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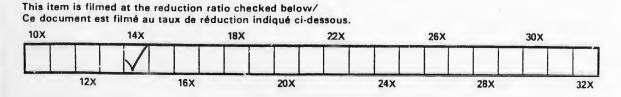
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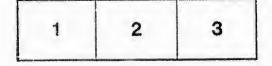
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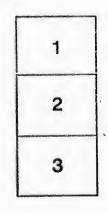
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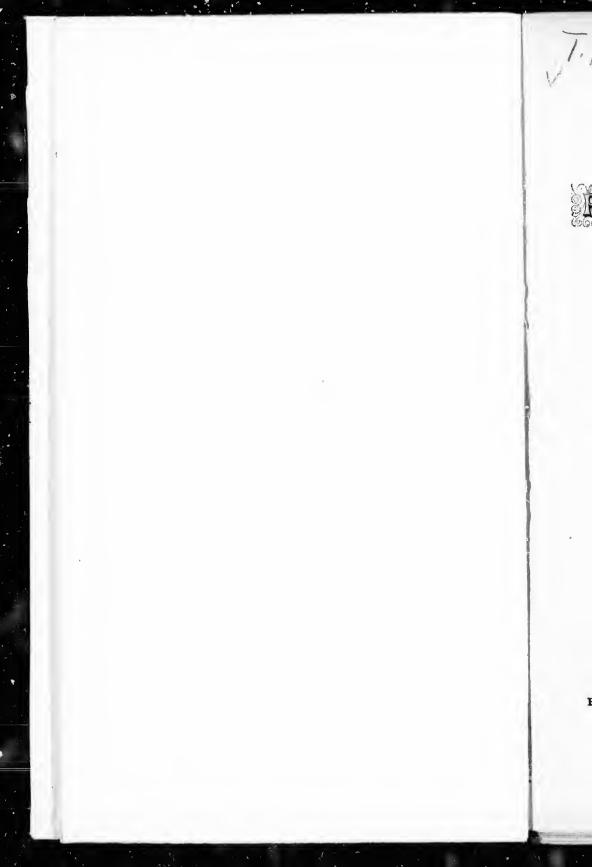


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BY-LAWS AND RULES,

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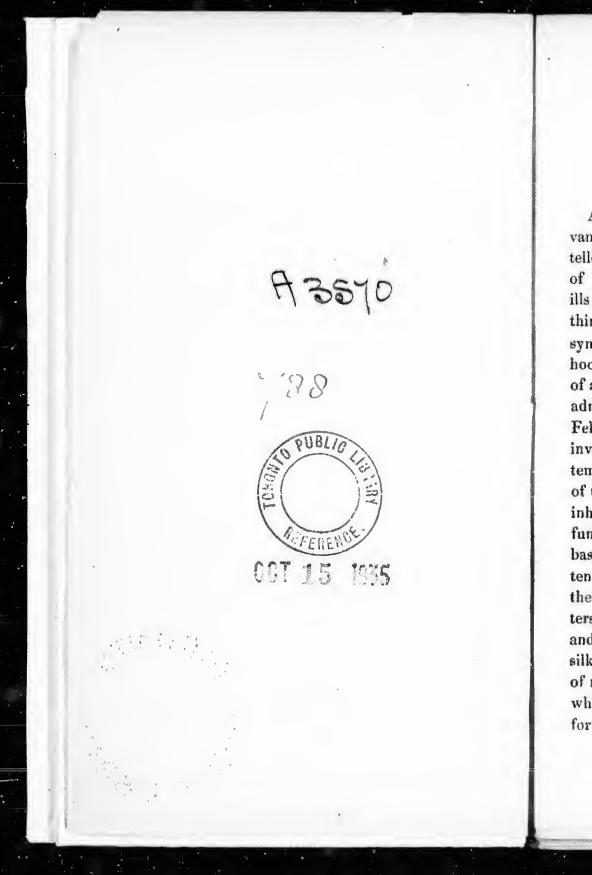
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AS ADUPTED ON ITS ORGANIZATION.



MONTREAL: BROTHERS MATTHEWS, HARDIE, AND RODDEN.

1843.



INTRODUCTION.

ANYTHING that has for its object the advancement of human happiness or human intellect; anything that tends to the amelioration of the condition of mankind, or to lessen the ills and miseries incident on human life; anything that draws closer the ties of mutual sympathy, and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood between man and man, is not only worthy of approbation, but of the warmest support and admiration. That such are the objects of Odd Fellowship, none who have taken the trouble to investigate its principles and operations, will attempt to deny. When the Almighty Architect of the universe spake, and this sphere which we inhabit burst into light and loveliness, every fundamental principle on which our Order is based, was stamped with the signet of Omnipotence upon her young and unstained being, there to remain in legible and enduring characters, as constituent elements of her perpetuity and existence. FRIENDSHIP then wove her silken bonds: Love breathed forth her strains of mutual sympathy and confiding tenderness ; while TRUTH-above-around-beneath-shed forth her blaze of living light, as pure and unsullied as the rays that emanate from the throne of the eternal God. Upon these three pillars rests the structure of our Order---around them cluster our brightest hopes and fondest anticipations.

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We shall endeavour to prove that Odd Fellowship is calculated for the most extensive moral good. It is evident, that in order to collect an assemblage of persons, and continue and increase them as a body, there must be two powerful motives of action : first, curiosity to collect; secondly, pleasure and some useful end in view to continue them. The singularity of the title of "Odd Fellow," is better adapted to excite curiosity than any other: it fills the mind with a desire to know what is meant by it, and such desire is seldom appeased until the mystery is unravelled by becoming a Brother. As it is an odd name without the Lodge, so the manners are perfectly odd when introduced within the awful stillness of the odd, instructive ceremony, when judiciously conducted; the odd appearance of the Lodge when its officers are seated in their respective stations; the odd silence and decorum which prevails; the odd mode of honour and respect paid to the Chair; and the three powerful odd links which bind us together-FRIENDSHIP, LOVE and TRUTH, all combine to fill the mind of every new member with satisfaction and surprise, far exceeding his most sanguine expectations.

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Some useful end in view to continue them. The principles of Odd Fellowship are those of humanity and religion; its object is to promote the general good of mankind, and spread abroad the lights of morality and knowledge; it not only benefits the common cause of philanthropy, but ensures to its members in the hour of adversity and tribulation, a source of safety and comfort, that none, save the arm of Omnipotence, can destroy.

A parent's affection may change; the friendship of the world may turn to hatred, and even love may be transformed to loathing and disgust, but the ties that bind us together are never sundered; our claims of brotherhood are only dissolved by death-no, not even death can rend them-they descend to the widow and the orphan. The language of our Order is more potent than any strain of eloquence that ever fell upon the human ear. A stranger, penniless and friendless, in a foreign land, breathes its tones, and his necessities are relieved. Sickness comes and lays its paralyzing hand upon him, and though no friends or relatives are near, a brother of the "mystic tie" administers to his wants and soothes his distresses. The sick amongst our own brethren, are not left to the cold hand of public charity; they are visited, and their wants are provided for out of the funds they themselves have contributed to raise, and which, in times of need, they can honorably.

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claim, without the humiliation of sueing for parochial or individual relief-from which the freeborn mind recoils with disdain, until overwhelmed in insufferable want and misery. We are obligated, if need be, to perform the last solemn offices to the remains of any departed brother, and see them consigned with respectful decency, to the bosom of our mother earth. To the living, our fraternal solicitude is no less exercised. It is our enjoined duty to watch over the conduct of our brethren, even in their common intercourse with men, as well as one with another; and to remonstrate with those who wander from the paths of rectitude, or trespass upon the rules of morality. In all ages and in all countries, our Order has stood forth the champion of liberty and religion; and wherever she has erected an altar she has also dedicated a temple to science and refinement. It is not necessary to go back and trace the progress of our Order, from its establishment down to the present period, or point out, in minutia, its deeds and history. Suffice it to say, that thousands of years ago, the Egyptian astrologer found in our temple the secrets of Astronomy : and the Chaldean shepherd, in his midnight watch, as he gazed upward to the starry heavens, drew from our oracles the sublime truth, that there were worlds unknown, incalculable and immense, and that over all presided an unknown and mysterious, yet Omnipo-

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tent power. Since that time, during succeeding centuries, we behold the Eastern Magi-the devout Jew-the intellectual and versatile Greek. -the proud and haughty Roman-bending at its shrine, and burning incense upon its altars. Emerging from the gloom of the middle ages, we see it the animating spirit in the revolution that succeeded, and rolling onward with the tides of science and civilization-from nation to nation, from country to country-it has crossed the Atlantic, and found on this soil, a fostering hand and genial clime. True it is, that storms have howled around; and, at times, we beheld it glimmering like the pale star of morn, "betwixt light and darkness, on the horizon's verge;" yet the storm has passed away, and again it has burst forth in renewed strength and beauty. Protected by the shield of Omnipotence, it has set at defiance the power of despotism, the machinations of bigotry, and the wily intrigues of the fawning hypocrite.

It has been said that ours is a secret Order, and that secrecy is disconsonant with innocence. True it is, that we are, in part, a secret society —but is secrecy a crime? The world itself, the universe, the God of eternal truth, are surrounded with an impenetrable veil that no mortal eye ever pierced; and shall it be denied that these exist, because their arcana are not revealed at our bidding? Shall we pronounce them evil, because their operations are hidden from our view, and above our comprehension? Again : who can define the mind? who unfold its constituent elements and hidden springs? The earthquake-at whose shock nations tremble, and countries become desolate-has been accounted for, and its most secret particles revealed and analyzed. The lightening that plays in bright yet fearful beauty amid the storm, has been traced home to the bosom of the cloud from which it left, and its minutest principles investigated and developed, but who has traced to its home the lightening of the mind? Who analyzed those mental earthquakes, that have shaken the moral world to its very centre, and diffused light and knowledge amid the abodes of ignorance and superstition? And shall the emanations of genius; the music of the poet's lyre; the conceptions of the gifted intellect; the tones of spirit-stirring eloquence, be rejected, because the source whence they emanated are hidden from our view, and beyond the reach of our intellect? So far from secrecy being an objection to our Order, we claim it as a recommendation. It is the mystic tie that binds us together in indissoluble brotherhood; prompting us to deeds of virtue and benevolence ; it comes and entwines itself around our fraternity, like the refreshing yet invisible breeze, that, at summer noontide, fans our burning forehead, invigorating the system with its coolness, and gladdening our hearts with its freshness and purity. In

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To be initiated as a member of our Order is not, as many suppose, "to take a leap in the dark." The fundamental principles of the Order are before the world; its deeds are not concealed from public scrutiny ; while the Constitution and Laws of our society are within the reach of all who wish to examine them. But there are mysteries, within the inner veil of our altars, that none except the members of the fraternity, are permitted to behold. Sclemn and sublime truths are there inculcated that have never reached the ear of any, save those who have proved themselves worthy of the sacred They have remained there for ages, haltrust. lowed archives in the sanctuary of our temple--and have never crossed its portals; and there we hope and pray they ever will remain, unsullied. inviolate and untarnished.

Our Order is the handmaid of virtue, and it must flourish; it calls into life and action the best and holiest feelings of our nature, and success must crown our efforts. Poets have bound their brows with wreaths of immortality; orators have reared eternal monuments to their names; conquerors have had their trophies ; but the pathway to glory of these are often watered by the despairing tears of the widow and the orphan, whilst the trophies which lay at the feet of our altars, are the result of the principles of "good will toward man," and the proud achievements of lives spent in the cause of benevolence and virtue, unsullied by crime, and unstained by a tear, unless it be the tear of gratitude and joy. Our course is onward, and we may look forward with confidence to a day not far distant, when our society shall find an abiding place in every village and hamlet of our land.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. The regular evening of meeting shall be Tuesday evening of each week; special meetings, at the pleasure of the N. G., or at the request of five Brothers. The hour of meeting shall be from the first of April to the first of October, at 8 o'clock, and from the first of October to the first of April at half-past 7 o'clock; and the officers shall be in their places and the Lodge called to order within ten minutes of the appointed time.

Sec. 2. No person shall enter the Lodge unless clothed in the full regalia appertaining to his rank.

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ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

Sec. 1. The N. G. shall preside at all meetings of the Lodge, and shall preserve order and decorum therein. He shall appoint all committees, unless it may be otherwise ordered by the Lodge; he shall give the casting vote when the Lodge is equally divided, and shall have no other vote but at the election of members or officers.

He shall not make or second any motion, nor take part in any debate while in the chair, and shall faithfully support the Constitution and administer the Laws of this Lodge.

Sec. 2. The V. G., shall assist and support the N. G., in the performance of his duties, and in his absence, he may fill the N. G.'s chair. He shall watch over the conduct of the brethren while in the Lodge, and report any violation of the Laws to the N. G. He may appoint his R. and L. H. S., who shall co-operate with him in the discharge of his duties.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall make a just and true record of the proceedings of the Lodge at every meeting. He shall write all communica. tions, fill up all certificates and cards granted by the Lodge, issue all summonses or notices required, attest to all moneys ordered paid at regular meetings, and none others. He shall make out at the end of his term, for the Grand Lodge, a full return of the work of the Lodge during his term, and perform such other duties, (appertaining to his office,) as may be required of him by the Lodge, and his charge, and deliver up to his successor in office, or to any committee whom the Lodge may specially appoint, all books, papers, or other property belonging to his office and the Lodge.

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Sec. 4. A permanent Secretary shall be elected annually at the last regular meeting in December, whose duty it shall be to keep the accounts between the Lodge and its members, receive all moneys due the Lodge, and immediately pay the same over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor. He shall, four weeks after the expiration of each quarter, notify every member who is thirteen weeks in arrears, of the amount due from him to the Lodge. He shall close the accounts of the Brothers at the end of each quarter. He shall procure all stationery for the use of the Lodge, and shall at the end of each term, make out for the Lodge a statement of all moneys received and paid by him to the Treasurer, and deliver up to his successor in office, or to any committee whom the Lodge may specially appoint, all books, papers, or other property belonging to his office and the Lodge, and for the faithful performance of his duties, he shall receive twenty-five dollars per annum payable quarterly.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all moneys of the Lodge; he shall pay all orders drawn on him by the N. G., under direction of the Lodge; he shall make such investments of the funds as the Lodge may direct; he shall keep the accounts in a fair and legible manner, exhibiting the sources and amount of receipts, the purposes, and amounts. of disbursements. His books shall be open for inspection of members at every regular meeting, and he shall lay before the Lodge monthly statements of its funds, and at the end of each quarter, he shall have his accounts closed and reported to the Lodge. He shall, previous to his installation, execute to the N. G., V. G., and P. S., in trust, a bond with suretics to be approved by them, for the faithful performance of his trust, and shall deliver up, when legally called upon, moneys, books, papers, &c., belonging to his office or the Lodge, to his successor in office or to any committee whom the Lodge may specially appoint.

Sec. 6. The Warden shall take charge of the properties of the Lodge, and shall report any damages done to them to the N. G.; he shall place the regalia for the use of the members at the opening of the Lodge, and at its close, he shall collect and preserve them in a careful way; he shall canvass all votes on motions and resolutions, and when the vote of the Lodge shall be taken on the admission of a candidate, he shall collect the ballots of the members and bear them to the N. G., and thence to the V. G. He shall also be the messenger of the Lodge.

Sec. 7. All officers must be clear of the books at the time of installation.

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ARTICLE III.

MODE OF ELECTIONS.

Sec. 1. At the elections the Secretary shall provide written ballots for each candidate. It shall be the duty of the Warden to distribute a set of ballots to each member entitled to vote, and he shall then receive their votes as the names of the members are respectively called by the Secretary ; it shall then be the duty of the N. G. to appoint two tellers, who with the Warden, shall canvass the votes given, and declare the result to the N. G., by whom it shall be announced to the Lodge: any candidate to be elected, must receive a majority of the votes given.

ARTICLE IV.

FINANCE AND VISITATION COMMITTEES.

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Sec. 1. The N. G., on the night of his installation, shall appoint three members as a Committee of Finance, whose duty it shall be to andit the accounts of the P. S. and Treasurer, as to the receipts or expenditures of the money of the Lodge, whose duty it shall be to report at the first regular meeting in the succeeding term.

Sec. 2. The N. G. shall, on the night of his installation, appoint five members, to be selected with reference to their location, in different sections of the city, whose duty it shall be to assist the N. G. and V. G., in visiting brothers reported to be sick. Every sick brother to be visited by some of them within twenty-four hours after receiving information of his case, and to have all necessary assistance rendered during the continuation of such sickness, in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of this Lodge.

ARTICLE V.

BENEFITS.

Every brother who has been a Sec. 1. member of this Lodge three months, or who has attained the Scarlet Degree, shall be qualified to receive the benefits of this Lodge.

Sec. 2. Every brother who is qualified by the first Section of this Article, and not disqualified by Article VIII. of these By-Laws, shall in case of being rendered incapable, by sickness or accident, of following his usual occupation, be entitled to, and receive out of the funds of this Lodge, if a member of the scarlet degree, £1 5s. per week; if of the initiatory degree, 15s. per week, during the remainder of his sickness or disability, dating not more than one week anterior to his being reported to the Lodge. Provided always such sickness or disability does not proceed from immoral conduct on his part.

Sec. 3. On the death of any brother who is not disqualified by Article VIII. of these By-Laws, the sum of £7 10s., shall be allowed as a Funeral Benefit, which shall be disposed of as provided for by Clause 3d, Section 2a, Article II. of the Constitution ; and the Secretary shall give notice in the public prints, or if that is impracticable, shall notify every member of this Lodge, of the death of a worthy brother, in order that they may attend the funeral, wearing a Ribbon and Sprig.

Sec. 4. On the demise of the wife of a brother who is qualified according to the first section of this Article, he shall be entitled to, and shall receive £5.

Sec. 5. Residing at a distance from the city of Montreal, shall not disqualify a brother

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from receiving benefits, provided he is not disqualified by Article VIII. of these By-Laws. It will be necessary for a brother so situated, to send to the N. G. a true statement of his case, attested by the N. G., under seal of the nearest Lodge to the place where he may be; or if no Lodge be near, his case, complaint and circumstances shall be certified by a justice of the peace or a respectable physician.

Sec. 6. If a member from a distant Lodge apply to this Lodge for relief, on the presentation of his card, his case shall be referred to a committee of three members to investigate his circumstances and report to the Lodge, when, by a motion, a sum not exceeding one week's benefit, may be voted for the relief of the brother, unless the case be one of extreme necessity, when the amount may be increased by the unanimous vote of the Lodge.

Sec. 7. The N. G. shall have a correct roll of the members of this Lodge for the use of the visiting committee, and if circumstances require it, the visiting committee shall notify a sufficient number of the members in rotation as they stand on the roll, to attend each sick member during the night, to administer such assistance as may be in their power: Provided, always, that the disease be not contagious, infectious, or dangerous to others, of which two respectable physicians shall be judges.

Sec. 8. If a deceased brother shall leave a family unprovided for, without a protector or guardian, it shall be the duty of the Visiting Committee to endeavour to place them in a situation where they may be made comfortable, and be preserved from vice and infamy. sh La he Se an nc

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MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the members of a committee appointed to investigate the character of a candidate for membership, to report at the next regular meeting; and in balloting for candidates, the ballot shall be examined by the N. G., and the result announced by the V. G.

Sec. 2. Every member on being admitted, shall sign the Constitution and By-Laws of this Lodge, and thereby agree to support the same ; and pay all legal demands against him so long as he remains a member. He shall also furnish the Secretary with his residence or place of business, and in case of changing or removing it, he shall notify the Secretary thereof within three weeks.

Sec. 3. When any member desires to withdraw from the Lodge, he shall signify his desire in open Lodge, and if he is clear of the books he shall be entitled to a card; and when any brother may desire a visiting or travelling card, he shall be entitled to the same on paying up his dues, &c., to the end of the time to which it shall extend.

Sec. 4. Any brother who shall be admitted to membership by deposit of card from another Lodge, shall pay $\pounds 1$ 5s.

Sec. 5. Any brother who shall be admitted to membership as an Ancient Odd Fellow, shall pay £1 5s.

Sec. 6. Every member of this Lodge shall pay to the funds of the lodge at the rate of 7s. 6d. per quarter.

Sec. 7. When a funeral benefit has been paid, or the lodge made liable therefor, if there be a less sum tha. E125 in the Treasury, each brother of the lodge shall be immediately assessed by the Permanent Secretary; (which payment shall be due and payable immediately,) if for the death of a brother, 2s. 6d., if for a brother's wife 1s. 3d.; to refund the amount necessary for the payment of the benefit. iately as-; (which ediately,) , if for a amount it.

ARTICLE VII.

DEGREES, DUES, &c.

Sec. 1. All persons initiated in this Lodge, shall pay $\pounds 1$ 5s., except when the initiate is over forty-five years of age, when he shall pay 5s. each additional year till fifty, over which age no individual will be admitted.

Sec. 2. The cost of Degrees conferred in this Lodge, shall be 5s. each Degree.

Sec. 3. All applications for Degrees shall be made in open Lodge, and when Degrees shall have been voted to a worthy brother, it shall be the duty of the Permanent Secretary, to furnish him with a certificate of the same under seal of the Lodge, upon his paying the amount required, £1. 5s.

ARTICLE VIII.

PENALTIES.

Sec. 1. Every member who shall refuse or neglect to pay his dues and arrears to the Lodge for the space of twelve months, shall be notified thereof by the P. Secretary if practicable; and if after four weeks notice his account shall still remain unsettled, he shall be suspended during the pleasure of the Lodge; and if reinstated, shall pay the amount standing against him at the time of his suspension, together with the whole sum to which he would have been subject had he not been suspended.

Sec. 2. Should the Quarterly Secretary fail to have his books in the Lodge at the specified time, he shall forfeit the sum of 2s. 6d. for every offence.

Sec. 3. Any member who shall in the Lodge make use of any profane or indecent language, or refuse to obey the commands of the N. G. or V. G. when called to order, or use disrespectful expressions towards the officers or members of the Lodge, shall be subject to a fine, for each offence, not exceeding 15s.

Sec. 4. Any member who shall be guilty of improper conduct in or out of the Lodge, or who shall bring charges against a brother which he is unable to prove, or shall wilfully and knowingly propose unworthy candidates for membership, shall subject himself to fine, suspension or expulsion, according to the enormity of the offence.

Sec. 5. Any member who shall be guilty of conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow, shall be fined, suspended, or expelled, according to the pleasure of the Lodge.

Sec. 6. No smoking, or refreshments, other

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than water, shall at any time be allowed in the Lodge Room, or any appartment thereunto belonging.

Sec. 7. Any of the officers, who shall be absent from the Lodge Room at the appointed time for opening, without being able to give a satisfactory reason for such absence, shall pay the following fines:—N. G.; V. G.; P. S.; T.; W.; C.; O. G.; I. G.; each 2s. 6d. All other appointed Officers, 1s. 3d.

FRATERNAL COURTESY.

Sec. 1. It is particularly enjoined that all members of this lodge shall treat each other with delicacy and due respect; and that all ungenerous remarks, personal allusions or sarcastic language, by which the feelings of any brother may be wounded, be carefully avoided, and the most prominent objects of our Order, (Friendship, Charity and Harmony,) be not diminished or interrupted; and that all our discussions be conducted in that spirit of candor, moderation and open generosity, which lead men to the altar of concord, and good fellowship; and it shall be the duty of the N. G. to repress every thing to the contrary,

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ARTICLE X.

EXPENDITURES AND AMENDMENTS.

Sec. 1. This Lodge shall by vote of the majority, first authorize an expenditure or donation before the same can be made; and all bills must be read by the Secretary in open lodge and be approved by a majority, and audited by the N. G., before the same can be paid; and no expenditure shall be ordered by this lodge, exceeding the amount of $\pounds 2$ 10s. without being referred to a committee of three, who shall report thereon at the next regular meeting of the lodge.

Sec. 2. Any proposed amendment to these by-laws, shall be offered in writing to the lodge at the last regular meeting in any term, and at the next regular meeting, the action of the lodge may be taken on such amendment. Two thirds of the members present shall constitute a majority to decide upon amendments.

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ARTICLE XI.

Sec. 1. No member other than such as shall have previously served a term as Secretary—and have not passed the V. G.'s chair—shall be eligible to the office of V. G., unless there is no past Secretary to nominate, in which case, any member who has served two terms in some inferior office shall be eligible, as provided by the constitution. as shall ry—and be elie is no ase, any n some ided by

RULES OF ORDER.

OPENING THE LODGE.

RULE I. When the presiding officer takes the chair, the officers and members shall take their respective stations; and at the sound of the gavel there shall be a general silence. The lodge shall then proceed to open in ancient form.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

RULE II. The minutes of the last meeting shall be read, and if no objection be made to any part thereof, they shall stand approved, without vote, and the Secretary shall place them on the books of the lodge. All business then appearing before the lodge, shall be transacted under the different propositions of the Order.

DECORUM.

RULE III. Every officer and member shall be designated in debate or otherwise, by his proper office or title, according to his standing in the lodge.

THE CHAIR.

RULE IV. The N. G. while presiding, shall state every question coming before the lodge, and immediately before putting it to vote, shall ask: "Is the Lodge ready for the Question ?" Should no member rise to speak, he shall rise to take the question; and after he has risen, no member shall speak upon it, unless by consent of the N. G. He shall pronounce the votes and decisions of the lodge on all subjects, (except on a ballot for membership, when the V. G. shall declare the result.) His decisions on questions of order, shall be without debate, unless, entertaining doubts on the point, he invite it; and he shall have the privilege of speaking only on such questions from the chair. When his decision has been appealed from, the question shall be put thus : " Will the Lodge stand by the Chair in its decision ?"

DEBATE.

RULE v. 1. Every member, when he speaks or offers a motion, shall be standing, and shall respectfully address the Chair; and when he has finished, he shall resume his seat. While speaking, he shall confine himself to the question under debate, avoiding all personality, and indecorous language, as well as any reflection upon the lodge, or its members.

2. Should two or more members rise to speak

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at the same time, the Chair shall decide who shall be entitled to the floor.

3. No member shall interrupt another in his remarks, unless to call him to order for words spoken.

4. If a member, while speaking, shall be called to order at the request of the Chair, he shall cease speaking and take his seat, until the question of order is determined, when, if permitted, he may again proceed.

5. No member shall speak more than once on the same question, until all the members wishing to speak shall have had an opportunity to do so; nor more than twice, without the permission of the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND VOTES.

RULE VI. 1. When any communication, petition, or memorial, is presented,—before it is read, or any vote taken on it, a brief statement of its contents shall be made by the introducer or the Chair : and after it has been read, a brief notice of the purport shall be entered on the journal.

2. No motion shall be subject to action, until seconded, and stated by the Chair; and at the desire of any member, such motion shall be reduced to writing.

3. When a blank is to be filled, the question shall be taken first upon the highest sum or

number, and the longest or latest time proposed.

4. Any member may call for a division of a question, when the sense will admit of it.

5. When a question is before the lodge, no motion shall be received, unless TO ADJOURN; THE PREVIOUS QUESTION; TO LIE ON THE TABLE; TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY; TO POST-PONE TO A CERTAIN PERIOD; TO REFER; OR TO AMEND; and such motions shall have precedence in the order herein arranged; the FIRST THREE to be decided without debate.

6. After any question, except one of indefinite postponement, has been decided, any two members who have voted in the majority, may, at the same or next succeeding meeting, move for a reconsideration thereof.

7. The previous question can be called for by two members, if seconded by a majority, and shall be put in this form : "Shall the main question be now put?" If carried, all amendments not already adopted, shall be precluded, and the main question taken without further debate.

8. When three fifths of the members present rise in favour of taking a question by YEAS and NAYS, they shall be ordered to be so recorded.

9. Every member present shall vote on any question before the lodge, unless he is personally interested in the result, or has been excused by the lodge, or is otherwise incapacitated. proposed. sion of a it. odge, no DJOURN ; ON THE TO POST-FER ; OR ave prehe FIRST

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