

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
VERMONT: ADOPTED BY CONVENTION
HELD IN THE YEAR OF OUR
LORD 1777. AND AMENDED BY
CONVENTION HELD IN THE YEARS 1786,
1793, 1828, 1836, AND 1850**

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The Constitution of the state of Vermont: adopted by convention held in the year of Our Lord 1777. And amended by convention held in the years 1786, 1793, 1828, 1836, and 1850 by Anonymous

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.



MONTPELIER:
E. P. WALTON & SON.
1852.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives,
That the Secretary of State be directed to procure the
printing, in pamphlet form, of three hundred copies of the
Constitution of this State; one half of which shall be de-
posited in the Library, and the residue in the Department
of State.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, October 23, 1851.
Taken up, read and adopted.

PLINY H. WHITE, *Ass't Clerk.*

IN SENATE, November 8, 1851.
Reported favorably, read third time and passed.

WM. M. DICKERMAN, *Ass't Secretary.*

NOTE:

BY THE COMPILER OF THE COMPILED STATUTES OF 1850,
AND EXTRACTED FROM SAID COMPILATION.

THE first constitution of Vermont was adopted by a convention of delegates which met at Windsor, on the second day of July, A. D., 1777, and was revised by the same convention at a subsequent meeting at Windsor, on the twenty-fourth day of December of the same year.

To this constitution amendments were made by a convention holden at Manchester, on the last Thursday of June, A. D., 1786. Further amendments were made by a convention which met at Windsor, on the third * day of July, A. D., 1793, and the constitution, as thus amended, consisted of those of the following articles and sections which precede those designated as "articles of amendment."

The *first* of the said designated articles of amendment was adopted by a convention, holden at Montpelier, on the

*The convention of 1793 met on the third instead of the fourth day of July, as stated in the title page to the constitution which they set forth. They were called by the council of censors to convene on "the first Wednesday," which was the third day of July, and in the extracts from their journals, which were furnished by their secretary, and published in the Vermont Journal of July 22d, 1793, there are accounts of the proceedings of the convention on both the third and fourth as well as subsequent days of July.

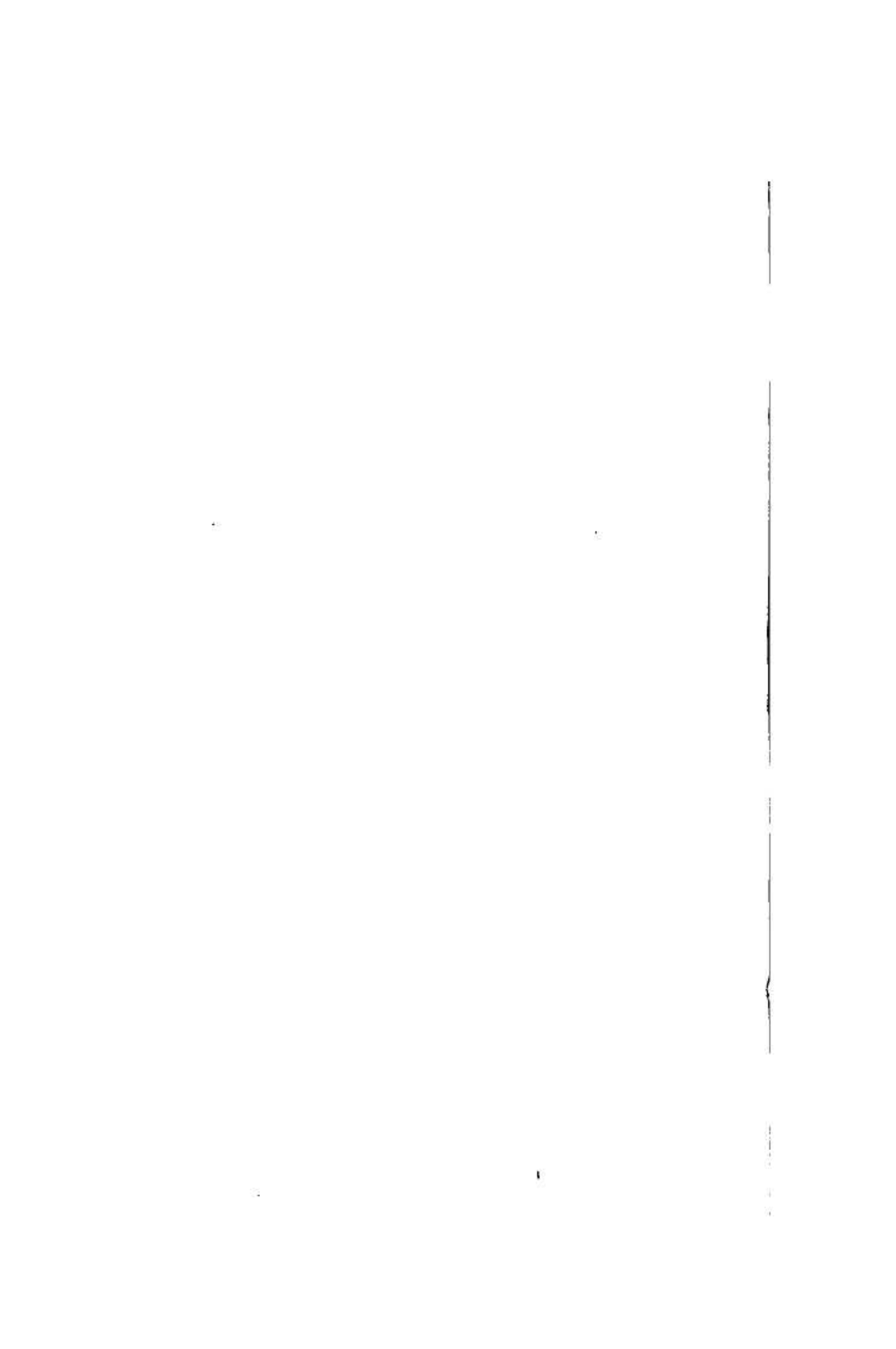
twenty-sixth day of June, A. D., 1828; those numbered from *two* to *thirteen* inclusive were adopted by a convention, held at Montpelier, on the sixth day of January, A. D., 1836; and those numbered from *fourteen* to *twenty-three* inclusive, were adopted by a convention held at Montpelier, on the second day of January, A. D., 1850.

The convention of 1793, instead of promulgating only the amendments which they had adopted, as has been the practice since, engrossed and set forth the whole constitution, without making any distinction between the articles previously in force and those then adopted; this engrossment, which was signed by the officers of that convention, and deposited in the secretary of state's office, is styled in a title page prefixed to it, "The Constitution of Vermont, as **ADOPTED** by the convention holden at Windsor, July fourth,* one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three," and in consequence of this error, those articles which had been previously established by the conventions of 1786 and 1777 have, in connection with the amendments adopted in 1793, been uniformly alluded to and designated as the constitution "established" or "adopted" by the convention of 1793.

It is obvious from a comparison that a majority of the articles and sections in this constitution had their origin and adoption in the conventions of 1786 and 1777, and that it is as incorrect to speak of the whole constitution as being adopted or established in 1793, as it would be to say of the whole of our present constitution that it was adopted by the convention of 1850.

*See note on preceding page.

The convention of 1793 was called by the council of censors "for the purpose of considering and adopting the amendments of the constitution, as proposed by this council;" in the newspapers of those days it was spoken of as "the convention for ratifying or rejecting the amendments to the constitution of this state as proposed by the council of censors." That it was the understanding of the convention that they were merely amending an already established and existing constitution is apparent from the only account of their proceedings which the compiler has been able to find; and that such was the understanding of its members, and the construction given both by them and by the legislature of the state at its session in October, 1793, is evident from the questions which then arose and the decisions which were made respecting the right of several towns to have two representatives at that session, under the provisions of the seventh section of the second chapter of the constitution as then promulgated.



EXPLANATORY NOTE

BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

In the following pages, those words and figures, which are printed in italics and placed within parenthetical marks, have been supplied by the compiler, and are to be regarded merely as explanatory suggestions.

Those which are printed in the Roman character and included in brackets, are such as were used by the conventions respectively, but in consequence of subsequent amendments, have either become superfluous, or modified by the subsequent provision, to which there is an accompanying reference.