

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Massachusetts Charitable Society

OF BOSTON;

WITH

NAMES OF THE MEMBERS.

FOUNDED SEPT. 6, 1762.
INCORPORATED MARCH 15, 1780.

Charity seeketh not her own."

BOSTON:
1895.

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MASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Massachusetts Charitable Society.

ORIGINAL BY-LAWS AS ADOPTED IN 1762.

Renewing it to be our duty as Christians to be ready to distribute ; sensible that such is the uncertainty of human affairs that it is no uncommon sight to observe those persons who once lived comfortably greatly reduced, which may as well happen to us as to them, — for this reason, we have formed ourselves into a Society for the relief and assistance of each other under like circumstances. Preamble

In the first place, we desire the smiles of Heaven on this our undertaking ; hoping our whole conduct in life will recommend us to the favor of mankind, and to the blessings of indulgent Providence. That we may proceed orderly, we have agreed to the following Rules ; a strict adherence to which we promise each other : —

This Society shall meet quarterly, on the first Monday in September, December, March and June, at six o'clock in the evening ; and before any other business is entered upon, a Moderator shall be chosen, whose peculiar business shall be to preserve order. Rule 1.
Meetings

Rule II.
Clerks,
Choice of
and
Duties.

At the meeting in September, the Society shall choose their Clerk, whose business shall be to warn the meetings, to keep a fair record of all the notes and orders of the Society, and an account of what money is collected at the several meetings, at the admission of members, &c.

Rule III.
Treasurer,
Choice of
and
Duties.

At the meeting in September, a Treasurer shall be chosen to receive the money collected at the meetings, at the admission of members, or any money which shall be given for the use of the Society. And the said Treasurer shall procure two sufficient bondsmen for the faithful discharge of his trust. And so often as the money in his hands shall amount to thirteen pounds, six shillings, and eight pence, he shall place the same at interest to some substantial person of good repute, but not without two sufficient bondsmen, taking the bond in his own name, for the use of the Society.

Rule IV.
Managers.

At the aforesaid meeting in September, seven Managers shall be chosen to transact affairs between the quarterly meetings; and, provided any member shall become a proper object of charity, shall apply to the Managers in writing, setting forth the nature of his case, who shall give him an order upon the Treasurer for so much money as they shall judge sufficient for his present necessity, not exceeding eight dollars, till the next quarterly meeting; and then the Society shall give him what a majority of the Society shall agree to.

Alms, dis-
bursing of.

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As to the admission of members, no person shall be admitted a member of this Society, unless he obtains more than two-thirds of the votes; and each member, at the time of his entry, shall pay fourteen shillings for the use of the Society. And during his continuance with this Society, shall pay quarterly one shilling and sixpence. And, should it appear that any member shall wilfully neglect to bring or send his quarterly money, he shall forfeit and pay one shilling and sixpence for the use of the Society, besides his quarterly money.

Rule V.
Members,
Admission
and
Dues.

That no member of this Society shall be entitled to any relief until he has belonged to this Society for the space of one year.

Rule VI.
Relief of
Members.

If any member of this Society shall be guilty of profaneness, intemperance, or any other notorious crimes at the quarterly meetings, he shall forfeit and pay one shilling and eight pence for the use of the Society; and provided he repeat the above-mentioned crimes, he shall be discharged from the Society, and be excluded from any relief, unless he be reclaimed; and in such case he may be admitted into the Society again.

Rule VII.
Offence,
Fines,
Forfeits,
etc.

That the widows and orphans of any members of this Society, who are left under necessitous circumstances, shall be entitled to relief from this Society.

Rule VIII.
Relief for
Widows
and
Orphans.

Rule IX.
Malfe-
sance in
Office, fines
for.

That in case any member duly chosen for Clerk of this Society, shall refuse to serve, shall forfeit and pay six shillings for the use of the Society. And provided any Clerk of this Society shall neglect to warn the meetings the Saturday before the quarterly meeting, or keep a fair account of what money is collected, or be guilty of any other wilful negligence or unfaithfulness in his office, shall forfeit and pay four dollars for the use of the Society.

May this Society continue as long as Charity shall be a Virtue !

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RULES

and

Records

of the

Massachusetts Society

founded in

BOSTON, New-England

Sept^r 6. A.D. 1762.