

#1
Rules and Orders
agreed upon, by the
Irish Society
in New England for the Management
of their
Charity.

Whereas, Several Gentlemen, Merchants, and Others, of the Irish Nation residing in Boston in New England, from an Affectionate and Compassionate concern for their Countrymen in these Parts, who may be reduced by Sickness, Shipwrack, Old age and other Infirmities and unforeseen Accidents, Have thought fit to form themselves into a Charitable

concern for their Countrymen in these Parts, who may be reduced by Sickness, Shipwrack, Old age and other Infirmities and unforeseen Accidents, Have thought fitt to form themselves into a Charitable Society, for the Relief of such their poor and indigent Countrymen; without any Design of not contributing towards the Provision of the Town Poor in general as usual: And the said Society being now in it's Minority, it is to be hoped and expected, that all Gentlemen, Merch^{ts} and others of the Irish Nation, or Extraction, residing in, or trading to these Parts, who are lovers of Charity and their Countrymen, will readily come into and give their Assistance to so laudable an undertaking; and for the due Regulation and Management of said intended Charity, the Society, on the 5th day of March, in the Year 1737. agreed on the following Rules and Orders:

I. This Charity is intended and to be appropriated to and for the Relief of Poor, aged, and infirm Persons, and such as have been reduced by Sickness, Shipwrack, and other accidental Misfortunes, Contributors, who may by such Misfortunes become Objects to be always first preferred.

II. All persons of evil Fame or Reputation, are to be excluded as unworthy this Charity, and also all Persons reduced in other Countries and having suffered no Misfortune in their Passage hither shall not be deemed Objects of this Charity; and all Irish Men, or of Irish Extraction, being capable and invited to joyn in this Charitable undertaking, and refusing the same, are to be for ever excluded the Benefit thereof.

III. In order to raise a Stock for such Charitable Uses every Member on his Admission into said Society, shall pay the sum of Ten Shillings at least, and shall Quarterly contribute the sum of Two Shillings: And all further Donations and Benefactions of the Members and other well-disposed Persons towards forwarding the Stock of the Society, shall be thankfully received, and Entered into the Society's Books, with the Names of the Donors.

III. That in order to regulate the Admission of Members into said Society, every Person that shall from time to time desire to be admitted a Member thereof, shall first apply to the Managers of said Society, at their Monthly Meeting, and obtain their Consent, which Con-

the Distribution of the same, as by a Majority of Voters at their annual Meeting, shall from time to time be agreed on.

VII. That all Applications for Relief, or Charity, shall be by Petition in Writing, the Allegations thereof, to be in the Knowledge of Two or more of the Members, and to be given into the Managers four Weeks at least before the Quarterly Meeting: and for all sums to the amount of Forty Shillings, or upwards, to be given as Charity to any one Person a Bond, or Note for the same shall be taken, payable when able, which Bond, or Note shall be payable to the Treasurer of said Society, and his Successors; and the Majority of Voters at their Quarterly Meetings, shall determine who are the proper Objects of said Charity, or any ways intitled to same.

VIII. The Managers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, three Assistants, and Three Key-keepers, with a Servitor to attend the Society's Service; the Managers to be Natives of Ireland, or Natives of any other Part of the British Dominions of Irish Extraction, being Protestants, and Inhabitants of Boston.

IX. That there shall be an Annual Meeting at Boston on the second Tuesday of April every Year at such place as the Managers shall

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Natives of any other Part of the British Dominions of Irish Extraction,
being Protestants, and Inhabitants of Boston.

IX. That there shall be an Annual Meeting at Boston on the Se-
cond Tuesday of April every Year, at such place as the Managers shall
appoint for the Election of Managers for the following Year, and for
inspection into the former Year's Management, and also three more Quar-
terly Meetings on the Second Tuesday of July, Second Tuesday of
October, and Second Tuesday of January, for the admission of Mem-
bers, collecting and disposing of Charity and for the making such orders
and Rules as from Time to Time may be expedient for the due Regula-
tion of said Society.

X. That at the Annual or Quarterly Meetings, the President or
Vice President being in the Chair, the Rules are to be read before any Bu-
siness is to be entered upon, and no Affair of Consequence to be offered
but what has been previously under the Deliberation of the Managers at
some private Meeting by themselves; every Affair or Question to be determined
by a Majority of the then present Voters, except in abrogating any of these
Rules, or in giving any sum of Money exceeding the sum of Forty Shill-
to any one person; in these Cases, two thirds of the Voters to agree thereto,
and

be admitted a Member thereof, shall first apply to the Managers of said Society, at their Monthly Meeting, and obtain their Consent, which Consent shall be notified to the Society at their Quarterly Meeting, to be approved or rejected by the Majority of Voters, every such Person on his Admission, paying, and contributing, as in the foregoing Article is expressed.

V. That as soon as the Stock shall amount to the Sum of Fifty Pounds, that then ^{the} same shall be punctually put to Interest, and the Interest arising thereby, and by all future Sums, shall be distributed to the proper Objects of this Charity, so that the Stock may always remain intire.

VI. That as soon as the Interest of the Stock shall amount to Twelve Pounds p: Annum, that then the Members of said Society, at their Quarterly Meeting, (a Majority of the Residenters being present) may order a Sum not exceeding the Interest of the principal to be distributed, and that no person shall receive as Charity out of said Interest, above the Sum of Forty Shillings; and as the said Stock and the Interest thereof may increase, then such further Rules to be made for ordering

and such Members as shall be in arrear of their Contribution for the space of four Quarters successive, to be debarred from their Votes, till they pay the Contribution so in Arrear: And none but Contributors to have Votes in said Society.

XI. That in order to make the true state of the Stock appear there shall be chosen every Year at the Quarterly Meeting immediately preceding the said Anniversary Meeting (a Committee) to consist of five Members to inspect the Transactions of the Managers of that Year and to examine the Treasurer's Accounts, and to make a Report thereof at the said Anniversary Meeting.

XII. That the Treasurer on his receiving the Society's Stock, Books, &c. shall give in sufficient security to the President, Vice-President, and one Manager, payable to them, and their respective Successors in said several Offices, to render a just and true Account, and to re-deliver the Stock, Books and Writings, with the Improvements and Donations that may happen in his Time, to the next Treasurer or to the Order of the Society; and the Treasurer, or such Person as the Majority of Voters at the Annual Meetings shall appoint is to be Secretary to said Society, and to keep a fair Journal of all Votes, Entries and Donations, and other Affairs of the Society.

Donations that may happen in his Time, to the next Treasurer or to the Order of the Society; and the Treasurer, or such Person as the Majority of Voters at the Annual Meetings, shall appoint is to be Secretary to said Society, and to keep a fair Journal of all Votes, Entries and Donations, and other Affairs of said Society, and to be allowed for the same as by a Majority of Voters at said Meeting shall be adjudged reasonable; and the Treasurer (with Consent of the Managers) shall let out the Stock at Interest to substantial Persons, taking Bond with two Sureties for every sum, which Bond shall be payable to the President, Vice President, or Treasurer, or any of them and their Successors, in their respective Offices, and to be registred, and the Money to be called in, or fresh Security to be entred into upon the Death of any of the persons, Obligors or Obligees and if Interest shall be due on any of said Bonds for the space of three Months after the Time appointed for the Payment thereof then the said Bonds is to be put in Suit; and to prevent all Inconveniencies and keep up a good Harmony in said Society, no Member is to be admitted as a Borrower or Surety.

XIII. The Key-keepers are to attend Gentlemen and others, Natives of Ireland, or of Irish Extraction, residing in these Parts, or Transients, to acquaint them with the Charitable Design, and Nature of this Society, and to invite them to contribute by the Formality of delivering them a Silver Key, with the Arms of Ireland thereon; and if any Persons do refuse the same, they are to return their Names to some subsequent Quarterly Meeting. —

With good Will doing Service.