

Frederick Douglass' Paper October 23, 1851

Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Sewing Society

Extensive inquiries having been made of some of the members of this newly organized society concerning its principles, ends, aims and objects, the ladies who comprise it beg again to present the constitution of the society to their friends and to the public in general. They also wish to draw *especial* attention to the 7th article, which indicates, in plain terms, the course they design to pursue; and they desire further to state that, 'like the anti-slavery associations in Dublin, in Belfast and in Cincinnati, they have taken their stands on independent grounds, and are prepared to welcome straightforward anti-slavery advocacy, without references to its coming from Garrisonian or Liberty Party.'

Constitution Of The Rochester Ladies' Anti-Slavery Sewing Society

Whereas, Slavery is an evil that ought not to exist, and is in violation of the inalienable rights of man, as set forth in the Declaration of American Independence: and

Whereas, the National Constitution was adopted by the *people* of the United States to establish *Justice*, provide for the *common Defense*, insure *Domestic Tranquility*, and secure to themselves and posterity the blessing of *Liberty*; and

Whereas, the perpetuity of Slavery in these United States, depriving one portion of the people of the inestimable blessings of Liberty, is a great violation of Justice, and greatly endangers the Domestic Tranquility: now, we, the undersigned ladies of Rochester, in order to do what we may that Slavery may be abolished, and that the blessings of Liberty may be secured to all the people of this favored land, do form ourselves into a Society, under the style and title of "The Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Sewing Society;" and do adopt the following

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. - This Society shall be called the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Sewing Society.

ARTICLE 2. - Its object shall be, to raise funds for Anti-Slavery purposes.

ARTICLE 3. - The officers of this Society shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and six Directresses.

ARTICLE 4. - The Society shall meet once a fortnight, at half past two o'clock P.M

ARTICLE 5. - The terms of admission to the membership of the Society shall be the payment of one dollar annually.

Article 6. - The funds shall be increased by Festivals, Fairs, &c., as the members may deem expedient.

ARTICLE 7. - The funds of this Society shall be devoted to the diffusion of Anti-Slavery Sentiments by means of the Press and the Lecturer; to the relief of the suffering Fugitive, and for such other Anti-Slavery objects as may present themselves.

ARTICLE 8. - The appropriations shall be made by an efficient committee, chosen by vote of the members of the Society.

ARTICLE 9. - The duty of the President shall be, to preside in all meetings of the Society, to appoint the place of meeting, and ????????? to have general oversight and direction of the work.

ARTICLE 10. - The Vice-President shall perform the duties in absence of the President.

ARTICLE 11. - It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all the funds of the Society, and to keep an accurate account of the money paid out.

ARTICLE 12. - It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate account of the proceedings of the meetings of the Society and to perform all needful correspondence connected with the same.

ARTICLE 13. - It shall be the duty of the Directresses to make all purchases, and to cut and prepare all the work of the Society.

ARTICLE 14. - Each member of the Society shall be responsible for the completion of any piece of work she may undertake.

ARTICLE 15. - It shall be the rule of the Society that the supper consist of tea, bread and butter, one kind of plain cake, and one simple relish. Any violation of this article subjects the individual to a fine of 25 cents.

*President* - MRS. S. D. PORTER

*Vice President* - MRS. WEDDLE

*Treasurer* - MISS PORTER

*Directresses*

MRS. DAWLEY                      MISS WILDER

MRS. THEO. WILBER              MISS AVERY

MRS. PICKARD                      MISS ADAMS

*Secretary* - JULIA GRIFFITHS

The members of the Society earnestly desire that it may prove a source of much usefulness to the great cause it designs to advance. They, therefore, make a strenuous

appeal in its behalf to all the liberal friends of oppressed humanity, both at home and abroad, and they call upon them for aid in their present efforts to free the slave from his chains and to succor the fleeing fugitive.

The Society purpose having an anti-slavery entertainment, together with a sale of goods, in the course of the coming winter, of which due notice will be given.

Donation in aid of the Society are received by the Treasurer, Miss Porter, 10 South Sophia St.; the Vice President, Mrs. Weddle, corner of Exchange and Glasgow Streets; and at the *North Star* Office.

By order of the Committee.

JULIA GRIFFITHS, *Sec'y.*