

determined to call a general meeting, with the view of submitting the proposed plan of organization, and inviting the co-operation of all who desired to embark in the enterprise. A public meeting was accordingly held, at which a Constitution, prepared by the Rev. Jason Lothrop, was presented and discussed. The meeting was largely attended, and the object under consideration met with more general favor than was anticipated. At a subsequent meeting, held on the 20th of February, 1835, an organization was finally perfected, under the name of the "*Western Emigration Company*." Rev. Peter Woodin, a respectable Baptist clergyman of the town of Hannibal, was elected President of the Company, and John Bullen, jr., of the same town, Secretary.

By the Constitution of the Company, it was contemplated to raise a cash capital of \$8,000, by subscriptions of stock in shares of \$10 each; the funds so raised, to be invested in real estate suitable for a town site, and the share-holders to be entitled to the proceeds arising from the rise of the property. About four hundred shares were subscribed and paid for. The stock of the Company promised to be lucrative, and many persons of small means, who desired to find a new home in the West, became share-holders. Old men, and young men, and even unmarried females, who were employed as house servants, in some instances appropriated from their earnings sufficient to purchase a share, in the hope of realizing large profits.

Among the most active individuals in the interests of the Company, in its early formation, may be mentioned John Bullen, jr., Charles W. Turner, Waters Towslee, James Scott, Dr. B. B. Cary, Jason Lothrop, Hudson Bacon, Peter Woodin, Alfred Foster, Orlando Foster, William Bullen, George Bennett, and Sidney Roberts. In the spring of 1835, the Company appointed a committee to explore the distant and then comparatively but little known regions of the West; the exploring committee were Waters Tows-