

# BY-LAWS

OF THE

## STABILITY LODGE

OF

## FREEMASONS

No. 522.

STOURBRIDGE.

ESTABLISHED A. D. 1849.

Stourbridge :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF J. HEMING, HIGH STREET.

## NAMES OF OFFICERS FOR

1850-51.

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BROTHER CHARLES CURRAN .....	W.M.
BROTHER ROBERT MARTIN .....	S.W.
BROTHER W. JONES PRINGLE .....	J.W.
.....	CHAPLAIN.
BROTHER SAMUEL CALDWALL HASSALL...	TREASURER.
BROTHER JOSEPH HEMING.....	SECRETARY.
BROTHER JOSEPH ASTON.....	S.D.
BROTHER EDWARD PETERS .....	J.D.
.....	M.C.
BROTHER W. J. CROTCH.....	I.G.
.....	STEWARD.
BROTHER W. C. ROBINSON .....	TYLER.

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## OFFICERS

1851-2.

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W.M.  
 P.M.  
 S.W.  
 J.W.  
 CHAPLAIN.  
 TREASURER.  
 SECRETARY.  
 S.D.  
 J.D.  
 M.C.  
 I.G.  
 STEWARD.  
 TYLER.

## OFFICERS,

1852-3.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

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## OFFICERS,

1853-4.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

## OFFICERS,

1854-5.

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W.M.  
 P.M.  
 S.W.  
 J.W.  
 CHAPLAIN.  
 TREASURER.  
 SECRETARY.  
 S.D.  
 J.D.  
 M.C.  
 I.G.  
 STEWARD.  
 TYLER.

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## OFFICERS,

1855-6.

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W.M.  
 P.M.  
 S.W.  
 J.W.  
 CHAPLAIN.  
 TREASURER.  
 SECRETARY.  
 S.D.  
 J.D.  
 M.C.  
 I.G.  
 STEWARD.  
 TYLER.

## OFFICERS,

1856-7.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

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## OFFICERS,

1857-8.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

**OFFICERS,**

1858-9.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

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**OFFICERS,**

1855-63.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

OFFICERS,

1860-1.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

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OFFICERS,

1861-2.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

## OFFICERS,

1862-3.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

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## OFFICERS,

1863-4.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.



## OFFICERS,

1864-5.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

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## OFFICERS,

1865-6.

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W.M.  
P.M.  
S.W.  
J.W.  
CHAPLAIN.  
TREASURER.  
SECRETARY.  
S.D.  
J.D.  
M.C.  
I.G.  
STEWARD.  
TYLER.

# BY - LAWS .

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1. We acknowledge the supremacy of the united Grand Lodge of England, and bind ourselves to observe the laws laid down in the Book of Constitutions, issued to the fraternity by its authority.

Supremacy of  
Grand Lodge.

2. The Lodge shall meet at the Vine Hotel, Stourbridge, on the third Tuesday in each month, at four o'clock, post-meridian, or at such other hour as the master may direct; and no brother shall be permitted to enter the Lodge Room unless he is properly clothed as a Mason and leave his signature with the Tyler. All visitors shall express what Lodge they belong to.

Meetings of  
Lodge.

Members & visi-  
tors to be clothed  
and sign Book.

3. The Master, Treasurer, and Tyler, shall be elected by ballot at the regular Lodge held in January; at the following regular Lodge the Master shall be installed, and afterwards he shall appoint and invest his Officers.

Election of Mas-  
ter, and Treas-  
urer.

4. Every Candidate for initiation in this Lodge shall be proposed by one Brother and seconded by another, who shall deliver his name, age, profession, and residence to the Master in open Lodge, and at the same time deposit one guinea, which sum shall be allowed out of the initiation fee, provided such gentleman shall be approved of by a ballot, to take place on the ensuing Lodge Night. If not approved of, the deposit shall be returned. But should the Candidate neglect to attend to be initiated for three regular Lodge Nights, the deposit shall be forfeited and become the property of the Lodge, unless a satisfactory reason can be assigned for such delay.

Candidates, how  
proposed, and  
proposition fee.

Forfeiture of  
deposit.

Joining fee.

5. That the joining fee of this Lodge be ten shillings and sixpence, including the registering fee, and that any Brother wishing to join be proposed and seconded agreeably to the foregoing Article.

Two negatives on ballot to exclude.

6. No Candidate for initiation, or Brother wishing to join this Lodge can be received, or again proposed in this Lodge for the space of twelve months, if there be two negatives upon the ballot.

Initiation fee.

7. The initiation fee shall be four pounds, five shillings and sixpence, which shall include the registering fee, Grand Lodge Certificate, and Book of Constitution.

Subscription fee.

8. That the subscription of each member to this Lodge, shall be two shillings and sixpence per night, *id est*, one shilling and sixpence for supper, and one shilling for Grand Lodge dues, &c. Brother Ford, the Landlord for the time being of the Hotel at which the Lodge will meet, to be guaranteed the sum of one shilling and sixpence each for twelve members, and if above that number the like sum of one shilling and sixpence each; also three shillings per night for servants.

Number guaranteed to Landlord.

Members in arrears not to vote.

9. No member shall be considered eligible to vote on any question or matter, whose subscriptions shall be in arrear three months; after which time he shall be written to by the Secretary, and should they remain unpaid for six months, the name of the member so in arrear shall be erased from the books of the Lodge, and he shall be rendered ineligible again to rejoin this Lodge, except upon payment of all the previous arrears up to the time of his having been discontinued from the Lodge, and the usual joining fee.

Exclusion of members in arrears.

10. No visitor shall be allowed to visit this Lodge

more than once, unless he is a subscribing member to some regular Lodge. He shall then partake of the monthly Banquet, free of charge. Any other refreshment to be paid for by visiting Brethren and members individually.

Visitors exempt from charge for Supper.

11. Any member wishing to withdraw from the Lodge must give notice of his intention, either in open Lodge or by addressing a letter to the master for that purpose; when, upon discharging his arrears (if any) his name shall be withdrawn, but such brother may, at any future time, be re-admitted, if approved of by ballot, agreeably to the form in Articles 4 and 5.

Withdrawal of members.

May rejoin.

12. The Jewels, Furniture, Books, Cash, and all other property, belonging to this Lodge shall be vested in and deemed the property of the master and wardens for the time being, so that any action or suit that may happen to be necessary for the preservation or recovering of the same, or any part thereof, may and shall be brought, or commenced and prosecuted in their names, in trust for the use and benefit of the Lodge.

Furniture, Jewels, &c.

13. That an Auditing Committee consisting of the Master and other officers of the Lodge and Past Masters shall take place annually between the Election Installation of the Master to investigate the receipts and disbursements, and generally to consider the affairs of the Lodge, making a report thereon in writing on the day of Installation.

Auditing committee.

14. An inventory shall be taken of the Furniture and Jewels of the Lodge, and presented to the Master on the night of his installation.

Inventory of Furniture, Jewels, &c.

15. All presents made to this Lodge shall be entered in a Book, with the Brother's name from whom such benevolence flowed, in token of his esteem for masonry in general, and this Lodge in particular.

Presents.

Lodge of  
Emergency.

16. The Master, or in his absence, the Senior Warden, shall have power to call a Lodge of Emergency, but the cause of Emergency shall be stated in the summons, and no other business shall be entered into at the meeting. Any Gentleman initiated in a Lodge of Emergency shall pay one guinea extra, to the regular initiation fee.

The Secretary.

17. The Secretary shall keep the Books, issue summonses to each member, at least seven days previous to the night of meeting, stating the name, profession, and residence of all Candidates for initiation and other business, and he shall make minutes of all proceedings of the Lodge, and take account of all monies received for initiation or subscription.

The Treasurer.

18. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Lodge and make such payments as shall be voted by the Lodge or vouched by the master. He shall keep proper Books in which the receipts and disbursements shall be duly entered, and render a statement of account to the members in open Lodge, at least once a quarter. He shall attend the finance committee in January with his Books properly balanced, pay over the amount in hand to the Treasurer elect, and apply to members in arrear for payment of the same. He shall keep a separate account of all fees and contributions received by the Master, and payable to the Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges; the receipt of which shall be acknowledged by the Master opposite each entry,

The Tyler.

19. The Tyler shall receive the summonses from the Secretary, and carefully deliver the same, take care of the furniture and Jewels, and prepare the necessary arrangements previous to the time of the members assembling. He shall strictly and vigilantly tye the Lodge during the time of business, admit none but those who are entitled and properly clothed. He shall also see that every mem-

ber and Visitor enters his name in the Tying Book, and shall be paid two shillings and sixpence, each night, for his services.

20. When a Brother has a proposition to make he shall rise, and with due respect address himself to the master, while doing so he shall not be interrupted unless by an address to order, or by the master who may call him to order. After which, he may, if he preserve due order and decorum, again proceed. Should more than one Brother rise at a time, the master shall declare which shall be heard first. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject, unless to reply, or in explanation by leave of the master.

Order to be observed in addressing the Lodge.

21. Any Brother offending against any general law or regulation of the craft, and being called to order for not paying due attention thereto, shall be admonished by the master, and for a second offence shall be ordered to quit the Lodge; nor shall he be re-admitted until he has made such concessions as shall be satisfactory to the members present.

Brothers offending.

22. The majority of the votes of the members present shall decide all motions, but if on any question the votes shall chance to be equal, the master shall decide by his casting vote.

Voting.

23. That the members of the Lodge shall dine together on the Lodge day immediately following the Festival of Saint John the Baptist. A Dinner will be provided for each member,—any Brother absenting himself on the above day without a reason for absence being assigned, which shall appear to the master a sufficient one, shall be answerable for the amount charged for his dinner (which amount shall be paid on the previous Lodge Night.) Visitors to pay the same as members.

Festival.

Laws to be  
printed.

24. These Laws and Regulations shall be fairly written in a Book, and signed by the officers and present members of the Lodge, and also by all who shall be initiated in or become members of the same; they shall be printed together with a list of the officers and members, and each Brother presented with a copy, and they shall be read over in the Lodge whenever the master shall think proper to direct.

Alteration of  
By-laws.

25. No addition or alteration shall be made to these By-laws unless by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present, at a Lodge specially summoned for that purpose.

Fidelity.

26. Fidelity being the chief Bond among masons, a general and mutual confidence must be the natural cement to connect and support that bond, the result of which confidence will be a free, liberal, and candid discussion of every proposition brought forward in the Lodge, and a fair explanation of every assertion made or doubt stated with regard to the object or such proposition; and in order to encourage which, every member who shall divulge, express, allude to, or hint at the subject or object of any discussion that shall have taken place, unless to a Brother, shall be liable on proof adduced to the satisfaction of the Members present on any subsequent Lodge night to be excluded, and such exclusion shall be reported to the Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges.

Examined and approved, on behalf of the Provincial  
Grand Master, ex officio,

by Wm. RODEN, M. D.

Dep. Prov. G. Master.

Kidderminster.

Worcestershire.

June 17, 1850.

NICHOLAS Wm. HODGES,

Prov. G. Sec.

# DUTIES

ATTACHED TO THE DIFFERENT OFFICERS.

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## MASTER AND WARDENS.

The Master and his Wardens pledge themselves to a strict and punctual attendance to the duties of the Lodge, at the time stated in the summons, unless prevented by sickness, or some other urgent cause, and other Officers and Members are required to be equally punctual.

## THE SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall accurately arrange the minutes, take account of all monies received, regularly send out the summonses, and write to those Members who are in arrears.

## THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall receive and pay all monies, keep an accurate account thereof in a book, and produce his account with vouchers, when properly called upon to do so.

## THE DEACONS.

The Deacons shall attend the W. M. and Wardens to open the Lodge at the time appointed, and assist in the ceremonies of the Lodge, as described to them by the W. M. at their appointment.



### THE STEWARDS.

The Stewards shall order refreshments and attend to the comfort of the Brethren; they shall procure the house bill at Eleven o'clock, and present it to the Master, who will order it paid by the Treasurer; nothing to be introduced after this at the expense of the Lodge.

### THE INNER GUARD.

The Inner Guard shall attend in proper time to guard the interior of the Lodge at its opening, receive and examine visitors, and see that the Candidates are properly prepared previously to their admission.

### THE MASTER OF THE CEREMONIES.

The Master of Ceremonies shall see that every brother is regularly clothed and placed, that the Lodge is properly laid out, and that every Brother is seated at the banquet according to his station.

### THE TYLER.

The Tyler shall diligently watch the external and internal parts of the Lodge, keep its furniture and ornaments neat and clean, see that the same be laid out in due time, and that every Brother be properly clothed before he is admitted into the Lodge; and he shall also deliver the summonses to each Member one week before the time of meeting.

## THE CHARGE.

*Delivered at the Initiation of a Brother into Freemasonry.*

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BROTHER,

As you have now passed through the ceremonies of your initiation, allow me to congratulate you on being admitted a Member of our ancient and honourable Society. Ancient, no doubt it is, as having existed from time immemorial; and honourable it must be acknowledged to be, because by a natural tendency it conduces to make all those honourable who are strictly obedient to its precepts.

Indeed, no Institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests;—the practice of every moral and social virtue: and to so high an eminence has its credit been advanced that, in every age, monarchs themselves have been promoters of the art, and have not thought it derogatory from their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel;—have patronized our mysteries—and joined our assemblies.

As a Mason, I would first recommend to your most serious contemplation, the volume of the sacred law; charging you to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and justice, and to regulate your actions by the divine precepts it contains. Therein you will be taught the important duties you owe to God, to your neighbour, and to yourself. To God, by never mentioning his name, but with that awe and reverence which are due from the creature to his Creator; by imploring his aid in all your lawful undertakings, and by looking up to him in every emergency for comfort and support. To your NEIGHBOUR, by acting with him upon the square, by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require, by relieving his necessities, and soothing his afflictions; and by doing unto him,

as in similar cases you would wish he should do unto you. And to YOURSELF, by such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline, as may best conduce to the preservation of your corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy; thereby enabling you to exert the talents wherewith God has blessed you, as well to his glory as the welfare of your fellow creatures.

As a citizen of the world, I am next to enjoin you to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties, by never proposing or at all countenancing, any act, which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society; by paying due obedience to the laws of any state which may for a time become the place of your residence, or afford you its protection; and above all, by never losing sight of the allegiance due to the sovereign of your native land; ever remembering, that nature has implanted in your breast a sacred and indissoluble attachment to that country from which you derived your birth and infant nurture. As an individual, I am further to recommend the practice of every domestic, as well as public virtue. Let Prudence direct you! Temperance chasten you! Fortitude support you! and justice be the guide of all your actions. Be especially careful to maintain in their fullest splendour those truly Masonic ornaments, which have already been amply illustrated, Benevolence and Charity.

Still, however, as a Mason, there are other excellencies of character, to which your attention may be peculiarly and forcibly directed. Among the foremost of these are secrecy, fidelity, and obedience. Secrecy may be said to consist in an inviolable adherence to the compact you have entered into; never improperly to disclose any of those Masonic secrets, which have now been, or may at any future time be entrusted to your keeping; and cautiously to avoid all occasions which might inadvertently lead you so to do. Your fidelity must be exemplified by a close conformity to the constitutions of the fraternity; by adhering to the ancient land-marks of the Order; by never attempting to extort, or otherwise unduly obtain, the secrets of a superior degree; and by refraining to recommend any one to a participation of our secrets, unless you have a strong ground to believe, that, by similar fidelity, he will ultimately reflect honour on our choice. So must your

obedience be proved by a strict observance of our Laws and Regulations, by prompt attention to all signs and summonses ; by modest and correct demeanour whilst in the Lodge ; by abstaining from every topic of religious or political discussion ; by a ready acquiescence in all votes and resolutions passed by the Brethren ; and by perfect submission to the Master and his Wardens, whilst acting in the discharge of their respective offices. And as a last general recommendation, let me exhort you to dedicate yourself to such pursuits as may enable you to become at once respectable in your rank of life, useful to mankind, and an ornament to the Society of which you have this day been admitted a Member ; that you will more especially devote a part of your leisure hours to the study of such of the liberal arts and sciences, as may lie within the compass of your attainment ; and that without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station, you will feel yourself called on to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

From the very commendable attention you appear to have given to this charge, I am led to hope, that you will duly appreciate the excellency of Freemasonry ; and imprint indelibly on your mind the sacred dictates of TRUTH, OF HONOUR, and OF VIRTUE: