

RULES and ORDERS


To be OBSERVED by the

UNION SOCIETY,

Founded, in BOSTON, the Twenty-fifth of NOVEMBER, MDCCLXXII.

Ms. No. 22

WHEREAS it has pleased Almighty GOD, to visit this Town with FIRE; and considering ourselves at all Times subject to the like Calamity, WE THE SUBSCRIBERS, for the more speedy and effectual Assistance of each other, in securing our Substance at such a Time, do promise and engage a due Observation of the following ARTICLES, viz.

I.
 THAT this Society consist of a Number not exceeding Thirty, and that their Meetings be on the last Wednesday of November, February, May and July annually, at such Place as the Clerk shall appoint, at which every Member shall attend if in Town.

II.
 THAT a List of the Members be called at Seven o'Clock, P. M. at each Meeting in November and February, and at Eight o'Clock in May and July: If any Member be then absent, he shall pay a Fine of Eight Pence Lawful Money, if absent the whole Evening, not less than Four Shillings; and if the Clerk be absent at the Time appointed for calling the List, he shall pay a Fine of Three Shillings, but if absent the whole Evening, not less than Six Shillings. No Member shall leave the Company before Nine o'Clock without Leave from the major Part of the Members then present, on Penalty of being deemed an absent Member.

III.
 THAT a Moderator be chose at each Meeting, whose Business shall be to preserve Order; and if any Member has any Thing to offer relative to the Affairs of the Society, he shall address the Moderator under Penalty of One Shilling; and if any Two or more of the Members offer to speak at the same Time, the Moderator shall determine whose Right it is to speak first, the other shall be silent at his Order, under the same Penalty; and if any Two or more Members shall be talking among themselves while the Affairs of the Society are in Debate, they shall be silent at the Moderator's Order, under the same Penalty.

IV.
 THAT a Clerk be chosen at the Meeting in November, whose Duty shall be to keep a fair Record of all Business of the Society; to demand and receive the Fines which may arise from a Breach of any Article agreed to by the Society; to take Care that every Member be notified of each Quarterly Meeting Two Days before the same, by leaving, or causing to be left, a dated Ticket (which shall be printed for this Purpose, and by him filled up) at their respective Dwellings, with what Money is due to the Society from such Members, minuted upon his Ticket, and the Names of those proposed (if any there be) for Admission into the Society, under the following Penalties: For neglecting to keep a fair Record of the Transactions of the Society, Twenty Shillings: For neglecting to inspect the Buckets, &c. Five Shillings: For neglecting to demand the Fines due from any Member, at least once a Quarter, Three Shillings: For neglecting to notify the Members of each Meeting, Five Shillings. The Clerk to continue in said Office one Year; at the Expiration of which, he shall deliver to his Successor, all the Books and Papers belonging to the Society.—The Choice of the Clerks to be thus, every Member who has not served before, or paid the Fine for not serving, shall draw a Lot, and whoever draws the Lot Number one shall serve in that Office or pay a Fine of Fourteen Shillings; if he choose to pay the Fine, the Choice to be renewed, till one be found to serve, the Clerk's Club to be paid by the Society for his Care and Trouble.

V.
 THE Clerk shall have Power to call a Meeting of the Society when he shall judge it necessary, or upon Application made to him by Six Members, in Writing: And all Members who shall not attend such Meeting, being notified, shall be liable to the same Fines as on any Quarterly Meeting.

VI.
 AT the aforesaid Meeting in November, a Treasurer shall be chosen to receive the Money collected, or any Money which may be given for the Use of the Society; and so often as the Money in his Hands shall amount to Ten Pounds, he shall place the same at Interest, to some substantial Person of good Repute, but not without two sufficient Bondsmen taking the Bond in his own Name, for the Use of the Society.

VII.
 THAT each Member constantly keep together in good Order, in his Dwelling-House, two Leather Buckets, two Bags, each Bag one Yard and an half long and one Yard and an half round, (with Strings at the Mouths, that they may be drawn up with greater Dispatch) and an Iron Bed-Key; the Buckets and Bags to be marked with the first Letters of the Owner's Christian Name, and his Surname at Length, under Penalty of Twenty Shillings for Neglect in each Particular.

VIII.
 THAT the Members may be well acquainted with each other's Houses, Stores, Shops, &c. and the Passages thereto, the Clerk (under Penalty of Five Shillings for Neglect) shall take with him three Members, in their Turns, two Days before each Meeting: Any Member refusing to attend the Clerk in such Business (upon reasonable Notice) shall pay a Fine of Two Shillings.

IX.
 THAT we have a Watch-Word whereby to know one another, which shall continue until the Society shall see Cause to change it; and every Member, when challenged, shall whisper the same to the Clerk, at every Quarterly Meeting, under Penalty of One Shilling, and if any Member shall presume to reveal the Watch-Word, he shall be subject to a Penalty of Three Shillings.

X.
 THAT at Notice of a Fire, every Member shall repair with his Buckets, &c. to the Place where it happens; and if the House, Store or Shop of any Member be in Danger, every other Member shall assemble there with his Bags and Bed-Key at least, and use his best Endeavours, at the Direction of the Person in Danger, if present (or otherwise according to the best of his Judgment) to remove and secure all his Goods and Effects, under Penalty of Thirty Shillings.

XI.
 If any Member lose his Buckets or Bags at a Fire, the Loss shall be sustained by the Society; provided he make diligent Search therefor within Twenty-four Hours, and advertises the same in the *Massachusetts Spy*, or *Thomas's Boston Journal*.

XII.
 EVERY Member shall keep a printed Copy of these Articles, with all the Members Names, and the Places of their Dwellings, Stores, Shops, &c. each paying the Clerk Five Shillings for the said Articles, and when lost or worn out to be supplied by the Clerk paying as aforesaid: And every Member, who does not produce his printed Articles at each Meeting, shall pay One Shilling.

XIII.
 WHEN any Member removes to any other Dwelling, Store or Shop, he shall inform the Clerk thereof within a Week after, under Penalty of One Shilling; and the Clerk shall insert the same in the next Notification, and each Member shall conform his Articles thereto, and produce the same complete at the next Meeting, under Penalty of One Shilling.

XIV.
 THAT we may be further beneficial to each other, we do agree that every Member shall pay at each Quarterly Meeting One Shilling, which, together with the Fines, shall be paid to the Clerk, and delivered by him to the Treasurer. And provided any Treasurer of this Society shall neglect to keep a fair Account of what Money he receives, or be guilty of any other willful Negligence or Unfaithfulness in his Office, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Four Dollars for the Use of the Society.

XV.
 ANY Member, who will not regularly submit to the Payment of his Fines, also the One Shilling before mentioned, or absent himself four Meetings successively, shall be deemed as quitting the Society, and shall not be admitted again without the usual Ceremonies of Election.

XVI.
 AND provided any Member shall be reduced in his Circumstances, he shall apply to the Society in Writing, setting forth the Nature of his Case, and then the Society shall give him what a Majority of the same shall agree to.

XVII.
 NO Person shall be invited to the Society's Meeting, who is not a Member; nor no Person to be admitted if there be three Members Votes against him, but if there be but two he can.

XVIII.
 THAT all Fines imposed for the Breach of any of the above Articles, shall be refunded upon sufficient Reason given in Excuse; to be determined by the major Votes of the Members then present.

XIX.
 THAT all Disputes, relating to the Business of the Society, shall be settled in the Manner specified in the eighteenth Article.

NAMES.	PLACES of ABODE.	STORES, SHOPS, &c.
Edward Rumney, John Coolidge, Edward Dean, John Doak, James Lanman, Nathaniel Greenough, Benjamin Calender, Giles Alexander,		