

the City Council. This office might be given to the Marshal, or some other person might receive the appointment. The duties of the two offices are not identical. They are each defined in the ordinances. But they are so similar that they have usually devolved upon the same person by the appointment of the Marshal to be Chief of Police.

Under the new provisions of the charter, however, the Marshal is made *ex officio* Chief of Police. When a man is elected Marshal by the popular vote, he is by virtue of his position the Chief of Police, and a motion to suspend or remove him in that capacity, is tantamount to an attempt to deprive him temporarily or permanently of his elective office.

The office of Captain of Police seems to be an additional position to that contemplated in the charter. It ought not to be confounded with the office of Chief of Police. The Council had the right to create the office, it also had the right to abolish it, by ordinance duly and properly passed. The Mayor may remove an appointed police officer, but not an elected officer, under the provisions of the ordinances and charter. But when the City Council undertakes to handle any city officer, it must be on charges formally preferred, and the accused must be furnished with a copy and have the opportunity to defend himself.

Mr. Pickard's endeavor to degrade the Marshal was abortive, because he mistook the nature of the Marshal's office, and his complaint was in the form of a personal grievance and not a charge of dereliction of duty.

It is unpleasant to witness the disorder and disgraceful proceedings which have marred the course of the "Liberal" city administration, and they ought to prove "object lessons" to citizens when they come to choose future officers to manage municipal affairs.

THE ELECTIONS.

THE elections yesterday appear to be favorable on the whole to the Democrats. They have undoubtedly carried New York, the most important State in view of the next presidential election, and Iowa appears to be in their hands. Massachusetts has re-elected its Democratic Governor.

Ohio has kept its place in the Republican ranks. The indications are that it is safe for McKinley and that the Legislature is Republican, which virtually saves the U. S. senatorship to John Sherman.

While the Democrats have reason for rejoicing over the apparent results,

the Republicans may congratulate themselves that they have not lost Ohio; defeat in that State would have been a great disaster to the party. As it is, each party has a fair fighting chance for the great contest of 1892. It will be one of the most important in the political record of the nation.

SCENE IN THE CITY COUNCIL.

THERE was a disgraceful scene in the City Council chamber Nov. 3rd. The details appear in the minutes of the session. The squabble grew out of the order given by Councilman Pickard to Marshal Young, directing the latter not to arrest inmates and keepers of houses of ill-fame while he (Pickard) occupied the temporary position of acting mayor. The matter having reached the public, the late councilman insisted, last night, that Marshal Young be suspended from office for twenty days, pending an investigation. The issuance of the notorious order was not denied, but it seems that the central complaint against the marshal was that he had been guilty of a breach of personal confidence, in letting information concerning it leak.

The motion for suspension was ruled by the Mayor to be out of order. This greatly excited Mr. Pickard, who went so far as to make a violent wordy assault upon Mr. Scott immediately after adjournment, as the members were about to leave the chamber.

The excitability of Mr. Pickard is doing him injury in public estimation, and his abuse of the Mayor is unwarrantable. The latter could take no other position than he took. The office of Marshal is elective, and the Council had no more right to summarily remove him than to retire the Mayor or any member of that body. The question was so clearly in favor of the position taken by the Mayor, it is remarkable that it was not forthwith decided in place of being laid over for a week.

We believe that after the ex-acting mayor gets cooled down he will come to the conclusion that the less noise he makes on this subject the sooner it will blow over, and the better it will be for him. He only hurts himself by the heat he displays. It is not likely that there will be any investigation in the courts.

IS THERE A FAMINE IN RUSSIA?

THIS question is discussed in the North American Review for November by "Sergius V." He takes the negative side of the question. The following extract embodies his view in brief:

"There are more than two million square miles of territory in European Russia inhabited by more than ninety millions of loyal subjects of the Czar. Out of this enormous area the crops of 1891 are bad in five *oblasts*, or provinces, to my knowledge, comprising less than 90,000 square miles and inhabited by about eight millions of people. This means absolute distress in certain restricted regions. It means no more. There are districts of Ireland in which the potato crop is defective this year. There is a territory covering two million acres, called Oklahoma, I read, in your own great country, where there are no crops, and where human beings are dying of starvation. But Ireland is not famine stricken in 1891, nor are the United States, nor is the Russian Empire. The ukase of the Czar forbidding the exportation of rye and oats has been made a pretext for this monstrous story. That ukase was issued for military reasons, not economical reasons. Since August 1st more than 100,000 Russian troops—a majority of them Cossack cavalry and light troops—have been moved into Southwestern Russia from the east. There are now 640,000 troops of all arms established for precautionary and disciplinary purposes between Odessa and the Pruth and Warsaw. To secure the comfort and efficiency of this vast body of troops, the Russian government gave orders months ago for the concentration in these provinces of adequate supplies of grain of the necessary kinds; and as it was notorious that the Jew grain-brokers always try to raise the domestic price, especially to the government, of grain, when they scent an unusual demand by forced exportations, the ukase forbidding such exportations was suggested by the able Imperial Finance Minister Vlaschnegradsky, approved by the Czar, and issued. I have seen the good effects of it in the healthy and vigorous appearance of the men and the horses of the forces under General Vladimiroff and General Grodno at every point of my recent journey."

CRUMBLING CREEDS.

ON the 2nd inst. a meeting of the Chicago presbytery of the Presbyterian church was held in that city. In the report presented by the committee on the revision of creed some important changes were recommended. The Westminster Confession was pronounced unsuitable for the present age in America. In the days of its adoption the controversies prevailing among Catholics, Protestants, Armenians and Calvinists had much to do with its production. This is a more sober and a more practical age, and hence not alone a revision of the Confession is needed, but many other radical reforms.

The section relating to divorce was recommended for radical revision. The doctrine of predestination or foreordination required modification or fuller explanation. It was also suggested that a chapter be inserted setting forth the love of God for all mankind. It is thought that the tendency of this movement is to obliterate all the marks of special antagonism between Catholic and Protestant beliefs.

This report coming almost simultane-