

**MANUAL OF PARLIAMENTARY
PRACTICE. RULES OF
PROCEEDING AND DEBATE IN
DELIBERATIVE ASSEMBLIES**

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Manual of Parliamentary Practice. Rules of Proceeding and Debate in Deliberative Assemblies
by Luther S. Cushing

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LUTHER S. CUSHING

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Manual of Parliamentary Practice.

RULES
OF
PROCEEDING AND DEBATE
IN
DELIBERATIVE ASSEMBLIES.

BY
LUTHER S. CUSHING.

REVISED BY EDMUND L. CUSHING.

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ADVERTISEMENT TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE following treatise forms a part only of a much larger and more comprehensive work, covering the whole ground of parliamentary law and practice, which the author has for some time been engaged in preparing, and which it is his intention to complete and publish as soon as possible. In the mean time, this little work has been compiled, chiefly from the larger, at the request of the publishers, and to supply a want which was supposed to exist to a considerable extent.

The treatise now presented to the public is intended as a *Manual for Deliberative Assemblies* of every description, but more especially for those which are not legislative in their character; though with the exception of the principal points in which legislative bodies differ from others, — namely, the several different stages or readings of a bill, and conferences and amendments between the two branches, — this work will be found equally useful in legislative assemblies as in others.

The only work which has hitherto been in general use in this country, relating to the proceedings of legislative assemblies, is the compilation originally prepared by Mr. Jefferson, when Vice-President of the United States, for the use of the body over which he presided, and which is familiarly known as "Jefferson's Manual." This work, having been extensively used in our legislative bodies, and in some States expressly sanctioned by law, may be said to form, as it were, the basis of the common parliamentary law of this country. Regarding it in that light, the author of the following treatise has considered the principles and rules laid down by Mr. Jefferson (and which have been adopted by him chiefly from the elaborate work of Mr. Hatsell) as the established rules on this subject, and has accordingly made them the basis of the present compilation, with an occasional remark in a note, by way of explanation or suggestion, whenever he deemed it necessary.

Members of legislative bodies, who may have occasion to make use of this work, will do well to bear in mind that it contains only what may be called the *common parliamentary law*, which, in every legislative assembly, is more or less modified or controlled by special rules.

BOSTON, Nov. 1, 1844.

L. S. C.

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ADVERTISEMENT TO REVISED EDITION.

IN undertaking to revise this book I did not suppose that there would be any occasion to change or add to it in many instances. The author lived long enough after its publication to revise it himself. The additions and alterations which he saw fit to make have now been incorporated into the text. A few other additions have been made which it was thought might be useful.

I have had occasion sometimes to advise as counsel on points of parliamentary practice, and as executor of the author's will I had possession of some letters of inquiry which had been written to him; and in this way I had occasion to be acquainted with some of the difficulties which unprofessional persons had met with.

Unprofessional men have sometimes understood that this code of parliamentary procedure, which is so valuable as an aid in the despatch of business, is as binding upon deliberative assemblies as any municipal law; and in some cases it has been supposed that the proceedings of a town meeting have been vitiated by a mistake in the application of these rules. It is clear that the author has not intended to convey any such doctrine, but throughout has left it to be understood that every deliberative assembly, excepting in so far as it is restrained by the law of its constitution, is the sole judge of its own parliamentary practice. In a few instances it has been thought expedient to add a few words for the purpose of making this more clear. E. L. C.

PUBLISHERS' STATEMENT.

IN the present revised edition, the publishers present this standard work, improved by the addition of valuable explanatory notes prepared by Hon. E. L. Cushing, formerly Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature of New Hampshire, and brother of the author.

CUSHING'S MANUAL has, by common consent, become the authoritative guide in all legislative and other deliberative assemblies throughout the United States.

Mr. Cushing's larger work, "The Law and Practice of Legislative Assemblies," an octavo volume of some eleven hundred pages, is the most elaborate, complete, and reliable presentation of parliamentary law ever published. It shows the extreme accuracy, extended research, and great ability of the author, whom Charles Sumner calls "the most authoritative expounder of American parliamentary law."

The present little manual contains, in small and compact compass, all the essential practical points of the larger work, simplified and adapted for ready reference, and it is sufficient for all ordinary uses. In its new form it is again commended to the favor of the public.



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