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L A W S

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

American Philosophical Society,

HELD AT PHILADELPHIA,

FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,

As finally amended and adopted, Dec. 16, 1859.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CHARTER OF THE SOCIETY,

AND

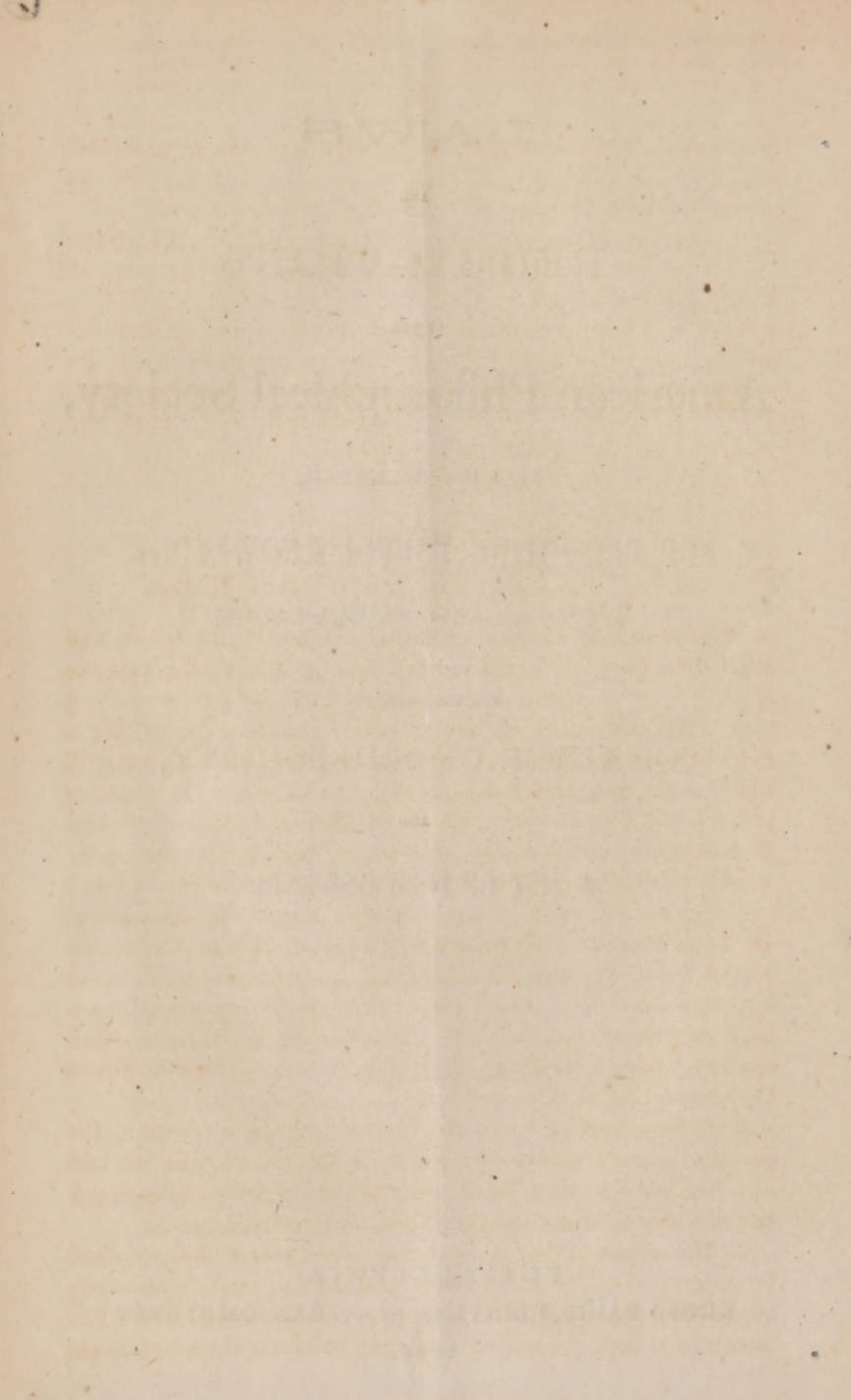
A LIST OF ITS PRESIDENTS.



PHILADELPHIA:

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1866.



THE LAWS

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE MEMBERS, AND MANNER OF THEIR ELECTION.

SECTION 1. The election of members shall be by ballot, and shall form part of the stated business of the meetings on the third Friday of January, April, July and October.

2. A member may, at any meeting, nominate in writing a candidate for membership, and the nomination so made may, in like manner, be concurred in by other members. The board of officers and council may also nominate candidates for membership; and such nominations shall be certified to the Society by minute thereof in writing, attested by the clerk of said board.

3. No person shall be balloted for, unless his nomination, with the names of the members proposing him, or the minute of the board of officers and council, made as aforesaid, shall have been publicly read to the Society at the two stated meetings preceding that at which the balloting takes place. Nor shall any person be deemed duly chosen unless three-fourths of the votes given shall be in his favor.

4. Before entering upon an election for members, one of the secretaries shall read the names of the several candidates; and any member may then, for the information of the Society, speak to their character and qualifications for membership.

5. The names of the candidates and their places of abode shall be designated on the ballot-boxes, and the names of the members qualified to vote shall be called by one of the secretaries. The members as they are named shall then ballot for the several can-

didates in succession ; a white ball being considered in favor of the candidate.

6. After all the other business of the meeting shall have been disposed of, the boxes shall be opened and the result of the poll declared by the presiding member.

7. The members are mutually pledged not to mention out of the Society the name of any candidate proposed, nor of any withdrawn or unsuccessful candidate ; and the papers containing the names of the unsuccessful candidates shall be destroyed immediately after the election.

8. Every member, upon his introduction into the Society, shall be presented to the presiding officer, and shall subscribe the laws.

9. Such members as reside within ten miles of the hall of the Society, and such other members as desire to vote at the meetings and elections, shall pay an admission fee of ten dollars, and annually thereafter, on the first Friday of January, a contribution of five dollars. The payment of fifty dollars at one time, by a member not in arrears, shall exempt him from all future annual payments.

10. Members elect, residing within ten miles of the hall, shall lose the right of membership unless they subscribe the laws and pay their admission fee within one year after their election. Any member liable to an annual contribution, who shall neglect or refuse to pay the same for the term of two years, shall be notified by the treasurer in writing, on or before the second Friday in January after such default, that his rights as a member are suspended ; and, in case the said arrears, together with the contribution due on the first Friday in January after such notice, shall not be paid to the treasurer on or before the said last named day, the membership of such defaulting member shall be forfeited, his name stricken from the roll, and reported to the Society by the treasurer.

11. On the Society being informed of the death of a member, the fact shall be entered on the records, and a member may be appointed to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

12. The obituary notices of members shall be read to the Society, and they shall be bound together whenever they are sufficiently numerous to form a volume.

13. The catalogue of the members shall be read at the meeting on the third Friday of January, for the purpose of correction.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE OFFICERS, AND MANNER OF THEIR ELECTION.

SECTION 1. The officers, shall be a patron, a president, three vice-presidents, four secretaries, three curators, a treasurer, and twelve counsellors.

2. The governor of the State of Pennsylvania shall be, ex-officio, the patron of the Society.

3. On the first Friday of January in every year, between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, as many of the members as shall have paid up their arrears due to the Society, and shall declare their willingness to conform to the laws, regulations, and ordinances of the Society, then duly in force, by subscribing the same, and who shall attend in the hall, or place of meeting of the Society, within the time aforesaid, shall choose by ballot, one president, three vice-presidents, four secretaries, three curators, and one treasurer; and, at the same time and place, the members, met and qualified as aforesaid, shall in like manner choose four members for the council, to hold their offices for three years.

4. No person residing within the United States shall be capable of being president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or member of the council, or of electing to any of the said offices, who is not capable of electing and being elected to civil offices within the State in which he resides. Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be considered as intended to exclude any of the officers or counsellors, whose time shall be expired, from being re-elected, according to the pleasure of the Society.

5. No one shall be esteemed a qualified voter at the election, who has not subscribed the laws and paid the admission fee, or who is in arrears to the Society, or has not attended a meeting during a whole year next preceding the election.

6. Of the day, hour, and place of election, notice shall be given by the librarian at least one week before the day of election, in such one or more of the public newspapers of the State of Pennsylvania, as the Society shall direct.

7. Before opening the election, the company that shall be met at half an hour after two, shall appoint three members of the Society as judges of the election, and also two clerks or secretaries for taking down the names of the voters.

8. In case of an equality of votes for the candidates for any office, the decision shall be by lot, to be drawn by one of the judges.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

SECTION 1. The president shall preside at the meetings, preserve order, regulate the debates, state and put questions agreeably to the sense and intention of the members, and announce the determination of the Society thereupon.

2. In the absence of the president from a meeting, his duties shall devolve upon the vice-presidents in rotation; or, at his request when present, his duties may be performed by either of the vice-presidents.

3. If the president and vice-presidents be absent, the members met shall appoint one of their number to take the chair for the time.

4. At some time, within the year, the president shall deliver to the Society a discourse on some literary or scientific subject, accompanied by such suggestions, with regard to the affairs of the Society, as he shall judge proper.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE SECRETARIES.

SECTION 1. The Secretaries shall minute the proceedings of the Society at the meetings, read all papers which are required to be read at the meetings, and preserve, in regular files, all documents presented to the Society. They shall give notice to members of their election, acknowledge in writing the reception of all communications, and generally conduct the correspondence.

2. Two of them, at least, shall officiate at every meeting; and unless a different arrangement shall be made and announced by them at the beginning of the year, the first and third named on the list of secretaries shall be considered responsible for the performance of all the duties of the office during the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh months of the year, and in like manner the second and fourth named on the list, during the alternate months.

CHAPTER V.

OF THE CURATORS.

SECTION 1. The curators shall have charge of the cabinet of the Society, and shall be responsible for its preservation and security. They shall classify and arrange the articles therein, and shall preserve an exact list of them, with the names of the donors.

2. One of them, at least, shall be in attendance as curator at every meeting; and, unless a different arrangement shall be made and announced by them at the beginning of the year, they shall be considered severally responsible, in monthly rotation, for the performance of all the duties of the office.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE TREASURER.

SECTION 1. The treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys belonging to the Society, or entrusted to its care, unless otherwise specially directed; and he shall disburse or apply the same upon the orders or according to the appropriations made by the Society, which orders and appropriations shall be duly certified to him by the presiding officer and secretary for the time.

2. He shall keep regular accounts: and on the first Friday of December in every year, and as much oftener as may be required, he shall present to the Society a full report on the state of its funds.

3. He shall preserve for the use of the Society at elections, and meetings, a catalogue of all the members, designating thereon as a distinct class those who have paid the admission fee and the annual contributions, and noting opposite to their names the several meetings at which they have attended during the year.

4. On the expiration of his office he shall deliver up to his successor, the books, papers, vouchers of property, and moneys remaining in his hands.

5. To secure the faithful execution of all his trusts, he shall, before he enters upon his office, give bond and security to the

Society in such amount as the committee of finance shall judge proper ; which bond shall, without renewal, apply to the several years for which he may be re-elected treasurer.

6. He shall, as full compensation for his services, receive five per cent. on the amount of the annual income of the Society collected by him.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

SECTION I. The officers and council shall meet together statedly on the second Friday of February, May, August and November respectively, at the same hour in the evening at which the stated meetings of the Society are appointed to be held ; and specially at such times as they may judge proper.

2. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, to be laid before the Society at its stated meetings, on the third Friday of the same months respectively.

3. They shall, from time to time, lay before the Society such measures as in their judgment will conduce to the well-governing and ordering of the affairs of the Society, or promote the objects of its institution ; particularly, they shall recommend subjects for premiums to be offered by the Society, with the conditions on which they shall be awarded.

4. They shall also, from time to time, nominate to the Society as candidates for membership, such persons, of our own or of foreign countries, as may in their judgment merit such a distinction. Such nominations shall, as nearly as may be practicable, be agreed to by them in the manner pointed out by law for the election of members, except that no previous notice of any intended proposal to them for their nomination shall be required ; and the names of all persons duly nominated by them shall be certified to the Society by a minute thereof, made in writing and attested by their clerk.

5. To them shall be submitted all communications from candidates for premiums, whether the Magellanic or those offered by the Society, all of which shall be immediately referred to the standing committee on premiums. Reports on such communications shall be made without unnecessary delay.

6. They shall annually appoint a standing committee of seven members, to be called the committee on premiums, of which three members shall be a quorum. It shall be the duty of this committee to publish the terms on which the Magellanic and other premiums are to be granted by the Society, to consider and report upon all communications from candidates for premiums, and to recommend to the officers and council subjects for which new premiums shall be offered by the Society.

7. The president and senior secretary of the Society, shall be, ex-officio, the president and clerk at their meetings; and three of their number shall be a quorum.

8. The ex-presidents of the Society shall be members of the board of officers and council.

CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE LIBRARIAN.

SECTION 1. A member of the Society shall be chosen at the stated meeting on the third Friday of January in each year, to be the librarian of the Society. Nominations for said office shall be made at the first stated meeting in January, and no person shall be voted for who has not been so nominated.

2. The librarian shall have, under the direction of the proper standing committees, the custody and care of the hall, and of the books and papers belonging to the Society, which he shall dispose and arrange in such a manner as shall be judged most convenient, and shall keep an arranged catalogue of them, with the names of the donors. He shall assist the curators in their charge of the cabinet.

3. He shall attend at the library at every meeting of the Society, and daily, excepting Sundays, from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M. except when allowed leave of absence by the presiding officer of the Society, and shall then, and at such other times as he may think proper, lend out to any resident member of the Society, who is not indebted to him for fines or forfeitures, any books belonging to the library, except the last volumes and loose numbers of periodical journals, and except recent donations made to the Society, which shall not be lent out; taking from each member, borrowing a book, an obligation, with a sufficient

penalty, to return the same uninjured, within one month thereafter, subject to a fine of fifty cents at every stated meeting that shall occur after the limited period before he returns the book, and a forfeiture of double the value of the book, or of the set of which it is one, if not returned in six months after being borrowed.

4. He shall levy and collect these fines and forfeitures, and pay over the moneys thence arising to the treasurer, at the end of his official year, in aid of the appropriation for the library.

5. He shall give notice in the newspapers of the meetings of the Society and of the officers and council, and of all elections, and shall make all such publications on behalf of the Society as are not otherwise devolved by law or special order.

6. He shall, at the beginning of each year, cause tables to be prepared for the use of the members, on which shall be noted the days for the meetings of the Society and of the officers and council, the stated business to be transacted thereat, and the names of the officiating secretaries and curator.

7. He shall transcribe carefully and correctly the minutes of the Society, as made by the officiating secretaries. He shall acknowledge the reception of all donations made to the Society, and transmit copies of its Transactions and Proceedings as directed, and shall from time to time perform such other executive or ministerial duties as may be charged on him by a vote of the Society, given according to the laws.

8. He shall, under the direction of the secretaries, act as reporter of the proceedings of the Society, and shall cause such abstract of them to be published for the use of the members, and for distribution to correspondents, as the secretaries may deem expedient or proper, or as the Society may direct; but no expense shall be incurred, nor any contracts made for printing or publishing the same, beyond the sum appropriated by the Society for such purposes.

9. He shall receive an annual salary of seven hundred dollars, to be paid monthly from the treasury of the Society, and his services shall commence on the first Monday after his election.

CHAPTER IX.

OF THE MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

SECTION 1. The ordinary meetings of the Society shall be on the first and third Fridays of every month from October to May, both inclusive, and on the third Friday of each of the other four months, at seven o'clock in the evening. Special meetings may be called at any time by order of the president; or, in his absence, by order of a vice-president.

2. The chair shall be taken by the presiding officer within one hour after the time appointed for the meeting.

3. The qualified voters, present at any stated or special meeting, shall be a quorum, and be competent to elect members, dispose of property, appropriate money, and award premiums; but no property shall be alienated or encumbered, except by the vote of three-fourths of the qualified voters present, and given at two successive stated meetings. For the transaction of the ordinary business, the reception and reference of communications on literary, scientific, or other subjects, all other members present shall be deemed competent to act, and, in the absence of qualified voters, shall form a quorum.

4. Those members shall be considered qualified voters at the meetings, who have subscribed the laws and paid the admission fee, and who are not in arrears to the Society.

5. No meeting shall be continued after eleven o'clock; nor shall any new matter be introduced after ten, unless in the transaction of business, enjoined by the laws.

6. The hall of the Society shall be open on every Friday evening, when the Society is not in session, to the members and such friends as they may introduce, for the purposes of reading and social intercourse.

CHAPTER X.

OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

SECTION 1. Every communication to the Society which may be considered as intended for a place in the Transactions, shall immediately be referred to a committee to consider and report thereon.

2. If the committee shall report in favor of publishing the communication, they shall make such corrections therein as they may judge necessary to fit it for the press; or if they shall judge the publication of an abstract or extracts from the paper to be more eligible, they shall accompany their report with such abstract or extracts. But if the author do not approve of the corrections, abstract, or extracts, reported by the committee, he shall be at liberty to withdraw his paper.

3. Communications not intended by their authors for publication in the Transactions, will be received by the Society, and the title or subject of them recorded; and, if they be in writing, they shall be filed by the secretaries.

4. The Transactions shall be published in numbers, at as short intervals as practicable, under the direction of the committee of publication, and in such a form as the Society shall from time to time direct; and every communication ordered to be published in the Transactions shall be immediately sent to the printer, and fifty copies thereof be given to the author as soon as printed.

5. The order in which papers are read shall determine their places in the Transactions, unless otherwise ordered by the Society; priority of date giving priority of location.

6. The expenses of publishing the Transactions shall be defrayed by subscriptions and sales, aided by such funds as the Society shall from time to time appropriate for that purpose.

CHAPTER XI.

OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. There shall be chosen, at the stated meeting on the third Friday of January in each year, three members of the Society, to be a committee of finance, five to be a committee of publication, three to be a committee on the hall, and five to be a committee on the library.

2. The committee of finance shall have the general superintendence of the financial concerns of the Society. They shall consult with the treasurer, and authorize and direct investments of its surplus funds. They shall always have access to his books, accounts, and vouchers; and they shall annually, on

the third Friday of December, make a full report on the state of the treasury, particularly distinguishing the several funds, and the income and disbursements of each, and recommending the amounts which should be appropriated for different objects of expenditure during the ensuing year. They shall also have power to remit the fees and contributions of members, when they shall judge that circumstances make it proper.

3. The committee of publication shall superintend the printing and distribution of the Society's Transactions. They shall make all contracts for the same in the name of the Society, but shall have no power to incur any debt, beyond the amount appropriated by the Society for said publication, or derived from subscriptions. They shall audit and certify all bills for expenses attending the publication, to the treasurer for payment, fix the price of the different numbers, and receive subscriptions. They shall furnish the treasurer, immediately after the publication of any number of the Transactions, with a list of the subscribers, and the sum due from each, to enable him to collect the amount thereof, and shall annually, on the first Friday of December, make a full report of their doings to the Society. They shall have power to call on the librarian for his assistance in the performance of their duties.

4. The committee on the hall shall have charge of the real estate of the Society, and shall direct all necessary repairs. They shall effect insurance upon the property of the Society in such amounts as may from time to time be directed.

5. The committee on the library shall confer with and assist the librarian in the disbursement of the annual appropriations for the library, and in the disposition and arrangement of the books, charts, and documents belonging to the Society.

6. No committee appointed on any subject of deliberation shall consist of less than three members; but any other matter may be committed to a single member. A majority of any committee shall be a quorum.

7. All committees shall be chosen, unless otherwise directed by the Society, on nominations previously made and seconded, the question being put on each member separately.

8. The member first elected of any committee shall be the chairman, and considered responsible for the discharge of the duties enjoined on the committee.

9. Committees shall report at the meeting next following their appointment, unless otherwise ordered by the Society.

10. All reports shall be in writing, and signed by the members agreeing thereto.

11. The names of the committees, the time of their appointment, the matter or business committed to them, the time at which they are to report, and the time at which their final report is presented, shall be entered by the secretaries in a book provided for that purpose.

CHAPTER XII.

OF THE MAGELLANIC FUND.

SECTION 1. John Hyacinth de Magellan, in London, having in the year 1786 offered to the Society, as a donation, the sum of two hundred guineas, to be by them vested in a secure and permanent fund, to the end that the interest arising therefrom should be annually disposed of in premiums, to be adjudged by them to the author of the best discovery, or most useful invention, relating to Navigation, Astronomy, or Natural Philosophy (mere natural history only excepted); and the Society having accepted of the above donation, they hereby publish the conditions, prescribed by the donor and agreed to by the Society, upon which the said annual premiums will be awarded.

CONDITIONS OF THE MAGELLANIC PREMIUM.

1. The candidate shall send his discovery, invention or improvement, addressed to the president, or one of the vice-presidents of the Society, free of postage or other charges; and shall distinguish his performance by some motto, device, or other signature, at his pleasure. Together with his discovery, invention, or improvement, he shall also send a sealed letter containing the same motto, device or signature, and subscribed with the real name and place of residence of the author.

2. Persons of any nation, sect or denomination whatever, shall be admitted as candidates for this premium.

3. No discovery, invention or improvement shall be entitled to this premium, which hath been already published, or for which the author hath been publicly rewarded elsewhere.

4. The candidate shall communicate his discovery, invention or improvement, either in the English, French, German, or Latin language.

5. All such communications shall be publicly read or exhibited to the Society at some stated meeting, not less than one month previous to the day of adjudication, and shall at all times be open to the inspection of such members as shall desire it. But no member shall carry home with him the communication, description, or model, except the officer to whom it shall be entrusted; nor shall such officer part with the same out of his custody, without a special order of the Society for that purpose.

6. The Society, having previously referred the several communications from candidates for the premium, then depending, to the consideration of the twelve counsellors and other officers of the Society, and having received their report thereon, shall, at one of their stated meetings in the month of December, annually, after the expiration of this current year (of the time and place, together with the particular occasion of which meeting, due notice shall be previously given, by public advertisement) proceed to final adjudication of the said premium; and, after due consideration had, a vote shall first be taken on this question, viz., Whether any of the communications then under inspection be worthy of the proposed premium? If this question be determined in the negative, the whole business shall be deferred till another year; but if in the affirmative, the Society shall proceed to determine by ballot, given by the members at large, the discovery, invention, or improvement most useful and worthy; and that discovery, invention, or improvement, which shall be found to have a majority of concurring votes in its favor, shall be successful; and then, and not till then, the sealed letter accompanying the crowned performance shall be opened, and the name of the author announced as the person entitled to the said premium.

7. No member of the Society who is a candidate for the premium then depending, or who hath not previously declared to the Society, that he has considered and weighed, according to the best of his judgment, the comparative merits of the several claims then under consideration, shall sit in judgment, or give his vote in awarding the said premium.

8. A full account of the crowned subject shall be published by the Society, as soon as may be after the adjudication, either in a separate publication, or in the next succeeding volume of their Transactions, or in both.

9. The unsuccessful performances shall remain under consideration, and their authors be considered as candidates for the premium for five years next succeeding the time of their presentment; except such performances as their authors may, in the mean time, think fit to withdraw. And the Society shall annually publish an abstract of the titles, object, or subject matter of the communications, so under consideration; such only excepted as the Society shall think not worthy of public notice.

10. The letters containing the names of authors whose performances shall be rejected, or which shall be found unsuccessful after a trial of five years, shall be burnt before the Society, without breaking the seals.

11. In case there should be a failure, in any year, of any communication worthy of the proposed premium, there will then be two premiums to be awarded the next year. But no accumulation of premiums shall entitle the author to more than one premium for any one discovery, invention or improvement.

12. The premium shall consist of an oval plate of solid standard gold, of the value of ten guineas. On one side thereof shall be neatly engraved a short Latin motto suited to the occasion, together with the words; "The Premium of John Hyacinth de Magellan, of London, established in the year 1786; and on the other side of the plate shall be engraved these words: "Awarded by the A. P. S. for the discovery of——A. D.——" And the seal of the Society shall be annexed to the medal by a ribbon passing through a small hole at the lower edge thereof.

SECTION 2. The Magellanic fund of two hundred guineas shall be considered as ten hundred and fifty dollars, and shall be invested separately from other funds belonging to or under the care of the Society, and a separate and distinct account of it shall be kept by the treasurer.

The said fund shall be credited with the sum of one hundred dollars, to represent the two premiums for which the Society is now liable.

The treasurer shall credit the said fund with the interest received on the investment thereof, and, if any surplus of said interest shall remain after providing for the premiums which may then be demandable, said surplus shall be used by the Society for making publication of the terms of the said premium, and for the addition, to the said premium, of such amount as the Society may from time to time think suitable, or for the institution of other premiums.

The treasurer shall, at the first stated meeting of the Society in the month of December annually, make a report of the state of said fund and of the investment thereof.

CHAPTER XIII.

OF THE LAWS OF THE SOCIETY.

SECTION 1. No statute, law, regulation, or ordinance shall ever be made or passed by the Society, or be binding upon the members thereof, or any of them, unless the same hath been duly proposed and fairly drawn up in writing, at one stated meeting of the Society, and enacted or passed at a subsequent meeting, at least the space of fourteen days after the former meeting, and upon due notice in some of the public newspapers, that the enacting of statutes and laws, or the making and passing ordinances and regulations, will be part of the business of such meeting.

2. Nor shall any statute, law, regulation or ordinance be then, or at any time, enacted or passed, unless thirteen members of the Society be present in addition to the quorum of the officers and council; nor unless the same be voted by two-thirds of the whole body present.

3. The laws contained in the thirteen foregoing chapters, shall be in force from and after the time of their adoption by the Society; and thereafter all other laws, regulations and ordinances heretofore passed or made by the Society, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

RULES OF ORDER, &c.

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

1. The Order of Business at the ordinary meetings of the Society shall be as follows:—

1. The chair taken by the presiding officer.
2. Names of members present minuted.
3. New members presented, and visitors from corresponding societies introduced.
4. Records read of last ordinary meeting, and of any subsequent special meetings.
5. Correspondence read and acted on, unless giving rise to debate:
 - a. Acknowledgments of election to membership.
 - b. Letters from learned societies.
 - c. Other letters.
6. Donations and other additions announced and acted on:
 - a. To the library.
 - b. To the cabinet.
7. Reports on communications and subjects of science read and acted on:
 - a. From standing committees and officers.
 - b. From special committees.
8. Obituary notices of members read, and announcements of the decease of members made and acted on.
9. Communications for Magellanic premiums and communications intended for the Transactions presented and acted on.
10. Communications not intended for the Transactions presented.
11. Visitors from corresponding societies retire.

12. Stated business of the meeting.
13. Pending nominations for membership announced and new nominations read.
14. Reports on business made and acted on :

- a.* From standing committees and officers.
- b.* From special committees.

15. Deferred business :

- a.* Of the meeting.
- b.* Of former meetings.

16. New business.

17. Minutes read, and submitted for correction.

18. The Society adjourned by the presiding officer.

2. No debate shall ever take place in the Society but on motion duly made and seconded and afterwards stated by the presiding member.

3. When a member speaks he shall stand up, addressing himself to the presiding member; and, avoiding desultory remarks, he shall confine himself strictly to the merits of the question under consideration.

4. No member while speaking shall be interrupted, unless by the presiding member, when he shall think fit to call him to order or to admonish him to a closer adherence to the question under discussion.

5. When a member speaking is called to order he shall instantly sit down or appeal from the call to the Society, who shall determine without debate.

6. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question without previously asking and obtaining leave of the Society.

7. Whilst any question or motion is under debate, no other motion shall be admitted, unless to divide the question, to amend, to postpone, to adjourn, or to take the pending question.

8. No motion to reconsider a former vote can be made or seconded except by a member who voted in the majority. Nor shall any such motion be entertained unless it be made forthwith, or at the next stated meeting after the action which it proposes to reconsider.

9. A motion for adjournment shall at all times be determined without debate.

10. The presiding member shall have no vote, unless in the case of a tie or equality of votes among the other members, or where the act of incorporation or the laws require more than a bare majority of the members present, or where the vote is taken by ballot.

11. Where a ballot is not required by the laws, the votes, if requested by three of the members present, shall be taken by ayes and noes, and shall be recorded among the proceedings of the meeting.

12. Every meeting of the Society and of the council shall be advertised in at least two of the daily newspapers of the city on the day previous to the time of meeting.

13. Any of the foregoing rules of order may, for the more convenient despatch of business at any meeting, be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

AN ACT

For Incorporating the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for promoting Useful Knowledge.

WHEREAS, the cultivation of useful knowledge, and the advancement of the liberal arts and sciences in any country, have the most direct tendency towards the improvement of agriculture, the enlargement of trade, the ease and comfort of life, the ornament of society, and the increase and happiness of mankind. And whereas, this country of North America, which the goodness of Providence hath given us to inherit, from the vastness of its extent, the variety of its climate, the fertility of its soil, the yet unexplored treasures of its bowels, the multitude of its rivers, lakes, bays, inlets, and other conveniences of navigation, offers to these United States one of the richest subjects of cultivation, ever presented to any people upon earth. And whereas, the experience of ages shows that improvements of a public nature, are best carried on by Societies of liberal and ingenious men, uniting their labors, without regard to nation, sect or party, in one grand pursuit, alike interesting to all, whereby mutual prejudices are worn off, a humane and philosophical spirit is cherished, and youth are stimulated to a laudable diligence and emulation in the pursuit of wisdom. And whereas, upon these principles, divers public spirited gentlemen in Pennsylvania, and other American States, did heretofore unite themselves, under certain regulations, into one voluntary Society, by the name of "The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for promoting Useful Knowledge," and by their successful labors and investigations, to the great credit of America, have extended their reputation so far, that men of the first eminence in the republic of letters in the most civilized nations in Europe, have done honor to their publications, and desired to be enrolled among their members. And whereas, the Society, after having been long interrupted in their laudable pursuits by the calamities of war, and the distresses of our country, have found means to revive their design, in hopes of being able to prosecute the same with their former success, and being further

encouraged therein by the public, for which purpose they have prayed us, the representatives of the freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that they may be created one body politic and corporate for ever, with such powers, privileges, and immunities, as may be necessary for answering the valuable purposes which the said Society had originally in view:

Wherefore, in order to encourage the said Society in the prosecution and advancement of all useful branches of knowledge, for the benefit of their country, and of mankind; be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted, by the representatives of the freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met, and by the authority of the same, that the members of the said American Philosophical Society heretofore voluntarily associated for promoting useful knowledge, and such other persons as have been duly elected members and officers of the same, agreeably to the Fundamental Laws and Regulations of the said Society, comprised in twelve sections, prefixed to their volume of transactions, published in Philadelphia by William and Thomas Bradford, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one; and who shall in all respects conform themselves to the said laws and regulations, and such other laws, regulations and ordinances; as shall hereafter be duly made and enacted by the said Society, according to the tenor hereof, be, and for ever hereafter shall be, one body corporate and politic in deed, by the name and style of The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for promoting Useful Knowledge, and by the same name they are hereby constituted and confirmed one body corporate and politic, to have perpetual succession, and by the same name they and their successors are hereby declared and made able and capable in law, to have, hold, receive, and enjoy lands, tenements, rents, franchises, hereditaments, gifts and bequests of what nature soever, in fee simple, or for term of life, lives, years, or otherwise, and also to give, grant, let, sell, alien, or assign the same lands, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, and premises, according to the nature of the respective gifts, grants, and bequests, made to them the said Society and of their estate therein.

Provided, That the amount of the clear yearly value of such real estate do not exceed the value of ten thousand bushels of good merchantable wheat.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Society be, and shall be for ever hereafter, able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any of the courts or other places, and before any judges, justices and other person and persons, in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, pleas, causes and matters, of what nature or kind soever, within this Commonwealth: and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Society, for ever hereafter, to have and use one common seal in their affairs, and the same at their will and pleasure to break, change, alter and renew.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That for the well governing the said Society, and ordering their affairs, they shall have the following officers, that is to say, one Patron, who shall be his Excellency the President of the Supreme Executive Council [now the Governor] of this Commonwealth, for the time being, and likewise one President, three Vice-Presidents, four Secretaries, three Curators, one Treasurer, together with a council of twelve Members: and that on the first Friday of January next, between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, as many of the members of the said Society as shall have paid up their arrears due to the said Society, and shall declare their willingness to conform to the laws, regulations and ordinances of the Society, then duly in force, according to the tenor hereof, by subscribing the same, and who shall attend in the Hall, or place of meeting of the said Society, within the time aforesaid, shall choose by ballot, agreeably to the Fundamental Laws and Regulations herein before referred to, one President, four Secretaries, three Curators, and one Treasurer, and at the same time and place, the members met and qualified as aforesaid, shall in like manner choose four members for the council, to hold their offices for one year, four more members for the council to hold their offices for two years, and four more members for the council to hold their offices for three years. And on the first Friday in January, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and so likewise on the first Friday of January, yearly and every year thereafter, between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, the members of the said Society met and qualified as aforesaid, shall choose one President, Three Vice-Presidents,

four Secretaries, three Curators, and one Treasurer, to hold their respective offices for one year, and four Councilmen, to hold their offices for three years. *Provided*, That no person residing within the United States shall be capable of being President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or member of the Council, or of electing to any of the said offices, who is not capable of electing and being elected to civil offices within the state in which he resides. *Provided also*, That nothing herein contained, shall be considered as intended to exclude any of the said Officers or Counsellors, whose times shall be expired, from being re-elected, according to the pleasure of the said Society; and of the day, hours, and place of all such elections, due notice shall be given by the Secretaries, or some one of them, in one or more of the public newspapers of this State, agreeably to the said Fundamental Laws and regulations before referred to.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Officers and Council of the said Society shall be capable of exercising such power for the well governing and ordering the affairs of the Society, and of holding such occasional meetings for that purpose, as shall be described, fixed and determined, by the statutes, laws, regulations and ordinances of the said Society, hereafter to be made. *Provided always*, That no statute, law, regulation or ordinance shall ever be made or passed by the said Society, or be binding upon the members thereof, or any of them, unless the same hath been duly proposed, and fairly drawn up in writing at one stated meeting of the Society, and enacted or passed at a subsequent meeting, at least the space of fourteen days after the former meeting, and upon due notice in some of the public newspapers, that the enacting of statutes and laws, or the making and passing ordinances and regulations, will be part of the business of such meeting; nor shall any statute, law, regulation or ordinance be then or at any time enacted or passed, unless thirteen members of the said Society, or such greater number of members as may be afterwards fixed by the rules of this Society, be present, besides such quorum of the officers and council as the laws of the Society for the time being may require, and unless the same be voted by two-thirds of the whole body then present; all which statutes, laws, ordinances and regulations so as aforesaid duly made, enacted and passed, shall be binding upon every

member of the said Society, and be from time to time inviolably observed, according to the tenor and effect thereof; provided they be not repugnant or contrary to the laws of this Commonwealth, for the time being in force and effect.

And whereas, nations, truly civilized (however unhappily at variance on other accounts) will never wage war with the arts and sciences and the common interests of humanity;

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Society, by their proper officers, at all times, whether in peace or war, to correspond with learned Societies, as well as individual learned men, of any nation or country, upon matters merely belonging to the business of the said Society; such as the mutual communication of their discoveries and proceedings in philosophy and science; the procuring books, apparatus, natural curiosities, and such other articles and intelligence as are usually exchanged between learned bodies for furthering their common pursuits. Provided always, That such correspondence of the said Society be at all times open to the inspection of the Supreme Executive Council of this Commonwealth.

(Signed)

JOHN BAYARD,

Speaker.

Enacted into a Law at Philadelphia, on Wednesday, the fifteenth day of March, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and eighty.

(Signed)

THOMAS PAINE,

Clerk of the General Assembly.

(COPY.)

A LIST OF THE PRESIDENTS

OF THE

American Philosophical Society,

Held at Philadelphia, for promoting Useful Knowledge.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

Elected 2d January, 1769; died 17th April, 1790.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE,

Elected 7th January, 1791; died 26th June, 1796.

THOMAS JEFFERSON,

Elected 6th January, 1797; resigned in January, 1815; died 4th July, 1826.

CASPAR WISTAR,

Elected 6th January, 1815; died 22d January, 1818.

ROBERT PATTERSON,

Elected 1st January, 1819; died 22d July, 1824.

WILLIAM TILGHMAN,

Elected 7th January, 1825; died 29th April, 1827.

PETER STEPHEN DUPONCEAU,

Elected 4th January, 1828; died 1st April, 1844.

ROBERT M. PATTERSON,

Elected 3d January, 1845; declined accepting the position.

NATHANIEL CHAPMAN,

Elected 2d January, 1846; died 1st July, 1853.

ROBERT M. PATTERSON,

Re-elected 5th January, 1849; died 5th September, 1854.

FRANKLIN BACHE,

Elected 7th January, 1853; died March 19, 1864.

ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE,

Elected 5th January, 1855.

JOHN K. KANE,

Elected 2d January, 1857; died 21st February, 1858.

GEORGE B. WOOD,

Elected 7th January, 1859.