



NEW
RULES & ORDERS

OF THE
Ben Peck'd Husband's

SOCIETY,
REFORMATION ACT,

&c., &c.

BY NED SIMPLE, ESQ.

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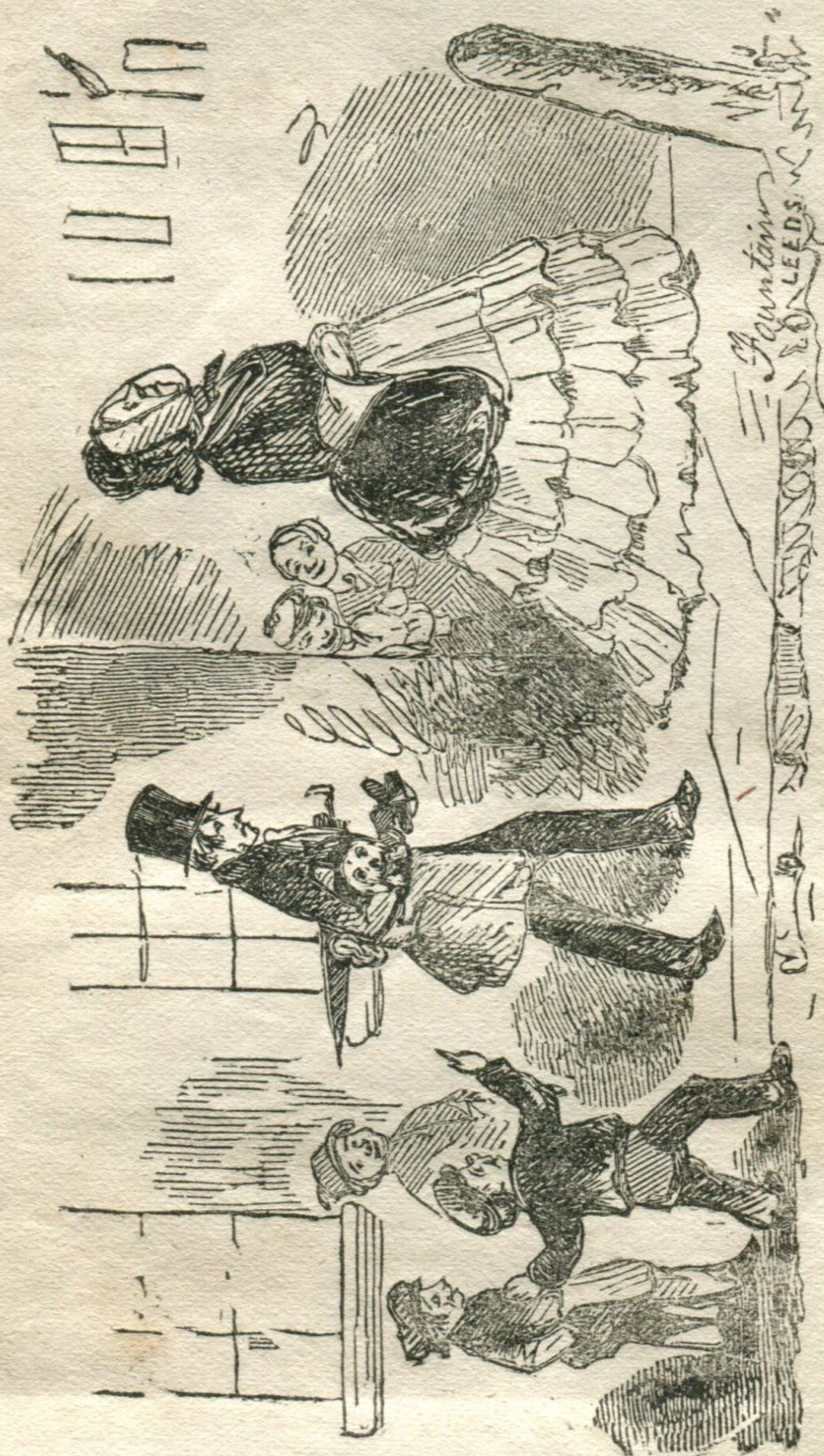
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PAGE EIGHT.—RULE NINTH.

NEW
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OF THE

Gen^l Pecked Husband's
CLUB,
REFORMATION ACT, 18

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BINGLEY:

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RULES AND ORDERS
OF THE
HEN-PECKED HUSBAND'S CLUB;

HELD AT THE

*House of Simon Simple, Sign of the Hand
and Dish-cloth.*

RULE I.

WE are resolved that the quarterly nights shall be on the last Saturdays in January, April, and July, (we choose Saturday Night because less labour will be lost than on Monday,) and that the yearly feast will be on the last Saturday in October; when our Wives shall officiate as members of the committee, clerk and stewards; and all disputes shall be put to their decision, all money to be deposited in their hands, and they shall have full authority over our time, liquor, feast, etc.

II.

Every member of this Society, shall work from six o'clock in the morning till ten at night, and shall, at the hours of breakfast, dinner, and tea, be compelled to fetch water, sweep the house, wash pots, brush the furniture, clean the irons, blow the fire, mangle the clothes, black-lead the range, clean the shoes, go for sand, potatoes, or any other article she may want, and do every part of the mopsqueezer's duty.

III.

That if at any time he finds himself unable to follow his employment through indisposition, he shall balance the deficiency by extra labour when recovered, unless he has a certificate provided by the Society, and signed by his wife, of very submissive conduct.

IV.

Resolved, that he shall go to bed exactly at ten o'clock; and rise precisely at half-past five in the morning, in order to kindle the fire, and make everything comfortable for the reception of his wife, before he commences his daily avocation; and if required, take his wife a cup of coffee and toast to bed, to assist her to dress, or lull her into a calm sleep till nine o'clock.

V.

Instead of the intemperance practised by some people, of resorting to the alehouse on a Saturday night, to get a pint of beer, he shall black his own shoes and wife's, go errands, change the child, take his supper and go to bed.

VI.

The best tea and coffee must be purchased, that can be possibly procured for money, new butter, refined sugar, cream, rum, brandy, wine, short cakes, etc., for his loving wife, while he contentedly sits down to a mess of oatmeal pottage, or a plate of hasty pudding and treacle.

VII.

His wife must be allowed at any time of the day to examine the forwardness of his work, and if she finds he has been idle, she must teach him his duty in that particular, by the application of a horse whip, purchased by the Society for that purpose.

VIII.

All the money which the utmost efforts of our industry can realize, shall be at our wives disposal, and they shall be at liberty to purchase without our knowledge or consent, the most costly apparel which an extravagant fancy can suggest, such as white and silk gowns, and stockings, ornamented caps, morocco shoes, enormous expensive bustles, unmentionables, with lace frills round each leg, silk elastic waist bands, with silver clasps, to adjust their dresses to a proper distance, that their ruffles or lace may be distinctly discernable on each leg, muffs, boas, veils, flounces, hand frills, gold watch, elaborate gold chain, broaches, false hair in fine arranged curls, oil, scents, musk, etc. (however disagreeable she may be to his more sensitive nose, with the fashionable and frequent use of scents, he must patiently bear all without a grumble;) and they may frequent all places of entertainment, play houses, balls, assemblies, and go a gossiping to tea parties, when and where they please, without a murmur from their spouses, who must attend at the time appointed, midnight, etc., with umbrella, cloak, boots, cab, etc., to escort them home, or they will be excluded.

IX.

On a Sunday, every member shall go to church, carry his wife's pattens, umbrella, (if a fine day,) prayer book, bible and dog, taking care to observe a due submissive distance while on the way. (See frontispiece.) Though these matters may seem really insignificantly ridiculous, yet, in our opinion, they are of the greatest importance; for the observance of them convinces every one of our entire subjection, and proves us members of the club. Also if his wife think proper, after he has escorted her to the church, he must go home, and cook the dinner, wash and dress the children, (if any,) and at the close of the service at the church, attend to his wife on her way home again.

X.

As many members are in an extensive way of business, it is required of every such individual belonging to this club, that whenever he is called upon by a tradesman for orders, or has occasion to attend the markets, the wife shall not only be with the husband, but be purse bearer, and make the bargains; the spouse quietly and silently standing behind her; yet, although he must not presume to interfere in her speculations, he shall (without grumbling) bear all the blame, provided any of them turns out unfortunate.

XI.

Contrary to the general habit of indulging themselves with the luxury of tea, toast, etc., on a Sunday Morning, you must still adhere to your

accustomed wholesome diet of oatmeal pottage; (unless your wife condescends to give you a treat for due observance of her just and lawful commands; in that case you must have a certificate bearing her signature, to be delivered to the clerk the quarter night following.) If this regularity of fare occasions satiety or loathing, you must not even in that case, be allowed to participate with your wife, of tea, coffee, etc., but be left to the choice of Hobson, who used to say, "This or none," consequently your choice will be pottage or nothing.

XII.

A broken head, or a black eye, a scratched nose, a scalded leg, and ears pulled as long as a pig's, etc., will be considered as an almost certain symptom of your submissive conduct towards your dear spouse, and if it can be proved that you have received the same, without provocation, you will be entitled to the benefit of the box, of which due notice must be given to the Society

XIII.

The highest encomium or praise, and the largest allowance will be given to him, who shall bear with the most evident degree of composure, the words, idle, dirty, rascally, simple, foolish, blockish, scampish, rogueish, knavish, infernal, and every other epithet which the vocabulary of Billingsgate can furnish;—attended with the dangerous consequences of those dreadful instruments of female vengeance, tongs, poker, fire shovel, brush, pan-lid, dish-clout, sauce-pan, tea-

pot, pattens, mop, slop-pail, contents of poe, bellows, peggy, etc., but should he show the least degree of resentment or passion, he shall be fined two shillings and sixpence; or should he meanly retort by calling his wife brute, fool, hussey, strumpet, doxy, slut, baggage, or a certain word not very agreeable to the fair sex, and which, for evident reasons, we choose to express by the name of she-dog, or should he retaliate blow for blow, he shall be excluded from all honours and privileges of this Society.

Reformation Act,

I.

That any baker, that is known to cheat, or defraud the public, by mixing beans, alum, starch, whitening, potatoes, or any other spurious ingredients in their bread, or known to make free with what they call a parish dinner, such as a little from every person's dish that comes to the oven, shall for every such offence, be forced to sit in their oven, directly the batch is drawn, for the space of half an hour.

II.

That any butcher, that is known to stick a lump of fat under his scale, to make it weigh down, shall sit in the stocks three times a day, for a week, with the said lump of fat stuck on his mug, as a caution to all other butchers; and any publican, that is known to mix small beer with strong, shall be smothered in a butt of swipes,

and the brewer will be compelled to bury his body in New South Wales; and any grocer, that is known to sell sloe leaves for tea, or mix sand with their sugar, or water tobacco, shall be ducked in a iron chair; all other trades, such as tinkers, tailors, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, undertakers, barbers, nailors, wig-makers, sawyers, lawyers, joiners, coiners, barber's clerks, etc., and any cobbler that is known to mend people's shoes with rotten leather, shall be compelled to eat nought for six days, but cobbler's wax; and any miller that is known to be a rogue, shall be drowned under his own mill, without the benefit of the clergy.

And it is further resolved by the new Act of Reformation, that any woman that is seen gossiping from house to house, instead of minding her husband's business, and letting other people's alone, he will be authorised to tie her to the leg of the bedstead, and feed her on water gruel for three days, and if any man is known to drink more than eight quarts of strong ale, or two quarts of rum, gin, or brandy, in one day, his wife shall be duly authorised to chain him to the handle of the frying pan until he gets sober.

And further, that any woman that is known to wear more than thirty-six curls, besides the figure of six in her hair, or wear more than twelve flounces on her gown, or wear a leghorn bonnet and bustle, so as to obstruct passengers from passing the opposite side of the road, shall be doomed to the tread-mill for two months.

A LUCKY THOUGHT.

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The husband of a scolding wife
One that preferr'd a quiet life,
When his love began to chatter,
Threw his ready rhine at her;
Enraptur'd by the shining gold,
She caught the prizes as they roll'd;
Lost all her anger in her haste,
And screw'd him up a smiling face,
With guineas he had paved the road,
And banish'd strife from his abode;
And thinking peace not dearly bought!
With pleasure hoping not to part,
Snug in her bosom, near her heart,
She instantly the key convey'd,
Then gave his cheek a pat and said,
"I was not mistress love before;
Now I am keeper of thy store,
My tongue shall never tease thee more.
Blend thy authority with love,
And it will always sweetly move;
I'll daily add into the heap,
Nor buy a gown but wond'rous cheap."
And ever after charm'd his ear,
With no sweet love, and yes my dear!
Grey hair'd, he wish'd, blest with his wife,
A long lease of a second life.