

Assessing Officeholders.

When the President thought that personal and political capital might be made out of a profession in favor of civil service reform, he affected great zeal on that subject, and issued an "Executive order," dated April 16, 1872, approving the rules prepared by the Commissioners, in which it was declared:

"Political assessments, as they are called, have been forbidden in the various departments."

Among the regulations thus adopted was the following:

"11. No head of a department, nor any subordinate officer of the government, shall, as such officer, authorize, or permit, or assist in levying, any assessment of money for political purposes, under the form of voluntary contributions or otherwise, upon any person employed under his control, nor shall any such person pay any money so assessed."

The language of the order and the regulation is explicit and emphatic, yet it is notorious that in a few months after they were issued every department at Washington, every custom house, every post office, and every internal revenue office, were laid under compulsory contribution to re-elect the very man who had officially promulgated these rules as the law of the civil service.

At present an important election is pending in Ohio, and if money and the abuse of patronage can carry it, neither will be spared from any scruple about the President's order. The most active and unscrupulous politician at Washington is J. M. Edmunds, Postmaster, whom Zach Chandler imported from Michigan. He calls himself Chairman of the Central Republican Committee, and runs the partisan machine as if that was the service for which he is paid \$4,000 a year of the people's money.

An agent appointed by Edmunds has been making the tour of the Interior Department and all the bureaus connected with it, demanding a "voluntary assessment" of one per cent. on every salary, without respect to age, color, sex, or condition. The list is headed by Columbus Delano, his assistant secretary and confederate, B. R. Cowen, and all the chiefs, and it is expected to raise some thirteen thousand dollars by this extortion.

Some of the poor subordinates have attempted to plead the President's order against this forced levy, but they have been reminded that a black mark would be set against their names, which in official English means removal on the 1st of July for refusing to sustain the party. In order to make the terrorism more effective, the third-term organ contains a notice from Edmunds that it is the duty of officeholders to sustain the party, and those who refuse to do it ought to be removed.

This is the occupation of the postmaster right under the eye of that magnificent reformer, Mr. Jewell, and with the full knowledge of a president who closes the Executive Mansion, establishes himself at Long Branch for the summer, and pockets \$4,166.66 a month.

Outrageous as this system is of levying political assessments, there is still a feature about it even worse than the imposition. The belief obtains generally that a large portion of the money thus extorted is stolen by the parties who collect it. In fact, this business has become a sort of political profession. Politicians seek to be chairmen and secretaries of committees with an eye to these very contributions, by which they make a profitable living without work or risk of any kind.

They are of course the most zealous partisans and loud-mouthed advocates of "the cause." Candidates for the office want their aid and recommend them to favor. Senators and Representatives at Washington who seek re-election find the stationary committees of use in sending out documents and using the post offices in their behalf. So they support a blackmailing process by which the partisan managers drive a lucrative business, and the victimized clerks are compelled to stand and deliver.—N. Y. Sun.

Masonry is the popular excitement now-a-days in England. Many lodges have been obliged to raise the price of admission to keep the people out.

Thrashing Himself for His Own Follies.

The theory of impartial justice, so beautiful in itself, the foundation of all good government, and the best security for human happiness, seldom receives exemplification at the hands of man. This may arise, perhaps, from the fact that it looks too much like infringement upon the jurisdiction of a higher power, to weigh out the decrees only according to merit. At all events, society has not fallen in to the ways of impartial administration, and when the exception arises it proves the rule by its very uniqueness. The facts detailed in the following are furnished by an honorable member of the City Government, though a reason for his connection with anything of the nature of justice does not appear until near the close of the annexed narrative:

There is a resident of one of the northern wards whose faith in corporal punishment is unbounded, and who exemplifies, when occasion offers, the theory of impartial justice. He has been taught that the punishment of the present mitigates the punishment of the future, and, in proportion as a man suffers here below for his sins, will he be exempt at the time of final judgment. But, with his firm belief, he is not exempt from the ordinary weaknesses of the human race, and his vulnerable point is his stomach, for which alcoholic liquors have a strong attraction. Ordinarily he is steady and industrious, working at his trade of carpenter, to the satisfaction of those by whom he is employed. But, periodically, the desire to "brace up" with liquid stimulants is too strong to be overcome, and this knight of the bit and brace succumbs. Then follows a week or more of carousing, a general suspension of work, and the squandering of many a hard-earned dollar. There is no stopping half way. The fever must run its course. The end finally comes, and, with the return of reason, the victim decides upon a settlement with himself for his past excesses. The expression, "I'm vexed enough to cry," is not an infrequent one with those of the softer sex, and is generally followed by the opening of the ocular flood-gates and a downright "good cry." But when this intemperate carpenter remarks, "I'm bad enough to be licked," we would hardly presume that he intended inflicting corporeal punishment upon himself. Yet such is the fact. He has considered the matter, and knows that his sin merits a painful reward, and he prefers taking it now to waiting when the results will be more lasting. Two weeks ago he terminated one of his periodical sprees, and immediately pronounced judgment upon himself. The sentence of the court was that he confine himself, within the limit of his own house, and there administer to himself a beating, such as was commensurate with the enormity of his sin. Being judge, culprit and executioner, there was little need to stay proceedings, and plans for carrying out the order of the court were set on foot at once. He procured a stick a trifle smaller than a base ball club, and went to work at himself. The blows fell thick and fast, keeping time to the minor music of his wife's protestations that he was "a goose," "a fool" and "an ass." But he plied his cudgel with vigor, lending encouragement to his arm by such expressions as, "You will, will you." "Get drunk again? Just try it on once." "Tain't half what you deserve." "I'll show you a trick or two, you sot." Finally the scene became monotonous to his wife and as there appeared no hope of cessation she ran to the neighbors to get assistance to stop her husband in his abuse to himself. The first person met was the honorable gentleman aforesaid, and without being allowed time to declare himself in favor of non-intervention, or to discuss the question of free moral agency, he was dragged to the scene of action. The executioner was well-nigh tired out, while the culprit was in a state sad to contemplate. He had not confined his blows to any particular locality; and while his extremities did not show the effects, except through their apparent lameness, his head was cut and contused in various places.

The sentence of the court was declared enforced, and when questioned as to why he had taken this method of meting out justice to

himself, stated that he knew he deserved all he got, and it was only through his own painful experience that he hoped to learn how to do right. He was unable to comprehend any ludicrous side to his views, and announced his belief in the efficacy of corporeal punishment by saying, "If I get drunk, I must get licked; and if I lick myself, it is better for me in the end." St. Louis Globe Democrat

NEWS NOTES.

Dublin proposes to establish "a school of journalism."

Only the United States, Belgium, and Italy have more men than women. This is attributed to the wear and tear of hard work, which kills off so many of the fair sex of these countries.

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines has sued Richard De Gray, a New Orleans lawyer, for libelling her in arguing the opposite side in one of her numerous law suits.

England proposes to abolish the traffic in church livings, and to vest in the parishioners the inalienable right of presentation when a vacancy occurs.

The Russian government spends annually thirty-two thousand dollars for carriages in behalf of singers at the St. Petersburg opera in order to keep them out of the snow with warm feet and clear voices.

Another Indianapolis paper has got into trouble—this time the Sentinel. It referred to Mary Jane Boyer as a woman of "spotted reputation," and now Mary wants the court to "spot" the editor for \$10,000.

A Washington, D. C., man writes to the National Republican complaining of "the water we drink." He has been examining it under the microscope, and says "there's millions in it."

The municipal authorities of Paris have in consideration the project of organizing a life-saving brigade of Newfoundland dogs, to be posted all along the banks of the Seine.

A whole Roman Catholic church congregation, consisting of eleven hundred persons, at Carleton, N. B., took the temperance pledge on a recent Sunday, in response to an appeal from their pastor.

A number of prominent English statesmen are trying to establish a department of commerce and agriculture, under the management of a Cabinet minister, whose special business it shall be to look after those great interests.

An extensive discovery of fine porcelain clay has recently been made at San Fernando, Los Angeles county, Cal., on the ranch of C. R. Rinaldi, which is considered one of the most valuable discoveries ever found in this country.

W. Flynn, aged 68, who died at Digdequash, N. B., June 12th, about twenty minutes before his death arose from his bed, unlocked a trunk and took out a suit of grave clothes he had kept in readiness for several years, then washed and dressed himself for burial. His last words were, "Welcome, death, I have long waited for thee!"

Experiments have been made in Rome with an apparatus invented by Prof. Balestrini, consisting of a series of reflectors which collect the rays of a small oil lamp. The light thus obtained is exceedingly brilliant, and appears from the street a globe of fire at least three feet in diameter. The lamp used was a small one, and consumed only seven centimes of oil per hour.

A bridge has been built at Homersfield, England, on a new and improved plan—a system in which all the iron work is completely imbedded in cement concrete. The bridge has one arch of a clear span of fifty feet, with a rise of five feet and three inches. The skeleton of the bridge is of iron, and this is entirely filled in with cement concrete, and rendered with cement, thus forming one continuous beam, getting stronger with age, in addition to the iron skeleton, which is of itself sufficient to do the ordinary static work of the bridge. The weight of concrete alone is over one hundred tons. The first test applied was that of a five ton road roller drawn by four horses; this was passed across several times, and not the least deflection was perceptible. Afterward, a heavy wagon, weighing, with its load, some six tons, was passed over with the same result.



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