



CONSTITUTION
OF THE
DORR LIBERATION SOCIETY
OF
RHODE ISLAND.

Academy of Arts & Sciences
INSTITUTED NOVEMBER 5, 1844.

PROVIDENCE:
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.
1844.

OFFICERS.

MRS. A. H. LORD, *President.*

MRS. B. DAVIS, *Vice President.*

MISS L. J. FOLLET, *Rec. Secretary.*

MISS M. J. DINSMORE, *Cor. Secretary.*

MR. WILBOUR WHEATON, *Treasurer.*

S. G. Kenyon Secy

PROCEEDINGS.

At a meeting of the Dorr Liberation Society, held at the residence of Mrs. A. H. Lord, for the purpose of forming a Constitution, and for the choice of Officers, a committee of three, appointed for the purpose, reported the annexed Constitution, which was unanimously adopted.

Mrs. A. H. Lord was chosen President, and Miss Louisa J. Follet, Recording Secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas certain citizens of Rhode Island have employed Gen. Samuel Fessenden, and Francis C. Treadwell, of the city of Portland, in the State of Maine, Counsellors at Law, to carry the case of the State of Rhode Island vs. Thomas W. Dorr, by writ of error to the Supreme Court of the United States, and believing that course to be the only mode of establishing judicially, the principles of the People's Constitution, and the innocence of Gov. Dorr:

Be it Resolved, By the Dorr Liberation Society, that an appeal be made to the people of the United States, for their sympathy in the cause of Free Suffrage, and for pecuniary aid in continuing the defence of this suit.

Resolved, That twelve thousand shares, on certificates of ten cents each, of contributions to the fund, to be raised for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the defence of this suit, in the manner aforesaid, be immediately issued; that the President of this Society be directed to prepare a suitable form and device, and issue the same forthwith, for the purpose of raising, as soon as may be, the amount of twelve hundred dollars thereon.

Resolved, That the Dorr Liberation Society accept the offer of F. C. Treadwell, to furnish at the cost of printing them, any number of copies, of the little book, entitled, "Treason Defined," containing, besides a definition of treason, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, and a copy of the Constitution of the United States, and offer them for sale at the following prices: \$30 00 per thousand, \$4 00 per hundred, 6 cents per single copy; terms cash on delivery.

Auxiliary societies, booksellers, and other persons, may be supplied, on application to the President of the Society, at her residence Dean street, near Fountain street.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

DORR LIBERATION SOCIETY

OF

RHODE ISLAND.

WE, the subscribers, in order, by legal, constitutional, and peaceful means, to effectuate the liberation of Thomas Wilson Dorr, the rightful Governor of Rhode Island, from confinement in the State Prison, under what we deem a groundless charge, an unlawful trial, and a cruel and wicked sentence; and to reassert and establish the People's Constitution, and by our example and influence, to induce the People of this State and Nation, to make themselves acquainted with the principles of

the Constitution of the United States, and to "preserve, protect, and defend" the same, do ordain and establish the following rules and regulations, for the government and guidance of ourselves and our associates, under the name of THE DORR LIBERATION SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND.

First. The Society shall have for its officers, a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary, to be chosen annually, as the Society may order, on the first Tuesday of October, and the term of their offices shall commence on the first Tuesday of November.

Second. The regular meetings of the Society shall be held weekly, on Tuesday evenings, and at such other times as the Society may order, acknowledging in its utmost extent the great principle of popular sovereignty, that the will of the majority, when expressed, shall be the rule of action.

Third. Special meetings may be called by the President, at the request of five members.

Fourth. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but by a vote of the Society.

Fifth. New members may be admitted by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting of the Society.

Sixth. A contribution of six cents shall be made by each member on joining the Society, and a weekly contribution of one cent thereafter.

Seventh. The Society in its deliberations, is expected to be governed by the principles of the Constitution of the United States, the principles of justice, equity and truth; and appeals to the enlightened judgment, and moral sense of its own members, rather than to prescription, precedent, or what is technically called legal practice; holding that an error, however long it may have been tolerated, submitted to, or acquiesced in, ought never to acquire the force and authority of law.

Eighth. The objects of the several members of this Society, after the liberation of Governor Dorr, will be first, to know and reduce to practice, the principles herein before specified, amongst themselves, their families and acquaintances; and by discussions, public and private meetings, lectures, the publication and

distribution of such tracts, books, and papers, as the means and opportunities of the Society may admit of, to extend their beneficial influence, as far as may be in their power, through the State and Nation, to the whole human family.

Ninth. Auxiliary Societies may be formed in this State, which, upon sending a copy of their constitution, and a list of the names of their officers, will be duly acknowledged as such.



