

R U L E S

AND

R E G U L A T I O N S

TO BE OBSERVED BY THE

*Friendly Society*

OF

*D O R N O C H.*

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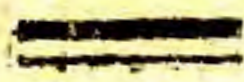
1811.



# R U L E S

AND

## REGULATIONS, &c.



**I**N consideration of the necessitous circumstances to which all mankind are liable to be reduced from innumerable causes; and knowing that a laudable custom has for many years prevailed in this and the neighbouring kingdoms, of persons forming themselves into societies for the pious and benevolent purposes of affording relief to such of their members as should happen in the course of providence to be visited by sickness, accident, or distress;

We, a few of the Inhabitants of the town of Dornoch and its neighbourhood, desirous of affording support to each other when it may please God to afflict us, after mature consideration, have resolved to institute a Friendly Society for the benefit of those of its members who may happen to be placed in any of the above distressing situations.

And whereas by an act of Parliament pas-



fed in the thirty third year of his present Majesty's reign, George the Third, entituled an act for the government and relief of Friendly Societies within Great Britain, we have it in our power to form such Society by complying with the regulations and provisions contained in the said act to secure whatever funds we shall be able to raise, and to apply them to the foresaid purposes.

Therefore, we the inhabitants of the town of Dornoch and its neighbourhood before mentioned, at a meeting held here this seventh day of November, eighteen hundred and ten, do hereby form a Friendly Society to be known and distinguished in all time coming during the existence of the same, by the name or title of DORNOCH FRIENDLY SOCIETY; and in order to the utmost of our power to promote good order and decorum of behaviour among the members, we have established the following rules, as a standard whereby our proceedings shall be regulated, which shall remain in force, and be binding on every member thereof, until the same be altered or repealed in terms of the foresaid act.

And we humbly pray the Honourable his Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the

County of Sutherland, to approve of and confirm the same in the manner directed by the said act of Parliament.

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ARTICLE I.

THAT this Society shall always meet in the School-house of Dornoch, until just cause for removing it, which will be decided by a majority of the members at a general meeting. And this Society will admit none as members but men of good character, and of a sound and healthy constitution; free from maim, bruise, gravel, rupture, falling sickness, or any external disorder, and in perfect health at the time of his offering himself for admision, and not above the age of forty-five years, until the number of members amounts to forty, afterwards the Society will only admit as members men of the above description, and not above forty years of age, until the number of members shall amount to two hundred, and as soon as the number of members amounts to the said two hundred, none will be admitted above thirty-five years of age, and those offering themselves for admision must be known by at least two members of the Society for the space of six months immediately preceding; he must be personally present at



entering, and must enter his own name, occupation, and age, and if married, his wife's name, with the names and ages of his children.

Any person entering as a member of this Society above the age mentioned in these regulations, or afflicted with any bodily infirmity at the time he enters so as to become a burden to this Society, shall as soon as it is known be expelled the Society, and whatever money he may have paid thereto shall be forfeited.

#### ARTICLE II.

THAT this Society shall be directed by a President, vice President, Treasurer, and twelve managers, who shall be elected at the annual general meeting, and to continue in their respective offices one year only. The President, vice President, and Treasurer, are always to be considered as members of the committee for the ensuing year in addition to those above mentioned.

The annual general meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of August at twelve o'clock noon, and the quarterly meetings on the first Wednesday of November, February, and May, at six o'clock in the afternoon. That the President, vice President, Treasurer, Clerk, and six of the managers, shall be chosen

from among the members residing within the parish of Dornoch. Any member elected into office who shall refuse to officiate therein, shall be liable to the following fines, viz.--- The President, vice President, and Treasurer, four shillings sterling, and each of the managers two shillings and six pence sterling. Any member who has served three times in any of the three first mentioned offices shall be at liberty to refuse without paying a fine. The President, vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk, and three managers, shall constitute a quorum for any ordinary business, providing all the committee within the parish of Dornoch be called and cannot attend. All the above managers must attend at every quarterly meeting, otherwise they will be liable to pay a fine of two shillings, and six pence to the box at each time. All members of this Society, residing within nine miles of Dornoch, shall always be obliged to attend the annual general meeting in clean and decent apparel, under the penalty of six pence to be paid into the box, and no quarterly payments or funeral money to be received until all fines be paid.

As this Society may consist of a number of members from different parishes at a distance from Dornoch, who cannot conveniently at-



tend at all meetings, such members may meet on Monday immediately before the quarterly meeting at the house of any one of them, or any other place convenient, to pay their quarterly payments, funeral money, or fines, (if any be due) to any one of themselves, to be remitted to the Society on the quarterly meeting night; and also to meet on the Monday previous to the annual general meeting, in like manner for the purpose of appointing two persons to represent the members of such parish at the general meeting of the Society, it not being hereby understood to exclude any member from attending and voting at the different meetings of the Society, if he inclines to appear. That there shall be a Clerk appointed by the Society, who may continue as long as the Society thinks proper, whose business shall be to keep the books of the Society, an exact account of all the money received and disbursed, and a list of all the members' names and places of abode, and he must attend all regular and extraordinary meetings. If at any time he fall sick, or is otherways indisposed and cannot attend, he must appoint a proper person, one of the members, to officiate in his stead, but in failing to attend himself or sending a proper person to officiate for

him, he shall be liable to a fine of five shillings to the box for every such neglect. There shall be an officer appointed in order to warn the committee to any extraordinary meeting that may occur, and to keep the door, &c. at all meetings to prevent strangers from intruding.

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ARTICLE III.

THAT the Society shall provide a box or chest sufficient to contain the books and papers belonging thereto, with an inside locker or till, sufficient to contain any cash or bills belonging to the Society. The said till to be provided with a proper lock and key, which key is always to remain in the hands of the Treasurer for the time being. The said box shall have three substantial locks and keys different from one another, which keys shall be lodged with the President, Vice-President, and first elected Managers at the election.

The said box shall be lodged with a respectable person in the town of Dornoch, who shall give security to the Society for the said box, and money, &c. therein contained, from all arrests on his account, and all damages whereby the Society may sustain loss while under his care, and shall deliver the same to



the Stewards at such times as the Committee shall think proper.

Those entrusted with keys are to give punctual attendance at each quarterly and annual meeting, exactly at the hour appointed, under the penalty of a sixpence sterling for each neglect; and if any key-keeper shall neglect to bring his key himself, or to send it by a person in whom he can confide, to any meeting, so as to prevent them from proceeding to transact the business of the Society, he shall for every such offence forfeit the penalty of two shillings and sixpence sterling, besides the expense of the box being broke open, and repaired; and if any key-keeper bring to the meeting more than one key of the said box, he also shall be liable to a fine of two shillings and sixpence sterling. The funds of this Society shall never be removed from the town of Dornoch on any pretence whatever.

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ARTICLE IV.

THAT any person wishing to enter as a member of this Society, must be proposed and recommended by one of the members, and on being proposed, shall pay two shillings and six-pence. If rejected by the Society as be-

unfit, the money shall be returned, but if approved of, he shall pay five shillings, including the said two shillings and six-pence as his admission fee, until the number of members amount to fifty; and from fifty to a hundred, ten shillings; and from a hundred to a hundred and fifty, fifteen shillings; and from a hundred and fifty to two hundred, twenty shillings, and from two hundred, to two hundred and fifty, twenty five shillings, and from two hundred and fifty to three hundred, thirty shillings; and from three hundred, to three hundred and fifty, thirty five shillings; and from three hundred and fifty to four hundred, two pounds sterling; likewise two shillings for his quarterly payments, a six-pence for a book of articles, a six-pence to the Clerk, and two-pence to the Officer, at his entry; and to continue to pay quarterly the said sum of two shillings, and at each general meeting two-pence to the Clerk, and a penny to the Officer, by each member, besides the quarterly payments; also at the first quarterly meeting after the death of a member, a six-pence, and after the death of a member's wife four-pence, or so much each as will make up the sum allowed at their funeral, when the member, or members are below two hundred, for the pur-



pose of reimbursing the fund for the money paid at their funeral.

Any member having a wife at the time of his entry, is to pay a six-pence at entry, and six-pence every quarter, over and above the quarterly payments above mentioned; and any member marrying after he enter, shall pay six-pence to the fund, and three-pence to the Clerk, the first meeting thereafter, and six-pence quarterly to entitle their wives to the widow's annual allowance, &c. Any member receiving the funeral allowance for one wife, and marrying again must pay the first quarterly meeting five shillings to the box, and three-pence to the Clerk, and six-pence quarterly thereafter as above, but no benefit to be given for more than two wives. Any member marrying when he is above sixty years of age, his wife will not be entitled to any annual allowance, nor will any extra quarterly payments be received from him for that purpose.

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ARTICLE V.

THAT the funds of this Society shall continue shut for the space of four years from its commencement, and the capital to continue at the same sum it amounts to at the expira-

tion of the said four years, below which sum it shall never be allowed to fall, nor the fund to be longer shut upon any pretence whatever. No member to receive any benefit from the Society until he has been four complete years a member, but in case of a member, or member's wife's death, in that case their funeral allowance will be paid, and made up as in Article IV.

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ARTICLE VI.

THAT upon any member being taken sick or lame, or otherwise afflicted with any bodily infirmity, so as to render him incapable of earning his daily bread, and has paid his dues regularly into the Society for four complete years, by sending information to the President, he shall order the visitors to visit him next day, if within the visiting district, which is within the parish of Dornoch; and on finding the distrefs agreeable to the tenor of those articles, he shall at the end of seven days after the date of his application, (it is understood that no member is to receive any allowance from the Society but from the date of his application, this being observed,) each week receive the sum of five shillings sterling per week, for the space of three months,



and three shillings and six-pence per week for other three months, and two shillings per week for other six months, if his illness continues so long; but if his complaint be deemed incurable by a physician, in that case he shall at the next general meeting be put on the superannuated list, and will be paid one pound six shillings per quarter for life, at each quarterly meeting. The weekly allowance to be carried to the sick members weekly, by the visitors, from the treasurer, and if they neglect to visit or carry the allowance at the time to a sick member, the offending party will be fined in the sum allowed to the said sick member at the time for every such offence, if it so happen that a member's wife and two or three of his children should be sick, or confined to bed at one time, such members shall be entitled to a sick member's allowance at the time, until two of them recover.

If any member be confined in prison upon any other account than for civil debt, and shall there fall sick, his allowance shall be at the pleasure of the Society, but if confined for debt he shall have the same allowance as any other member during his sickness. If any dispute shall arise betwixt the Steward and

sick members concerning their case, the same shall be decided by a surgeon who is to be allowed for each visit for his trouble. If any member residing without the visiting district shall fall sick, in that case any person whom they shall appoint, may receive the money allowed, on sending a certificate of their illness, signed by the minister and two elders, or church wardens of the parish where they reside, and if required, a letter from a surgeon, explaining the nature of the disease, and the postage of all letters to be paid by the applicant. No person to be entitled to any benefit from the fund who has contracted diseases from a lewd and dissolute life, or the effect of excessive drinking or irregularity, which tends to impair the health, or who receives hurt by fighting, unless in self defence; but if his complaint should terminate in death, his funeral to be provided for the same as any other member; and should the Stewards be suspicious that any member's complaint arises from the above causes, they shall acquaint the President thereof, who is to suspend the benefit until a consultation be held with the Committee, before, or on the next meeting night, who are to act as they find most expedient: and upon inquiring if such member's claim be just,



what money has been suspended shall be paid him, but if found imposing on the Society he must return what money he has received, and pay a fine of five shillings to the fund, or be excluded the Society; and upon any member's recovery, who has been receiving benefit, he shall as soon as he is able to follow his ordinary employment give notice thereof to the President, and in failing of so doing, if he be found at work while receiving the benefit, he shall be fined in a week's allowance and receive no more for that complaint, and if found drunk or gambling while receiving the benefit, to be fined in like manner and the benefit stopped.

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ARTICLE VII.

THAT at the death of any member, his widow or next in kin shall immediately after his disease be entitled to receive from the treasurer of the Society, the sum of three pounds sterling to defray the funeral charges when the number of members are below one hundred and sixty; four pounds if above that number; and five pounds if the number of members be above two hundred, &c. and likewise at the death of a member's wife, the nearest in kin shall be entitled to two pounds to

defray the funeral expences when the number of members does not exceed one hundred and twenty; if above one hundred and eighty, three pounds will be allowed, &c. but if the nearest relations of the deceased be such that the managers cannot confide in, in that case the money is to be laid out at the discretion of the managers, who are to take particular care that the same be properly applied. When any member of this Society is called away by death, all the members within that parish shall punctually attend the funeral of their deceased brother, dressed in decent apparel.

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ARTICLE VIII.

No sum or sums of money shall be lent by the Society but on lawful interest, and on such security as shall be approved of by a majority of the Committee. No member of the Society shall be taken as security for any money belonging to it; and any person borrowing money of this Society, must find two securities as aforesaid. The Treasurer shall be accountable to the Society for all the money collected by him, and for all deficiency that may occur at ballancing of the books, and shall produce receipts for all sums of money paid for the use of the Society; and every President, on the night he enters his



office, and next quarterly night shall publicly declare the amount of the stock when he entered, and also the sums of money received and paid the year preceding, as entered in the books kept for that purpose, and the allowance for sick members, &c. shall be fixed for the year according to the state of the Society's funds. The benefits are always to be augmented or reduced according to the state of the funds at each annual general meeting, taking care always that there will be sufficiency over and above the settled stock, viz. The amount of the stock at the end of four years to meet the expences of the year.

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ARTICLE IX.

No members to receive aliment, or allowance while they are indebted to the Society, more than a quarter; and any member receiving the Society allowance shall pay his quarterly and other burdens as they shall fall due, in the same manner as other members subject to the like consequences in case of non-payment; also, if any member die indebted to the Society, his executors shall pay the said debt out of the funeral allowance. If any member be indebted to the Society to the amount of two quarterly payments, he shall be fined

in a six-pence, and if in arrear for three quarters, to be fined in the like sum, and the Clerk shall inform him by a letter, that he is so many months in arrear, specifying the sum due; and if not paid at the fourth quarter, that member to be excluded, unless he has given information to the Clerk within twelve months from his last payments, of his being necessarily obliged to remove out of Scotland, to England or Ireland, and the place where he is to reside, upon which he will get from the Society a certificate of his being a member thereof, agreeable to the said act of Parliament, granted in favour of Friendly Societies, in which case he will be allowed eighteen months, and out of Britain and Ireland, two years before he be expelled.

No partial payments to be received. If any member shall enlist in his Majesty's service either as soldier or sailor, except in the local militia, shall be excluded, unless he be balloted and serve for himself in the regular militia; in such case, if he return in the space of five years, in perfect health, he shall be admitted a free member, on paying up his arrears.

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ARTICLE X.

ANY member dying and leaving a widow, after he has been four years a member of this



Society, from the date of his entry, and paying punctually and regularly thereto, his widow after his decease shall be entitled to twenty shillings per annum during her widowhood; and if any children are left under the age of fourteen years, they shall be entitled to ten shillings per year until they arrive at the age of fourteen years complete, and if any orphan children are left under the age of fourteen years, they shall be entitled to one pound sterling each per annum, while they are under the age of fourteen years, and no longer.

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ARTICLE XI.

IF any member of this Society be found guilty of any enormous crimes, in any of his Majesties Courts of Justice, he shall upon such conviction be excluded for ever from having any benefit therefrom; and if any member trusts another with his quarterly payments, if the same neglects or delays to pay the said money on the first quarterly night, such members shall be fined in two shillings to the box, for the first fault, four shillings for the second, and the third time, eight shillings, or be excluded. And any member introducing a stranger on the quarterly night, unless he be nominated, shall be fined in one shilling to the box;

and no member to nominate any person unless he can vouch for his sobriety and industry, and being well disposed towards the King and constitution of this country, as by law established. Any members acting otherwise shall be fined in two shillings and six-pence, and should any of the managers be found screening any member from paying his fines or arrears due to the Society, they shall pay the same themselves, and a fine of two shillings and six-pence for every such offence.

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ARTICLE XII.

NONE shall direct their discourse while engaged in the business of the Society, but to the President, neither shall any more than one person presume to speak at a time so as to interrupt one another, and every person shall deliver his opinion and speak, or be silent as the President shall direct, under the penalty of three-pence sterling for each offence.

It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to introduce any other subject of debate or conversation besides the actual and immediate business of this Society. If any such improper subject shall be introduced, the person guilty of the same, or any other supporting him, shall be immediately ordered to be silent, and



if they persist they shall be fined in three-pence sterling. If any member swear or make use of any obscene discourse, he shall be fined in two-pence for the first offence, four-pence for the second, and so on. Any member appearing at the meeting intoxicated shall quit the same when ordered by the President, or be fined in a shilling; if threatening an injury, or insulting another, two shillings; and committing violence, shall pay five shillings; and if such member or members persist in their quarrel, he, or they shall be fined in ten shillings and six-pence each, or be excluded the Society. The President and Committee shall carefully observe that these Articles are strictly adhered to.

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ARTICLE XIII.

IF any dispute shall arise among those that are entrusted with the management of this Society, which cannot be decided by the Regulations, the same shall be decided by a majority of votes at the annual general meeting of this Society. No change to be given upon a meeting night for the sake of the dispatch of business.

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ARTICLE XIV.

IT shall not be lawful for any person, or per-

sons to dissolve or determine this Society, but under the restrictions, and with the reservations mentioned in the 12th Section of the said Act of Parliament for the relief of Friendly Societies.

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ARTICLE XV.

IN conclusion, it is earnestly recommended to all the members of the Society to lead a life of piety and virtue, to cultivate a benevolent intercourse with each other, and faithfully to observe the Rules that are here established.

DECLARATION

*To be made by every Member on admission into the Society.*

I solemnly declare that I am not to the best of my knowledge above \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, that I am in good health, and have not any concealed distemper or infirmity; that I will endeavour at all times to promote the peace and prosperity, and conform to the rules of this Society. And if I should be excluded, I will resign my claim to any property belonging thereto; and I further promise that I will not apply for any relief, except in cases of sickness, accident, inability to work, or old age; and if I should be obliged to have recourse to the funds of this Society for support, I will use every means in my power to recover my health, and as soon as I am capable of resuming my usual business will immediately inform the Preses and Stewards thereof.