DFFIE'S TRIAL.

From dawn to dusk you might have and the clang of Merrick Masters' hamhave I watched the golden sparks as they flew away into outer darkness, thro' the wide open door, like so many long imrisoned spirits, just set free after years of bottling up. And ever and always, while work was doing under the sloping rook I could hear a sort of anvil chorus, ther whistled or sung by the rich voice He came and went, and had his horse Merrick Masters.

li it had only so happened that some musical enthusiast had come across Merrick Masters in his boyhood, as such a too," said Effic. one is said to have met Jenny Lind, singing by the wayside, there need have been Merrick. no anvil work for him, and instead of toiling for pence and shillings, fortunes might have been showered upon him and critics might have talked about his 'chestnotes,' and beautiful members of upper tendom have flung bouquets at him, and even they are fond of doing too well, to no matter whom, at the opera.

No musical enthusiast, however, came who ever shook the walls of the Acadeowner of the shrill soprano, (rather cracked) yeclept Miss Squiggs.

"He didu't mean to go a drownding ladies' voices, but when he got a going he couldn't help getting too loud. It was the fault, he reckoned, of the black-mith-

The deep snow was white on the ground rashed from the clanging anvil faster rich and fashionable. than ever, and the song to which the strokes kept time were louder and clearat the forge door and looked through with an eye that took in the picture-que

"By, Jove, italike some of those old ras an artist."

Then in a louder tone.

lost a shoe, and I want it looked to im-

The "young fellow" dropped his hambeneath the forge roof. Then as Merrick | cident, and would have the reason. Masters bent down to look at the foot of the splendid animal, the rider, as splendid Effie. a personage in his way, sauntered to the forge as can well be imagined, though in you know you are." his way Merrick was very handsome.

Just as the blacksmith's whistle began to play about the hoof he was shoeing, tired of Merrick." and while the stranger was standing with as back toward the fire, admiring the light and shadow on the wall, steps came sighed. is from the shadow.

"and your mother says"-

There she stopped, covered with conly as he might at a picture.

Certainly she was well worth looking gentleman. at, a pure brunette, with large brown eyes and cheeks like a rose, with lashes form where not an angle was visible.

It was only a moment that she stood with her red shawl slipping from her black hair, in the full g'ow of the firelight -the next moment she was gone, and the fumed about it as she always did. stranger turned to the blacksmith.

"A pretty girl that, your sister?" blacksmith.

are to be married in May."

and rode away a few moments after ward, ber."
and for all the blacksmith knew or cared "Say good by, and let him do so now," they had seen the last of each other.

He washed his hands and went into the her new trouble. great kitchen, where at the tea table sat his mother and the girl who summoned no other home to go to," sighed Effie. old woman for years, ever since she was who will never cease to love you, and a mer over a gate. She heard his voice, and emphatic provisions of the Constitua child in fact; and had grown into his home such as you deserve. Share my and saw the dusky outline of his form, tion, they would greatly abridge, if they heart somehow, before he knew it. The home and my life, Effic." help," and the blacksmith's, widow and and she promised him all that he asked of been to get was there on the seat and she the salutary restraint which he holds over

the old woman.

good as you, and a deal better than me,

rich or poor.'

Now when he went into tea the first customer.

"Effic says he the handsomest man she ever saw," says the old woman.
"So he is," said Merrick, not one whit jealous, "but who he is I don't know.-

who you were, Effic." " And I had this dreadful old apron on

" Why not." Merrick laughed. "Oh, do tell me?"

"Well, he asked who the pretty girl Effic hid her face in her apron, and

penned him love letters on the sly, as Mrs. Masters turned her head. She never quite admitted Effie's beauty.

"What notions to put in the girl's to Hammersly, and it is doubtful if any for Effie was vain enough already. A body suspected Merrick of being a musi- greater pity too, because whenever a cal genius, unless, indeed, it was the old horseman galloped up to the forge thereparson, who had requested him to make after, she ran out, under some pretext, one of the church choir, where he bellow- hoping it was the handsome gentleman ed as gloriously as any basso profundo who had asked "who that pretty girl another." was." Not that she meant any harm, but my of Music, and apologized for it to the to be called a pretty girl by such a man

was something glorious. She saw him at last, and there was a somehow they kept meeting.

Still no harm in it at all, only Effic did was going home. not mention the fact to Merrick or to his

Heaven had made him like Mr. Nore she brought a bandbox.

land. "Hallo, young fellow, my horse has blacksmith, and his mother, who had el of here! thought her below her son because she . As she thought thus, the door opened

mer and strode toward the door, and in ding tears in a quiet little spot where another moment horse and master stood they were in the habit of meeting by ac-"It's nothing-only I'm tired," said

Mr. Noreland drew close to her.

are and stood basking in its genial "Tired," said he, "no wonder; you warmh, and shaking off the feathery are too good for that sort of thing; too "Tired," said he, "no wonder; you fakes that clung to his shoulders. A good to work in a kitchen and wear cot- haved. H: didn't seem to want us to see light-haired, blue-eyed exquisite, as great ton gowns-and too good to be a black- him." a contrast to the brown Heren'es of the smith's wife. It's no use in denying it-

"Oh, hush," said Effic, "Merrick is the with the blacksmith's girl." best man in the world, I'm sure I'm not

"Oh, of course not," said Noreland, " and we can't help our feelings," and he

supping through the snow, and a girl Then he whispered a good deal that with a shawl over her head came dancing Effic could not understand entirely, but "Ten will be cold, Merrick," she said, tal, as he quoted poetry and made great and she drowned herself. It was a shock- guard still further against abuse, or too eyes at her. Out of a hovel, the girl was sure no one ever was so charming, and fasion at the sight of a stranger—one too she went home with the firm conviction who stood looking at her as unconcerned- that if she chose she might jilt the blacksmith's son, and marry the fine young

From teeling sure she could, she began to wonder whether Merrick cared much long, curling like a child's, and a buxom about her, and to feel sure that Noreland loved her better than his life-and a sharp word from Mrs. Masters finished it.

Something had gone to waste in the storeroom, and the old lady fussed and her. What did he mean then. And as despotism.

man that has something to manage and to "Glad? Why?"

"Because she's something better than "Because she's something because sh "No, I'm glad to say," replied the member that you're to be married to a a sister to me," replied Merrick. "We and makes and mands year in and year Then out rung the whistle again shrill sides what will come to her when the old tenderness it grew plain to her, and she compatible with safety and entire freedom out. But she's got \$3000 in the bank, beand clear, and the stranger asked no more man dies; and she want took in on char- was saved. questions. He paid Merrick for his work, ity. I wish Merrick bad took a fancy to

said Noreland when the girl had told him

"Ah, but I have no other friends, and "You have," said Noreland, "a friend

Then he put his arms around her and found it out, for Effic was only "the kissed her, and called her loving names, there crying softly. The bandbox he had fice, now confided to the Executive, and

"More fools they to take on airs," said and after that their bliss was to have no Ten minutes

Effic for washing our dishes. She's as know, so you need not fret about him, Effie.

For all that, Effic's conscience smote And Merrick Masters bad his way and her when Merrick was kinder than usual; ner on the anvil of Hammersly. Often the whole place knew they were engaged and so full of joy, as the time was now near at hand when she was to be his wife, near at hand when she was to be his wife, as they sat together on the porch on that ened. It's so lonesome and dark and question both asked him was about his Sunday, and when Monday came she wretched there. I'm so glad we are gobroke more china and made more blunders generally than had ever been laid to her charge in years before. Mrs. Masters thought that the girl quite knew how mad poor Effic really was.

Tea was on the table and Mrs. Masters shod, that's all I know, and he asked me busy with some dish she prided herself them, she used to start up from her sleep, upon, and the sound of Merrick's whiatle sometimes, in terror, and cling to him grew louder every instant as he tripped homeward from the forge, when she "He didn't notice that I guess," said slipped up to her room, and putting on her things, slipped down the back stairway, and away toward the village.

It Mrs. Masters missed her, she knew that she would be only too glad to have her son to herself for a little while, and there was no probability of Merrick's following her.

But it was hard to choke the tears down, as the plodded through the long green-for the snow had gone long ago, head," she thought; and it was a pity, and it was summer now-and she only committee at Quincy, Illinois, in reply to made herself brave by the thought that an invitation to address his friends and Noreland would die if she did not keep her promise.

"I couldn't break his beart," she said to herself, "even if I could bear to marry and a triumphant vindication of the res-

She reached the milliner's shop at last, and went to talk to one of the girls. The the air with rumors that the President he was to show himself at the door for a cause a majority of Congress has abanlook, a smile and a bow, and after that, moment, and she was to go out to meet doned it. This letter is the voice of one somehow they kept meeting.

Effic sat with one eye on the glass door mother;"and Effic learned that he was a which opened from the work room to the head of the nation, to maintain and pre-Mr. Noreland, stopping at the great ho- shop, while she tried to chat careless; in one December eve, and the golden sparks | tel in the village, and guessed that he was | a few moments she saw a man enter from the street-not Nore and, but of all the Often she saw him riding with elegant. people in the world, Merrick Masters .ly dressed ladies and gentlemen, but he Her first thought was that he had follower, when somebody leading a horse stopt always seemed the most elegant of all to ed her, but in an instant she saw that he her; and by and by she tell to contrast. had business of his own. He spoke some ing Merrick with him, and wishing that words to the mistress of the shop, and

Of course the bonnet was a surprise for Dutch pictures," muttered a voice under a golden moustache. "I'd paint it if I she was a lady herself, and that somebomember that she should be miles away bedy else was in her place, and to feel above fore her birth-day dawned. Poor Merthe forge and the cottage kitchen and the rick! would be feel badly, and it was cru-

was the "help." again, letting Merrick out with two bun-One day Mr. Nore and found her shell; dies in his hand, and two ladies in from the hotel, whom she had often seen riding with Noreland. They asked for ribbone, and went on with their talk while examining them.
"Who was that person standing be-

fore the door?"

"Oh, Noreland." thought so. How oddly he be-

I expect. One of them is that flirtation general government only such powers as "Shocking! Some one ought to write

to Mrs. Noreland."

know she's quite middle aged and plain, framing State Constitutions and laws been at his pranks ever since. Actually, patible with the general welfare of the sal. So, too, if a murderer be arrested, of 1860. Effic could not understand entirely, but my dear, he ran away with a girl last townships, and lesser municipalities. To he may claim the protection of the new will outweigh a vote in the North, if the ing scrape. It I had such a husband as great concentration of power, they dis-Noreland, I'd have a divorce."

The ribbon was cut off, and the ladies

took their departure.

"Them as has nothing is afters the flashed over her mind, and she saw t most wasteful," said she, "you'd orter re-pit of shame and dishonor at her feet. It is hate, not love, or he would not wish party for acts of usurpation. It is the onfalser smiles, the honest face of the black- tions is to be apprehended. It has here-

> been chatting, abruptly and ran out of the influence upon judicial action, and where store. All she prayed was not to meet it has failed to accomplish that in advance She turned her face toward the forge, and annulled them. And, without at all strengthen them and perpetuate its hold population of the other section, by obvi-Noreland, and fear lent wings to her feet. of judgments, has subsequently overruled had reached the cross road when a wagon impugning the motives of legislators, I stood across her path-Merrick's wagon may venture to say that if the present —and he was hard by chatting to a far. Congress were not restrained by positive but she dared not speak to him yet. She did not altogether annihilate, the power clambered up into the wagon and hid of appointment to and removal from of-

"So say I," said Merrick, "and we "And as for the blacksmith;" succeed him. He gave a sudden start.

would be as had as they to look down on Noreland, "he can have Peggs, you "What shat?" he oried.

Only me Effic," said a voice. Then she crept up to him. How did you come here ?" he inquit-

in," she said. "Oh Merrick, I'm so fright ing back to the forge."

So she was. He never knew how glad, for she never told him all, nor why, until years after, when they had been married for years, and the strong love that comes provision: with married life, had grown up between sobbing, "thank God, I'm back again at the forge."

The Constitutional Amendments.

The Issues Between the President and Con-95.688

LETTER FROM SECRETARY BROWNING.

The National Intelligencer of yesterday publishes the following letter from the Hon. O. H. Browning, addressed to a neighbors on the political issues of the day. It is a calm and powerful argument against the constitutional amendment, toration policy of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. The Radical press has filled plan was that when Noreland was ready intends to abandon the Constitution becountry of the firm and immutable purpose of the President, as "the executive serve the Constitution as it is."

WASHINGTON, D. C. Oct. 13, '66. Colonel W. H. Benneson and Major H. V. Sullivan, Quincy, Illinois.

GENTLEMEN :- It would give me great leasure to comply with your request, and visit Illindis to meet my old friends and neighbors, and talk to them face to face laws, let them relate to what department upon the great questions now before the

Our government is worth preserving. No people were ever blessed with one better worth it. But it is not cortnin we will save it. There are now-two tendencies in public affairs, both of which are powerless.

The Federal judiciary has jurisdiction fraught with danger. One is to a centralization of power in the general government; the other, an absorption by the tution and laws of the United States; and legislative department of many of the

whole people of the United States, reserving all other powers to the States re-"Poor thing she is used to it. You spectively and to their people. And in they placed as much power as was comeral government absorb great powers heretofore reserved to the States, or if one department usurp important func-Effle sat thunderstruck. They had been tions of the others, the structure of our

flashed over her mind, and she saw the the departments—and the most aggressive, because its members are responsible smith rose before her, and in truth and tofore exercised more influence than is She left the girl with whom she had It has sometimes impressed a pernicious

Constitution be adopted, new and enormous powers will be claimed and exercised "I saw the wagon on the road and got government will perhaps gradually, but terests. yet surely, be revolutionized. And so with the judiciary; if the proposed amendmenta be adopted, they may, and certainly will, be used substantially to annihihate the State judiciaries.

cle contains, among others; the following representation. No matter how the cles-

son of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

Why insert such a provision in the Federal Constitution? It already contains the following: "No person shall be deupon the powers of the general government alone, and has no reference or application to State governments. And most of the State Constitutions, I believe all of them, contain a similar provision, as a limitation upon the powers of the States respectively. Now, when, in the Federal Jonatitution, there is this guaranty against arbitrary and oppressive invasions of the rights of the citizen by Federal authority, and a similar guaranty in the State Constitutions against like oppressive action by the State governments, why insert, in the Federal Constitution, a new provision which has no reference to the powers of the general government, and imposes no tion of a limitation upon the powers of State governments which is already present in State Constitutions? The object to Federal supervision and control-to annihilate the independence and sovereignty of State judiciaries in the adminisand control of the States over matters of purely domestic and local concern. If the State judiciaries are subordinated, all the departments of the State governments will be equally subordinated, for all State of government they may, or to what domestic or local interest, will be equally judication by the Federal tribunals, whose judgments and decrees. will be suprome, and will override the decisions of the State courts, and leave them utterly.

of all questions arising under the Constiby virtue of this new provision, if adoptand the judiciary.

The safety of a free government is in may be drawn into the vortex of the Fedwho formed the original thirteen States, pig, the unsuccessful party may allege After the census of 1870 the of law, he may bring the case before the show the whole of the non voting black Federal tribunals for revision and rever-State is about to deprive him of life with- in the basis of representation. If the pro-Noreland, I'd have a divorce."

The properties of law and arrest all furposed amendment be adopted, all the nontributed the functions of government, out due process of law and arrest all furposed amendment be adopted, all the nontributed the functions of government, there proceedings until the Federal govvoting black population of the South will be tributed to state and Federal, in separate bodies of the proceedings until the Federal govvoting black population of the South will be tributed to state and Federal, in separate bodies of the proceedings until the Federal govvoting black population of the South will be tributed to state and Federal, in separate bodies of the proceedings until the Federal gov-"So would I. I hope it wont come to State and Federal, in separate bodies of that with the blacksmith's girl, she's a magistracy. The natural tendency of that with the blacksmith's girl, she's a magistracy. The natural tendency of power is to strengthen its hands, and enders of the state has a right to punish its own citi-state has a right to punish its own citi-

government; and as party conflicts inten-

grafted in the Constitution, it will in time terests, and far more hopeful for the perchange the entire structure and texture of our government, if something our government, and sweep away all the guarantees of safety devised and provided the different sections of the country could by our patriotic sires of the Revolution. be maintained. It is impossible to maintain our wise and The 3d section of the proposed amendkissed it as she crouched behind it, think ing of his kindness.

The sautary restraint which ne noids over the independence and sovereigning of his kindness.

The sautary restraint which ne noids over the independence and sovereigning of his kindness. that "none of our people ever hired ont."

"But for all that there are people in this village who look down on us because there they were to take a carriage and the road to the milliner's. Is shown that there have they were to take a carriage and the legislative departments. The first praction of the states which they were to take a carriage and sovereign. The educated men of the states which they is a danger always present when the exists which their appropriate been in rebellion, excludes them from any of the States within their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist and perform all their dependence and sovereign is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always present when the exist which their appropriate is a danger always pre fest itself, no matter what party may be may exist and perform all their functions trol of the government of those States ner snudger.

Test itself, no matter what party may be may exist and perform and additional troi or the government of the shade of a meters.

Test itself, no matter what party may be may exist and perform will be placed in the hands of a meters.

Test itself, no matter what party may be may exist and perform will be placed in the hands of a meters.

Test itself, no matter what party may be may exist and perform will be placed in the hands of a meters.

Test itself, no matter what party may be may exist and perform will be placed in the hands of a meters. Ter minutes after Merrick was driving in power. Safety is to be found only in on again, and heard a little noise behind holding each department firmly and close or ment; the Union and the Federal government; and they as a general thing; and they are a sudden start.

If the proposed amendments of the Mot they must be States of squality—

If the proposed amendments of the

equal in dignity-equal in sights requir in power-equal in the control, absolute by Congress as warranted by such amend- and unconditional, of all things pertaining ments, and the whole structure of our to their internal and local policy and in

Another blow which the propose amendment aims at the government which our tathers founded, is in the change of the basis of representation. This would be of very pernicious effect. The first section of the proposed artic Aggregate population is the true basis of tive franchise be disposed of whether ex-"Nor shall any State deprive any per- ercised by few or many, all classes of the community are represented. The intereats of all classes of people in the same community are so interwoven and commingled that they cannot be separated, and whoever wields the representative prived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." This is identically the same, except that it is a restraint gree, but he cannot use it so as largely to benefit one class without to some extent benefitting all, or to injure and oppress one class without, to a greater or less extent, injuring and oppressing all.

There are always, even in this country, where the right of suffrage is most wide ly extended, large numbers who do not: vote at all, whose interests nevertheless, are cared for, and whose numbers, being computed in the apportionment of representation, widen the foundations of the representative assemblies. Such are all persons under twenty one years of age. females of all ages, and unnaturalized foreigners. Why are they not permitted to vote? And not being permitted, why restraints upon it, but is simply a repeti- are they counted in fixing the ratio of representation? They are not allowed to vote, because they are not supposed to be sufficiently instructed in political econand purpose are manifest. It is to sub-ordinate the State judiciaries in all things, trusted with the elective franchise. They are computed in fixing the ratio, because they are part of the same community with those who do vote, having interests in tration of State laws, and the authority common with them; and their influence. ought to be felt in shaping the laws by which their rights of life, liberty, and property are to be determined. And also though they do not vote, their influence is felt and their interests are cared for, precisely because they are counted in fixing the relative weight of the communities to which they belong in the legislaopen to criticism, interpretation, and ad-indication by the Federal tribunals, not directly heard in determining who shall represent them.

It is not true, as is constantly alleged which were in rebellion will be increased by the results of the war if they are now allowed representation in the National Councils. The present ratio of representation is adjusted by the census of 1860, powers and prerogatives of the executive ed, every matter of judicial investigation, and cannot be changed until after the and the judiciary.

Sivil or criminal, however insignificant, census of 1870. Till that time, therefore, the relative strength of the several keeping the power near the people. This eral judiciary. In a controversy between States of our country must remain preell understood by the statesmen two neighbors about the ownership of a cisely as it was under the census of 1860, and united them and their people in one that the State tribunals have deprived him relative strength of the Southern States "Perhaps he didn't, he has his secrets, Federal government. They gave to the of his property without due process of in Congress and the Electoral College were necessary for the welfare of the tribunals for revision. So if a man be in- voting black population be included in dicted for larceny, or other crime, con- the basis. In 1860 three fifths of all the victed, and sentenced, upon allegation of black population of the Southern States deprivation of liberty without due process was counted. The census of 1820 will

quently non voting foreigners, is in Nor-Under such a system the liberties of the thern and Northwestern States. They people could not long be maintained. As and their families number hundreds of already remarked, free governments can thousands, perhaps millions, and yet they ready, and so could never mean to marry her. What did he mean then. And as she asked herself the question, the truth flashed over her mind, and she saw the once disappear. For some time they strength and productive wealth of the would contest jurisdiction with the Fed. State, and oughf to be computed in fixcal municipal bodies, and centralize and the other, it gives the one an advantage concentrate in the hands of the Federal over the other incompatible with the equality of the States, and of dangerous sified, and party victories alternated, the and revolutionary tendency. While the power would be more and more inexora-bly used by the dominant party to punish one section of the country will be conits enemies, reward its friends, and stantly increasing the non voting black upon the power and patronage of the gov-ernment.

Be assured, if this new provision is in-