THE
"CLEARFIELD REPUBLICAN,"
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, BY
GEORGE R. GOODLANDER,
CLEARFIELD, PA.
ESTABLISHED IN 1827.
The largest Circulation of any Newspaper in North Central Pennsylvania.

Terms of Subscription.
If paid in advance, or within 3 months...$2 00
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GEORGE R. GOODLANDER,
Editor and Publisher.

CLEARFIELD REPUBLICAN.

GEO. R. GOODLANDER, Proprietor. PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN. TERMS—$2 per annum in Advance.

VOL. 49--WHOLE NO. 2435. CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1875. NEW SERIES--VOL. 16, NO. 34.

Cards.

JOHN D. THOMPSON,
Justice of the Peace and Scrivener,
Curwensville, Pa.
Collections made and money promptly paid over. feb22'71tf

GEO. ALBERT.....HENRY ALBERT.....W. ALBERT
W. ALBERT & BROS.,
Manufacturers & extensive Dealers in
Sawed Lumber, Square Timber, &c.,
WOODLAND, PENN'A.
Orders solicited. Bills filled on short notice and reasonable terms.
Address Woodland P. O., Clearfield Co., Pa.
e25-1y W ALBERT & BROS.

FRANCIS COUTRIET,
MERCHANT,
Frenchville, Clearfield County, Pa.
Keeps constantly on hand a full assortment of Dry Goods, Hardware, Groceries, and everything usually kept in a retail store, which will be sold, for cash, as cheap as elsewhere in the county.
Frenchville, June 27, 1867-1y.

THOMAS H. FORCEE,
DEALER IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE,
GRAHAMTON, Pa.
Also, extensive manufacturer and dealer in Square Timber and Sawed Lumber of all kinds.
Orders solicited and all bills promptly filled. [1y18'72

REUBEN HACKMAN,
House and Sign Painter and Paper Hanger,
Clearfield, Penn'a.
Will execute jobs in his line promptly and in a workmanlike manner. apr4,67

G. H. HALL,
PRACTICAL PUMP MAKER,
NEAR CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.
Pumps always on hand and made to order on short notice. Pipes bored on reasonable terms. All work warranted to render satisfaction, and delivered if desired. my26:1ypd

E. A. BIGLER & CO.,
DEALERS IN
SQUARE TIMBER,
and manufacturers of
ALL KINDS OF SAWED LUMBER.
8-7'72 CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.

JAS. B. GRAHAM,
dealer in
Real Estate, Square Timber, Boards,
SHINGLES, LATH, & PICKETS,
9:10'72 Clearfield, Pa.

JAMES MITCHELL,
DEALER IN
Square Timber & Timber Lands,
je11'73 CLEARFIELD, PA.

H. F. NAUGLE,
WATCH MAKER & JEWELER,
and dealer in
Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silver and Plated Ware, &c.,
je19'72 CLEARFIELD, PA.,

S. I. SNYDER,
PRACTICAL WATCHMAKER
AND DEALER IN
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry,
MARKET ST., NEAR MAIN,
CLEARFIELD, PA.
All kinds of repairing in my line promptly attended to. April 23, 1874.

REMOVAL.
REIZENSTEIN & BERLINER,
wholesale dealers in
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,
Have removed to 187 Church street, between Franklin and White sts., New York. [1y31'72

JAMES H. LYTLE,
No. 4 Pie's Opera House, Clearfield, Pa.
Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, Vegetables, Fruits, Flour, Feed, etc., etc.
apr14'75-tf

JAMES E. WATSON & CO.,
REAL ESTATE BROKERS,
CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.
Houses and Offices to let, Collections promptly made, and first-class Coal and Fire-Clay Lands and Town property for sale. Office in Western Hotel Building (2d floor), Second St. [my13'75y

D. M. DOHERTY,
FASHIONABLE BARBER & HAIR DRESSER.
CLEARFIELD, PA.
Shop next door to Weaver & Betts' store, Second street.
july 14, '75-y

HARRY SNYDER,
(Formerly with Lew Schuler.)
BARBER AND HAIRDRESSER.
Shop on Market St., opposite Court House. A clean towel for every customer. may 19, '75.

KRATZER & LYTLE,
AGENTS IN CLEARFIELD COUNTY FOR
LORILLARD'S
Celebrated Brands of
Smoking & Chewing Tobaccos.
We are enabled to wholesale to dealers throughout the county at city prices.
KRATZER & LYTLE,
je3:74-tf Clearfield, Pa.

UNDERTAKING.

The undersigned are now fully prepared to carry on the business of
UNDERTAKING,
AT REASONABLE RATES,
And respectfully solicit the patronage of those needing such services.
JOHN TROUTMAN,
JAMES L. LEAVY.
Clearfield, Pa., Feb. 13, 1874.

LIME! LIME!
The undersigned is now prepared to furnish the public with an excellent quality of
Bellefonte Wood-Burned Lime,
for plastering purposes, by the large or small quantity. Can be found for the present at Pie's new building, on Market street.
sept1-tf L. K. McCULLOUGH.

MITCHELL WAGONS.
The Best is the Cheapest!
Thomas Reilly has received another large lot of "Mitchell Wagons," which are among the very best manufactured, and which he will sell at the most reasonable rates. His stock includes almost all descriptions of wagons—largeand small, wide and narrow track. Call and see them.
apr8'74 THOMAS REILLY.

JOHN A. STADLER,
BAKER, Market St., Clearfield, Pa.
Fresh Bread, Rusk, Rolls, Pies and Cakes on hand or made to order. A general assortment of Confectionaries, Fruits and Nuts in stock.—Ice Cream and Oysters in season. Saloon nearly opposite the Postoffice. Prices moderate.
March 10-'75.

G. S. FLEGAL,
Ironsides Store,
PHILLIPSBURG, PA.
DEALER IN
HARDWARE, STOVES, HEATERS, RANGES, WOOD AND WILLOW WARE.
AND MANUFACTURER OF
TIN, SHEET-IRON AND COPPERWARE.
Presquisle Street,
Phillipsburg, Centre Co., Pa.
26,May 1875.

Cards.

THOS. H. MURRAY. CYRUS GORDON.
MURRAY & GORDON,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
9:26'74 CLEARFIELD, PA.

FRANK FIELDING,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Clearfield, Pa.
Will attend to all business entrusted to him promptly and faithfully. nov12'73

WILLIAM A. WALLACE. DAVID L. KREBS.
HARRY F. WALLACE. JOHN W. WRIGHT.
WALLACE & KREBS,
(Successors to Wallace & Fielding,)
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
11-1773 Clearfield, Pa.

A. G. KRAMER,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Real Estate and Collection Agent,
CLEARFIELD, PA.,
Will promptly attend to all legal business entrusted to his care.
Office in Pie's Opera House, second floor. april 1-6m*

JOSEPH S. M'ENALLY. DANIEL W. M'CURDY.
McENALLY & McCURDY,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,
Clearfield, Pa.
Legal business attended to promptly with fidelity. Office on Second street, above the First National Bank. jan:1'74

G. R. BARRETT,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW,
CLEARFIELD, PA.
Having resigned his Judgeship, has resumed the practice of the law in his old office at Clearfield, Pa. Will attend the courts of Jefferson and Elk counties when specially retained in connection with resident counsel. 2:14:72

WM. M. McCULLOUGH,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Clearfield, Pa.
Office in Court House, (Sheriff's Office). Legal business promptly attended to. Real estate bought and sold. je11'73

A. W. WALTERS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Clearfield, Pa.
Office in Graham's Row. [dec3-1y

H. W. SMITH,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
9:11:73 Clearfield, Pa.

WALTER BARRETT,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Clearfield, Pa.
Office in Old Western Hotel building, corner of Second and Market Sts. [nov21,66.

ISRAEL TEST,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Clearfield, Pa.
Office in Pie's Opera House. [jy11,'67

JOHN H. FULFORD,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Clearfield, Pa.
Office in Pie's Opera House, Room No. 5. Jan. 3, 1874.

JOHN L. CUTTLE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
and Real Estate Agent, Clearfield, Pa.
Office on Third street, bet. Cherry & Walnut.
Respectfully offers his services in selling and buying lands in Clearfield and adjoining counties; and with an experience of over twenty years as a surveyor, flatters himself that he can render satisfaction. [Feb. 28:63:tf.

J. BLAKE WALTERS,
REAL ESTATE BROKER,
AND DEALER IN
Saw Logs and Lumber,
CLEARFIELD, PA.
Office in Graham's Row. 1:25:71

J. J. LINGLE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
1:13 Osceola, Clearfield Co., Pa. ypd

J. S. BARNHART,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Bellefonte, Pa.
Will practice in Clearfield and all of the Courts of the 25th Judicial district. Real estate business and collection of claims made specialties. n1'71

DR. W. A. MEANS,
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON,
LUTHERSBURG, PA.
Will attend professional calls promptly. aug10'70

DR. T. J. BOYER,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,
Office on Market Street, Clearfield, Pa.
Office hours: 8 to 12 a. m., and 1 to 8 p. m.

DR. E. M. SCHEURER,
HOMŒOPATHIC PHYSICIAN,
Office in residence on Market st.
April 24, 1872. Clearfield, Pa.

J. H. KLINE, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON,
HAVING located at Pennfield, Pa., offers his professional services to the people of that place and surrounding country. All calls promptly attended to. oct. 12-tf.

DR. J. P. BURCHFIELD,
Late Surgeon of the 53d Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, having returned from the Army, offers his professional services to the citizens of Clearfield county.
Professional calls promptly attended to. Office on Second street, formerly occupied by Dr. Woods. [apr4,'66-tf

DR. H. B. VAN VALZAH,
CLEARFIELD, PENN'A.
OFFICE IN MASONIC BUILDING.
Office hours—From 12 to 2 P. M.
May 12, 1875.

DR. JEFFERSON LITZ,
WOODLAND, PA.
Will promptly attend all calls in the line of his profession. nov.19-73

G. W. WEAVER & CO.,
DRUGGISTS & APOTHECARIES,
CURWENSVILLE, PA.
Dealers in all kinds of Drugs, Medicines, Fancy Goods and Druggists' Sundries.
Curwensville, March 17, 1875.

GEORGE M. FERGUSON,
WITH
W. V. LIPPINCOTT & CO.,
dealers in
HATS & CAPS, BOOTS & SHOES,
3:17 821 Market Street, Philadelphia. 75-tf

A. H. MITTON,
Manufacturer and dealer in
Harness, Saddles and Bridles,
Collars, Whips, Brushes, Fly Nets, Trimmings, Horse Blankets, &c.
Vaseline, Frank Miller's and Neatsfoot Oils.
Agent for Bailey and Wilson's Buggies.
Orders and repairing promptly attended to. Shop on Market street, Clearfield, Pa., in room formerly occupied by Jas. Alexander. [4:14'75

Livery Stable.
THE undersigned begs leave to inform the public that he is now fully prepared to accommodate all in the way of furnishing Horses, Buggies, Saddles and Harness, on the shortest notice and on reasonable terms. Residence on Locust street, between Third and Fourth.
GEO. W. GEARHART.
Clearfield, Feb. 4, 1874.

THE RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

BY SAMUEL T. SPEAR, D. D.

Judge Cooley, of Michigan, in an able article on the constitutional guaranty of a Republican government in the states, published in the last January and February number of *The International Review*, uses the following language in respect to the reconstruction measures adopted by Congress:

"In adjusting the relations of the rebel states to the general Government and in conforming their constitutions and laws to the condition of affairs which accompanied and followed the destruction of slavery, many things were done which all must concede it was impossible to justify by the letter of the constitution and which their authors and supporters must defend on the ground that from the extraordinary circumstances such an imperious necessity had sprung as the framers of the Constitution could not possibly anticipate and, therefore, could not provide for. How far this defense should in any particular instance be accepted as conclusive and satisfactory is a question not necessarily involved in the present discussion. What now concerns us is that these extraordinary cases of congressional intervention shall stand exceptional and not be justified on the guaranty of the Constitution and accepted as guides and precedents for future action. To accept them as such would be to put an end to the constitutional union made known to us in the writings of the federalist and expounded in the decisions of Marshall, Story, Taney and Chase."

The process by which the fourteenth amendment was ratified is, we presume, one of the things to which Judge Cooley here refers. To understand this process, we need to recur for a moment to the ratification of the thirteenth amendment proposed by Congress, February 1, 1865, and declared on the 18th of December, 1865, to be ratified by the vote of twenty-seven states. Among the states thus voting we find Virginia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama—eight in all. The constitutional capacity of these states as then organized to vote upon the amendment was assumed in submitting it to them, and then assumed again in counting their votes. Except upon this assumption, applicable to every one of them, the amendment has never been constitutionally adopted. The whole number of states at the time was thirty-six of which twenty-seven states were just three-quarter.

The fourteenth amendment was on the 18th of June, 1866, proposed to the legislatures of the several states by a concurrent resolution of the two houses of Congress. The result of the voting upon this amendment up to April 1, 1867, was as follows: 1. Twenty-one of the so-called loyal states had ratified it, and three—namely, Iowa, California and Nebraska—had acted not at all. 2. Ten of the so-called insurrection states—namely, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas—had voted against it. Thus the record stood after the proposition had been before the country for nearly a year. The amendment, of course, had failed of being ratified. The affirmative votes of the three states that had not acted at all would not be sufficient for its adoption. Nebraska having been admitted into the union on the 1st of March, 1867, the number of states was then thirty-seven.

Congress, by the reconstruction act passed on the 2d of March, 1867, declared "the rebel states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Arkansas," to be without "legal state governments," divided them into "military districts," placed each district under the authority of an army officer, to be appointed by the President, and by the supplemental acts of March 23 and July 19, 1867, provided for the adoption of new Constitutions and the creation of new state governments in these states. The fifth section of the first act stated, as follows, the conditions upon which these states should be entitled to representation in Congress.

"That when the people of any one of said rebel states shall have formed a constitution of government in conformity with the constitution of the United States in all respects, framed by a convention of delegates elected by the male citizens of said State twenty-one years old and upward, of whatever race, color, or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of such election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the rebellion or for felony at common law; and when such constitution shall provide that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed by all such persons as have the qualifications herein stated for electors of delegates; and when such constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the persons voting on the question of ratification who are qualified as electors for delegates and when such constitution shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval and Congress shall have approved the same; and when said state, by a vote of its legislature, elected under said constitution, shall have adopted the amendment to the constitution of the United States proposed by the thirty-ninth Congress and known as article fourteen; and when said article shall have become a part of the constitution of the United States, said state shall be declared entitled to representation in Congress and Senators and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom, on taking the oaths prescribed by law; and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this act shall be inoperative in said state: *Provided*, that no person excluded from the privilege of holding office by said proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States shall be eligible as a member of the convention to frame a constitution for any of the said rebel states, nor shall any such person vote for members of such convention."

The ratification of the fourteenth amendment, as one of the results of this act and the two acts supplemental thereto, and of the proceedings taken under them, was first announced by Secretary Seward, on the 20th of July, 1868, or about two years after its submission to the states. Mr. Seward first enumerates twenty-one states that had ratified the amendment up to April 1st, 1867, together with Iowa and Nebraska, that ratified it subsequently, thus making twenty-three in all. He also specifies the affirmative vote of "newly-constituted and newly-established bodies avowing themselves to be and acting as the legislatures respectively of the states of Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Alabama—six states in all—carrying up the whole number of such votes, counting the states, to twenty-nine, which would give the required three-fourths of all the states. He further mentions the fact that Ohio and New Jersey, though they had voted for the amendment the former in 1867 and the latter in 1866, and were counted in the above statement, had, nevertheless, withdrawn their consent by resolutions of their respective legislatures, which, if the withdrawal be valid, would reduce the affirmative votes to twenty-seven, or less than the requisite number.

The substance of this official statement was that, *if* the withdrawal of their affirmative votes by Ohio and New Jersey was not valid, and *if* the affirmative votes of the "newly constituted and newly established bodies" calling themselves "legislatures" of the six states named were valid, then the amendment was constitutionally ratified; but if either of these suppositions failed then it was not so ratified, since either would defeat it. If a state can change its vote, then the votes of Ohio and New Jersey in favor of the amendment should not be counted, these states having withdrawn their consent prior to the counting; and in this event the vote for adoption would not be that of three-fourths of all the states. If, on the other hand, a state cannot change its votes, then the votes of Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana and Alabama, having been at first against the amendment, were incapable of being changed; and in this event their subsequent votes were a nullity, and hence the amendment was not ratified. Upon either supposition it had failed of securing the requisite majority of all the states.

The statement of Secretary Seward was not satisfactory to Congress, and hence, on the next day, July, 21, 1868, a joint resolution was passed by the two houses, enumerating twenty-nine states as having ratified the amendment, declaring it to be "part of the constitution of the United States," and requiring it to be "duly promulgated as such by the secretary of state."—This resolution did not change the facts as previously stated by Secretary Seward, or his duty as defined by the law of 1818. It so happened, however, that Georgia ratified the amendment on the very day in which the resolution was passed, though it was not included in the enumeration by Congress, the fact not being then officially certified.

Seven days after the joint resolution of Congress and eight days after his first publication—namely, July 28, 1868—Secretary Seward, in obedience to the order of Congress, made a second official statement. Reciting the law of 1818, which requires the secretary of state to promulgate the ratification of amendments adopted "according to the provisions of the constitution," also the amendment as proposed in 1866 and the joint resolution of Congress of July 21, 1868, and declaring that "notice had been received at the department of state that the legislatures of the several states next hereinafter named have, at the times herein respectively mentioned, taken the proceedings hereinafter recited upon or in relation to the ratification of the said proposed amendment, called article fourteen," he gave a statement of the voting upon the amendment by the legislatures of the several states, and then, as directed to do by Congress, certified to its adoption as "a part of the constitution of the United States." He does not answer for all of these "proceedings" or declare all of them to be regular, but simply puts himself upon the joint resolution of Congress, passed eight days before.

According to this final statement, we have twenty-five states that had voted for the amendment and five states that had voted against it without any subsequent change in either class; two states—namely, Ohio and New Jersey—that, having at first voted for it, subsequently recalled their vote; and three states—namely, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina—that, having at first rejected the amendment, ratified it after being reconstructed under the acts of March and July, 1867.—Only three of the so-called rebel states now reported as voting for the amendment after their reconstruction by Congress are reported as having voted against it; whereas it had been rejected by ten of these states up to April 1st, 1867. Counting, then, the twenty-five states that had voted for the amendment, and adding the five states that had voted both ways, as given in this statement, and considering them all to be affirmative, we have, as the result, thirty ratifying states when Secretary Seward published his final certificate. This, being more than three-fourths of all the states, was sufficient to adopt the amendment "according to the provisions of the constitution," if the "proceedings" or measures procuring the result were constitutionally valid.

Looking now at a constitutional question in respect to the reconstruction measures of Congress by which this ratification was secured, we are struck, in the first place, with the fact that seven of the so-called rebel states, whose legislatures, as then organized, had voted in the summer and autumn of 1865 for the thirteenth amendment, and without the counting of whose votes it was not ratified at all, had their state governments swept into non-existence and were placed for the time being under military governments by the reconstruction acts of March, 1867. If these states were competent in 1865 to vote on an amendment to the constitution, if they did vote for the thirteenth amendment, and if by their vote, in connection with that of other states, it was constitutionally ratified, then they were at the time in the union, had "lawful state governments," and were in a condition to exercise their sovereignty in accepting or rejecting an amendment to the constitution of the United States. This necessarily follows from the constitutional validity of their ratifying action.—What, then, had occurred between the summer and autumn of 1865 and March, 1867, to give Congress the right to dispossess these state governments that were sufficiently legal to ratify an amendment and reconstruct them *de novo*? There was no renewal of the rebellion, no resistance to the laws of the United States, and no destruction of the state governments in existence and in action when the thirteenth amendment was ratified. The simple truth is that nothing had occurred to change the constitutional status of these states from what it was when their legislatures ratified this amendment.—Their condition in March, 1867, considered constitutionally, was precisely what it was when their votes helped to put the thirteenth amendment into the fundamental law of the land.

In the next place we are struck with the fact that Congress, by the reconstruction act of March and July, 1867, exercised a power in respect to the elective franchise which it certainly did not possess under the constitution of the United States. It provided, in effect, that the delegates to the conventions that were to frame new constitutions for these states should be elected by "the male citizens twenty-one years old and upward, of whatever race, color or previous condition," and that the same persons should vote on the question of ratifying these constitutions.—Now, the fact being admitted that these states were states, and not mere territories—and if they were not such they could not have participated in the ratification of the thirteenth amendment—then Congress had no more power to do this than it had to provide that women and minors should vote. The constitution, as it then stood and as it now stands, gives Congress no authority to determine who shall exercise the elective franchise in the several states. The supreme court of the United States, in the recent case of Mrs. Minor, said: "The United States has no voters and no one can vote for federal without being competent to vote for state officers." The qualifications which create this competency to vote for state officers do not fall within the jurisdiction of Congress at all; and, hence, any legislation by Congress that purports to define these qualifications is unconstitutional.

In the third place, the reconstruction act of March, 1867, while destroying ten state governments and providing for the creation of ten others, declares that no one of the states involved shall be represented in Congress without previously ratifying the fourteenth amendment: To this feature there are two constitutional objections. The first is that, if a state be competent to vote upon an amendment at all, it has the right by the constitution to be represented in Congress, and Congress cannot, without violating the constitution, make the enjoyment of that right dependent upon its acceptance of an amendment. If a state has the power to accept, it has the same power to reject. To submit an amendment with the provision that it must be accepted as the condition of representation is constitutionally absurd. The other objection is that the constitution makes each house of Congress the exclusive and final "judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members;" and hence, no law passed by the two houses can have the least authority over the direction of either house. The act is, moreover, exposed to the further objection of asking a state to vote upon an amendment and at the same time putting it in the condition of *duress*, which is a virtual coercion to vote in a certain way, wholly inconsistent with its right to accept or reject the amendment. It is the dictation of Congress, against the entire spirit and letter of the constitution.

In the fourth place, the act makes the right of representation in Congress dependent not merely upon voting for the fourteenth amendment, but also upon its adoption by the requisite number of States. An affirmative vote, in order to secure representation, must be accompanied by a sufficient number of such votes to ratify the amendment. There is not a syllable in the constitution which gives to Congress the power to fix any such condition. A State that can vote on an amendment has the right of representation in Congress, no matter which way it votes, or how other States vote, or whether the amendment be adopted or not.

Finally, the proviso of the act declares that "no person excluded from the privilege of holding office by the said proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States shall be eligible to election as the member of a convention to frame a constitution for any of the said rebel States, nor shall any such persons vote for members of such convention." That is to say, in plain English, Congress, in part, at least, makes the amendment practically operative before it is adopted, and so far enacts it by its own authority. Why, then, go through the form of adopting it at all? Why not establish all its provisions by congressional legislation?

We submit this history and these brief comments in illustration of the remarks of Judge Cooley quoted in the commencement of this article. The fourteenth amendment in its contents is right; but in the methods adopted by Congress to secure its ratification hardly anything on constitutional grounds can be more objectionable.—Justified these methods cannot be except upon that theory of necessity which overrides all constitutions and all laws. Let them never be quoted as precedents. Accepted as such, they would put it in the power of Congress to do anything it pleases with the States and with their governments.—*Independent.*

THE DEFALCATION EPIDEMIC.

Almost every passing day brings its story of some fresh defalcation in public or private trust, and the multitude of business failures often present the most painful exhibitions of perfidy in the dealings of men with each other. What we thoughtlessly call an epidemic is so but in name, for it is only the logical result of a long tolerated vicious system of business that is now just ripening its harvest of disaster and shame. It is not because people have suddenly become dishonest, but because the necessities of the times make it impossible longer to hide dishonesty, and throws upon the surface of society the hideous sores that have gradually reached toward the vitals until the pollution can no longer be concealed. No section of the country, no class of citizens have escaped this crime. It has stained the pulpit and the altar, the inner temples of political power, the sanctuaries of our corporate trusts, the private business circles where men meet face to face, and in all it has planted its sin and wrought its desolation. Our daily columns are scarcely complete without this seasoning for the readers of the world's passing lessons, and distrust comes with its horrid spectres to paralyze confidence and business. Who or what will next receive the blow is the inquiry of every one who must trust his fellow in the transactions of life, and often the most innocent are borne down by unspoken and unjust suspicion, while the most guilty command the confidence of those who sooner or later must be their victims.

Men are no better and no worse now than they have been for ages past. Occasions may be made favorable to the growth of fraud, but men are neither more nor less than men, whether of this or any other age of our civilization. In tides of severe exactions, when profligacy is shunned because its retribution is patent to all, we find honesty hand in hand with economy; but when speculation sweeps a tidal wave over any people its evils linger after its currents, have receded to its legitimate channels again. Fifteen years ago the people of this country were unsettled in all their business rules by the unnatural revolutions of a gigantic civil war. While it developed the sublimest attributes of sacrifice and patriotism, it also quickened cupidity and speculation to a flood-tide. Money was superabundant, because the government itself was directly or indirectly the great market for the products of our industries, and the steady and often rapid growth of values bewildered men with the measure of our profits. Fortune, usually so fickle and faithless to her wooers, lavishes her favors upon all classes, and the demoralization that surrenders patient, productive industry for the thrift of greedy speculation, permeated every artery of trade and almost every class of men. Extravagance, ever the handmaid of easily acquired wealth, grew into monstrous proportions and power, and just as profligacy widened and deepened, honesty and fair-dealing were dwarfed and crippled. Venturers were comparatively safe for profits were reasonably certain, and the tempest had an easy task to make men appropriate what they did not own because of the ability to restore, by some turn of fortune was not doubted. The rich made vulgar display of their riches, and the subordinates caught the contagion of their masters. To speculate, to display, to swell the throng of pretenders in social life, and to win the fame of the clever and successful, controlled the currents of ambition, and who of those started on such a plan could take pause at the proper moment and save themselves?

At last the season of reckoning has come, and how many are utterly unprepared for it the world will not know until the bottom of depression shall have been reached, and prosperity is founded again on the ruins of speculative madness. Many defalcations were made apparent when the tide of reduction in values set in, and many more have struggled from day to day and month to month, usually involving themselves deeper with each effort to retrieve themselves, and are now completing the circle of our business misfortunes, as they follow each other in quick succession in exposure to the public. These are but the logical results of the unavoidable departure from sound business principles enforced by an unnatural war, and not until the restoration to honest production and just compensation will such disasters cease. It is reasonable to hope that the sore lessons of revulsion are well nigh complete, and that the country may soon start afresh on a basis of enduring prosperity; and if so, the epidemic of defalcation must speedily end its mission.—*Phila. Times.*

THE SUMMER-TIME PARSON.

We have arrived at the blissful season of the year set apart for the appearance upon the platforms of railroad depots, in steamboats and stage coaches, of sleek complacent gentlemen, with high-buttoned vests, linen dusters and debonnaire slouch hats. They are ministers of the gospel going to enjoy their vacations at some pleasant seaside resort or in some little quiet country village where perhaps in their early youth they robbed orchards and turnt to have of no use for the parson on his travels to attempt to conceal his identity; his profession is written on every lineament of his features, is visible in the placid smile he constantly wears, in the delicate whiteness of his hands, and, if he be a Benedict, in the majestic carriage of his admiring spouse. Waiters, porters, coachmen and hack drivers instinctively recognize him and sigh when he engages their services, knowing full well that he is a clever financier, and will not be bullied or coaxed out of one cent more than the legitimate fare or fee. His congregation has kindly determined that he needs rest and relaxation from his arduous duty of preaching salvation and depravity twice a week and paying pastoral visits, so they have made up a purse for him and he goes to economically distribute their ducats far away from the busy hum of the city. His flock will not miss him much, for the major portion of it have become scattered about the country, at fashionable watering places and summer resorts, and the few who cannot afford to follow the custom of the wealthy must fain be content with the ministrations of a strange shepherd employed pro tem.

It is amusing to note the holiday parson's struggle to appear recklessly jolly; how strenuously he endeavors to induce us to believe that he is the most careless and free of mortals, and how strangely he fails, for an expletive from the stage-coach driver directed at a balky leader causes his mouth to become rigid and a shocked expression to steal over his amiable countenance. On the croquet lawn at the country hotel the vacation minister comes out especially strong, for his mild jokes are appreciated by the ladies, and the game is one that may fairly be classified as quite innocent and harmless. Frequently he may be noticed upon the grassy bank of some winding river, rod in hand, and then the members of the finny tribe are in great danger, for when a parson goeth angling the odds are in favor of the larder and against the fish.

The clergymen of to-day differs very much from the poor, zealous, overworked curate or circuit-rider of twenty years ago. If he be a favorite preacher and his church is a rich one, he can afford to take a trip to Europe, California, Florida or any of the show-places of the world; a week's retirement at some sequestered farm-house was the only holiday of the year the old-time pastor could obtain. But the clergy nowadays are more delicate than their predecessors in the pulpit, and when summer comes they are subject to all kinds of ailments, from hay-fever up to bronchitis, which necessitate a change of air and rest from their labor of saving souls. Many of them prove excellent company on a long journey, keenly appreciative of the ludicrous, living storehouses of anecdote, and fluent talkers; but sometimes the vacation parson proves a terrible wet-blanket at a merry-making, especially if he be of the Chadband stripe, and deems all pleasure, unless of the most sedate description, the pastime of the ungodly.

When the Indian summer is ending, and the gorgeous leaves are rustling down to earth to rot beneath the winter's snows, the churches will grow populous again, the collection-plate will once more go merrily round, and the vacation pastor, stout and sunburned, will resume his place in the pulpit and grow poetical over the beauties of nature as seen in his travels. And very likely he will exhibit a tendency to preach about the loveliness of Paradise and neglect mention of the sulphurous cavity where Satan sways his sceptre, until the yule log burns to the and-irons and frosty weather makes the idea of a place in which a high rate of temperature is always maintained rather pleasant than otherwise.—*Phila. Times.*

THE GOOD WIFE.

George Brown at the age of twenty-three took himself a wife; or rather, he and Hattie took one another for better or for worse. But then they knew it was going to be for better, always, and never worse. How could it be otherwise, when they understood each other so well? They had married young, and they had but little of this world's goods to commence with; but they had health and strength, and they were going to work together, and build them up a home of their own in time.

"We will be very saving," said Hattie, "and, in the end, we may reach the goal." The goal was the home which they were to own. "We shall not scrimp nor deny ourselves of necessary comforts; but we will do without luxuries. By thus economizing in the morning, we may find a store to spare in the evening. Money is like time; an hour gained in the early day is a great thing, while an hour lost may not be regained."

George saw and understood, and he was as eager as was his wife. He was determined to put all his energies into the work, and, in the future, he saw fore shadowed promises most bright. He had taken of his uncle a small house, which he was to pay for when he was able. He had no doubt that he should be able to pay two hundred dollars a year on it; and, at this rate, as his kind relative had offered the bargain, the property would be his own in six years.

"George," asked Hattie, one evening, at the tea-table, "what do you pay for this tea?"

"I declare, Hattie, I don't know. I don't believe I asked."

"What! Did you not ask?"

"No. I have every confidence in Mr. Skidd. He is a perfectly honorable man."

"But did you not pay for it?"

"No; I have opened an account there." Hattie shook her head disapprovingly. George saw the motion, and went on:

"You know that I am paid monthly, and I thought it would be just as well to keep a monthly account at the store. Mr. Skidd himself preferred that plan."

"I can readily see why Mr. Skidd should prefer it," said the wife, with a significant smile. "In the first place, he knows that you are an industrious, steady and honorable man, and that whatever you owe you will certainly pay. He knows that."

George was flattered, but he felt that his wife had spoken no more than the truth.

"And," pursued Hattie, "he knows one thing more. He well knows that you would buy more on credit than you would for cash."

George made a deprecatory motion, but his wife continued:

"Mr. Skidd knows. He is old in the business. Over his profitable customers, who open monthly accounts upon his ledger, he has decided advantages. He can persuade them to buy what they would not buy if they had to pay the cash down; and, where they are to have credit, where the trader is to have the extra labor and expense of entering and posting each separate article, and, in the end, of making a full bill of items—the buyer cannot, with a good conscience, demand any reduction from asked prices."

George smiled and said he thought his wife was mistaken. He was sure he was doing well. It would be inconvenient to pay for each little article as he ordered it. And, furthermore, it would be handier to settle the store bills when his employers settled with him.

Hattie did not press the matter.—She had brought the subject upon the tapis, and she was willing to await the development of events.

"By the way, Mr. Brown, do you not want a box of these figs? They are fresh; I will warrant them, and by the box I will put them up cheap."—So spake Mr. Skidd, the storekeeper.

George knew that his wife was very fond of figs, and he loved them himself. And he consented that a box should be sent to him.

On another day, Mr. Skidd said: "Ah, Mr. Brown, my dear fellow, have you tried this golden syrup?"

George had not tried the syrup!—The best quality of molasses had hitherto answered his purpose. But he was permitted to try it.

On another day: "Look here, Brown shall I send a dozen of these Messina oranges?" A new cargo just come in. You won't get 'em so cheap again. Only thirty cents."

Only thirty cents! And George knew how fond Hattie was of oranges. Of course George Brown would have them.

And so the days passed on, and the month came to an end. George Brown was paid by his employers, and set at once about paying others, on his way home he called and got Mr. Skidd's bill.

"You can take and look it over," said the trader, with a patronizing smile; "you'll find it all right."

George had intended to pay the bill then and there; but, when he saw the long column of figures, and glanced his eyes at the total, his heart leaped up into his mouth. He was astonished. He had thought to himself, as he had come along, that Skidd's bill would be about twevle to fifteen dollars. After paying everything else, he would have twenty dollars left, which would satisfy this last demand, and leave something over. He had just commenced housekeeping, and did not expect to save much at first.

But, mercy, how all his anticipations were knocked in pieces as he looked at the bill. He told Skidd he guessed he would look it over; and on his way homeward he examined it; he could find nothing wrong in the items—but the sum total was a poser—twenty-six dollars and forty-two cents.

For a long time after he had reached home he tried to convince Hattie that nothing was the matter with him; but at length he plucked up courage, and drew forth Skidd's bill. He had expected that his wife would be paralyzed. But, on the contrary, she only smiled, and said it was all right.

"All right?" echoed George.

"All right, so far as Mr. Skidd is concerned," said Hattie. "You remember what I told you once before; and now let's sit down and eat supper, and then we will look the matter over."

And after supper they went at the work, Hattie taking the bill and a piece of blank paper, and following all the items with her pencil.

"First," she said, "is a box of figs at fifteen cents a pound. It was very cheap, no doubt, but the eight pounds came to a dollar and twenty cents.—Had you been required to pay cash, you would not have bought them.—You would, at least, have asked me if I liked them, and I should have told you—No. Next we have a gallon of golden syrup, which we did not need and for which you would not have paid cash without consulting me."

And so she went on throwing out articles and cutting down the bill to less than fifteen dollars.

A dollar here had not seemed a great deal to George; and a dollar and a dollar and a half there; then seventy-five cents; and then only fifty cents; but there had been twenty visits to the store during the month, and the aggregate of these trival sums was considerable.

George saw the whole thing, and he knew his wife had been right from the first.

"Don't say a word," he said. "I see the mistake. But I'll have to work around into the right track by degrees."

"How so, George?"

"Why, I haven't money enough left of my month's wages to quite pay this bill, so that I shall be unable to enter upon the cash principle at present."

"There need be no difficulty in that direction," said Hattie. "I have not spent quite all my little capital. I had already fixed it for a bit of a nest egg; and I don't know as it could be put to a better use than the laying of a foundation for cash payments. At any rate, George, let us try it for a while."

George kissed his wife and said she was a blessing, and he promised that he would follow her advice in the future. He took the sum of money which she had to give and held it a loan, which he was to return at the earliest moment; and he felt an ambition, too, to see how specdily he could do it.

And on Monday morning the new rule of life went into operation