

CONSTITUTION OF THE Lowell Factory Girls Association.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas we, the undersigned, residents of Lowell, seeing by a love of honest industry and the expectation of a fair and liberal compensation, have in our homes, our schools and social gatherings, and even here, and subjected ourselves to all the slights and persecutions, which necessarily attend, every and unpermitted females, when wearing sweaters, and by a struggle hard; and however humble the condition of Factory Girls, (as we are termed) may seem, we firmly and unanimously (though we trust with a modesty knowing we will show for ourselves, that love of moral and intellectual culture, that admiration of, and desire to attain and preserve pure, elevated and refined character, a true reverence for the same principle which bids us render to every one his due; a due appreciation of those great and cardinal principles of our government, of justice and humanity, which require us to "to love and let love"—that Christian and honorable feeling, which with equal force, forbids us to invade others' rights, or suffer others, upon any consideration, to invade ours; and at the same time, that utter abhorrence and detestation of whatever is mean, selfish, dishonorable or unchristian, of which, you alone, in our estimation, entire we to be called the daughters of Freedom, or of Republican America.

And, whereas, we believe that those who have preceded us have been, we know that ourselves are, and that our successors are liable to be, assailed in various ways by the wicked and unprincipled, and charged not of just, legal and constitutional dues, by mysterious, illiberal and unchristian exhibitions,—and convinced that "union is power," and that as the unprincipled counsel and advise, that they may be more easily deceived and seduced—and the regulations that they may be more effectively defied—(as being the wicked.) think it to be our undoubted right, to combine and concentrate our power, that we may the more successfully repel these equally base and unchristian aggressions.

And, whereas, inspired with this belief, and convinced that our cause is a common one, and our conditions similar, we feel it our imperative duty to stand by each other through word and deed; to administer to each others wants, to prevent each others back-sliding—in conduct each other in sickness, and advise each other in health, to invite each other to the love and attainment of those excellences, which tend alone to constitute the perfection of female character—modesty, refined taste and cultivated intellects—and in a word, to do all that is in us, to make each other wiser, happier, more country and Christian.

Therefore, for the better attainment of those objects, we associate ourselves together, and mutually pledge to each other, a franker, inviolable trust, to stand by, abide by, and be governed by the following:

PROVISIONS.

ARTICLE 1st. It shall be denominated the **LOWELL FACTORY GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.**

ART. 2d. Any female of good moral character, and who works in any one of the Mills in this city, may become a member of this Association, by subscribing to this Constitution.

ART. 3d. The officers of the Association shall be, a President, Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, a Collector, and a Prudential Committee, two of whom shall be selected from each Corporation in the city.

ART. 4th. The officers shall be chosen by the vote of the Association; that is, by the vote of a majority of the members present.

ART. 5th. The duties of the President, Vice President, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Collector, shall be the same as usually appertain to such offices. The duties of the Prudential Committee shall be to watch over the interests of the Association generally; to recommend to the Association, for their consideration and adoption, such By-Laws and measures as in their opinion the well-being of the Association may require; and also to ascertain the necessities of any of its members, and report the same, as soon as may be, to the Association. And whereas, in the opinion of the Committee, there are occasions to suggest or to require immediate relief, they shall forthwith report the same to the President, who shall immediately draw upon the Treasurer for the sum recommended, and which said Committee shall forthwith apply to the relief of the necessities.

ART. 6th. The Treasurer and Collector shall be subject to the supervision of the Prudential Committee, to whom they shall be accountable, and to whom they shall give such security for the faithful discharge of their duties, as the Committee shall require.

ART. 7th. All moneys shall be raised by vote of a majority of the Association, or of the members present, and shall be accounted equally on all the members.

ART. 8th. All the officers shall hold their office for the term of one year, with the privilege of re-igning, and subject to be re-elected by vote of the Association, for good cause.

ART. 9th. The Association shall meet once in three months, and may be convened sooner, if occasion require, by the President, upon a petition of twenty of the members first presenting her for that purpose.

ART. 10th. It shall forever be the policy of the members of this Association, to bestow their patronage, so far as is practicable, upon such persons as individual, but never upon such as oppose our cause.

ART. 11th. The Association shall have power to make all necessary By-Laws, which shall be consistent with these Provisions, and such By-Laws, when made, shall be binding upon all the members.

ART. 12th. Any member may dissolve her connection with the Association, by giving two weeks notice to the Recording Secretary; and any member shall be expelled from the Association by a vote of a majority of the members present, for any immoral conduct or behavior unbecoming respectable and virtuous females.

ART. 13th. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any time, by a vote of two thirds of the members present.