

**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE; A
COMPENDIUM OF ITS RULES COMPILED FROM
THE LATEST AND HIGHEST AUTHORITIES, FOR
THE USE OF STUDENTS AND FOR THE
GUIDANCE OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
CLUBS, SOCIETIES, BOARDS, COMMITTEES,
AND ALL DELIBERATIVE BODIES**

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BY
ADELE M. FIELDE.



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**This Book Is Inscribed
To Those Who Study It.**

PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION.

Parliamentary Law sets forth the proper mode of Procedure in deliberative bodies. Its object is to expedite business, obviate friction, secure justice, maintain equality, and preserve dignity.

Its rules have been made at no one time, nor by any one nation, but have been gradually formulated, and are still in process of evolution. Some of them are probably centuries old, while others are barely established by consensus of recent opinion. The British Parliament had so much to do in their making, that its name adheres to them in all countries where English is spoken; but in America these rules have been adapted to another form of government, and are not identical with those followed in England. Even within the United States the rules vary, not only in the different States but often in legislative bodies of the same State. Yet their fundamental principles are always the same, and they are applicable in all situations.

Each organization has an indisputable right to create rules governing its own proceedings, but unless it does so by majority vote, it exists under the laws generally accepted as Parlia-

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mentary. These laws are finally determined by common sense, instructed by large and long experience.

It is said that the difference between a wise man and a fool, is merely that the one learns by experience while the other does not. To follow Parliamentary Usages is to profit by the experiences of others, thus avoiding the trouble inherent in personal experiences.

Among a people so addicted as are Americans to traveling in every part of their commonwealth, and so apt to form inter-State associations, the rules learned for guidance in the transaction of business should be those having national, and not merely local, acceptance. Fortunately, we have a manual prepared by Thomas B. Reed whose long occupation of the Chair of the Speaker in the House of Representatives makes him a high authority in Parliamentary Law. His profound knowledge of its principles is everywhere admitted, and his new rulings, after discussion throughout the country, have been generally upheld.

In the preparation of these lessons Reed's Rules have, in most points, been accepted as ultimate authority; but Cushing, Roberts and others have been carefully compared and often drawn upon. To know all these authors is a liberal education to the Parliamentarian. To the present writer it has nevertheless seemed

necessary to make to make a new text-book, because she has found none sufficiently elementary, and at the same time sufficiently comprehensive, to meet the requirements of students. To Learning there should be a royal road, and any one who can, may well lay further paving stones.

A. M. F.

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