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MMN # 7485

Date: 1804-1836

Description: Constitution of the Maine Anti Slavery Society followed by a list of members' signatures.

Constitution of the Maine Anti Slavery Society.

Preamble

Whereas the most High God hath made of one blood all the families of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth & hath endowed all alike with certain inalienable rights among which are "life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness," & we therefore believe that the slavery existing in these U. States by which more than two millions of our fellow countrymen are deprived of their rights, is a gross violation of the law of God, as well as of the fundamental principles of our government; & where as we recognize it as a duty incumbent on all to do what they can to put an end to this system of oppression; & whereas we believe also that it can be done, as in the case of intemperance only by rational reform of individuals, & by consequence of public sentiment, & that we can act to this end, most efficiently only by organized effort; therefore we, the undersigned, agree to form ourselves into a Society for this purpose, to be governed by the following

CONSTITUTION

Art. 1. This Society shall be called the Maine Anti Slavery Society, & shall be auxiliary to the American Anti Slavery Society.

Art. 2. The fundamental principles of this Society are, that slaveholding is a heinous sin against God, & therefore that immediate Emancipation, without the condition of expatriation, is the duty of the master & the right of the slave.

Art. 3. The leading object of the Society is to do what it can, by moral & religious means, & ^ no other, to secure the immediate & entire emancipation of our enslaved brethren & sisters. This Society will encourage [blot] promote the intellectual, moral & religious improvement of the free people of color, & by correcting prevailing & wicked prejudices, endeavor to obtain for them, as well as the enslaved, an equality with the whites in civil, intellectual & religious privileges; but will never countenance the oppressed in vindicating their rights by physical [crossed out] force.

Art. 4. Any person who assents to the above principles, may become a member of this Society, by signing the Constitution.

Art. 5. The officers of the Society shall be a President, one Vice President from each County, a Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, & an Executive Committee of six, of whom the President & Secretary shall be members.

The President, Vice Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers shall discharge the duties usually devolving on their respective offices. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to promote the great objects of the Society, in such ways as they may think proper, consistently with this Constitution. Art. 5. The annual meeting of the Society shall be at such time & place as may be designated by the Executive Committee.

Paul Stickney	Henry R. Cushman	James Bowen
William Smith	Herchew Crosswell	
Charles C Cone	Wm. E. Page	Sam'l Cordis
Alvan Fogg	Jeremiah Smith	
Joshua Bullen Jr.	John Blanchard	Stephen Hawes
A. D. Jones	Rich ^d Thurston	Jesse Taylor
Enos Foster	Jacob Southwick	Ira Towne
Seth May	Stephen Winslow	Josiah Tucker
Jacob Hooker	Benjamin Tappan	Josiah Peet
Augustus Alden	Wm. Bradbury	Eusebius Heald
E. Sawyer Tappan	Joseph Underwood	
Isaac Rogers		
Edward Fairfield	Isaac Rogers	
Ebenezer Mayo	Ebenezer Mayo	
Leonard Bond	Leonard Bond	
Eli Thurston	Elihu Robinson	
Wm. W. Thayer	E. R. Warren	
Sam'l C. Fessenden	Henry Richardson	
James Gow	Edward Hotchkiss	
Ezek' Robinson		
Peleg Wadsworth		
Jeff Russell Jr.		
Joseph R. Carn		
Moses B. Sears		
Thos. L. Megquier		
Edw ^d Southwicke		
Ashbel Cram		
Dexter Baldwin		
John R. Traylor		
Thomas N. Lord		
Joseph Baker		
Charles Town		
Coker Marble		
John Richards		
Charles Russell		
Jos. Alexander		
Cephas W. Sevens		
Gilbert Pullen		
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Edward Fairfield	Wm. Bradbury	Eusebius Heald
Eben G. Parsons	E. Sawyer Tappan	Joseph Underwood
Eli Thurston	Sumner French	Isaac Rogers
Wm. W. Thayer	Ebenezer Mayo	Isaac Downing
Sam'l C. Fessenden	Leonard Bond	Peaslee Hoyt
James Gow	Elihu Robinson	David P. Smith
Ezek' Robinson	E. R. Warren	Alfred Sothrop
Peleg Wadsworth	Henry Richardson	E. R. Warren
Jeff Russell Jr.	Edward Hotchkiss	Henry Richardson
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