



BY-LAWS.

LODGE, 149.

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BY-LAWS

FOR THE

REGULATION OF LODGE,

No. 349,

OF THE MOST ANCIENT FRATERNITY

OF

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,

HELD AT THE

MASONIC HALL, BROAD-STREET,

WORCESTER.

“ A tale bearer revealeth secrets, but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”

“ Let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

WORCESTER:

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1847.

INTRODUCTION.

“ORDER is HEAVEN’S *first Law* ;” and inasmuch as no Society can be conducted without order, so is it equally necessary for good government, that laws for the maintenance of order should be established on a just and equitable foundation.

The GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND having, in the *Book of Constitutions*, laid down certain laws and rules for the government of the Order, it only remains for us to enact such By-laws for the regulation and management of our Lodge as the Brethren may judge most expedient.

It is necessary at all times to be remembered, that laws, without observance, are worse than useless ; therefore let all the Officers of the Lodge be treated with that deference and respect which their Offices demand, it being through them, alone, that order and propriety can be maintained. The more effectually to provide for this, these honourable situations ought to be filled with such persons only as are desirous of promoting the general good.

We must endeavour to avoid, as much as possible, introducing into our mysteries any persons addicted to strife or contaminated by profaneness or dishonesty ; thereby showing to the world that

our principles rest on the firm basis of Virtue and Honour, and not on mere forms and ceremonial observance.

Masonry comprehends, within its circle, every branch of useful learning, and stamps an indelible mark of pre-eminence on all its genuine professors, which chance, power, or fortune, cannot bestow.

When its principles are strictly observed it is a sure source of tranquillity among the various disappointments of life : it imparts real and intrinsic excellency to man, and renders him fit for all the duties of society ;—it cheers the mind in the hour of affliction, paves the way to peace, and promotes domestic happiness : it is company in solitude, and gives variety, vivacity, and energy to social conversation. These are but a few of its advantages : to enumerate them fully would be an endless task. enough, however, has been said to show that he who cultivates this science, and acts consistently with the character of a Mason, possesses the spring and support of every moral and social virtue.

From this view of the science, its inherent excellence and beneficial tendencies must be obvious. It contains a principle of universality which unites in one indissoluble bond of affection men of the most distant countries, of the most opposite tenets, and of the most contradictory opinions ; so that a Mason finds in every nation a friend, and in every country a home.

BY-LAWS.

I.

ALL former By-laws are hereby repealed.

II.

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.

III.

Without order and decorum harmony ^{Irregular} cannot be preserved, or the business of ^{behaviour.} Masonry properly conducted, therefore, at the stroke of the Master's hiram, profound silence shall be observed.

If any Brother swear, or say any thing irrereligious, obscene, or offensive, hold private committees, dispute about religion or politics, offer to lay wagers, interrupt a Brother while speaking, be not standing when addressing the Master, appear in Lodge unclothed, or otherwise conduct himself improperly, such offending Brother shall be called to order,

and should he continue refractory, or interrupt the business, he shall be peremptorily commanded by the Master to withdraw for the evening, and be subject to a fine at the discretion of the majority of the Brethren present, to which should he refuse to accede, he shall receive public censure at the next open Lodge ; and should he neglect to attend the Lodge when summoned, or to assign satisfactory reason for his absence, or prove again refractory, his name shall be erased from the list of Members of the Lodge, and notice to that effect, stating his offence, shall be sent to him by the Secretary.

IV.

Members
desirous of
being dis-
continued

Any Brother desirous of withdrawing from the Lodge may do so, on signifying such intention, either personally in open Lodge or by letter to the Secretary, and discharging any arrears and his subscription for the current year up to the 27th December, provided he shall not in any way have conducted himself unbecoming a Mason. The question for the acceptance of the resignation must therefore be put for the opinion of the Brethren. But he may be re-admitted on application for that purpose, paying one guinea, and being approved on a ballot after the usual forms.

V.

When any Subscription shall remain un-
 Application
 for Arrears.
 paid for one year, it shall be a standing
 direction to the Treasurer to make written
 application for it ; if not paid within three
 months, a second application shall be made ;
 and should the subscription be unpaid three
 months beyond such second application, the
 name of the party so neglecting to discharge
 his arrears shall be subject to erasure, at the
 discretion of the Lodge ; and no member shall
 be permitted to vote on any question, or to
 ballot for a new member, or to be appointed
 to any office, who has not paid up his sub-
 scription.

VI.

The Furniture, Ornaments, Jewels, and
 other property of the Lodge, shall be con-
 sidered as vested in, and actually the property
 of, the Master and his Wardens for the time
 being, in trust, nevertheless, for themselves
 and the rest of the Members of the Lodge.
 They shall not be worn or made use of out
 of the Lodge, except on special occasions,
 to be approved by the Master.—A regular
 inventory of the whole, signed by the Master
 of the ceremonies, shall be entered in the
 Book of By-Laws.

No Mem-
 ber in ar-
 rear to vote
 or be ap-
 pointed to
 office.

Furniture
 and Jewels
 vested in
 Master and
 Wardens.

VII.

Times of
Meeting.

The Lodge shall celebrate the Festivals of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and a Banquet Lodge shall be held on the First Thursday in the Months of February, March, October, and December; the Brethren to be summoned at Four o'Clock. An Evening Lodge to be held the Third Thursday in January, February, March, April, October, and November; to commence at Half-past Six o'Clock precisely.

VIII.

Committee
and
Auditing
Accounts.

The Master shall be empowered, during the intervals of the regular Meetings of the Lodge, to convene a Committee, to consist of the Master and his Wardens and at least two Members of the Lodge, to consider of any special matters; a sum not exceeding Ten Shillings to be allowed for expenses attending each of the said Meetings, from and out of the Lodge Fund. The sum allowed for Auditing the Accounts not to exceed Three Pounds.

Disposal of
Money, &c.

That no sum of money exceeding the sum of £20., or any order or orders for goods or other purposes of the Lodge to that amount, shall at any time be made, laid out, or given

by the Master, or any other Member of the Lodge, without the previous sanction of the Brethren in Lodge assembled.

IX.

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

X.

The Treasurer, on being appointed, shall give such bond for the due execution of his office as shall be required by the Lodge, and shall keep a book with an exact account of the receipts and disbursements, which shall be produced in the Lodge when called for.

The account with the Grand Lodge to be kept separate and distinct, as required by its regulations.

That the Treasurer shall produce annually, at the Evening Lodge next after the Audit, an Abstract of the Receipts and Payments of the past year, together with a Statement of the Amounts due to the Lodge, as well as of its liabilities.

XI.

Secretary's
duty.

The Secretary shall issue summonses to all the Members for each meeting of the Lodge (at least four days previously), particularly noticing ballots and initiations, stating the names, places of abode, and professions of the candidates, By-laws proposed to be altered, repealed, or made, the number of passings and raisings due, and shall enter all motions and other minutes of the proceedings of the Lodge in a book expressly kept for that purpose.

XII.

The Master
of Ceremo-
nies' duty.

That it be the duty of the Master of the Ceremonies to pay particular attention to the accommodation of Visitors, to see that the Brethren are seated in the Lodge according to their Masonic rank, and that the Lodge Furniture, Ornaments, Jewels, &c., be kept in good order, and in accordance with the Book of Constitutions.

XIII.

Steward's
duty.

That it be the duty of the Stewards (one of whom shall be permanent) to order the refreshments and attend to the comfort of the Brethren. That, upon ordinary Banquets and Suppers, they be authorised to provide for any number of Brethren not

exceeding one-third of the Members of the Lodge; and, at Festivals on St. John's Days, for any number not exceeding two-thirds of the numbers of Members of the Lodge; but that the Stock of Wine and the supply thereof shall be under the sole direction and management of the permanent Steward, who shall keep the Wine Account and Funds separate and distinct from the other accounts of the Lodge, and report the state thereof at the regular Evening Lodge in March and October.

XIV.

The Tyler to be under the control of the principal Officers, to set out and prepare the Lodge against the appointed meetings, to take care of the Lodge Furniture, to see that every Member signs his name in a book, kept for that purpose, prior to his entering the Lodge; to collect the fees from the Visitors, and deliver the summonses to the Members, for which he shall be paid by the Treasurer three shillings and sixpence for each attendance. The Assistant Tylers to be paid two shillings and sixpence each.

Tyler's duty and remuneration

XV.

When any gentleman is proposed to be made a Mason in this Lodge, his name, age, profession, and place of abode, in writing,

Proposition

together with One Guinea, shall be handed to the Master by the Member proposing him ; the Guinea to be returned in the event of his non-election.

Admission. The Candidate shall be balloted for at the next Lodge. If approved on the ballot, he shall be initiated as soon as possible, on payment of the usual fees of £5. 1s. and 2s. 6d to the Tyler, for the amount of which the Member who proposes him shall be answerable to the Lodge.

XVI.

Operation
of ballot.

When a ballot takes place, if one black ball or negative appear in the box, a second ballot may take place the same evening, on a motion being made for that purpose ; should one black ball a second time appear, a motion may be made to repeat the ballot at the next Lodge, but if two appear, the ballot must be suspended for twelve months.

XVII.

Forfeiture
of Proposi-
tion Fee.

If a Candidate be approved on the ballot, and do not attend to be initiated within six months, after receiving due notice to that effect, the deposit made at his nomination shall be forfeited, and his election be declared void, unless satisfactory apology be made.

XVIII.

If any Brother be desirous of becoming a ^{Masons not} Member of this Lodge, who was not made ^{made in} in it, the fee shall be Two Guineas, with ^{this Lodge.} Half-a-Crown, the registering fee, to the Grand Lodge. In the case of a Brother not made under the English Constitution, or who has not been subsequently registered as a Member of some English Lodge, the fees shall be £2. 19s. ; such additional fees having to be paid to the Grand Lodge, for registering and certificate.

The proposition shall be under the same regulations as stated in the 15th By-law—a ballot shall take place at the next Lodge, subject to the regulations stated in the 16th and 17th By-laws, and if approved, the Brother shall be immediately received on payment of the remainder of the fees.

XIX.

Every Member of the Lodge shall subscribe and pay annually to the Treasurer the sum ^{Annual} of One Pound Six Shillings (which includes ^{Subscription.} Two Shillings to the Fund of Benevolence) or such other sum as may, from time to time, be agreed upon in open Lodge, which shall be paid in advance on or before the regular Lodge in January, a receipt for the same to be given by the Treasurer.

XX.

Member
withdrawing his
Name.

Any Member who shall, in open Lodge, desire his name to be erased from the List of Members, shall not be again admitted a Member without a fresh ballot, and payment of One Guinea, and Half-a-Crown for registering fee.

XXI.

Visiting
Fees.

Every Brother visiting this Lodge will be expected to produce his Certificate, and undergo an examination, or must be vouched for by a Member of the Lodge; the visiting fee to be paid to the Tyler previous to admission to the Banquet or Supper.

To Banquet.....	10s. 6d.
Ditto ditto Lodge Supper ...	3s. 6d.

N.B. The majority in any Lodge, on vote, to have the power to increase these fees, should it at any time be judged necessary to do so.

XXII.

Visitors re-
stricted.

No visiting Brother shall interfere in the proceedings of the Lodge, unless requested by the Master.

XXIII.

Part of the Lodge Fund shall be appro- Charity.
 priated to relieve distressed Brethren who
 may apply to the Master for that purpose ;
 the Treasurer (on receiving his order) to pay
 the same ; the sum not to exceed Three
 Shillings.

XXIV.

If a Member shall propose any of these Alteration
 By-Laws to be altered or repealed, or any of By-
 new one to be added, due notice shall be Laws.
 given to each Member in the summonses,
 and a public ballot shall take place at the
 next regular Meeting, the Master to have
 the casting vote should equal numbers appear.

XXV.

Every Brother at the time of his initiation Signature
 shall subscribe his name in token of assent of By-
 to these By-Laws, and shall be furnished Laws.
 with a copy of the same.

1847.

MEMBERS OF THE LODGE.

WITH THE DATES OF THEIR ADMISSION.

P. Masters.

Brother Thomas Spinney	April 12, 1809.
„ Thomas Barrow	March 22, 1815.
„ John Froke Hyde	Feb. 5, 1827.
„ Henry H. Shelton	Oct. 25, 1836.
„ Harvey Eginton	Dec. 19, 1839.
„ Joseph Bennett	March 19, 1840.
„ James Knight	Nov. 2, 1840.
„ Robert Rising	Jan. 28, 1841.

Members.

Brother Thomas Hughes	Nov. 18, 1801.
„ John Dent	Oct. 21, 1807.
„ William Miles	Dec. 29, 1817.
„ William Manning	Feb. 3, 1825.
„ George Bentley	April 19, 1827.
„ Richard R. Garmston	April 15, 1830.
„ John Garmston	Jan. 5, 1831.
„ W. S. P. Hughes.. .. .	Feb. 2, 1831,

Brother Benjamin Shepherd	Nov. 1, 1836.
„ John Redgrave	Nov. 1, 1836.
„ J. B. Read	Nov. 24, 1836.
„ John P. Smith	Sept. 27, 1838.
„ Edward Corles	Sept. 27, 1838.
„ William Barnes	June 19, 1839.
„ George Chamberlain	June 24, 1839.
„ Joseph Firkins	Nov. 29, 1839.
„ Charles Freame	March 30, 1840.
„ James Abell	April 16, 1840.
„ Joseph Stephens	Nov. 13, 1840.
„ Joseph C. Shelton	Feb. 18, 1841.
„ Henry J. Powell	Nov. 18, 1841.
„ Richard R. Harris	April 14, 1842.
„ William Webb	June 16, 1842.
„ William Dolphin Lingham	Aug. 12, 1842.
„ George Joseph Sylvester	Aug. 12, 1842.
„ William Collisson	Sept. 15, 1842.
„ H. M. Daniel	Sept. 29, 1842.
„ John Jones	Sept. 29, 1842.
„ Edward Penrice	Oct. 20, 1842.
„ Thomas Holland	Nov. 10, 1842.
„ James Robertson	Nov. 10, 1842.
„ Robert Blayne	Nov. 17, 1842.
„ M. M. Leale Cooper	Nov. 17, 1842.
„ Robert Tomkins Rea	Dec. 8, 1842.
„ John Carter	Jan. 19, 1843.
„ George Sterry	March 9, 1843.
„ Rev. Joseph Webster	April 20, 1843.
„ Alfred C. Hooper	Dec. 14, 1843.
„ Hilary Hill	Dec. 21, 1843.
„ Benjamin L. Stable	Joined Feb. 8, 1844.
„ Thomas Woodward	Joined Feb. 8, 1844.
„ John Pumfrey	Feb. 8, 1844.

Brother	Timothy Spencer.	Feb. 8, 1844.
"	William Corles, junior	Joined	Feb. 15, 1844.
"	Charles Evans	Feb. 29, 1844.
"	C. C. W. Griffiths	Feb. 29, 1844.
"	John Tolley	March 29, 1844.
"	Richard Hadley	March 29, 1844.
"	Rev. W. Lister Isaac	June 25, 1844.
"	Joseph Lingham	June 25, 1844.
"	H. B. Hooper	Oct. 16, 1844.
"	A. C. Marriott	Nov. 21, 1844.
"	David W. Nash	March 27, 1845.
"	Edmund Thomas	Oct. 16, 1845.
"	Rev. Charles Eckersall	Joined	Oct. 2, 1845.
"	Charles Bird	Nov. 20, 1845.
"	William Woods	Jan. 8, 1846.
"	Alfred Barnett	Jan. 8, 1846.
"	John Hughes	Jan. 14, 1846.
"	Rev. Henry A. Green	Joined	Feb. 10, 1846.
"	Richard West	Feb. 10, 1846.
"	Edward Green	Feb. 18, 1846.
"	J. W. Bevington	March 19, 1846.
"	John Harding	March 19, 1846.
"	Edward M. Sayce	Jan. 21, 1847.
"	Frederick T. Elgie	Joined	Jan. 21, 1847.
"	H. C. Goldingham	Joined	Jan. 21, 1847.
"	James J. Williams	Feb. 18, 1847.
"	Martin Abell	Feb. 18, 1847.