

From the Free Labor Advocate.

THE VALUE OF THE UNION IN INDIANA—IMPORTANT MEETING.

WESTFIELD, May 6th, 1844.

Pursuant to previous notice the citizens of this place and vicinity, met at the Methodist meeting-house, in consequence of Singleton Vaughn, and others from the State of Missouri, having made an attack on the house of a colored family for the purpose of carrying them into slavery.

On motion of M. C. White, the meeting was called to order, and Asa Bales was appointed chairman for the day, and Israel Haines was chosen secretary. Wherefore, the President, in a brief manner, stated the object of the meeting.

On motion of M. C. White: Owen Williams, Robert Tomlinson, George H. Dyer, Nathan Parker, and Aaron Lindly, were appointed a committee to prepare business for the meeting.

The committee retired a short time, and produced the following preamble and Constitution, which were unanimously adopted, with the exception of one vote against Article 5th, and sixty-five persons attached their names thereto, and the sum of \$41 60 was subscribed with the addition of five head of cattle, and one side of leather:

Whereas, certain characters from the State of Missouri, with five citizens of this State and county, having obtained a writ from the clerk of the Hamilton

County Circuit Court, allowing them to seize upon a colored man named John Rodes, and his family, for the purpose of carrying them into slavery. And whereas, the said characters did attack the house of the said John Rodes, on the 20th of 4th month, some-

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Whereas, certain characters from the State of Missouri, with five citizens of this State and county, having obtained a writ from the clerk of the Hamilton County Circuit Court, allowing them to seize upon a colored man named John Rodes, and his family, for the purpose of carrying them into slavery. And where- as, the said characters did attack the house of the said John Rodes, on the 20th of 4th month, some time before day; breaking down the door, tearing down the chimney, and injuring the person of the said John Rodes without being able to take them. before certain citizens arrived on the ground, after which the claimants of the colored family ceased to use violence for the purpose of taking them; but insisted on the friends of equal rights to go with them to Strawtown for the purpose of proving their rights to the colored family, but without success; and although the friends of humanity used no efforts to prevent the execution of their fiendish deeds, other than moral influence, yet they did not take them; and whereas efforts were made to bring to justice, those relentless tyrants, thereby incurring considerable expense; and whereas Singleton Vaughn, the claimant from Missouri, has brought suit against sundry of the friends of humanity and equal rights, and probably, will sue others, thereby subjecting not only to much inconvenience, but to considerable pecuniary sacrifice; and whereas, we believe it right that the friends of

the cause of universal freedom should unite for the purpose of aiding each other in such way as may be deemed necessary for defending the suits already commenced, and such as may be here- after; and in endeavoring to procure the freedom of said family; and the more fully to effect this, we form ourselves into an association, to be governed by the following Constitution:

ARTICLE 1st. This association shall be called the John Rodes Association.

2d. The object of this association shall be to aid orts in the cause in which they are engaged to defend themselves against the arbitrary and tyrannical measures of the oppressors, and their efforts to secure the freedom of John Rodes, his wife and their three small children, claimed by them as slaves.

3d. The officers of this association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, whose duties shall be such as are commonly assigned to such officers.

4th. There shall be a committee of five persons chosen, who, with the above officers, shall constitute an executive committee, whose business it shall be to attend to the various wants and emergencies of the association, to call meetings, and make reports as often as necessary; to call meetings in the various neighborhoods; solicit subscriptions, and correspond with persons and associations on the subject.

5th. Any person may become a member of this association who subscribes to this constitution, and voluntarily contributes to its funds.

6th. The officers of the association shall be chosen annually so long as it is necessary to keep up the association, or until the John Rodes difficulty shall be settled.

On motion, a committee was appointed to bring forward the names of suitable persons for officers of the association.

The committee in a short time made the following report, which was adopted, viz: for President, Abel Gibson; Vice-President, Israel Haines; D. D. Ligh ner, Secretary, and Asa Bales, Treasurer; committee, D. M. Anthony, Judah Roberts, M. C. White, Anderson Scot, and Elijah Wreen. On motion, it was resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the editor of the F. L. A. and A. S. C for publication.

On motion, adjourned to meet at Greensboro, sometime during the State Anti-Slavery Convention in the 6th month next. ASA BALES, President.

ISRAEL HAINES, Secretary.