

PV
RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY.

CORRECTED TO DECEMBER, 1849.

OXFORD:
PRINTED BY J. VINCENT.

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TABLE OF REFERENCE TO THE RULES.

| | |
|---|----------|
| I.—The Society | Rule 1. |
| II.—1. Election of Members | „ 2— 8. |
| 2. Honorary Members | „ 9—12. |
| 3. The admission of Strangers . . . | „ 13—16. |
| 4. Payments | „ 17—22. |
| III.—The Officers of the Society . . . | „ 23—24. |
| IV.—The Election of Officers | „ 25—33. |
| V.—The President | „ 34—39. |
| VI.—The Librarian and Library Committee . | „ 40—49. |
| VII.—The Treasurer | „ 50—55. |
| VIII.—The Secretary | „ 56—57. |
| IX.—The Committee | „ 58—60. |
| X.—The Library | „ 61—70. |
| XI.—The Reading Room | „ 71—75. |
| XII.—The Meetings of the Society . . . | „ 76—90. |
| XIII.—The Violation of the Rules . . . | „ 91. |

RULES
OF THE
OXFORD UNION SOCIETY.

OF THE SOCIETY.

I.

The Society shall be called "The Oxford Union Society," and shall have for its object the maintenance of a Library and Reading Room, and the Promotion of Debates on any subject not immediately involving Theological questions.

OF THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

II.

No person shall be proposed to be a Member who has not resided one Term in the University. Any Member who shall violate this rule shall be fined Ten Shillings.

N.B. Easter and Act Terms shall be reckoned as one Term.

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III.

No Candidate shall be nominated at any meeting of the Society, unless some Member shall, before the Sunday previous to that Meeting, have written on the board—

1. The initials of the Candidate's Christian name.
2. The Candidate's Surname.
3. The Candidate's College.
4. The Surnames of his Proposer and Seconder.
5. The Date of Proposal.

IV.

No Candidate shall be proposed more than twice in the same Term.

V.

The election of Members shall take precedence of all other business at the meetings of the Society: it shall be conducted by ballot, in which one black ball in four shall exclude, and shall be vested in the whole Society. No ballot box shall be carried round a second time after it has been opened.

VI.

It shall be unlawful to ballot for more than twelve Candidates at any Meeting except at special Meetings summoned by the President expressly for the election of Members.

VII.

After the ballot the President shall announce the names of the newly elected Members. He may annul elections for informality if it be detected within a week, but not otherwise.

VIII.

The Treasurer shall give notice to each Member immediately on his election, and shall state the payment due from him to the Society.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

IX.

Graduates of the University of Oxford shall on election pay the sum of Five Pounds, and become Honorary Members of the Society.

X.

Every Member becomes an Honorary Member on ceasing to reside at the University, or at the commencement of the Term in which his name appears on the Degree List, if he have paid the subscriptions of four entire Terms besides his Entrance Money. If he have not done so, he shall make up the deficiency within the same Term.

XI.

All Members of the Cambridge Union Society and of the Dublin Historical Society are privileged

to make use of the Society's rooms, and to attend and take part in the Debates, as though they were Honorary Members of this Society : but all Members of those Societies becoming resident in Oxford shall not retain this privilege beyond their first Term of residence, unless they produce a certificate from the Secretary of the Society to which they belong, certifying that they have paid the full subscription due from them to their respective Societies.

XII.

All Masters of Arts, and all subscribing Members of the London Union Society (unless resident in Oxford), are privileged to attend and take part in the Debates.

THE ADMISSION OF STRANGERS.

XIII.

Members of Committee may introduce two Strangers each, and other Members of the Society one each, to the Debate.

XIV.

No Stranger, if he be a Member of the University of Oxford, shall be permitted to be present during the discussion of Private Business.

XV.

Members may introduce any Strangers to the Reading Room with this reservation that no Member may introduce Resident Members of the University of Oxford, or Persons who have resided in the town of Oxford for more than two months, under pain of a Fine of One Pound.

XVI.

All Members shall be bound to write in a Book to be kept for that purpose, the name of any Stranger they may introduce to the Reading Room or Debating Room, under pain of a Fine of One Pound.

PAYMENTS.

XVII.

The entrance money shall be One Pound. The full subscription for each Term shall be 1*l.* 2*s.* Of Members elected after the fourth meeting only 1*l.* subscription is required during that Term. Of Members elected at the last meeting in Term, no subscription is required for that Term.

XVIII.

Honorary Members below the degree of M.A. shall pay Two Shillings each Term towards defraying the expense of Postage, so long as they continue in residence.

XIX.

Every Member who shall neglect to pay his subscription before the second meeting after his arrival in Oxford, shall be fined Two Shillings *per diem*, until the sum amount to One Pound, when notice thereof shall be given him by the Treasurer, who shall proceed against him according to the provisions of Rule XXII.

XX.

Newly elected Members, who shall neglect to pay their subscription and entrance money before the second meeting after their election, shall have their names struck off from the list of the Society.

XXI.

The President shall, in his circular to the subscribing Members announcing the first meeting in Term, state the time when their subscription is due.

XXII.

If a fine be not paid within three days after it becomes due, the name of the Member from whom it is due, with the amount of the fine, shall be forthwith posted in a conspicuous part of the Reading Room. If at the second meeting from this time it remain still unpaid, the President shall announce to the House that such Member's name is struck

off from the list of the Society. All names so struck off shall be printed and placed in the Reading Room. No Member of the Society thus struck off for non-payment of debts can be re-elected till those debts are paid.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

XXIII.

The affairs of the Society, except in respect of the Library, shall be managed by a Committee of Ten, consisting of the President, Librarian, Treasurer, and Seven other Members.

XXIV.

The management of the Society's Library shall be entrusted exclusively to a Committee of Six, consisting of the Librarian and Five other Members.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

XXV.

The President shall be nominated at the second meeting, and shall enter on his office after the third meeting in each Term.

XXVI.

The Librarian, Treasurer, and Library Committee shall be nominated at the first meeting in Term, and shall serve for two Terms.

XXVII.

The seven Ordinary Members of Committee shall be nominated at the third meeting in Term, and shall serve for one Term.

XXVIII.

Any Member proposing a Candidate to fill any office in the Society for which he is unqualified, or without previously obtaining his consent to serve in the same, shall be fined One Pound.

XXIX.

The following qualifications are requisite for a Member of the Standing Committee:—

1. That he shall have taken part, once at least, in the discussion of public business.
2. That he shall have been a Member of the Society for at least one Term.
3. That he be not one of the Ordinary Members of the Library Committee.

XXX.

Of the five Ordinary Members of the Library Committee, two must be Honorary, three must be Subscribing Members of the Society.

XXXI.

1. The names of Candidates who may be proposed to supply any vacant office in the Society must be written on the board by the President

before the Sunday, by any other Member before the Wednesday previous to the proper day of nomination.

2. On the proper day of nomination, immediately after the ballot, the President shall read to the Society the names of all Members who may have been proposed to fill any office.

3. If there be a contest, the President shall at the same time fix two periods in the day following (together not more than five, nor less than four hours) in which the votes of the Members of the Society shall be taken.

4. The manner of voting shall be as follows:— Each Member voting shall *in person* deliver his own name in writing to the Secretary (or some Member of Committee appointed as his substitute), and at the same time a paper containing the names of the Candidates for whom he votes, which the Secretary shall, without reading it, put into the ballot-box.

XXXII.

In the event of any office becoming vacant before its legal expiration, the President shall take the necessary steps for filling it by the second meeting after the occurrence of the vacancy.

XXXIII.

The Committee shall, immediately on their own election, appoint one of their number to be Secretary.

THE PRESIDENT.

XXXIV.

The President is the sole interpreter of the Rules, and shall decide every question of order.

XXXV.

1. In the Meetings of the Society it shall be the duty of the President to interfere (though *not* appealed to) whenever there is a breach of order; and it shall be in the power of any Member to call his attention to any conduct which appears to him disorderly, or to request him to *fine* any Member.

2. The President shall also interfere when any words are spoken at a Meeting which, in his judgment, are injurious to the personal honour and character of any Member of the Society; and the speaker so called on by the President shall be bound immediately to explain.

3. All explanations shall be received without question as to the real meaning and intention of the speaker; but it shall be in the power of the President (if he deem it necessary) after such explanation, to direct the speaker to withdraw the expression objected to. No words, however, shall be questioned except at the time they are uttered.

XXXVI.

1. The sole authority of inflicting Fines shall

be vested in the President, but it shall be imperative upon him to inflict them when he considers them to have been incurred by transgression of the Rules of the Society, or by disorderly conduct at the Society's Meetings.

2. Any Member refusing to explain or withdraw expressions used at the Meetings, when desired to do so by the President, or persisting in or imitating what the President has declared to be disorderly conduct, shall be fined One Pound.

3. On any Member being fined by the President for being out of order, the particular act for which he is fined shall be specified on the journals of the House, in order that the same may be fully considered if the Member fined should appeal to the House against the President's decision.

XXXVII.

Notice of an appeal against any decision of the President must be written on the board within a week after that decision has been pronounced. The appeal shall be tried on the first private business meeting after the President's term of office has expired.

XXXVIII.

The President shall be allowed to take part in any discussion, whether on public or private business, on resigning his chair at discretion to either the Librarian or Treasurer; or, in their absence,

to any member of the Committee except the Secretary. And the *locum tenens* of the President, either in the case supposed or in the absence of the President from any meeting of the Society, shall have the full power, and also the full responsibility, of the President, so far as relates to the conduct of that meeting; provided always that he shall be bound not to rule any point of order, or interpret any law, in opposition to any announced decision or interpretation of the President.

XXXIX.

The President shall have no vote except when the numbers for and against a question are equal, when he shall have the casting vote.

THE LIBRARIAN AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

XL.

The Treasurer shall be authorised to pay to the Librarian, each Term, the sum of £35 for the purchase of Books and the expenses of Binding.

XLI.

The Library Committee shall meet weekly. Any two of the Ordinary Members, together with the Librarian, shall form a quorum. The Librarian shall, besides his ordinary vote, have a casting vote, if necessary.

XLII.

The Library Committee shall select the Books to be proposed to the Society. The Librarian shall give notice on the boards of the Books so selected (with its probable expense affixed to each) before the Sunday previous to the meeting of the Society at which they are to be proposed.

XLIII.

No other Member of the Society shall have any power to propose Books under any pretence whatsoever, nor to move any amendment to the Librarian's List.

XLIV.

Any member may, however (with the usual notice), propose any Maps, Magazines, Reviews, Pamphlets, or Newspapers, provided that the motion does not extend to volumes already formed.

XLV.

The Librarian's List shall be brought forward in the House by the Librarian, or, in his absence, by some other Member of the Library Committee.

XLVI.

No more than ten Books shall be proposed at one Meeting.

XLVII.

No Book, if presented to the Society, shall be

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accepted by the Librarian, until he, after due notice, shall have proposed and carried a motion that it be accepted by the Society.

XLVIII.

The Librarian shall have the power to order all Pamphlets he may think proper for the use of the Society.

XLIX.

The Librarian shall, on going out of office, make a report to the Society, containing a classified List of all Books purchased by the Society during his period of office, together with a financial account of the Library Fund. This report shall be printed in the President's circular announcing the last meeting in Term.

THE TREASURER.

L.

The Treasurer shall direct the financial affairs, and have the management of the Rooms of the Society, except in those matters which fall within the province of the Librarian.

LI.

If any Member have incurred a fine, the Treasurer (unless it be a Library fine) shall notify it to him, and in case of nonpayment, shall proceed against him as in Rule XXII.

LII.

The Treasurer's accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Society shall be audited before the first meeting in every Term by the Secretary and another Member of Committee selected by the President for the purpose. The Treasurer shall at that meeting read the accounts thus audited to the Society, and the Secretary shall enter them on the minutes.

LIII.

The Treasurer shall propose his List of Newspapers at the first meeting in Lent Term, which shall stand good (subject to special motions) for one year. He shall likewise order such Theological papers for the use of the Society as he may think best, taking care that all parties be as far as possible represented.

LIV.

The Treasurer shall be bound, in all cases when he shall consider it necessary, to order additional Newspapers for the Reading Room, and shall at the same time, and during their continuance, place a notice in the Room stating the Newspapers so taken in.

LV.

No part of the Society's Funds shall be applied to the support of any public or private subscription whatever.

THE SECRETARY.**LVI.**

The Secretary shall minute the proceedings of the Society in a book kept for that purpose. He shall have charge of all the Records of the Society.

LVII.

All alterations made in the Rules of the Society shall be inserted by the Secretary in a copy to be kept in the Reading Room for the use of Members.

. THE COMMITTEE.**LVIII.**

The Committee shall meet once a-week, and oftener if summoned by the President. Three shall form a quorum, of whom the President, Librarian, or Treasurer must be one. The President (or, in his absence, the Librarian or Treasurer) shall, besides his ordinary vote, have a casting vote.

LIX.

Any Member of Committee who does not attend any meeting of Committee within a quarter of an hour after the appointed time, shall be fined Five Shillings, unless he can lay before the President a sufficient reason for his absence.

LX.

If any Member of the Committee shall refuse to

transact any business assigned to him, such refusal shall be equivalent to the resignation of his office.

THE LIBRARY.

LXI.

A Book shall be kept in the Reading Room, in order that Members may enter therein the names of such Works as they may think desirable for the Society.

LXII.

Any Member desiring the use of a Book at his own rooms may receive it upon application to the Society's servant. But if he take it himself from the Library, he shall be fined one pound. No Member shall be entitled to use any of the Society's Books in his own rooms if any debt be due from him to the Society.

LXIII.

No Member shall have more than two Volumes out at the same time, nor retain them longer than a week, if an application be made for them. Otherwise he may retain them for a fortnight, but in no case for a longer period. In the Vacations any Member may take out four volumes at the same time.

LXIV.

The names of Members applying for any Book already in circulation shall be entered by the So-

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ciety's servant. If there be more applicants than one, the first so entered shall be entitled to the Book as soon as it is returned.

LXV.

When a Member has retained a Book for the full time allowed, he shall be served with a notice stating the title of the Volume in his possession ; and any Member, on the receipt of such notice, shall be bound to return the Book specified before Twelve o'clock on the following day. If he shall neglect to do so, the Librarian shall send him a notice, acquainting him that he is fined One Shilling, and an additional fine of One Shilling shall be imposed for every day that the Volume is detained, till the fines amount to One Pound, when the name of the Member shall be posted in the Reading Room, and he shall be proceeded with as in Rule XXII. Absence from Oxford shall be considered no excuse.

LXVI.

Every Member shall be held responsible for the safety of all Books which he may borrow ; and for any injury, the Committee shall authorise the President to inflict a fine according to the value of the Book.

LXVII.

All Fines that have relation to the Library

shall be collected by the Librarian ; but shall be subject to an appeal to a General Meeting. And all money derived from them shall be applied to the use of the Library.

LXVIII.

Every Book shall be returned on or before the day of the last meeting in Term, on pain of a fine of Five Shillings ; and if the Book be not returned by the Thursday following the last Meeting, an additional fine of Five Shillings shall be incurred.

LXIX.

The following Books shall be always confined to the Reading Room :—

ALL ATLASSES and MAPS.

ALL NEWSPAPERS, bound or unbound.

The current numbers of REVIEWS and MAGAZINES : unbound PAMPHLETS

ALL JOURNALS, REGISTERS, LISTS, CALENDARS, and DICTIONARIES.

BIOGRAPHIE UNIVERSELLE.

BURKE'S HISTORY OF THE COMMONERS.

BURKE'S LANDED GENTRY.

BURKE'S PEERAGE AND BARONETAGE.

CAMDEN'S BRITANNICA.

CAMPBELL'S POLITICAL SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

CRUTWELL'S GAZETTEER.

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.—ENCYCLOPÆDIA METROPOLITANA

FLAXMAN'S ACTS OF MERCY.

H.B. POLITICAL SKETCHES.

ILLUSTRATION OF SCHILLER'S SONG OF THE BELL.

LIBER ECCLESIASTICUS.

PATERSON'S ROADS.

PUGIN'S GLOSSARY OF ECCLESIASTICAL DECORATIONS.

UNIVERSITY POLL BOOK.

The Librarian, by placing a notice in the Reading Room, may add to this List at any time such books as he may conceive to be wanted for reference at an approaching Debate.

LXX.

No Book shall be allowed to circulate among the Members for the first week after its purchase by the Society.

THE READING ROOM.

LXXI.

The Society's rooms shall be closed on Sundays, on Good Friday, and on Christmas Day.

LXXII.

On other days the Society's rooms shall be open between the hours of Nine A. M. and Ten P. M., except in the Long Vacation, when they shall be opened at Ten A. M. and shut at Eight P. M. No Member shall on any pretext be allowed to enter them after the Servants have left.

LXXIII.

Any Member who shall wantonly deface or injure the property of the Society, or damage the Reading or Debating Room, shall be Fined One Pound.

LXXIV.

Any Member who shall take away a Newspaper belonging to the Society, shall be Fined One Pound.

LXXV.

Any Member who shall bring a Dog into the Reading or Debating Room shall be fined Ten Shillings.

THE MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

LXXVI.

The Meetings of the Society shall be held on every Thursday evening during Term, at Eight o'clock in Winter, and Nine o'clock in Summer, unless otherwise appointed by the President.

LXXVII.

In each Term there shall be at least Two Meetings for the discussion of Private Business, one in the first fortnight, and one in the last ; if necessary more. The President shall fix them, announcing each one on the boards before the Saturday previous to it. He shall give a similar notice if on those meetings he judge it necessary on account of the amount of Private Business to postpone the Debate.

LXXVIII.

The Committee shall select Questions for Debate.

LXXIX.

Notice must be given before the Sunday previous to their discussion of all Public Business Motions; and also of all Private Business Motions, except such as refer solely to the conduct or adjournment of the then Meeting. Questions may be asked of officers relative to their official duties without notice; but all discussion on such points shall be at the discretion of the President.

LXXX.

No Member shall be allowed to alter or withdraw, without the sanction of the President, any motion on Public or Private Business of which notice has been given on the boards.

LXXXI.

If any Member shall neglect to bring forward in person or by proxy any Motion on Public or Private Business of which he has given notice, he shall be fined One Pound.

LXXXII.

Any Member may move an Amendment to any Motion or Rider, or a Rider to any Motion or Amendment. A Rider shall not be put to the vote till the Amendment or Motion to which it is annexed shall have been carried. A second Amendment or Rider shall not be put to the vote till the first has been disposed of. The President

shall refuse to put an irrelevant Amendment or Rider.

LXXXIII.

In a Debate, with the exception of the Mover who shall be called on to reply at its close, no Member shall speak more than once, unless it be simply to explain his own former speech, or to correct a misstatement of facts. In Private Business Members may speak as often as they please.

LXXXIV.

Any Motion which proposes an alteration in any Rule without specifying the Rule affected, shall be suppressed by the President before the Wednesday previous to the Meeting at which it is to be discussed. At the same time the President shall notify on the boards the Rule he conceives to be affected.

LXXXV.

The Librarian's List of Books, Official Motions by the Librarian or Treasurer, and any other Private Business by the recommendation of either of the Committees, may be discussed at any Meeting. The Librarian's List shall always take precedence of any other Private Business.

LXXXVI.

The President shall not put to the vote any Private Business Motion which either in form or

substance has already been rejected during the same Term.

LXXXVII.

A Motion for taking in a Newspaper or Periodical which has been rejected for two consecutive Terms, shall not be brought forward until the second Term after its last rejection.

LXXXVIII.

If a Motion for an Adjournment be rejected, it may not be repeated till after the lapse of half an hour.

LXXXIX.

It shall be imperative on the President to adjourn the Society—

1. If there be less than Fifteen Members present at a Debate, or than Twenty at the Ballot or at Private Business.
2. If after 11.30 P.M. any Member enforce an Adjournment.

XC.

All Business, Public or Private, interrupted by such an Adjournment, shall be despatched at the next Meeting of the Society.

THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

XCI.

Any Member who shall be convicted by a majority of a Meeting of the Society of any breach of the foregoing Rules, for which no special Penalty is provided, shall be fined One Pound.

