

❖BY-LAWS❖

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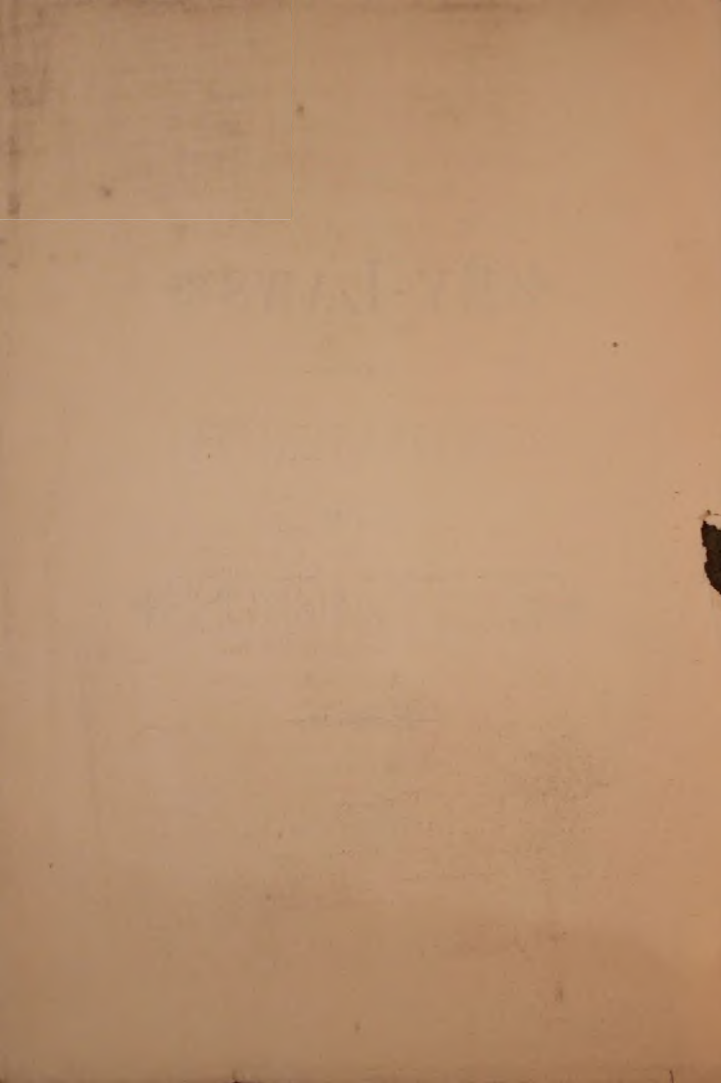
THE FRATERNITY

OF THE

WHITE CROSS



BOSTON
12 PEMBERTON SQ.
1885.



BY-LAWS,

ARTICLE I.—*Name and Object.*

The name and object of the Fraternity of the White Cross shall be those set forth in the foregoing Declaration of Principles and Purposes, and in the Basic Rules of the Corporation.

ARTICLE II.—*Departments.*

The Order is composed of two Departments, legal and spiritual: the Legal, of the Board of Trustees, whose duty it is to be the servants of the Spiritual Department. The Spiritual Department is composed of the Fraternal Head, the Inner Council and the Board of Guardians.

ARTICLE III.—*The Fraternal Head.*

The Fraternal Head consists of four persons, two of whom are designated by the Guardian Spirits, consisting of the Matron and Messenger of the Order, and two assistants chosen by them respectively, subject to mutual approval.

The Fraternal Head has the supervision of all affairs pertaining to the Fraternity, and the right to appeal from any decision of the Inner Council. Such appeals shall entitle the Fraternal Head to a hearing.

When any work has the mutual approval of both the

Fraternal Head and Inner Council it needs but the signature of the Matron, accompanied by the seal of the order, to make such work valid.

In case of disagreement between the Fraternal Head and Inner Council any work must be postponed until receiving a quorum of votes from the Fraternal Head and Inner Council.

The Matron, and Messenger, are removable only by the same power which designates them: to wit,—the Guardian Spirits.

It shall be the duty of the Matron to hold herself subject to the call of the Guardian Spirits.

It shall be the duty of the Matron to receive communications from any member of the Fraternity which shall be presented her through the Messenger.

She may be present at all meetings with the purpose of rendering her assistance if it be required, but shall vote only in her own Department: to wit, the Fraternal Head.

All communications from the CONTROLLING SPIRITS, pertaining to the work of the Order, rendered through the CHOSEN MEDIUM of the Fraternity, shall be given to the MESSENGER, to be by him communicated as requested, and in no other way, unless specially desired by the Controlling Spirits.

The Matron shall have and keep in her possession the Seal of the Order. She shall not attach the Seal of the Order to any document until it has been subject to the supervision of the Controlling Spirits.

Any member of the Fraternal Head may, if so chosen, become the Chaplain of the Order.

ARTICLE IV.—*Duties of the Messenger.*

The duties of the Messenger shall be as follows :

First: Those of an Advisory Councillor to the Matron.

Second: To receive from the Controlling Spirits, through the Chosen Medium of the Order, all communications pertaining to the Fraternity and to faithfully transmit them to the Inner Council as requested.

Third: To fill such positions and do such work as may pertain to the office, unless infringing upon his conscience or reason.

Fourth: The Messenger may, if agreeable, become an agent at large, visit institutions, and deliver lectures in the interests of the Fraternity.

Fifth: He may administer initiations, and form Branch Councils, subject to the endorsement of the Central Order.

Sixth: He may, when requested by the President of the Inner Council, become a presiding officer at any meeting of the Fraternity.

Seventh: He may, in case of the sickness of the Matron, or in any emergency, use the Seal of the Order, when so requested by her in writing.

This office shall be at all times entitled to confidence and respect.

ARTICLE V.—*Duties of the Chaplain.*

It will be the duty of the Chaplain to attend funerals, solemnize marriages, and open and close with prayer all meetings of the Fraternity, when he shall be present; and the functions of his office shall pertain not only to members of the Fraternity, but wherever his services are required.

ARTICLE VI.—*The Inner Council.*

The Inner Council consists of twelve persons appointed by the Fraternal Head with a view to permanency, but subject to removal. It is the grand advisory and executive body of the Order. Nine, at least, of this body, should be chosen, if practicable, within such local limits as shall enable them to attend the regular meetings of the Council.

Second: The Inner Council is divided into three sections, known respectively as the Presidential, Executive, and Psychical Sections. It is not requisite that each section shall consist of an equal number of persons.

Each section will have its chairman appointed by the President of the Inner Council, who is appointed by the Fraternal Head. Each Chairman of a Section reports to the President of the Council and he to the Fraternal Head. The officers of the Inner Council shall be severally designated in the following order: Councillor-in-chief, Vice Councillor, Assistant Councillor and Councillor.

Third: The Presidential Section apportions the work or positions of the workers with a view to the greatest economy of time and means.

Fourth: The Executive Section may have charge of Sunday and other meetings, of benevolent enterprises, the spreading of the Order, and such other work as may be committed to its charge.

Fifth: The Psychical Section will have charge of all work of a psychical nature and will act also as a sub-committee to perform such work as the Presidential and Executive Sections shall designate.

Sixth: The Matron and Messenger when appointed

shall be presented to the Inner Council for their approval and shall be by them received with that deference due their positions.

Seventh: All communications received through the Messenger from the Medium of the Order shall be received by members of the Inner Council as valid.

Eighth: Each member of the Inner Council will be expected to pay an annual fee or offering of not less than Five Dollars, or more, according to his or her means and disposition, the value whereof may be paid in goods or service, or on sufficient grounds he waived entirely.

Ninth: In all official or other appointments preference shall be given to the highest merit.

The Inner Council shall appoint an Auditing Committee of three persons, to be chosen either within or without the Council as may be advisable.

The Inner Council shall appoint a Tyler for said Council and also for the Fraternity. In case of sickness a temporary Tyler may be appointed by the President of the Inner Council.

ARTICLE VII.—*Regulations for Council Meetings.*

1. Every Council meeting shall be opened with prayer, either silent or invocative, to occupy five minutes.
2. In speaking each member should be confined to such time as may be decided upon at the commencement of the meeting.
3. The Chairman will hold members while speaking strictly to the point under discussion.
4. While the utmost freedom of opinion is invited, it is earnestly urged that the utmost courtesy of manner and propriety of expression be maintained.

5. All questions of business not provided for in the By-Laws shall be conducted in strict accordance with parliamentary usage.

6. The members of the Inner Council are earnestly requested to devote, previous to each meeting of said Council, at least two hours for rest and bathing, together with special attention to diet: to the end that they shall not bring to their deliberations bodies wearied and brains dulled through the burthens of daily life and business; but on the contrary, refreshed bodies and clear minds, so necessary to the proper carrying out of the great trusts committed to their charge.

At every Council meeting each member must occupy the same place in the circle and the same chair.

In case of absence of the President of the Inner Council the Messenger may preside in his place, or the Messenger may call upon the next official of the Council in rank so to preside.

In case of the absence of the President and the Messenger the duty of presiding will fall upon the next official of the Council in rank.

In case of the absence of all the above named officers the presiding officer may be chosen by vote of the Inner Council.

In all Committees of the Inner Council the first person named in each Committee shall serve as Chairman until said Committee chooses its Chairman.

Inner Council members who do not regularly attend the meetings of said Council, without giving some valid excuse therefor (such as sickness or some grave emergency), to the Secretary of the Fraternity, on or before the

next meeting after their absence, shall be considered as having vacated their seats.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Advisory Body.*

There shall be an Advisory Body to the Inner Council of six persons. It is their duty to furnish such assistance as the Matron may need in the discharge of the duties of her office.

This Advisory Body shall also serve as a sub-committee of the Inner Council, transacting to the best of its ability any duties committed to its charge.

One specific duty of this Advisory Body shall be an attendance upon the Matron at all public meetings, and upon all such occasions as she may feel the necessity of their support and advice.

It will also become a portion of their work to protect the Medium from the encroachments of undeveloped influences, and to this end must be composed of individuals whose character and life renders them able to perform such important service.

Members of the Advisory Body will inspect the secular newspapers, with the view of finding articles of general interest to spiritualism. These they will select and hand over to the Secretary of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE IX.—*The Exterior Council or Board of Guardians.*

The Exterior Council or Board of Guardians shall consist of not less than twelve persons appointed by the Inner Council from the Order at large and this number may be enlarged at the discretion of the Inner Council.

The duty of the Board of Guardians shall be to render

assistance to any officer of the Fraternity, if called upon, when not interfering with conscience or convenience.

They shall use their influence in their respective localities for the promulgation of the principles of the Order, and endeavor to increase its numbers and influence by assisting in forming Branch Councils and in any and all ways lying in their power.

All members of the Board of Guardians are requested to report to the Inner Council quarterly of any and all matters of interest to the Council.

Any member of the Board of Guardians may, on application to the Inner Council, (if it be the Council's pleasure) receive such authorization paper as will entitle him to hold meetings, form Branch Councils, receive membership fees, and upon duly qualifying to become an officer in either Branch or Central Council.

ARTICLE X.—*The Lodge.*

The Lodge is the work-shop of the Fraternity, wherein is evolved the real force for carrying on the work.

While all so called legitimate means for placing such work before the people are adopted by the Fraternity, it depends far more on the spiritual force or magnetic power which is evolved from those individuals, who, harmonizing with each other sit at regular intervals, that, through the law of demand as exemplified by prayer and a united purpose their end may be attained.

By the law of demand is meant the power resident in any individual mind to accomplish results simply by concentrating and keeping the thought persistently and confidently on the attainment of the thing desired,—such

power being proportionate to the mental and spiritual growth of the individual. It is the power of Will,—the recognized laws whereby all ends are attained in the highest worlds of spirit. It is a law most powerful for the accomplishment of all so called material ends, whether these pertain to business, the curing of disease, or improvement in physical surroundings. It is here on earth often unconsciously used by the successful in every walk of life. Its whole pith and import were expressed by the Christ in the words, "Ask and ye shall receive," a truth which, while implying the mighty forces resident in the elements composing our souls, spirits and bodies, seemed but as foolishness to the pedantic conceit of Jew and Greek of old, as it may also to the so called wise of our own time. It is a truth whose full force and meaning as expressed in the above text have been greatly narrowed and perverted through theological misinterpretation.

It is here suggested to individual members of the Fraternity that before so concentrating their minds on any purpose they use all means to put themselves in harmony with the desires for them of their guardian spirits, holding that such spirits through superior wisdom and experience can see more clearly than we that which is best for our highest and most lasting happiness, and also, to the end that between ourselves and these guardian spirits the exercise of this law of demand may, so becoming co-operative, work without antagonism.

As through the law of demand results can be attained by one mind, so can results proportionately greater be effected according to the number minds which in sympathy and unison concentrate their thought at the same time

on any particular purpose.

This implies the purpose and work of the Lodge.

On becoming Lodge members instructions will be given as to certain hygeinic and other rules. Because, as the members grow more and more in sympathy with the work and more *en rapport* with each other, there will also result necessarily and naturally the necessity for compliance with certain laws affecting eating, dressing, and association, which must be strictly observed to ensure that harmony most essential to the development and conservation of the force coming of the Lodge.

United and organized work of this character can only be done through concert of individuals possessing the highest degrees of mental, spiritual and physical development. It requires also a peculiar development, enabling the members to work in harmony with each other, which can only come of united growths, the ultimate of such growth being that with them concord becomes a necessity, as genius transcends and blends all differences of temperament.

Any person may become a member of the Lodge by acceding to its principles and accepting its members.

By "accepting its members" is meant believing them to be honest and sincere workers for the general good, and desiring to become unto them all one could wish the noblest soul could become to us.

It is *imperative* at all Lodge meetings that each member should sit in the same place and in the same chair.

It is particularly requested that all Lodge members provide themselves with a dress to be worn exclusively at the sittings of the Lodge, and on no other occasions.

All Lodge members should be provided with a White Cross, the shape and quality to be decided by the possessor, but to be worn conspicuously enough in public to be recognizable by other Lodge members

ARTICLE XI.—*Membership.*

The membership of the Fraternity of the White Cross shall be of different grades, and the rights, privileges and duties of members shall be determined by the Degree to which they have respectively attained: and all shall be eligible to any degree by qualifying themselves therefor.

Any person not under sixteen may become a member by making written application addressed to the secretary of a Local Branch or any member of the Order, accompanied by the first annual fee of one dollar. In case of necessity the fee may be paid in instalments, or in goods or service; but at the time of initiation it is requested that every candidate make some offering, however small, besides the fee, in token of sincerity and allegiance to the spirit of the Fraternity.

Members of this grade are entitled to a voice in their Local Branches, the Love and Fellowship of the Fraternity, and such social and spiritual benefits as pertain to this grade.

Members may have their names stricken from the books at their request. They may be by the Inner Council requested to withdraw for reasons deemed sufficient by said Council.

Any member in good standing may receive a card of admission to any Branch Council.

Members of the first, or initiate degree, who have been

such for five months and who by intelligence, concord, and devotion to the work of the Order, have shown eligibility, may become members on payment of an annual fee of three dollars and a quarterly assessment of fifty cents. Members of this grade are eligible to the office of Councillor, and to positions of trust in the Order, under that section of the Inner Council to which it properly belongs.

The Fraternity discountenances all gossip. All members are called upon to report to the Inner Council cases coming to their knowledge which affect the standing and good character of anyone, together with the name of the scandalizer.

If any person so continue to scandalize after having been admonished by the Inner Council, it shall be by the Inner Council considered sufficient grounds for requesting their withdrawal from the Fraternity, and unless withdrawing to take the necessary steps to cause their dismissal.

It is desirable that every member of the Fraternity should make public recognition of their faith and membership with the Fraternity. For this purpose it is urged that each member of the White Cross Fraternity make provision for the representation of said Fraternity at his or her funeral.

ARTICLE XII.—*Degrees.*

Realizing the importance of moving slowly and surely and the necessity for that spiritual development which can alone come through association of the members with each other and thereby gaining a clear understanding of the work in hand, there have been formed three Degrees to meet this want.

The first is the Novitiate or Initiatory Degree, taken by joining the Fraternity.

Any person to become a member of the second Degree must have been a member of the first Degree not less than five months.

Members of the second Degree are required to abstain from eating meat at least one day in the week, that day being Sunday. For this reason the Controlling Spirits particularly desire to concentrate their influences and come in closer rapport with each member of this degree one day of the week. For the sake of system, and order, a particular day is chosen, and that, Sunday, because it is for the majority the day of rest and leisure.

Abstinence from flesh eating renders the aura or emanation from the body purer, thereby making it more easy and pleasant for the Higher Spirit to come into the atmosphere of the mortal.

Bear always in mind that the grand purpose of the Fraternity is the founding and establishment on earth of a New Empire and a new race of people. Therefore the founders of such race must become as new, or be renewed. Entering into the second Degree involves a new spiritual birth. It is a new baptism of the spirit. On entrance to this Degree the member receives a new name. This name is indicative of his or her condition of spiritual growth at the time of entrance to such degree. Members are requested always to use this name in corresponding with members of the same Degree. The Fraternity desires to abolish the importance attached to mere names, or rather, to reputation and character which, ceasing to

grow, still claims admiration and respect entirely for what it has done in the past.

The third and last Degree is called the Degree of Council. No person can become an officer of the Fraternity without becoming a member of the Degree of Council. Members of the Degree of Council are expected to attend four fifths of the Council meetings unless delayed by sickness.

ARTICLE XIII.—*Public Meetings.*

The Fraternity will hold at least two annual meetings taking the form of mass meetings or conventions

Believing in the free expression of opinion of thought, seeking to extend its usefulness, and work in every direction, and desiring information on all subjects, it invites to such annual meetings speakers of every phase of thought, and should any subject pertaining to the welfare of humanity be on these or other occasions omitted by the Fraternity it will be through oversight rather than lack of comprehensiveness.

Sunday meetings shall be held when deemed proper by the officers in charge of the department pertaining thereunto.

At such meetings it is always desirable to have speakers occupy the platform who shall represent the Fraternity as the exponents of its principles.

At all meetings of the Fraternity, especially where mediums are to be controlled, the members should form a circle about them and each member should occupy the same place and the same chair at each meeting.

ARTICLE XIV.—*Manner of Voting.*

All votes before either the Society, the Inner Council, Brnach Councils or other bodies of the Fraternity, shall be taken affirmatively, or negatively, by raising the right hand,—except in extreme cases, when voting by ballot may be resorted to.

ARTICLE XV.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen as per the Basic Rules.

ARTICLE XVI.—*Duties of Secretary.*

All moneys pertaining to the Fraternity, dues, fees, offerings, etc., are to be collected by the Secretary and by said Secretary handed to the Treasurer, receiving his receipt therefor. The Secretary shall make and keep a true and perfect record of all meetings of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE XVII.—*Duties of the Treasurer.*

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Fraternity and pay all bills when properly vouched for by the Auditing Committee.

ARTICLE XVIII.—*Duties of the Auditing Committee.*

The accounts of the Fraternity shall by the said Committee be audited quarterly. The Auditing Committee shall consult with the Treasurer on all matters of finance connected with the Fraternity lying within their jurisdiction, as occasion may require.

In event of any misunderstanding as regards financial matters between the Secretary, the Treasurer and the

Auditing Committee, the whole matter is to be referred to the Inner Council.

ARTICLE XIX.—*Duties of the Tyler.*

He shall be present at all meetings of the Inner Council and Fraternity and see that no person gains admittance to said meetings without first giving him the sign, the pass-word, and the grip. In case of the sickness of the Tyler a Tyler pro. tem. may be appointed by the President of the Inner Council.

ARTICLE XX.—*Local Branches*

The Fraternal Head may on receipt of an application signed by twelve or more persons, men, and women, who have complied with the necessary conditions, ask the Inner Council to issue a Dispensation for a Charter for a Local Branch of the White Cross Fraternity, provided, such application meet with its approval.

ARTICLE XXI.—*Officers of Local Branches.*

The officers and government of the Local Branches shall correspond to those of the Inner Council, except that one person shall be its Fraternal Head, and shall be chosen by the unanimous voice of the members, subject to the endorsement of the Central Order. In case members cannot agree upon such officer he or she may be appointed by the Fraternal Head of the Central Council.

ARTICLE XXII.—*Charter Fees.*

Each Local Branch shall pay a Charter Fee of Fifteen Dollars, and until its Lodge shall be formed pay one half the annual fees to the central treasury of the Order.

ARTICLE XXIII.—*Young People's Club.*

When a sufficient number of young people have joined the Fraternity a club will be formed by them for the purpose of social culture and amusement. Said club will choose its own officers but will be governed by the rules of the Fraternity. In the establishment of said club the Fraternity seeks to embody one of its vital principles, that of the equipoise and association of the sexes in all matters pertaining to education and recreation, and holding also, that separation or exclusive training of the masculine and feminine elements result ultimately in injury to both.

ARTICLE XXIV.—*Official Qualifications.*

Every officer of the Corporation and of the Fraternity of the White Cross shall, before entering upon the duties of his or her office make such qualification by oath, or affirmation, as the Statutes require, and give such bonds as may be required for the faithful execution of the trusts committed to them.

ARTICLE XXV.—*Charity Fund.*

It shall be the duty of the Inner Council to establish a charity fund for the relief of needy members.

ARTICLE XXVI.—*Fraternal Emulation.*

While the Fraternity deprecates the encouragement of selfish ambition, still it deems it wise to encourage fraternal emulation in good deeds. It will therefore in its wisdom confer honorary memberships, names and tokens upon individuals, and members, in recognition of great personal worth, noble conduct, great attainments, and

valuable discoveries and inventions. But sincerity and quality of service shall be the basis of love, confidence and trust, in the bestowal of official or other positions.

ARTICLE XXVII.—*Sign and Seal.*

The official Sign and Seal of the Fraternity of the White Cross shall be the figure of a dove over a cross and underneath the name of Marie Stuart.

ARTICLE XXVIII.—*Badges.*

Badges shall be worn by the Messenger, and Matron to represent their respective positions. Members of the different degrees shall wear badges denoting their respective degrees

ARTICLE XXIX.—*Pass Words.*

The Fraternity shall have one general pass word which is to be changed yearly on the first day of June.

The Inner Council shall have a special password to be used only at their meetings. It shall be changed yearly on the first day of June.

In case of treachery, or for any reason deemed advisable by the Inner Council, they may petition the Matron to have either the pass word of the Fraternity, or that of the Inner Council, changed, at other dates than those mentioned in the By Laws.

ARTICLE XXX.—*Installations.*

No person is qualified to serve in any office whatsoever of the Fraternity until first confirmed by the controlling spirits.

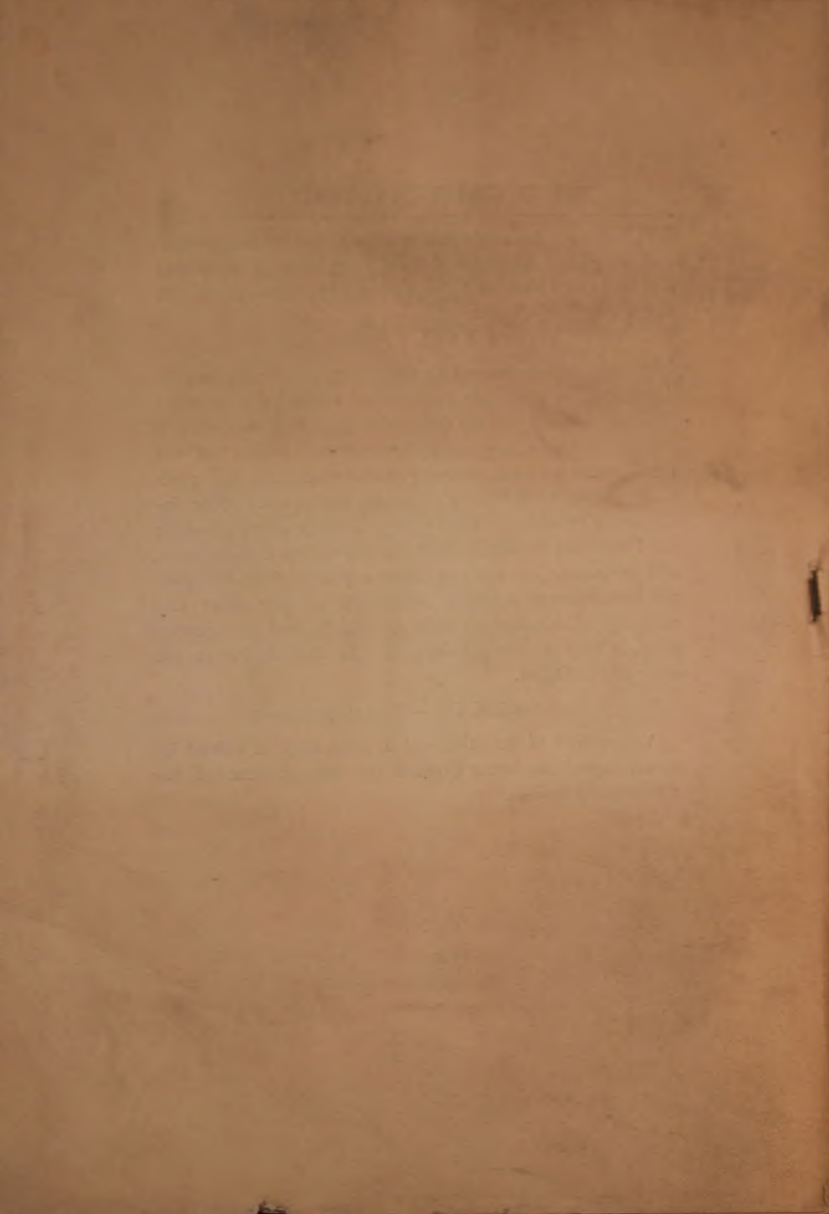
It is always desirable that confirmations be made occasions of public meetings, and the right hand of fellowship is then to be extended by every member present to the newly installed officer.

ARTICLE XXXI. *Fraternal Aid.*

While it is not deemed as obligatory that members of the Fraternity patronize each other exclusively in their different lines of worldly occupation, and business, still it is suggested that they extend toward each other all the aid they can give consistent with circumstances, and position, remembering that in so strengthening each other individually in material affairs they are also strengthening the Fraternity collective, and thereby aiding it in its work, and purposes. At the same time any disposition to regard the Fraternity as a means secondary to any other end save that of self-improvement, spiritually, and the general good, is held as antagonistic to the last degree to the spirit of the Order.

ARTICLE XXXII.—*Special Provisions.*

Any section of the rules and by laws may be waived by a majority of the Inner Council and the consent of the Controlling Spirits.



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The Fraternity of the White Cross,

12 Pemberton Square, (Room 9.)

Boston July 1st, 1885.

Dear

The work of the Fraternity is now progressing most satisfactorily, the attendance being much larger, and the interest manifested in the work increasing with every month. The object of this communication is to ask your hearty co-operation in the work now in hand, by your personal attendance at the meetings now held on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each and every month, and to call the attention of your friends to the Society and its work. The initiation fee is one dollar, and in view of the expenditures incurred in the locating of the present headquarters, and the amount of good work already accomplished in so doing, we venture the suggestion, that if you are really interested in the work of the Fraternity you will be only too glad to do your share in contributing whatever sum may be needed to defray the actual running expenses. To this end it has been thought advisable to invite such contributions, and the sending of this letter with a request that you remit to the Secretary as soon as convenient, one dollar, or such further amount as you are inclined to send to meet the necessary expenses for the year ending December 31st, 1885. A full and complete report being made at that time by the Treasurer for all moneys had, and received; and it is earnestly hoped you may be able in future to be present at the regular meetings, and receive the benefits to be derived therefrom.

The rooms of the Fraternity are open daily to each and every member from 10 A. M. to 12 and 12.30 to 4 P. M., and the Secretary is prepared to give full information as to the work accomplished and what is desired to be done. The By-Laws are ready for distribution, and will be mailed upon receipt of cost, ten cents.

Hoping to hear from you at an early day,

Fraternally yours,

THE FRATERNITY OF THE WHITE CROSS,

SECRETARY.