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RIA

Academy Ríogaileach Eireann
Royal Irish Academy

Friendly Brothers of Saint Andrew

TONTINE SOCIETY.

Instituted January.

1848.

RULES, &c.

In the name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity, Amen—"As the love is the fountain of charity," and strictly commanded by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—St. John, c. 13, v. 34, in these words—"A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you; and declares that love is to be the sign by which they were to be known to be His disciples"—v. 35. To prove ourselves Christians, as far as our poor circumstances will allow, we have formed this mutual subscription for relief on the attack of old age, sickness or infirmity, and to administer some relief to the widow and children of such of our fraternity as shall happen to die, to support each and every Member as far as the following rules will admit of:—

RULE 1.—That this Society be denominated "THE FRIENDLY BROTHERS OF ST. ANDREW'S TONTINE SOCIETY," having for its objects the before-recited preamble; and further, that in strict compliance with the laws of our country, and our attachment to the Queen, to use every laudable endeavour to promote our mutual welfare by means of a weekly subscription amongst the Members thereof, a fund may be formed for said purpose, and our success will mainly depend on our unanimity and acquiescence to the rules of this Society to which a Member attaches himself, as well as his submission to the restrictions they enjoin, and the penalties they enact: that the meetings do be holden at the Vestry Room of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, Westland-row, in the City of Dublin, on every Sunday evening, for the purpose of transacting the business of the Society, and nowhere else, unless there be sufficient cause for removing elsewhere.

RULE 2.—That this Society be governed by the following officers:—A Chairman, or President; two Stewards, and a Committee of five Members, who are to act as Auditors.

The Chairman and Stewards to be appointed in rotation as their names appear on the books, and to sit in office for the term of four weeks ; the Members that are to act on Committee to be elected by ballot, on the first Sunday evening in each year : that ten be chosen in the following manner—the President to appoint the first, and the person so appointed to select the next, and so on until the number is chosen, from which five thereof shall be elected by ballot, by the Members present, as a Committee for the year : said Committee shall examine into all matters referred to them, but they shall not put in force nor act on any opinion or agreement of theirs whatever, but shall submit the same to the Society at large ; but no Member who has acted on the Committee for the last previous year shall be compelled to act thereon. Any Member not attending the committee meetings, when duly summoned, will incur a fine of 6d ; or if he or they dont choose to act in office, when duly elected, shall pay a fine of 1s. each officer for such neglect ; they shall examine and audit the books as often as they shall be called upon to do so—at least once a quarter, and report to Society on quarter night the result thereof, or be fined 6d. each for such neglect ; and in case of omission by the Secretary to give the notice required, he shall pay the fines of the Members by reason of his neglect. The Chairman shall exert the highest power given him by these rules to support good order ; during the time of business he shall be treated with the utmost respect, and wear his hat while in the chair, and when addressed it shall be as “ Mr, Chairman ; ” he shall keep a Fine Book in which he shall enter all fines incurred by the Members, and deliver same, regularly signed with his signature, to his successor, or be fined 3d., and shall pay all fines so neglected to be entered by him ; he must give the Secretary the Fine Book at least one week before quarter night, so that the Secretary can enter all fines incurred by the Members in their quarterly bills. If the Chairman neglects to give the Fine Book, as required, he shall pay the fines the Members are liable to : he shall, in every respect, enforce the rules for levying fines ; and as it is essential to the interest and well-being of this Society that the Chairman do his duty, he shall at all times be amenable to the rules, and if found culpable, he shall be fined double for every offence. The out-going Chairman to order the Secretary to notice the next three Members whose names appear on the books, of their time of office ; and in case the Secretary shall neglect to give notice, or misplace, in any manner, the new

Officers he shall pay the fines, they would be liable to as if not taking office, the Chairman and Stewards have the privilege to depose a member in their place any one night during their time of office; but said Chairman, Stewards, or either of them so doing, the Society shall hold them accountable for the conduct of said member or members so substituting them.

RULE 3.—That the duty of the Stewards shall be to regulate and settle all accounts relating to the Society, and give true and honest directions to the Secretary; and in case of any person or persons being proposed, they shall visit such person or person's place of abode during the time that their names lie on the books for admission, and make strict enquiry into the character and conduct of such person or persons, and report same on the meeting night before the ballot; said Stewards neglecting to make such enquiries and such report, shall be fined one shilling for each offence; the first Steward shall keep an account book in which he shall enter all receipts of Society, and the payments made therefrom to sick members; for every mistake or omission in his account he shall be fined three pence; said Steward shall pay all sick and mortality claims. The second Steward shall receive all payments of members which he shall announce to the Secretary and book Steward; his cash must correspond with the Society's Books each night, or be accountable for any deficiency. They shall perform every part of their duty with honesty and integrity, and shall be accountable to the President for their conduct.

RULE 4.—That there be a Secretary chosen from amongst the Members, by a majority, his duty shall be to keep the books and accounts of the Society under the directions of the Stewards; and for every mistake or omission in his accounts he shall be fined three pence; he shall attend all meetings on Society's business, exclusive of the regular meeting nights, or be fined three pence; he shall announce the receipts and expenditure of each quarter on the meeting night following each quarter-night or be fined three pence, and in case of summoning the members he shall give 24 hours, notice (funerals excepted,) or pay the absent member's fines; he shall perform every part of his duty with zeal, and activity, and when called upon give a true and just account to the Society within the space of 14 days, or be fined two shillings; his salary shall be two shillings per member, per annum, to be paid quarterly, and he shall hold his office during good conduct.

RULE 5.—That the Chairman or Stewards, or either of them, for not taking office in their respective turn shall pay a fine of one shilling: in order to procure a due attendance of the officers on the meeting nights of this Society, the following fines shall be strictly adhered to, viz:—not attending at 7 o'clock each night of meeting, two pence; for every half hour's absence during Society

hours, one penny ; and for not attending funerals double the fines of members : there can be no excuse taken but for sickness, confinement for debt, or absence from town on particular business, and the Secretary shall receive a written notice thereof, and in order to procure a meeting of the members, they shall appear on the first Sunday evening in each month, at first roll-call, at half an hour after 7 o'clock, or be fined two pence ; and any member leaving the society room before second roll-call which shall be at 9 o'clock shall be looked upon as if absent for the night, and shall be fined three pence ; there can be no excuse taken, but as above, on written notice to the Secretary, or this rule shall be enforced.

RULE 6.—Any person inclined to become a member of this Society shall be proposed by a Member and seconded by another, one week before he can be ballotted for, and if admitted, he shall pay two shillings and six pence entrance fee, and be out of benefit for three months ; but there shall be no objection to any man on account of his trade or calling, provided he be not a person of a scandalous reputation, or dangerous employment ; and no person can be admitted a member that belongs to any other Society that gives temporal benefit in case of sickness or death, (the Andrean Christian Burial Society excepted,) or that he or his wife exceeds 45 years of age ; or having any infirmity or distemper ; any person entering knowing himself or wife to be under any of the above disqualifications, shall, on discovery, be excluded, and the person seeking admission, shall be examined by the Medical Adviser of the Society, previous to the night of ballot ; and the said person under admission, must deposit the sum of one shilling on the night of proposition, and unless he comes forward on the meeting night to stand his poll ; his deposit money becomes forfeited to the Society ; but in case of rejection, his said one shilling shall be returned. The proposer or seconder shall supply a copy of these rules to be read by, or for the person proposed, as it may enable him to subscribe, the following declaration :—

RULE 7.—That on the night it is intended for the proposed person to stand his poll, he must appear in the Society Room, when the Secretary shall, by order of the President, address him in the following manner :—Mr. I am to inform you, that by virtue of an agreement before we can proceed to ballot for you, you are requested, in the presence of these Members, to answer truly and candidly the following necessary questions—and if at any time hereafter you will be found to enter this Society under the circumstances, or either of them, that shall be pointed out, either here or in our rules at large, you will be excluded, and suffer the forfeiture of all the money you have paid to this Society, and the brother who introduced you, will incur the censure of the brotherhood, as every brother proposing his friend is considered in some degree responsible for the person, by him

introduced ; these are the questions you are to answer :—Are you married ? What's your age ? (If married,) what is your wife's age now ? What is your trade or employment ? Can you safely say and declare that you and your wife is free from any infirmities either in constitution or limbs ; and that to the best of your knowledge that you and your wife are not anywise afflicted or likely to become a burden to this Society ? Are you at present a member of any Society from which you receive temporal benefit in case of sickness or death ? The person answering all these questions to the satisfaction of the Members present, shall be requested to withdraw ; then the President shall proceed to ask the opinion of Society respecting the person then under admission, and it is an indispensable duty incumbent, on every Member, if he knows any cause which he can justly show why a man should not become a Member, then and there to declare it. If there be no objection made, the Members shall proceed to ballot, and the candidate shall be declared a Member if he shall have the votes of the majority of the Members then present, not less than 12 in number ; and if ballotted in, the President shall order the following part of the rule to be read to him, least he should plead ignorance :—Mr.

Take notice that you cannot be in benefit until the expiration of three months, at which time you must have paid your entrance money, which is two shillings and six pence, and all other dues to the Society, or be out of benefit still, and pay a fine of one shilling ; the President, or whom he may appoint, is to count the votes and beans, and no one else, under a fine of two pence for each offence. any Member canvassing a vote, or exposing his bean in voting, shall be fined four pence.

DECLARATION.

I do solemnly declare in the presence of the Almighty God, and this Society, that I will not require benefit therefrom contrary to rule, but will act with justice, and discover any wrong I may know or hear to be done or doing thereto ; and further that I will not get myself proposed or join any other Society that gives temporal benefit in sickness or death, save as in the sixth rule excepted, under pain of expulsion, while I am a Member of this Society.

RULE 8.—That the weekly subscription of each Member shall be seven pence ; six pence to go to the sickness, burial, and divide funds respectively, and the other penny to accumulate as a sinking fund, more fully explained in the rule for that purpose ; and if any Member be four week's payments in arrear, he shall be fined three pence, and one penny per week afterwards until he shall come under the four payments, and on the eighth night he shall be excluded, and forfeit all money paid by him to this Society ; any Member neglecting to pay his quarterly bill, on quarterly days,

which shall be as follows:—the third Sunday in March, June, September, and the Sunday but one before Christmas day, shall, for every such neglect, be fined one shilling, and be out of benefit until said quarterly dues are paid, and must continue his weekly payments; and said quarterly bill must be paid on or before the next quarterly night, or he shall be excluded, and forfeit all money paid into this Society: the Secretary to call over the names of such Members as are under fines or exclusion for non-payment on every night of meeting, that the Members then present may know if they choose to pay it for them. The Stewards shall not receive money after 9 o'clock, only in the aforesaid cases, and then only until the books are closed for the night; but on the meeting night after divide-night each Member shall pay his weekly contributions, or be fined three pence; on the second night, six pence; third night, one shilling; fourth night, one shilling and six pence; fifth night, two shillings; sixth night two shillings and six pence; seventh night three shillings; and on the eighth night, excluded, and forfeit all money paid into this Society by him; but any Member having paid up said three first nights, shall be at liberty to run the three following nights in arrear without fine; but if a Member should be in the country, or out of the kingdom, or in confinement for debt, in any of which events he shall have three months to pay up his arrears, said three months to be computed from the time of such Member's return from the country, or releasement from prison; but any Member as aforesaid shall be exempt from serving any office, provided he sends a written notice to the Secretary stating the circumstances; but if less than five miles from town he cannot be allowed the said indulgence, but in case of sickness he shall, by sending sufficient proof, such as the Society may require; and any Member returning to town, or being released from confinement, shall within twenty four hours afterwards, send a written notice to the Secretary, informing him thereof, or be fined one shilling; and of each Member's entrance fee and weekly sixpenny subscription, such proportions shall be allocated to the sickness and burial funds, respectively as are specified in that behalf in the table hereunto annexed, which has been certified pursuant to 9 and 10 Vic. chap. 27, sec. 13, by Henry Edward Flynn, Esq., actuary, and which the Society hereby adopts; and the residue of such each Member's entrance fee, and sixpenny weekly subscription shall be paid into the divide fund to the credit of that Member, and shall therein accumulate for his benefit.

RULE 9.—That if it should please God to afflict a brother with sickness, disorder, or accident, or that he should be in anywise disabled, so as it is not brought on by the Member's own misconduct, to be thereby unable to work, he shall send and declare his claim to the Secretary in writing, mentioning the day of the week, and the nature of his illness; and no Member to be allowed benefit for such sickness, unless visited by the Doctor of the Society, three days before his claim is sent to the Secretary, and which

claim shall be signed by the Doctor. The three days shall be allowed. The Secretary shall draw out a Visiting Roll, which he shall deliver twenty-four hours after receiving such sick claim to the first Steward, under fine of six pence ; which Steward shall visit such sick brother the day after such declaration, and put said Roll into circulation, by delivering same to the next Visiting Member, or leaving same at his place of abode, before the hour of ten o'clock on the night, preceding his visit, under fine of three pence. Should any Member, not in his turn, forward the said Roll, he shall be fined six pence for every day such Roll is detained, except the sick Member gives up his claim ; and one of the Members shall visit such sick Member once every day, or be fined three pence, except in cases of contagious sickness ; and that each visitor shall give his report in on the next meeting night, or be fined three pence ; and that the sick Member shall report to Society the days he is not visited, or on proof thereof, he shall be fined three pence, for each day so neglected ; the Visiting Member with whom the Roll shall be, on any meeting night, shall produce it in the Society on that meeting night, before nine o'clock, or be fined six pence ; and each sick Member shall send in his sick claim before six o'clock in the afternoon, to entitle him to benefit for that day ; such sick Member, on his recovery, to be allowed two hours each day to take the air, by a written letter of permission from the President ; and on the same day of the week, which said sick declaration shall be made, such sick Member shall be paid his sick pay in one week after, and before the hour of eight o'clock at night, by the first Steward, under fine of six pence, and his money or sick pay shall be eight shillings and seven pence per week, for the first thirteen weeks of his disorder, and should it continue, he shall be allowed four shillings and seven pence per week, for the next thirteen weeks ; then he shall be paid from the Sinking Fund, two shillings and seven pence per week, for the rest of his illness ; but any Member who shall report himself sick give up his claim, and afterwards report himself a second or third time for the same illness, each week's benefit, in respect of such previous sickness, shall be added and included in the thirteen weeks as aforesaid ; and if the weeks so added alone, or with any weeks of the subsequent benefit, shall make together one or two periods of thirteen weeks, such sick Member shall then be reduced to the next lower benefit.

RULE 10.—That if any Member, while on the sick pay of this Society, shall be found to work at his trade or employment, or any other business, or if he shall buy or sell any wares or commodities, whereby any benefit may arise to himself or family, from the putting in of his claim, to the withdrawing the same, said Member shall be excluded, if it shall seem fit to a majority of the society ; or any Member who shall be found gaming, quarrelling, drunk, or sitting up late at night, shall for every such offence forfeit his claim, together with one week's benefit. If any Member, being in the country, shall claim benefit during his absence, he shall send