

THE EVENING STAR. PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON. (EXCEPT SUNDAY.) At the Star Buildings, corner Pennsylvania Avenue and Eleventh Street, by WALLACE & HOPE, Will be served to subscribers in the cities of Washington, Georgetown, Alexandria, Baltimore and Philadelphia, at SIX AND A QUARTER CENTS, payable weekly to the Agents. To mail subscribers the subscription price is THREE DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS a year in advance, TWO DOLLARS FOR SIX MONTHS, and ONE DOLLAR FOR THREE MONTHS. Single copies one cent.

# Evening Star.

VOL. IV. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1854. NO. 622.

THE WEEKLY STAR. This excellent Family and News Journal—containing a greater variety of interesting reading than is found in any other—is published on Saturday. Single copy, per annum, \$1.50. Five copies, per annum, \$7.00. Twenty copies, per annum, \$28.00. CASES, INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE. Single copies (in wrappers) can be procured at the counter, immediately after the issue of the paper. Price—THREE CENTS. POSTMASTERS who act as agents will be allowed a commission of twenty per cent.

**BALLS, &c.**  
**GRAND NEW YEAR'S BALL**  
**TERPSICHORE CLUB.**  
The members of the "Terpsichore Club" respectfully announce to their friends and the public generally that the first Grand Ball of the Club will be given on MONDAY EVENING, January 1st, 1855, at OGDEN FELLOWS' HALL, Navy Yard.  
In order that all may be satisfied with the enjoyment of the evening, the Club will spare no pains to make this one of the most pleasant balls of the season.  
The ball will be opened with the performance of some excellent music by the "Amphion Quartette Club," who will give on MONDAY EVENING, January 1st, 1855, at OGDEN FELLOWS' HALL, Navy Yard.  
Superior Cotillon Music has been engaged for the occasion.  
Tickets ONE DOLLAR—admitting a gentleman and lady to be had of any of the managers and at the door on the evening of the ball.  
**MANAGERS.**  
Marcellus Mearns, R. V. Howe,  
J. R. Dobson, W. W. Jarboe,  
W. E. Tucker, D. W. Jarboe,  
P. J. Jenks, G. A. Barr,  
W. F. Moore, W. F. Moore,  
S. McNamee, F. Garland,  
S. McNamee.  
dec 12, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, Jan 1

**GERMAN YAGERS.**  
The "GERMAN YAGERS" respectfully inform their friends, both civil and military, that their ANNUAL BALL will be given on MONDAY EVENING, January 1st, 1855, at OGDEN FELLOWS' SALOON.  
Everything shall be done on the part of the committee to give satisfaction, and the committee pledge themselves to do their part in every particular.  
Prosper's Cornet Band is engaged for the occasion.  
Tickets can be procured from the Committee, and at the door.  
Price of tickets ONE DOLLAR & FIFTY CENTS.  
No hats to be worn in the ball room except by the military.  
**Committee of Arrangements.**  
Design N. Hopp, F. Klots,  
Or Sgt M. Ruppel, G. Schlegel,  
J. A. Newman, G. G. Goveador,  
C. Obenstein.  
**Floor Managers.**  
M. Ruppel, O. S. F. W. Sellhauen, Or Mr doe 20—W&Sdlw

**THE THIRD ANNUAL GRAND BALL**  
**MONTGOMERY GUARDS**  
WILL BE GIVEN ON MONDAY EVENING, Jan. 8th, 1855, AT JACKSON HALL.  
The MONTGOMERY GUARDS respectfully inform their friends, civil and military, of Washington and Georgetown, that they will give their third Annual Grand Ball at JACKSON HALL on MONDAY EVENING, January 8, 1855.  
The Montgomery Guards pledge themselves that no pains or expense shall be spared to make this equal to any of the season.  
Prosper's Cornet Band is engaged for the occasion.  
Refreshments will be supplied by an able and experienced caterer.  
No hats to be worn in the Ball Room except by the military.  
Gentlemen wishing invitations for ladies will please leave their names and address at Lt. Feeny's, Penn Avenue.  
Tickets ONE DOLLAR—admitting a gentleman and lady to be had of the Commandant of James Donnell, a. avenue, Lt. Feeny's, Wm. Grasson's, Michael Brady's, and at the principal hotels.  
**Committee of Arrangements.**  
Capt Key, Lt. Feeny,  
Or Mr. Mather.  
**Committee on part of the Military.**  
Col W. H. Key, Gen Jones,  
Lt Col Kelly, Maj Keyworth,  
Sgt M. Ruppel, Sgt M. Ruppel,  
Or Mr. Mather.  
**On the part of the Citizens.**  
John W. Maury, Beverly Wallace,  
James D. Hoover, Beverly Tucker,  
W. F. Moore, W. F. Moore,  
W. W. Sinton, J. C. Rives.

**BALL AND SUPPER**  
**COLOMBIA**  
**TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**  
THE COLOMBIA TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY respectfully inform their friends and the public that their Fourth Annual Ball will be given on WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 10, 1855.  
Tickets, TWO DOLLARS—admitting a gentleman and lady to be had of the Treasurer, Wm. Grasson's, and at the principal hotels.  
**MANAGERS AT LARGE.**  
Hon J. T. Towler, J. S. Lamborne,  
Hon W. S. Weston, Wm. Towler, Jr., E. Dwyer,  
Hon Peter Force, J. Dowling, F. Ward,  
Hon W. G. Dickinson, W. M. Keiser, E. S. Cropley,  
A. G. Smead, T. W. Howard, J. B. Thayer,  
W. W. Woodward, M. G. Catron, J. B. Thayer,  
James J. McMillan, J. H. Brown,  
C. W. Dennington, W. G. Moore, J. S. Cunningham,  
L. T. Johnson, W. G. Moore, J. S. Cunningham,  
J. S. Galloway, J. S. Galloway, J. S. Cunningham,  
F. M. Johnson, J. S. Cunningham,  
F. M. Johnson, J. S. Cunningham.  
**COMMITTEE OF INVITATION AND ADMISSION.**  
C. P. Lowrey, Wm. H. Dennison, F. J. Waters,  
Chas. McPherson, C. Culverwell, C. L. Levey,  
James J. McMillan, J. M. Johnson, J. S. Cunningham,  
S. G. Galloway, J. S. Cunningham, F. M. Johnson,  
F. M. Johnson, J. S. Cunningham.  
**COMMITTEE ON IMPROVEMENTS.**  
Wm. F. Moore, Geo. Seward, Jr., Geo. Duval,  
S. P. Robertson, T. D. Sulzer, Chas. Schell,  
F. M. Johnson, J. S. Cunningham.  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**  
Wm. H. Bels, J. T. Hallack, George Catton,  
Wm. L. Jones, Wm. R. McLean, Harb. Dwyer,  
C. P. Brown, C. J. Canfield.  
dec 14—64

**SEVENTH ANNUAL BALL**  
**FRANKLIN FIRE COMPANY.**  
The members of the "Frank in Fire Company" would respectfully announce to the citizens of Washington and vicinity that they will give their SEVENTH ANNUAL BALL at JACKSON HALL, on WEDNESDAY, January 17, 1855.  
Firemen are respectfully requested to appear in uniform.  
Tickets ONE DOLLAR—admitting a gentleman and lady to be had of any of the Managers, and at the door on the evening of the ball.  
**MANAGERS.**  
Chas. J. O'Connell, Edw. Alexander,  
Edw. O'Connell, Richard Downe,  
Wm. H. Pennig, J. E. Monstont,  
J. E. Medley, A. Sloans,  
R. E. Doyle, Joseph Williamson,  
S. T. Lacombe, Wm. Towler, Jr.,  
Wm. M. Payne, Conrad Finkman,  
A. Koffler.  
dec 16, 24, 31, Jan 1, 16, 17

**TRANS-ALLEGANY BANK AND SAVING**  
Withers & Co's Notes purchased at the highest rate.  
Investment Money, Land Warrants, and Virginia Stock bought and sold.  
Drafts on all the principal cities sold to suit purchasers.  
Persons at a distance sending us Trans-Allegany notes of Land Warrants may rely upon receiving the best rates, and remittances made by draft on any city in the Union.  
HAMILTON G. PANT, Banker, dec 9—54 No 482 Penna avenue.

## EVENING STAR.

### AN ACT To Reorganize the Courts in the District of Columbia, and to Reform and Improve the Laws thereof.

Whereas, since the retrocession of Alexandria county to the State of Virginia, it has become expedient to reduce the number of judges in the District of Columbia, and curtail the judicial expenses thereof; and it is represented by citizens of said District that the courts thereof should be reorganized, and its laws reformed and improved: Therefore—

Be it enacted, &c., That so much of the acts of Congress heretofore passed as create the circuit court, the district court, the orphans' court, and the criminal court of the said District, be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and all of said courts, and the offices of judges and other officers thereof be, and the same are hereby, forever abolished.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That there shall be a court, to be styled the "court of common pleas of the District of Columbia," of which there shall be a single judge, which said court shall be invested with all the jurisdictions and powers possessed and exercised by said circuit court of the District of Columbia in every respect, except as hereinafter provided. And the said court shall hold three terms a year, to wit: on the first Mondays of March, September, and December. All process for the institution and conducting of suits in said court shall be made returnable in the clerk's office thereof on a rule day. The first Monday in each month shall be a rule day, except in those months upon the first Mondays whereof the terms of said court shall commence, as herein provided: in which case the last Mondays of the months respectively preceding those in which the court shall commence its terms, as aforesaid, shall be rule days. The rules may be continued three days.

There shall be a docket of the cases at rules kept by the clerk of the said court, wherein the rules shall be entered. When there is no clerk to take the rules in a case, it shall be continued until the rule day next after there is a clerk. The rules shall be to declare, to plead, reply, rejoin, and for other proceedings to prepare the causes for trial, and they shall be given from month to month. Upon the rule day to which process is returned served, the plaintiff may file his declaration, and give the defendant a rule to plead. If the defendant fail to appear and plead at the next rules, judgment by default shall be entered against him by the clerk in the office. If the plaintiff fail to file his declaration at the rule day to which the process is returned executed, as aforesaid, the defendant may give him a rule to declare; and if the plaintiff fail to file his declaration at the next rule day, an office judgment of dismissal of the cause, with costs, shall be entered by the clerk in his office. Pleas in abatement, and special demurrers, shall be filed at the first rule day after the rule given to plead, and not afterwards. When the pleadings at the rules have progressed so far that the "similitur" alone remains to be added to make up the issue, the same may be added by either party, and the issue made up without a rule for that purpose.

All causes in which an office judgment of any character has been entered, or in which issues have been made up before the clerk in his office, as herein provided, shall be by the clerk transferred to the docket of the next succeeding term of the court, and shall stand for disposal by the court. The court in its discretion, for good cause, may permit the dismissions to be set aside by filing declarations; and if not so set aside, they shall stand at the end of the term as absolute judgments of dismissal, with costs.

The office judgment entered in the office in favor of a plaintiff may be set aside by plea, or pleas in bar, by general demurrer, the defendant having the right to file as many several, distinct, and sufficient pleas in bar, as he may think proper, and the issues made up in the office, as aforesaid, shall stand for trial. If the judgment obtained by a plaintiff in the clerk's office, as aforesaid, be not set aside by plea or demurrer within the first fifteen days of the term of the court, if the term continue longer than fifteen days, or before the end of the term, if the term should not exceed fifteen days, the same shall become absolute. And if the said judgment be for a sum certain, execution may issue thereupon for debt, interest, and costs; and if said judgment be for an inquiry of damages, a jury may be empaneled during the term to make inquiry thereof; or the judge may assess the damages, as the plaintiff may elect, and render judgment thereon, as in other cases.

In all cases of office judgment set aside by plea or demurrer, and of issues made up in the clerk's office, as aforesaid, the court may, in its discretion, for good cause shown, grant continuances, as heretofore practiced.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be established in the said District a court to be styled "the court of equity of the District of Columbia," of which there shall be a single judge; and said court, and the judge thereof shall possess and have all the powers and jurisdiction now held and exercised by the orphans' court of said District, or the judge thereof; and the said court of equity shall be open on all judicial days for the dispatch of business, and all writs and process therein shall be returnable on the first Monday of each month, and the rules of equity practice prescribed by the Supreme Court of the United States sitting in equity, shall be the rules of said court of equity, together with such other rules as may be adopted by said court.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That there shall be established in said District a court, to be styled the "criminal court of the District of Columbia," of which there shall be a single judge, and it shall hold four terms a year, to wit: on the third Mondays of January, April, July, and November; and said court, and the judge thereof, shall possess and exercise all the powers and jurisdiction of a criminal nature now possessed and exercised by the said criminal court and district court, or by the judges thereof, hereby abolished.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the office of register of wills, as now existing in said District, shall be, and the same is hereby, abolished; and all the powers and duties thereof, as now performed or belonging to said office of register of wills, shall be vested in and performed by the clerk of said court of equity hereby established.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That all suits and records now pending on the law side of the said circuit court shall be transferred and continued to, and become records of, said court of common pleas, and as such have the same force and effect as if originally brought or filed in said court of common pleas; and the clerk thereof shall be the keeper of the chancell, land and other records of said District, not herein otherwise provided for. And so in like manner, all suits in equity now pending, and all suits heretofore brought in, and all records of said circuit court, sitting in equity, and also all proceedings and records, in said orphans' court, shall be transferred to and continued in said court of equity, and as such have the same force and effect as if originally filed in said court of equity. And in like manner, all records and proceedings in said criminal court shall be transferred to and continued in said criminal court hereby established. And all the records, proceedings and transactions of said courts, and of the office of register of wills, which are hereinbefore abolished, of whatever kind, shall be transferred to and remain in the said courts hereby established, respectively, according to the nature of said proceedings or transactions, and the respective powers and jurisdictions of said new courts, unless otherwise herein provided for.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the judge of the court of common pleas shall exercise all the powers and jurisdiction heretofore exercised and held by the district court on the admiralty or civil side thereof. And in all cases appertaining to said jurisdiction, the proceedings shall be the same as if said district court were in existence. And all powers and jurisdiction held or exercised, and all proceedings and records in said district court hereby established. And all the proceedings and records in said district court of a criminal nature, shall be transferred to, and continue in, said court of common pleas.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That there shall be, and hereby is, established a court to be styled "the court of appeals of the District of Columbia," which shall be composed of the three judges hereby created, to wit: The judge of the court of equity, who shall preside therein; the judge of the court of common pleas, who shall be senior associate; and the judge of the criminal court. The said court of appeals shall have and possess and exercise jurisdiction and power in all appeals, or writs of error, or of prohibition and mandamus, and such other powers as belong to an appellate jurisdiction in and over all cases that may arise or be tried in either or any of the courts of said District, except as hereinafter excepted. And, hereafter, writs of error shall be allowed in favor of the United States, in criminal cases, from the decisions of said criminal court; and no cause shall hereafter be taken by a writ of error or appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States from any court in said District where the matter in controversy does not exceed two thousand dollars; but, in all cases exceeding that amount, the Supreme Court shall retain the same jurisdiction over cases in said court of common pleas and court of equity as it now has over cases at law and in equity in said circuit court, and over all cases whatever in which a justice of the Supreme Court shall certify that it is desirable that the appeal or writ of error should be taken to the said Supreme Court of the United States. And said court of appeals shall hold two terms in each year, to wit: on the first Mondays of January and June (but no judge shall sit in said court of appeals on any case which was decided by him in the court below;) and in any civil case, where said judges of said court of appeals are divided in opinion, (and the amount in controversy shall exceed two thousand dollars,) they shall certify, upon the motion of either of the parties to the same, the point of division to the Supreme Court, which shall take jurisdiction thereof, and decide the same. And in all cases of writs of error or appeal to said court of appeals, unless a bond be filed, in such amount and with such security as may be approved by the judge of the court in which the decree, judgment, or order appealed from, may be. And it shall not be requisite to transmit to said court of appeals a full copy or transcript of the record of said case, but only a short copy thereof, containing the docket entries of the case, accompanied by the original papers filed in said case, which shall be taken to all intents and purposes the same as if a full transcript had been certified and sent up; and for said short copy and entry of appeal or writ of error, and sending up said papers, the clerks of the said courts appealed from shall be entitled to charge a fee of one dollar only.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the said court of appeals, and each of said courts, shall appoint a clerk thereof,

respectively, who shall perform all the duties belonging to his office, or which may be prescribed by the said court, and he shall be entitled to the usual fees, or such as may be hereinafter provided.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That in case either of said judges shall at any time be disabled from performing his duties, by reason of sickness, absence, or being interested or having been of counsel, or be otherwise incapacitated, it shall be the duty of one of the other judges, who may at such time be least engaged in holding court, to perform such duties during such incapacity.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That all writs of error to the said circuit court, or appeals therefrom, now pending, shall be and remain for the action of the Supreme Court of the United States; and such proceedings therein as may be directed by the said Supreme Court shall be, according to its practice, certified in all cases at law to the said court of common pleas, and in all cases of equity to the said court of equity, for further proceedings therein. And from any final judgment, order, or decree, for an amount over one thousand dollars, in the said circuit court, hereinafter abolished, a writ of error or appeal may be taken to said court of appeals, at any time within five years thereafter.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That all duties conferred by existing laws on the chief justice of the circuit court, except such as are herein otherwise provided for, shall devolve upon and be performed by the judge of the court of equity, except such duties as relate to the delivery of fugitives from justice, which last duties shall devolve upon and be performed by the judge of the criminal court, who shall have power to demand and surrender all fugitives from justice, in the same manner as now practiced by the governors of the several States.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That all appeals from the decisions of justices of the peace shall be carried to the said court of common pleas, which shall have jurisdiction thereof, notwithstanding a jury trial may have been had before a justice of the peace; and such appeals shall otherwise be subject to the same rules now applicable to appeals to the circuit court: Provided, That no further appeal in such cases shall be allowed; and each of said judges shall have power to grant writs of habeas corpus; and the judge of the court of common pleas shall, in the absence or during any incapacity of the judge of the court of equity, have power to grant writs of injunction and ne exeat. And the said court of equity shall have power to grant divorces from the bond of marriage, for adultery or other cause, which, according to the laws of Maryland, now in force, would entitle a party thereto; and also to grant restraining orders, and appoint receivers, at the instance of creditors, whether they have obtained judgment or not, or whether their demands be due and payable or not, in cases of fraudulent conveyance or alienations by debtors; and to grant a new trial of said issues, in its discretion, in the manner that the court of common pleas may award a venire facias de novo. And on the trial of such issues either party shall be allowed his exceptions to the ruling of the court, and the same shall be made a part of the record, and decided, on appeal or writ of error, by the court of appeals or Supreme Court, as the case may be; and said court shall have power to order a jury to be empaneled before it, to try any issue before it in any proceeding within its jurisdiction.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That persons who may hereafter be charged with offences not of the degree of "capital or otherwise infamous crime," may, upon their waiver of a trial by jury, be tried before the judge of the said criminal court without a jury; and in such case no other allegations of an offence shall be required than such as may appear to the court to be legally sufficient by affidavit, information, or recognizance made before any judge or justice of the peace, or coroner, of said District, or the mayor of Washington or Georgetown, and all affidavits, informations, or recognizances shall be returned and transmitted to the clerk of said criminal court, for trial therein during the terms of said court, at the next ensuing Saturday of each week after the same shall have been taken; and such cases shall be disposed of, unless a jury trial is prayed by the party charged, or the case is postponed by the court for sufficient cause. And in case the person so charged shall move for his trial by a jury, he shall be so tried by his consent, upon said allegation of his offence as aforesaid, without presentment or indictment therefor. And such cases shall be entitled to priority of trial whenever a jury may be in attendance on said court: Provided, however, That parties in jail shall be entitled to be tried before any other case shall be tried; and hereafter the United States shall be allowed, in every criminal case, one half the preemptory challenges to which the party charged in the same case may be entitled.

Sec. 15. And be it further enacted, That in any case where a party thereto, either plaintiff or defendant, shall make affidavit that a fair and impartial trial cannot be had before a jury composed in part or in whole of the citizens of Washington city, Georgetown, or the county of Washington outside of the limits of said cities, as the case may be, by reason of local bias or prejudice prevailing in any of said places, it shall be the duty of the court before which such case may be for trial, unless clearly satisfied that said affidavit is unfounded in said allegations of bias or prejudice, to order a jury composed exclusively of citizens not resident in the places so excepted to by said party; and for that purpose the said court may order a special venire for the trial of such issue.

Sec. 17. And be it further enacted, That there shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a coroner for the city of Washington, and for the county of Georgetown, and for the county of Washington, respectively; each of whom shall be appointed from, and may be re-appointed during the term of office, which shall be for the term of five years; and they shall have the powers, perform the duties, and be entitled to the fees of office as now existing, or hereinafter provided for; and they shall each have power to hold post mortem inquisitions in any place in said District of Columbia; and the office of coroner, as now existing, is hereby abolished. And hereafter it shall be the duty of the said coroners of Washington city, of Georgetown, and of the county of Washington, in the same month every year thereafter, to furnish to the marshal of said District a list, which he shall duly publish, of the names of a sufficient number of the intelligent and respectable citizens of said District, who may be over twenty-five and under fifty years of age, to serve as petit jurors of said District; and the said lists shall be formed for each of said cities and said county, respectively, according to the ratio of their population as nearly as may be practicable; and the number of said jurors and the proportions thereof for each of said cities and said county shall be previously, in due season, ascertained, and certified by said judges to the said coroners, respectively. And it shall be the duty of said marshal to place said names on ballots, and cause the same in due season to be fairly drawn from a wheel or box in the presence of one of said judges, who shall superintend the said drawing, and order that the persons whose names have been first drawn, to the number required for the next term of said courts, respectively, shall be summoned as jurors in each of said courts for the trial of causes therein; and none others shall be summoned or serve as jurors, unless by special order of the judges of said courts, respectively. And whenever a special jury may be ordered on an affidavit of bias or prejudice, as aforesaid, the same shall be drawn, as aforesaid, from said lists until a sufficient number, qualified by residence, may be obtained who shall then be summoned to attend as such jurors. And so, in like manner, shall every jury be hereafter selected for said courts; and no person who has served his term as a juror in either of said courts shall be again required to serve as such until all the other persons named on said lists shall also have served their terms, or been excused therefrom for sufficient reasons by either of said courts; and said annual lists of jurors shall be composed, as far as may be practicable, of the names of persons who have not been included in any previous lists, or who have not actually served in turn as jurors in one of said courts, so that the duties of a juror may be distributed equally among the citizens of said District of Columbia: Provided, however, That talesmen may be summoned by said marshal, under the order of said courts, without resorting to the ballot or lists aforesaid; and the said talesmen having served as jurors, shall not by reason thereof be exempted from again serving as jurors when drawn as such in turn, as jurors, by ballot as aforesaid; but they shall not be again competent to serve as such talesmen during the same term of the court at which they have so acted as jurors. And the said courts shall, every two weeks during the terms thereof, cause a fresh panel of jurors to be selected by ballot and summoned as aforesaid, and the old panel to be discharged, unless they, or some of them, shall then be sworn upon the trial of a case, and all who are not so sworn shall be discharged.

Sec. 18. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of said judges, as soon as may be convenient after their appointment to office, to meet together, to revise and improve the rules of practice and proceedings in all of said courts, and to establish such new rules as may be necessary, and also to revise and reduce the tariff of fees and costs of litigation, and other fees, costs, and charges, in the offices of the clerks of said courts as now allowed and existing, and to establish a new tariff thereof for the clerks, marshal, and coroners of said District, and when so established to make publication thereof, and to cause a printed copy of such rules and tariff to be always kept and exhibited in some conspicuous place in each of the offices of the clerks of said courts and of said marshal.

Sec. 19. And be it further enacted, That each of the judges herein provided shall be paid out of the treasury an annual salary, payable quarterly of three thousand dollars, and shall hold their offices, during good behavior, for the term of ten years, and may be re-appointed: Provided, however, That no person above the age of sixty years shall be appointed judge of either of said courts.

Sec. 20. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint two persons, learned in the law, to revise, simplify, digest, and codify the law of said District, and also the rules and principles of practice, of pleadings, of evidence, and conveyancing, and also to add thereto and codify such laws of the State of Maryland as may be or become in force during the preparation of said code and applicable to the circumstances and condition of said District; and the said code shall be constructed according to a simple method, and be expressed in language concise and plain, and, far as possible, be made level to the understanding of a person of ordinary intelligence and education; and it shall contain a full and particular index to all its contents; and the preparation of the said code shall be made under the superintendence and revision of the Attorney General of the United States, and as the same progresses shall be printed, under his direction; and the said codifiers shall each be paid for their services out of the treasury of the United States, at the rate of three thousand dollars per year. And the board of aldermen and common council of the city of Washington may together elect five competent persons, and the board of aldermen and council of Georgetown may elect two competent persons, and the levy court of the county of Washington may elect one competent person, which persons together shall compose a board, to consider, at convenient seasons, the provisions of said code, as it may be prepared; and any three of said persons shall constitute a quorum of said board; and the said code, or such provisions thereof as may be approved by a majority of said board, shall be adopted, and become the law of said District, as hereinafter provided. And it shall be the duty of the said persons who may be appointed to codify the said laws, to attend, and also the said Attorney General may attend the meetings of said board, to explain the several provisions of the said code. And when the said code and the provisions thereof shall have been adopted by the said board, or by a majority thereof, they shall certify the same to the President of the United States, who shall thereupon cause it to be published in a neat and convenient form, and to be substantially bound, and he shall cause a sufficient number of volumes of said code to be printed and bound as may be necessary for the amplest distribution of the same among the people of said District; and for the preservation of said code; and a copy thereof shall be furnished to every justice of the peace, and every judge, to each court, to each clerk of said court, to each coroner, to said levy court, to each public school, to each public library, to each public department of government, and to the mayors and each of the councils of Washington and Georgetown, to be by them kept and carefully preserved, and transferred to their several successors in office. And the said code so deposited with said clerks of courts and justices of the peace shall at times be open in their several offices for the inspection and information of the people of said District, and others who may desire to consult the same. And when the said code shall be printed and distributed, the President of the United States shall, by his proclamation, appoint a time and places in the said District for taking the sense of the citizens thereof, for or against the adoption of the said code, and he shall cause judges to be selected who shall preside at such election, and he shall provide and proclaim the mode and rules of conducting the same, provided every free white male citizen of the United States, above the age of twenty-one years, who has resided in the said District for one year next preceding said election, shall be permitted to vote thereat; and the result of said election shall be reported to the said President, and the same, with the said code, be by him reported to Congress, and when ratified and approved by the same, he shall by his proclamation declare it to be in force, from the day of the date thereof, as the law of the said District of Columbia; and the same, when so proclaimed, shall thereafter be and remain as such, without any further act or proceedings to that effect, until altered or repealed by the Congress of the United States. And the persons who may compose said board, or such of them as may act on the same, shall be paid out of the treasury of the United States a reasonable compensation for their services, according to the time employed by them, respectively, upon the same: Provided, That the said code shall be reported to Congress on or before the first Monday in December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

Sec. 21. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a coroner for the city of Washington, and for the county of Georgetown, and for the county of Washington, respectively; each of whom shall be appointed from, and may be re-appointed during the term of office, which shall be for the term of five years; and they shall have the powers, perform the duties, and be entitled to the fees of office as now existing, or hereinafter provided for; and they shall each have power to hold post mortem inquisitions in any place in said District of Columbia; and the office of coroner, as now existing, is hereby abolished. And hereafter it shall be the duty of the said coroners of Washington city, of Georgetown, and of the county of Washington, in the same month every year thereafter, to furnish to the marshal of said District a list, which he shall duly publish, of the names of a sufficient number of the intelligent and respectable citizens of said District, who may be over twenty-five and under fifty years of age, to serve as petit jurors of said District; and the said lists shall be formed for each of said cities and said county, respectively, according to the ratio of their population as nearly as may be practicable; and the number of said jurors and the proportions thereof for each of said cities and said county shall be previously, in due season, ascertained, and certified by said judges to the said coroners, respectively. And it shall be the duty of said marshal to place said names on ballots, and cause the same in due season to be fairly drawn from a wheel or box in the presence of one of said judges, who shall superintend the said drawing, and order that the persons whose names have been first drawn, to the number required for the next term of said courts, respectively, shall be summoned as jurors in each of said courts for the trial of causes therein; and none others shall be summoned or serve as jurors, unless by special order of the judges of said courts, respectively. And whenever a special jury may be ordered on an affidavit of bias or prejudice, as aforesaid, the same shall be drawn, as aforesaid, from said lists until a sufficient number, qualified by residence, may be obtained who shall then be summoned to attend as such jurors. And so, in like manner, shall every jury be hereafter selected for said courts; and no person who has served his term as a juror in either of said courts shall be again required to serve as such until all the other persons named on said lists shall also have served their terms, or been excused therefrom for sufficient reasons by either of said courts; and said annual lists of jurors shall be composed, as far as may be practicable, of the names of persons who have not been included in any previous lists, or who have not actually served in turn as jurors in one of said courts, so that the duties of a juror may be distributed equally among the citizens of said District of Columbia: Provided, however, That talesmen may be summoned by said marshal, under the order of said courts, without resorting to the ballot or lists aforesaid; and the said talesmen having served as jurors, shall not by reason thereof be exempted from again serving as jurors when drawn as such in turn, as jurors, by ballot as aforesaid; but they shall not be again competent to serve as such talesmen during the same term of the court at which they have so acted as jurors. And the said courts shall, every two weeks during the terms thereof, cause a fresh panel of jurors to be selected by ballot and summoned as aforesaid, and the old panel to be discharged, unless they, or some of them, shall then be sworn upon the trial of a case, and all who are not so sworn shall be discharged.

Sec. 22. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of said judges, as soon as may be convenient after their appointment to office, to meet together, to revise and improve the rules of practice and proceedings in all of said courts, and to establish such new rules as may be necessary, and also to revise and reduce the tariff of fees and costs of litigation, and other fees, costs, and charges, in the offices of the clerks of said courts as now allowed and existing, and to establish a new tariff thereof for the clerks, marshal, and coroners of said District, and when so established to make publication thereof, and to cause a printed copy of such rules and tariff to be always kept and exhibited in some conspicuous place in each of the offices of the clerks of said courts and of said marshal.

Sec. 23. And be it further enacted, That each of the judges herein provided shall be paid out of the treasury an annual salary, payable quarterly of three thousand dollars, and shall hold their offices, during good behavior, for the term of ten years, and may be re-appointed: Provided, however, That no person above the age of sixty years shall be appointed judge of either of said courts.

Sec. 24. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint two persons, learned in the law, to revise, simplify, digest, and codify the law of said District, and also the rules and principles of practice, of pleadings, of evidence, and conveyancing, and also to add thereto and codify such laws of the State of Maryland as may be or become in force during the preparation of said code and applicable to the circumstances and condition of said District; and the said code shall be constructed according to a simple method, and be expressed in language concise and plain, and, far as possible, be made level to the understanding of a person of ordinary intelligence and education; and it shall contain a full and particular index to all its contents; and the preparation of the said code shall be made under the superintendence and revision of the Attorney General of the United States, and as the same progresses shall be printed, under his direction; and the said codifiers shall each be paid for their services out of the treasury of the United States, at the rate of three thousand dollars per year. And the board of aldermen and common council of the city of Washington may together elect five competent persons, and the board of aldermen and council of Georgetown may elect two competent persons, and the levy court of the county of Washington may elect one competent person, which persons together shall compose a board, to consider, at convenient seasons, the provisions of said code, as it may be prepared; and any three of said persons shall constitute a quorum of said board; and the said code, or such provisions thereof as may be approved by a majority of said board, shall be adopted, and become the law of said District, as hereinafter provided. And it shall be the duty of the said persons who may be appointed to codify the said laws, to attend, and also the said Attorney General may attend the meetings of said board, to explain the several provisions of the said code. And when the said code and the provisions thereof shall have been adopted by the said board, or by a majority thereof, they shall certify the same to the President of the United States, who shall thereupon cause it to be published in a neat and convenient form, and to be substantially bound, and he shall cause a sufficient number of volumes of said code to be printed and bound as may be necessary for the amplest distribution of the same among the people of said District; and for the preservation of said code; and a copy thereof shall be furnished to every justice of the peace, and every judge, to each court, to each clerk of said court, to each coroner, to said levy court, to each public school, to each public library, to each public department of government, and to the mayors and each of the councils of Washington and Georgetown, to be by them kept and carefully preserved, and transferred to their several successors in office. And the said code so deposited with said clerks of courts and justices of the peace shall at times be open in their several offices for the inspection and information of the people of said District, and others who may desire to consult the same. And when the said code shall be printed and distributed, the President of the United States shall, by his proclamation, appoint a time and places in the said District for taking the sense of the citizens thereof, for or against the adoption of the said code, and he shall cause judges to be selected who shall preside at such election, and he shall provide and proclaim the mode and rules of conducting the same, provided every free white male citizen of the United States, above the age of twenty-one years, who has resided in the said District for one year next preceding said election, shall be permitted to vote thereat; and the result of said election shall be reported to the said President, and the same, with the said code, be by him reported to Congress, and when ratified and approved by the same, he shall by his proclamation declare it to be in force, from the day of the date thereof, as the law of the said District of Columbia; and the same, when so proclaimed, shall thereafter be and remain as such, without any further act or proceedings to that effect, until altered or repealed by the Congress of the United States. And the persons who may compose said board, or such of them as may act on the same, shall be paid out of the treasury of the United States a reasonable compensation for their services, according to the time employed by them, respectively, upon the same: Provided, That the said code shall be reported to Congress on or before the first Monday in December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

Sec. 25. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a coroner for the city of Washington, and for the county of Georgetown, and for the county of Washington, respectively; each of whom shall be appointed from, and may be re-appointed during the term of office, which shall be for the term of five years; and they shall have the powers, perform the duties, and be entitled to the fees of office as now existing, or hereinafter provided for; and they shall each have power to hold post mortem inquisitions in any place in said District of Columbia; and the office of coroner, as now existing, is hereby abolished. And hereafter it shall be the duty of the said coroners of Washington city, of Georgetown, and of the county of Washington, in the same month every year thereafter, to furnish to the marshal of said District a list, which he shall duly publish, of the names of a sufficient number of the intelligent and respectable citizens of said District, who may be over twenty-five and under fifty years of age, to serve as petit jurors of said District; and the said lists shall be formed for each of said cities and said county, respectively, according to the ratio of their population as nearly as may be practicable; and the number of said jurors and the proportions thereof for each of said cities and said county shall be previously, in due season, ascertained, and certified by said judges to the said coroners, respectively. And it shall be the duty of said marshal to place said names on ballots, and cause the same in due season to be fairly drawn from a wheel or box in the presence of one of said judges, who shall superintend the said drawing, and order that the persons whose names have been first drawn, to the number required for the next term of said courts, respectively, shall be summoned as jurors in each of said courts for the trial of causes therein; and none others shall be summoned or serve as jurors, unless by special order of the judges of said courts, respectively. And whenever a special jury may be ordered on an affidavit of bias or prejudice, as aforesaid, the same shall be drawn, as aforesaid, from said lists until a sufficient number, qualified by residence, may be obtained who shall then be summoned to attend as such jurors. And so, in like manner, shall every jury be hereafter selected for said courts; and no person who has served his term as a juror in either of said courts shall be again required to serve as such until all the other persons named on said lists shall also have served their terms, or been excused therefrom for sufficient reasons by either of said courts; and said annual lists of jurors shall be composed, as far as may be practicable, of the names of persons who have not been included in any previous lists, or who have not actually served in turn as jurors in one of said courts, so that the duties of a juror may be distributed equally among the citizens of said District of Columbia: Provided, however, That talesmen may be summoned by said marshal, under the order of said courts, without resorting to the ballot or lists aforesaid; and the said talesmen having served as jurors, shall not by reason thereof be exempted from again serving as jurors when drawn as such in turn, as jurors, by ballot as aforesaid; but they shall not be again competent to serve as such talesmen during the same term of the court at which they have so acted as jurors. And the said courts shall, every two weeks during the terms thereof, cause a fresh panel of jurors to be selected by ballot and summoned as aforesaid, and the old panel to be discharged, unless they, or some of them, shall then be sworn upon the trial of a case, and all who are not so sworn shall be discharged.