

Albertine's Theme

Mr. Bromley said reprovingly from the head of the dinner table: "I fail to see any good reason why a university professor's unfavorable comments on your theme should provoke so much merriment."

His three daughters greeted the rebuke with giggles.

"A professor!" Albertine echoed. "If you could see him, daddy! He's only a senior, anyway, and so set up because Dean Bradley lets him criticize themes that he tries to make us think he's more than human."

"In other words, he's been blind to Bert's charms," Nan murmured under her breath, and Mildred nodded knowingly.

"Why, girls! As if I'd care to charm him! With all his owlish ways, he didn't know a really good thing when I gave it to him!"

"Albertine!" This time the rebuke came from both ends of the table at once. It is one of the sacred traditions of the Bromley household that anything in the guise of a teacher shall be spoken of with respect. Besides, Albertine, the university student, was setting an unseemly example to her high school sisters.

"Wait till you hear the theme, daddy. You'll say yourself that it's good. Won't he, girls?"

"I wish to hear the theme," said Bromley severely. "And your mother and I will hear your teachers' criticism, too. It's time some one followed you up a little."

"Shall I get it now, while dessert's being served?" Albertine volunteered. Getting her parents' consent, she hastened away.

"First," she began gleefully, when she came back, "you ought to know that this young man has persecuted the whole class from the start. He's so young that he has to act old—especially with girls. You'd think I was a disembodied spirit when we have consultation over theme, instead of a girl with expensive new ruching in my neck and sleeves! He never looks at me. He's like to have us think he's a walking dictionary—one of these all-mind creatures that just gnaw Greek roots when they're hungry. And he never admits that anything is good, though you know I can write fairly well, when I try, daddy."

"I know you can. That's the reason I've no patience with such nonsense."

"Well, I was a trifle careless with this English course, just at first, but since then I've been trying, and do you suppose he takes notice? Not he! So last week I got desperate and made up my mind to give him something superlative and made him praise him. That's this theme."

She tapped the long, folded sheet and smothered another laugh as her eye fell on the written criticism that covered its back.

"What has he written there?" Bromley demanded, more and more displeased by his daughter's levity.

"He says"—Albertine choked—"he says that it's limp, crude and trite; it lacks coherence and intelligence; it's formless—not worthy of a grammar-school girl. I must rewrite it!"

Three napkins flew to three convulsed faces, then a shriek of laughter burst forth, while the elder Bromleys stared at their daughters in astonished disapproval.

"Children!" Bromley thundered, "How do you suppose I feel to have a daughter of mine get a criticism like that on her work? Read the theme!" Albertine, her face scarlet with suppressed laughter, unfolded the paper, while Mrs. Bromley shook her head gravely at her other two giggling daughters.

"I called it 'Moods,'" said the eldest daughter, demurely. "I really think it's good, daddy. It begins:—'Dream delivers us to dream and there is no end to illusion. Life is a train of moods, like a string of beads, and as we pass through them they prove to be many-colored lenses which paint the world their own hue, and each shows only what lies on its focus. From the mountain you see the mountain. We animate what we can, and—'"

"That's enough," Bromley interrupted, majestically. "I'm a plain man myself; I may say 'he don't' once in a while and get called down by my educated daughters; but I know enough to see the value of your instructor's criticism on such writing as that. When I think of it as coming from you—"

"Oh, but daddy—"

"Wait! When I think of it as coming from you—Why, child, you did infinitely better in high school! Isn't that right, mother?"

"It seems so to me," Mrs. Bromley agreed, solemnly.

"Oh! oh! oh!" the Bromley daughters screamed in hysterical unison. "Don't! Don't say another word!" Albertine pleaded, with tears rolling into her dimples. "It's out of Emerson's essay on 'Experience,' daddy—just straight Emerson!"

"Emerson!" The eyes of the father bulged.

"You plagiarized!" gasped Mrs. Bromley.

"Oh, no; I'm going to tell him tomorrow!" There was a long silence. The girls began to feel nervous. Then, with a red face, Bromley pushed back his chair.

"That teacher's a chump!" he declared, savagely. "Not to know Emerson!"—Chicago News.

China is preparing to demonstrate to the world the value and variety of its productions by an exposition at Hankin.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

A JOINT RESOLUTION Proposing amendments to sections eight and twenty-one of article four, sections eleven and twelve of article five, sections two, three, and fourteen of article eight, section one of article twelve, and sections two and seven of article fourteen, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, and providing a schedule for carrying the amendments into effect.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following are proposed as amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof: Amendment One—To Article Four, Section Eight.

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

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

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

Amendment Two—To Article Four, Section Twenty-one. Section 3. Amend section twenty-one of article four, which reads as follows:— "The term of the Secretary of Internal Affairs shall be four years; of the Auditor General three years; and of the State Treasurer two years. These officers shall be chosen by the qualified electors of the State at general elections. No person elected to the office of Auditor General or State Treasurer shall be capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms," so as to read:— "The term of the Secretary of Internal Affairs, the Auditor General, and the State Treasurer shall each be four years; and they shall be chosen by the qualified electors of the State at general elections; but a State Treasurer, elected in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, shall serve for three years, and his successors shall be elected at the general election in the year one thousand nine hundred and twelve, and in every fourth year thereafter. No person elected to the office of Auditor General or State Treasurer shall be capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms.

Amendment Three—To Article Five, Section Eleven. Section 4. Amend section eleven of article five, which reads as follows:— "Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, justices of the peace or aldermen shall be elected in the several wards, districts, boroughs and townships at the time of the election of constables, by the qualified electors thereof, in such manner as shall be directed by law, and shall be commissioned by the Governor for a term of five years. No township, ward, district or borough shall elect more than two justices of the peace or aldermen without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors within such township, ward or borough; no person shall be elected to such office unless he shall have resided within the township, borough, ward or district for one year next preceding his election. In cities containing over fifty thousand inhabitants, no more than one alderman shall be elected in each ward or district," so as to read:— "Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, justices of the peace or aldermen shall be elected in the several wards, districts, boroughs or townships, by the qualified electors thereof, at the municipal election, in such manner as shall be directed by law, and shall be commissioned by the Governor for a term of five years. No township, ward, district or borough shall elect more than two justices of the peace or aldermen without the consent of a majority of the qualified electors within such township, ward or borough; no person shall be elected to such office unless he shall have resided within the township, borough, ward or district for one year next preceding his election. In cities containing over fifty thousand inhabitants, no more than one alderman shall be elected in each ward or district.

Amendment Four—To Article Five, Section Twelve. Section 5. Amend section twelve of article five of the Constitution, which reads as follows:— "Philadelphia there shall be established, for each thirty thousand inhabitants one court, not of record, of police

and civil causes, with jurisdiction not exceeding one hundred dollars; such courts shall be held by magistrates who term of office shall be five years and they shall be elected on general ticket by the qualified voters at large; and in the election of the said magistrates no vote shall be held for more than two-thirds of the number of such courts; when more than one are to be chosen, they shall be compensated only by fixed salaries, to be paid by said county; and shall exercise such jurisdiction, civil and criminal, except as herein provided, as is now exercised by aldermen, subject to such changes, not involving an increase of civil jurisdiction or conferring political duties, as may be made by law. In Philadelphia the office of alderman is abolished, so as to read as follows:— "In Philadelphia there shall be established, for each thirty thousand inhabitants, one court, not of record, of police and civil causes, with jurisdiction not exceeding one hundred dollars; such courts shall be held by magistrates whose term of office shall be five years, and they shall be elected on general ticket at the municipal election, by the qualified voters at large; and in the election of the said magistrates no voter shall vote for more than two-thirds of the number of such courts; when more than one are to be chosen, they shall be compensated only by fixed salaries, to be paid by said county; and shall exercise such jurisdiction, civil and criminal, except as herein provided, as is now exercised by aldermen, subject to such changes, not involving an increase of civil jurisdiction or conferring political duties, as may be made by law. In Philadelphia the office of alderman is abolished.

Amendment Five—To Article Eight, Section Two. Section 6. Amend section two of article eight, which reads as follows:— "The general election shall be held annually on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each odd-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto," so as to read:— "The general election shall be held biennially on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year, but the General Assembly may by law fix a different day, two-thirds of all the members of each House consenting thereto; Provided, That such election shall always be held in an odd-numbered year.

Amendment Six—To Article Eight, Section Three. Section 7. Amend section three of article eight, which reads as follows:— "All elections for city, ward, borough and township officers for regular terms of service shall be held on the Tuesday of February," so as to read:— "All judges of the courts for the several judicial districts, and for county, city, ward, borough, and township officers for regular terms of service, shall be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and in every fourth year thereafter. No person elected to the office of Auditor General or State Treasurer shall be capable of holding the same office for two consecutive terms.

Amendment Seven—To Article Eight, Section Fourteen. Section 8. Amend section fourteen of article eight, which reads as follows:— "District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen annually by the citizens at the municipal election; but the General Assembly may require said boards to be appointed in such manner as it may by law provide. Laws regulating the appointment of said boards may be enacted to apply to cities only; Provided, That such laws be uniform for cities of the same class. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be elected, and vacancies in election boards filled, as shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election, and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record, for felony or for wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during their terms of service."

District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen annually by the citizens at the municipal election; but the General Assembly may require said boards to be appointed in such manner as it may by law provide. Laws regulating the appointment of said boards may be enacted to apply to cities only; Provided, That such laws be uniform for cities of the same class. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be elected, and vacancies in election boards filled, as shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election, and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record, for felony or for wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during their terms of service."

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

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

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

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

Schedule for the Amendments. Section 12. That no inconvenience may arise from the changes in the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and in order to carry the same into complete operation, it is hereby declared that:— In the case of officers elected by act of Assembly at an odd number of years shall each be lengthened one year, but the Legislature may change the length of the term, provided the terms for which such officers are elected shall always be for an even number of years.

The above extension of official terms shall not affect officers elected at the general election of one thousand nine hundred and eight; nor any city, ward, borough, township, or election division officers, whose terms of office, under existing law, end in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten.

In the year one thousand nine hundred and ten the municipal election shall be held on the third Tuesday of February, as heretofore, but all officers chosen at that election to an office the regular term of which is two years, and also all election officers and assessors chosen at that election, shall serve until the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven. All officers chosen at that election to offices the term of which is now four years, or is made four years by the operation of these amendments or this schedule, shall serve until the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirteen. All justices of the peace, magistrates, and aldermen, chosen at that election, shall serve until the first Monday of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and fifteen. After the year nineteen hundred and ten, and until the Legislature shall otherwise provide, all terms of city, ward, borough, township, and election division officers shall begin on the first Monday of December in an odd-numbered year.

All city, ward, borough, and township officers holding office at the date of the approval of these amendments, whose terms of office may end in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, shall continue to hold their offices until the first Monday of December of that year.

All judges of the courts for the several judicial districts, and also all county officers, holding office at the date of the approval of these amendments, whose terms of office may end in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, shall continue to hold their offices until the first Monday of January, one thousand nine hundred and twelve.

A true copy of the Joint Resolution, ROBERT MEAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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