

The Code of Laws for the Colony of Connecticut (Ludlow's Code)

From "The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut Prior to the Union with New Haven Colony, May, 1665" 1850. Transcriptions are included below. To read the full text, please refer to the [Connecticut General Assembly](#).

CHILDREN.

Forasmuch as the good Education of Children is of singular behoofe and benefitt to any Common wealth, and whereas many parents and masters are too indulgent and negligent of their duty in that kinde ;—

It is therefore ordered by this Courte and Authority thereof, that the Select men of euery Towne, in the seuerall precincts and quarters where they dwell, shall haue a vigilant eye ouer their brethren and neighbours, to see first, that none of them shall suffer so much Barbarisme in any of their families as not to indeauor to teach by themselves or others their Children and Apprentices so much Learning as may inable them perfectly to read the English tounge, and knowledge of the Capitall Lawes, vpon penalty of twenty shillings for each neglect therein ; Allso, that all Masters of families doe once a weeke at least, catechise their children and servants in the grounds and principles of religion ; and if any bee vnable to doe so much, that then at the least they procure such Children or Apprentices to learne some shorte orthodox Catechisme, without booke, that they may bee able to answer to the questions that shall bee propounded to them out of such Catechismes by their parents or Masters or any of the Select men, when they shall call them to a tryall of what they haue learned in this kinde. And further, that all Parents and Masters doe breed and bring vp their Children and Apprentices in some honest lawfull [calling,] [20*] labour or imployment, either in husbandry, or some other trade profitable for themselves and the Common wealth, if they will not nor cannott traine them vp in Learning to fitt them for higher imployments. And if any of the Select men, after Admonition by them giuen to such Masters of families, shall finde them still negligent of their duty in the particulars aforementioned, wherby Children and Seruants become rude, stubborne and vnruely, the said Select men with the helpe of two Magistrates shall take such Children or Apprentices from them, and place them with some masters for yeares, boyes till they come to twenty one and girles to eighteene yeares of age compleat, w^{ch} will more strictly looke vnto, and force them to submitt vnto gouernem^t, according to the rules of this order, if by faire meanes and former instructions they will not bee drawne vnto it.

Transcription: “Children”

Forasmuch as the good Education of Children is of singular be hoof and benefit to any Commonwealth, and whereas many Parents and masters are too indulgent and negligent of their duty in that kind ;— It is therefore ordered by this Court and Authority thereof, that the Selectmen of every Town, in the several precincts and quarters where they dwell, shall have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbours, to see first, that none of them shall suffer so much Barbarism in any of their families as not to endeavor to teach by themselves or others their Children and Apprentices so much Learning as may enable them perfectly to read the English tongue, and knowledge of the Capital Laws, upon penalty of twenty shillings for each neglect therein; Also, that all Masters of families do once a week at least, catechise their children and servants in the grounds and principles of religion; and if any be unable to do so much, that then at the least they procure such Children or Apprentices to learn some short orthodox Catechism, without book, that they may be able to answer to the questions that shall be propounded to them out of such Catechisms by their parents or Masters or any of the Select men, when they shall call them to a trial of what they have learned in this kind.

And further, that all Parents and Masters do breed and bring up their Children and Apprentices in some honest lawful calling, labour, or employment, either in husbandry, or some other trade profitable for themselves and the Commonwealth, if they will not nor cannot train them up in learning to fit them for higher employment. And if any of the Selectmen, after Admonition by them given to such Masters of families, shall find them still negligent of their duty in the particulars aforementioned, whereby Children and Servants become rude, stubborn and unruly, the said Selectmen with the help of two Magistrates shall take such Children or Apprentices from them, and place them with some masters for years, boys till they come to twenty one and girls to eighteen years of age complete, which will more strictly look unto, and force them to submit unto government, according to the rules of this order, if by fair means and former instructions they will not be drawn unto it.

SCHOOLES.

It being one chiefe project of that old deluder Sathan, to keepe men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, as in former times keeping them in an vnknowne tongue, so in these latter times by perswading them from the vse of Tongues, so that at least the true sence and meaning of the originall might bee clouded with false glosses of saint seeming deceiuers; and that Learning may not bee

buried in the Graue of o^r Forefathers, in Church and Common wealth, the Lord assisting our indeauors,—It is therfore ordered by this Courte and Authority thereof, that euery Towneshipp within this Jurissdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty housholders, shall then forthwith appoint one within their [57*] Towne to teach || all such children as shall resorte to him, to write and read, whose wages shall bee paid either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the Inhabitants in generall by way of supplye, as the maior parte of those who order the prudentials of the Towne shall appointe; provided that those who send their children bee not oppressed by more then they can haue them taught for in other Townes. And it is further ordered, that where any Towne shall increase to the number of one hundred families or housholders, they shall sett vp a Grammer Schoole, the masters thereof being able to instruct youths so farr as they may bee fitted for the Vniversity. And if any Towne neglect the performance hereof aboue one yeare, then euery such Towne shall pay five pounds p^r Annū, to the next such Schoole, till they shall performe this order.

Transcription: “Schools”

It being one chief project of that old deluder Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, as in former times keeping them in an unknown tongue, so in these latter times by persuading them from the use of Tongues, so that at least the true sense and meaning of the original might be clouded with false glosses of saint seeming deceivers; and that Learning may not be buried in the Grave of our Forefathers, in Church and Commonwealth, the Lord assisting our endeavors,—It is therefore ordered by this Court and Authority thereof, that every Township within this Jurisdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty housholders, shall then forthwith appoint one within their Towne to teach all such children as shall resort to him, to write and read, whose wages shall be paid either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the Inhabitants in general by way of supply, as the major part of those who order the prudentials of the Town shall appoint; provided that those who send their children be not oppressed by more than they can have them taught for in other Towns. And it is further ordered, that where any Town shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders, they shall set up a Grammar School, the masters thereof being able to instruct youths so far as they may be fitted for the University. And if any Town neglect the performance thereof above one year, then every such Towne shall pay five pounds per annum, to the next such School, till they shall perform this order.