

An act to alter the name of the Redwood Library and to amend their charter.

Whereas the company of the Redwood Library ^{Redwood Library.} have petitioned this assembly for an alteration of their name as herein after provided, and for an amendment of their charter, therefore

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted*, that the name of the said company of the Redwood Library be altered; and that the said company be and hereafter 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 the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and be subject to all the duties, liabilities and burdens of the said company, in the same manner and to the same intent and effect, as under the former name.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, that the following articles be added to, and form a part of the charter of the 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.

Article 2. There shall be a meeting of the company at the library room, on the last Wednesday in September annually, at three o'clock P. M.

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

Article 4. At those special meetings, such business only shall be transacted, as shall be specified in the order calling the same, and in the notice given of such meetings 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 at least five days previous to such meeting.

Article 6. No person shall be admitted to act as a proxy, except a member empowered in writing, specifying the business to be acted upon and the vote in-

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tended to be given; and thirty members present in person and by proxy as aforesaid, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting.

Article 7. No transfer of any share shall be valid, until 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 members 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 the purchase of books.

Article 10. All taxes necessary for repairs, and other purposes of the constitution, shall be assessed by the company at their annual meetings, or at special meetings called agreeably to the third, fourth and fifth articles; and attended in person or by proxy, by a majority of the whole members of the company.

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 deprived of the use of the library during such delinquency.

Article 12. If any member shall so continue to neglect for the space of one year after such notice, his right and share 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 that 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, with notice as aforesaid after his return, before such forfeiture shall take place.

Article 13. The company at their annual meetings, shall elect among the members, a president, five directors, a committee for the purchase of books, a

treasurer, a secretary and such other officers as they shall think necessary ; vacancies in any of which offices may be filled at any special meeting ; and 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 whole 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 shall have a general superintendence of the library ; he shall preside at the meetings of the company and of the directors, and of the committee for the purchase of books, of all 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 shall meet at the library room on a stated day once a quarter, and at such other times and places as they shall appoint ; of all which meetings, except those by adjournment, every director not absent from Rhode Island, shall have notice given him by the secretary ; and every director who shall neglect to attend any meeting after notice, shall pay, if a quarterly meeting, one dollar, if a special or adjourned meeting fifty cents, to the treasurer for the use of the company ; which fines it shall be the duty of the secretary to report to the treasurer, by whom they shall be collected. No excuse shall be admitted for any such neglect in a director, except sickness or absence from the island. The votes of four 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 ; 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 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. 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 privileges 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 town of Newport. At the annual meetings of the company, the directors shall make report of their proceedings during the year past ; and shall recommend for the consideration of the company, such measures as they may think advisable.

Article 16. The committee for purchasing books shall be composed of six members, added to the six directors, and shall be elected in the same manner as the directors. Two of the members shall go out every year by rotation. Their meetings also shall be called and regulated in the mode prescribed for those of the directors, with the same penalty of fifty cents for non attendance. The affirmative votes of eight members shall be necessary for the purchase of any book. They shall take into consideration what additions it may be expedient from time to time to make to the library, and shall procure the best editions of such books as they shall think it advisable to purchase, always having reference to the state of the company's funds. When any member shall recommend any book or work to the committee, by leaving the title thereof with the librarian, the same shall be ballotted for by the committee at the next meeting. The committee shall report their doings to the company, at their annual meetings.

Article 17. All monies due to the company in taxes, fines or otherwise, shall be paid to the treasurer ; and be by him held subject to the orders of the company, and of the directors, and of the committee for purchasing books. 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. The treasurer 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 18. The secretary shall keep journals of the proceedings of the company, and of the directors, and of the committee for the purchase of books, to each of whom he shall act as secretary ; and of whose respective meetings he shall give due notice to the several members. He shall report all fines within his knowledge to the treasurer ; 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 19. All the books belonging to the library shall be on the shelves, on Saturday previous to the annual meeting on Wednesday in each year ; and every proprietor who shall refuse or neglect to return the book or books which may be out on their respective shares, shall pay as a fine for such neglect the sum of twenty five cents.

Article 20. Every proprietor who may neglect or refuse to pay any tax or assessment which have been or shall be ordered at the annual meeting of the company, or any fine or fines legally assessed by the directors, purchasing committee 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.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, that this act shall be subject to all future acts of the general assembly, in amendment or repeal thereof, or in any way affecting the same.