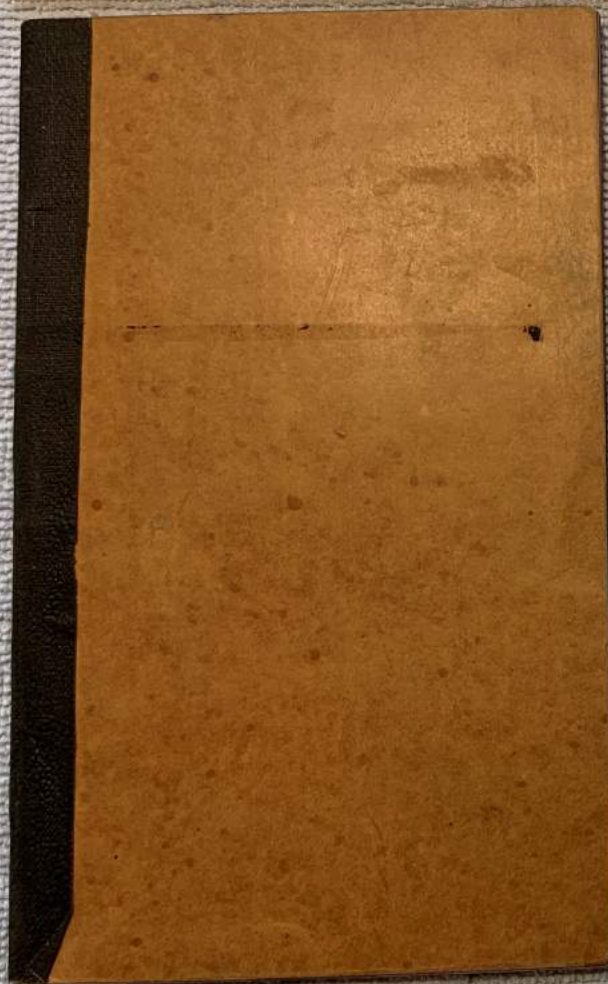




Frank B. Rush

Albion,
Troy, NY

March 7th 1874

Constitution Lyceum Club

Debate rules of conduct
etc.

March 9th 1877

Frank B. Rush,

Albia,

Proy. N.Y.

Constitution. Lyceum Club

Art. I.

Name.

This association shall be known as the
Albia Young People's Debating Club.

Art. II.

Object.

The object of the club shall be mutual
benefit and improvement.

Art. III.

Membership.

Propositions for membership shall be
made in writing, and referred to a com-
mittee of three, consisting of the President,
Vice-President and Secretary, upon whose
favorable report it shall require a majority
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Art. IV.

Officers.

The officers of the association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Janitor and an Executive Committee of three, who shall be chosen by ballot.

Art. V.

Duties of Officers.

The duties of the officers shall be such as usually devolve upon their respective offices, excepting that it shall be the duty of the executive committee to present three questions each evening, to the consideration of the meeting, from which one may be selected for succeeding discussion.

Art. VI.

Duration in Office.

The several officers shall be elected to hold their offices for four weeks.

By-Laws.

Rule I.

Meetings.

The regular meetings of the club shall take place on Wednesday evening of each week commencing at half past seven o'clock, and closing the debate at a quarter past nine o'clock.

Rule II.

Appointing Speakers.

The President shall appoint the speakers, not exceeding three on each side. He shall, also, appoint each evening, a committee of three to decide the question upon the weight of argument.

Rule III.

Time of Speakers.

The leaders shall be allowed fifteen minutes each, in opening and closing, dividing the time as they may elect.

The other speakers and volunteers shall be allowed ten minutes each.

Rule IV.

Special Meetings.

A special meeting may be ordered by the President, upon the written request of three members.

Rule V.

Order of Business.

The order of business shall be as follows:

- (1) Call to order;
- (2) Reading of the minutes;

- (3) Report of Committee on Propositions;
- (4) Report of Special Committees;
- (5) Report of Executive Committee;
- (6) Selection of question;
- (7) Unfinished business;
- (8) New business;
- (9) Appointment of Committee to decide the question;

(10) Debate:

- (1) By the leaders;
 - (2) By their colleagues;
 - (3) By volunteers;
 - (4) Closing with the ^{aff.} ~~negative~~;
- (11) Announcement of speakers;
 - (12) Decision of the question;
 - (13) Adjournment.

Rule VI.

Alterations.

The constitution or by-laws shall not be altered or amended, unless a written notice of the proposed alteration or amendment, be given the week previously, and then it shall require a two thirds vote.

Rules to become a good extempore
-orator speaker

- 1st Endeavor always to think clearly and methodically.
- 2^d Be in the constant habit of seeking the best possible language for the expression of your ideas in ordinary conversation.
- 3^d Read often and carefully the best specimens of deliberative eloquence.
- 4th Exercise your powers often in the practice of written composition.
- 5th Be always diligent in the acquisition of knowledge.

Abridgement of Rules and Pro-
ceedings of debates in deliberation
assemblies. Cushing & McCallist.

Quorum. A majority of members
is a quorum unless established
otherwise by rules.

Presiding Officer. There but one
presiding officer has been appointed
in the first place, his place can
only be supplied by a chairman *pro*
tempore, and in the choice of this
officer it is the duty of the secre-
tary to conduct the proceedings.
The president may read sitting,
but should rise to state a motion
and put a question.

Special Rules take precedence.

A vote is simply a wish or will,
expressed viva voce, by raising hands
&c.

Ballot means a "little ball." Tickets
are used usually.

Majority is more than half.

Plurality is a greater number.

Every member is bound to vote.

Committees. It is polite and
proper to appoint the *mover* and
second of a committee or sub-
committee, the former to act as
chairman *pro tempore*.

Use of a Committee of the Whole.
There are times when it is best for
an assembly, unfettered by certain

Parliamentary rules and restraints
to deal with a subject after the
manner of ordinary Committees.
In such cases it is usual to re-
solve into a Committee of the whole

Some employed to resolve an as-
sembly into a committee of
the whole. A members moves
"that the assembly do now re-
solve itself into a committee of
the whole to take under consideration
the subject &c." This being seconded
the question is put to vote by the president.
The Pres. then appoints a chairman of the
Comm. if no one objects; otherwise a chair-
man is appointed by regular vote.
The Sec. or Asst. Sec. of assembly acts as
Sec. of the Comm. of the Whole.

Use of Comm. of Whole. Because a
member can speak as often as he
pleases; Previous question cannot be
introduced; yeas & nays cannot be
called for, nor an appeal be made
from decision of chair. A sub Comm.
is inadmissible; a breach of order
cannot be referred ^{to} the assembly;
cannot adjourn to another time
and place; greater freedom in
every way is allowable; minutes of
proceeding not required to be kept.

Course taken by Comm. of Whole when
business is finished. A members moves
that Comm. reports & this being passed
the Pres. takes chair & listens to report
from chairman of Comm.

the previous question." Pres. says
"It has been moved & seconded that
the 'main question be now put';"
all who are, &c. No debate or amend-
ment is allowable on this motion.
All questions of order arising inci-
dentally thereon, must be decided without
discussion whether appeal from the
chair is made or not.

Motion to Postpone. This may
be wanted for reflection, or to gather
information, & it is second to postpone
to a certain day. To get rid of it
without coming directly to a vote
upon it, postpone indefinitely. Motion
to postpone may be amended by
substituting a different time. A mo-
tion for "indefinite postponement" is
generally held to be incapable of debate

or amendment; but Cushing says
it may be amended by recasting it
to a day certain. If any other day is
desired it may be moved as an amend-
ment to the amendment, or as an
independent motion, when the amend-
ment has been rejected.

Motion to commit. When the
matter of a proposition is such as
the assembly approves, but not the
form, it may be referred to a Com.
A motion to commit may be a-
mended variously.

Motion to amend. Its nature
is the change often effected under
color of amendment, that matters
utterly incompatible with the proposi-
tion under consideration, are engrossed

presented to the house.

Whenever a pause occurs in the proceedings, the Pres. simply says, "There is no business before the meeting." This either brings up new business, or a motion to adjourn.

Precedence of Privileged questions.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| First | Motion to adjourn. |
| Second | Motion to lie on table. |
| Third | Question of privilege. |
| Fourth | Motion for order of the day. |
| Fifth | " " previous questions. |
| all same rank. | " to postpone. |
| | " " commit. |
| | " " amend. |

The first motion first made cannot be superseded by any of the others (in "Fifth").

Motion for the order of the day takes place of

What is a good debater

1 He must, first and last, always endeavor to gain the good will of his audience.

2 He should be quick to discern those motions most likely to sway his auditors. Two descriptions of men: One rude & ignorant, who always set profit before honor; the other polished & civilized who prefer honor to every thing else. The latter, use considerations of every virtue; the former, present means of gain.

3 He should be a man of general intelligence.

4 He should aim a simplicity of style, clearness of logic, & earnestness of manners.

5 He should have his thoughts

and feelings so absorbed in his theme, as to free his delivery from every appearance of being studied & artificial.

6 Perfect familiarity with the rules of parliamentary practice.

7 Must be a good extemporaneous speaker; excellence of speech is no exclusive gift of genius, but always more or less the fruit of practice.

Rules of conduct in debate.

1. Truth only must be advocated, cherished & sought after.
2. Enter a contest with prepared to accept truth, no matter who presents it, or which side it appears upon.

3. Study the subject of debate well beforehand, & in so doing, take the widest & most liberal views. When you have chosen your position seek to fortify it by an apt & orderly arrangement of all your arguments. Study & have at command the weak points of the opposite side. This will command for you the respect that ever falls to him who is found to be acquainted with his themes.

4. Ever observe the rules of order and the courtesies of debate.

5. Bear in mind the object of the association, is the moral and intellectual improvement of the members.

Management of a Question

1. Put the question in language the plainest & most precise possible.
2. Ascertain by study the exact meaning of every term (leading) in the question, (Savior & Sutor on Transubstantiation).

3. Ascertain precisely the aim of the question.

4. Assume for the time being the position of an opponent. This will prevent you from being surprised.

by the presence ^{of your} of unexpected
argument, & giving you all the
advantage of seeming to know
beforehand what is to be advanced
by the opposite side. It will in-
spire respect in your adversaries
and impart caution to their
modes of attacking your position,
and so leave on the minds of
the audience the silent but strong
impression of probability as belonging
to what you affirm.

5 In referring to books be
accurate in whatever you
quote or state as a matter of
fact. This is a most important
precept. Minute accuracy begets
confidence. It lends to the speaker
the charm of reliability.

6 Arrange your points in a
particular order.

7 Always treat arguments of
opponents with fairness and
accuracy. Nothing is ever gained
by treating what is said by the op-
ponents with disdain. Allow
them their due and show its weak-
ness by clear forcible argument.

8 Always be sincere in the
search after truth. The suspi-
cion of insincerity is prejudicial
if not fatal to the influence of
a speaker. "Honesty is the best
policy."

9 Avoid obstinacy.