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#### ACTS OF A PRIVATE NATURE.

Act in amendment of the several Acts heretofore passed by the General Assembly in amendment of, and addition to the Charter of the Redwood Library and Athenæum, at Newport.

*enacted by the General Assembly as follows :*

Section 1. Said Company shall be known and called by the name of the Company of the Redwood Library and Athenæum ; and by that name shall have and enjoy all powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and be subject to all the duties, liabilities and burdens of said Company, in the same manner, and to the same intent and effect as under the former name.

Sec. 2. The rights in said Library shall not be liable to be attached, or levied upon, by any writ or execution, for debt, duty, or demand, of what kind or nature soever.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the following articles be added to and form a part of the Charter of said company, viz :

Article 1. The Library and property of the company shall be held in shares, of which the members shall have certificates, signed by the President and Secretary.

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Article 2. There shall be a meeting of the company, in the library-room, on the last Wednesday in September annually, at 3 o'clock P. M. Fifteen members present in person, or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for business.

Article 3. Special meetings on other days may be called by order of the President, or of the Directors, or upon request made in writing to the President by ten members of the company.

Article 4. At those special meetings such business shall be transacted as shall be specified in the order calling the same, and in the notice given of such meeting to the members.

Article 5. Public or personal notice of every meeting of the company (except adjourned meetings, notice of which shall be put up in the library-room) shall be given by the Secretary, at least five days previous to such meeting.

Article 6. Each proprietor shall be entitled to one vote by himself, his attorney, or proxy, on every share by him held, at all meetings of the corporation; provided, that no proprietor shall ever have exceeding five votes in his own right, whatever may be the number of shares he may hold.

Article 7. No transfer of any share shall be valid, unless approved by the company, or the board of directors, and properly authenticated by a certificate, signed by the President and Secretary.

Article 8. All taxes and fines due from any member shall attach upon their shares in the library; and no transfer of any such shares shall be valid, until such taxes and fines shall be paid.

Article 9. At every annual meeting each member shall pay to the Treasurer one dollar, to be appropriated in whole or in part to the purchase of books.

Article 10. All taxes necessary for repairs and other purposes of the Institution, shall be assessed by the company, at their annual meetings, or at special meetings called agreeably to the third, fourth and fifth articles.

Article 11. Any member who shall neglect to make the annual payment established by the ninth article, or who shall neglect, after notice in writing from the Treasurer or from the Secretary, to pay any tax assessed by the company, or any fine by him incurred, shall be deemed to be in default of the use of the Library during such delinquency.

Article 12. If any member shall so continue to neglect, the space of one year after such notice, his right and interest in the Library shall be forfeited, ipso facto, to the company; provided, that three months previous to such forfeiture, further notice thereof shall be given to the delinquent member, by the Treasurer or the Secretary; and no share shall be forfeited for any fines or taxes of less amount than five dollars; provided, also, that every member who shall be absent, at sea, at the time the forfeiture of his share would accrue, shall be allowed three months notice as aforesaid after his return, before such forfeiture shall take place.

Article 13. The company at their annual meetings shall elect from among their members, a President, eleven Directors, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and such other officers as they shall think necessary; vacancies in any of which offices shall be filled at any special meeting. If more than one candidate be nominated for any office, the company shall elect by ballot; if no person shall have a majority of the votes, the ballot shall be taken again between the two persons having the highest number on the first trial. The votes shall be counted by the Treasurer and Secretary, except in their own election; the votes in which case shall be counted by the President, or by either of the directors.

Article 14. The President.—He shall have a general superintendence of the Library; shall preside at the meetings of the company and of the directors; of whom he may call special meetings at such times as he shall think necessary; and shall himself be a director—ex-officio.

Article 15. The Directors.—They shall meet at the Library-room on a stated day in each quarter, or at such other times and places as they shall appoint; of all which meetings, except those by adjournment, every director absent from the island shall have notice given him by the Secretary. The votes of six directors personally present, shall be necessary for the adoption of any measure. It shall be the duty of the directors to superintend the Library and property of the company, direct the purchase of books, to make necessary repairs, and adopt temporary regulations (not inconsistent with the charter and laws of the company) in cases unprovided for, such regulations to remain in force only until the next meeting of the company.

They shall select and appoint a Librarian, whom also they may remove ; shall prescribe his duties, and fix the amount of compensation to be allowed him.

When any member shall recommend any book or work to the directors by leaving the title thereof with the Librarian, the same shall be considered by them.

They shall have power to ascertain all fines due to the company ; but not to remit any fine incurred by a breach of the laws of the company, which they shall take care to have strictly enforced.

They may grant the privilege of the company, so far as relates to the use of the books, to such distinguished strangers, or liberal benefactors to this Library, as may be temporarily resident in the city of Newport.

At the annual meeting of the company, the directors shall make report of their proceedings during the past year ; and shall recommend for the consideration of the company, such measures as they may think advisable.

Article 16. All monies due to the company in taxes, fines or otherwise, shall be paid to the Treasurer ; and by him held subject to the orders of the company, and of the directors. Upon non-payment, after proper notice, of any money so due, the Treasurer shall have power, with the advice of the directors, to sue for and recover the same in the name of the company.

He shall account annually to the directors, on some day not more than one month preceeding the annual meeting of the company, and at such other times as they may require.

Article 17. The Secretary.—He shall keep journals of the proceedings of the company, and of the directors, each of whom he shall act as Secretary ; and of whose respective meetings he shall give due notice to the several members.

He shall record all transfers of shares approved of by the company ; and under the orders of the directors, shall have the care of the Charter, laws and deeds of the company.

Article 18. All the books belonging to the Library shall be on the shelves on Wednesday, previous to the annual meeting in each year ; and every proprietor who refuses or neglect to return the book or books which he has out on their respective shares, shall pay, as a fine for such neglect, the sum of twenty-five cents.

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Article 19. Every proprietor who may neglect or refuse to pay any taxes or assessments which may have been or shall be ordered, at the annual meeting of the company, to pay any fine or fines legally assessed by the directors, or Librarian, for the detention of books for the space of three months after such taxes, assessments or fines shall have been respectively levied, shall be debarred the use of the Library, as it respects the taking out of books, until such taxes, assessments or fines shall be paid.

All Acts heretofore passed by this General Assembly inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.