

Early in the winter of 1834, a few persons indulging in a wish to emigrate to the West, made known to each other their determination. Among these, and probably the first of them, were John Bullen, Jr., Charles W. Turner, Waters Towsley, James Scott, Dr. B. B. Cary, Jason Lothrop, Hudson Bacon, Peter Woodin, Alfred Foster, Orlando Foster, William Bullen, George Bennett, and Sidney Roberts. After some occasional conversation upon this design, J. Bullen, Jr., invited the above named persons to a supper at his house in Hannibal, and to spend the evening. Emigration to the West was the principal topic of their conversation. The first object was to ascertain who would go; and the proposal was made to form a company, in order to render the removal as cheap and pleasant as possible, and that the company so formed, might locate at some important point, and there make a town, and form a community of the right sort. Those persons present all appeared willing to share in such an enterprise. Such were the designs expressed on the occasion; and a committee was appointed to draft a Constitution for the company, and a meeting was proposed to be held at the Hall, once the Masonic Hall, for the transaction of further business. Notice of this meeting was widely extended by J. Bullen, Jr., who was then post-master at Hannibal.

The first meeting in the Hall, a pretty large number attended. The Constitution was presented by the committee consisting of C. W. Turner, W. Towsley, A. Cary and J. Lothrop. At the suggestion of J. Bullen, Jr., an article was inserted, as from his father, then in Albany, on temperance, which was rejected in the amended Constitution of Jan. 1st, 1836, which is here given.

Constitution of the Western Emigration Company as amended and revised Jan. 1, 1836:

*Art. 1.*—For the purpose of aiding those disposed to emigrate to the Western States or Territories, in the purchase of land and the pursuit of agriculture, manufactures, mechanics and other branches of industry, and the formation of a desirable community, we, the subscribers, do by the ratification and signature of this