

volumes of books, besides large numbers of small tracts, among the poorer people. The members of our communion have expressed a hearty zeal for it, and have, by voluntary contributions, built twelve churches in this Government.

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CHAPTER XIII.

*The Society's method of managing this Trust. Their more special Rules and Orders, relating to themselves and to their Officers.*

AFTER the foregoing relation of the endeavors of the Society to propagate the Christian religion by their missionaries abroad, there remains only one thing more to be done; namely, to give the reader an account of the Society's manner of transacting business at home. This is a piece of justice due to the public: they ought to have an authentic and satisfactory account, how so great a trust is managed; through whose hands, and after what manner, the administration of this charity passes; how open and unsuspecting the method of doing business is; and how disinterested the persons are, who have the direction of it. The persons are, the Bishops of England, several eminent gentlemen and merchants, and many of the clergy. They are all so far from having any private interest in it, that they are the only certain benefactors to it; for no one is admitted to be a member, who hath not been a benefactor, or who doth not become a contributor of an annual sum, and their subscriptions are the chief certain fund. At every meeting of the Society, all the members are summoned to attend; and the manner of transacting all business is, by a majority of votes; but upon any debate arising, the question is decided by balloting. The Society have made several by-laws or rules for their own conduct, that nothing might be done without mature deliberation, to prevent any matter of weight being passed by themselves suddenly, and upon surprise. I shall give the reader their most material rules in their own words.

The principal rules in the charter relating to the management of this trust are these:

That the Society meet upon the third Friday in February yearly, between the hours of eight and twelve in the morning; and they, or the major part of them that shall then be present, shall choose one President, one or more Vice-Presidents, one or more Treasurers, two or more Auditors, one Secretary, and other Officers for the year ensuing, who shall respectively take an oath for the due execution of their respective offices.

That if any officer die, or be removed, the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, may summon the members to meet at the usual place of the annual meeting of the Society, and choose another in his place.

That the Society meet on the third Friday in every month, and oftener if occasion requires, to transact the business of the Society, and may at any such meeting elect persons for members.