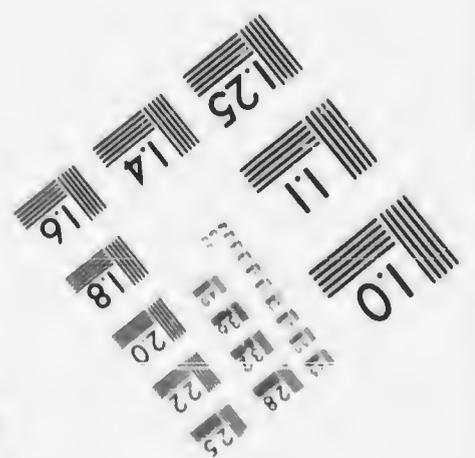
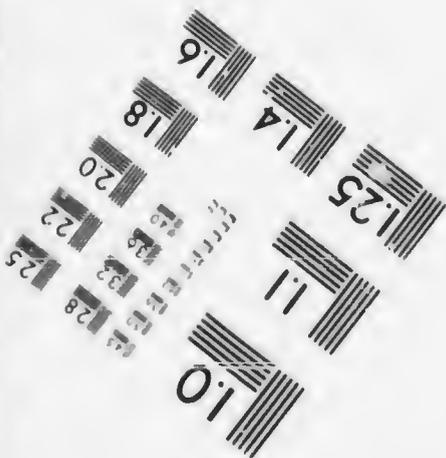
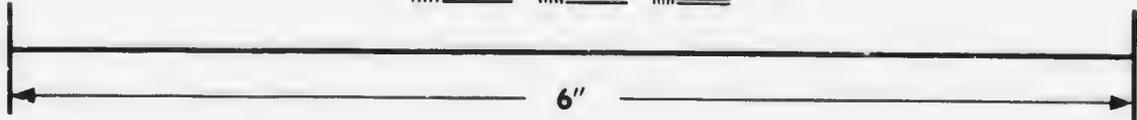
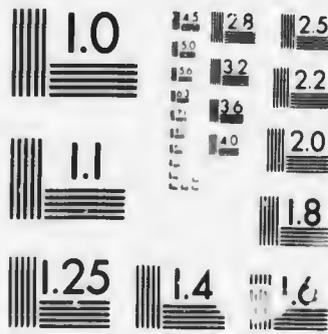


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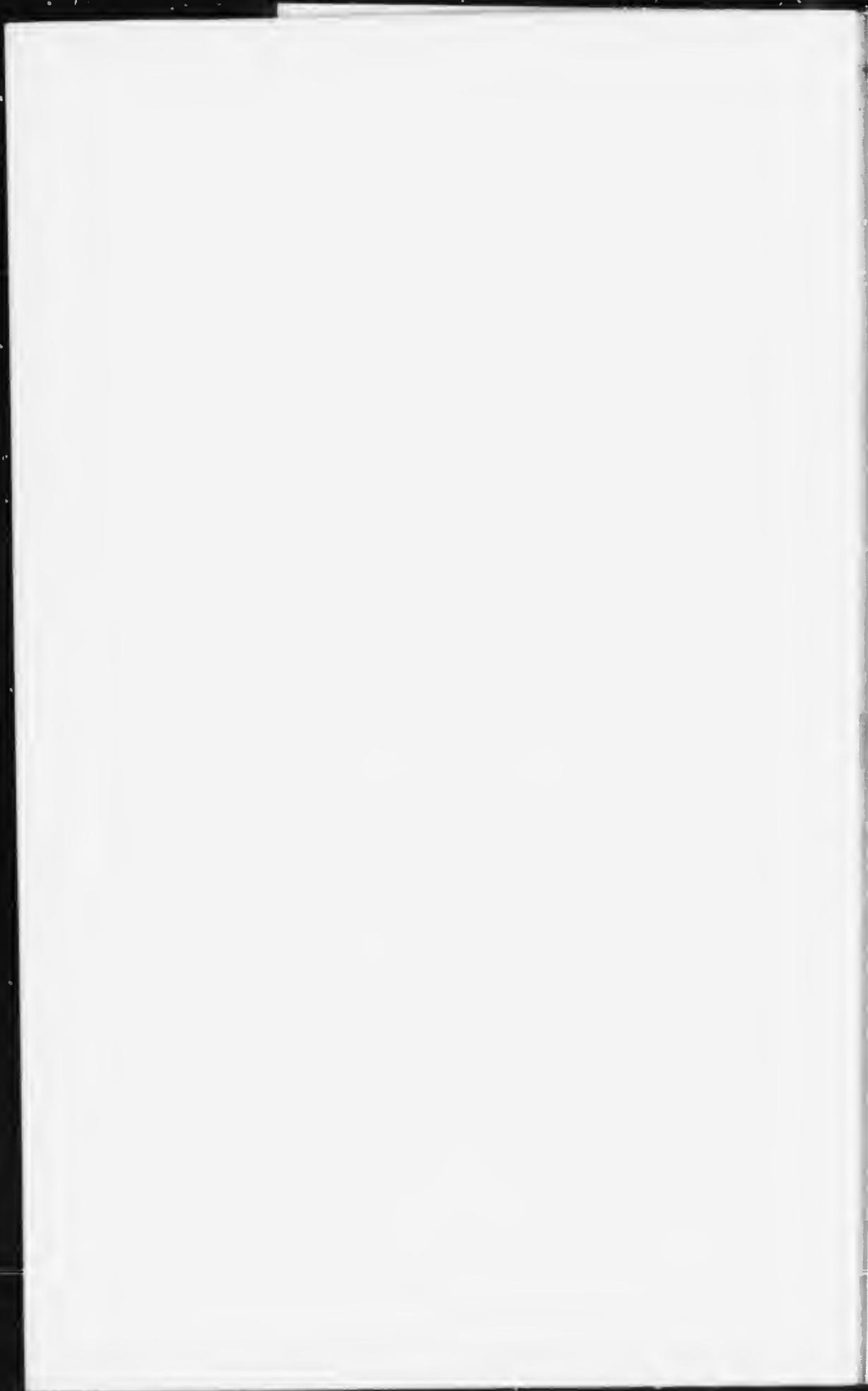
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R U L E S

AND

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

BENEVOLENT

IRISH SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY 17th, 1806.

St. John's, Newfoundland:
Printed by John Ryan & Son,
Printers to the KING'S MOST
EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
1807.



AT a Meeting held at the LONDON TAVERN, in *St. John's*, NEWFOUNDLAND, on Wednesday the 5th *February*, 1806, of a number of Irish Gentlemen desirous of relieving the wants and distresses of their Countrymen and fellow-creatures at large—It was unanimously agreed, that a Society formed upon true principles of Benevolence and Philanthropy would be the most effectual mode of establishing a permanent relief to the wretched and distressed. Under this conviction it was proposed to elect a Committee from the Gentlemen present to form a code of Rules and Regulations for the government of the Society—the extension and regulation of the Charity—and to consult with the Right Reverend Doctor O'DONEL and others, whose local knowledge of this Country could best inform them as to the most effectual and beneficial mode of establishing a Charitable Irish Society upon firm principles of Loyalty, true Benevolence and Philanthropy, when the following Gentlemen were nominated and unanimously chosen.

Lieut. Col. John Murray,
 James Macbraire, Esquire,
 John M'Killop, Esq.
 Mr. Joseph Church,
 Capt. Winckworth Tonge.

The Committee appointed to meet at the LONDON TAVERN, on Saturday the 8th instant, at 12 o'clock,

LONDON



LONDON TAVERN, FEB. 8th, 1806.

The Committee having met agreeable to the Resolution passed on Wednesday the 5th inst. beg to submit the following Rules and Constitution for the Society.

Title of the Society. **THE BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY.**

Seal. The figure of ST. PATRICK bearing the CROSS, with the Motto encircling the Seal, "He that gives to the Poor lends to the Lord."

Qualification for Members. Natives of Ireland, Sons of Irishmen, or Women descendants of any present or future Member of this Society, are qualified to become Members.

Mode of Election. A person desirous of becoming a Member of this Society, must be proposed by a Member thereof at a general or special meeting of the Society. The Member who proposes another for admission, must give in writing to the Secretary the name, age, place of nativity and place of residence, which description the Secretary must enter in a Book for that purpose, with the time and proceeding of such election; the election must be by ballot, and two-thirds of the Members present must consent or the election is disapproved: no Member to propose another for election of whose character and qualifications he is not informed, as he is in a certain degree pledged to the Society for his good conduct.

Entrance Fee for Members. Every Member shall subscribe his Name to the Rules and Constitution of the Society, and shall pay

a sum not less than *Four Dollars*, to be applied to the purposes of the Society, and the sum of *Two Shillings* and *Six Pence* as a fee to the Secretary.

Any person qualified by birth as a Member, and who is a temporary Inhabitant of this Island, desirous of joining his Countrymen, may be admitted by his qualification being handed by a Member to the President, who on such occasion will proceed to immediate ballot; such person so admitted will be stiled an honorary Member, and must pay on admission the entrance fees as established; but he will not be called upon for quarterly Donations unless he shall become a resident, and of course a permanent Member, in which case he must pay all the arrears of quarterly Donations during his residence in the Island.

Honorary
Members.

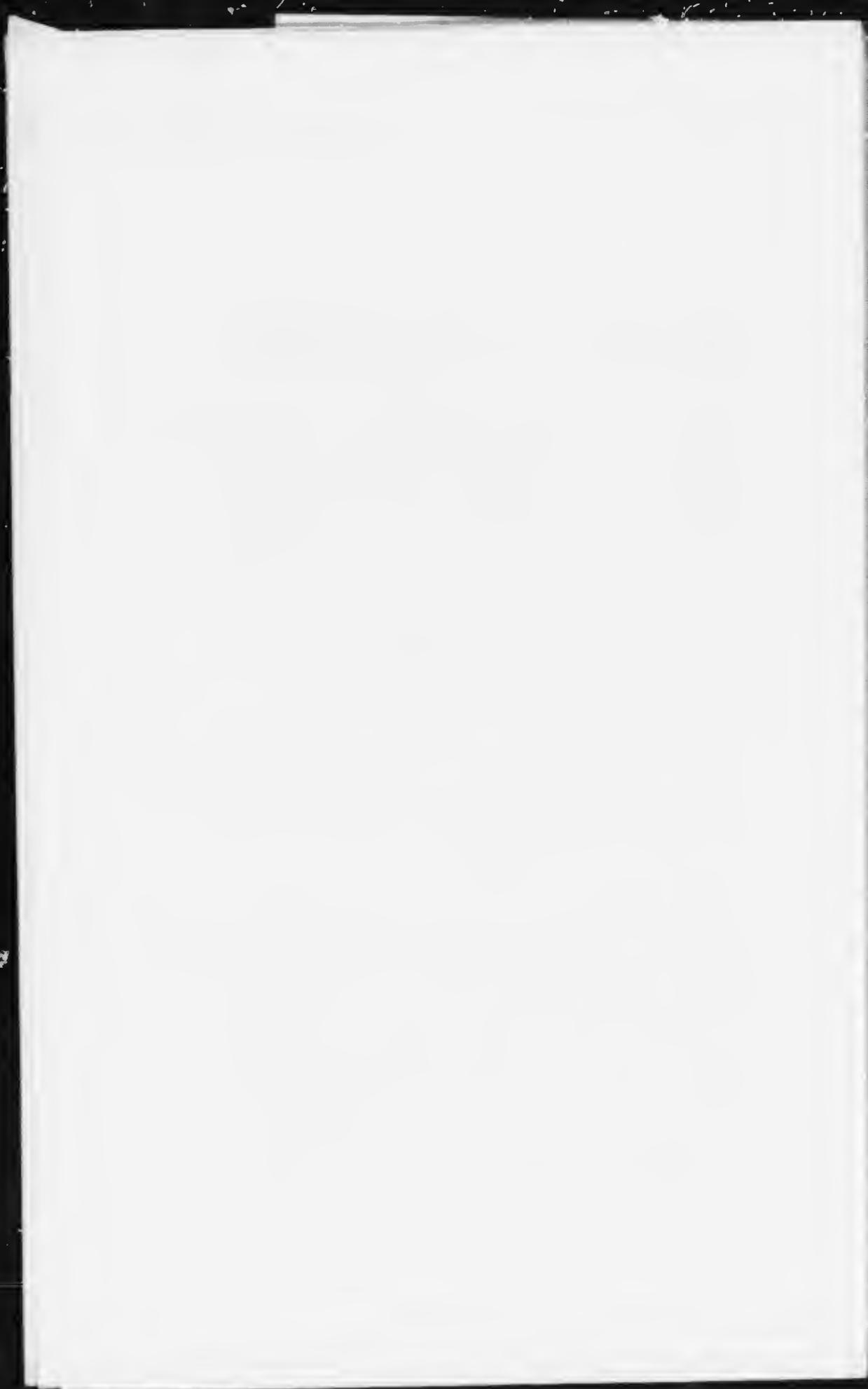
The Officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and two Assistants, a Treasurer and a Secretary, who shall be chosen annually by the majority of the Society present, on the 17th day of *February*. The Officers shall enter on their duties on the 17th day of *March*.

Mode of
choosing
Officers.

The President, or in his absence the Vice, or Assistants, according to seniority, shall in cases of necessity, have power to assemble the Society at the usual place appointed for meeting in the Town of *SAINT JOHN'S*. The presiding Officer shall at all times state to the Society all questions arising for debate or consideration, and shall declare the opinion of the Society according to the majority, but if doubts shall arise they shall be settled by ballot.

Duty of
Officers.

The presiding Officer is invested with full power and authority to preserve silence, order and decorum,
and



and to check all irregularity ; to impose Fines at his discretion, not exceeding *One Shilling* for each offence.

The Secretary is to keep a Book with a correct list of all the Members, by whom proposed, the time admitted and the sum paid ; he shall at each stated meeting of the Society, take a correct list of all the Members present and absent, and carefully insert all payments made and debts due by absentees ; in case of any extra meeting, he is to summon all Members that can possibly attend ; he shall keep a regular entry of all bye-laws or regulations of the Society from time to time ; he shall have charge of all Books and Papers of the Society ; he shall be a constant Member of the Committee of Charity, and shall aid and assist in entering all their proceedings in a Book for that purpose, and shall at every annual meeting of the Society in *February*, lay such Book before them, accounting for all relief granted to persons in districts during the year, with the present state of the persons so relieved, which, when approved by the Society, he will enter in their proceedings ; he will keep a public subscription Book, where the names of all charitable disposed persons who may think fit to subscribe for the benefit of the Charity will be entered, together with communications from the other persons of the Society authorized to receive Subscriptions or Donations. As the Secretary must necessarily devote much time and trouble to his duty, he shall be exempted from paying his Quarterly dues ; he shall be paid *Two Guineas* annually for his attendance on the Committee of Charity from the Funds ; he shall receive from each Member for the copy of the Rules and Constitution *Two Shillings* and *Six Pence*, and for every Certificate granted, *Five Shillings*.

The

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The President, Vice-President and their Assistants—the Committee of Charity—the Committee of Review and Correspondence, together with the Secretary, are alone authorized by the Society to receive Subscriptions or charitable Donations in its name—the names of the Subscribers to be handed to the Secretary in writing, and also the Monies received to be paid the Treasurer on account of the Society as soon as possible.

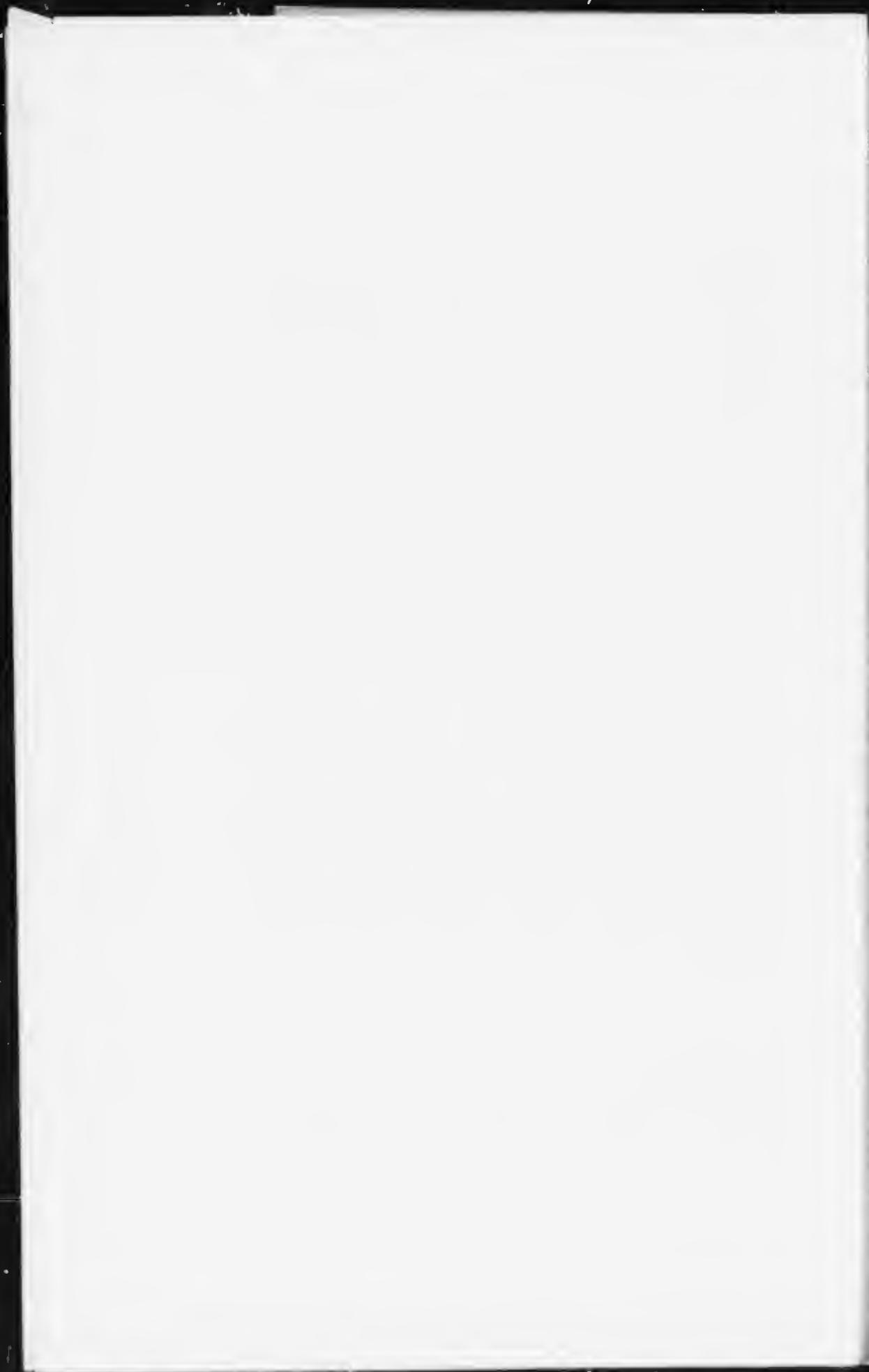
Books for
Charitable
Donations.

The Treasurer shall hold all the Money of the Society unappropriated in his hands, he signing and sealing an instrument in writing, declaring the uses; and giving the Secretary a receipt for the amount thereof. When it shall be deemed necessary by a majority of the Society to vest surplus Money in the Funds, or lend it to a Member at interest, the Treasurer of the Society, with two other Members chosen by the majority, shall be considered as Trustees for such investment, and such sums shall be securely placed for the sole use and benefit of the charitable intentions of this Society. All receipts and payments shall be made by the Treasurer, and his Books shall be exhibited to the Society at each meeting, correctly stating all receipts and payments, and on the annual meeting he shall lay before the Society an abstract of all the Accounts, shewing the state of the Funds. When the Treasurer shall have *Twenty Pounds* in hand, he shall report to the President, who will at the next meeting inform the Society thereof.

Treasurer.

The Funds will consist of the entrance Fee from Members—the Donations of charitable and well disposed persons, in addition to which each Member will pay *Four Shillings and Six Pence* per quarter, towards the Funds of the Society.—The Funds it is hoped

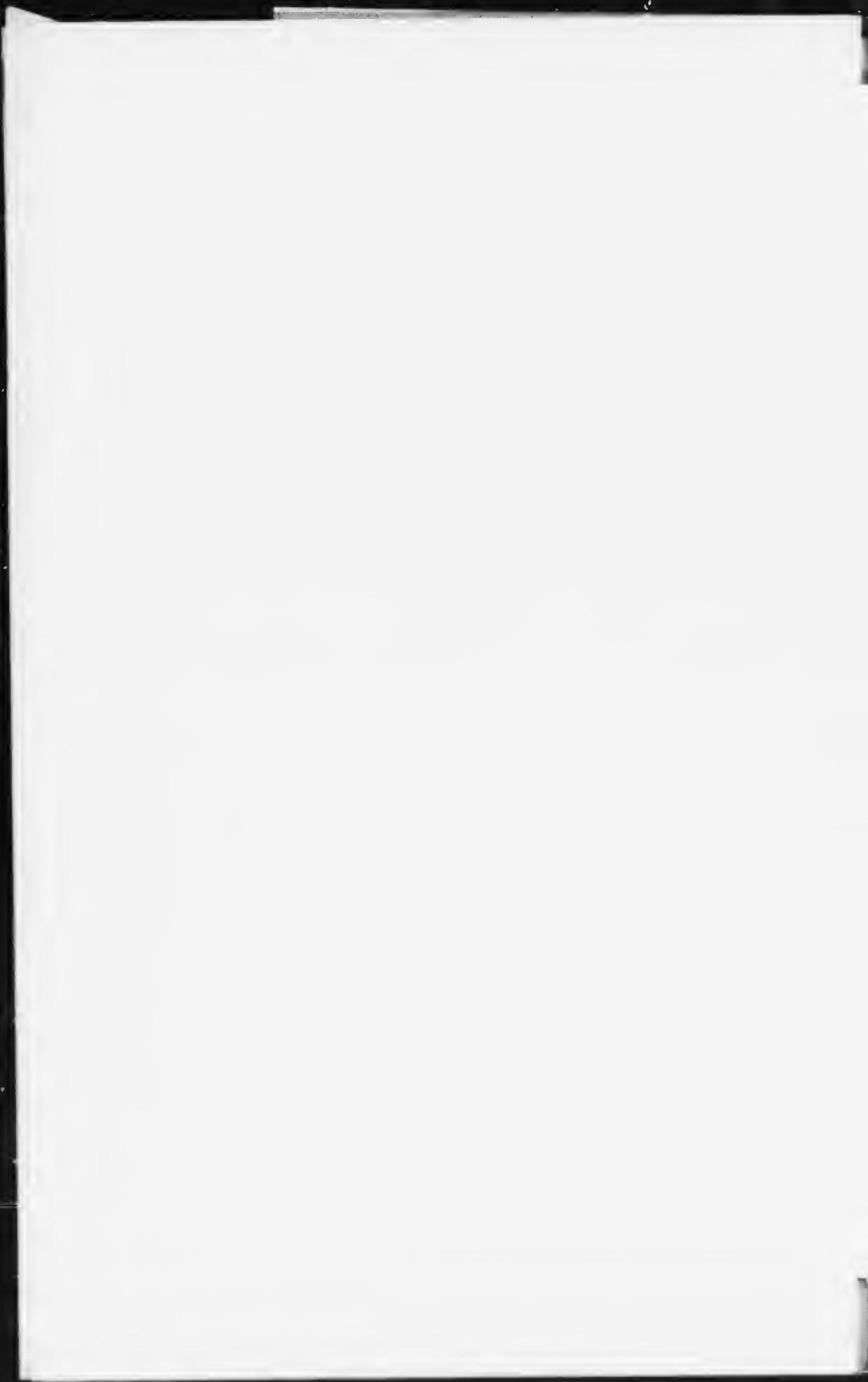
Funds.



hoped will exceed the expences—All Monies so arising shall be placed at Interest, at the option of the majority of the Society, whether placed in the public Funds or lent to Members on good security.

Notes for Annual Charity. The Society shall at each annual meeting in *February*, devote such sums as the majority shall think their Funds can afford, to the Committee of Charity, to fulfil the benevolent intentions of the Society.

Committee of Charity. The Committee of Charity shall consist for the present of five Members, beside the Secretary, which shall be chosen annually by the majority of the Society. This Committee shall meet as often as it shall think necessary, and shall distribute the relief of the Society to such persons as they shall think deserving, keeping a correct account for the Society of the relief voted: no relief to be granted but by a majority of the Committee, and in case of difficulty or disagreement, it is to be referred to the President. The Committee shall attend carefully to the claims of the Children of Parents, whose vices or misfortunes prevent their supporting their offspring, to place such Children out to good Masters, so that they may become good and useful members of the community—to relieve the aged, the infirm, and those who from accident or misfortune are unable to resort to labour for their support, and to encourage Industry by the aid of the Funds of the Society, when they can be made really conducive thereto—to check Vice and Immorality. At the discretion of this Committee relief will be afforded by the Society when the Funds admit thereof to the unfortunate of all nations, as general Philanthropy is the object of the Society as far as possible. This Committee is also required to
communicate



communicate with all other Charitable Institutions in this Island, and to exchange lists of the objects presented for Charity, with the relief granted to prevent imposition, and to obtain information of distressed persons, in order to give assistance as far as the Funds of this Society will admit. This Committee has full power to draw from the Treasurer as they require it, the sum voted for the Charity of the year.

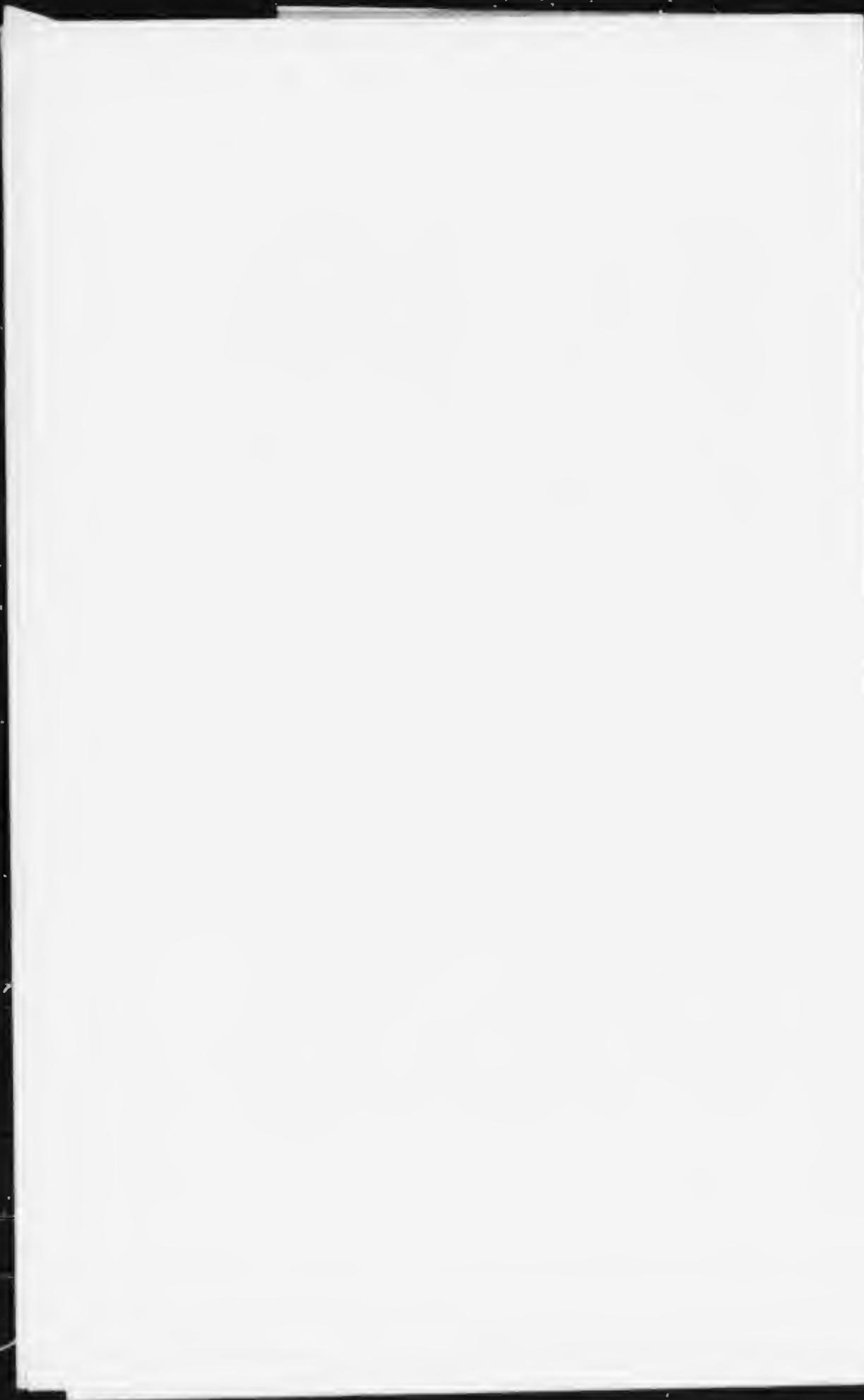
The Committee of Review and Correspondence will consist of three Members resident in this Town, and of as many Members at Out-ports as shall from time to time be admitted by the Society: it is the duty of this Committee to explain to the benevolent and humane, the nature of the Society and the object it has in view: it shall receive communications from all Members, and all others which has a tendency to promote the welfare of the Institution and hold Correspondence with its Members at Out-ports, to further the Benevolent views of the Society.

Committee
of Review
& Correspondence.

The 17th day of *February*, the 17th day of *May*, the 17th of *August*, and the 17th of *November*; these are considered as the stated times of Meeting, at each of which each Member of the Society pays *Four Shillings* and *Six Pence*, termed Quarterly dues, and *One Shilling* to defray the expence of the Meeting; but as the Fishery and other necessary avocations, may preclude Members from attending all the Meetings, such Members must state the cause of non-attendance to the President, which if deemed a sufficient excuse by a majority of the Society, it will be admitted.—Any Member who absents himself without a sufficient cause shall be fined *One Shilling* for each offence; but Members of this Society, who

Quarterly
Meetings.

from

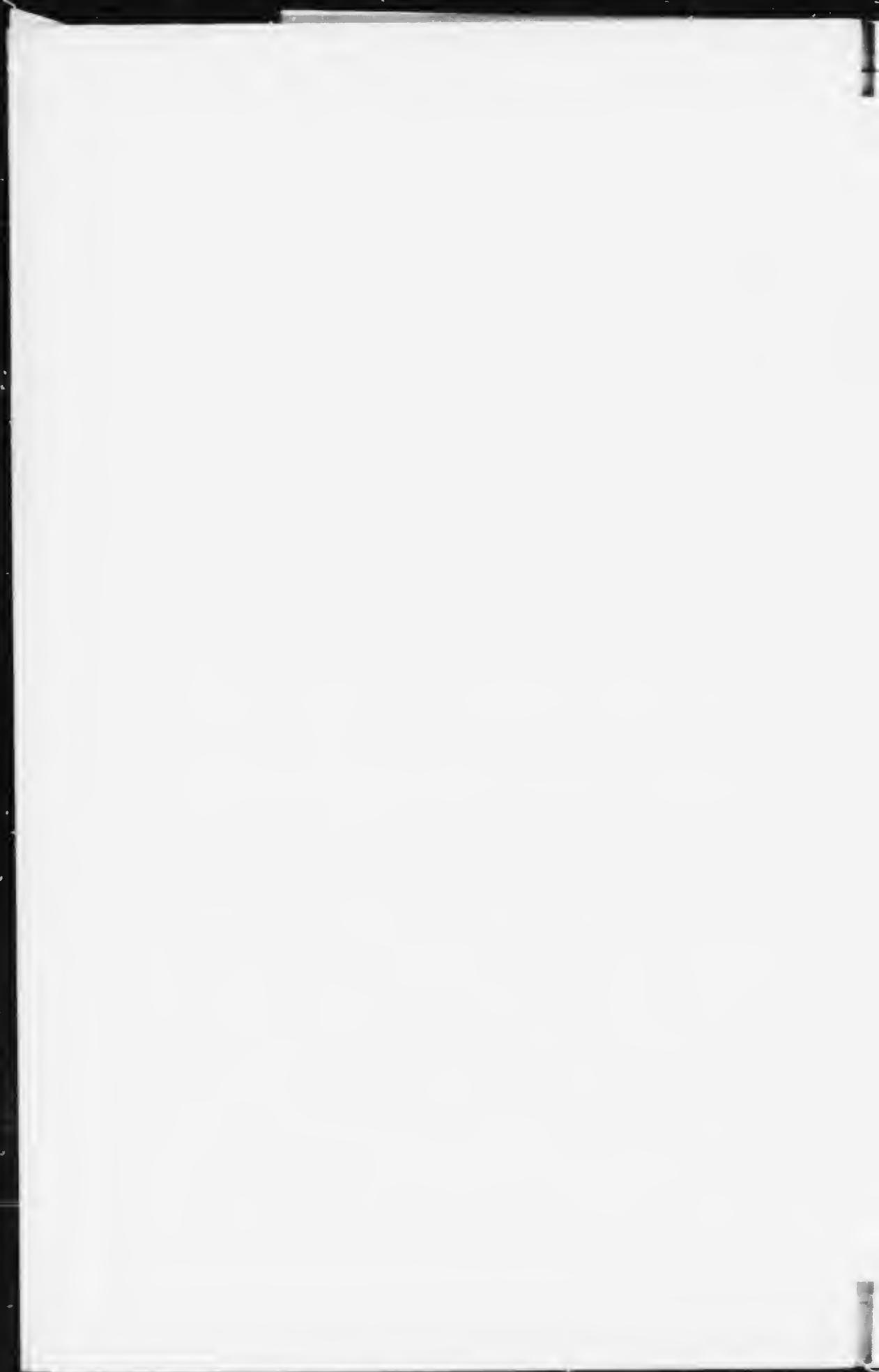


from various calls of life quit this Island, and are absent from it more than one year, shall on their quitting, write and state their probable absence to the President, such Members shall be exempt from paying dues till they return, they then must pay for their first year of absence; but any Member resident in this Island, who shall neglect to pay his dues within the year, that is to say, from one Annual meeting to the other, shall at the ensuing Quarterly meeting on the 17th *May*, be reported by the Secretary and struck off the list of Subscribers, stating the reason; and he shall not be re-admitted, but by a majority of Votes in his favour, paying one half the annual Subscription as a Fine, in addition to his Quarterly dues in arrear.

Annual
Festival.

Thoroughly sensible of the blessings of the Christian Religion, the Society will celebrate their annual Festival the 17th day of *March*, being the day that immemorial custom has set apart for the commemoration of the Holy ST. PATRICK, who first preached the Christian Religion to our Ancestors.—On that day the Members of the Society are to wear on their breasts a sprig of the Shamrock which many of the first Christians wore as a symbol of their belief in our Holy Religion, it having been used by ST. PATRICK as a type to explain to his hearers a part of our Religious ceremonies. If the 17th of any of the Quarterly Meetings or of the Festival happens on a Sunday, it shall take place on the day following.—The mode of celebrating the Festival annually, to be regulated at the Meeting on the 17th *February*.

As the prosperity of the Society will entirely depend on the good conduct of the Members, it is fit
the



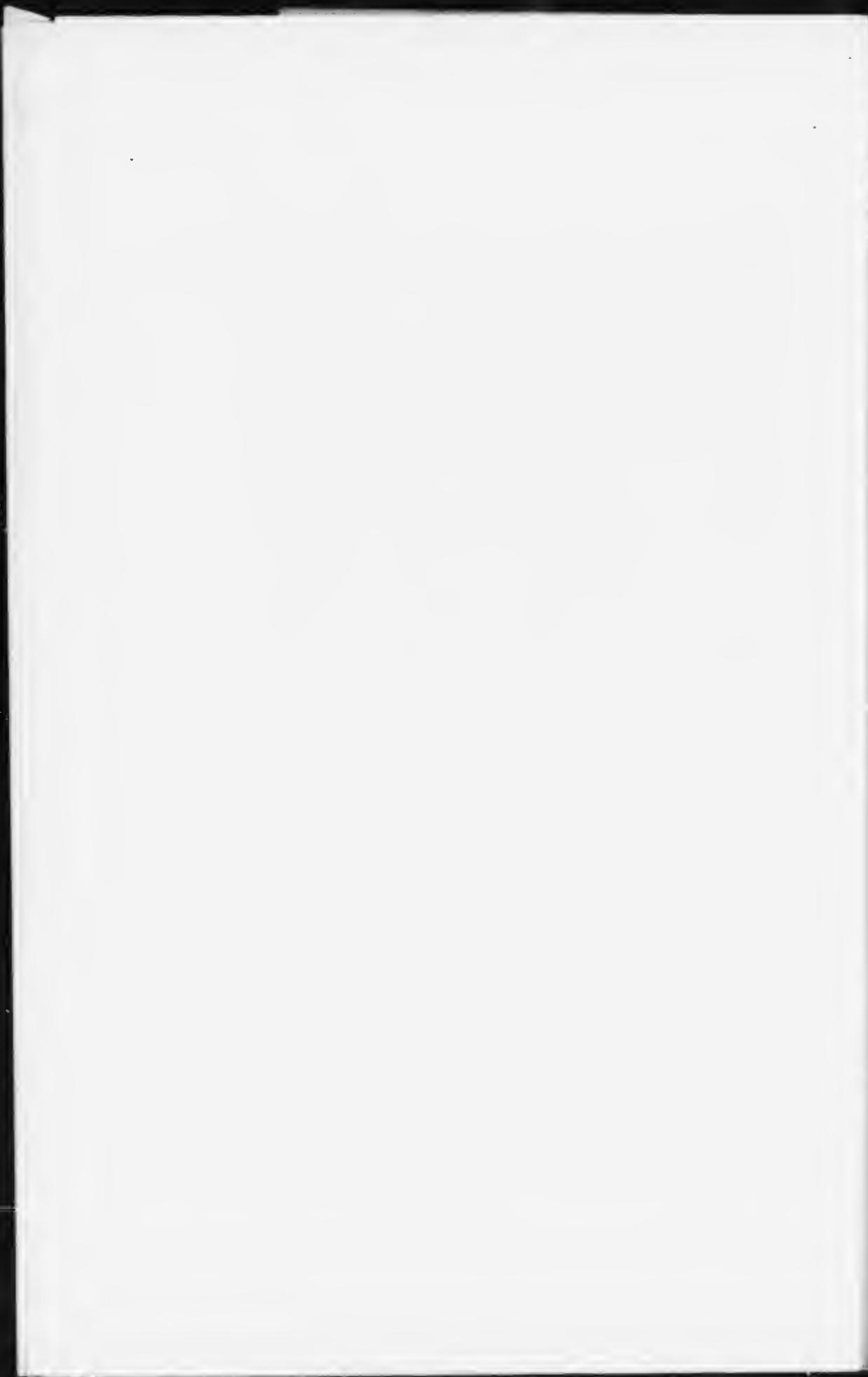
the Rules and Constitution should be minutely attended to ; it is therefore the duty of all Members to aid and assist the Officers of the Society in their respective duties, to be as punctual as possible in their attendance of the Meetings of the Society, and in all respects to promote its welfare—they are in all cases to behave as good and Loyal subjects, zealously to exert themselves in support of the Laws of our Country, to avoid all controversy on Religious or Political subjects, to conduct themselves with kindness and friendship to their brother Members, and to promote harmony and good will in the Society.—Finally, it is the duty of every Member by his punctual attendance at the Service of the several Religious Societies to which they belong, and by the regularity of their lives to set a good example to others, and thereby encourage the well disposed to unite in the support of a Society that has no other object in view but to succour the distressed and promote Benevolence and good will to all Men.

Duty of
Members.

On Public days the Officers of the Society will wear a Sash with the Harp and Crown, agreeable to usage in all Irish Societies ; these, together with the Seal and Books necessary, are to be paid for from the Funds of the Society, and to be considered their property.

Badge.

It is fully understood and hereby made a permanent Law of this Society, that no person having once subscribed as a Member, shall withdraw himself from the Society without the consent of the President, to whom he must address himself in writing, stating his reasons for so doing, which if deemed sufficient, he shall be intitled to apply for his Certificate. Any
Member



Member withdrawing himself in opposition to this Rule, his case shall be reported to the Society, and his Name struck off the list as an *expelled Member*.

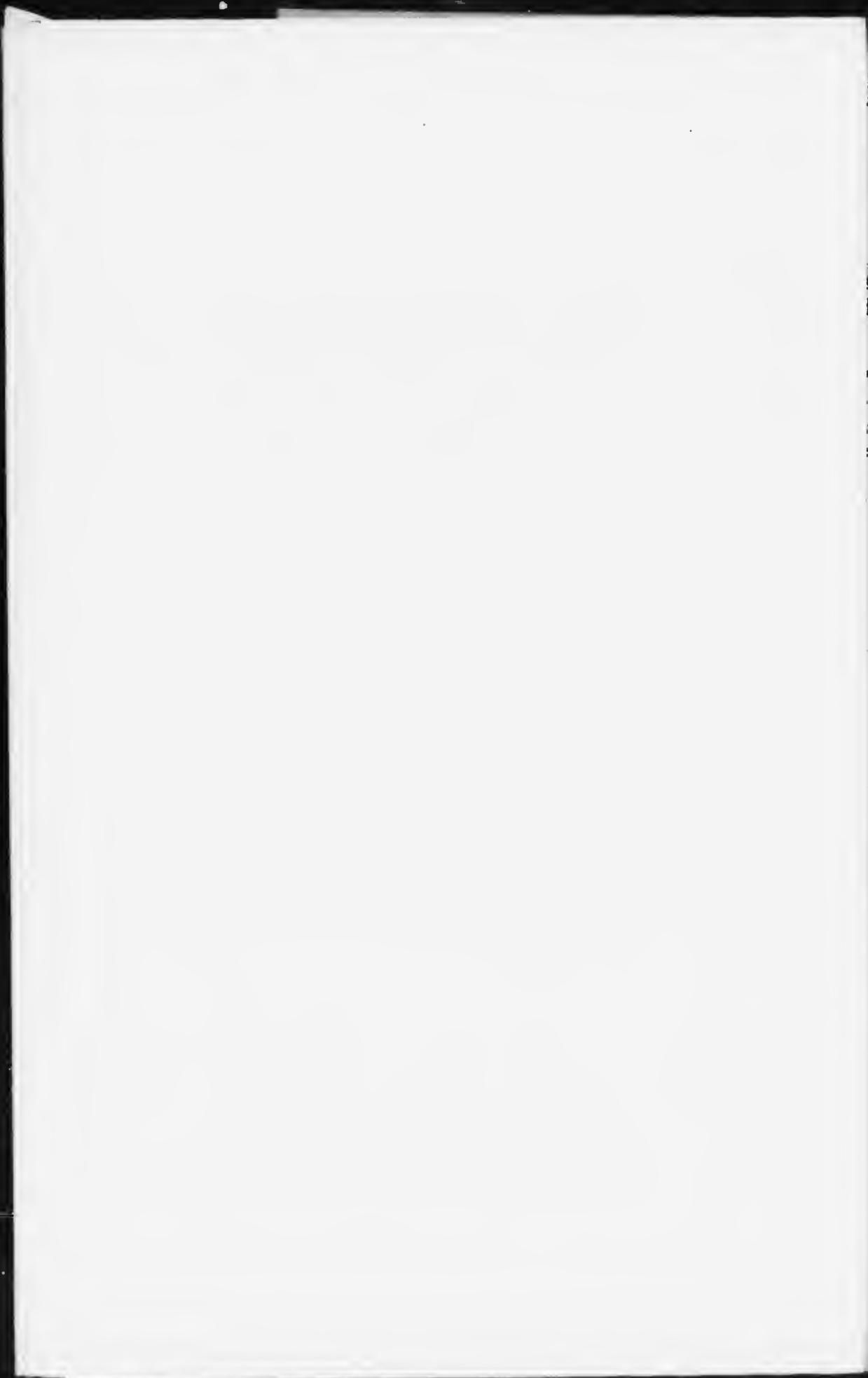
It is also made a permanent Law revocable only by five-sixths of all subscribing Members agreeing thereto, that this Society shall not be dissolved or broken, or its Funds otherwise applied or used but for the purposes above declared in our Rules and Constitution, and no vote or votes of any particular number of this Society, shall in any way have power over the Funds or other property of this Society, except as directed in the Rules and Constitution, as "Votes for Annual Charity;"—but it is to be fully and clearly understood, that two-thirds of the subscribing Members are present at each Meeting, they can only have power to vote as far as the Annual income of the Society may amount to—but Money funded or at interest for the Society, cannot be taken but by the consent of two-thirds of the subscribing Members.

Mode of
enacting
bye-Laws.
All bye-Laws or Regulations must be passed by a majority of votes at the Meeting at which it is proposed, and may continue in force until the Annual meeting in *February*, when it is to be submitted to the Society, and if approved, entered in its Records.

(Signed)

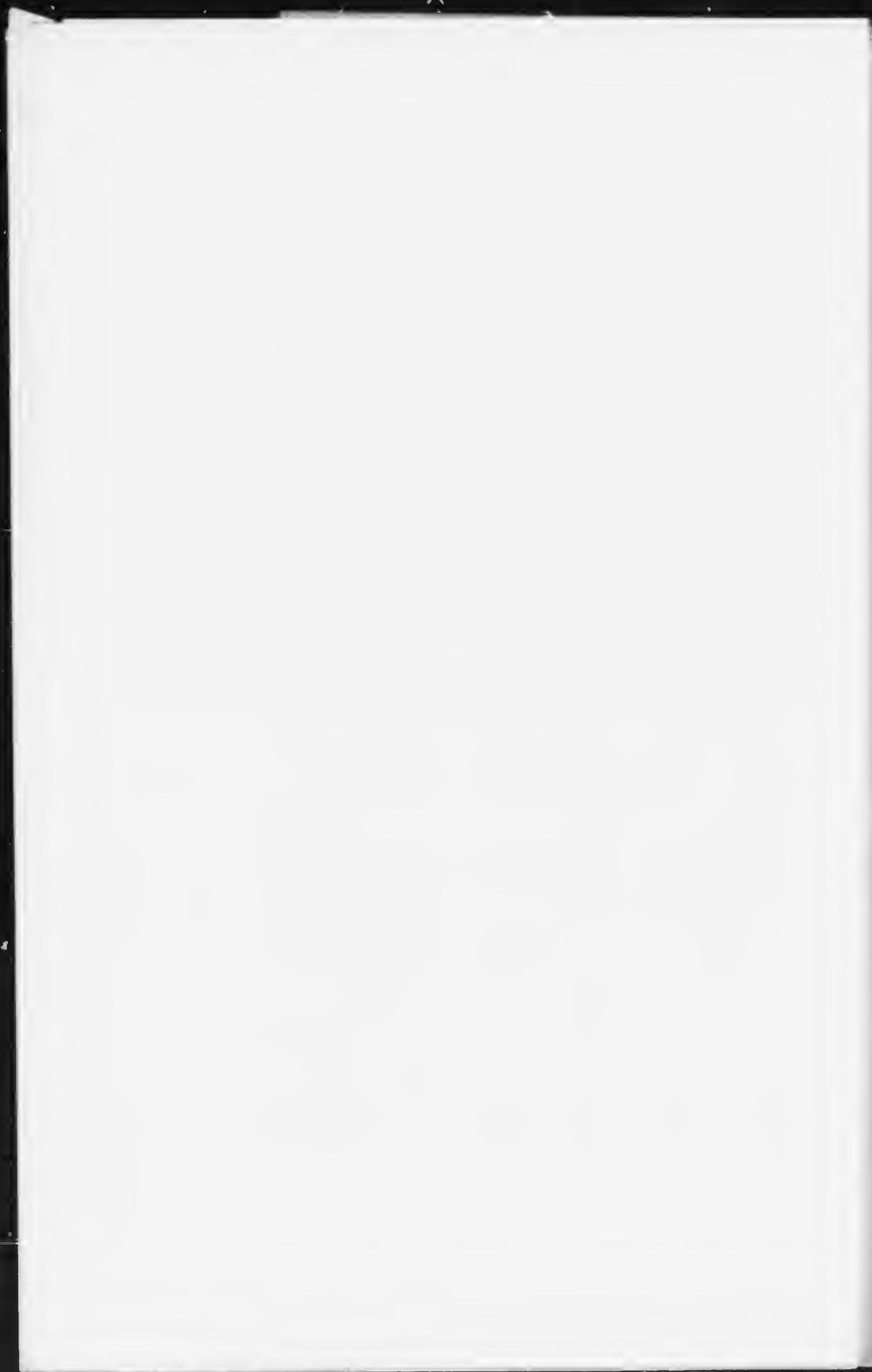
John Murray,
John M'Killop,
Joseph Church,
Winckworth Tonge,
James Macbraire.

A Meeting of the Members of the BENEVOLENT
IRISH SOCIETY was requested and held at the LON-
DON



DON TAVERN, in *St. John's*, on Monday the 17th
 of *February*, when it was requested that the Right
 Reverend Doctor O'DONEL would take the Chair,
 when Capt. WINCKWORTH TONGE, in the name
 of the Committee, presented and by leave read the
 Rules and Constitution compiled and framed by the
 Committee, when the following Subscribers unani-
 mously approved, ratified, and bound themselves by
 their signatures to support and obey in all things, and
 to their utmost power maintain inviolate.

James O'Donel,	Thos. Costello,	James Readigan,
Mich. O'Donel,	Pat. Redmond,	Mich. Mara,
Fade Goff,	Mich. Murphy,	James Power,
Thomas Ryan,	William Walth,	Mich. Farrel,
Dan. Coughlan,	John Brophy,	Gar. Meade,
Wm. Elmes,	William Kieley,	Thomas Codd,
David Duggan,	Tim. Flannery,	John Briscoe,
Patrick Ryan,	Edw. Condon,	Lt. Bowerman,
Luke Maddock,	William Power,	Robt. Hammel,
Thos. Meagher,	James Leane,	Adj. Moore,
Joseph Power,	Wm. M'Carthy,	William Haly,
John Murray,	Pat. Warren,	W. Armstrong,
John Dowley,	Mich. Kelly,	James Foaley,
Pat. M'Grath,	John Murphy,	Daniel Tracey,
Ant. Godfrey,	W. Mahon,	Corn. Quirk,
John Wall,	Dan. Ryan,	Mich. Murphy,
John Scott,	Pat. Douglafs,	Wm. Morley,
T. Mullowney,	John Murphy,	John Chancey,
William Walth,	Mat. Gleeson,	John Flood,
Edward Molloy,	Joseph Costello,	Laurence Kieley,
Jere. Hearn,	Henry Shea,	W. Mullowney,
John Power,	James Murphy,	Pat. Murphy,
John Ryan,	Pat. Flannery,	Dennis Murphy,
Den. Kennedy,	John Phelan,	Mich. Walth,
Barring. Perrin,	Pat. Walth,	The



The Society then proceeded to the election of its Officers agreeable to the Rules, when the following Gentlemen were proposed and unanimously chosen to fill the Offices and Committees, as set opposite their Names.

Capt. Winckworth Tonge,	President.
Lieut. Col. John Murray,	Vice-President.
Mr. Joseph Church,	1st Assistant.
Lieut. John M'Killop,	2d do.
Mr. Henry Shea,	Secretary.
James Macbraire, Esq.	Treasurer.

COMMITTEE of CHARITY.

William Elmes, Esq.	1st Member.
Major William Haley,	2d do.
Doctor David Duggan,	3d do.
Mr. Fade Goff,	4th do.
Mr. John Murray,	5th do.

The Right Rev. Doctor O'DONEL, unanimously voted as a permanent Honorary Member of this Committee.

COMMITTEE of REVIEW and CORRESPONDENCE.

Rev. Mr. Mich. O'Donel,	1st Member.
Doctor Coughlan,	2d do.
Mr. Patrick Ryan,	3d do.
Lieut. John M'Killop, R. N.	an Honorary Member.

No part of the foregoing Rules and Regulations is to be rescinded, or any new ones made, except passed the

by the majority at the Annual meeting, unless it shall appear that at a Quarterly meeting a majority of the Committee is present when the alteration may be proposed, and if approved, it is then to be submitted to the Magistrates in Session, and if finally approved, by them recorded; and is then to be considered part of the standing Rules and Regulations.

An Act of Parliament having been passed for legalising and protecting all friendly Societies associated for Benevolent purposes, and requiring that they submit their Rules and Regulations to the Magistrates assembled in Sessions, to be by them approved and entered on the Records of the Court.

The BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY, desiring to place themselves under the protection of the Laws so provided, submit the foregoing Rules and Regulations,

WINCKWORTH TONGE, *President,*
B. I. S.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

ST. JOHN'S, } *At the General Quarter Ses-*
to wit. } *sions of the Peace of our Lord the King,*
holden in and for the said District, on the fifteenth day
of APRIL, in the forty-sixth year of the reign of our
Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of
God, of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and
Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith; and in the year
of our LORD, One thousand Eight hundred and Six,
before

before THOMAS COOTE, Esquire, the Reverend JOHN HARRIES, CLERK, JOHN RENNELL, and JOHN BROOME, Esquires, Justices of our Lord the King, assigned to keep the Peace, and also to hear and determine divers Felonies, Trespasses and Misdemeanors, within the Island and District aforesaid committed, &c. &c. &c.

The foregoing Rules and Regulations for instituting a Friendly Society, having been this day presented to the Magistrates, assembled at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, for the District of SAINT JOHN'S, for their approval and concurrence, the same were accordingly approved, and ordered to be entered on the Records of the Court.

Per. Cur.

LIONEL CHANCEY,
Clerk of the Peace.

