C L E XVI.

Notice shall be given, by the Recording Secretary, of every meeting of this Society, in two of the Boston News Papers, at least, fourteen days prior to the time of their coming together.

A R T I C L E XVII.

Once in every three years a book shall be printed, containing the Rules and Regulations of this Society; a catalogue of its members; the sums they may subscribe, and an account of all the donations that may be received

ceived in the aforesaid term, together with the names of the donors, and such other papers as the Government may judge requisite.

A R T I C L E XVIII.

Any person belonging to this Society, who shall refuse to observe the Rules and Regulations of the same, and continue so to do for three years, shall not after that time be considered as a member.

A R T I C L E XIX.

If at any time hereafter the Constitution of this Society shall be found defective and inadequate to the purpose of well governing the same, the Society shall then choose a committee, of not less than seven persons, to revise and amend it ; and the amendments thus made, shall be laid before the Society at their next stated meeting, for their approbation ; and if approved by a majority of the members then present, they shall be adopted, and not otherwise.

A R T I C L E XX.

The Society's money, whenever there shall be one hundred dollars on hand, shall be vested in such publick funds, as the Government thereof shall direct, until the Society shall otherwise order.

The GOVERNMENT for the Year 1794.

Hon. Moses Gill, Esq.	<i>President.</i>
Hon. George Richards Minot, Esq.	<i>Vice President.</i>
Dr. Oliver Smith,	<i>Treasurer.</i>
Mr. William Aline,	<i>Recording Secretary.</i>
Rev. James Freeman,	<i>Corresponding Secretary.</i>
Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.	} <i>Trustees.</i>
John Lucas, Esq.	
William Tudor, Esq.	
Col. William Scollay,	
Vacant,	
Mr. Arnold Welles,	
Mr. Joshua Thomas,	
Mr. Shubael Bell,	

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

Sums Subscribed
at Admission.

Doll. Cents.

M R. William Alline,	3
Mr. Benjamin Ames,	
Mr. William	
Mr. Daniel Austin,	
Mr. Samuel Barton,	5
Mr. Josiah Batchelder,	
Mr. Joseph Baxter,	2
Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D. D.	
Mr. Shubael Bell,	5
Mr. Ephraim Bell,	2
Caleb Bingham, A. M.	
Mr. Edward Blake, jun.	
Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.	
Mr. John Bridge,	5
Mr. John Bright,	
Mr. Andrew Brimmer,	
Thomas Bulfinch, M. D.	
Charles Bulfinch, A. M.	
Mr. George Burroughs,	2
Mr. Matthew Butman.	
Mr. Peter Cades	2
Mr. Joseph Calendar, jun.	2
Mr. Isaac Cazneau,	2
Dr. Abijah Cheever,	
Mr. William T. Clap,	
Rev. John Clarke,	
Mr. Edward Cole,	5

Mr.

18 **SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.**

Doll. Cents.

Mr. Joseph Coolidge,		
Mr. William Coolidge,	8	
Mr. John Cotton,	4	
Mr. Allen Crocker,	2	
Mr. William Crosby,	2	
Thomas Cushing, Esq.		

Amasa Davis, Esq.		
Hon. Thomas Dawes, Esq.	2	50
Mr. Benjamin Dearborn,	2	
Mr. James Smith Deblois,	2	
Mr. Joseph Dickman,	2	
Mr. John Dodge,	5	
Mr. John G. Doubleday,	3	

Mr. Joshua Eaton,	2	
Mr. William B. Eaton,	3	
Mr. Ebenezer Eaton,	6	
Rev. Joseph Eckley, D. D.		
Mr. Peter Edes,	2	50
Mr. Abraham Edwards,	5	
Mr. Calvin Ellis,	3	
Mr. Jacob Emmons,	4	
Mr. Samuel Ethridge	2	50

Dr. John Fleet
 John Fox, A. M.
 Rev. James Freeman

Mr. Joel Gay,		
Hon. Moses Gill, Esq.		
Mr. Joseph Gleason,		
Mr. Samuel Greenough,		
Deacon Richard Gridley,		
Mr. Richard Gridley, jun.	5	

Mr. Benjamin K. Haggard,	4	
Mr. Caleb B. Hall,		

John

