

MEMORANDUM

OF THE

FREE PRODUCE SOCIETY

REVISED EDITION

PHILADELPHIA:

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[1877]

FREE PRODUCER SOCIETY

OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

WHEREAS there are many persons, who while they deplore the existence of Slavery, indirectly contribute to its support and continuance by using articles derived from the labor of Slaves — And whereas we are satisfied, that by a proper union of reasonable efforts, articles similar to those which are thus produced, may be obtained by free labor: — And believing that the general use of such articles among us is aided by Freemen, will gradually establish a conviction in the minds of those who hold their fellow-creatures in bondage, that their own interests would be promoted by the diminished quantity, and more rapid sale of their produce, resulting from the change of the condition of their Slaves into that of free Men.

The contrary — We who are signed are therefore assembled to form an Association under the title of

The Free Producers Society OF PENNSYLVANIA:

And have adopted the following Articles for our government, viz:

ARTICLE 1st.

The Officers of this Society shall be a *President*, *Vice President*, *Secretary*, *Treasurer*, and a *Committee of Correspondence*, consisting of 10 Members, all of whom shall be elected annually, at the first stated Meeting in (1st mo.) January.

ARTICLE 2nd.

The duty of the *President* shall be to preside in the Meetings of the Society; preserve order therein; sign all drafts upon the *Treasurer*, and such proceedings of the Society as shall be deemed proper for publication. He shall call *Special Meetings* of the Society whenever he may deem them necessary, or when requested to do so by the *Committee of Correspondence*.

ARTICLE 3rd.

The *Vice President*, in the absence of the *President*, shall be vested with the power, and perform the duty, of that Office.

ARTICLE 4th.

The *Secretary* shall notify Members of their election, and of the time and place of Meeting; keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the Society; sign all such as may be directed to be published, and such orders as may be drawn upon the *Treasurer*.

ARTICLE 5th.

The *Treasurer* shall collect and hold the funds of the Society, subject to its orders, signed by the

President and Treasurer. The clerk, at the Annual Meeting in the 1st mo., (January,) and oftener if requested by the Society, exhibit a full and correct statement of his receipts and expenditures, accompanied by the proper vouchers.

ARTICLE 6th.

The Officers of the Society shall be, ex-officio, Members of the Committee of Correspondence.

ARTICLE 7th.

Sect. I. It shall be the duty of the Committee of Correspondence to appoint a *Chairman* and *Secretary*, and to meet at least once in each month for the transaction of business. Regular minutes of their proceedings shall be kept and preserved at the stated Meetings of the Society.

Sect. II. The Committee shall correspond with such societies and individuals in the United States and elsewhere as may be considered favorable to the labor of Freemen, and to the consumption of their products, in order that a ready market may be opened for the sale of such produce, and the wants of the consumer, who will give it a preference, be supplied with facility and regularity.

Sect. III. The Committee shall occasionally circulate, through the medium of the public newspapers, or such other means as they may deem best, information of the places at which, and the persons to and from whom, the products of free labor may be sold and purchased on the most favorable terms.

It shall also be a part of the duty of the Committee to exert, in a proper and reasonable manner, the propriety of giving a preference to the labor of Freedmen, and the consistency of so doing by those who professedly deprecate the existence of Slavery.

SECT. IV. In case of the death, absence from the city, or inability to act, of the President and Vice President, the Committee shall have power, and it shall be its duty, to call Special Meetings of the Society whenever they may be necessary.

ARTICLE 8th.

The stated Meetings of the Society shall be held quarterly, on the 1st. Monday (2nd. day) of January, April, July, and October, (1st., 4th., 7th., and 10th. Months,) at such time and place as the Society shall agree upon. The number of Members to constitute a Quorum shall be regulated by resolution of the Society.

ARTICLE 9th.

Should the President and Vice President, or Secretary, be absent from any Meeting, the Members present shall make an appointment to fill the vacancy *pro tempore*.

ARTICLE 10th.

Any vacancy occurring among the Officers of the Society, or in the Committee of Correspondence, shall be filled at the next stated Meeting of the Society after such event has taken place.

ARTICLE 11th.

All Elections shall be by ballot, and those Candidates shall be considered as elected who have received a majority of the votes of the Members present.

ARTICLE 12th.

Each Member shall pay annually to the Treasurer the sum of One Dollar.

ARTICLE 13th.

Persons favorable to the objects of this Society may be elected Members, provided they shall have been proposed by one or more persons in Membership, and shall receive the voice of a majority of the Members present.

ARTICLE 14th.

No Rule or By-Law shall be adopted by the Society in contravention of this Constitution; nor shall any alteration or addition be made to it unless the same has been proposed at a stated Meeting, and shall receive the approbation of two-thirds of the Members attending the succeeding one.

Wm. Rawls,
 Benjn. Tucker,
 Thomas Shipley,
 Isaac Barton,
 Wm. Wayne,
 James Mott,
 Josiah Bunting,
 T. Mitchell,
 J. P. Norris, Jr.
 George Peterson,
 Hector Coffin,
 Wm. Wharton,
 Henry M. Zollickoffer,
 Wm. Shipley Bartram,
 Daniel Neall,
 Samuel Smith,
 Isaac T. Hopper,
 David Ellis,
 John Longstreth,
 Nathan W. Ellis,
 Wm. Stevenon,
 Edmund Shotwell,
 Elijah Weaver,
 Jos. Cowperthwait,
 Charles Conard,
 Wm. S. Hallowell,
 Thos. B. Longstreth,
 Enoch Middleton,
 Wm. H. Ellis,

Wm. Johnson,
 Thos. Mc. Clintock,
 Samuel English,
 Thomas Mc. Collin,
 John Brown,
 Jehu Ward,
 Thos. Parker, Jr.
 Jona. Palmer, Jr.
 Allen Middleton,
 Thomas Perry,
 Edwin P. At Lee,
 Abraham Lower,
 Saml. Williams,
 Ebenezer Lovick,
 Gabriel Middleton,
 Griffin Edwards, Jr.,
 N. Shoemaker,
 Ab. M. Garrigue,
 Alexr. Shaw,
 Abel Satterthwait,
 Wm. S. Lower,
 Abr. L. Pennock,
 Jos. Parrish,
 Chas. R. Middleton,
 James M. Jackson,
 Charles Noble,
 Jesse W. Newport,
 Jos. Parker,
 Thomas Zell,

Jno. Bouvier,
 Saml. Ross,
 Saml. Richards, S. S.
 Benjn. Parker,

Wm. Burton,
 Peter Wright,
 J. Wilson Moore,

At a stated Meeting of the Soc'ety, held 1st.
 Mo. (Jan.) 9, 1887, the following were duly elected
 its Officers for the present year:

President:

WILLIAM RAWLE.

Secretary:

THOS. Mc. CLINTOCK.

Vice President:

BENJN. TUCKER.

Treasurer:

H. M. ZOLLICKOFFER.

Committee of Correspondence:

Abraham L. Pennock,
 Isaac Barton,
 Thomas Shipley,
 James Mott,
 George Peterson,

Samuel Smith,
 Edwin P. At Lee,
 Nathan Shoemaker,
 Jon. Palmer, Jr.,
 John Bouvier.

CIRCULAR.

THE existence of Slavery in the United States has long been a subject of deep regret, not only to the business and benevolent, but to many Patriots and Statesmen in different parts of the Union. In some places the combined efforts of these have already effected a partial or entire removal of this evil from their respective States. Having accomplished this, they cannot, they apprehend, with propriety, encourage its continuance in other places.

This, they believe, is done by consuming the products of Slavery: hence, some individuals have abstained from the use of nearly all such articles; and many others would do so, could they obtain (at prices within their reach) similar products raised by the labour of Freemen.

It is known that in those States where Slavery still prevails there are many persons who deprecate its continuance, some of whom are engaged by their own and the labour of other hired Freemen in the production of articles similar to most of those usually the result of slave labor. To these free laborers it is believed that a market for the ready sale of their surplus produce would be an object of importance, tending, in some degree, to compensate for the difficulties to which they are subject from being surrounded by a Slave population.

By affording proper encouragement to the free laborer he may be brought into a full and fair com-

petition, on the same soil and in the same climate, in the production of the same articles, with the Slave.

Reason and experience teach that this will clearly demonstrate a superiority of profit to the free laborer; and it is confidently believed that a diminution in the use of Slaves must soon follow. Satisfy the Slave-holder that the net income from his estate would be increased by converting his Slaves into free hired laborers, and an important advance will be made in the great work of emancipation.

Influenced by these considerations, an Association was formed in this City a short time since, under the title of "**THE FREE PRODUCE SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.**"

As the Corresponding Committee of this Society we have thus explained the motives which led to its formation; and we now address you, soliciting your aid in accomplishing the great objects contemplated by it.

At present, at least, the Society will confine its exertions to obtaining and disseminating information of the places and persons from which the articles of Cotton, Rice, Sugar, Molasses, Tobacco, &c. &c. produced by Freemen can be obtained; and the best markets to which, and the persons to whom, they may be sold. Endeavours will also be used to encourage the consumption of such products. We shall be glad to receive from you any information

of this interesting subject, and will
send you with your replies to the numerous Queries,
which direct to the Chairman: viz.,—

1. Are there any persons, and what num-
ber, within your knowledge, in the United
States, engaged in the production, by the labor
of Slaves, of either Cotton, Sugar, Rice, or
Tobacco? If there are, please state their
address, and the probable quantity and kind
they may have to dispose of, and what will be
the probable annual disposable sum.

2. Is it probable that any person or persons
would, in the United States, engage in raising
the above mentioned articles in the manner
designated, from an assurance that in this City,
and elsewhere, many persons would give to
articles thus grown a decided preference to those
of similar kind and quality resulting from
slave labor?

3. What number of individuals are there
in your township or neighbourhood that would
be willing to purchase the above named articles
at a small advance above the market price?

4. What proportion of the people would,
in your opinion, purchase those articles in pre-
ference to those raised by Slaves at the same
prices, within your neighbourhood?

By direction of the Corresponding Committee,
ABR. L. PENNOCK, Chairman.
JAS. MOFF, Secretary.

Philadelphia, 4th Mo. (April) 11th, 1837.