# FREAKS OF AN EXPLOSION.

The Artist's House Was Wrecked, and How He Got Out Alive and Uninjured Is a Mystery-The Puzzle of the Staircase and Hallway.

In 1874 a canalboat carrying a hundred barrels of gunpowder along the Regent's park canal in London exploded just opposite the magnificent house of Laurence Alma-Tadema, the famous artist, across the road. This happened at 4 o'clock on a rainy morning. Every window in London within a radius of a mile was smashed, and the houses in the immediate vicinity. though solidly built of brick and stone. were wrecked.

"I was sound asleep in bed at the time," said Alma-Tadema, "and the first I knew of the explosion was when I found myself standing out on the sidewalk in front of my house in the rain, with my pajamas on and bare feet. How I got there I never knew. The entire top of the brick wall in front of the lawn before my house was blown off, and the front of the house itself was as if driven in by the blow of a giant's fist.

"The canalboat, we found out afterward, had blown up underneath a solid bridge that crossed the canal at that point. Had it not been for that my house and the others near it would have been utterly knocked to pieces. It was fortunate, too, that there was no one on the street at the time. Had the explosion occurred in the daytime hundreds of persons might have been killed or maimed.

"But the strangest episode connected with the event concerned the man whose duty it was to keep watch on the bridge during the night. His name was Peter Knox. He was thirty-seven years old, married and had two children. I knew the fellow and had often chatted with him on the bridge. The day before the explosion he had arranged with a friend of his to come at 4 o'clock and relieve him. It was a Saturday, and he wanted to take his wife and children a little trip down to Bushey park on the Thames, and he wished to get to his home in east London in time so as to have breakfast and be off early on Sunday morning.

"Well, as 4 o'clock drew near, Peter, so he told me afterward, began to feel anxious lest his friend should have forgotten the appointment. He paced up and down the bridge and looked up the street, but the morning was so dark and misty with the rain that he ticed a line of canalhoats com ly down toward the bridge, but paid no special attention to them.

"Just before the first boat passed under the bridge he stepped off it. though in doing so he was infringing the regulations, and sauntered up the street in the direction from which he expected his friend to appear. He had gone about forty yards when the explosion took place, and when he turned think." not a brick of the bridge was left. If he had been less impatient or if his friend had been mere prompt, one or both of them would never have been seen or heard of again.

"But my own little adventure was singular enough. As I said, I was not conscious of having been awak- I ask?" ened by the explosion, still less of having got out of bed, come downstairs, opened the front door and stepped out to the sidewalk. The shock had knocked all memory of these acts out of my head, and I have never recovered it.

"But what puzzled me most was the condition of things I found when I went back into the house. The hall was a mass of wreckage, and the staircase from top to bottom was covered with pieces of broken glass, sharp as razors and so distributed that I found it impossible to ascend without a light to show me where not to tread.

"Nevertheless I had come down those same stairs, with my eyes shut or unseeing, and had never so much as scratched my bare feet. The thing was impossible, and yet I had done it. I had been skeptical about miracles before that, but since then I have been both a believer and an evangelist."-Chicago Record-Herald.

His Quietus. The bridegroom relaxed for a moment his arm's tense pressure. "What would you do," he whispered

hoarsely, "if by some terrible accident I should be drowned?" In the mild moonlight he young wife pale and shudder.

"Oh. don't. Tom!" she cried. "How can you? You know I don't look well in black."-Chicago Inter Ocean.

"I have been abroad in the best of society," boasted the city youth, "Why. even my trunks bear the labels of Switzerland."

"Gosh, that ain't nothing, sonny!" drawled his rural uncle. "So does a box of cheese."-Chicago News.

# She Recalled an Instance.

Detroit Free Press.

"Mrs. Peddicord," said that lady's husband, "did you ever say anything that you afterward regretted saving?" "Certainly. I said 'Yes' once and have been sorry for it ever since."-

When a woman does it at home she calls it the "wash," but when she sends it down town she calls it the "laundry."-Atchison Globe.

### PARIS CABBIES.

The War of Words That Comes When They Block Each Other.

There is no more entertaining way to spend an idle hour in Paris than to get into a taxicab and instruct the driver to go along some street where you will be reasonably sure to get into a jam or to bump against another cab. The charm of the experience is, of course, enhanced by your ignorance of what the cabbies say.

Should your driver merely graze the wheels of another cab he will turn on . his seat and yell mellifluously at the other driver, who in turn will shout back an assortment of vowels. But the best is a quarrel between two cabbles obstructing each other's way. The conversation, translated as nearly literally as is safe, goes in this wise: "Sacred name! Why do you?"

"Holly blue! I do not!" "Stomach on the ground! You have the face of an ox!"

"Blue stomach! Are you in chains?" "A bas! Name of a dog!" "Mon Dieu! Name of a pig!"

"Wow (or words to that effect)! Name of a name!" "A thousand deaths! Name of a

name of a name!" Now you begin to expect some doings. While you have not fully understood, you are satisfied that nothing but pistols and knives will wipe out the insults.

Unfortunately about this time the jam is untangled and you are allowed to drive away, but the other driver yells after yours:

"Aha! You are a little piece of brown soap!"

It seems that this expression is the "fighting name" in Paris. Were it not that your cabby owes a duty to you and must convey you to your destination you know by his facial expression that he would climb down and get that other cabby and muss up the city with him.

He contents himself with turning about and making a face in the direction of his enemy and of going through the motion of spitting at him.

Then he says "Yoop!" to the horse, and the war is over.-Chicago Post.

### THATCHING.

The Ancient Art In the Low Countries and In England.

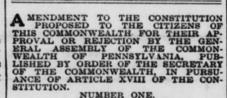
Once upon a time two amateur botanists were hunting bog mosses on Exmoor, on the confines of the land of Lorna Doone. About the hour of luncheon they found that their enthusiasm had led them far afield, a good bour and a half from the farmhouse which they had made their temporary headquarters. The only place which yielded promise of food was a shepherd's shack half a mile distant, so thither they went. That the shack, or, rather, its owner, a small, wiry, dark man with curly hair, could offer could see only a short distance. A nothing better than brown bread, few minutes before 4, he said, he no which was woefully "clit," or heavy. and raw onions is neither here nor there. The point was that the roof of the shack was artistically thatched with layers of plaited reeds.

"Feyther taught I th' way to do un." explained the shepherd, with an upward jerk of his thumb toward the "An' his feyther taught 'im avore that, an' his feyther avore that. an' back an' back twill nobody can

"A hereditary art evidently," said one of the moss hunters to his companion. "But I never saw thatches like these outside of the Low Countries. Safe bet that this fellow is of Dutch descent." Then he said to the man of Devon, "And what is your name, may

"Well," replied the shepherd, "most volk call I Van, but ma right name be Henry Van Torp. They do say that ma gurt-grandfeyther were a-vitin' against England an' were took prisoner an' married a Devon girl an' settled 'ereabout"-he indicated the southward sweep of the moor-"but these be a lot of voolish tales to ma thinkin'."-Craftsman.

# **Constitutional Amendments**



Proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania so as to consolidate the courts of common pleas of Philadelphia and Allegheny counties, and to give the General Assembly power to es-tablish a separate court in Philadelphia county, with criminal and miscellaneous jur-isdiction.

tablish a separate court in Philadelphia county, with criminal and miscellaneous jurisdiction.

Section I. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly met, That the following amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be, and the same are hereby, proposed in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

That section six of article five be amended by striking out the said section and inserting in place thereof the following:

Section 6. In the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the several numbered courts of common pleas, shall be vested in one court of common pleas, shall be vested in one court of common pleas, shall be following:

Such jurisdiction and powers shall extend to all proceedings at law and in equity which shall have been instituted in the several numbered courts, and shall be subject to such changes as may be made by law, and subject to change of venue as provided by law. The president judge of each of the said courts shall be selected as provided by law. The number of judges in each of said courts may be, by law, increased from time to time. This amendment shall take effect on the first Monday of January succeeding its adoption.

Section 2. That article five, section eight, be amended by making an addition thereto so that the same shall read as follows:

Section 2. The said courts in the counties of Philadelphia and Allegheny respectively shall, from time to time, in turn, detail one or more of their judges to hold the courts of oyer and terminer and the courts of Philadelphia the General Assembly shall have power to establish a separate court, consisting of not more than four judges, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction in criminal cases and in such other matters as may be provided by law. A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 1.

ROBERT McAFEE,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

A MENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROPOSED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR AP-PROVAL OR REJECTION BY THE GEN-

Constitutional Amendments

FRAI. ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMON.
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FIRE COMMONWALTH, IN PUBLICATION

FROM A JOINT RESOLUTION

Frogoting an assembnest to the Constitution is boroughs, townships, school districts, to increase their mobile dense of the control of the franciscopies, townships, school districts, to increase their mobile dense of the control of the franciscopies.

Be if resolved by the Senate and House Franzyivania, reading as follows:

"Section 5. The detof of any county, city, and the section of the control of the franzy county of the section of the section of the section of the section of the said section, municipality or incorporated district, score of the section of the section of the section of the section of the said section, which now exceeds the section of the section of the said section, which now exceeds the section of the section amendments to monwealth and section eight.

Section 2. Amend section eight of article four of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

'He shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate, appoint a Secretary of the Commonwealth and an Attorney General during pleasure, a Superintendent of Public Instruction for four years, and such other officers of the Commonwealth as he is or may be authorized by the Constitution or by law to appoint; he shall have power to fill all vacancies that may happen, in offices to which he may appoint, during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session; he shall have power to fill any vacancy that may happen, during the recess of the Senate, in the office of Auditor General, State Treasurer. Secretary of Internal Affairs or Superintendent of Public Instruction, in a judicial office, or in any other elective office which he is or may be authorized to fill; if the vacancy shall happen during the session of the Senate, before their final adjournment, a proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any proper person to fill said vaca nor, the vote shall be entered on the journal," nays, and shall be entered on the journal," so as to read as follows:—

He shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate, appoint a Secretary of the Commonwealth and an Attorney General during pleasure, a Superintendent of Public Instruction for four years, and such other officers of the Commonwealth as he is or may be authorized by the Constitution or by law to appoint; he shall have power to fill all vacancies that may happen, in offices to which he may appoint, during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session; he shall have power to fill any vacancy that may happen during the recess of the Senate, in the office of Auditor General, State Treasurer, Secretary of Internal Affairs or Superintendent of Public Instruction, in a judicial office, or in any other elective office which he is or may be authorized to fill; if the vacancy shall happen during the session of the Senate, before their final adjournment, a proper person to fill said vacancy; but in any such case of vacancy, in an elective office, a person shall be chosen to said office on the next election day appropriate to such office, according to the provisions of this Constitution, unless the vacancy shall happen within two calendar months immediately preceding such election day, in which case the election for said office shall be held on the second succeeding election day appropriate to such office. In acting on executive nominations the Senate shall sit with open doors, and, in confirming or rejecting the nominations of the Governor, the vote shall be taken by yeas and mays, and shall be entered on the journal.

Amendment Two—To Article Four, Section Twenty-one.

shall sit with open doors, and, in comming or rejecting the nominations of the Governor, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays, and shall be entered on the journal.

Amendment Two—To Article Four, Section Twenty-one.

Section 3. Amend section twenty-one of article four, which reads as follows:—

"The term of the Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be four years; of the Auditor General three years; and of the State Treasurer two years. These officers shall be chosen by the qualified electors of the State at general elections. No person elected to the office of Auditor General or State Treasurer shall be capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms," so as to read:—

The terms of the Secretary of Internal Affairs, the Auditor General, and the State Treasurer shall each be four years; and they shall be chosen by the qualified electors of the State at general elections; but a State Treasurer, elected in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine, shall serve for three years, and his successors shall be elected at the general election in the year one thousand nine hundred and twelve, and in every fourth year thereafter. No person elected to the office of Auditor General or State Treasurer shall be capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms.

Amendment Three—To Article Five, Section Eleven.

Section 4. Amend section eleven of article five, which reads as follows:—

"Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, justices of the peace or aldermen shall be elected in the several wards, district, boroughs and townships at the time of the election of constables, by the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be directed by law, and shall be commissioned by the Governor for a term of five years. No township, ward, district or borough shall electmore than two justices of the peace or aldermen without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors within such township, ward of bistrict," so as to read:—

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, justices of

"In Philadelphia there shall be established, for each thirty thousand inhabitants, one court, not of record, of police and civil causes, with jurisdiction not exceeding one hundred dollars; such courts shall be held by magistrates whose term of office shall be five years, and they shall be elected on general ticket by the qualified voters at large; and in the election of the said magistrates no voter shall vote for more than two-thirds of the number of persons to be elected when more than one are to be chosen they shall be compensated

### Constitutional Amendments Constitutional Amendments

Section 9. Amend section one, article twelve, which reads as follows:—
"All officers, whose selection is not provided for in this Constitution, shall be elected or appointed as may be directed by law," so as to read:—
All officers, whose, selection is not provided for in this Constitution, shall be elected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: Programming the selected or appointed as may be directed by law: appointed as may de directed by law: Provided, That elections of State officers shall be held on a general election day, and elections of local officers shall be held on a municipal election day, except when, in either case, special elections may be required to fill unexpired terms.

Amendment Nine—To Article Fourteen, Section

Amendment Nine—To Article Fourteen. Section Two.

Section 10. Amend section two of article fourteen, which reads as follows:—
"County officers shall be elected at the general elections and shall hold their offices for the term of three years, beginning on the first Monday of January next after their election, and until their successors shall be duly qualified; all vacancies not otherwise provided for, shall be filled in such manner as may be provided by law," so as to read:—
County officers shall be elected at the municipal elections and shall hold their offices for the term of four years, beginning on the first Monday of January next after their election, and until their successors shall be duly qualified; all vacancies not otherwise provided for, shall be filled in such manner as may be provided by law.

Amendment Ten—To Article Fourteen, Section Seven.

Amendment Ten—To Article Fourteen, Section
Seven.
Section 11. Amend Section seven, article
fourteen, which reads as follows:—
"Three county commissioners and three county
auditors shall be elected in each county
where such officers are chosen, in the year
one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five
and every third year thereafter; and in the
election of said officers each qualified elector
shall vote for no more than two persons, and
the three persons having the highest number
of votes shall be elected; any casual vacancy
in the office of county commissioner or county
auditor shall be filled, by the court of common pleas of the county in which such vacancy
shall occur, by the appointment of an elector
of the proper county who shall have voted for
the commissioner or auditor whose place is
to be filled," so as to read:—

Three county commissioners and three county
auditors shall be elected in each county where
such officers are chosen. In the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven and every fourth
year thereafter; and in the election of said
officers each qualified elector shall vote for
no more than two persons, and the three persons having the highest number of votes shall
be elected; any casual vacancy in the office
of county commissioner or county auditor shall
be filled, by the court of common pleas of
the county in which such vacancy shall occur,
by the appointment of an elector of the proper
county who shall have voted for the commissioner or auditor whose place is to be filled.

Schedule for the Amendments.

Section 12. That no inconvenience may arise
from the changes in the Constitution of the
Commonwealth, and in order to carry the same
into complete operation, it is hereby declared,
that—

In the case of officers elected by the people,
all terms of officer seveleted by the people.

from the changes in the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and in order to carry the same into complete operation, it is hereby declared, that—

In the case of officers elected by the people, all terms of office fixed by act of Assembly at an odd number of years shall each be lengthened one year, but the Legislature may change the length of the term, provided the terms for which such officers are elected shall always be for an even number of years.

The above extension of official terms shall not affect officers elected at the general election of one thousand nine hundred and eight; nor any city, ward, borough, township, or election division officers, whose terms of office, under existing law, end in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten the municipal election shall be held on the third Tuesday of February, as heretofore; but all officers chosen at that election to an office the regular term of which is two years, and also all election officers and assessors chosen at that election, shall serve until the first Monday of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven. All officers chosen at that election to offices the term of which is now four years or is made four years by the operation of these amendments or this schedule, shall serve until the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirteen. All justices of the peace, magistrates, and aldermen, chosen at that election, shall serve until the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and and ten, and until the Legislature shall otherwise provide, all terms of city, ward, borough, township, and election division officers shall begin on the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, shall county officers, holding office at the date of the approval of these amendments, whose terms of office may end in the year, and election that year.

All city, ward, borough, township, and election theorems of the paperoval of these amendments, whose terms of office may end in the ye

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