

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

It is a fundamental principle of popular government that the Representative shall obey the will of his constituents. Of course, there are limitations to this rule. These are things which no man or aggregation of men have a right to do. What, therefore, a Constituent would incur guilt in performing directly, they are not at liberty to require of the Representative. In this respect, a Representative is at liberty to comply with such a requirement from his constituents, no matter how complete unanimity may exist among them. Neither placed on the new Constitution, nor placed in history for the circulation of truth because the people demanded the execution. A time was in the history of this country when men holding Representative positions were freely elected to office, and their methods for ascertaining the popular will were not less than their duty to see all manifestations of prevalent opinion to determine whether or not a concession was demanded on a point of fact; and it was likely to be temporary or adding; it compliance with it would be harmful or beneficial; and upon a judgment and set upon it. If they misjudged the popular mind, or judged incorrectly, felt bound to resist it, they prepared to take the consequences. This was the true spirit of the people at the ballot-box because inevitable.

Since then various expedients have been devised to enable citizens of politicians to control the action of Representatives, and all public questions. The scheme is to strip them of their essential character as to make them atomistic in the hands of leaders of the faction. In this scheme the Representative loses all his responsibility, and the heads of faction, standing behind him, have all the power. This is the meaning of much of the machinery which all parties have become accustomed to. Let us give definite illustration of what we mean. State and County Conventions were devised as conventional instruments to control the action of Representatives, and the Convention and Laws, shall make legitimate laws of a caucus. So far these instruments are well. But what would be said if certain interests should seriously oppose to convene the Republican State Convention, in special session, to determine what individual the Senators and Representatives chosen by the Convention and Laws, shall make United States Senator next January? Surely, it would be felt that this was intruding an irresponsible and extra-legal body into the province of one ordained by the Constitution and elected under the operation of the laws. The impotence would be promptly rebuffed as an insidious attempt to overthrow the government of the State and introduce the domination of cabals.

In some of the counties of this Commonwealth preparations are making for the inauguration of such a scheme. At least the germs of it are conspicuous. County Committees are claiming authority to dictate for whom Senators and Representatives, in their places, in the State House, and in the County Court, are to be elected by Mr. Owen; or, if they do not make the claim in their own behalf, it is made for them, by politicians who think they would be able to control the action in the matter. In other instances, it is proposed to go behind the County Committee, and institute a special election, under what is called a caucus system, to elect the members of the Senate and Representatives, and to have public business virtually performed by agents unknown to the laws. In selecting Senators and Representatives the people ought to take men who know and are known; who have at least sense enough to be enlightened as to their duties by such methods as the law provides; and who will act conscientiously and intelligently, no matter what demagogues may devise or command. It is a member of the Legislature cannot tell whom he had best vote for as United States Senator without the help of certain appliances not provided by a made a great mistake in consenting to take the office, and his constituents a greater one in letting him do so.

THE USES OF ADVERTISING.

Prior to the rebellion, for a period of thirty years, the Democrats held the destination of the United States in their hands. For more than a generation their rule was almost unbroken. However temporary revolutions overtook them, their adversities gained no more than a precarious and transient foothold in one or other of the coordinate branches of his government. Many things that the Democrats did were well done. Many other things that they claimed as the ripe fruits of their wisdom and patriotism were not done by them at all, but grew spontaneously out of certain facilities of natural resources, or were the product of general movements among the people which could not be maintained or hindered by legislative interference.

The time cannot be distant when the Christian churches of this city and of the whole South will devote their energies to this philanthropic work. It is a noble and praiseworthy duty to record this first step of a Southern church in this city to emancipate and elevate the freedmen; and the manner in which the subject was presented yesterday, by the excellent rector of Christ Church, evinced that his heart was warmly enlisted in the enterprise.

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A Cheering Fact.

NASHVILLE, Oct. 22.—Rev. W. J. Elliott, rector of Christ Church, the leading Protestant Episcopal Church in this city, announced from his pulpit yesterday, that on the 21st of the month he had opened a Sabbath school would be opened in his church for colored children and youth. He stated that the superintendent of the school, Sunday school would be opened in the colored school, and that it would be conducted and assisted by his whole corps of white teachers. All adult colored persons desiring to learn to read, and learn God's blessed word, were also invited to attend the school. A collection was taken up to defray the expenses of the school, and it is thought the contribution was a liberal one. It affords the great pleasure to record this first step of a Southern church in this city to emancipate and elevate the freedmen; and the manner in which the subject was presented yesterday, by the excellent rector of Christ Church, evinced that his heart was warmly enlisted in the enterprise.

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