

CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS
OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MUTUAL
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

INSTITUTED FEBRUARY 11, A.D. 1876.

Catch them, O catch the transient hour,
Improve each moment as it flies ;
Life's a short summer, man a flower ;
He dies, alas, how soon he dies !

JOHNSON.

ARTICLE I.—*Name.*

This Association shall be known as the "St John's Mutual Improvement Association."

ARTICLE II.—*Object.*

The object of this Association shall be, the cultivation of all those arts, graces, and talents which give effect to oratory and force to argumentation ; and by the various exercises of extempore speaking, written essay, etc., to assist the members in acquiring that knowledge and experience in the expression of ideas and the use of language which are requisite to success in private as well as in public life.

ARTICLE III.—*Membership.*

Any person approved by the members of this Association may become connected therewith, by attaching his name to the Constitution, and paying into the treasury the sum of One Dollar.

ARTICLE IV.—*Officers.*

The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLE V.—*President.*

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association, to preserve order, and to assume such other offices as usually appertain to the presiding officer of assemblies.

ARTICLE VI.—*Secretary.*

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of the meetings of the Association, register the names of members, issue all notices required, and do such correspondence as by resolution may be required.

ARTICLE VII.—*Treasurer.*

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep an account of all moneys received and expended, to report as to the condition of the Treasury as often as shall be required of him by the Association, to preside in the absence of the President, and during such absence to perform the duties of that officer.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Duration in Office.*

Each of the above officers shall hold his respective office for and during the term of twelve months.

ARTICLE IX.—*Amendments.*

No alteration, by addition or amendment, of this Constitution, shall be made without previous notice of one week, when the change to be made shall be indicated by resolution or otherwise.

ARTICLE X.—*Honorary Membership.*

This Association, by a two-third vote at any meet-

ing, shall have power to admit persons as Honorary Members, who will be entitled to the privileges of the Association.

BYE-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.—*Meetings.*

This Association shall meet on Tuesday evening of each week, for the transaction of such business as shall be up for consideration, in the order hereinafter mentioned.

ARTICLE II.—*Dues.*

The regular dues to this Association shall be One Dollar per annum, payable in advance.

ARTICLE III.—*Fines.*

Any member absenting himself without assigning sufficient cause shall be fined twenty-five cents, and no member in arrears for two years shall be permitted the rights of membership until such delinquencies are paid up.

ARTICLE IV.—*Expulsions.*

Any member who shall refuse to conform to the Constitution, Bye-Laws, and Regulations of this Association, may, by a two-third vote of a quorum meeting, be expelled. When such vote is taken, the member under vote shall be heard in his own defence.

ARTICLE V.—*Special Meetings.*

A special meeting may be ordered by the President upon the written request of three or more members.

ARTICLE VI.—*Voting.*

All voting for officers or members shall be by ballot—the majority ruling except in cases otherwise provided for.

ARTICLE VII.—*Committees.*

All committees ordered by a vote of the Association shall be appointed by the President ; and all members so appointed are required to serve unless excused by the presiding officer.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Amendments.*

These Bye-Laws may be altered by a majority vote—notice of such alteration or amendment having been given at a previous meeting.

ARTICLE IX.—*Order of Business.*

The order of business for each regular meeting shall be as follows, unless by special vote or Constitutional provision a change shall be made in this order, viz. :—

1. The call to order by the President.
2. Opening ceremony.
3. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
4. Verbal propositions for membership.
5. Voting for members.
6. Special business.
7. Exercises of the evening. (Readings, Recitations, Debate, President's Summary of Debate, Decision.)
8. Unfinished business.
9. Adjournment.