

EDITORIALS.

AMENDMENTS to the constitution seem to possess a great attraction to some of our federal legislators and other public men, or men who take a large interest in public affairs, so much so that of late years, if some of the amenders had their way, the original document would be much more amendment than anything else, a thing of shreds and patches, something corresponding to Joseph's coat of many colors, or the indescribable outer apparel of the Beelzebub of an old English Morris dancing company.

This rage for amendment should not be permitted to go too far. The old constitution, with the earlier amendments, was sufficient to cover an amount of freedom, in some respects, if not in all, greater than that enjoyed in any other nation. The fact is, in this country, as in some others, the constitution, that is, the fundamental theory of the government, has been ever better than the practice of the people, and now, if the citizens of this great Union would carry out in their daily conduct the principles of the constitution in the true spirit thereof, but little further amendment would ever be necessary, and even the laws need be but few, and those few could be simple, perspicuous, and easily comprehended by all. So that, in our view, it is the citizen rather than the constitution that is the proper subject for amendment.

The amendments coming most prominently forward just now are those relating to the Presidency of the Union. It is proposed to limit the occupancy of the Presidential chair to one term, to make that term six years instead of four, and to materially increase the salary of the incumbent.

In regard to increasing the term, of limiting the occupancy, we do not see any special reason for amendment, only, in regard to the former proposition, excepting the expense, the fuss, the excitement, and the rancor of a presidential campaign. If the nation has the good fortune to secure a good and capable President, there does not seem much wisdom in a rule to prevent him filling that high position longer than one term. On the other hand, if the nation has the bad fortune to obtain a bad President, the present term of four years is long enough to endure him. Again, the history of the Union shows that, owing to the cares and perplexities of office, or the changing choice of the people, or some other sufficient cause, there has not been one instance of a three term occupancy, and the instances of even a two term occupancy have been very few. Therefore, there seems little danger to be apprehended on that score.

Now as to the matter of increasing the salary of the President. It is urged that the present sum, \$25,000 annually, is ridiculously and meanly small for the Executive of such a mighty and prosperous nation as the United States. There is something in that argument. In the first place, while a bad, incapable, unfaithful servant is dear at any price, a good, capable, faithful servant, whether in public or private station, never can be remunerated too highly, so far as the establishment can reasonably afford it, that is, without detriment to its welfare and prosperity. But there are many other things to be considered. The nation is deeply in debt the taxes are high, and the plea may be urged, "Why not get out of debt, and lighten the taxes before we unnecessarily increase our financial responsibilities?" That is a question worthy of serious consideration. Again, public officers, besides their expressly stipulated salary, have opportunities, and, without intending any invidious personal reflection, we may say that it is well understood that, as a rule, these opportunities are embraced with the most vigorous affection, so much so that public office-holding has come to be considered synonymous with fortune-making, and the official who, during his term of office, does not comfortably "feather his nest" is considered an "old fogey," of no account, indeed nothing more nor less than an honest fool, whose conscientiousness is his financial ruin. It may be urged that if officials were better paid legitimately, they would have less temptation to steal, and if they did steal they would be the less excusable. True, but there is this set-off to that idea—they have been so long accustomed to steal, and that kind of business has become such a firmly established part of the official programme, that most public officers seem to consider it a sacred duty to

make all they can quietly in that way, so that, no matter how high their salary, they would still steal as long as there was anything stealable. The thing that is really needed is the education of the official mind to a fair degree of honesty, so that the official sentiment shall be that the country expects every officer to do his real duty faithfully and keep his hands from picking and stealing.

There is another thing to be considered. If the President's salary were to be increased, so must the salaries of the Vice President, and of the various secretaries. Nor would the matter stop there, for assistant secretaries, judges, clerks of various kinds, and all sorts of public officials, civil and military, would, naturally enough, expect the increase amendment to be virtually extended to them. So that there would be a pretty increase of salary elephant on the hands of the nation.

It is proposed to give the President \$100,000 instead of \$25,000, annually. This is a heavy rise, it is only quadrupling the present payment. If the Vice-President, the secretaries, the assistant secretaries, the judges, the clerks, and all other public officials should also have their salaries quadrupled, the bill would be such a formidable one, that we should no longer hear of paying the national debt by the million monthly, but the first thing needed would be a material increase of taxation. Is the nation ready for that? Besides, even with quadrupled salaries, it is by no means certain that official stealing would cease, or become beautifully less.

We do not wish it to be understood that we oppose the increase of the President's salary. The sum he now receives is doubtless little enough for the expenses of his station. But would it not be better, instead of quadrupling his salary, to rest content with doubling it, and see how things worked then. That perhaps would be better for an experiment. It would be much easier to vote his salary at \$50,000 than to vote it back to \$25,000 if it should be afterward deemed advisable.

One word more in regard to amendments. If any amendment is necessary to enable women to exercise the franchise, it is to be hoped Congress will be gallant enough to pass it at an early day. There is no cause to be afraid of the votes of the women. They would honor the right of suffrage quite as much as the men do. Besides, it would be in unison with true republicanism and with the agency divinely bestowed upon intelligent beings that to woman as well as to man should be accorded the privilege to "choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

MRS. MINNIE MYRTLE MILLER, in a recent lecture at Sacramento, said man, with rare exceptions is a tyrant, a slave, or a fool, and in either case woman is his victim. Nevertheless, said Minnie, "With all the sins and follies of man, we must confess that we have some sentiment of regard for him." That's very kind of Minnie to condescend so far.

BY TELEGRAPH.

SENATE.

A bill was passed appropriating half a million to purchase an additional site for the Boston Postoffice. The Boston relief bill was taken up.

A note was read from the Vice President, stating that he should be absent for a few days. Anthony was chosen president *pro tem*.

Cragin, from the naval committee, reported the House bill for building six steam sloops of war, and gave notice that at an early day he would call it up.

WASHINGTON, 13.—Morton presented credentials of Geo. E. Spencer, re-elected Senator from Alabama.

On motion of Sherman the finance committee was instructed to inquire whether the valuation of the sovereign or pound sterling of Great Britain at the custom houses of the United States, and in the settlement of accounts between the two countries under existing laws corresponds with its true or intrinsic value as expressed in money of the United States, and report by bill or otherwise.

Pomeroy introduced a bill to organize the Territory of Oklagama, constitute of Indian tribes, and carry out the provisions of the treaties with certain tribes. Referred.

Chandler introduced a bill to promote immigration to the U. S., creating a bureau of immigration, and providing

for the comfort and protection of immigrants in many ways while aboard ship and after landing. Referred.

Cragin, from the committee on naval affairs, reported a substitute for the House bill to authorize the construction of six steamers of war. The substitute authorizes the Secretary of the navy to construct ten steamers of war of such a class or classes as he may deem suitable to the naval service, each carrying six or more guns of large calibre, hulls to be built of iron or wood as he may determine, provided that a portion of said vessels shall be built in whole or in part in private yards upon contract to the lowest responsible bidder, under the supervision of the navy department, or the hulls of any portion of said vessels may be built upon private contract in government yards, with government material. Nothing was said as to the appropriation.

The Boston relief bill came up and after discussion was, on motion of Thurman, referred to the judiciary committee, by a vote of thirty to fifteen.

The bill prescribing the manner of taking testimony in contested election cases passed and the Senate went into executive session.

HOUSE.

Wood, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported a bill authorizing the attorney general to examine into the claims of certain insurance companies for their loss by the bark *Calderan*, payable out of the Chinese indemnity fund. The bill was recommended.

On motion of Randall, the postmaster general was directed to furnish detailed information respecting the proposed issue of postal cards and postage stamps.

At 1:20 the House went into committee of the whole on the private calendar, and took up the bill to reimburse the William and Mary College, Va., for property destroyed during the war of the rebellion.

Shanks offered an amendment providing that no money shall be paid until the college is declared open for admission on equal terms of all persons, without distinction of color or race. After a long debate the amendment was adopted, by 79 to 71.

The committee rose and reported the bill to the House. Shanks amendment was agreed to, 89 to 76. The bill was then rejected, yeas 36, nays 126.

The House then took up the Senate amendment to the House bill abolishing the offices of assessors and assistant assessors of internal revenue and concurred in all those that were verbal without question, the only important one remaining being that authorizing the appointment of twenty-five treasury agents. After a long debate this amendment was rejected, 26 to 89.

GENERAL.

WASHINGTON, 13.—The President is in possession of a telegram addressed by Governor Lewis, of Alabama, to ex-Governor W. H. Smith, R. M. Rey, nolds and B. F. Norris, commissioners to Washington, as follows—

"The General Assembly accepted the Attorney General's plan. The Democrats are reticent. Remain at Washington."

Attorney General Williams has been addressed as follows, by R. H. Eraine—"Your proposals are received, the Democrats will accept."

HALIFAX, 13.—These custom authorities have discovered a fraud, implicating several firms. A schooner recently cleared with a cargo bonded for Newfoundland. She was reported lost, but her cargo was transferred to another vessel, which transported it to Yarmouth, where she was seized. The underwriters here refuse to pay insurance claims.

WHEELING, 13.—A fire this morning entirely destroyed the cigar store of L. Kuttner, Main St., also badly damaged the adjoining building. Mrs. Kuttner threw her baby from a second story window and it was caught by a man and saved. The lady then jumped therefrom and was injured severely if not fatally.

NEW ORLEANS, 13.—The fusion legislature has adjourned to the first Monday in January.

The militia refusing to obey Longstreet were ordered to surrender their arms. A hundred metropolitan police attempted to disarm the militia but finally withdrew. The militia offered to surrender to any Federal military officer.

WASHINGTON, 13.—A delegation of Virginians from Virginia and West Virginia, to-day, waited upon the President, and addressed him on the subject of the proposed canal through those

States. The President made a short response.

The judiciary committee have, to-day, agreed to report a bill to increase the President's salary to \$50,000 annually.

CINCINNATI, 13.—At three o'clock the fine two storey stone residence of James McKehan, in Avondale, was burned. Loss, \$20,000.

NEW ORLEANS, 13.—Representatives of 48 business houses, in the principal northern, western and eastern cities doing business here met and signed an address to the people of the north, requesting them to unite in a protest to Congress and the President against the arbitrary usurpation of power and place by political adventurers, backed by a United States Judge who has called in the assistance of troops to execute his decrees. They attest the paralyzed condition of trade, and the general dissatisfaction of the people with the present condition of affairs.

TROY, N. Y., 13.—The *Times* building is on fire, between the 3rd and 4th floors.

SAN FRANCISCO, 13.—The jury in the case of R. M. Lee, indicted for embezzlement in the Brotherton case, could not agree, and were discharged. This afternoon Lee was remanded to jail.

The Stanton ruby will be sent to Randall, Bridge & Co., London, crown jewelers. It is now estimated to be worth \$20,000.

DOWNSVILLE, Cal.—The residence of J. A. Vaughan, editor of the *Mountain Messenger*, took fire from a stove pipe this forenoon and was entirely destroyed. No insurance.

VALLEJO, Cal., 13.—Jimmy Kenovan, fifty years of age, will finish his great feat of dancing thirty-one hours, at one o'clock to-night. He does not appear much fatigued.

HALIFAX, 14.—The snow storm, yesterday, the first of the winter, almost totally stopped travel. All the trains are delayed.

NEW YORK.—Some of the lately arrived Italian emigrants appeared on Broadway to-day and presented a miserable spectacle, being almost destitute of clothing, and they looked starved. The city authorities are somewhat alarmed at the arrival of so many of them. The Italian consul says all of them have a passport of their government, and there are no brigands among them.

A friend of the late Edwin Forrest says he left all of his estate for the purpose of founding an actor's home in Philadelphia.

At Lexington, N. C., yesterday, Thos. Johnson, a negro, was hanged, for the perpetration of a horrible outrage on an aged white lady.

The proprietors of the Fifth Avenue Hotel publish a card, saying they will bear the costs of the funeral of the victims of the late fire, and will pay the relatives of the girl for the expenses they have incurred.

A rumour was current yesterday that a settlement of the claim for \$1,200,000 of the Atlantic and Great Western against the Erie Co., had been made, but had not been confirmed by authorized parties.

FOREIGN.

The right will move to-morrow that the Assembly will not dissolve until France is entirely freed from foreign occupation, and will follow up with a resolution, declaring that the members of the left are responsible for the present agitation.

In the committee of 30 M. Barthe, republican deputy, submitted a proposition for the formation of a separate legislative body to be called the section of control, to consist of two hundred members, chosen by lot, from the present assembly, and empowered to reject laws passed by the Assembly. The proposal has given rise to the most excited debates in the committee, as it virtually creates a second deliberative assembly.

The weather is very stormy. The waters of the Seine are rising and inundations are threatened. The Loire is also rapidly rising.

TORONTO, 12.—It is feared that the steamer *Commander*, hence for Queens-town, Nov. 2nd, with a cargo of corn, has foundered.

MORRIS, 13.—Excitement was created yesterday over a reported insurrection in the suburbs on the previous evening. It turned out that the insurrection was a small affair, and it was speedily suppressed, although twenty persons were killed and wounded. The city was soon quieted. In the Cortes Martos said that the movement had probably been incited by the opponents of the new loan, with the idea of affecting its successful negotiation.