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FIVE DOLLS. PER ANN. FRIDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1804. PAID IN ADVANCE.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY,

For the acquirement and dissemination of useful knowledge.

CITY OF NATCHEZ.
Saturday, October 1ft, 1803.

ELEVEN PRESENT, *viz.*

1. *Isaac Briggs,*
2. *W. C. C. Claiborne,*
3. *William Dunbar,*
4. *John Henderson,*
5. *Jesse Greenfield,*
6. *David Lattimore,*
7. *Ferdinand L. Claiborne,*
8. *John Girault,*
9. *Benjamin Farar,*
10. *Israel E. Trask,*
11. *Lewis Kerr.*

W. C. C. Claiborne, at the requeft of the perfons prefent, takes the chair.

The form of a conftitution as previoufly prepared by Ifaac Briggs, W. C. C. Claiborne, William Dunbar, John Henderfon, David Lattimore, John Girault and Lewis Kerr, is prefented.

Several amendments are thereto propofed and adopted.

On motion,

Refolved, That the conftitution as prefented and amended, be, and is hereby declared to be a conftitution for the purpofes therein fet forth in the words following, viz.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY.

Preamble.

We whofe names are hereunto fubfcribed, being defirous of aiding, as much as may be in our power, the advancement of agriculture and other ufeful arts in this country, do hereby affociate ourfelves for that purpofe. We contemplate with refpect and admiration the fuccefs of the feveral focieties in Europe and America, which have been eftablifhed for the improvement of mankind in the arts and fciences; but we have at the fame time to lament the diftance at which we are placed from thofe focieties, and the extreme improbability of our deriving at leaft any local advantages from their valuable labors. Of the nature of our climate and the capabilities of our foil moft of the inhabitants have had but fhort experience; and it is therefore reafonable to prefume that their knowledge in general on thofe heads is imperfect.

The various other natural refources of human convenience alfo, in which the country is fuppofed to abound, have never been fyftematically explored.

The difcoveries hitherto made have been for the moft part accidental, and the knowledge obtained has feldom been fatisfactorily detailed, and never yet collected into a body for general information: and being duly impreffed with this truth, that by fcience only can mankind attain any certain or perfect enjoyment of the munificence of nature, we propofe to employ our joint efforts with affiduity and zeal, in learning how to fmooth fome of thofe paths which lead to true national wealth and individual comfort, and in which the hand of labor is at the fame time releafed from more than half its toil. The acquifition of ufeful knowledge and its diffemination among our fellow citizens therefore conftitute our primary object. The collection of ufeful books accordingly prefents itfelf firft among the means of accomplifhing the grand ends of our inftitution; and we confidently rely on the early eftablifhment of a public library, under the direction of our fociety. In our records likewife we truft will be found at leaft a faithful repofitory for fuch communications in natural fcience and the ufeful arts, as the learned, the curious, or the induftrious may contribute.

Among our principal objects we alfo pledge ourfelves mutually for the fincere cultivation of focial harmony, and therefore declare all enquiries or difcuffions involving religious or political controverfy to be foreign to the principles of our affociation; and hold it a facred duty to ourfelves and the country for whofe benefit we affociate, to guard with unceafing vigilance againft thofe feuds which are too well known to have an unhappy tendency to diforganize all human inftitutions. By thefe means and a faithful difcharge of the duties which we have hereby voluntarily undertaken, we indulge an humble expectation, that under the protection of Divine Providence and the aufpices of patriotifm, the Society may ere long become effentially inftrumental to the general weal: And we do hereby publifh and declare the following articles as compofing the conftitution of the Society.

Article I.—The Society fhall be entitled "The Miffiffippi Society, for the Acquirement and Diffemination of ufeful knowledge."

And the objects of the inftitution are hereby declared to be, the cultivation of focial harmony, and the acquirement and diffemination of ufeful information in natural fcience and primarily agriculture.

Art. II.—The Society fhall confift of the underfigned membess and fuch others, as fhall hereafter be admitted according to the conftitution and laws of the Society; and from among the members there fhall be elected annually, and as often at other times as vacancies fhall refpectively occur, a Prefident, and at leaft one Vice-Prefident, a Treafurer and a Secretary, to ferve for one year, and fuch other officers as the Society fhall from time to time appoint by law.

Art. III.—Perfons refiding at fuch a diftance from the place where the Society fhall meet, that their perfonal attendance would be impoffible or inconvenient, but who may neverthelefs, contribute by ufeful communications or otherwife to promote any of the objects of the inftitution, may be admitted under the denomination of "Correfponding Members," to enjoy all the privileges of members fave that of voting or ballotting.

Art. IV.—All officers fhall be elected by ballot, and a concurrence of a majority of the members prefent fhall be neceffary to the election of every officer.

Art. V.—Perfons hereafter to be admitted members or correfponding members fhall be previoufly balloted for, and the concurrence of three fourths of the members prefent fhall be neceffary to the admiffion of any candidate.

Art. VI.—On a motion to expel any member, or correfponding member, the fenfe of the fociety fhall be taken by ballot, and the concurrence of three fourths of the members prefent fhall be neceffary to fuch expulfion, and no motion of that nature fhall be introduced by lefs than three members.

Art. VII.—The meetings of the fociety fhall be held at fuch place and places within the prefent limits of the county of Adams, as the fociety fhall appoint by law: and there fhall be held one annual meeting on the firft Saturday in October, when fuch officers as are to be elected annually fhall be chofen, and three other meetings quarterly on the days following, viz. the firft Saturday in January, the firft Saturday in April, and the firft Saturday in July, in each year, and fuch other meetings as the fociety fhall by law or otherwife appoint or provide for.

Art. VIII.—Each member fhall be affeffed to contribute annually to the fupport of the inftitution a fum not exceeding fix dollars, to be paid in four equal inftalments at each annual and quarterly meeting. And any member who fhall become in arrear to the fociety in the amount of one whole annual contribution, fhall forfeit all the privileges of a member of the fociety and all right and intereft which he fhall or may have acquired in any property attached to the fame, provided fuch delinquent fhall have been previoufly notified in fuch manner as fhall be prefcribed by law of fuch impending forfeiture, and fhall neverthelefs neglect to pay up his arrears.

Art. IX.—The fociety fhall have full power at all times hereafter to make fuch bye-laws as to them fhall appear neceffary from time to time, to carry into effect the objects of the inftitution according to the principles contained in this conftitution.

Art. X.—Thefe articles may be amended on the motion of not lefs than three members, provided that the fame be concurred in by at leaft two-thirds of the members prefent at annual or quarterly meeting, and likewife fanctioned by the concurrence of at leaft two-thirds of the members prefent at the next enfuing annual or quarterly [as the cafe may be] and in no other manner and at no other times or meetings whatfoever.

From NEW-ORLEANS, *April* 11.

On Sunday the 8th inftant, his Excellency Governor CLAIBORNE, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Welfh and feveral other clergymen of the Catholic Church; the municipality and feveral members of the tribunal of juftice, vifited the convent in this city.

On entering the apartment where the young ladies, who are boarders in the convent affembled for inftruction, his Excellency was prefented by one of the young ladies with the following addrefs:

"Hail gen'rous Chief! we hail you to thefe walls,
Where meek Religion bears a placid fway;
No paffions rude, the humble mind appals,
Nor difcontents the worldly wifh betray.

May health, and peace attend each coming hour,
Each future year, unfading laurels bring;
Nor o'er your autumn, dark misfortune low'r,
To blight the harveft promif'd by your Spring.

May time roll on, uninterrupted roll,
Your days be fpared to a length of years;
Before you part to reach the final goal,
That bounds of man, the future hopes and fears."

His Excellency then rofe from his feat, and addreffing himfelf particularly to the nuns, made the following reply:

"Venerable Ladies!

"I receive with peculiar fatisfaction, the elegant poetic compliment with which you have honored me. Your benevolent wifhes flow from a fource fo pure, that I cannot deny myfelf the pleafure of acknowledging how fenfible I am of their fincerity and kindnefs.—Permit me in return, to affure you of the high eftimation in which I hold your order, as well from a refpect for the religion to which you are devoted, as for the patriotic object of your inftitution, the education of youth.

"Under the free and mild government of United America, you may with certainty calculate on the uninterrupted enjoyment of your prefent tranquil and hallowed retreat, and the exercife of the honorable avocation to which your temporal cares are directed.

"Permit me ladies, to renew to you affurances of my friendly refpect; and may Almighty God beftow on this inftitution, his choiceft bleffings, and preferve in health and happinefs, all who dwell within thefe facred walls."

The company was then conducted into the Orphan's apartment, where an elegant and interefting addrefs was delivered to the Municipality by one of the Orphan children, to which Mr. Pitot, in the name of the Municipality, returned, ex-tempore, an appropriate anfwer.

There are thirty-fix boarders in the Convent, and thirty-fix orphan girls, who are fupported by the city. The nuns have alfo the care of more than one hundred day fcholars, to whofe education and morals they pay great care.

This Convent is of the order of St. Urfula; it was eftablifhed in the year 1727: and has uniformly merited and received the efteem and confidence of the public. One of the vows of the nuns is, to devote their temporal care to the education of female youth.

The greater part of the Ladies of New-Orleans, & many from other parts of Loufiana, have been educated in this Convent, where piety, neatnefs and economy univerfally prevail.

It is therefore greatly to be defired, and of which there can be no doubt, that under the government of the United States this valuable inftitution will continue to profper and become more extenfively ufeful.

The following LETTER *which appeared in the Columbian Gazette, printed at Utica in Oneida county, is worthy of attention. The author we are informed is a refpectable and influential lawyer in that county.*

[Farmer's Legifter.]

TO THE FEDERALISTS OF THE COUNTY OF ONEIDA.*

Gentlemen,

I am fure it will be a given point, that I have ferved your party faithfully, that I have at all times ftood at my poft, I have neither deviated to the right nor left; but here I halt; I can proceed with you no farther. To remain any longer in oppofition to the regular and conftituted authorities of the land, appears to me to be a crime, and upon a general fcale the confequences are fatal to a nation. Hence it is faid "United we ftand, divided we fall." Party for a length of time, has driven party men to the extremity of advocating every thing on one fide and condemning every thing on the other. Extremities are always within an ace of deftruction. Under the former adminiftration, all meafures whether right or wrong, were for the moft part condemned by the republicans: now the federalifts in their turn condemn all meafures. Both parties undoubtedly were equally in the wrong; for whatever reduces all acts whether virtuous or vicious to the fame level, is attended with bad confequences; no man whether king or prefident, being able for any length of time, to endure the infult of having his beft fervices blackened by continual flander. Thefe reflections have led me to the following refolutions: That I will no longer fpeak evil of the rulers of our people; that if in the prefent or in the future adminiftration, it fhould appear to me that a change fhould be neceffary, I will feek it in no other than a conftitutional way; that I will at all times bow before the fovereign people. I would now afk you, my firm federal brethren, what have we to gain by continuing in oppofition to the prefent adminiftration? Is there a profpect of effecting a change and reinftating federalifts in the government of the United States? No verily, what avails it then to ftruggle, irritate our leaders and vex the oppofite party: even admitting that we could gain the point, come off triumphant and reaffume the work of perfecution, are there any glorious confequences that will enfue? I fhould in that event expect to fee both parties in battle array, and if not armed with fword and firelock, at leaft with all the energies of the foul; for political as well as religious perfecution roufes to action and brings into the field every fon of Mars. Is this a boon fo much to be defired, that we are juftified in going to all lengths to effect it? Why then is it not the beft policy to fubmit to the ruling party while we may with honor, whilft there is a poffibility of an harmonious union. This opportunity will foon be paft; for our federal caufe is already fo bad that honorable and honeft exertions will not fupport it; and if we are driven to the ufe of other means, the party in power will be under the neceffity of enforcing fubmiffion.

Do we not find the fame motives—the fame ruling principles to govern the leading characters of each party! Is not felf promotion the great object and do we not find the fame quarrels exifting in each refpective party. Has not Gen. Hamilton written a book againft prefident Adams as well as againft prefident Burr? and to come nearer home, is there not as much difcord, animofity, intrigue, revenge, bargain and fale amongft fome of our leading federalifts as there is between any of the republicans? Do not the preparations for the enfuing election fully juftify the above fuggeftions? Where is the mighty difference between the two parties? upon what bafis does this huge wall of partition ftand? It is fupported undoubtedly by the exertions of a few individuals of each party, who are feeking promotion—who know if there fhould be an union of all honeft men, they themfelves would be out of the queftion.—Thefe men make mole-hills into mountains and keep the honeft part of the community at variance, when in fact there is nothing to differ about. It appears to me the beft way to keep bad men out of office and to correct the errors [if there are any] of thofe in office is to come under the ftandard of thofe who are in power, and let our exertions be to build up and not deftroy. I am fully confident if this line of conduct fhould be adopted, every imaginary evil would foon vanifh and that we fhould be a happy and flourifhing people under the prefent adminiftration, many hard fayings to the contrary notwithftanding. Thefe are the general reafons for changing fides; I have particular reafons why I do it at this time; thefe I omit at prefent.

Gentlemen, with due refpect,
I am your humble fervant,
In any thing but politics,
J. HATHEWAY.

* *The letter appeared previous to the election.*

New York, June 16.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, dated Surrinam, May 10th 1804.

"Little did I expect to have fo foon occafion to inform you, that this colony is taken by the Englifh. Since 14 days we have been in great fear and confternation. An Englifh fleet of 25 or 30 fail, large and fmall, with 4 or 5000 troops on board, 6 or 800 of which are negro foldiers, made their appearance. Having only 1000 or 1200 men to defend the feveral ports. A Barringer, one of the commiffioned officers here, advifed to capitulate, but the two others, Meffrs Blooys and Battenburg, refufed to hear of any capitulation, and would defend the colony. Our troops behaved with courage, but were obliged to furrender to fuperior force. Bram's point was firft taken by the Englifh, from whence fome of the troops marched through the woods, and attacked the redoubt in front and rear. The Englifh loft a great number of men, killed and wounded. Our lofs is but fmall. When the Englifh were in poffeffion of the redoubt, they landed troops on the plantations around the new fortrefs, and attacked it in front and rear. After 4 or 5 days defence, Battenburg and Blooys found themfelves in the neceffity to furrender, without fuch capitulation as could have been earlier made in favor of our troops and marine.

By the appearance of the Englifh fleet, government was much divided here—Barringer and the court of Policy on the one fide, Battenburg and Blooys on the other.

The Englifh moleft nobody, but behave themfelves very civil, and all is tranquil.

The Englifh General Green has taken the reins of government in hand. Sir Frederick (formerly Holland Governor here) is in great efteem, and confulted by Gen. Green. This we confider as a bleffing. By a proclamation of Gen. Green, the officers of Police, Juftice, &c. remain in office till the pleafure of the Britifh government fhall be known."

ARTICLES OF CAPITULATION, figned by Major Gen. *Sir Charles Green*, commanding the land forces, and Commodore *Samuel Hood*, on the part of his Britannic Majefty; and by *B. A. Battenburg*, Lieut. Colonel in chief of the 5th battalion of Batavian Jagers.

Article 1.

The garrifon fhall retain their baggage and arms, and march out with the honors of war.

Anfwer.

The garrifon fhall march out with all the honors to which brave foldiers are entitled.—The officers fhall be permitted to retain their weapons. The officers and foldiers fhall march out to a certain diftance, and the foldiers fhall then ground their arms.

Art. 2.

The garrifon fhall be tranfported within four weeks, to the neareft port of the Batavian republic, at the expenfe of his Britannic majefty.

Anfwer.

Affented to. As foon as good fhipping, &c. can be obtained.

Art. 3.

The garrifon fhall be permitted, as foon as they arrive in the Batavian republic, to bear arms, but not againft his Britannic majefty.

Anfwer. Agreed.

Art. 4.

The fortrefs of New Amfterdam, and the other ports, as alfo the magazine in thefe colonies fhall be delivered over to the commiffaries to be appointed, in 48 hours after the figning of the capitulation.

Anfwer.

The places named, the batteries and barriers of the fort of New Amfterdam, fhall be delivered up to-morrow at 2 o'clock P. M. The reft of this article is agreed to.

Art. 5.

That none of the garrifon fhall be enlifted in his Britannic majefty's fervice.

Anfwer.

His Britannic majefty will take no other foldiers than thofe who voluntarily engage in his fervices.

Art. 6.

All the propofitions offered to the colony previous to this capitulation, fhall be confirmed.

Anfwer.

His Britannic majefty has given particular orders to fhew every favor to the colony of Surrinam. Every thing here requefted fhall be complied with.

Art. 7.

The women, children and other perfons connected with the garrifon, fhall be included in this capitulation.

Anfwer—Agreed.

[Signed]
B. A. BATTENBURG.
Lieut. Colonel.

Head Quarters, Fort of New Amfterdam, May 4th, 12 o'clock mid-day.

[Signed]
CHARLES GREEN,
Major General.
SAMUEL HOOD.
Commodore.

Head Quarters of the army, May 4, 1804, at 6 P. M.