

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
RULES OF CIVILITY:
TRACED TO THEIR
SOURCES AND RESTORED**

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George Washington's Rules of Civility: Traced to Their Sources and Restored by Moncure D. Conway

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MONCURE D. CONWAY

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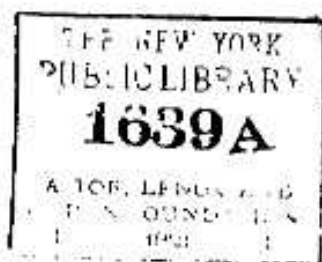
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RULES OF CIVILITY

Traced to their Sources and Restored

BY
MONCURE D. CONWAY

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NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Inscribed

TO MY SON

BUSTACE CONWAY.

No.	Name	Age	Sex
1	John	25	M
2	Mary	30	F
3	James	18	M
4	Elizabeth	22	F
5	William	35	M
6	Sarah	28	F
7	Robert	15	M
8	Ann	20	F
9	Thomas	32	M
10	Margaret	27	F
11	Richard	19	M
12	Catherine	24	F
13	Henry	31	M
14	Isabella	26	F
15	George	17	M
16	Frances	23	F
17	Alexander	33	M
18	Charlotte	29	F
19	John	16	M
20	Elizabeth	21	F
21	William	34	M
22	Sarah	25	F
23	Robert	14	M
24	Ann	19	F
25	Thomas	30	M
26	Margaret	28	F
27	Richard	18	M
28	Catherine	24	F
29	Henry	31	M
30	Isabella	26	F
31	George	17	M
32	Frances	23	F
33	Alexander	33	M
34	Charlotte	29	F
35	John	16	M
36	Elizabeth	21	F

THE
RULES OF CIVILITY.

AMONG the manuscript books of George Washington, preserved in the State Archives at Washington City, the earliest bears the date, written in it by himself, 1745. Washington was born February 11, 1731 O.S., so that while writing in this book he was either near the close of his fourteenth, or in his fifteenth, year. It is entitled "Forms of Writing," has thirty folio pages, and the contents, all in his boyish handwriting, are sufficiently curious. Amid copied forms of exchange, bonds, receipts, sales, and similar exercises, occasionally, in ornate penmanship, there are poetic selections, among them lines of a religious tone on "True Happiness." But the great interest of the book centres in the pages headed: "Rules

of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation." The book had been gnawed at the bottom by Mount Vernon mice, before it reached the State Archives, and nine of the 110 Rules have thus suffered, the sense of several being lost.

The Rules possess so much historic interest that it seems surprising that none of Washington's biographers or editors should have given them to the world. Washington Irving, in his "Life of Washington," excites interest in them by a tribute, but does not quote even one. Sparks quotes 57, but inexactly, and with his usual literary manipulation; these were reprinted (1886, 16^o) by W. O. Stoddard, at Denver, Colorado; and in Hale's "Washington" (1888). I suspect that the old biographers, more eulogistic than critical, feared it would be an ill service to Washington's fame to print all of the Rules. There might be a scandal in the discovery that the military and political deity of America had, even in boyhood, written so gravely of the hat-in-hand deference due to lords, and other "Persons of Quality," or had concerned himself with things so trivial as the proper use of the