THE CENTRE REPORTER,

FRED. KURTZ.....Editor.

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The argument of chief justice Agnew, setting aside the ordinance of the constitutional convention, it appears to us, will not be credited with an abundance of soundness by even the majority of the republicans, saying nothing of democratic opinion in the estimation of which it will not weigh very heavily. We do not think that Judge Agnew makes it clear at all that in passing the Ordinance the Convention went beyond its authority, and if it were sound logic we would not give a farthing for the right of the people to change their organic law—for according to this opinion of the Chief Justice, the legislature is higher than the people or any constitutional convention called by them, for that body can place any obstacle and restriction in the path of it which it sees fit. This is about the gist of the decision. We believe no such doctrine, neither is it in consonance with genuine free government. If Mr. Agnew's opinion is a correct one, then it is unnecessary to call any convention to remodel our constitution, for the roosters and pinchers of the senate and house can dictate what it shall do and what it shall not do.

We repeat, nearly all the leading legal minds in the republican party, disagree with Judge Agnew, and all the eminent lawyers in our own party will also disagree with him. The argument will find its endorsers alone among ring politicians.

The opinion is not "thin," but very cloudy, and none will see through it.

The greatest and most important day for the plundered and tax-ridden people of Pennsylvania, will be next Tuesday, 16th, when we are to decide whether all corrupt practices of politicians shall be stopped by adopting the new Constitution. Turn, out, all you honest men, now is your time to purify the management of public affairs.

The "ring" politicians have combined to defeat the new Constitution, on Tuesday, next, 16th. They cannot do it, if the honest men of all parties turn out, on that day, and vote to put an end to corruption.

Citizens of Centre county do not forget your duty on that day.

The public debt is now increasing at the rate of 70 millions a year, and if any one can afford a good excuse for it, we would like to have it. Doubling the President's salary the congressional salary grab, and such like leaks, is where we find the cause.

Some few men seem to object to the new Constitution because it permits women to be elected as school directors. Now this is only a trifle compared with the incalculable good contained in the balance, and this clause is mostly intended to take effect in large towns where there are mostly lady teachers employed, and where it suits some ladies much better than gentlemen to look after the schools. Besides this, no woman can be elected a director unless the men do it with their own votes. Let no honest voter choke at this little guat.

The leaders of the ballot-box stuffing gang, in Philadelphia, have succeeded in setting aside the ordinance of the constitutional convention, in order to hold the election under their own infamous machinery on next Tuesday, and throw up a large fraudulent majority against the new Constitution. They expect the people outside the city to remain indifferent, and that thus the Constitution will be defeated.

It now behooves every honest citizen in the state to go to work with redoubled energy to get out the vote. The Philadelphia and Pittsburg ring politicians can be crushed out now, if every honest man does his duty What say you reader, will you be at your post on Tuesday, 16th?

Any one wishing a paper from the state capital, should take the Morning Patriot. It is one of the ablest democratic organs in the state, and gives all the congressional, legislative, and other telegraphic news. See prospectus in another column.

In Pittsburg the "ring" have appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, to prevent the holding of an election for the new Constitution. If this action of the corruptionists does not stir up the friends of honest government, we do not think they can be stired up with even a red-hot poker. Who will neglect his duty on Tuesday next? In Philadelphia the ring has also appealed to the courts, to throw an obstacle in the way of the new Constitution.

Texas has gone democratic by 40,000 majority.

The Pittsburg ring did not succeed in getting an injunction to set aside the election for the Constitution.

One of the latest innovations in Washington is to be seen in the House of Representatives, where a special part of the gallery has just been set aside for the families of members of Congress exclusively, in imitation of and near that assigned to the diplomatic body. If this separation from the people means anything, it is an attempt to draw a line of distinction, to set up a superior class and to look down upon the constituency. This is the sort of republicanism which the so-called Republican party practises at Washington, and it is a very bad sort.

The Constitution And The Tax on Real Estate.

It was to be expected that the new Constitution would be criticised A free people, with whom freedom of individual opinion and action are cherished prerogatives, never unite with one accord in devising the means for attaining even a generally desired end. But we were not prepared for assaults upon the new Constitution which so deliberately impugn the intelligence of the people

A party organ at Harrisburg, failing to find plausible objections to the new Constitution, invents the falsehood that its adoption would restore the tax on real estate, and it has probably been accepted by other journals claiming respectability, without careful inquiry into the truthfulness of the charge In years past, our Legislature has passed special bills exempting the halls of associations, private schools, cemeteries owned by stockholders as speculations and various other classes of property from all taxation, except for State purposes, These acts made *exemptions* or *exceptions* from the uniform rule of taxation, and they grew in number from year to year, until many millions of property owned and used for private or speculative purposes, were exempt from all municipal taxation. *In Philad'a it grew to over ten millions,* and last winter the Legislature was compelled to take a backward step in the matter. It enacted a general law defining specifically the property to be exempted from the general tax laws—such as cemeteries without profit, purely charitable institutions, public buildings, &c. To guard against the evil of unequal taxation by discriminating acts of the Legislature in the future the convention defines specifically that only "public property used for public purposes, actual places of religious worship, places of burial not used or hired for private or corporate profit, and institutions of purely public charity' should hereafter be free from taxation and as there is other property of associations and of individuals, partially devoted to public or chartable purposes, which under no legislation is *exempt from the otherwise uniform tax laws of the State,* the convention adds the clause that "all laws exempting from taxation other than the property above enumerated shall be void.

To assume that the foregoing clause of the constitution will restore repealed laws which imposed uniform taxation is an absurdity so patent as to merit only contempt. While the author of the falsehood had his hand in, why did he not appeal to every other class of industry that has at some time been taxed by our laws? Why insult the farmers only by saying that the tax will be restored on real estate? Why not peddle the stupid folly to the railroad, to the manufacturers, and to other classes who have been taxed? Some years ago the Legislature taxed real estate uniformly for State purpose. When the resources of the Treasury warranted the change, the Legislature did not "exempt" real estate from taxation, but it repealed the law. In like manner a heavy tax was once imposed upon the tonage of our railroads. It was subsequently repealed. The Legislature also taxed manufactures by a uniform law. Last winter it did not "exempt" them from taxation, but repealed the law that imposed uniform taxes upon them. For several years a tax was levied upon the gross receipts of transportation companies. Last session the law was repealed, but the railroad and canal companies were not exempted from the operations of any uniform law. If the repealed tax upon real estate would be restored by the new constitution, every other tax ever repealed would also be restored. Of course no editor is so simple as not to know that a constitutional clause declaring void all special exemptions from the taxation of general laws, restores no repealed general statute, and the resort to such falsehood is a candid confession that the new constitution cannot be truthfully and honestly assailed.—*Press.*

THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS.

DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT SUSTAINING THE PETITION FOR AN INJUNCTION TO RESTRAIN THE COMMISSIONERS FROM ACTING.

Philadelphia, December 5.—The Supreme Court room, at twelve o'clock to-day, was packed with people who had been attracted by the announcement that at that hour the opinion of the court in the matter of the application to restrain the constitution from acting would be delivered. After the opening of the court Chief Justice Agnew delivered a long opinion, which was unanimously endorsed by the other judges, restraining the election commissioners from acting.

The decision was to the effect that the convention had not the extensive powers it had attempted to assert, and that it had been guilty of an act of attempted usurpation of authority in setting aside the election system prescribed for this city, and inaugurating a new one under which the election for the adoption or rejection of the constitution should be conducted.

The opinion further declared that the true interpretation of the phrase "and the manner in which this election shall be held" did not grant the convention the high authority it had endeavored to assume, and that to conduct this election in a way different from that of all general elections was an unwarranted exercise of authority which had not been given the members of that convention when they were delegated as the agents of the people to amend and revise the constitution of the state.

The little cloud between the three truly good men, Beecher, Bowen and Tilton, from being no bigger than a man's hand at first, has spread into an area of scandal that perhaps finds none of equal dimensions in the prior history of religion in this country. Its latest result has been the cutting away of Plymouth Congregational Church from all others of its denomination, consequent upon a disregard of discipline in the matter of the expulsion of Tilton. How much better it would be for Henry Ward Beecher to have answered "guilty," when first the charges that lie below all this excitement were brought against him, than to suffer the speculation that has since prevailed, and will continue to prevail until a simple question meets an answer as simple.

George H. Williams, of Oregon, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He will add nothing to the intellectual wealth of the Court, but is a safe, respectable lawyer. General B. H. Bristow has taken Mr. Williams place as Attorney General of the United States.

CAN CASTELAR BE SUSTAINED?

It will not be denied that the present relations between Spain and the United States are mainly owing to the disposition and efforts of President Castelar. Without his kindly and persistent labors the peace arrangements could not have been concluded, and the two nations would have drifted into a war. The Monarchists in Spain hate the United States as they hate all Republics. This country is constantly held up as a model when the people are called to arms to dethrone monarchs and assert their own rights. The history of the United States is a text-book for the patriots of the Old World, and hence the crowned heads are ready to strike us a blow whenever that can be done with safety to themselves. If, at the same time, they can force from station and power a patriot or friend of Republican governments in Europe, their work will produce double results. This will be their game in Spain. The Spanish Monarchists will endeavor to use the proposed settlement in the Virginius case to defeat Castelar and the Republican party, to tear down the Republic and build up a Monarchy in its place. In this task they will be readily sustained by their own adherents. They will need no stimulants of an extraordinary character to push them on to the task. At the same time, anti-Republican journals will endeavor to work upon the feelings of the masses by declaring that Castelar has trailed the Spanish flag in the dust at the bidding of the United States, and disgraced the banner of Spain by unjust and humiliating concessions These will be the means employed to create a revolution in Spain and drive Castelar from power.

Will they succeed? That is an interesting question for the people of the United States at this time. If Castelar remains at the helm of State in Spain, there will be no war between that country and the United States. That may be accepted as a certainty. On the contrary, if the Republic is overthrown, it is quite evident that trouble would arise in relation to the seizure of the Virginius and the cruel killing of her crew and passengers. The present state of affairs in Spain is not rosecolored for the Republicans. The war still continues. Both the Carlists and the Intrasigentes are in arms and operating against the government. "The latter," says the New York *Herald*, "still hold Cartagena, and, in spite of the reports to the contrary, it is not at all impossible that the government forces may have to go through some hard work before the rebels are subdued. However the contest may end, it is not to be denieded that the revolt in Cartagena will prove exhaustive of the nation's resources. The war in the North still continues, and it is now reported from Carlist sources that small-pox and typhus having broken out in the ranks of the Republicans, General Moriones is unable to make any offensive movement. The present crisis, it is more than possible, will result in another change of Ministers. It is not impossible that it may result in revolution and a restoration of the Monarchy."

In opposition to this view of the case can be set the evident fact that the great mass of the Spanish people are heartily in favor of a Republic. They also respect and have faith in Castelar, and will support his government with all their power. Prim cheated the people after the revolution of 1868. He promised them a Republic and gave them a Monarchy. He invited a foreign Prince to sit upon a throne at Madrid, instead of aiding in the election of a Spanish President. And he was assassinated. But Castelar has always been honest in his convictions, true to the people, true to the idea of a Republic. And now when that Republic needs friends the masses will uphold the President in his responsible duties. The fact that he made an honorable settlement of the Virginius case possible, will not weaken Castelar with the people of Spain when all the facts are understood Nor will his action give real additional strength to the Carlists or insurgents. The clamor will be evanescent in its effects. In the meantime the United States should assist the cause of the Republicans in Spain in all proper ways. A republic there is peace between Spain and the United States, peace on just, honorable terms, and the beginning of a policy which will eventually settle the Cuban difficulty. The question of the continuance of Castelar in power is therefore one that will arrest public attention in this country, at a time when peace or war hangs upon that contingency.—*Age.*

MESSRS. SUMNER, SCHURZ, AND FENTON.

The Republican members of the Senate at their caucus appointed a committee of seven Senators to revise the standing committees of the Senate. Senator Morton is chairman. The subject of restoring Messrs. Sumner, Schurz, and Fenton to full party relations was brought up and discussed, several Senators favoring such action on the part of the majority as should lead the Senators named to resume their participation in the Senate councils. Senator Conkling, however, thought that some guarantee for the future should be obtained from these Senators before they were allowed to resume party relations. It is understood that a majority agreed with Mr. Conkling, and that there is little chance for the return of Sumner and Fenton to their old places.

THE LATEST SUPREME COURT DECISION.

Briefly stated, the foundation doctrine of the opinion is this: Except by revolution, the people of the State of Pennsylvania have no power to alter or amend their form of government, except by permission of the Legislature. This doctrine pervades the whole paper, and is the bottom principle upon which the decree is based. In striving to exercise their "inherent power," to alter or amend their form of government, by peaceable proceedings in Convention, the people are confined to whatever limitations, conditions, restrictions, terms, the Legislature may see fit to impose, even although they may utterly defeat the prime object the people had in view in ordering a convention at all. If this be law, then there is a vast gap in the armor of legal protection which the people of this Commonwealth have supposed was thrown about them by their cherished "Declaration of Rights." If this in verity be law, it is not too soon for the people of the State to be made acquainted with it. Unwelcome as the decree of the Court will prove to be, this will be as nothing compared to the astounding message to the people of the State that their "inherent power," their "inalienable and indefeasible right," "at all times," "to alter, reform or abolish their form of government" by peaceable means, has been reduced to—*whatever the caprice of the Legislature* may see fit to allow. In the light of such a judgement what a hollow mockery does that grand second section of the inviolable "Bill of Rights" appear to be!—Public Ledger.

Prairie Fires In Kansas.

GREAT LOSSES OF PROPERTY—SAD INCIDENTS OF THE DEVASTATION.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Atchison, November 25.—Hardly a paper comes to hand which is not filled with reports of disastrous prairie fires, which, if not as fatal as those of September, have been eminently destructive of property. Many hundreds if not thousands of farmers have lost fences, barns, hay-stacks, gathered crops, all upon which they depended to meet their winter's expenses or feed their stock. The long drought had made all the country dry as tinder, and the fires broke out in so many different quarters and spread with such rapidity that it would be pardonable in a stranger to such scenes to think that a band of incendiaries was busily engaged in converting a smiling and prosperous campaign into a dreary, blackened, and inhospitable waste on which the very crows would scorn to settle.

To Eastern readers there would be nothing interesting in the particular details of these catastrophies. It would only be a long list of burned crops, fences and barns, lost stock, and occasional peril to human life. Allen, Brown Marshall, Nemaha, Dickinson, Davis, Pottawattomie, Morris, Riley, and Wabaunsee counties have been burned over till it is hardly an exaggeration to say that there is not standing barn, hay-rack, or cornshock. The track of a destroying army could not show more utter waste and ruin.

At Haddam five farms were whelmed in the burning tide, and all the hay, grain, and fencing upon them were destroyed, besides several barns, a house, and a lot of live stock. Four families, which on Monday of last week were prosperous must depend upon their neighbors for bread till next year.

Upon the Vermillion and Biscuit Fork, says a correspondent at Blue Rapids, "the wind was blowing a hurricane, and from the north came a dense cloud, which was thought to be snow." It was a prairie fire such as the oldest settler had never seen. The barned rows round houses and farms, the roads, even the rivers, offered no obstacle to its advance. Hedge-rows and trees were left "like so many old umbrella skeletons," to quote another eye witness. In its track of 600 miles at least 1,000 tons of hay were destroyed, 6,000 or 8,000 bushels of wheat and corn, straw, trees, and fences beyond computation. Barns, stables, and houses were blotted out by the fire and wind like scraps of paper. Mr. Farrant, on Biscuit Fork lost all his outbuildings, pig-pens, hay, straw, orchard and plantations; and so narrowly did his house escape that the fire carried away a hen house with 100 chickens not six feet away. At Mr. Ewing's farm the very well-curb was burned away, and the bucket fell into the well.

At Irving Mr. W. P. Day lost house, furniture stock and crops, and the fire burst in the windows of his father's house and set fire to the bed where his sick wife lay, so that she was only rescued with difficulty.

At Spring Creek two brothers, John and David Wapp, were trying to save a frightened horse from a burning stable when the building fell in upon them. John in his terror and excitement made no attempt to tear off his blazing clothing, but ran hither and thither shrieking for aid till the burned rags fell from his blistered body and left him naked in his agony. He died. His brother tore off his clothing and rolled himself upon the earth to extinguish the flames, but sustained fatal injuries.

In Anderson and Coffey counties the same work of devastation was done. Rev. A. K. Johnson writes that though his house was saved, so intense was the heat from the burning wood piles and outbuildings, the weather-boarding was covered with exuding resin as thick as drops of rain upon a window.

At Council Grove the estimate of damage is $60,000. Mr. Lindsay, returning from the creek with a team and wagon loaded with water, purposing to wet his building, found his retreat cut off by the fire. He whipped his horses to charge through the blazing belt, but they flung him off the wagon into the burning grass. He tried to struggle back but was blinded by smoke and flame. His blistered hands were unequal to the task of tearing off his clothing, and taking out his knife he cut off all that he wore, save his boots, which were charring on his feet. Help reached him in unutterable agony he had cut off one boot with an almost red-hot knife clasped in a bloody and fleshless hand. He will, it is feared, die. When the horses were found the wagon was burning and their harness on fire, and so hot were the chains that they could not be unfastened from the wagon save by flogging them till in their desperate struggles they broke away.

At Humboldt, where losses were very heavy, the cattle instinctively fled to the creeks, and remained with only their noses above water, bellowing piteously.

At McDowell's Creek narrators speak of flames filling the air apparently to a height of 300 feet, and advancing with the speed of a racehorse. One letter contains accounts of the destruction, partial or complete, of twenty-six adjacent farms.

These are some of the notes hastily gleaned from one day's papers. It is certain that many hundreds of people will have to depend on Christian charity for a living till next year, while even those who had more and lost less will be compelled to sell off their stock at any price (being unable to winter it), and work painfully for years to replace the wealth which in one fiery hour has been turned to bitter ashes and smoke.

Shipments of Clearfield coal over the Tyrone Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad for week ending Nov. 15, 1873, amounted to 15,863 tons and for the year 540,386 tons.

—We have received a copy of Vick's Floral Guide for 1874, which abounds in interesting matter to the horticulturist. It is published quarterly, and only 25 cts. a year. The Publisher, James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y., has been engaged in this business a great many years and is "master of the situation." Without much effort on his part his subscription list, not counting seed customers, contains some 50,000 names. We can cheerfully say, take the Guide and buy your seed from Vick.

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Large accessions to our geographical knowledge have been made by the indefatigable explorers of Africa.

The great political revolutions of the last decade, with the natural result of the lapse of time, have brought into public view a multitude of new men, whose names are in every one's mouth, and of whose lives every one is curious to know the particulars. Great battles have been fought and important sieges maintained, of which the details are as yet preserved only in the newspaper or in the transient publications of the day, but which ought now to take their place in permanent and authentic history.

In preparing the present edition for the press, it has accordingly been the aim of the editors to bring down the information to the latest possible dates, and to furnish an accurate account of the most recent discoveries in science, of every fresh production in literature, and of the newest inventions in the practical arts, as well as to give a succinct and original record of the progress of political and historical events.

The work has been begun after long and careful preliminary labor, and with the most ample resources for carrying it on to a successful termination.

None of the original stereotype plates have been used, but every page has been printed on new type, forming in fact a new Cyclopaedia, with the same plan and compass as its predecessor, but with a far greater pecuniary expenditure, and with such improvements in its composition as have been suggested by longer experience and enlarged knowledge

The illustrations which are introduced for the first time in the present edition have been added not for the sake of pictorial effect, but to give greater lucidity and force to the explanation in the text. They embrace all branches of science and of natural history, and depict the most famous and remarkable feature of scenery architecture, and art, as well as the various processes of mechanics and manufactures. Although intended for instruction rather than embellishment, no pains have been spared to insure their artistic excellence; the cost of their execution is enormous, and it is believed they will find a welcome reception as an admirable feature of the Cyclopaedia, and worthy of its high character.

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ELECTION PROCLAMATION.

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE ADOPTION OR REJECTION OF THE NEW OR AMENDED CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, In and by an ordinance, passed by the Convention for Amending the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on the 3rd day of November, A. D. 1873, it is made the duty of the Sheriff of each county to give notice of the election, to be held for the adoption or rejection of the Amended Constitution, proposed by said Convention, and by the laws of the Commonwealth. In pursuance thereof, I, B. F. SHAFFER, Sheriff of the county of Centre, do therefore, make known and give public notice to the electors of said county of Centre, that a Special Election will be held on the THIRD TUESDAY in December next, being the 16th day of the month, in the General Election Districts therein, and

I also hereby make known and give notice that the place of holding the aforesaid election in the several Boroughs and Townships within the County of Centre are as follows, to wit:

For the twp., of Haines, at the Public House of John Limbert.

For the twp., of Half Moon, at the School House in Stormstown,

For the twp., of Taylor, at the house erected for the purpose on the property of Leonard Merryman.

For the twp., of Potter, at the house of Daniel Weidensaul, Old Fort Hotel.

For the twp., of Gregg, at the public house owned by J. B. Fisher.

For the twp., of Ferguson, in the school house at Pine Grove.

For the twp., of Harris, in the school house at Boalsburg.

For the twp., of Patton, at the house of Peter Murray.

For the borough of Bellefonte and the townships of Spring and Benner, at the Court House in Bellefonte.

For the twp., of Walker, in the school house at Hublersburg.

For the boro' and township of Howard at the school house in said borough.

For the twp., of Rush, at the Cold Stream school house.

For the twp., of Snow Shoe, at the school house near Samuel Askey.

For the twp., of Marion, at the house of Joel King, in Jacksonville.

For the borough of Milesburg, at the school house in Milesburg.

For the twp., of Huston, at the house of John Reed.

For the twp., of Penn, at the house of W. L. Musser.

For the twp., of Liberty, in the school house at Eagleville.

For the twp., of Worth, at the school house in Port Matilda.

For the twp., of Burnside, at the house late of J. K. Boak.

For the twp., of Curtin, at the school house near Robt. Manns.

For the borough of Unionville and Union twp., at the new school house in Unionville.

For the borough of Philipsburg, at the public school house in said borough.

WHEREAS, By the act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An act to amend the several acts heretofore passed, to provide for the enrolling and calling out of the National Forces, and for other purposes," and approved March 3, 1865, all persons who have deserted the military or naval service of the United States, and who have not been discharged or relieved from penalty or disability therein provided, and forfeited their rights to citizenship, and their rights to become citizens, and are deprived of exercising any rights of citizenship thereof; and

WHEREAS, Persons not citizens of the United States are not, under the Constitution and laws of Pennsylvania, qualified electors of this Commonwealth.

Sec. 1 Be it enacted, by the senate and house of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same. That in all elections to be held hereafter in this Commonwealth it shall be unlawful for the Judge or Inspectors of any such election to receive any ballots from any person or persons embraced in the provisions and subject to the disability imposed by said act of Congress, approved March 3, 1865, and it shall be unlawful for any such person to offer to vote any ballot or ballots.

Sec. 2. That if any Judge or Inspector of Election, or any one of them, shall receive, or consent to receive any such unlawful ballot or ballots from any such disqualified person, he or they so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in any Court of Quarter Sessions of this Commonwealth, shall for each offence, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, and to undergo an imprisonment in the jail of the proper county for not less than sixty days.

Sec. 3. That if any person deprived of citizenship and disqualified as aforesaid, shall at any election hereafter to be held in the Commonwealth, vote, or tender to the officers thereof and offer to vote a ballot or ballots, any person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof in any Court of Quarter Sessions of the Commonwealth shall, for each offence, be punished in like manner as is provided in the preceeding section of this act, in the case of officers of election receiving such unlawful ballot or ballots.

Sec 4. That if any person shall hereafter persuade or advise any person or persons deprived of citizenship and disqualified as aforesaid, to offer any ballot or ballots to the officers of any election hereafter to be held in this Commonwealth, such person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof in any Court of Quarter Sessions in this Commonwealth, shall be punished in like manner as is provided in the second section of this act, in the case of officers of such election receiving such unlawful ballot or ballots.

And further, by the first section of the act of March 30, 1864.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same. That the qualified voters of the several counties of this Commonwealth at all general township, borough and special elections, are hereby, hereafter authorized and required to vote by tickets printed or written, or partly printed and partly written, severally classified as follows: One ticket shall embrace the names of all judges of courts voted for, and be labelled outside "Judiciary;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all State officers voted for, and be labelled "State;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all county officers voted for, including office of Senator, members of Congress, if voted for, and be labelled "County;" one ticket shall embrace the names of all township officers voted for, and be labelled "Township;" one ticket shall embrace the names of borough officers voted for, and be labeled "Borough;" and each class shall be deposited in seperate ballot boxes.

And as directed by said 13th section of the act of July, 1859, I hereby give notice that every person (excepting Justices of the Peace) who shall hold any office or appointment of profit or trust under the Government of the United States, or this State, or of any city or incorporated district, whether a commissioned officer or otherwise a subordinate officer or agent, who is or shall be employed under the legislative, executive or judiciary department of this State, or of the United States, or of any city or incorporated district, and also that every member of Congress, and of the State Legislature, and of the Select or Common Council of any city, or commissioners of any incorporated district, is by law incapable of holding or exercising at the same time the office or appointment of Judge, Inspector or Clerk of any election of this Commonwealth, and that no Inspector, Judge or other officer of any such election shall be eligible to any office to be then voted for.

And further, that by the 4th section of the act of April 16, 1840, it is provided that the aforesaid 13th section of July 2, 1839, shall not be so construted as to prevent any militia officer or borough officer from serving as Judge, Inspector or Clerk at any general or special election in this Commonwealth.

Whereas, by the act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act to enforce the right of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of this Union and for other purposes," the first and second sections of which are as follows:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all citizens of the United States who are or shall be otherwise qualified by law to vote any election by the people, in any State, Territory, district, county, city, parish, township, school district, municipality, or other territorial subdivision, shall be entitled and allowed to vote at all such elections, without distinction of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, any constitution, law, custom, usage or regulation of any State or Territory or by or under its authority, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That if by or under the authority of the Constitution or laws of any State or the laws of any Territory, any act is or shall be required to be done as a prerequisite or qualification for voting, and by such constitution or law persons or officers are or shall be charged with the performance of duties in furnishing to citizens an opportunity to perform such prerequisite, or to become qualified to vote, it shall be the duty of every such person and officer to give to all citizens of the United States the same and equal opportunity to perform such requisite, and to become qualified to vote without distinction of race, color or previous condition of servitude; and if any such person or officer shall refuse or knowingly omit to give full effect to this section, he shall for every such offense, forfeit and pay the sum of Five Hundred Dollars to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered by an action on the case with full cost and such allowance for counsel fees as the Court shall deem just; and shall also for every such offense, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than Five Hundred Dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one month and not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the Court.

And whereas, It is declared by the second section of Article VI of the Constitution of the United States that "this Constitution, and laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, shall be the supreme law of the land, * * Anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

Whereas, The Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, as follows:

Sec. 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Sec. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

And whereas, The Legislature of this Commonwealth, on the 6th day of April, A. D. 1870, passed an act entitled "A further supplement to the act relating to elections in this Commonwealth, the Tenth section of which provides as follows:

Sec. 10. That so much of every Act of Assembly as provides that only white freeman shall be entitled to vote or registered as voters, or as claiming to vote at any general or special election of this Commonwealth, be and the same is hereby repealed; and that hereafter all freemen, without distinction of color, shall be enrolled and registered according to the provisions of the first section of the act approved the 17th of April, 1869, entitled "An act further supplemental to the act relating to the elections of this Commonwealth;" and when otherwise qualified under existing laws be entitled to vote at all general and special elections in this Commonwealth,

AN ORDINANCE.

FOR SUBMITTING THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA TO A VOTE OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS THEREOF, AS PASSED SECOND READING

Be it ordained by the Constitutional Convention of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

1. That the amended Constitution prepared by this Convention, be submitted to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth for their adoption or rejection, at an election to be held on the third Tuesday of December next; except as hereinafter ordered and directed, the said election shall be held and conducted by the regular election officers in the several election districts throughout the Commonwealth, under all the regulations and provisions of existing laws relating to general elections; and the sheriffs of the several counties shall give at least twenty days notice of said election by proclamation:

2. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall, at least twenty days before the said election, furnish to the Commissioners of each county a sufficient number of properly prepared circulars of instructions. The Commissioners of the several counties shall cause to be printed at least three times as many ballots of affirmative votes as there are voters in each county—and the same number of negative votes; and the said Commissioners shall, at least five days before said election, cause to be fairly distributed to the several election districts in their respective counties, the said ballots, tally-lists, returns, circulars of instructions, and such other books and papers as may be necessary. The ballots shall be printed or written in the following form: On the outside the words "New Constitution;" in the inside for all persons giving affirmative votes the words "For the New Constitution," and for all persons giving negative votes the words "Against the New Constitution."

3. If it shall appear that a majority of the votes polled are for the new Constitution then it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, but if it shall appear that a majority of the votes polled were against the new Constitution, then it shall be rejected and be null and void.

4. Five Commissioners of Election, viz., Edwin H. Fitler, Edward Browning, John F. Verree, Henry S. Hagert and John O. James, are hereby appointed by this Convention, who shall have direction of the election upon this amended Constitution in the city of Philadelphia. The said Commissioners shall be duly sworn or affirmed to perform their duties with impartiality and fidelity. They shall also have power to fill vacancies in their own number. It shall be the duty of said Commissioners, or a majority of them, and they shall have authority to make a registration of voters for the several election districts of said city, and to furnish the lists so made to the election officers of each precinct on election; to distribute the ballots of said city provided for by this ordinance, to be used at the election; to appoint a judge and two inspectors for each election division, by whom the election therein shall be held and conducted, and to give all necessary instructions to the election officers regarding their duties in holding the election and in making returns thereof. No person shall serve as an election officer who would be disqualified under section 13, article 8, of the new Constitution. The general return of the election in the said city shall be opened, computed, and certified before the said commissioners, and with their approval, which approval shall be indorsed upon the return. They shall make report, directed to the President of this Convention, of their official action under this ordinance and of ascertaining the conduct of the said election within the said city.

The Judges and Inspectors aforesaid shall conduct the election in all respects conformably to the general election laws of this Commonwealth, and with like powers and duties to those of ordinary election officers. Each Inspector shall appoint one clerk to assist the Board in the performance of its duties, and all the election officers shall be duly sworn or affirmed according to law, and shall possess all the qualifications required by law of election officers of this Commonwealth. At said election any duly qualified elector who shall be unregistered, shall be permitted to vote upon making proof of his rights to the election officers, according to the general election laws of this Commonwealth. Return Inspectors and their clerks and an hourly count of the votes shall be dispensed with, but overseers of election may be selected for any precinct by said Election Commissioners, whose duties and powers shall be the same as those of overseers of election in said city under existing election laws applicable thereto. Returns of the election shall be made in said city as in the case of an election for Governor, but a triplicate general return of said city shall be made out and forwarded to the President of this Convention at Harrisburg; as in ordinance hereinafter provided in case of county returns.

5. In each of the Counties of the Commonwealth (except Philadelphia,) the returns of the election shall be made as in the case of an election for Governor, but the county judges in each county shall make out a triplicate county return and transmit the same, with in five days after the election, directed to the President of this Convention, at Harrisburg.

Done in Convention this Third day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

JOHN H. WALKER, President

D. L. IMBRIE, Clerk.
A true copy of ordinance of submission.

M. S. QUAY,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

It shall be the duty of the several assessors of each district to attend at the place of holding every general, special or township election, during the whole time said election is kept open, for the purpose of giving information to the inspector and judges, when called on relative to the right of any person assessed by them to vote at such elections, or such other matters in relation to the assessments of voters as the said inspectors or either of them shall from time to time require.

No person shall be permitted to vote at any election as aforesaid, other than a freeman of the age of twenty-one years or more, who shall have resided in the state at least one year, and in the election district where he offers his vote at least ten days immediately preceding such election and within two years paid a state or county tax which shall have been assessed at least ten days before the election. But a citizen of the United States who has previously been a qualified voter of this state and removed therefrom and returned, and who shall have resided in the election district and paid taxes, as aforesaid, shall be entitled to vote after residing in this state six months: *Provided,* That the freemen, citizens of the United States, between twenty-two years who have resided in an election disirctias aforesaid, shall be entitled to vote although they shall not have paid taxes.

No person shall be permitted to vote whose name is not contained in the list of taxable inhabitants furnished by the commissioners unless, First he produces a receipt for the payment within two years of a state or county tax assessed agreeable to the constitution and give satisfactory evidence, either on his oath or affirmation or the oath or affirmation of another, that he has paid such a tax, or on failure to produce a receipt shall make oath to the payment thereof. Second, if he claim the right to vote by being an elector between the age of twenty-one and twenty-two years, shall depose on oath or affirmation that he has resided in this state at least one year before his application and make such proof of residence in the district as is required by this act, whereupon the name of the person thus admitted to vote shall be inserted in the alphabetical list by the inspectors and a note made opposite thereto by writing the word "tax" if he shall be admitted to vote by reason of having paid tax; or the word "age" if he shall be admitted to vote by reason of such age, shall be called out to the clerk, who shall make the like notes on the list of voters kept by him.

In all cases where the name of the person claiming to vote is not found on the list furnished by the commissioners and assessors, or his right to vote, whether found thereon or not, is objected to by any qualified citizen, it shall be the duty of the inspectors to examine such person on oath as to his qualifications, and if he claims to have resided within the state for one year or more, his oath shall be sufficient proof thereof, but shall make proof by at least one competent witness, who shall be a qualified voter, that he has resided in the district for more than ten days next immediately preceeding such election, and shall also himself swear that his bonafide residence, in pursuance of his lawful calling, is in said district, and that he did not remove into said district for the purpose of voting therein.

Every person qualified as aforesaid, and who shall make due proof, if required, of the residence and payment of taxes as aforesaid, shall be admitted to vote in the township, ward or district in which he shall reside.

If any person shall prevent or attempt to prevent any officer of this election under this act from holding such election, or use or threaten any violence to any such officer, or shall interrupt or improperly interfere with him in the execution of his duty, or shall block up the window, or avenue to any window where the same may be holding or shall riotously disturb the peace at such election, or shall use any intimating threats, force or violence, with design to influence unduly or over awe any elector, or to prevent him from voting or to restrain the freedom of choice, such person on conviction shall be fined any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and imprisoned for any time not less than three nor more than twelve months, if it shall be