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GENERAL DIGEST

OF THE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

Corporation of New-Orleans.

MADE BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
BY THEIR SECRETARY,
D. AUGUSTIN, ESQ. COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

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New-Orleans
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ART. 8. All persons attending any public spectacle, are forbidden to commit, either at the doors or in the theatre, lobbies, galleries or corridors, any disorderly acts, to behave riotously, to use violence, insult, indecency, or to offer any kind of aggression, to have their hats on while the curtain is raised, and to smoke in the theatre, the galleries, lobbies or corridors. And every person who, on being thereto required by any police officer on duty at the public spectacle, shall neglect or refuse to observe what is prescribed in the present article, shall upon the order of the Mayor or other competent magistrate, be compelled to leave immediately said spectacle, or shall be conveyed to the city guard-house to be next day brought before the Mayor or a justice of peace, who shall condemn the offender to the payment of a fine of from ten to fifty dollars.

ART. 9. It shall not be lawful for any white person to occupy any of the places set apart for people of color ; and the latter are likewise forbidden to occupy any of those reserved for white persons, at any public exhibition or theatre ; and every person offending against the present article, shall immediately quit the place he unduly occupied, and shall pay a fine of fifteen dollars.

ART. 10. It shall not be lawful for any person to make or excite any noise or disturbance near the place where the public are assembled at a public exhibition, on penalty of a fine of from ten to fifteen dollars against every offender, for which fine, parents, guardians, masters or mistresses shall be respectively responsible for their offending minors, apprentices or slaves.

ART. 11. The Mayor shall give the necessary orders that the carriages of persons going to a public exhibition be ranged in a convenient manner, in the places he shall appoint, so as not to intercept the public passage or occasion any disorder, and all coachmen are ordered not to leave their horses, without necessity, during the public exhibitions, under penalty of a fine of ten dollars against the person violating the present article, and for either of the cases therein specified ; for which fine, masters shall be responsible for their slaves.

ART. 12. The guard appointed by the Mayor to maintain order at a public exhibition, and in the vicinity, shall repair to the posts assigned them at least half an hour before the opening of the theatre, and shall there remain until all the spectators shall have retired ; the said guard shall be particularly subject to the orders of the police magistrate present at the performance, and shall only act under his direction ; and every man of the guard acting contrary to this disposition, shall pay a fine of five dollars.

ART. 13. The Mayor of New-Orleans shall, from time to time, repair to the different theatres in this city at the time of the performances, or cause himself to be replaced in case of his absence by sickness or otherwise, by the Recorder or any judge or magistrate ; and it shall be the duty of the managers of theatres to reserve a proper place for the Mayor, Recorder or any magis-

trate invited by the Mayor to replace him thereto in case of his absence. Provided that the place so reserved for the Mayor or other persons sent in his place shall be furnished without said managers being entitled to any compensation, and they shall adhere to this condition before obtaining a license to open their theatres.

ART. 14. The Mayor, as often as he may deem it necessary, shall examine whether the theatres, places of public resort be constructed with the requisite solidity, and carefully kept in repair, so that the public may assemble there without danger; and he shall take suitable measures to prevent the accidents that might result from any negligence in that respect on the part of the proprietors, tenants or other persons having the management or direction of the said theatres, places of public spectacles, or other places of public resort.

ART. 15. The manager, acting manager or other person having the management or direction of a theatre, shall place and constantly keep, within the play-house, several large tubs, and at least one fire-engine in good repair, which must be filled on days of performance; and on failure of complying with this requisite, and until the manager shall have complied with it, the Mayor shall order the theatre to be and remain shut up.

ART. 16. By virtue of the powers granted by law to the Mayor and City Council, the Mayor shall cause to be shut up any place of public resort, whenever the maintenance of order, the public safety or tranquillity may require it.

Approved, June 8, 1816.

An Ordinance respecting public Balls.

THE CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS :

ART. 1. It shall not be lawful for any person to enter into a public ball-room with any cane, stick, sword or any other weapon, and every person having either a cane, stick, sword or any other weapon, shall, before he enter the ball-room, deposit the same at the office which shall be at the door of the entrance of said ball-room, where there will be a person appointed to receive and take care of such articles which he shall carefully keep, affixing to each article a number, a check of which he shall give to the owner; and said articles shall not be returned to the persons respectively depositing them, until said persons are quitting the balls and produce their checks.

ART. 2. Every person entering in any public ball-room, in contravention to the above provision, shall pay a fine of five dollars; and every person giving a public ball without having previously established an office at the door of the entrance of said ball-room, and without appointing a person to receive and take care, in the manner aforesaid, of the articles before mentioned shall pay a fine of twenty-five dollars, and if the offence is repeated, the offender shall forfeit the right to hold any further permission to give such public balls.

ART. 3. Every person who shall commit any disorder, tumult, violence, insult, indecency, or shall commit an assault or battery in a public ball-room shall be taken before the Mayor, or any other justice of the peace, to be dealt with according to law.

ART. 4. Any person giving a public ball, who shall prolong the duration of the same beyond the hour fixed by the license or permit which he must obtain, for this purpose, of the Mayor of this city, shall pay a fine of twenty-five dollars, for each and every offence.

Approved October 27, 1817.

An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to appoint constables for the police of the theatres, public exhibitions and balls.

THE CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS :

ART. 1. The Mayor shall nominate and appoint a sufficient number of men to be constables, and to form, under that denomination, a guard for the theatres, public exhibitions and balls, in order there to receive and execute the orders and directions of the Mayor, or of the commissaries of police, as to what concerns the maintenance of good order in the aforesaid premises : provided always, that the said constables shall be employed as a guard only at authorised theatres, spectacles and balls, and that their number shall not exceed five men for each of said theatres, exhibitions and balls.

ART. 2. The constables on guard at said theatres or exhibitions, shall be paid by the managers, acting-managers or other persons having the direction of the exhibition, at the rate of one dollar for each constable, every time of performance ; and every constable on duty at a ball, shall be entitled to require from the person keeping such balls, the said compensation of one dollar, when the ball ends at midnight, and that of two dollars in case of any ball authorised for a later hour of the night.

ART. 3. In no case shall the above mentioned service be at the expense of the city, nor shall any of the men composing the city guard, be employed on that duty, unless in case of any disturbance breaking out in any of the aforesaid places, and then only till tranquillity be restored.

ART. 4. All persons are forbidden to oppose or obstruct any of the aforesaid constables in the legal execution of his office, or to utter against them invectives or opprobrious language in the discharge of their duty ; and every person herein offending, shall pay a fine of from ten to fifty dollars for every such offence.

Approved, November 5, 1817.

An Ordinance laying a tax on public balls and public exhibitions.

THE CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS :

ART. 1. It shall not be lawful for any person to give any public ball, either to white persons or free persons of colour, at any place within the extent of the city, or to exhibit any inferior spectacle where the public are admitted for money, such as a circus, for equestrian exhibitions, panoramas,