

# THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

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VOL. VIII.

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**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE COUDERSPORT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
Adopted November, 1855.

**PREAMBLE.**  
We, the undersigned, desirous of improving ourselves, enlarging our fund of general intelligence, and encouraging the taste for reading among the young people of this community, have adopted for our government the following Constitution and By-Laws:

**CONSTITUTION.**

**ARTICLE 1. Name.**  
This Society shall be known by the name of the "Coudersport Library Association."

**ARTICLE 2. Officers.**  
The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, Librarian, five Directors, and such standing Committees as may be provided for in the By-Laws.

**ARTICLE 3. Duties of Officers.**

**Sec. 1.** It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society; to enforce a due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws to decide all questions of order; to offer for consideration all motions regularly made and seconded; to appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; and perform such other duties as his office may require.

**Sec. 2.** In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of that office, and shall be Chairman of the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 3.** The Recording Secretary shall keep, in a book provided for that purpose, a record of the proceedings of the Society; also a record of the name and residence of each member, showing when he or she became such, and when he or she ceased to be a member.

**Sec. 4.** The Corresponding Secretary shall perform the duties usually devolving upon that office, and shall be Secretary of the Board of Directors, and be one of their number.

**Sec. 5.** The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Society; keep an account of all dues and fines, and of all receipts and expenditures; notify each member of the amount due from him, and collect the same; pay all orders drawn by the Directors; and report annually as to the state of the Treasury, the number of members and such other information as may be deemed of general interest.

**Sec. 6.** The Librarian shall take special charge of the books of the Association, keep them in their regular places, make an entry of the time when each book is taken out, by whom taken and when returned; receive the fine of books when let, and the fines provided for in the by-laws; pay over all moneys so taken to the Treasurer every month; and report annually to the stockholders as to the condition of the Library, stating the number of volumes owned by the Society, and the number read during the year.

**Sec. 7.** The Directors shall purchase such literary and other works as the funds of the Association will permit, of a character suited to the tastes and necessities of this community; they shall procure suitable desks and cases in which to place the books and other property of the Association, publish annually a catalogue of the books, enter such catalogue in a book kept for the purpose, regulate the time of letting

the books to stockholders, and shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the Society. They shall meet on the first Saturday of every month, at the Library, for the transaction of business, inspection of books, and general good of the Society.

**ART. 4. Elections.**  
All the officers shall be elected at the meeting in February. They shall immediately enter upon their respective duties, and continue in office one year, and until their successors are elected.

**ART. 5. Membership.**  
Any person may become a member of this Association by paying two dollars to the Treasurer, and such quarterly dues as may be determined by a majority of the members, and regulated in the By-Laws.

**ART. 6. Amendments.**

This Constitution and the By-Laws when adopted, may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting, provided the proposed change shall be proposed in writing at a regular meeting previous to its adoption.

**BY-LAWS.**

**SECTION 1.**

Each member shall be entitled to select any book from the Library, and retain it two weeks. Those living out of the Borough of Coudersport, may retain a book four weeks. If retained a longer time, the holder must pay a fine of six cents a week for the excess.

**SECTION 2.** Books may be let to persons not members, at the rate of ten cents per cent of two weeks; if retained longer, to pay six cents per week for the excess of time.

**SECTION 3.** Any person who takes a book from the Library, and soles or otherwise injures it, shall pay such fines as the Librarian shall deem sufficient to make good the injury; provided, however, that an appeal may be taken from the decision of the Librarian to the Directors, which shall be final.

**SECTION 4.** No book shall be loaned by the person taking it from the Library. The person violating this By-Law, shall pay a fine of 25 cents, and be deprived of the use of the Library until the fine be paid, and the book returned in good condition.

**SECTION 5.** Any persons living to pay their dues and fines for three months after being notified of the amount, shall not be entitled to any privileges as members, until all arrears are paid; nor will they be allowed to hire books.

**SECTION 6.** The regular meetings of this Association shall be held on the first Saturdays in February, May, August, and November, to commence at 2 o'clock P. M. Special meetings may be called by the President, on request of five members of the Society.

**SECTION 7.** The quarterly dues shall be twenty-five cents for each member.

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2. Good's Book of Nature, \$ro.
3. Marshall's Life of Washington, 2 vols, \$ro.6
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5. Willis' Poems, \$ro.
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13. Chalmers on Romans, \$ro.
14. Life of William Penn—Janney, \$ro.
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28. Memoirs of Josephine, by Madlle La Normand, 2 volumes, 12mo.
29. Whittier's Songs of Labor, 12mo.
30. Humbold's Cosmos, 2 volumes, 12mo \$ro.42
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Will ask the question till the one answer comes back to thy soul in peace, or with condemnation. Still seek to know while the eye of your God is upon you; still ask in the agony of application—"Is it I?"

"What do they more than others?"

O how often the heart of the inquirer grows cold while this one sentence trembles through it.

Disciple of the humble and lovely Jesus, what a fearful responsibility rests upon you. You have given yourself by the one "Covenant of Promise" to the Redeemer; and if indeed a Christian, you are a portion of Himself as He is of the Father. You have been brought out of nature's darkness into God's marvelous light. By His own free grace you are sanctified, are saved. By a miracle of mercy you have been made whole. By the help of the Holy Spirit you live a life of faith on the Son of God, who loved you and gave himself for you. Who died that thou might live. Who took upon himself, in His deep humility, a human nature that you might become a child of God. And now, in His earnest and condescending love, in the fulness of His grace, He has drawn you to Himself, and called you by a name that the heart can only hear. And—has it forgotten? O look not away from Him whose every word to yourself must be remembered music. O shrink not away from the Hand that would ever rest upon your head, to save you from all of evil.

And yet how often it seems that the Christian does forget, or else he has never in reality, felt that great change that must take place ere the sinner can be saved; ere his unbelief is removed; ere his soul is subdued, softened, sanctified, ere it sinks into submission to the will of God; ere his whole being is changed from enmity to love, from a dark alienation to reconciliation with his maker, from a cold indifference to that feeling of Godly sorrow, that penitence, that true contrition that must be felt, ere the sinner will give himself, in brokenness of spirit, and with a trembling faith into the hands of an all-atonng Saviour, to be lost, or—saved, saved forever. Your life will be the answer will be a living witness for or against you.

"By their fruits ye shall know them" and the world looks to that the fruits of true piety, of holiness, looks for a life that is above reproach. That is like His whose disciple he professes to be, and then, all often, involuntarily, like a half fearful thought that we cannot help, will be—"What do they more than others?" And then his own troubled heart whispers—he cannot help it.

"Is there a reality in religion?"

He looks to the life of some one he has known, and his doubts deepen, and his faltering faith grows darker, and then, perhaps, he seeks his closet, and—prays, prays for the power of prayer, prays for the truth, prays for the Holy Spirit to help him, prays for light, for life, prays ever, it may be, for that Christian who, apparently, lives no nearer to heaven than himself.

But, has that professed follower of Jesus ever prayed for him? Does he pray for himself? If he has in truth been born of God—if he is indeed the Saviour's own, he cannot live without prayer, he would sooner do without his daily bread, sooner than less that blessed consciousness of loving God—sooner than lose these moments of communion with his Maker which is a blessing on high that words have no power to convey a revelation of its infinite value.

O! you who have forgotten your voluntary vows of allegiance and obedience, remember that the eye of one All-Seeing is ever upon you to note every thought and word and act. And remember, if not faithful, your profession will not help you; remember, that if you do not live for God, loving to do His will and work, church privileges and ordinances will not save you.

"Lord, is it I?"

You must be faithful, you must arrive continually, to "make your calling and your election sure," or your hope of Heaven will not avail when called upon at the judgment day. You must be faithful if you would not give an account of your stewardship. You must be faithful if you would not hear your Savior say—"I never knew you." And remember, "that if we have the intellect of an angel and have not holiness of heart, we are lost before God."

Religion is love, love for God and your fellow-beings. And, if you possess that one divine spirit your thoughts will be turned away from the world, and you will be willing to live a life of prayer and self-denial, of toil, of trial, and, until an earnest effort to witness to the truth as it is in Jesus. You will wish to live for the glory of Him who has done so much for you; who has died to redeem you; and wholly sanctified you by His spirit and all prevailing grace.

And your heart will tremble with a consciousness of its own weakness and want of power, lest in thought or word or deed, you cast reproach upon your Saviour and your God. It is so often done. It should not thus be—

"What do they more than others?"

Profession is not always principle. That alone will not save you. "But the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin." The Christian must live a life of penitence and prayer, day by day, and every hour his thoughts should away to that "Other Home."

"Where your treasure is there will your heart be also." The tears of contrition, of love, that feeling of faith, that submission of the soul, that agony of prayer, is to the true believer, a higher, a holier joy than the world can ever give.

And yet, no marvel that there are many unbelievers, so many infidels, so much of evil, so much of darkness on the earth. Let Christians awake, and do their duty fully and faithfully, and not be a stumbling block in the way of sinners. Let them arise, with a full purpose of heart and will upon their God, let them put forth every effort, all of exertion, for the utter extirpation of all unrighteousness, let them watch and wait, toil on and struggle on; let them live so near to heaven, that no one will say—"What do they more than others?" but let him rather say as his heart beats low in reverence and in worship—I know there is a reality in religion; and in answer to earnest and laboring prayer, the Holy Spirit of God will be poured out on the churches and on the world—"Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" should ever be the language of the heart. Jesus will answer for you.

"Take up the cross and follow me."

And it should be done, though heavy, and hard to bear. He bore it for you. He loved you, and should not a knowledge of this lead you to do it? You can for Him! Ingratitude is a fearful sin; Well nigh as dark as unbelief. O let the world see that you wish to live only for the glory of Jesus and the salvation of immortal souls. Has he not redeemed you, bought you with a price, and by his own free grace sanctified your soul to accept of that salvation, that you might live for Him, here and forever.

And that work, it is not alone to attend each Sabbath, on the public ordinances of religion, and to seem to be a devout worshipper, though this should be. But leave not your religion there, in the church, lest it be lost; but take it home with you. The test of the Christian character is in every day life. Does he go from the sanctuary to his home, willing to perform his simple duties, and then to spend the remainder of the day in meditation and prayer, and in watching the Scriptures to see what he may do to advance the interest of Christ's kingdom, and the welfare and best interests of his fellow-men? Or does he go from joining in the public services of that holy day, with selfishness in his heart, with bitter feelings in his eyes come up in his way—