

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph

HISTORY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM MOVEMENT.

From the Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

That it is necessary to say anything concerning the history of this movement before constitutional reform has become a fixed fact, only seem unusual to some under whose observation these things may fall; but to those who have been closely watching all that has been said and written concerning it in the public journals, it will not seem strange or out of place. In all human probability a Constitutional Convention is as sure to come as seed time and harvest, and since it is assured, and so heartily encouraged by the people throughout the whole State, in a word, since it is popular with the masses, and they demand it, the number claiming the credit of originating and initiating the movement is as great as the grand army of patriots who first nominated General Grant for the Presidency; and, as a rule, they are just about as much entitled to the honor.

The Constitutional Reform movement began in January, 1867, immediately after the election of Simon Cameron to the United States Senate, and the first article which called attention to the subject appeared in the Franklin Repository of the 23d of that month. It came from the hands of Col. A. K. McClure, then the able editor of this journal. In justice to Mr. McClure, as well as for the information of the public, we republish the article as it appeared then. Since the movement began until now, when it is the engrossing political topic of the State, Colonel McClure has not ceased to agitate the subject, and by his great ability as a writer and experience in the political affairs of the State, has done more to insure its success than any other man in the State.

LEGISLATIVE REFORM—IT MUST BE FUNDAMENTAL.

The people can no longer close their eyes to the fact that the hideous cancer of legislative corruption has spread its poisonous tentacles over the entire body politic in Pennsylvania; and indifference must henceforth be criminal. For years venality has been treacherously at the disposal of the power, steadily growing and widening its ramifications, until its monstrous sweep has drawn a large portion of its official laborers, and fastened the choicest gift and the most responsible trust the highest people have to confer.

Not in this crawling wrong alone do the appliances and fruits of legislative degradation appear. Around it, in its through all its channels of power, and all its tributaries, the monster sits enthroned supreme. So clamorous were its insidious rotaries for plunder, that the important committees of the popular branch, which control vital and profitable interests, had the number almost doubled to swell the chances for ill-gotten profits; and the subordinates of the two branches have been increased to glut insatiable cupidity until they number within one-fourth of the whole Legislature. Sons, fathers, and other relations of legislators crowd around in idleness, and profligate and venality rule while the people have treachery and taxation as their reward.

Reform the Legislature by the election of upright men; respect all who, with the affection of integrity, with devotion to the public good, and with a sense of duty, have been tried, time and again, and it has signally failed. We have seen, and we see now, in reform Legislatures, and the perceptible difference has been the increased frequency of delinquency assumed by the reformers because of their supposed standing at home. It is idle to attempt reform by any such process. But few who have the stern integrity for such an effort will undertake the thankless task, and simple reformers, who are demoralized by the corruption which surrounds them, are ever ready to prostrate their own virtues to the people, and betray them by a double fraud.

There is one simple, practical, effectual remedy; and if the people have in earnest they can enforce it. The reform must be radical—it must be fundamental. A Convention, called by the people, and only, can reach the terrible disease, and it is attainable at any time the Legislature shall submit the question of a Convention to popular decision. It would demand by petition, or by resolutions, by mass meetings, by the many utterances of an unshackled press, until even the corruptionists themselves should be brought to their senses, and let them demand a Convention to incorporate in their organic law provisions substantially as follows:

- 1. That the Senate shall consist of one hundred members, to be chosen by single districts.
2. That the House of Representatives shall consist of four hundred members, each to be elected in a single district.
3. That all legislation relating to corporations interest shall be general laws, and that no special charter or corporate privileges whatever shall be granted but by the courts.
4. That there shall be no special appropriation of money from the treasury to claims except upon a judicial finding.
5. That the members of the Legislature shall be paid five dollars per day for the period of sixty days; and be prohibited from appropriating to themselves any additional sums for protracted sessions, or for extra or adjourned sessions beyond sixty days in the year.
6. That no subordinate officers shall be appointed in either branch, or receive any compensation for services, unless a bill shall have been passed by both branches creating the office and defining its duties.
7. That no bill shall pass either branch without receiving a majority of the whole vote on a call of the yeas and nays.
8. It would be most expensive reform, answer the quibblers who, unwilling to meet the issue squarely, wish to delay the day of the coming reckoning of the people. We answer that it would be vastly economical. The whole cost of a Legislature consisting of five hundred members, under the existing provisions, would not be as much as our present Legislature costs with but one hundred and thirty-three members, and there would be the incalculable advantage of a check on the profligate appropriation of money for any and every purpose that will pay the lobby; and in addition to the advantages of a more economical and more responsible Legislature, it would secure honest legislators for two reasons:
1. It would place the Legislature beyond the control of the lobby because of its numbers; and would avoid the "nanking" through of bills in a slim house and without a record of each man's vote in a few days. The New York State Legislature (corresponding to our townships) sends a member of the Legislature. Thus the popular branch of the Massachusetts Legislature numbers several hundred, although the State has not half our population, nor a tithe of our commercial, mineral, or agricultural interests to foster or care for. In such legislative corruption is introduced. The lobby is too large for the lobby to control, and it does not hold the history of that State as it does in our nighty Commonwealth, and mightily the corrupting temptress who fattens upon her in the name of guardians.

It would bring the representative into immediate relations with the people, and responsibility for its constituents. If Franklin county elected four representatives instead of half of two each district would be composed of several townships, and the people would have personal knowledge of the man they elect, and he could not err in ascertaining their wishes upon any question. He could not plead, as do falsehood men now, that he was ignorant of the wishes of his constituents. He would be interested in a remote part of his district, and his constituents would be interested in him. He would be interested in the welfare of his people, and they would be interested in him. He would be interested in the welfare of his people, and they would be interested in him. He would be interested in the welfare of his people, and they would be interested in him.

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Let the people demand a convention. The Legislature can authorize a vote in June next, adjourn to meet after the returns are officially received, and provide for choosing delegates to the convention at the regular election in October next. No matter which of the two great parties should carry the convention, the whole of the reform movement, the man would venture to run on any ticket in opposition to it. Astonished by the people, as they would be to the overwhelming success of the most earnest reform members, the power of the State would be in our places of power would be triumphantly established.

THE DISCORDS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

From the N. Y. Herald. In a recent conversation in the White House with Senator Wilson, as it appears, General Grant, in reference to the late elections, said that, although disappointed with some States, he thought that these elections, upon the whole, had resulted satisfactorily to the Republicans; that he did not think there was anything in them to cause alarm for the future; that the people could not be successfully drawn aside from the maintenance of the great principles of the Republican party; that what the people want, in his opinion, is the payment of the public debt, the reduction of expenditures, the reduction of taxes and an economical administration of the Government. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the President that "the party that refuses to be drawn away by side issues and that pursues the policy here indicated will elect its candidate in 1872."

These views of General Grant (for we have no doubt they are his views) are entitled to the respectful consideration which herein we propose to give them. His platform—the payment of the debt, the reduction of expenditures, the reduction of taxes, and economical administration—is good and sound. It has, too, so far served the Republican party in this year's elections as to secure for them a good working majority in the popular branch of the next Congress, which, with the Senate overwhelmingly on the same side, settles the two houses to the next Presidential election. So far the coast is clear; but when General Grant says that the people cannot be successfully drawn aside from the maintenance of the great principles of the Republican party he evidently means something more than the principles of economy, retrenchment, and reform. He doubtless means the great principles applied in the reconstruction of the late Rebel States and embodied in the new amendments to the National Constitution, including the abolition of slavery, the establishment of equal civil and political rights to all men, as citizens, of all races and colors, and the power given to Congress to enforce these great principles "by appropriate legislation" over every foot of land and water within the jurisdiction of the United States. These are the great principles, we suppose, to which General Grant refers in insisting on the continued ascendancy of the Republican party. He is right, too, in this opinion, if it is certain that the Democratic party intends to continue the fight against the Republican measures of Southern reconstruction so nearly completed and reduced to practice by General Grant himself since his call to the head of the Government.

The overwhelming success of the General in the Presidential contest of 1868 was largely due to the suicidal resolution adopted by the Democratic Tammany Seymour Convention on the motion of Wade Hampton, fresh from the Rebel army, declaring the reconstruction measures of Congress unconstitutional, revolutionary, null and void. This overthrow resolution, with Frank Blair's supporting letter, in its very announcement defeated Seymour and enabled the Republicans to walk but to center over the course. We have had no Democratic stupidity of this sort, however, since the proclamation of the fifteenth amendment. In Delaware, Maryland, and Kentucky they still fight "the d-d nigger"; but even in those States they fight him as a "fixed fact" at the polls. Upon this supreme test, then, the Democratic party accepts the situation in the Constitution as it is, with the civil and political equality of all men as citizens—white men, yellow men, red men, negroes and all.

Thus the great principles suggested by General Grant are among the dead issues of the past. The Democrats fought them step by step "to the last ditch," but in the last ditch they have given up the battle, and the "almighty nigger" is all right. The Republican party, therefore, have only the President's platform of economy, retrenchment of expenditures, reduction of taxes, and payment of the debt to stand upon; and these movable planks in some cases have been placed so wide apart that many of the weak brethren are falling through between them. For instance, here we have the Tribune, a Republican organ, which insists that the amount of the debt means a protective tariff; and here we have the Evening Post, another Republican organ, which is ready to fight till it rains cats and dogs, and ready, still, to fight in the rain, for the dogma that the reduction of taxes means free trade. At Chicago they have also a Tribune, hitherto a rampant radical Republican, which is so hot in the cause that it proposes a new party on the platform of free trade; and all through the great Northwest, where their products are wheat, corn, pork, and beef, they would, perhaps, agree to a tax upon the "bloated bondholders" of the East if they could thereby free trade in iron and woolen goods. The President, it appears, is glad that in coming out for a new party, after supporting John Wentworth, an outsider, for Congress, the Chicago Tribune is sailing under its true colors as an enemy to the Republican party. We suspect, next, that General Cox's free-trade notions are at the bottom of his retirement from the Cabinet, because, as it appears, the Pennsylvania protectionists, headed by Senator Cameron, made a dead set on Cox to get him out. Again, while the Evening Post is doing battle for Cox and against the President on the McCarran claim, we suspect that free trade is really the secret of the Post's admiration of Cox and of its detestation of McCarran, and of its hostility to the President's sensible course upon this McCarran claim.

We cite these cases of Republican discords as affording each an explanation of some of these late Democratic victories. In this State again the results show that in the late election Senator Fenton's influence in "the rural districts" was not given to Woodford, and all because the gentle and genial Thomas Murphy was made collector of this port. Fenton, in fact, over Murphy had a crow to pick with the President; and so during our recent canvass, as a hint to his followers, he went out to California; and came back well pleased, no doubt, to find Hoffman re-elected. Some pork of a poor quality will shrink this way in the boiling. Gratz Brown and Carl Schurz in Missouri, although read out of the party as bolters by the President himself, have, with the aid of the Democrats (including a free trade plank) carried Missouri by thirty thousand majority; and in this a small matter? Next look at Tennessee, where last year a Republican bolter carried over the State—hat, coat, boots, and breeches—to the Democracy. This year the Democrats have it so overwhelmingly that they count it fixed for 1872. By Republican dimensions, too, North Carolina has been turned over to the Democrats; and here and there in different States Republican bushwhackers have swamped quite a number of the regular party candidates for Congress.

These Republican discords and feuds, and splits and defeats, are easily explained. The "great principles" which have been so compactly together during the last ten years (this year excepted) are all nullified, and, having nothing else to fight over, the ambitious leaders and greedy spoilsmen of the party are fighting the administration and each other over such issues as free trade and the spoils. And we can tell General Grant that these are bad symptoms in his party; that the old Democratic party began to go to pieces just in this fashion, even before it had run negro slavery into the ground as "a divine institution." But is not General Grant, with his new platform of economy, retrenchment and so forth, doing very well? Yes; but there is nothing in it to fight about, and so the restless spirits of the party are going off upon side issues. So it is that Governor Hoffman, in the eyes of his friends, begins to look already like the next President, and walks the earth with the confident air of the Crown Prince of Prussia. And why not, when he, or any other man, under the broad, expansive ensign of Tammany Hall, has such a fair prospect before him?

Lastly, General Grant must do something in his annual message to Congress in December to wake up, inspire, and harmonize his party before the end of the approaching short session he may find it a laborious Hercules to get its clashing leaders, cliques, and factions again together. For this some new idea is wanted. The negro question is used up. Even women's rights, as a living issue, will be better for 1872 than the dead issue of negroes' rights.

THE IMPERISHABLE PERFUME—AS A rule, the perfumes now in use have no permanency. An hour or two after their use there is no trace of perfume left. How different the result succeeding the use of MURRAY LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER! Days after its application the handkerchief exhales a most delightful, delicate, and agreeable fragrance. 2 Labeled. THE GLORY OF MAN IS STRENGTH.—The strength of the virtuous and debilitated should immediately use HELMBOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU. 10 1/2 W.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

STEREOTYPION ENTERTAINMENTS given to Churches, Sunday-schools, and Societies. Engagements may now be made by inquiring of W. MITCHELL McALLISTER, Second Story No. 728 CHESTNUT Street, Philada.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE MARKET BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars. 7 9 a m

THE MOST PLEASANT, CHEAPEST and BEST DENTIFRICE extant. Warranted free from injurious ingredients. It Preserves and Whitens the Teeth! Invigorates and Soothes the Gums! Prevents Accumulation of Tartar! Cleanses and Purifies Artificial Teeth! A Superior Article for Children! Sold by all Druggists and Dentists. A. M. WILSON, Druggist, Proprietor, 23 1/2 m COR. NINTH and FILBERT Sts., Philada.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE GERMAN TOWN BANKING COMPANY, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars. 7 9 a m

THE UNION FIRE EXTINGUISHER COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA Manufacture and sell the Improved, Portable Fire Extinguisher. Always Reliable. D. T. GAGE, 530 W. No. 118 MARKET St., General Agent.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, of the SAVINGS AND DEPOSIT BANK OF MANAYUNK, to be located in the Twenty-third ward of Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to one hundred thousand dollars. 7 9 a m

MERCANTILE COLLECTION AND LAW AGENCY for Pennsylvania, Western and Southern States, No. 400 CHESTNUT Street, Commissioner for Western States. W. S. WAIN, 530 W. No. 118 MARKET St., General Agent.

DR. P. R. THOMAS, No. 91 WALNUT ST., formerly operator at the Golden Dental Rooms, devotes his entire practice to extracting teeth without pain, with fresh nitrous oxide gas. 11 1/2 W.

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WESTON & BROTHER, TAILORS, S. W. Corner NINTH and ARCH Sts., PHILADELPHIA. A full assortment of the most approved styles for FALL AND WINTER WEAR, JUST RECEIVED. A SUPERIOR GARMENT AT A REASONABLE PRICE. 9 1/2 3 1/2 W. COMPARISON INVITED. OUR CHEVIOT SUITS ARE MORE DURABLE, MORE STYLISH, BETTER CUT, BETTER MADE, BETTER TRIMMED, BETTER EVERY WAY. MORE DURABLE, MORE STYLISH, BETTER CUT, BETTER MADE, BETTER TRIMMED, BETTER EVERY WAY.

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COOK & BROTHER, Importers and Retailers of Hosiery Goods, No. 53 NORTH EIGHTH Street, PHILADELPHIA. PIANOS. GEORGE STICK & CO'S PIANOS, Grand, Square and Upright. HAINES BROS.' PIANOS, Only place in Philadelphia for sale of Mason & Hamlin's World-Renowned Cabinet Organs.

STEINWAY & SONS' Grand Square and Upright Pianos. Special attention is called to their new Patent Upright Pianos, With Double Iron Frame, Patent Resonator, Tabular Action, French Action, etc., which are made in Tone and Touch, and unrivaled in durability. CHARLES BLASIS, WAREHOUSES, No. 1006 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. CHICKERING & SONS' WORLD-RENOVED GRAND SQUARE AND UPRIGHT PIANOS. Attention is invited to the celebrated PATENT GRAND UPRIGHT AND THE NEW SCALE GRAND SQUARE PIANOS. DUTTON'S PIANO ROOMS, Nos. 1128 and 1128 1/2 CHESTNUT Street, W. B. DUTTON, 10 21 1/2 W.

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TO CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS.—SEAL PROPOSALS, endorsed "Proposals for building a Public School-house in the Tenth Ward," will be received by the undersigned at the office of the City Solicitor, until 10 o'clock on Monday, November 22, 1870, at 19 o'clock M., for building a Public School-house, according to plans of L. H. Esler, Superintendent of School Buildings, in the Tenth Ward, in accordance with the provisions of an ordinance approved May 25, 1869, and the specifications attached thereto. No bids will be considered unless accompanied by a certificate from the City Solicitor that the proposals have been complied with. The contract will be awarded only to known master builders. By order of the Committee on Property. H. W. HALLWELL, Secretary. 11 16 1/2 2 3/4 W.

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PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ERECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS. OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 18, 1870. Proposals will be received at the Office of the Commissioner, No. 128 S. SEVEN Street, until November 22, 1870, for items No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, and until December 1, 1870, for balance of the schedule for the following material and labor: 1. For excavating and leveling the ground, and for carefully removing the iron railings and stone base from the four inclosures at Broad and Market streets, and depositing the same in or upon such portions of the adjacent grounds as Commissioners may select. 2. For removing the trees and clearing the ground for the lumber and labor for the erection of a board fence twelve (12) feet in height, with gates, to enclose the space occupied by Penn Square, (liberal foot, complete. 3. For excavating and leveling the ground, and for carefully removing the iron railings and stone base from the four inclosures at Broad and Market streets, and depositing the same in or upon such portions of the adjacent grounds as Commissioners may select. 4. For excavating and leveling the ground, and for carefully removing the iron railings and stone base from the four inclosures at Broad and Market streets, and depositing the same in or upon such portions of the adjacent grounds as Commissioners may select. 5. For removing the trees and clearing the ground for the lumber and labor for the erection of a board fence twelve (12) feet in height, with gates, to enclose the space occupied by Penn Square, (liberal foot, complete. 6. For concrete foundations, per cubic foot. 7. For trenching the sewers, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 8. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 9. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 10. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 11. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 12. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 13. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 14. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 15. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 16. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 17. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 18. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 19. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 20. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 21. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 22. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 23. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 24. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 25. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 26. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 27. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 28. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 29. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 30. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 31. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 32. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 33. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 34. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 35. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 36. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 37. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 38. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 39. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 40. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 41. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 42. For cast-iron columns, several kinds, laid in depth of twenty-five feet, measured in the walls. 43. For hard bricks per thousand, delivered Broad and Market street during the year 1871. 44. For unglazed granite, per cubic foot, applied in the field. 45. For polished marble per cubic foot, specified in the bill. 46. For rolled iron beams (several sizes), lineal yard of given weight. 47. 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