

RULES and ORDERS

TO BE OBSERVED BY THE
ANTI-STAMP FIRE SOCIETY,

Instituted in BOSTON, *October 1763.*

I.

THAT this Society consist of a Number not exceeding Thirty; and that the Times of Meeting be on every first Wednesday of *October, January, April, and July*, at such Place as the Clerk shall appoint: At which every Member shall attend, if in Town.

II.

THAT the List of Members be called at Eight o'Clock P. M. at every Meeting in *April and July*, and at Seven o'Clock in *October and January*.—If any Member be then absent, he shall pay a Fine of *One Shilling*; and if absent the whole Evening, *Six Shillings*.

III.

THAT a Clerk be always chose at the Meeting in *October*, whose Duty shall be to keep a fair Record of all the Proceeding of the Society:—To give Notice of each Meeting by leaving, or causing to be left, a Ticket at the usual Place
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of Abode of each Member, at least one Day before the Time, and receive and account for all Fines. And in case of Absence, the Clerk shall have Power to appoint another Person to act in said Office for the time being. The Clerk to continue in said Office one Year, at the End of which he shall deliver to his Successor the Accounts and Stock belonging to the Society. The Choice of a Clerk to be thus,—Every Member who has not serv'd before, or paid the Fine for not serving, shall draw a Lot, and whoever draws the Lot No. One, shall serve in that Office or pay a Fine of *Twenty Shillings*: If he chooses to pay the Fine, the Choice shall be renewed 'till one is chose who will serve.

IV.

THAT each Member shall constantly keep together in good Order, in his Dwelling-House, two Leather Buckets and two Bags, each Bag at least one Yard and an half long, and one Yard and an half round. And also a Bed-Winch to be constantly kept in one of his Buckets. Both Buckets and Bags to be mark'd with the first Letter of the Owner's Christian-Name, and his Sir-Name at length; under the Penalty of *Five Shillings* for being deficient in any Bucket or Bag, and *One Shilling* for not keeping the Bed-Winch in one of his Buckets as aforementioned.

V. THAT

V.

THAT the Members may be well acquainted with each others Houses, Shops, Stores, &c. and the Passages thereto, the Clerk (under the Penalty of *Five Shillings* for Neglect) shall take with him three Members or more, in their Turns, one Day before each Meeting, and shall visit the Houses, &c. of every Member, and examine their Buckets, Bags and Winches, and make Report at the next Meeting of the Society : Any Member who shall refuse to attend the Clerk on this Business (upon reasonable Notice) shall pay a Fine of *Three Shillings*.

VI.

THAT upon Notice of a Fire, every Member shall repair immediately with his Buckets, Bags and Winch, to the Place where it happens ; and if the House, Shop or Store of any Member be in Danger, every other Member shall assemble there with his Bags and Winch, and use his best Endeavours at the Direction of the Person in Danger, if present, to remove and secure all his Goods and Effects, under the Penalty of *Forty Shillings*. And further, no Member shall appear at any Fire with a Cloak on, under the Penalty of *Six Shillings*.

VII.

THAT when any Member shall remove to another Dwelling-House, Store or Shop, he shall

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Inform the Clerk thereof within a Week after such Removal, under the Penalty of *One Shilling*, and the Clerk shall insert the same in the next Notification, under the Penalty of *One Shilling* for each Person whom he shall neglect to notify of such Removal.

VIII.

THAT each Member shall keep a printed Copy of these Articles to be supplied by the Clerk at the Expence of the Society, with all the Members Names and the Places of their Dwellings, Stores, Shops, &c. And at every Meeting of the Society, each Member shall produce the same compleated according to the Notifications that shall be given from time to time by the Clerk, under the Penalty of *Three Shillings*.

IX.

THAT if any Member lose his Buckets, Bags or Winch, at any Fire, the Loss shall be sustained by the Society, provided he makes diligent Search therefor within Twenty-four Hours: and in case the same is not found within one Month, the Clerk is directed to make good the Loss. And when any Member is admitted he shall apply to the Clerk for Buckets, Bags and Winch, who is directed to supply him therewith, the same to be conformable in all Respects to the rest of the Society's; and to be done at the Expence of such Member.

X. THAT

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THAT any Member who will not regularly submit to the Payment of his Fines, or absents himself four Meetings successively, shall be regarded as quitting the Society, and shall not be admitted therein again, without the usual Ceremonies of Election.

XI.

THAT no Person shall be invited to the Society's Meetings who is not a Member; nor shall any Person be admitted a Member of the Society, 'till first propos'd, and approved of unanimously by a written Vote.

XII.

THAT all Fines imposed for Breach of any of the above Articles, may be remitted upon sufficient Reason given in Excuse, to be determin'd by the Majority of the Members then present: Likewise, all Disputes relating to the Business of the Society shall be settled in the same Way.

NAMES.

